

February 2026 50p

Parish News

Church and Community News for Haslington and Crewe Green



St. Matthew's Haslington



St. Michael's Crewe Green

Church Leadership

Vicar:

Rev. Dr. Jane Lloyd

 **Mob:**

07785 752023

Home: 582388

 **Email:**

vicarjanelloyd@gmail.com,

Lay Readers:

Linda Clarke

07752050003

Anne Thompson

253220

Church website:

www.hcganglican.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/haslingtonandcrewegreen/

St. Matthew Haslington

Church Wardens:

Alan Wheeler

501450

Colin Booth

696000

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Jane McCombie

581769

Hon. Treasurer PCC:

Chris Betts

589324

Vergar

Arleine Bloor

216548

St. Michael and All Angels Crewe Green

Church Wardens:

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Helen Ledward

07707948005

Hon. Treasurer PCC:

Thelma Malabar

07940039010

Vergar

Linda Clarke

07752050003



Pastoral Letter

Waiting Well

Simeon and Anna, Candlemas, and faith in a hurried world

February often feels like a month of waiting. The decorations have long been packed away, spring still feels distant, and the new year's energy has faded. The days are lengthening, but only just. Into this quieter moment in the church's year comes Candlemas, and with it the figures of Simeon and Anna—two people who knew a great deal about waiting.

When Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the Temple, Simeon and Anna are already there. They are not rushing through. They are not distracted or preoccupied. They are waiting—waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled. And they have been waiting for a very long time.

Simeon has been assured that he will not see death before he has seen the Lord's Messiah. Anna has spent decades in prayer and fasting, living faithfully through loss and change. Neither of them knows when the promise will be fulfilled. They simply keep turning up, day after day, trusting that God is at work even when nothing seems to be happening.

This is not the kind of waiting our culture encourages. We live in a hurried world, where speed is prized and delay feels like failure. We expect quick answers, fast results, instant solutions. Waiting can feel like wasted time—or worse, like being forgotten.

But Simeon and Anna show us another way. Their waiting is not passive or empty. It is active, attentive, faithful. They wait with prayer. They wait with hope. They wait with their eyes open to the things of God. And when the moment comes, they recognise it.

That may be one of the most striking things about this story. Jesus does not arrive with fanfare. There is no announcement, no crowd, no sign saying "this is the one." He is a small child, carried in his parents' arms. Yet Simeon takes him in his own arms and praises God. Anna speaks about him to all who are looking for redemption. Their long waiting has tuned their hearts to notice God's quiet arrival.

Candlemas reminds us that God often works like this—slowly, gently, without spectacle. Faith is not always about dramatic moments or sudden clarity. More often it is about staying present, staying open, and trusting that God is faithful even when the fulfilment seems delayed.

Cont.

Cont.

Many of us are waiting for something: for healing, for resolution, for change, for clarity, for guidance, for peace. Simeon and Anna do not offer easy answers, but they do offer reassurance. God does not forget those who wait. Time spent in prayer is not wasted time. Hope held quietly is not misplaced. As the candles are lit at Candlemas, we are reminded that even a small flame can push back the darkness. Waiting well is not about rushing God—it is about trusting that, in God's time, the light will come.

With every blessing

Vicar Jane xx



S t . M a t t h e w ' s P C C

PCC Members— Rev Jane(Chair), Alan Wheeler (Warden) Colin Booth (Warden) ,Jane McCombie (Secretary) Arleine Bloor, Roger Pearce, Barbara Harris, , Viv Grunner, Anna Betts, Steve Grunner, Celia Booth, Shelagh Haukinson

Our next PCC meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March at 10 am at TBA

Christmas Holly Wreaths

If you place a wreath or decorations on a grave will you please remove them and take them home **ASAP** as we do not have sufficient dustbin space for them.



Thank you for your co-operation



Church Hall cleaning and maintenance

The next hall cleaning is on Friday 6th February at 9:00am.

New volunteers welcome.

