

31st January, 2021
Joint Benefice
Candlemas
Service Sheet

**Welcome to our Service of Candlemas
with Holy Communion**

Rev'd. Janet and Reader, Kate

**with David Riley, Peter Gouldthorpe Ingrid Stopher and Anne
Farrow**

**Join our Zoom "Gathering" at 09:30 a.m.
hosted by Rev'd. Sarah or Kate during which
the service will be played.**

Contact Rev'd. Sarah for details on how to join the gathering

A recording will also be available on YouTube

Our Diocese Together - January

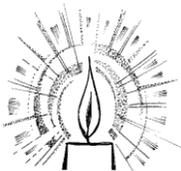
The January issue of "Our Diocese Together" is now [available to download](#) from the Diocese of Derby website or to view online [here](#).

"Inbetween" Deanery Newsletter

Our Deanery Newsletter is available to download from here:

<https://derby.anglican.org/en/about-us/deaneries/north-east-derbyshire-deanery/north-east-derbyshire-parishes.html>

Order of Service
A Eucharist Service for Candlemas
31st January, 2021



Welcome

A warm welcome to everyone gathered here, online, this morning.

*Our celebration is richer for your part in it.
Thank you for being here.*

Candlemas, or the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is one of the oldest feast days in the Christian calendar and marks the end of our Christmas celebrations. Although we cannot celebrate, today, in church buildings and in traditional ways, we can, nevertheless, enter into the spirit of those celebrations: a spirit of thankfulness for the light of Christ we have been given.

Welcome

Kate lights the candles and we quietly reflect.

O God, you are the gathering one
who calls us into community with one another;

**to love and work,
to support and heal.**

You are the gathering one
who calls us into community with all people;

**to bring justice and hope,
freedom and truth.**

You are the gathering one
who calls us into community with all creation;

**to live in harmony,
to cherish and renew.**

Let us worship the God who makes us one.

Hymn: In our darkness light has shone

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Tune; Gwalchmai (King of Glory, King of Peace) Joseph David Jones (1827 – 1870)

If you have a candle to hand, please light it.

In our darkness light has
shone, *Alleluia*,
still today the light shines
on, *Alleluia*;
Word made flesh in human
birth, *Alleluia*,
Light and Life of all the
earth, *Alleluia*!

Christ the Son incarnate
see, *Alleluia*,
by whom all things came to
be, *Alleluia*;
through the world his
splendours shine, *Alleluia*,
full of grace and truth
divine, *Alleluia*!

Christ a child on earth
appears, *Alleluia*,
crown of all creation's years,
Alleluia;
God's eternal Word has
come, *Alleluia*,
he shall lead his people
home, *Alleluia*!

Prayer of Approach

**EVER-LOVING GOD,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are
hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our selfishness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May God forgive us,
Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. **Amen.**

The Gloria

Glory to God, glory to the Father;

To God be glory forever.

Glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus;

To God be glory forever.

Glory to God, glory to the Spirit;

To God be glory forever. Alleluia; Amen

The Collect

God of Anna and Simeon whose law makes known the gift of life, whose love exposes our hardness of heart: by your Spirit, may we receive your faithful word and know your reconciling presence offered for all the world through Jesus Christ, the Light and the Glory of God. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2.22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

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 is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, O Christ.

We think about important themes in the story we have just heard:

Poem: 'It was to older people that Jesus came' by John Bell **read by Peter Gouldthorpe.**

We consider the meaning of the poem in the light of our Gospel reading and our own lives.

Poem: 'Parenting is like carving a sculpture from glass' by Justin Farley **read by Ingrid Stopher.**

We consider the meaning of the poem in the light of our Gospel reading and our own lives.

Poem: 'In me, past, present and future meet' by Siegfried Sassoon **read by David Riley.**

We consider the meaning of the poem in the light of our Gospel reading and our own lives.

A time for **Quiet Reflection** during which we'll listen to **Kayleigh Topliss** singing:
(Words: Andrew E Pratt (b.1948) to the tune of Buessan)

Mary and Joseph
came to the temple
brought the boy Jesus,
offered him there.
People were waiting
wanting to greet him,
long had they sought him,
solace for care.

