

Weekly benefice diary 22nd February 2026

Date	Church	Time	Service/event
Sun 22nd	St A's	8am	Early Eucharist
	St Mary	10am	Plough Sunday
	St A's	10.30am	Family Eucharist
	St Bart's	11am	Parish Eucharist
	St A's	12.15pm	Visiting bellringers
	Trinity	6pm	Taize service
Mon 23rd	St A's	10.30am	Warm Welcome
	St A's	11am	Balance Class
	St A's	10.30am	Havenhills info
	S'wood	3pm	Communion
	St A's	6pm	Centre Stage
	St Mary	7.30pm	Community Choir
Tue 24th	St A's	10.30am	Open Door
	St A's	11am	Ashes interment
	St A's	noon	Lent Lunch
	St A's	1pm	Bible Study
	Trinity	6pm	Say Yes
Wed 25th	St A's	9.45am	Little Fishes
	St A's	10am-2pm	Counselling-Vestry
	St A's	10.30am	Warm Welcome
	St A's	12.30pm	Chair Yoga
	Trinity	5.30pm	Youth Alpha
	St A's	7.30pm	AA Meeting
Thur 26th	St A's	10am	Eucharist
	St A's	10.30am	Warm Welcome
	St A's	11am	Balance Class
	N'wood	11am	Communion
	St A's	6-8pm	Counselling-Vestry
	St A's	6pm	Breath of life
	St A's	7.30pm	Bell ringing
Fri 27th	St Mary	9am	Playgroup
	St A's	10.30am	Warm Welcome
	St A's	noon	What's for lunch
	St Barts	noon	RIP Edwin Swarbrick
	St Mary	3.15pm	Community Cafe
	St A's	6.30pm	Choir Practice
Sat 28th	St A's	9.30am	Eucharist
	St A's	9am	Veteran b'fast
Sun 1st	St A's	8am	Early Eucharist
	St Mary	10am	St Davids Day walk
	St A's	10.30am	Family Eucharist
	St Bart's	11am	Eucharist & baptism
	St A's	3.45pm	Music meeting
	St A's	6pm	Youth Praise

Would you like to join the Book Club? New members are most welcome to join. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1pm in St Andrew's Church.

APCM Reports - please prepare your annual reports for activities in 2025 and pass them to Wendy asap.



22nd February 2026

Lent 1

Reaching out together to share God's amazing faith, hope and love!

St Andrew's Young Church - Sundays 10.30am Come and enjoy stories, crafts & games.

St Andrew's hymns: 145, 111, God our..., 52, 293

St Mary's hymns:

St Bart's hymns: 636; 541; 409; 522; 551.

Prayers for healing and wholeness: Diana Watson, Harvey Allen, Paul Joseland, Diana Barnes, Jim Young, Marjorie Rudolph, Tara Davies, Doreen Griffiths, Doris Gadd, Paul Grinnell, John Deane, Mike Shinn, Kate Hume, Margaret Lewis, Lisa-Jane Rawling, Derek Davies, Wendy Weaver, Terry Connell, Margaret Higgs, Barry Norwood, Neil Robinson, Nicky Eames, Frances Norwood, Doug Hughes, Ann Garbett, Peter Young.

Recently departed: Jean Watts, Christine Ferriday, Edwin Swarbrick, John Penn, John James, Val Sylvester, Barbara Clark.

Weekly birthdays: Lisa Marsden-Hedges, Howard Jones, Irene Holbrook.

Notices

Lent Lunches are on Tues 24 Feb, 3rd, 10th and 17th March at noon in St Andrew's. Homemade soup lunch, raising funds for Christian Aid. Everyone is most welcome.

Bereavement Café offering support, understanding and empathy on Thurs 5th March at 10.30am in the Trinity Centre.

Pilgrim Cello - Kenneth's journey, a 1,900mile bicycle pilgrimage around England's 42 cathedrals, with his cello, Come and hear his music, his story. Sun 8th Mar 3pm in church Adults £12, children free.

Bible Study -1-2pm in St Andrew's on 24th Feb, 10th & 24th March, 21st April & 5th May. For more info Rev Jess 07865 243182 revjessharper@gmail.com

Quiet Day The Power of Prayer, on Sat 18th April 9.30am-2.30pm at the Trinity Centre. A light lunch is provided. Limited spaces. Please contact Evelyn & Jess on 07865 243183 revjessharper@gmail.com

Alpha Group April 7th - Would you like to join the Alpha group this year? Great preparation for being Confirmed. Or would you like to help with the group? Please speak to Andy or Lisa or Helen.

Confirmation - 21st June - children's group and the Alpha group running from April, let me know if you would like to be confirmed, vicar@shifnalbenefice.org.uk.

The Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for Shropshire Day: by Rev Preb Chris Thorpe
Loving God, we give you thanks and praise for our county of Shropshire; for its unique blend of stunning, peaceful landscapes, its rich industrial heritage, and for its deep historical roots.

Help us to nurture and value all that is good, to build up strong bonds of belonging in our towns and villages, where people care for one another and for our environment. Bless all who live and work here, and all who come to visit. Help us to seek the common good in all we do, that together we may build on the solid rock of your love, made known to us through your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading **Genesis 2.15–17; 3.1–7**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden”?’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm **Psalm 32**

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’; then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 ‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.’

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Gospel reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 4.1–11**

Glory to you O Lord

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, ‘All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! for it is written, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”’ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**