Anna Betts

Church Diary February 2026

Sunday	1st	4th Sunday of Epiphany / Presentation of Christ
	9:30 am	Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church
	10.30am	Service of Morning Prayer at Christ Church
	11.00 am	Service of Morning prayer at St Michael & All Angels.
Wednesday	3 rd	10:45 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church
Sunday	8th	2nd Sunday Before Lent
	9:30 am	Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church
	10:45 am	Service of Morning prayer at Christ Church
	11.00 am	Holy Communion at St Michael's Church
Wednesday	10 th	10:45 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church
Sunday	15th	Sunday Next Before Lent
	9.30 am	Service of Morning Prayer at St Matthew's Church
	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	11.00 am	Service of Morning Prayer at St Michael & All Angels.
Wednesday	18 th	Ash Wednesday
	10:45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) and Imposition of Ashes at St Matthew's Church
Sunday	22nd	1st Sunday of Lent
	9.30 am	Holy Communion at St Matthew's Church
	10.45 am	Service of Morning Prayer at Christ Church
	11.00 am	Holy communion at St Michael & All Angels
	4.30 pm	Service of Evening Prayer at Christ Church
Wednesday	25 th	10:45 am Holy Communion (BCP) at St Matthew's Church





Haslington Women's Institute

The January meeting was very well attended. Amber Ho came to help us practise Tai Chi Balls and Qigong. This was great fun.

Several of our ladies decorated St Matthews Church with flowers for Christmas. It was very much appreciated. Everyone said what a great job they had done. Our President, Anne, read a lesson at the Carol Service at St Matthews.

Coming up, we have lots of new ideas for fun packed events.
The Dining Club, Book Club and Go For It will be ongoing.

The WI meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7.30 at the Cosey Club.
All Welcome.

Janet Dake.....Haslington WI



St. Matthew's Social Committee

St Matthew's Social Committee

Our next coffee morning is on Friday 27th February in the church hall, between 10:00am and 12.00 noon. All are welcome.

Tickets are still available for the Beetle Drive and Fish and Chips Tea on Saturday 7th February, starting at 2:30pm. The cost of the tickets is £12:00.

Dates for your Diary

See page 16 for list of social events for 2026.

Also note the quiz entry form on page 19





United Benefice Mothers Union

We started the year well, with our usual annual lunch. This time we enjoyed lovely food and good company at the Old Hall in Sandbach where it was warm and dry on a damp January morning.

Once again, we are hoping to support Chance Changing Lives in Crewe by donating the items they require for those they support. If you would like to know more, just ask.

Our next meeting is our AGM and will be held on Wednesday February 18th at 2 pm. A proposed programme of our meetings for this year is available in Church.

Jane McCombie
01270 581769



MU members at the annual lunch at the Old Hall Sandbach

***Regular Church Hall Activities If you require any
information, please contact any of the below***

Young People

Cubs	Tuesday	17:45 – 19:15	Katrina Fearn email: crewegreenscouts@hotmail.co.uk
Scouts	Monday	19:30 – 21:00	Verity Ashcroft / Jamie Davies email: crewegreenscouts@hotmail.co.uk
Rainbow	Wednesday	16:30 – 17:30 Tel: 258821	Mrs Maria Pickersgill email: haslingtonbrownies@yahoo.co.uk
Brownies	Wednesday	17:45 – 19:00 Tel: 214832	Mrs Cathy Consterdine email: haslingtonbrownies@yahoo.co.uk
Guides	Wednesday	19:15 – 20:15	Mrs Cathy Consterdine

Groups

Cameo	Our Cameo Group, a luncheon club for the bereaved and anyone else who, through circumstances, finds themselves alone. On the 3 rd Thursday of the month (at the present) at 1:00 in St. Matthew's Church Hall. We welcome anyone from anywhere. Contact Viv Grunner (501538) for further information.
Mothers Union	Meet on a Wednesday please Speak to Jane McCombie (581769) or Viv Grunner (501538)
Coffee Mornings	Friday Morning Coffee Mornings are held in St. Matthews Church Hall 10:00 –12:00 on the 4 th Friday of the month.
Café Church / Open table	2 nd Sunday in the month at 4:00pm
Prayer Breakfast	4 th Saturday every 2 months

