

Sunday 2nd February 2025

The Presentation of Christ in the temple

Candlemas

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

*You are very welcome
to our worship!*



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Reflection

This Sunday commemorates the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is described in Luke 2:22-40 and it tells of Mary and Joseph bringing the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to fulfil the Jewish law which required the consecration of the firstborn male to God as found in Exodus 13:2, 12. It also tells of Mary's ritual purification after childbirth. In the temple, they meet Simeon, a devout man to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Simeon recognises Jesus as the promised Saviour, blessing Him and prophesying about His role in salvation and the opposition He would face. Simeon's words include the famous Nunc Dimittis ("Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace"). The prophetess Anna also recognised Jesus as the Messiah and gave thanks to God, sharing the news with others awaiting redemption. Luke introduces Jesus' identity as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy while Simeon and Anna introduce the themes of salvation, sacrifice, and Christ's universal mission.

Worship this Sunday...

Collect

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**

Post Communion Prayer

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**

Sunday 2nd February - The Presentation of Christ in the temple (Candlemas)

Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-end
Luke 2.22-40

8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

Reader

Anthony
Vander Willigen

9.45 am Parish Communion*

Pr Hymn 110 Hail to the Lord who comes (OLD 120TH)
Setting Addington
Gr Hymn 315 Sing we of the blessed Mother (ABBOT'S LEIGH);
Of Hymn 113 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (LOURDES)
Anthem Eccard: When to the temple Mary went
Cm Hymn 396 Faithful vigil ended (Pastor Pastorum (Gott Ein Vater))
787i Take my life and let it be (NOTTINGHAM)
Fn Hymn 702 Lead us Heavenly Father lead us

Reader 1

Ian Walden

Reader 2

Colin Sewell-Rutter

Intercessor

Isobel Simmonds

11.15 am Family Praise

6.00 pm Evensong

Haggai 2.1-9
John 2.18-22

* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church homepage

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First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

Who can stand at the coming of the Lord's messenger with his refiner's fire?

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.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-end

Jesus shared our flesh and blood in order to destroy death, making a sacrifice of atonement

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus is presented in the temple, after which the family return to Nazareth

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; 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.

This Week...

03/02 Mon	7.30 pm	Home Group (In Person)	
05/02 Mon	08.00 am	Deanery Chapter Meeting with Bishop Ruth	The Old School
05/02 Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion* followed by coffee and cake	Hebrews 12.4-7, 11-15 Mark 6.1-6a
05/02 Wed	17.30 pm	Standing Committee	Vicarage
06/02 Thurs	9.00 am	Iona /Celtic Communion	Hebrews 12.18-19, 21-24 Mark 6.7-13
	2.00pm	Arts & Crafts Group	Church
	7.00 pm	Home Group (Online)	
07/02 Fri	11.00 am	BCP Communion	Hebrews 13.1-8 Mark 6.14-29
	12.00pm	Lunchtime Concert	
	6.00 pm	Treble Choir Practice	
	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	
08/02 Sat	9.30 am	Cuckfield Local Market	

Next Sunday...

Sunday 9th February - 4th Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6.1-8, 9-end
1 Corinthians 15.1-11
Luke 5.1-11

8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Reader	James Sanders Charles Solomon
9.45 am	Worship for all*	Readers	Children & Families Team
Pr Hymn	494 I, the Lord of sea and sky (HERE I AM LORD)		
Setting	Gloria: Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty (FELLINGHAM) AM417 Sanctus etc BE STILL		
Gr Hymn	669 I heard the voice of Jesus say (KINGSFOLD)		
Of Hymn	510 Will you come and follow me (KELINGROVE)		
Cm Hymn	621 Dear Lord and Father of mankind (REPTON)		
	144 How Deep the Fathers Love for Us (TOWNEND)		
Fn Hymn	719 Lord, the light of your love is shining (SHINE JESUS SHINE)		

* Also live streamed on zoom - click the blue button on the church home page.

Notices and Parish News...

Lunchtime Concert - Friday 7th February with Caroline Tyler, Caroline makes a welcome return to Holy Trinity with a program including Saint-Saëns and Beethoven. The highlight of her programme will be Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. The first movement may well be familiar but the other two rather less.

Not to be missed!

Cuckfield Local Market - Holy Trinity Cuckfield monthly makers and food market returns on **Saturday 8th February 2025 from 9.30-12.30** providing locally sourced, sustainable goods. Dates for 2025 are March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th Support local artisans and embrace environmental stewardship with us. The church will be serving tea, coffee and soft drinks, please let Jane know if you can assist.

IMPORTANT - DBS CERTIFICATES/UPDATE SERVICE - HT DBS Volunteers with a current certificate and registered on the UPDATE SERVICE: Please ensure renewal as reminders now require ACTION. Follow the link provided, answer three simple questions (including your reference number from the email), and renew. For issues, contact safeguarding@holytrinitycuckfield.org.

