



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 30th January 2022
Candlemas

This Sunday marks the feast of Candlemas. It's the turning point between Christmas and Easter, as we hear the story of the child Jesus presented in the Temple and two strangers recognise in him the light of God. We leave behind our Christmas celebrations as the young Jesus is dedicated as 'holy to the Lord', and we turn towards the cross with a foreshadowing of what's to come as Mary is told he will be 'a sign that will be opposed...and a sword will pierce your own heart too.' So, on this feast, we stand between Christmas and Easter, between Christ's birth and his death, and perhaps are given a chance to reflect on the whole span of the life of faith.

And as we do, Simeon and Anna offer us a picture of a faithful life that is drawing to its close. They show us lives that have been lived in faithful attentiveness to the workings of God, lives open to the leading and revealing of the Spirit. Though they finally see and recognise Jesus toward the end of their lives, every act of faithfulness that came before had prepared them for that moment. So perhaps we're given the opportunity to reflect on how our own faith has changed and grown and deepened over the years. And perhaps we're given a chance to prepare to know God in still new and unexpected ways as we say with Simeon (as the prayer book has it):

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel

First Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: 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.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom: **Bible Study Group**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Fri 5pm, Zoom (church code below): **Food for Thought**
Sun 6th 8:00am, Church: **Holy Communion Fourth Sunday before Lent**
9.30am, Church: **Parish Eucharist**
Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Mr Bernie Troughton Leading
Rev'd Gerard Rundell Preaching
Readings from: Isaiah 6.1-end; 1 Corinthians 15.1-111; Luke 5.1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 5th Feb. 10am-12pm: **Saturday Cafe Fundraiser for the Afghanistan Crisis**
Wed 23rd Feb. 12pm: **Lunch Group at the Rugby Club**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/Candlemas2022>

DEFIBRILLATOR - Brunton Park now has a defibrillator. It was funded through a generous donation from Ian Watson, owner of the Manor House, and also with contributions from the Parish Council, St Aidan's Church and St Aidan's Community Centre. It's on the front wall of St Aidan's Community Centre

LUNCH GROUP - will meet on Wednesday 23rd Feb at 12pm at the Rugby Club. Please see Pat or Pauline if you wish to join us.

STARLIGHT AND CANDLELIGHT - words and music for the Epiphany season. Sunday 30th January at Holy Saviour's Tynemouth at 6pm with the Colla Voce Chamber Choir.

COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER FOR AFGHANHISTAN – due to the very difficult situation in Afghanistan we will be raising funds during Saturday café on 5th February. We'll have a cake stall, raffle and books stall. Please come along and join us to raise funds for this very worthy cause.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - the group has resumed on Monday's at 7:30pm via Zoom with a series looking at Genesis 1-11 the opening chapters of the Bible the Tower of Babel, chapters that are at the heart of our Christian understanding of the beginnings of our world. But do they have anything to say to us today in the scientific age of the 21st century? Join us using Meeting ID: 881 6875 9104, Passcode: StABSG or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88168759104?pwd=SFFWOVUzT1p2RXZ2dnBPbXZGMGxWdz09> or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT02> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – when attending a service, please wear a face mask, sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

USED STAMPS – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the Church – Particularly for Churches in our Deanery: Centre of Newcastle Parishes and City Centre Chaplaincy. Within our church we pray for our sidespeople, our Saturday Café, and all involved in our ministry of welcome.

For the world – Particularly for Afghanistan and its people, for our own national and political life. In our community for our uniformed groups.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston and Sheila Lonie.

For those who have died and those who grieve – For Jean Carson. On their anniversaries: Albert Robottom, Baden Robson, Doreen Carrick, Kenneth Brown, John Allen, Colin Weatherall, Stanley Taws, Barbara Elsdon, Joyce Rickaby, Sarah Scott, Hannah Lloyd, Catherine McKeating, Roland Hardy, Joyce Earnshaw.

CONTACTS

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