Simeon sings now
God proffers blessing,
brilliantly gilding
dawn of this day;
light in the darkness,
never extinguished,
light of all nations
light up our way.

Anna had prayed there,
widowed, long waiting;
worshipping God by
day and by night.
Now she is praising,
filled with elation;
here is God's promise,
Christ is her light.

Prayers of Solidarity and Concern

The following bidding and response may be used

God of love and hope:

Be with us on life's journey.

The Greeting of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78,79

The peace of God be always with you

and also with you.

We share a sign of Christ's peace with one another – by raising our hands to our screens..



Preparation

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the offering of your Church and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

May God be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our gracious God:
It is right to give thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who shares your eternal splendour
and was presented in the Temple.
He was revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel,
that all peoples might find him,
the light of the world.

And so, with angels and archangels and all who live in the light, we proclaim your glory
saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of truth and love,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, Lord of Light, through your Son Jesus Christ, and as we follow his
example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of
bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

(Common Worship)

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Come freshly to us now, Lord God,
and as we offer you our lives,
renew in us your gifts:
the gold of our potential;
the incense of our hopes and prayers;
the myrrh of healing for our pain.

Feed us and nourish us,
that we may grow in the life of Christ
and fill us with your Spirit
that we may overflow with your love
and transform the world with your glory.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer & Communion

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The bread is broken.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The officiant takes communion on behalf of us all.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

Hymn: *Longing for light, we wait in darkness - Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)*

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Chorus -

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Chorus

The Blessing

If we have a candle, we hold it up.

May we who hold these kindling flames
be Christ's body for the world
in the promise of creation restored;

and the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Sacred Spirit,
rest upon you and all whom you love,
both living and departed, now and always. **Amen.**

Candlemas Responsory

Jesus, born of Mary,
we have seen your glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.

As Simeon and Anna recognised you in the temple;
may we recognise you in all we meet.

As we turn from the crib to the cross
may we live to embody your hope.
(we all blow out our candles)

You send us to serve in your name
may we shine with the light of your love. Amen.

Acknowledgements:

Material in this service is drawn from 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,' and 'Common Worship: Times and Seasons,' copyright The Archbishop's Council 2000 & 2006; 'The Iona Community Worship Book' copyright 1991;

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995.

The Gathering words are by Jen Ryder and the liturgy is based on the 2019 Candlemas Eucharist held at St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield S10 2SE.

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

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Rev'd Janet's Reflection for Candlemas

Sometimes it's good to know the traditions and thinking of past times as we move forward in our modern world which, in general, takes little notice of such things. How important to you are traditions associated with our faith, as a church, in Jesus?

Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to a Jewish tradition that women were considered unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed and, on Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

But where traditions abound, superstitions can creep in. Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid-point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox and some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights.

For some people, different superstitions surround this festival. For instance, if a candle drips on one side when carried in church on Candlemas, this denotes a death of a family member during the year; if someone brings snowdrops into the house on Candlemas day, it symbolises a parting or death; any Christmas decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night (January 5th) should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.

Although we may outwardly ridicule superstition, it can hold sway over us, psychologically, without our giving it much thought; e.g. how many of us gaily walk under ladders? Perhaps we do well to remember that Jesus, as Saviour, guards us against everything and will help us in all situations, whether superstitious or not, that are out to harm us.

Bishop Libby's Updates

Today, 26th January, is the anniversary of my consecration as Bishop 6 years ago. The words of that service are an important reminder of my call:

- to be a shepherd of Christ's flock – to gather God's people, to serve and care for you, to love and pray for you, to know and be known, feeding and nurturing all God's people in the ways of holiness;



- to be a guardian of the faith – to celebrate the sacraments, to teach, and lead in prayer and praise, uniting the Church in each place and time with the Church in every place and time;
- to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom – to speak boldly of the gospel of salvation, to confront injustice having special care for the poor, the outcast, and those in need, and to work for righteousness and peace;
- and to lead God’s people in mission - discerning and fostering the gifts of the Spirit in all who follow Christ, releasing you to minister in His name every day and everywhere, and sharing with you in the work of God’s Kingdom.

