



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

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Candlemas

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, also known as Candlemas. It falls 40 days after Christmas, so the actual date of the Presentation is 2nd. February, (Friday), but we are celebrating it today. It marks the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season. It is also known as the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, though the concept of "purifying" a woman after childbirth would not be generally acceptable today.

The name "Candlemas" comes from the tradition in some churches of blessing on this Sunday the candles to be used in the coming year.

Candles are a very natural symbol for light of course, and this season now ending is very much associated with the theme of light: - we think of Christ as the light of the world, and the light of the gospel spreading throughout the world. Indeed next Sunday the theme continues as we will then hear St John's interpretation of the incarnation in which he proclaims Jesus as the life that is the light of all mankind.

The gospel reading is St Luke's account of the visit to the temple of Mary and Joseph and the almost six-week-old Jesus to fulfil the requirements of the law set out in Exodus 13 and Leviticus 12. There they are greeted by two elderly "parishioners" Simeon and Anna. It's just an ordinary human-interest story, at least until we hear what Simeon has to say.

By contrast, the prophet Malachi's vision of the Lord coming to his temple is far from innocent. If people were self-confidently looking forward to this promised event, they should be careful: it may not be pleasant for them. He will be like a fire that purifies, he will judge like one who refines silver. So who then will be able to stand before him when he appears?

### **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.

### **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.

### **TODAY**

9.30am: **Candlemas** Rev'd Hannah Malcolm leads and Rev'd Ray Devenney preaches

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Mon-Fri</b>	8.50am, Church: <b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10.00am, Church: <b>BCP Midweek Eucharist</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	2.00pm: <b>Prayer and Praise</b> , Community Room 8.00pm, <b>Men's Group</b> , Community Room
<b>Sat</b>	10am, Community Room: <b>Saturday Café</b>
<b>Sun</b>	9.30am: <b>Family Eco Service</b> Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our family service as Rev'd Hannah Malcolm preaches for us with readings from Colossians 1.15-20 and John 1.1-14

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.00pm: <b>Lunch Group</b> , Rugby Club
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2.00pm, <b>Film Club- The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry</b> , Community Room
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	3:30pm: <b>Family Pancake Party</b> , Church
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	7:00pm, <b>The Prayer Course</b> , St Cuthbert's Church
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	4.00pm, <b>Team Evensong Farewell to Pauline</b> , St Columba's

## **LENT LUNCHESES**

Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	12.00pm: <b>St Columba's</b>
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.00pm: <b>St John's URC</b>
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00pm: <b>Sacred Heart/St Aidan's (TBC)</b>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00pm: <b>Sacred Heart/St Aidan's (TBC)</b>
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00pm: <b>St Cuthbert's</b>

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – the link for today's service is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2024Candlemas>

**LENT COURSE - The Prayer Course**: This year the parish Lent course will take a closer look at how we pray, through a video series produced by 24/7 Prayer. We will use a different line of the Lord's prayer each week to help us discuss and try out different ways of praying on our own and together. Everyone is welcome, whether you're a life-long pray-er or prayer feels completely new. Where: St Cuthbert's church. When: Wednesday evenings in Lent, beginning 21st Feb. 7pm refreshments, 7.30pm start.

**LENT LUNCHESES** - as always we'll be joining with our ecumenical brothers and sisters for worship and reflection, soup and chat over Lent. Do join us for this year's Lent Lunches, ever Wednesday at 12pm, details above.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** - will be taking a break until the beginning of Lent, when they will recommence looking at Luke's passion narrative.

**MISSING COAT** – has anyone accidentally picked up a coat that doesn't belong to them, quite possibly at the Carol service before Christmas? A gentleman has misplaced his and hopes someone has it safe at home.

**MEN'S GROUP** – will meet on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February in the community room at 8pm. Ben Pullan's talk will be 'Up the creek without a paddle – Nigeria'.

**FILM CLUB** – will meet on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February in the community room at 2pm to watch 'The unlikely pilgrimage of Harold Fry' - a man sets out to walk across England to encourage his dying friend.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

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

**FOOD BANK** – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

**PLANNED GIVING** - If you would like to set up a regular financial gift to support St Aidan's please click on the following link

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/brunton-park-st-aidan-newcastle-upon-tyne>

### ***For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer***

**For the church** – Churches in our Deanery: Centre of Newcastle Parishes and City Centre Chaplaincy, sidespeople, our Saturday Café, and all involved in our ministry of welcome

**For the community** – uniformed groups

**For the world** – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

**For those being baptised** – Clara

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Bruce Smith, George Troughton

**For those who have died** – Shirely Pentland, Robert Hedley and on their anniversaries: Albert Surtees, Ian Jamieson, David Fraser Denmark, Albert Robottom, Baden Robson, Doreen Carrick, Kenneth Brown, John Allen, Colin Weatherall, Lew Edwards, Stanley Taws, Barbara Elsdon, Joyce Rickaby

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