

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

31 January 2021

'A light to lighten the nations and the glory of your people, Israel'

'Candlemas' - Marianne Stokes (1855-1927)

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, we remember that his birth revealed the rock-sure knowledge that God abides with us in every circumstance. In this week which has seen the milestone grim statistic of death within our nation, we remember all affected by this, and those who mourn and suffer in its shadow.

Yet we remember that meeting in the temple, and the words of Simeon (above). We remember too that a virgin conceives, a childless woman bears, a dumb man speaks, the unborn child leaps for joy, the widow praises and the just man waits. We are called to know and proclaim the gift of love to a broken world made known in the face of Jesus Christ. Ours the task of making this known as we journey in faith.

With all best wishes,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Candlemas (31 January 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only) Readers: Jim & Eileen Knight; Intercessors: Nicky and Harriet Lawrence; Preacher: Jonathan Berry

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) *Anskar, Apostle of the North*

Readings: Isaiah 52: 7-10; Romans 10: 11-15; Mark 6: 7-13

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 21-24; Mark 6: 7-13

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Candlemas

Next Sunday: Sexagesima - Second Sunday before Lent (7 February 2021)

9.45 Family Eucharist (online only)

6.00pm Choral Evensong (online only)

All services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.

The Collect Candlemas

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.
who reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The 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 for ever.
Amen

Malachi 3: 1-5

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.

Hebrews 2: 14-end

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.

Luke 2: 22-40

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 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 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 Phaniel, 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. 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.

A thought

At Candlemas we hear of four people and a baby, all of whose lives were touched in some way by this unplanned meeting in the temple. Out of it came a song that has been sung through the centuries - Nunc Dimittis. For us it marks the end of the Christmas season, and it opens to us all themes of presentation, purification, meeting and light for the world. These are joyful and hopeful themes. But the Presentation is also the hinge when we turn from Christmas to look towards Lent, Holy Week and the Passion – the life-giving love of this child whom we know to be the Light of the World. And so there is a bitter-sweetness about today, a



A prayer for this time of anxiety:
God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen

poignancy as, like Mary, we take in the fact that the joy at this child's birth will have to embrace, too, for us, the pain of a sword piercing the soul. Nevertheless, as we give thanks for this beautiful Festival we remember the light of Christ shining in the dark places of this world in the face of our brothers and sisters, the light that the darkness cannot overwhelm or overcome, and recall our own call to live in Christ - to offer, with them, his light and redemption to the world.

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Tony and Wendy Hibling, Anne Greenhill, Nicholas Frayling, Kevin

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Heather Hollis,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Diana Hoile, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Rosie McNamara, William Shardlow, Fr Eric Simmons CR, Julia Whidborne, Peter Chandler. John Owen

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 1st Albert Buckman, Arthur Lee, Miles Dixon, 2nd Doreen Burrige, Janet Garner, Arthur Inch, Judith Garrett, Dorothy Raeburn, 3rd Millicent Bonney, Monica Boocock, Niamh Goodchild, Margery Watts, Joan Beddington, 5th Grace Hendley, Noel Redman, Doreen Pye, Jeanne Dean, Margaret Swain, 6th John Wilde, Margaret Pressman