Health/Wellbeing/Hobbies

Pilates	Tuesday	19:30 – 20:30
Pre School Dance	Thursday	10:45—11:45
	Friday	10:45—11:45
Gardening Club	Meet on the 1 st Thursday of the month 19:30 – 21:00	



In Fellowship

Puff pastry lemon and almond tart

Ingredients

375g pack ready-rolled puff pastry
175g (6oz) good-quality lemon curd
90g (3oz) butter, softened
90g (3oz) caster sugar
1 medium egg
30g (1oz) ground almonds
125g (4oz) self-raising flour
Zested rind 1 lemon and 4 tbsp juice
30g (1oz) flaked almonds
28 x 18cm (11 x 7in) tray-bake tin



Method

Set the oven to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6). Unroll the pastry and use it to line the tin, cutting slits into the corners to make it fit. Use scissors to trim the two short sides down to the same height as the long sides.

Spread a layer of lemon curd on the base. Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, then beat in the egg. Fold in the ground almonds, flour, lemon zest and juice. Spoon the mixture over the lemon curd then spread it evenly. Spread with flaked almonds.

Bake for 35 minutes, near the bottom of the oven, until golden. Cool for 5 minutes in the tin then turn out to serve warm or cool.



Pancake Day



Church Rotas *For St. Matthew's*



St. Matthew's Reading Rota

01/02/2026	Pat Hills
08/02/2026	Chris Betts
15/02/2026	Jane Peach
22/02/2026	Steve Grunner
01/03/2026	Chris Wheeler

St. Matthew's Intercession Rota

01/02/2026	Arleine Bloor
08/02/2026	Alan Wheeler
15/02/2026	Helen Pearce
22/02/2026	Anna Betts
01/03/2026	Colin Booth

St. Matthew's Eucharist Server Rota

01/02/2026	Colin Booth
08/02/2026	Celia Booth
15/02/2026	———
22/02/2026	Darren Evans
01/03/2026	Barbara Harris

St. Matthew's Sides-person Rota

01/02/2026	Andrea D & Mike S
08/02/2026	Jean C & tba
15/02/2026	Viv & Steve G
22/02/2026	Anna & Chris B
01/03/2026	Dennis & Jane McC

St. Matthew's Flower Rota

31/01/2026	Jane McCombie
07/02/2026	———"——
14/02/2026	———"——
21/02/2026	Lent
28/02/2026	———"——

St. Matthew's Church Locking up

02/02/2026	Vicar Jane
09/02/2026	Sheila Hauksson
16/02/2026	Colin Booth
23/02/2026	John Brassington
02/03/2026	Chris Betts

February Sudoku

		7			4	5		1
1	5	8	6	9		4		
4			7			9	8	
			4		3			8
				6				
3			2		7			
	7	1			8			6
		2		7	1	8	4	9
5		4	9			7		

Easy

1								
	2				7		4	8
	6	8						
9		1		4	3			5
		2	1		5	8		
6			2	9		3		1
						7	5	
2	7		8				6	
								9

Medium

3		2	1		9			
				4			1	9
6			2			3		
9	7	8						
			7		5			
						7	9	3
		5			4			2
7	8			2				
			6		7	5		1

Hard



St. Michael's PCC

P.C.C. Members: Rev Jane(Chair), Helen Ledward (Secretary, Deanery Rep), Thelma Malabar (Treasurer) Linda Clarke (Deanery Rep), Nancy Kay, Ron Taylor, Anne Thompson, Jeanette Allman, Barrie Blood, Margaret Hepburn,

Notes From The PCC Meeting will now be posted at the back of church.

St. Michael's next PCC meeting will be held on Thursday 12th March at 2.30 pm in Church.

The EPCM will be on Sunday 26th April after the 11:00am morning service.



St. Michael's Social Committee

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

ST. MICHAEL'S PANCAKE COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 14TH February 10.00 - 12.00 in Church

COME AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP
AND DELICIOUS PANCAKES.



