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		07703 299 155
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<u>PCC Treasurer</u>	Martin Gash	01964 623452
<u>Bell Ringers</u>	Keith Everingham	01482 899020
<u>Church Room</u>	Wendy Bond	01482 899772
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### Paull

<u>Church Warden</u>	standrewpaull.wordpress.com	
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	Mandy Annison	01964 626115
		tobypaull@aol.com
<u>Wifi /other enquiries</u>	Mandy Annison	- see above
<u>PCC Treasurer</u>	Jim Lowde	07976 762198
<u>Health walks</u>	Kay Burn	01964 626228
<u>Car boot sale</u>	Mandy Annison	- see above

### Sproatley

<u>Church Wardens</u>	<a href="http://spanglefish.com/stswithinschurchsproatley/">spanglefish.com/stswithinschurchsproatley/</a>	
	Liz Holt	01482 814188
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**FEBRUARY 2017**

**30p**

## **The Benefice of Hedon, Paull, Sproatley & Preston Benefice Bulletin**

### BLESSING WORDS

The shortest day has passed, and whatever nastiness of weather we may look forward to in January and February, at least we notice that the days are getting longer. Minute by minute they lengthen out. It takes some weeks before we become aware of the change. It is imperceptible even as the growth of a child, as you watch it day by day, until the moment comes when with a start of delighted surprise we realize that we can stay out of doors in a twilight lasting for another quarter of a precious hour.

V. Sackville-West, "Over winter's hump"



Deadline for items to be submitted for next issue  
**Friday 17 February** - please submit items to the  
Editor:-**details on back page**

*Benefice News*

**St. Augustine, Hedon**

**BENEFICE PRAYER MEETING**

Held every Monday between 10am and 12 noon at St Augustine's.  
Contact Vee Hall for further details.

**ST.AUGUSTINES SOCIAL GROUP.**

Will meet in the Church Room at 2.00pm  
on Thursday 23rd February.  
The entertainment to be arranged.  
Everyone will be made welcome.

**'Little Saints'**

Open to anyone under four and respective parent/carer/  
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**Wednesday Morning Communion**

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***Benefice News***

**All Saints', Preston**

**Christmas Tree Display 2016**

We would like to thank all those who visited our Christmas Tree Display.

All who sponsored trees.

Helped in any way with the event.

The magnificent sum of £1616 was raised.

**All Saints Preston**

All church services during February are to be held in the Community Hall

Services in March will revert to being held in Church.

**Benefice Pastoral Care Team**

Jesus tells us that there are two key commandments, to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. We live out our faith when we are able to show that love to those around us.

If you are part of the church family and would like to speak to someone confidentially on any pastoral care issue or would like someone to pray with you please contact one of the team below.

Denise Wilson	01482 817887
John Groome	01482 897792
Catherine Dunn	01482 897348
Kay Burn	01964 626228
Virginia Hall	01482 898150

### *This Month's Article*

#### Groundhog Day - February 2nd

According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day, then the spring season will arrive early, some time before the vernal equinox; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its den, and winter weather will persist for six more weeks.

The celebration began as a Pennsylvania German custom in south eastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. It has its origins in ancient European weather lore, in which a badger or a sacred bear is the prognosticator, as opposed to a groundhog.

#### The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple - February 2nd

is an early episode in the life of Jesus that is celebrated by the Church on the holiday of Candlemas. It is described in the Gospel of Luke of the New Testament in the Christian Bible. Within the account, "Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23-24)."

In the Church of England, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is a Principal Feast celebrated either on 2nd February or on the Sunday between 28th January and 3rd February.

#### Plimsoll Day - 10th February,

is dedicated to the memory of Samuel Plimsoll, a member of the English Parliament who championed sailors' safety while travelling the world's waterways in crammed ships. He was instrumental in the amendment of Britain's Merchant Shipping Act, which came about in response to the then national problem of dangerously overloaded ships. Plimsoll's bill, named the *Unseaworthy Ships Bill*, was passed in 1876, and required that a mark be present on a ship's hull to indicate the waterline at which maximum cargo capacity was reached for the vessel. For the law merely required that said line – which came to be known as the Plimsoll Line, be painted on the boat. It did not say the line had to

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## *This Month's Article*

be an accurate representation of the safe waterline position for the ship's cargo load. That little stipulation didn't make it's way into law until 1894. Today, the Plimsoll Mark is universally recognized, and is actually represented by several lines – each one indicating the safe waterline mark in relation to both cargo type and water type (salinity, temperature, ocean region, and season).

**Darwin Day - February 12th**

is a celebration to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809. The day is used to highlight Darwin's contribution to science and to promote science in general. Darwin Day is celebrated around the world

**Valentine's Day - 14th February**

also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is an annual holiday celebrated on February 14th. It originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honouring one or more early saints named Valentinus.

**Pluto Day - 18th February**

If you're like me, you grew up with a solar system that had nine planets in it. Then one day they suddenly decided that designating Pluto as a planet was just wrong, and our most distant friend in the solar system suddenly was told he wasn't good enough for the planet club anymore, and would forever be considered a 'dwarf planet'. Kind of a consolation prize for those not cool enough for the big planets club. Pluto Day celebrates the discovery of Pluto in 1930, when it was designated as a planet, and that's how it should have stayed!

