

Candlemas Celebration

Sunday 4 February 2018

when you have finished with this sheet pass it on to someone unable to get to church today

COLLECT

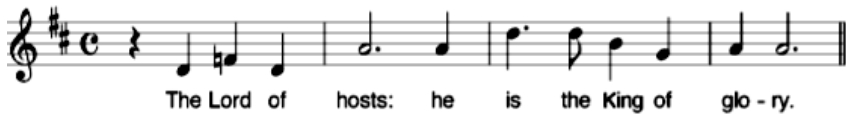
Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the prophet Malachi
Thus says the LORD God: 1 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. 2 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; 3 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. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Responsorial Psalm 24:7-10



Response: The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is the King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle." **R** Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
14 Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17 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. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL 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, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 24 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.' 25 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. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 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, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 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 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' 36 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 seven years after her marriage, 37 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. 38 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.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 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**

POST COMMUNION

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.**

LyCiG Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church,
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment
to you, and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome to the Candlemas Celebration 2018 :)

Worship in the Benefice today... Candlemas

1100 Felmersham Benefice Candlemas Celebration for all

1730 St Paul's Bedford Candlemas Flower Festival Celebration—we are going to join in the celebrations at the St Paul's flower festival where The St Peter's Flower Guild have made a display at the Font

Monday—feria

1145 Messy Church

Tuesday—The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

1100 Felmersham Funeral & Burial of Late Pauline Mullen

1930 Souldrop PCC at Nick's

Wednesday—feria

0930 Sharnbrook Holy Communion 1st Wed BCP

Thursday—feria

0930 Felmersham Holy Communion CW

1030 Sharnbrook House HC & Candlemas Celebration

12noon Felmersham Funeral & Burial of Late Sarah Watson

Friday—feria—Fr Reuben leading "Finding God in the Dark" Retreat at St Michael's Priory Willen

Saturday—Lesser Festival-Anskar, 865

1430-1600 Sharnbrook GRAVE TALK in SPR

Next Sunday morning—Sunday before Lent

0830 Souldrop Holy Communion BCP—Rev Lionel

0930 Sharnbrook Parish Communion—Rev Lionel (not AA)

1100 Felmersham Parish Communion —Rev Lionel (not AA)

1800 Sharnbrook Benefice Evensong—LLW Andrea

A Book for Lent "The Joy of being Anglican" and a chance to mull over the chapters over a cooked breakfast in the Sports and Social Club 9:30am Sats in Lent—Starts Saturday 17 February

Intercessions

The sick and in need: Barbara, Sally, James, Martin, Mary, Linda, Marjorie, Doreen, David, Angela & Rose

The Departed: Pauline Mullen, Sarah Watson

Send the names of people who have asked to be remembered in our parish intercessions to the Rector

Pray for our world leaders—that they may use their influence and power well

Pray for the LyCiG Local Study Course here in the Benefice

Pray for someone else to take on Lynda's mantle of Children's Society Champion in the Benefice



Christian Meditation Group

meets on Mondays 2000 in SPR—all welcome!

Continuing the LyCiG Local Study Course

Main Session 2: Tuesday 13 February 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 3: Saturday 24 February 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

Leaders Session 2: Tuesday 27 February 7:30pm The Rectory

LyCiG Diocesan Day 3 March 9:30am-3pm

at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick MK45 1AH

– 10 places booked for the Benefice – cost free

Main Session 4: Friday 9 March 7:30pm

hosted at Felmersham school

Main Session 5: Tuesday 20 March 7:30pm

hosted at Souldrop

Main Session 6: Saturday 21 April 2pm-3:30pm

hosted in St Peter's Room

This study course is for all who come to church to help us work together in growing our churches.



"I will retire as the co-ordinator for the Children's Society House Box Holders with effect from this year; after more than twenty five years. In this time I have been pleased with the support both within St Peter's and our village. Essentially it involves house collection boxes distributed, collected once a year, totalled up and banked. Please will you include this item in our Pew Notices, inviting prospective co-ordinators to speak with me.

Thank you. Lynda Newman"



Church Contacts

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Lay Leaders of Worship: Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roland Carpenter 01234 781551

St Mary's Church: Jane Wells 01234 782462 &

Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

Safeguarding Co-Ord: Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004

Items for inclusion should be sent to

sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.

To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: in prayer for our thoughtful preparations for Lent on Ash Wednesday—14 February

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)