



**The Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Church Brunton Park**

**Sunday 1st February 2026
Candlemas**

This week, we mark the feast of Candlemas. This is officially the end of the Christmas season, and marks a turning point in the journey from the crib to the cross. Our Gospel reading that tells of Jesus' presentation at the temple holds together both of these as the child Jesus, only weeks old, is recognised by Simeon. Here he sees the promise of the crib: the fulfilment of God's promises to his people, a light to the nations, and the glory of Israel. But here he also sees what is to come on the cross as he says to 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.'

The crib and the cross are held together. God sends a child to be the light of the world, and yet this child will grow to walk the path to a cross where he will bear the sins of the world on his shoulders and conquer the power of death itself. This Candlemas, as we look both to the crib and the cross, we give thanks for all that Jesus is: 'For God so loved the world, that he sent his only son, so that all who believe in him may not die, but have eternal life.'
(John 3.16)

Malachi 3. 1 – 4

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.¹ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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; [\[a\]](#) 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.

TODAY 9.30am Candlemas and Christingle Family Service. Rev'd Gerard Rundell will lead and preach

Living on God's Good Earth
February 2026: 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.

SUNDAY SERMONS

For anyone who would like one, written copies of the Sunday sermon are available from the preacher on request. Please contact either Gerard or the preacher of the day to be sent a copy

For Our Prayers:

For the church. For all ministers serving across our deanery, those on deanery synod. St Aidan's Kid's Group, youth group and after school club.

For the community The Manor House Bowmont House and Melton House

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

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Sue Bates, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt,

For those who have died and, on their anniversaries John Allen, Colin Weatherall, Lew Edwards, Stanley Taws, Barbara Elsdon, Joyce Rickaby, Hannah Lloyd, Catherine McKeating, Roland Hardy, Joyce Earnshaw, Francis Inglis, Ethel Chandler.



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