**World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day - 22nd February**

is celebrated annually by all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. It is a day when they think about their "sisters" (and "brothers") in all the countries of the world, the

## *This Month's Article*

meaning of Guiding, and its global impact.

February 22nd was chosen as it was the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Robert Baden-Powell and of Olave Baden-Powell, his wife and World Chief Guide. Other Scouts celebrate it as B.-P. Day or Founders' Day.

For Pete's Sake Day - 26th February

celebrates one example of a 'minced oath', where an offensive word or phrase is substituted by something more acceptable in society. Other examples include 'For crying out loud!', and 'Sugar!'. Such euphemisms have been used for centuries whenever people hit thumbs with hammers, burn hands on hot plates, or sit on sharp things while in polite company. Why has Pete been singled out for special attention? In the case of this particular minced oath, Pete is likely to refer to St Peter.

Website - [www.wellcat.com/](http://www.wellcat.com/)

Shrove Tuesday - February 28th

is also known as Pancake Day (or Pancake Tuesday to some people) because it is the one day of the year when almost everyone eats a pancake. Pancake Day is the last day before the period which Christians call Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent. Shrove Tuesday is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday and is therefore the final day before the commencement of Lent, a Christian festival leading up to Easter Sunday. The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. On Shrove Tuesday, in the Middle Ages, people used to confess their sins so that they were forgiven before the season of Lent began.

## *Benefice News*

### **DIARY FOR FEBRUARY**

#### **Thursday 23rd February**

St Augustine's Social Group      Hedon, Church Room      2-00pm

#### **Sunday 26th February**

Communion Service Preston/Sproatley at Sproatley      9:30am  
Family Service      Hedon, St Augustine      11-00am

#### **Monday 27th February**

Health Walk      Paull, St Andrew      10-30am

#### **Tuesday 28th February**

Little Saints      Church Room, Hedon      1-15pm to 3-00pm

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For more information about the Cursillo group please contact Kay Burn, 01964 626228

It is frequently asked, "Why must February have only 28 days? Why can't you borrow one day from the end of January and one day from the beginning of March and make all three months 30 days long?" The answer is that while you can end January on the 30th, you can't begin March on the 2nd.

Robert Brault

**DIARY FOR FEBRUARY**

**Sunday 5th February**

Morning Prayer	Sproatley, St Swithin	9-30am
Holy Communion	Hedon, St Augustine	9-30am
All Age Worship	Paull, St Andrew	11-00am
Holy Communion	Preston, All Saints	6-00pm

**Monday 6th February**

Cursillo Group	Dot Jessop's	11-00am
Assembly	Paull Primary School	3-00pm

**Tuesday 7th February**

Little Saints	Church Room, Hedon	1-15pm to 3-00pm
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**Sunday 12th February**

Holy Communion	Hedon, St Augustine	9-30am
Morning Prayer	Preston, All Saints	11-00am
Holy Communion	Sproatley, St Swithin	11-00am

**Monday 13th February**

Health Walk	Paull, St Andrew	10-30am
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**Tuesday 14th February**

Little Saints	Church Room, Hedon	1-15pm to 3-00pm
Open Deanery Synod Meeting	Ottringham Village Hall.	7-00pm

**Friday 17th February**

Deadline date for submissions to March Benefice Bulletin

**Sunday 19th February**

Morning Prayer	Hedon, St Augustine	9-30am
Family Service	Preston, All Saints	11-00am
Holy Communion	Sproatley, St Swithin	9-30am

**Monday 20th February**

Cursillo Group	Richard Netherton's	11-00am
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**Tuesday 21st February**

Little Saints	Church Room, Hedon	1-15pm to 3-00pm
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Dear All,

Flowers, chocolate, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.

You see the origin of February 14th, a day set aside for the expression of love and romance isn't really that romantic at all!

Not in the traditional sense anyway.

And so telling the real story of the man behind St. Valentine's Day Frank O'Gara writes:

"Valentine was a Roman Priest during the reign of Emperor Claudias, a ruler who persecuted the Church. Claudius also had an edict in place that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the idea that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers who might be afraid of what would happen to their wives and families if they died."



## *Benefice News*

The other thing to bear in mind, O' Gara explains, was that Valentine also lived in a very permissive society, and so polygamy would have been much more popular than just one man and one woman living together.”

This idea however was a problem for the Church, because it went against its teaching that marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman for life that should be encouraged and upheld.

As a result Valentine began to secretly marry couples in direct opposition to the Emperor's edict, but was eventually caught, imprisoned, and tortured for performing these wedding ceremonies.

Then in 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage, (I did warn you that it wasn't very romantic!)

The story then goes on to say that as he awaited trial, a man called Asterius who was to judge Valentine in line with the Roman law, became a Christian himself after witnessing his blind daughter receive her sight after Valentine prayed for her.

## *Benefice News*

Valentine's last words were then recorded in a note to Asterius' daughter which he signed, "from your Valentine," words that have inspired today's romantic messages.

Frank O' Gara then concludes by saying: "As a Christian what the story of St. Valentine says to me is that there comes a time when you have to put your life on the line for what you believe in."

Well in a supreme act of love Jesus put his life on the line by dying for the Church, described in the Bible as his bride, (Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, 21:1-2), so that like St. Valentine we could be faithful to him and stand up for what we believe in. So flowers, chocolate, red hearts, and romance, that's what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not.....

Every blessing.

Jon.