Prayer Partners - An opportunity for us to pray for each other throughout the year. Please put your name into the box in church which will be offered to members of our church family. If you take one, you will be encouraged to pray for that person, anonymously, throughout the year. It would be wonderful if everyone had someone praying for them.

Cuckfield & Bolney Men's Group Activities for Q1 2025 - On **Tuesday 18th Feb 7.30-9.30 pm** for our usual Pizza & Skittles evening at the Bull in Henfield. Please email clivesimmonds@btinternet.com to confirm your attendance. *There will be no meetings in March during Lent or April in Holy Week.*

Save the Date! - Coro Nuovo Concert in the church - 22nd March 2025, 7pm 'Handel by Candle' - a Baroque programme of Handel, Bach and Vivaldi. The Coro Nuovo singers and orchestra will be joined by the Sussex Young Musician of 2024, Riya Hamre, an excellent young cellist. This concert has been organised by The Friends of Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield. To purchase tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/fohtcc

Sunday's Cool - February 2025, if you can help at any of those sessions, or our child wants to come along, please let Hilary know by emailing inspirefm@holytrinitycuckfield.org. We really want to demonstrate how committed we are to children and young families in this parish.

Arts & Crafts Group - Meet every **1st and 3rd Thursday** of the month (except during religious seasons like Lent). **Due to popular demand the group will now meet from 1- 4pm.** Bring your own supplies whether you love painting, knitting, or any creative hobby! Or just pop in for a chat, tea, and biscuits anytime between **Everyone's welcome!**

Prayers...

Those in immediate need:

Becky Parker, Mark Herring, Ralph Colbran, Evelyn Stenning.

Those in long term need:

Georgia, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Wendy Hibling, Eileen Knight, Jim Knight, Liz Graydon, Peter Graydon, Eileen MacDougall, George Snashall, Karen Leese, and Yvonne Godsmark

Those in care homes:

Mary Watts, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card, Keith Card, Tina Owens,

The recently departed and those who mourn:

John Ross, Antony Davis

Those whose year's mind falls at this time. 2nd Doreen Burridge 2003, Janet Susan Garner 2006, Arthur Richard Inch 2007, Judith Ann Garrett 2013, Dorothy June Raeburn 2019, 3rd Millicent Bonney, Monica Boocock 2000, Niamh Goodchild 2003, Margery Watts 2009, Joan Beddington 2016, 5th Grace Hendley 1993, Noel Vernon Redman 2004, Doreen Mary Pye 2006, Jeanne Dean 2012, Margaret (Peg) Swain 2018, 6th John Wilde 2014, Margaret Pressman 2017, 7th John Powell 2001, Eileen White 2001, Masie Doris Moore 2008, Jennifer Jane (Jenn) Chandler 2012, 8th Peter Mackay 1995, John Humphries 1998, Geoffrey Arthur Clifton 2018

Praying through the week...

Mon Feb 3rd - In this National Storytelling Week we celebrate the art and culture of storytelling. We pray for storytellers; for those who enable us to understand and empathise with others; for those whose gifts thrill, explain, engage and delight us. We pray for children and adults unable to access and enjoy stories. Locally we pray particularly for the people of Barrowfield, that they may feel the joy and pride of belonging to a community and being valued.

Tue Feb 4th - We mark National Hedgehog Day (2nd) and give thanks for all our wildlife in the UK. We pray for all those species under threat, including our shrinking hedgehog populations. We give thanks for those working to protect endangered species. We pray locally for the people of Bennets, that they may have a sense of the wonder and diversity of God's creation.

Wed Feb 5th - During this Children's Mental Health Week, we pray for all children living with mental health problems, for their families and friends. We pray for a strengthening of our mental health services, for robust support for schools and families, and for a more welcoming, understanding and supportive society at large. Locally we pray for the people of Bevan Bank, for a neighbourhood of understanding, hospitality and care.

Thu Feb 6th - On New Zealand's National Day, we pray for New Zealanders, wherever they may be. We pray for the diversity of their nation, for all in positions of leadership and for those who are vulnerable. On International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation we pray for all who have undergone this procedure and all who continue to suffer physical, emotional and mental difficulties as a consequence. Locally we pray for the people of Bishopstone Lane that they may sense God's presence with them, whatever they are facing.

Fri Feb 7th - On Charles Dickens Day we give thanks for the social realism brought to the fore as his books reflected the real life of the poor in Victorian England. We pray for all who continue to use their skills in drama, writing, film, documentary, journalism and art of all kinds to highlight poverty and injustice in our own country and round the world. Locally we pray for Blunden Drive that they may have peace and joy in their hearts.

Sat Feb 8th - We pray for the council and local leaders. We pray for those involved in our transport systems and maintaining the roads and waterways. We pray for all elected to public office locally, nationally and internationally, that they recognise their responsibilities and the privilege of service to a community. We pray locally for the people of Blunts Wood Crescent that they may feel the richness of a community of respect, care and inclusivity.

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