ST. MICHAEL'S CAR WASH

OUR CHARITY CAR WASH WILL BE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN ON

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026 FROM 10.00 - 3.00

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US IN 2025





Church Rotas *For St. Michael's*



St. Michael's Prayer Rota

01/02/2026	Ron
08/02/2026	Nancy
15/02/2026	Anne
22/02/2026	Helen
01/03/2026	Ron

St. Michael's Reading Rota

01/02/2026	Ron
08/02/2026	Linda
15/02/2026	Anne
22/02/2026	Helen
01/03/2026	Ron

St. Michael's Cleaning Rota

07/02/2026	Ron & Irene
14/02/2026	Anne
21/02/2026	Barrie/Janette
28/02/2026	Linda
07/03/2026	Ron & Irene

St. Michael's Coffee Rota

01/02/2026	Ron & Irene
08/02/2026	Linda
15/02/2026	Helen
22/02/2026	Barrie/Janette
01/03/2026	Ron & Irene

St. Michael's Sides-person Rota

01/02/2026	Margaret
08/02/2026	Helen
15/02/2026	Barrie
22/02/2026	Helen
01/03/2026	Margaret

January Sudoku Solutions

Easy

5	2	1	9	3	6	8	7	4
4	8	3	5	7	2	1	9	6
6	9	7	8	1	4	3	5	2
3	4	5	2	8	9	6	1	7
9	1	8	6	5	7	4	2	3
7	6	2	1	4	3	9	8	5
2	7	9	3	6	8	5	4	1
1	3	4	7	9	5	2	6	8
8	5	6	4	2	1	7	3	9

Medium

5	1	4	2	6	3	8	9	7
6	7	2	8	5	9	1	3	4
3	8	9	1	4	7	6	5	2
1	2	5	4	3	6	9	7	8
7	3	8	9	2	1	4	6	5
9	4	6	5	7	8	3	2	1
4	6	3	7	8	5	2	1	9
8	9	7	3	1	2	5	4	6
2	5	1	6	9	4	7	8	3

Hard

7	1	8	6	2	4	9	5	3
5	9	2	7	1	3	8	6	4
4	3	6	9	8	5	2	7	1
6	4	7	8	3	1	5	9	2
3	2	1	5	9	6	4	8	7
8	5	9	4	7	2	3	1	6
1	6	4	3	5	9	7	2	8
2	8	5	1	4	7	6	3	9
9	7	3	2	6	8	1	4	5



Prayer Subjects

Uniting with Christ in Suffering

Dear Lord, In our moments of suffering, help us to unite our hearts with Christ, who bore our pain and sorrow.

May we find strength in His example and comfort in His presence.

Teach us to embrace our trials as a path to deeper faith and understanding.

Let our struggles draw us closer to You, transforming our pain into purpose.

Amen.

Reflection on the Passion of Christ

Our Father, In this sacred moment, we reflect on the profound suffering and love of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

May His Passion inspire us to embrace our own trials with grace and compassion.

Help us to understand the depth of His sacrifice and to live in a way that honours His enduring love.

Strengthen our faith as we walk in His footsteps.

Amen.

Prayer for Lenten Renewal and Faith

Dear Lord,

As we embark on this Lenten journey, guide our hearts to repentance and reflection. Help us grow in faith and charity, drawing closer to You through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May this season renew our spirits and strengthen our commitment to Your will.

Amen.

In Memoriam

Funeral of Enis Thompson, 9th January at St Michael & All Angels.

Funeral of Peter Hale, , 9th January at St Matthew's

Funeral of Irene Bailey, 14th January at St Matthew's.

Funeral of Mark Lycett, 16th January at St Michael & All Angels.



Around The Community

Dates for your Diary

Following a meeting of the Social Committee, I list below our programme for 2026,

Saturday 7th February A Beetle Drive and Fish and Chips Tea. Tickets are now available at a cost of £12.

Saturday 14th March Quiz night

Saturday 4th April An Easter afternoon tea

We don't know the date for village day, but we hope to have a (weather permitting) book stall.

Saturday 27th June A wine and cheese evening.

