



CROYDON CENTRAL DEANERY NEWS

Christ Church, Emmanuel, Croydon Minster,
St Andrew, St George, St Matthew,
St Mary Magdalene with St Martin,
St Michael with St James, St Mildred,

St Peter & St Augustine (South Croydon Benefice)

February 2026

As we come to the close of Epiphany, we find ourselves at Candlemas — the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. In the soft glow of candlelight, we are reminded that Christ remains our light; shining steadily in a world that can often feel fragile, divided, or uncertain, and most importantly in our own lives. Candlemas invites us not only to rejoice in that light, but also to ask a deeper question: how might we carry Christ's light into our own lives, homes, relationships, and daily encounters? Through small acts of kindness, patience, compassion, and reconciliation. Fr Michael, South Croydon Benefice.



Confirmation of Election Service at St Paul's

On Wednesday 28th January I travelled up to St Paul's Cathedral to witness history being made: the Confirmation of the Election of the Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Elisabeth Mullally DBE as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. It was history-making as Archbishop Sarah is the first woman to be appointed to the post. It was a wonderful service in the beautiful sacred space that is St Paul's, weaving together worship and the legalities that must take place. I learnt some new words which were used in the service, including porrect (meaning produce) and contumacious (disobedient to the order of the Court).

This is the prayer that was offered ahead of Archbishop Sarah's confirmation and I share it here as I encourage prayer for Archbishop Sarah as she begins this next part of her ministry and journey. Rev Ruth

A Prayer for the Confirmation of Election of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Almighty God, you call your church in every age to proclaim the Gospel of Christ: look with mercy upon your servant Sarah, and grant that, as deacon, she may care for those in need, as priest, sustain us with the ministry of the word and sacrament, and as bishop, guard the faith and build up the body of Christ in holiness. Give her wisdom and kindness that as archbishop she may promote unity, seek truth, and lead us in the way of righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

What's happening in our Deanery

- Every Friday, 1.10 pm: Lunchtime Recitals (40 mins) @ Croydon Minster, CR0 1RN
- 28th February, 6.45 for 7 pm: Quiz Night @ St Peter's Hall, Ledbury Road, CR0 1EP. Tickets £12 (£6 for U-16s), includes soup and pudding. Max of 6 per team. To book a place or team, contact: events@southcroydonbenefice.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF VENUE FOR NEXT SYNOD

Next Synod – Thursday 12th Feb 2026 - 8.00 pm @ St Matthew's Church,
Chichester Road, CR0 5NQ (refreshments @ 7.30 pm)

Commissioning and Presentation of Rev Ruth Chapman as Area Dean
by Rt Rev Dr Bishop Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon

Guest speaker: Leondre Douglas, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education