

Weekly News sheet for The Heathland Parishes, we are the churches of:

All Saints, Great Braxted

St Mary, Layer Breton with Birch

All Saints, Inworth

St Luke, Tolleshunt Knights with Tiptree

St Mary, Layer Marney

All Saints, Messing

To be a transforming presence in our community, open and welcoming to all and serving all



**Sunday 1st February 2026,
Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Today's Services & Readings

**Malachi 3: 1-5*; Psalm 24:7-end; Hebrews 2: 14-end;
Luke 2:22-40**

St Mary, Layer Marney

9 am Morning Prayer *Graham Howlett*

Hymns 44, 33, 425, 391

3 pm Candlemas & Celebration of Baptism

Led by Revd Liz Barnes

Everyone welcome, for catering let us know if you plan to be there:

layermarneychurchsec@icloud.com

St Luke's, Tiptree

9.30 am Family Communion *Revd Christine Newmarch*

Hymns 584, 222, 631, 377, 661, 479

All Saints', Inworth

11.15 am Matins *Harold Toms*

Hymns 118, 395, 434, 288

Sunday Morning Resources you can find sermons, readings & intercessions for this week on the Homepage of our website, as well as our church weekday opening times:

thurstablewinstreechurches.org

See over page for events & weekly notices for this week

**Next Sunday's Services, 8th February 2026
Second Sunday before Lent**

St Mary, Layer Marney

9 am Holy Communion *Revd Michael Hatchett*

Refreshments will be available following this service

St Luke's, Tiptree

9.30 am Parish Communion *Revd Christine Newmarch*

All Saints', Messing

11.15 am Morning Worship *Anne Wild*

**Celebration of Marriage Service & Afternoon Tea at
St Mary's Church, Layer Marney**

We invite our wedding couples and wedding blessing couples from past years to this Service on Sunday 15th February at 3 pm. Please let Gill know if you are coming by Friday 6th February:

layermarneychurchsec@icloud.com

Ash Wednesday Services

Our joint Ash Wednesday Holy Communion, is at St Mary, Layer Breton on Wednesday 18th February at 7.30 pm

On Thursday 19th at there will be a service of Holy Communion at 10 am at St Luke's when there will also be ashing.

Please remember to bring last years' Palm Crosses back to church for ashing, by Sunday 9th February.

Contact Christine Hall for more details about this or any other matters:

thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

Church Diary for the week Monday 2nd to Saturday 7th February

Mon, 9.15 am	Parent & Toddlers, St Luke's Church Hall
Mon, 7.30 pm	Bible Study on Zoom, looking at Paul's letters to the Thessalonians, to join contact w.borgartz@btinternet.com
Wed, 10 am	Layer Breton Church Pop-up Coffee Shop, open til 11.30 am; & collection for Tiptree Foodbank
Wed 11 am	Funeral of Dorothy Smith, at St Luke's
Thu, 9 am	Morning Prayer, at St Luke's Tiptree
Thu, 10 am	Holy Communion at St Luke's, followed by coffee at the New Times – <i>people from all churches welcome</i>
Thu, 2-4 pm	Tiptree Foodbank open, at the URC Chapel Road
Fri, 3 pm	Messy Church, St Luke's Church Hall – come along after school. Theme this time: Candlemas
Fri, 6.30 for 7 pm	Quiz Night, Layer Marney Tower

Diary Dates & News

Services elsewhere in our group, this Sunday, 1st February, Layer de la Haye have their All-age Candlemas Service at 10.30 am led by Revd Jo Wood; Kelvedon have a special service 'From Epiphany to Candlemas' at 4 pm, a reflective service for the Epiphany season with St Mary's Choir – all welcome.

Messy Church this Friday, children with their parents/carers are invited to join us for Messy Church at St Luke's from 3pm to 5.30 pm this Friday 6th February, when our theme is Candlemas. On 6th March our theme is Prayer & Daniel in the lion's den. Details: thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com

Quiz Night, at Layer Marney Tower in aid of Layer Marney Church, Friday 6th February, doors & bar open 6.30 for 7pm. Bring your own picnic, drinks are purchased from the bar (beer, wine & soft drinks). Tables or tickets available; teams of a max. 8 people & tables for up to 6 are £35, two more tickets can be bought per table at a cost of £10 each. Book using the link: app.tickettailor.com/events/layermarneychurch/2017994 The Friends of Layer Marney Church.

News from Tiptree Food Bank we now are in need of donations of toilet rolls; bottles of squash; soap; long-life milk; jam; long-life fruit; juice; toilet cleaner; washing up liquid; shampoo; cleaning cloths. These can be taken to: the donation tub at ASDA, left in the yellow box just inside St Luke's Church 9 am to 4 pm daily, or the Foodbank at the United Reformed Church Thurs 2-4 pm. *Thank you to all who support us.*



News, Reminders & Looking Ahead

Confirmation many people are baptised (christened) as babies, so the Church of England provides for confirmation for teenagers and adults who wish to affirm the promises made on their behalf as babies and make their personal commitment to following Christ. If you are interested in this please speak to Revd Liz Barnes or Revd Christine Newmarch, or anyone on the Ministry team. This will involve a short course of preparation explaining what is involved in being a disciple of Christ and a service later in the year, in the area (not taking place at Tiptree this year).

Marriage Preparation Day 2026, thank you to all who have offered help and contributions of food for the buffet lunch. We have 23 couples attending this year from across the new Benefice including Wickham Bishops, Great Totham and Goldhanger for the first time.

Lent Course 2026 – this year's course will be using 'Christ and the Chocolaterie' by Hilary Brand, based on the film Chocolat (Dvds available to watch in advance (recommended)). These begin on Tuesday 24th February/ Thursday 26th February for five weeks. All are welcome to join us for any or all sessions; attendance is free - no need to book for Tuesdays, for Thursdays please let Liz Dingle know for the lunches: emdingle@aol.com Full details are on the Lent flyers and in Open Door.

Beetle Drive at St Luke's, the Friends of St Luke's have arranged a beetle drive on Saturday 21st February, 2 – 4 pm. Tickets will be £5 each, tea/coffee and biscuits included. Find out more from foslbookings@gmail.com

FoSL Coffee Morning bottle Stall, next Christmas the Friends of St Luke's are planning to have a bottle stall. Please pass any donations to Sheila Gunson at church or contact Sandra Redgewell of FoSL foslbookings@gmail.com or leave them with Christine Hall.

Get in Touch – our Contact details:

While we are in vacancy please contact Revd Liz Barnes, Associate Priest -
liz_barnes@sky.com Tel: 01621 333027. Day off - Mon

News sheet & Team Administrator, Christine Hall: thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com
Days of work: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, available for phone enquiries from 10 am to 12.30 pm on the mobile: 07421 078981 (with voicemail). Available in St Luke's Church Office on Tuesday mornings by appointment only & Thursdays from 10 am to 12.30 pm.
The office number is 01621 819557 (with voicemail).

St Luke's Hall bookings: Gareth Williams, 01621 818069 hall.stlukestiptree@btinternet.com