

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE, SMISBY,  
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL**

# **THE BULLETIN**

**A weekly publication for the Benefice**

**Sunday 31st January 2021**

**Candlemas**



**Join us for livestreamed worship on our  
Facebook page (Melbourne Parish Church)  
at 10.30am**

# Bible Readings for Today

## 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.

## Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

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.

## **Gospel Reading: 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; 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.

## **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.

### **A pattern for daily prayer, so that at home or at church we can pray together:**

**Monday:** Those in great poverty or need.

**Tuesday:** Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Kate Landenberger, Bob Smith, Joan Tatam and Hanna King.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

**Wednesday:** Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishop, Bishop Libby and our cathedral dean, Peter.

**Thursday:** Our schools as they continue their new academic year. The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

**Friday:** All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

### **The Departed**

In our prayers this week, we remember those who have died recently and also those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Jeffrey "Bill" Wooderson and Primrose Heath.

If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact Steve, one of the wardens or the parish office. Thank you.

## Daily Hope from the Church of England

It is very important to remember those who do not have access to the internet especially when it comes to sharing in public worship. Please do recommend Daily Hope to anyone you think would benefit from it.

0800 804 8044

A free phoneline of hymns, reflections and prayers



## Stewardship Giving

In the absence of in-person public worship, if you have any giving envelopes or donations you would like processing, please do post them through the rectory letterbox. Any money given is then passed on to one of our finance team for counting and banking. Thank you.

## Mailshot

Every week since the first lockdown, copies of the bulletin and relevant order of service have been delivered in hard copy and also emailed out electronically. If you know someone who would like to be included on the mailshot and/or email distribution please email the parish office on:

[melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com)

or phone on: 01332 862153 (where a voice message can also be left).

Likewise, if you know of any children who would like a copy of the 'Young Church Mag' then please let me know and I will get those out to them.

Many thanks, Rachel Short

## Candlemas 2021

When I was working as a deanery youth worker in Cirencester, I lodged for a time in the vicarage by the invitation of the then Vicar, Canon Michael St. John-Channell. After my first Christmas in post, some way through January, I noticed that Michael's Christmas tree hadn't been taken down. Having assumed that he was too busy, I offered to put it away for him but was gently informed that 'it is still liturgically Christmas until Candlemas – the tree stays till then!' This would also explain why Michael always had an artificial tree as I'm reasonably sure that most real trees would have been needleless by Candlemas!

So, at Candlemas, there is a 'changing of gear' liturgically as we move into 'ordinary time' and begin looking towards Lent. The Very Revd Richard Giles, an Englishman who is a former dean of Philadelphia Cathedral in the US, comments that Candlemas 'has come a long way in a short time.' Not that long ago, the feast would have been better known as 'the Purification of Mary' but these days the focus is less on Mary and more on Jesus himself. In the Eastern Church, Candlemas was, rather charmingly, known simply as 'the Meeting' putting the focus on the wonderful encounter between Simeon and the Christ child. Simeon, the faithful layman, filled with the Spirit, takes the creator of the world in his arms and is inspired to offer what we now know as the Nunc Dimittis 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.'

In the midst of faithful waiting, the Candlemas story promises hope. Simeon waits and, right before his very eyes, the ancient promise of 'Immanuel' God being with us is fulfilled.

We, too, are waiting as the lockdown continues. Waiting is often not easy or comfortable; God knows this and is with us, holding us and guiding us as he did Simeon. In the Christ child that Simeon acknowledged, a new light shines – one that still shines on us today.

God bless,

Steve

## **A walk in The Dower House garden**

We last welcomed visitors in February 2020 before we knew anything of the virus which was to sweep the globe: that weekend the garden had to close half way through the weekend because of a storm. This February we do hope we can welcome visitors again - at the time of writing we can do so but with considerable restrictions. The garden will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm both Saturday and Sunday 13th and 14th February BUT ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING LOCALLY - national covid guidelines allow for only local exercise and this falls into that remit. Tickets will be £4 each (children free, dogs on leads). To meet covid restrictions and for all our safety, EVERY TICKET MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE ON LINE at [ngs.org.uk/view-garden/20945](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/20945). There will be no tickets sold on the day. In this way numbers can be controlled so that everyone can remain at a safe distance avoiding the formation of groups. Exit will be via a different route to the entrance.

Every penny of the proceeds from opening the garden will go to the National Gardens Scheme which supports so many people in need - in particular cancer charities such as Macmillan, that have struggled so much to raise funds during this terrible pandemic. There will be an honesty box for plant sales and a donation box at the exit.

For anyone who really cannot go on line, please telephone Griselda Kerr on 07799 883777 to enquire about availability of time slots and payment. There will be no widespread publicity to discourage people from travelling (there is no parking at or near the Dower House). The garden is off Church Square - turn right before the Church just past the War Memorial.

Griselda Kerr

## Music Suggestions

I trust that this finds you well. I do commend the following selection of music for Candlemas which brings to an end the Christmas Season on this, the nearest Sunday to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. I do hope that there is something for everyone to remind you of our usual marking of this day. A reminder that, as we finish this period of the Church year, the Church Choir recorded services for Advent and Christmas which are on the Benefice Youtube site:

Advent (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfQrnwferqM>)

and Christmas (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZn0zaF19OE>).

Please keep in touch: 07808 474236 or

[simon.e.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.e.collins@btinternet.com)

### Hymns

Of the Father's heart begotten <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pt75zl4kz6g>

Like a candle flame [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmwdZyTGa\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmwdZyTGa_A)

Praise to the holiest in the height <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DUYqy8tQZQ>

Longing for light (Christ be our light) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt3Qc04uIOM>

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wqzau4v23m0>

Love Divine, all loves excelling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw5ZCZeS32M>

### Choral Music

Richard Shephard: Let us light a candle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDTO6RgrZj0>

Eccard: When to the Temple Mary went <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YUtxXDkmcU>

Herbert Howells: Nunc dimittis (Collegium Regale)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0SmJjb74JE>

Thomas Tallis: O nata lux <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HFvgjCOo70>

Charles Wood: O thou the central orb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf202pdjMZk>

Handel: Lift up your heads (from 'Messiah') [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BiEdSIJP\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BiEdSIJP_Q)

### Organ Music

J.C.Bach: Mit Fried' und Freud' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2EN6YpSWY>

Guilmant: Fugue on Lumen ad Revelationem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpYdp0LYIRM>

Bach: Mit Fried' und Freud' (BWV616) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1DbTJZbSjo>

Gretchaninov: Nunc dimittis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbi5fiwto3Q>

Bach: Herr Gott, nun schleuss (BWV1092) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkhLwJAj3lc>

Dubois: Fiat Lux [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_28zAQuO\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_28zAQuO_M)

I very much look forward to seeing you again in due course.

With very best wishes,

Simon Collins

Director of Music