

# NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> February (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's Monks Risborough
PCC Meeting	Tues. 7 <sup>th</sup> February (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup> February (8:45 am)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup> February (8:45 am)	Holy Trinity Bledlow
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup> February (8:45 am)	St. Mary's Princes Risborough
Ash Wednesday Service	Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup> February (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> March (8:45 am)	St. Dunstan's Monks Risborough

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

For the Ash Wednesday evening service, we use ash from burning last year's palm crosses during the Imposition of Ashes. If you are willing, please can you return your old palm crosses to Margaret Gray for burning. Thank you.

## ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome. Sources of protein e.g., tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils etc. In addition, items such as tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces will enable people where possible to prepare meals of their choice. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. Any offerings that you can donate will be welcomed (we have a donations box outside the Church Porch). Thank you.

### Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
**SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**  
**(CANDLEMAS)**

## WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor.

## WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. Please continue to maintain social distancing where possible and sanitise your hands. We are continuing to offer, for those who wish it, hosts intincted by the Celebrant at all Communion Services. Reintroduction of the Common Cup will be considered again at a later time. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others and where masks will be worn. Please respect this. Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have now received the card reader so we will shortly be able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



### Weekly Services:

#### SUNDAY

8:00 am In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun)  
 10:00 am In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

#### TUESDAY

9:30 am In-church Said Parish Communion Service

## FOCUS ON... CANDLEMAS

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ at the Temple in Jerusalem, traditionally known as Candlemas, brings the 40 days of the Christmas and Epiphany season to an end. It is perceived as a crossroads moment in the liturgical year as it also begins to direct our thoughts towards the coming season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter – “one last look back at Christmas”, it is said, “then turn towards the Cross”. St. Luke’s Gospel Chapter 2 tells us that, 40 days after his birth, Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to do for him what was prescribed by the Law of Moses, the ritual acts of purification after childbirth and redemption of the first-born son. The characters in St. Luke’s account of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple are faithful to, and nurtured by, the very best of the Jewish tradition; not least Mary and Joseph and, of course, the child Jesus Himself. Entering this story is Simeon – close to God, sensitive to God, guided by the Spirit. Such a person as this has a knack of turning up at just the right time, understanding the significance of what they see and saying the exactly right thing. Whilst many would see just a child, Simeon sees salvation – salvation for all the earth. Led by the Spirit, the freshness and power of Simeon’s words of prophecy concerning this child of destiny amaze the parents. He speaks of the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. But he forewarns that this will not be achieved without very real cost. To Mother Mary he says “and a sword will pierce your own soul too”. The prophetess Anna, like Simeon, turns up at just the right time. She too understands precisely what it is that she sees. And she is unable to keep this to herself – she cannot help but talk about it. And then there is the praising - those present who are close to God are praising the wonders of God’s nature and the marvels of God’s acts among us. Here, then, is the beginning of a whole new life for all of us, made possible by this very special child.

*Canon Tony Bundock*

## 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.



## READINGS FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Malachi Ch. 3 VV. 1 – 5  
Hebrews Ch. 2 VV. 14 – 18

Luke Ch. 2 VV. 22 – 40

## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask that you bless us as we celebrate His presentation at the Temple. Help us to always remember His light in our lives and to follow His teachings, Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore, Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR CANDLEMAS

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.

## *This Week you are Asked to Pray for:*

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Sally Zeybek, Marcus Barthropp, Gary Webb, Lila King, Rita Probert, Rev Nancy Wallace, Roger Hussey and Dick Field. Also, Martinus Vorster of Kuruman.
- The recently departed May their souls rest in peace. We pray for their families and friends at this difficult time.
- Kelly Safaris Silva and her family who are currently in need at this time.
- We pray for our government, that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its People.
- We pray for our National Health Service, which is suffering increased demand at this time, and the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary’s Kuruman.