

CONTACT DETAILS

Church Wardens

Kerin (Tom) Knight: 07985 490543
Christine Monk 020 8653 8400

Organist and Choirmaster

Thomas Hewitt Jones:
Email music@thomashewittjones.com.

Flower Guild

Barbara Miller 020 8653 1972

Family Offering Scheme Secretary –

Patricia Polton 020 8653 5798

Newsletter Editor

John Davis 020 8670 1564
Email jdavis9584@aol.com
Address 46 Roxburgh Road
London SE27 0LD

The Weekly Service Sheet

For alterations or additions to our weekly sheet and bulletin, please contact Christine Williams,
email christinewilliams991@btinternet.com
tel: 020 8332 1431

The Church's Website –

www.allsaintsuppernorwood.co.uk

Saints of the Month: February

- 1st St Brigid. The 'Mary of the Gaels', honoured in Ireland second only to St Patrick, died about 523.
- 2nd Candlemass: the Presentation of the Lord/Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 11th Caedmon; monk of Whitby abbey and poet, died. 680.
Also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- 14th St Valentine. Little is known of this early martyr, whose association with love seems to be either because birds were supposed to pair on this day, or perhaps of the Roman pagan feast of Lupercalia.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9th March: Ash Wednesday. Eucharist with imposition of ashes, 8.00 pm in the Parish Rooms (because of building works).

17th March (Thursday): Start of Lent course, which will be held on five successive Thursdays; see the article below for details.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Articles etc for inclusion can be left at the back of church or sent to the editor (details above).

If you are organising a fundraising event or have any other news, please let us know and we can advertise it. Please remember this is your newsletter and contributions are not only welcome, but positively begged for (at least some months)!

Two Early Saints of These Islands – Brigid and Caedmon

Brigid

Ascertainable facts about Brigid are few; born in Ireland around 450, numerous accounts of her consist mainly of (often far-fetched) miracles and anecdotes mixed with folklore. All, however, give the impression of a strong, lively, compassionate character, imbued with a sense of charity: many of the wonders associated with her relate to her meeting the spiritual and physical needs of her neighbours. In the Isle of Man, on the eve of St Brigid, the festival of *Laa'l Breeshey* used to be kept to celebrate the coming of Brigid to the island to receive the veil from St Maughold. Householders would stand at the threshold of the door holding bunches of green rushes, inviting St Brigid to come in and lodge the night with them. Then the rushes would be strewn on the floor to provide a carpet or bed for her.

Caedmon

According to Bede, Caedmon was a lay brother at Streonæshalch in Northumbria who was inspired to compose vernacular English poetry after a dream in which an unknown interlocutor approached him and asked him to sing *principium creaturarum* "the beginning of created things." He immediately produced a short eulogistic poem praising God as the creator of heaven and earth (*see* prayer of the month *above*). The next morning he was taken to the abbess and her counsellors. They asked him about his vision and tested his gift by giving him a second commission, this time for a poem based on "a passage of sacred history or doctrine" of their own choosing. When Caedmon returned the next morning with the desired poem, he was ordered to take monastic vows. He was given further religious instruction from which, according to Bede, he produced a large oeuvre of splendid vernacular religious songs. After a long and zealous life, Caedmon died like a saint: receiving a premonition of death, Caedmon asked to be moved to the abbey's hospice for the terminally ill, where, having gathered his friends around him, he expired just before nocturne, on a day in the year 680.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Praise

Caedmon's Hymn, from an early 8th century copy

Now let me praise the keeper of Heaven's kingdom,
The might of the Creator, and his thought,
The work of the Father of glory, how each of wonders
The Eternal Lord established in the beginning.
He first created for the sons of men
Heaven as a roof, the holy Creator,
Then Middle-earth the keeper of mankind,
The Eternal Lord, afterwards made,
The earth for men, the Almighty Lord.