

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Candlemas

30th January 2022

A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel

My dear friends,

Sunday marks the end of the Christmas and Epiphany season as we celebrate the feast of Candlemas. Yet lest we become overtaken by its golden glow, we are reminded of the way in which following Jesus faithfully can sometimes be painful indeed. The words of Simeon to Mary talk of a sword piercing her heart. Most of us never have such an experience, yet it is the case for many Christians throughout the world day by day.

Nevertheless, Candlemas also reminds us through Anna of our evangelical call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ - the greatest message for humanity. This is our privilege and joy, and as our beloved parish moves forward to the seeking and call of a new vicar, I hope that none of us will forget that ours is a shared proclamation, a shared vision and, above all, a shared joy. As we are fed at the table of the Lord week by week, let us remember Simeon's words: 'My eyes have seen the salvation you have prepared for all people.' The one who is the Bread of Life feeds us, sustains us, and calls us to joyful proclamation to all we meet.

With love,

Michael

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Candlemas (30th January 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Graham Johnson

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Eileen Knight & Wendy Bloomer; Intercessor: Mark Parker

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17; Mark 6: 1-6a

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church & online)* **Anskar, Apostle of the North**

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

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Epiphany IV (in church)*

Next Sunday: The Fourth Sunday before Lent (6th February 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

11.15 Informal Family Worship

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church and online)*

The Collect for Candlemas

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 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 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.

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

We have four people and a baby, all 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, together the festival we know as Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. For us it marks the end of the Christmas season, and it opens us to 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, the very Light of the World. So there is a bitter-sweetness about today, a 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. In Simeon and Anna, who experience a senior moment to die for (*Ann Lewin*), we have two sides of the same coin represented. In Simeon, we have a metaphor for our finding contentment in our own salvation and the knowledge that we can die in peace because we have met our Saviour. In Anna, we have a metaphor for the need for us to share that good news of salvation with others so that they too may be drawn to the Christ-child. Simeon represents to us confidence in our personal salvation. Anna represents to us the evangelical spirit to which we are all called. So, at this Candlemas, we can rejoice in our own salvation and we commit ourselves to the task of enabling others to walk in the light of Christ.

**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**

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, John Bernardi (priest), Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Carol Cox, Martin Packham, Ralph Wilkins

Long Term Need: Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, David Davidson, Eileen Knight

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Brian Brown, Tony Burbidge, Veronica Hutchinson, Shirley Lewis, Lorna Fischer

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 30th Margaret Wratten, 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,