



Archbishop Janani Luwum of Uganda 1922—1977

Janani Luwum was born in 1922 at Acholi in Uganda. His childhood and youth were spent as a goatherd but he quickly showed an ability to learn and absorb knowledge when given the opportunity.

Not long after he became a teacher, he was converted to Christianity, eventually being ordained in 1956; he became Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974.

Idi Amin had come to power in Uganda in 1971 as the result of a military coup and his undemocratic and harsh rule was the subject of much criticism by the Church and others. After receiving a letter from the bishops protesting at the virtual institution of state murder, Janani and two of Amin's own government ministers were said to have been found dead following a car accident. It soon emerged that they had in fact died on the implicit instructions of the President.

Janani's enthusiasm for the good news of Jesus, combined with his willingness to sacrifice even his own life for what he believed in, led him to his martyrdom on **17 February 1977**.

St Cross Newsletter February 2026



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The Vicar writes.....

A lot has happened since I last wrote to you. It seems there is so much happening on the world stage which is apparently dominated by one character. As I write, the nation of Iran has been warned of military action (for sure, dreadful events have been happening there), but we have seen an audacious claim for Greenland with a threat of draconian economic sanctions being rebuffed by European Leaders, as well as protests in Minneapolis, and violence in Venezuela.

We may look at our own political leaders of various persuasions and have certain reservations depending on our own point of view, but as Angela Tilby writes in a recent Church Times, at least we are not led by a 'narcissist'. Narcissism is self-love, and the word stems from the Greek myth of 'Narcissus'.

Narcissus was a beautiful youth who attracted many admirers. One day he caught sight of his own reflection in a pool of water and fell in love with the image of himself. So obsessed

did he become that he could not leave the pool for the love of his reflection. He died of starvation and a narcissus bloomed where he had fallen.

Now, as the spring approaches, in a few weeks we will start to see 'Narcissus' everywhere, the beautiful daffodil. Simple and affordable and ever so beautiful. Daffodils are delightful.

According to Angela Tilby, President Trump recently commissioned a portrait of himself for the Colorado State Capital and insisted that the portrait be mounted in a gold frame so that it would glimmer, but when all was revealed, he claimed it distorted him. Was it the case that the frame made the subject on the portrait look more ordinary, more realistic, than usual? If so, that would be unbearable.

As Spring dawns and Narcissus arrives, pray for those who lead us that they may not be 'narcissistic'. Our new Archbishop, Sarah Mullally needs our prayers. I am sure she will continue to serve Christ and his Church with faithfulness and steadfastness. These are the type of people Jesus wants to lead in his Church.

May the narcissus remind us that we are all beautiful and loved in God's eyes and that God looks on our heart, its character and intentions. God is more concerned for our inner spiritual state rather than the outward appearance, stature, or worldly merit (1 Samuel 16.7).

Yours, in Christ

Paul

Calendar for February

Mondays 2, 9, 16, 23 February

2-4pm Monday Together in the Parish Room

Fellowship, refreshments and activities supporting the work of the church.

Tuesday 10 February

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Wednesday 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY

10am Said Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7pm Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 19 February

2.30-4pm Lent Study Group Parish Room

Additional notices appear weekly on Sundays and on the Parish Room notice board.

To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross
<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>

involved in their care.

As a charity, all the services are provided free of charge to patients and carers –so please help us to raise money to help support their wonderful work. The Hospice could well make a difference to many of us.

Thank you,

Hil.

For more information visit:

<https://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/>



Narcissi in full bloom

Occasional Offices in December and January

FUNERALS (CREMATORIUM)

2 December June Edna Turner

27 January Jean Yarwood

INTERMENT OF ASHES AT ST CROSS

18 January Richard Geoffrey Warwick

24 January Ian Risebrow

WEDDING

31 December Michael McGinnity and Megan Gleave



St Cross Lent Appeal 2026
Coffee Morning Saturday 14 March



**East Cheshire
Hospice**
Where people come to live

We are moving close to home this year with our Lent Appeal, as we ask you to help us support East Cheshire Hospice which provides a warm and welcoming space for adults facing life-limiting illness. To launch our appeal we are having a talk by their Hospice Chaplain during the 10am service on March 8th and on the following Saturday, March 14th, we are holding a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall during which one of the Hospice's fund raising team will give a presentation. Only 21% of the Hospice funding comes from the government. The remaining £9,362 they need each day is donated by the communities they serve.

East Cheshire Hospice has been caring for people since 1988. It serves the communities of Macclesfield, Buxton, Congleton, High Legh, High Peak, Knutsford, Poynton, Wilmslow and the surrounding areas. The Hospice puts its patients, their carers or families at the centre of everything they do, and their expert medical treatment is only the start of the holistic care they provide.

I have visited the Hospice and know it to be a warm and welcoming place for everyone, no matter their background or beliefs. It provides compassionate inpatient and day care in a

peaceful, supportive environment, where every individual is treated with dignity, kindness and respect. As well as the team of nursing professionals there are, on site, physiotherapists and occupational therapists to help improve patients' mobility and symptoms. There is also a chapel which is always open where specialist counselling and chaplaincy teams are on hand. The Chaplain and volunteers offer a listening ear, support, or prayers, respecting all beliefs, faiths, or none, in a non-judgmental and confidential way.

The Inpatient Unit of 15 beds has a patients' lounge, relatives' lounge and access to a garden. The nursing team will try to help with whatever's going to make a difference to the patient – whether it's a spell outside in the gardens, a soak in the bath or something more ambitious. They've held weddings, arranged christenings and often host birthday parties, as their aim is to create happy memories. The Hospice also offers Hospice @Home to empower people to remain at home if they wish, by offering high-quality end-of-life care and support in the community. It provides day and night support for any patient and their loved ones and works in collaboration with Marie Curie who provide the night sits.

There is also the Sunflower Living Well Centre which is there to help anyone whose life has been affected by the diagnosis of a life-limiting illness. Such a diagnosis can come as an enormous shock to patients, families and carers, but the Sunflower Living Well Centre provides a range of services that offer support and help to give families the tools they need to cope. Patients may self-refer or be referred by their GP or healthcare professional