

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## Dates for the Diary

Sunday 2nd February	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 2nd February	6:30pm	Home Group @ 'spoons
Monday 3rd February	3pm	HC @ St Joseph's
Tuesday 4th February	1:30pm	Ministry Team Meet
Wednesday 5th February	11am	Holy Communion
Thursday 6th February	6pm	Meditation
Friday 7th February	6:45pm	Alpha at Salvation Army
Sunday 9th February	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th February	6:30pm	Home Group @ 'spoons

## Update on our Beacon Funding

You may recall from last week that I have been asked to update the diocese on the steps we have made in our plans to grow the church using the funding we secured. It was good to reflect on the steps we have made as a congregation and benefice in moving forward and growing in this last year or so. Last week I shared the list that formed my answer to their first question and now below are some of the things achieved under the banner *growing together*. Hopefully it will prove an encouragement to you too.

## Growth Priority Two - Growing Together

- Fifth Sundays are joint with bring and share
- Joint finance and fabric meetings
- Weekly benefice home groups and Café theology at Wetherspoons
- Benefice volunteering for Light Party and CTTK
- Benefice name of Gainsborough adopted
- Parish share split based on net income agreed
- Shared use of hall for 'Small Saints' toddler church agreed



Rector: Revd Andrew Doarks

## 'Heads will Roll'

You might recall Justin Welby's recent reference to our very own Simon of Sudbury in his resignation speech. Well, a few weeks ago Ben and I were interviewed by a Radio 4 producer about Simon and the responsibility we have as a church to preserve such an important artifact. This should be available in June - I'll keep you posted.

This Thursday I am completing the interview by travelling to Canterbury Cathedral to talk with those responsible for his body and understand what they mean when they say they also have a head, with the same Radio producer!

Blessings, Andrew

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [STGREGORYCHURCHSUDBURY.CO.UK](http://STGREGORYCHURCHSUDBURY.CO.UK)

EMAIL: [STGREGSNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STGREGSNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)

**TODAY****Epiphany 4  
Candlemas**

First Reading  
Malachi 3:1-5

Second Reading:  
Luke 2:22-40

Children's work:

Junior Church will be meeting  
in the Vestry

Creche in the east chapel

**QR code to give to the work of  
the church**

**Contacts**

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All contributions for the  
Newsletter to be received by  
Thursday at 9am for Sunday.  
email  
stgregsnewsletter@gmail.com

Andrew and Claire are  
available Tuesday 1 - 1:30pm  
this week at The Rectory.

**Update from Future Vision**

"We greatly appreciate the support in prayer and finance over the years. As we step into 2025, we need to prepare for Ian's retirement and are fully aware that we can't survive on our current financial scale. Please pray for us and with us and we will trust God for our future. Faith Marsden." The Christmas 2024 Newsletter, the Financial Crisis Edition is [here](#).

**Church Sitting revised date**

Come the end of March, we hope to open the Church again during BST. We have a good list of volunteers who expressed their interest and Andrew will host a meeting about the plans on **Monday, February 10th at 2pm at The Rectory**. Do come along if you expressed your interest or are interested in learning more how you can help man the Church. Thank you.

**News from Number 72**

Number 72 - The Family and Community Network – is based at 72, North Street, Sudbury. Website [www.number72.net/](http://www.number72.net/). One Wednesday every month we will be holding an art led activity. If you are needing company, communication and a friendly chat in a quiet welcoming environment, why not see what we have in store! The therapeutic benefits of meeting with others, keeping busy and being creative are all met with this new venture here at No. 72. Booking is ESSENTIAL, so please do call/inbox or pop in to put your name down.

For more information or for booking please call 01787 310610 / inbox [info@number72.net](mailto:info@number72.net) or pop in personally.

**Kettle and Fish**

We will be serving the same delicious food and providing the same friendly welcome as always, 10am to 1.30pm at Suffolk Road Church, next to Aldi.

Next dates: 13, 20, 27 February.  
13, 20, 27 March.

.Great food, an opportunity to chat, and always someone on hand for a conversation about the Christian faith or to pray with you.

Do remember that a **new Alpha course** started last week. Do remember the Friday evening in your prayers - those attending and those delivering the course that we might see lives changed.

**Churches Together  
Prayer Breakfasts**

We meet from 8 to 9.30am for a light breakfast, a time of fellowship and a time for prayer. Do join us if you can. You will be most welcome, whether you have never been before, or have not been for a couple of years, or are a regular!

8 February            Salvation Army  
15 February         All Saints' Church Hall,  
22 February         Suffolk Road Church

**Makaton Church Training in  
Halstead**

Saturday 15 February 2025.. Please see this link for the [details](#).

**Lent Lunches**

St. Gregory's and All Saints' ran lunches together every week during Lent for a couple of years in aid of feeding the hungry in the third world. Neither Sundays nor Fridays worked very well so we are trying a new day.

If you would like to come to a single Lent Lunch on **Saturday 15th March**, or offer soup or help, please contact Win on 372642 or email: [winifredmay200@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:winifredmay200@yahoo.co.uk) after Friday 7th February

**Fellowship Group**

The Fellowship meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month in the Commonlands Room (Ground Floor) at the Christopher Centre, Gainsborough Street, Sudbury. (Unless otherwise shown). Meetings start at 2.30pm.

Subscription £3.50 per meeting, includes Tea/Coffee & Biscuits

February 20th  
Grace Barratt – Waterstones Books

March 20th  
Hannah Powell – History of Perrywood, a family business

**Abi's Footprints**

Andrew and Christine are very grateful for the opportunity to be at St. Gregory's on January 19th and for the warm welcome we received. In 2024 the Baby Bank filled 265 requests to support 123 local families, directly meeting the needs of 150 children aged 0-5 years. With that number of requests, inevitably there are always some things we are short of. Currently that includes warm socks for both boys and girls aged 12 months upwards (children's shoe size 3 upwards). PLEASE no socks for 0-6 months - we are overflowing with these!