



Candlemas (Epiphany 4) 29th January 2017



Welcome to our services at
St Nicholas' in Worth and St
Barnabas' in Pound Hill.

This sheet details the readings in today's services and notices for everyone. **It is for you to take home and share.** If you are here for the first time, please do introduce yourselves. Please feel free to use the soft toys and books at the back of the church for your children. At Communion, everyone is welcome to come up and receive a blessing or, if baptised, share the bread and wine. We'd also love you to join us for refreshments after the service

SERVICES TODAY

08.00 Holy Communion St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

09.45 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Gordon Parry

10.00 Eucharist Service St Barnabas'
Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Canon Julia Peaty

Please send pew sheet notices to
pewsheet@worthparish.org.uk or
phone 0300 111 8150

Candlemas is literally a church festival for the blessing of candles and is grafted on to pre-Christian ceremonies which celebrated the visible returning of the sun's light and power from the dark depths of the norther hemisphere winter. In the church calendar it is also linked to the 'Purification' of Mary, the Mother of Christ, at which she and her husband, forty days after the birth of her Son, offered to the Temple priest two turtle doves to be ritually sacrificed in order to restore Mary's place in society and to offer thanks for the safe delivery of her Son.

Our readings today include a presaging of this event by the prophet Malachi ('the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple') and then a highly condensed account in Hebrews of the profound meaning of Christ's living amongst us as a human being. It is worth suggesting that a careful and slow reading of Hebrews gives a very challenging but fascinating account of the scope and meaning of Christ's ministry amongst us.

The narrative of what happened when the infant Christ was brought to the Temple is contained in our Gospel reading from Luke. His acknowledgment by Simeon has been given a special place in the liturgy of the church through the 'Nunc Dimittis' and was, for Simeon, the culmination of his life's witness.

Simeon and Anna realised fully the significance of what they saw. The most fundamental point of our worship in all its forms is to reinforce our faith in the transforming power of God, through the example of Christ and the work of his gift of the Holy Spirit. May that faith animate our lives with a permanence and a vibrancy that are themselves witness to God at work in the world.

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

The Coming Messenger

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like



fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

clean
hands PURE
♥ **HEART** ♥

Psalm 24.
[1-6]7-10

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since, therefore, the children

share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or

two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy



Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace

Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's



Jesus Christ left His Father's presence and became mortal to show us how to find our way home to our Heavenly Father.

Mortality

Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and forever.

Amen

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Tues 3 rd	10.30 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 2 nd	10.30 Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Sat 4 th	12.00 Wedding	St Nicholas'
Sun 5 th Feb	08.00 Holy Communion	St Nicholas'
	09.45 Sung Eucharist	St Nicholas'
	10.00 Eucharist	St Barnabas'
	11.30 Nic's	St Nicholas'

Readings for Sunday 5th Feb

4th Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 58.1-9a[b-12]

Psalms 112.1-9[10]

1 Corinthians 2.1-12[13-16]

Matthew 5.13-20

Wed 8 February 17

Maidenbower Infants School
15.15-16.45



Wed 15 February 17

St Barnabas Hall 15.00 – 17.00

Old and new friends welcome!

Notices & Diary Notes

The funeral service for Father Craig will be held at All Saints Church in Whitstable on Friday 10th Feb at 12.00. If anyone would like to go, but requires a lift please call the office 0300 111 8150

Anyone interested in being Confirmed this year please pass your name to Revd Gordon Parry, Joan Tick or contact the Parish Office in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

100 Club – January 2017 winners

No.26 £100 Mr & Mrs Tony Smith
No.44 £50 Mr Ian Pallett
No.41 £25 Mrs Joan Tick
No.23 £25 Mr Malcolm Booker

The Pastoral Centre is open
Mon 14.00 – 16.00 &
Tues, Fri, Sat 10.30 – 12.00
for tea, coffee, snacks, cake and friendship

Friday lunches 12.30 in the Centre - 2 courses + tea / coffee - £5.50. All welcome. Please order tickets by 1st Feb (for catering) for 3rd Feb at the PC or call 0300 111 8150.

Mon 30th Jan Worth Book Club will be meeting in the Centre on the last Monday of each month at 19.00. If you are interested contact the Parish Office or just turn up!

Warren Mailey-Smith (late St Nicholas Head Choirboy) will be playing at the Chichester Cathedral lunchtime concert on **Tuesday 7th February** starting at 1.10pm.

The **Lighthouse Project** is turning 20! Please join us for our 20th Celebration Service on **Sunday 12th February 2017**, 4.30pm – 5.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Furnace Green RH10 6NU. All welcome! Please join us for some 'party nibbles' afterwards! Do take a take an invitation from either church if you would like to attend!

Sat 4th February Saturday Market
Pastoral Centre 10.00 - 11.45 Do join us for bargains, refreshments and friendship.

Sat 11th Feb 2017 Year of the Bible special Deanery Synod meeting at St. Andrew's Church Furnace Green, RH10 5EL. 09.30 for 10.00 start – 12.00 Everyone warmly invited.

The next Parish Prayer Group will be at St Barnabas at 7.30pm on **Thursday 16 February 2017**. Everyone welcome.

Sat 25th Feb Book Sale 10.00 - 11.45 in the Pastoral Centre in aid of the Hall Toilets Project. Please save your unwanted good cond. books for us Thank you

Friday March 17th - our Parish will be prayed for in Chichester Cathedral during Evensong at 17.30, No booking needed but signing the list is helpful so we can advise on numbers and see if anyone requires a lift.

As a parish we encourage recycling. We collect 1] spectacles (given to Boots Chemist for use in 3rd world countries), 2] postage stamps (to St. Catherine's hospice who sell them), 3] plastic bottle tops – any with a triangle containing a 2 (to Billingshurst Library for a local Children's hospice), 4] inkjet cartridges (not Kodak or Epsom) and 5] old mobile phones (to Blond McIndow Research Foundation at East Grinstead hospital). As the storage facilities are limited at St N's please take directly to St B or give to Sue P on a Sunday.



Children's Society Boxes

Although we have 'lost' three of our supporters the annual count of individual savings' boxes realized a total of £483.57 and this sum has been sent to the society (£556.40 after gift aid). Many thanks to everyone who kindly contributed. Please see the next Parish Mag for more details. *Brenda Booker*

CONTACTS

During the interregnum the Rural Dean, the Revd Canon Julia Peaty & Church Wardens, Phyl Pennell and David Parker, are the sequestrators (responsible for clergy cover).

Also Revd Gordon Parry has offered his number 07802 43 23 98 if anyone specifically needs to talk with a member of clergy

Churchwardens

Sheila Dring (St B)	01293 513496
David Parker (St N)	01293 884574
Phyl Pennell (St B)	01293 883362
Colin Smith (St N)	01293 889894

Worth Parish Office

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