Saturday 18th July A strawberry tea

Saturday 15th August A walk and lunch

Saturday 12th September A concert by The Strings and Sunshine Community Ukulele Band

Sunday 4th October A bring and share Harvest Lunch

Saturday 17th October Prize Bingo

Saturday 7th November The Autumn fair and lunch

Saturday 5th December Soup and carols

Saturday 23rd January 2027 Beetle drive and fish and chips tea

We hope that we will have lots of support at these events.

St. Matthew's Social Committee

ST. MICHAEL'S CHARITY CAR WASH



**EVERY TUESDAY FROM
10.00 AM TO 3.00 PM**

On The Church Main Car Park - £5 Per Car

FREE REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE





Around The Community

The imposition of ashes is the moment in the Ash Wednesday service when a minister places ashes on a person's forehead in the shape of a cross as a public sign of repentance, mortality, and the beginning of Lent. It is one of the most recognisable Christian practices of the year and is observed across many Western Christian traditions.

What the Imposition of Ashes Means

- Repentance: Ashes have symbolised sorrow for sin since biblical times. Wearing them expresses a desire for spiritual renewal.
- Human mortality: The traditional words—"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"—remind believers of life's fragility and dependence on God.
- Identity in Christ: The ashes are placed in the shape of a cross, signifying belonging to Jesus and the call to follow Him.

Where the Ashes Come From

- The ashes are made by burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday.
- This symbolically connects Christ's triumphal entry with the call to humility and conversion.

When It Happens

- The imposition takes place during Ash Wednesday services, which mark the first day of Lent, a 40day period of prayer, fasting, and preparation for Easter.



Don't Give Up



When things go wrong
as they sometimes will,
When the road you're
trudging seems
all up hill,
When the funds are
low and the debts
are high,
and you want to smile,
but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing
you down a bit,
Rest if you must,
but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists
and turns,
as every one of us
sometimes learns,
and many a failure turns
about,
when he might have won
had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the
pace seems slow-
You may succeed with
another blow.
Success is failure turned
inside out-
The silver tint of the clouds
of doubt,
and you never can tell how
close you are,
It may be near when it
seems so far:
So stick to the fight when
you're hardest hit-
It's when things seem worst
that you must not quit.



Photography © Ruth Spearing
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AB16

We are pleased to announce Alan's fun quiz will take place at St Matthew's Church Hall on Saturday 14th March. Starting at 7:30pm . As usual teams of up to a maximum of four people are welcome to take part at a cost of £6 per person. There is a supper available at a cost of £6 per person. Please bring your own drink and glasses.

As ever Alan will stretch our knowledge with rounds on music, sport, general knowledge, current affairs, and the Bible. The prize for the winning team is a hamper and as usual a booby prize for the quizzically challenged.

Please complete the slip below and return it to Anna Betts by 9th March.

Please enter my team as follows

Team name _____



1st member _____

2nd member _____

3rd member _____

4th member _____

Team contact and phone number _____



Number of suppers required _____

Cheques made payable to St Matthew's PCC

February Quick View Diary

Sunday	1st	4th Sunday of Epiphany / Presentation of Christ	
Tuesday	3 rd	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
Wednesday	4 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
Thursday	5 th	7:30pm	Gardening Club in St. Matthew's church hall
Friday	6 th	9:00am	Church Hall Cleaning party

Sunday	8th	2nd Sunday Before Lent	
Tuesday	10 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
		7:30pm	Haslington WI meet at the Cosy Club
Wednesday	11 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club

Sunday	15th	Sunday Next Before Lent	
Tuesday	17 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
Wednesday	18 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
			MU AGM
Thursday	19 th	1:00pm	CAMEO in St. Matthew's church hall

Sunday	22nd	1st Sunday of Lent	
Tuesday	24 th	2:00pm	Walking For Health meet Waterloo Rd Car Park
Wednesday	25 th	2:00pm	Bingo at 65 Club
Friday	27 th	10:00pm	Coffee Morning at St. Matthew's church hall



Please use the following

QR Code

To Make a Donation



Parish News Deadline for the **March** edition is **Wednesday 18th February**
Chris Betts, 3 Park Rd. Haslington Tel: 589324 Email: chris_betts_@hotmail.com