I recommit myself to that vocation today. More than ever, I am aware of the privilege of my ministry among you and with you. Thank you for our partnership in the gospel. As we face the coming year, and all that lies ahead – though perhaps with trepidation: grieving, weary, anxious, lost - we pray for generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love. May we seek first the Kingdom of God, which is good news for all, trusting that we will see among us transformed lives, in growing church and building community.

+Libby

A Prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
 under the shadow of your mercy.
 Sustain and support the anxious,
 be with those who care for the sick,
 and lift up all who are brought low;
 that we may find comfort
 knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
 in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Amen.

Shrove Tuesday Quiz – 7:30 p.m.

Mick Topliss will be running one of his excellent quizzes for us on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, 16th February. We will meet “online” via Zoom to start the quiz at 7:30, break at half-time, finish 9 p.m. The Zoom link will be published next week.

If you wish to join friends (by Zoom/ WhatsApp etc) to eat your pancakes simultaneously before the quiz starts, please arrange this amongst yourselves!

In lieu of the usual charge for a physical 'pancakes and quiz' night, you are invited to make a donation to a charity of your choice - which could be the church, Ashgate Hospice, or another which you support regularly..

Service Recordings

A Recording of today's service will be available on YouTube.

Most recent service recordings here:

17th Jan. <https://youtu.be/Pcuh3W73Bj> , 24th Jan. <https://youtu.be/lxJApyLcVZq>

For a full history of recordings, see Barlow website:
(<http://barlow-church.org.uk/coronavirus.html>).

Archdeacon Carol's services and reflections from earlier in the pandemic can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/ArchChesterfield> - You don't need a Facebook account to view them.

Other local services - The Crooked Spire's service(s) available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDrGU56c59qfgQeHsWOoy1g>

Diocese of Derby – Links to Online Services in the Diocese:

https://derby.anglican.org/en/news/events-and-training/parish-events/derbyshire-church-events.html?fbclid=IwAR2Y88YQLe4xABvKt5_R8T8Y-Wr0I5zh41-JWIhmGw5ZeOsdDE3JyDnN1KA

February Joint Benefice Services

On Sundays, at 09:30 am, there will be a Zoom meeting space during which people will be able to watch the pre-recorded service together. A 9:30 am start means that people can choose to stay on for coffee there or join another gathering at 11am if they so wish.

Date	Presiding	Preaching / Prayers
7 th Feb. 2 before Lent	Rev'd. Sarah	Donna / Sarah
14 th Feb. Sunday Before Lent	Rev'd. Sarah, Reader Kate	Rev'd. Janet
17 th Feb. Ash Weds. 09:30 by Zoom 21:00 Compline by Zoom	Rev'd. Sarah, Reader Kate Rev'd. Sarah	
21 st Feb. Lent 1	Rev'd. Janet, Reader Kate	Rev'd. Sarah
28 th Feb. Lent 2	Rev'd. Sarah	Reader, Kate

Daily Offices

Rev'd. Sarah has set up Zoom Daily offices each lasting around 20 minutes at 9am and 5pm weekdays Monday to Friday. If you would like to join in with either or both of these, please contact Rev'd Sarah (vicar@oldbramptonchurch.org.uk or priest@barlow-church.org.uk) for details.

9am Morning Prayer

The liturgy will be shared on the screen so you don't need to have your own copy, but if you would prefer to you can either:

1. Download the Common Worship Daily Prayer app (Aimer media) for free to your tablet or phone, or
2. Click on this link: [Join us in a service of Daily Prayer | The Church of England](#)

5pm Evening Prayer

The liturgy will be shared on the screen so you don't need to have your own copy, but if you would prefer to then you can click on this link: [Evening Prayer - Northumbria Community](#)