



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 2nd February 2025

Candlemas

The feast of Candlemas marks the end of Christmas in the Church's year. Traditionally 2nd February is the time to take down your Christmas decorations, so if you haven't got round to it yet, there's your excuse: you're just a traditionalist! Candlemas, though, marks the shift from the crib to the cross. We end our celebration of the Son of God come to share our life, to look towards the giving up of that life on the cross, and the risen life that lies beyond on Easter day.

In our Gospel reading Simeon sees both of these. At the beginning of Christ's life, as he's presented as a baby in the temple, Simeon sees the light and glory of God in this child born in human flesh, but he also sees the trial and sorrow that will come as that light faces the darkness and a sword will pierce the soul of Mary. It's a day that holds together the crib and the cross. Perhaps on this day we too might give thanks for the gift of the light of the world come to share our life, and also prepare for the challenge that comes as the light of life calls us to take up our cross and follow him.

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'), 24and 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. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

TODAY 9.30am: **Candlemass Family Service** Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches and leads with Rev Lee Kirkby

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
12.00pm, Rugby Club: **Lunch Group**
Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**
8.00pm, Community Room: **Mens Group: Members Talk**
Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**
10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone (not 4th Saturday of the month)**
7:30pm, Church: **In Conversation with Bishop Helen-Ann**
Sun 9.30am: **4 Before Lent** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 and Luke 5.1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 13th Feb 2.00pm: **Film Club: The Secret - Dare to Dream**, Comm Room
Thurs 20th Feb 7.45pm: **Alpha**, Community Room

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Candlemas>

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP HELEN-ANN – This Saturday 8th, at 7.30pm we'll be hosting a conversation with Bishop Helen-Ann. Please join us to support the evening and for a chance to ask those burning questions you've always wanted to ask a Bishop!

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE: Old Testament - if you want to learn more about the Old Testament in a memorable and fun way then this Walk through the Old Testament is for you! On Saturday, 22nd March, 10:00am - 4:30pm at St Thomas' Church, Haymarket, NE1 7PF. Follow this link to find out more and book a space <https://stthomas.churchsuite.com/events/glgmpzvs>

DENTAL PRODUCT RECYCLING - sadly, we have been informed that the dental product recycling scheme is coming to a close in a few weeks. If you have any toothbrushes, electric brush heads, interdental brushes, floss containers, etc. which you would like to recycle, please drop them off in the box under the book table by 13th February.

ALPHA – we have another new session of Alpha planned before Lent on Thursday 20th Feb. If you've never tried Alpha, come along to this session to find out more. A homemade meal is provided before the session starts.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – will resume its study of Acts on Monday 3 February, looking at Paul's third missionary journey, beginning at Acts 18.23

FILM CLUB – next week, will show the PG film 'The Secret - Dare to Dream', starring Katie Holmes and Josh Lucas. 'A severe storm brings a mysterious man into Miranda's life. He holds an important secret.' It has a message of hope, compassion and gratitude.

Living on God's Good Earth

February 2025: Feed the Birds

Sharing our gardens with birds, hedgehogs, and other animals is a joy. But winter and early spring is a tough time. Like us, other animals need to use lots of energy (or sleep) to survive in the cold, but unlike us, they don't have supermarkets or heaters to rely on. You can help birds and other wildlife get through these tricky months by leaving areas of leaves or branches undisturbed, planting shrubs and trees with wintering berries and fruit, putting out fresh water on frozen days, and putting up bird feeders. If you use permanent feeders, remember to wash them every week or so to prevent disease from spreading.

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Bishops Helen-Ann and Mark. Those assisting our worship: sacristans, musicians, readers, intercessors, servers, tech team.

For the community – Catherine McKinnell, our MP, and North Gosforth Parish Council. For those leading Net Zero Newcastle, creating a sustainable future for our city.

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

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton.

For those who have died – Edith Roberts, and on their anniversaries: Stanley Taws, Barbara Elsdon, Joyce Rickaby, Sarah Scott, Hannah Lloyd, Catherine McKeating, Roland Hardy, Joyce Earnshaw, Doreen Chapman, Francis Inglis, Ethel Chandler

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