

## Sunday 2nd February 2025

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

#### You are most welcome.

A message to new visitors is found on page 3. Our 10:30am order of service begins on page 5.



Celebrant: The Rector

10:30am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Reverend Doctor Jeanne Males Setting: 'A People's Mass', Anthony Gregory Murray

with Coventry Gloria.

Hymns: 33 (omit verses 2 & 3), 157, Sheet, 500

Music at Communion:

'When to the temple Mary went' Johannes Eccard

'Let us light a candle (Words: Robert Willis)' Richard Shephard

Postlude: "Chorale Prelude "Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf"

BWV 617 JS Bach



## For your prayers

At This Time Baby Dylan Andrew Brooks, Gillian Kullman, Nicky Barsby,

Jennie Frampton, Lindsay Gorringe, Chris Pratt, HM The King,

the bereaved, and those suffering during warfare

Recently Departed Phyl Russell, Moira Ellis, Steven Ward, Sarah Harris, Robert

Willis (priest), David Burton

Year's Mind Sally Josephine Ward, Isobel Mary Setterfield, Louis Snoxell,

Francis Martin Garrett, Stanley Herbert Page, William George

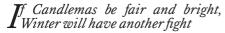
Turner, Richard John Field, Brenda Margery Jutson,

Amy Louise Brown



## Reflection for the week

The Right Reverend Doctor Michael Turnbull



If Candlemas brings cloud and rain, Winter will not come again.

We can all wish and look for signs. As we celebrate Candlemas today, we recognise that one of the powerful signs is a candle, simply lit and burning bright, flickering its joy and warmth to us. Candles are one of the most universal signs we have known since our infancy when we blew out one candle on our first birthday cake. We still do it, years later when the number of candles requires a bit more puff.

Last week we were all moved by the candles lit and carried to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the relief of the few survivors from millions of holocaust victims. The candle seemed to say much more than we could put into words. It is, very simply, one. Not extravagantly valuable, it carries the memories which the lighter prays into it. It is alive with the hope of light, we savour the gentle scent and feel its nearby warmth. If we are very still, we can hear it whispering its memories back to us and, when we leave it, it continues to burn without the need for our presence, a reminder for all who pass by that someone has prayed here, cried here, celebrated here. Sometimes we can see a candle left to burn and it becomes a living sign of a presence often a holy presence of God himself. That's why we use candles in church, reminders

of the living presence of God.

We look at the candles today and recall the Jewish family of Mary and Joseph and Jesus fulfilling their long tradition, as laid down in the books of Exodus and Numbers, that a first-born son should be brought into the Temple and offered to God. I am encouraged that it takes two old people, Simon and Anna, to recognise that they are in the presence of the promised Messiah.

We leave behind the celebrations of Christmas as the Child of Bethlehem begins to grow in his own awareness and to be recognised as a teacher to be listened to, a leader to be followed and, ultimately, a Saviour to be worshipped.

Let's let Him light our candles - in church, at home and wherever we choose to pray.

## New to St Clements?

Welcome! We're delighted that you're here

There has been a place of Christian prayer on this site for more than 1,000 years. All are welcome at our services - whatever your background and whatever your faith.

Many of the words of our service can be found from page five of this booklet. Feel free to join in with the words in bold, and to stand, kneel, or sit as you feel able and comfortable. Don't worry about getting it 'right', we're all learning to pray!

The service will start with notices and a hymn. We then bring to mind the times we've not loved God, our neighbours, and ourselves fully. Though it can be uncomfortable admitting we are sinners, we want to be honest with God (and ourselves) that we're not perfect. We can trust that God is utterly loving and forgiving.

A series of readings from scripture follows, and then the sermon, in which the preacher attempts to break open the scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

We pray for the needs of the Church and world, and then the altar is prepared. Our collection is gathered before the service, for the work of St Clement's, and offered up to God at this point. You can still donate, if you wish, on the way out of church - the giving station is to the left of the porch.

The priest leads the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving - during which we offer bread and wine to God, and He transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion (it's fine to only receive the Body or Blood if you prefer. For reasons of hygiene please don't dip the wafer into the chalice). Or do come forward holding this booklet to receive a blessing. If you need a gluten-free wafer please let someone at the door know before the service.

We share refreshments in the Sunley Room (accessed up the ramp behind the organ), and you are most welcome to stay. Toilets may also be found here.

The Church is open daily for peace and prayer. If you'd like to know more about our worship or faith, do talk to people in the congregation or one of the priests. You can also visit our website, www. stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk

# Music at 10:30am today

During the Gospel reading the choir sings a setting of the Song of Simeon - the Nunc Dimittis by Charles Stanford who composed many settings of the evening and morning canticles. The one sung today is in C major and was his last setting which he composed and published in 1909. It is probably his most well-loved and finest setting and continues to be frequently sung in Parish Churches and Cathedrals as part of regular choral worship.

During the communion the choir sings the Motet 'When to the temple Mary went' by Johannes Eccard (1533-1611). It tells today's Gospel story in a setting in six vocal lines - two sopranos, alto, tenor and two bass lines, and so the choral texture comes over with a fairly dark and sonorous sound. Whilst the music was written in the 16th century, the words were added by the Reverend I Troutbeck in the 19th century. The ending is particularly Victorian in style with the choir singing softly "and when we must from earth departure take, may gently fall asleep" and then ending strongly with "and with thee awake!".

It is followed by a modern setting of words by Robert Willis – the late Dean of Canterbury whose Memorial Service is being held this Candlemas in Salisbury Cathedral. The hymn 'Let us light a candle in the darkness' was written for a

Mothers Union Festival in Salisbury Cathedral. The refrain was written first, and the initial ideas came to him during a meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England, inspired by a story related by Terry Waite after his brutal imprisonment as a hostage in Beirut in the late 1980s. Waite tells of being sent a postcard of the Bunyan Window in the Bunyan Meeting Room in Bedford and how the phrase 'light stronger than the darkness' sustained him through the very dark 1,763 days of captivity. Bunyan himself spent many years in prison. Willis was anxious to publicise the plight of hostages. It has parallels with Archbishop Desmond Tutu's words - 'Goodness is stronger than evil'.

The outgoing voluntary is a setting by J S Bach of a chorale for the Feast of the Purification, one of his set of pieces for the church's seasons known as the Orgelbuchlein (Little Organ Book). day. It is a quiet piece with the chorale tune in the top part and a running sequence of notes played by the left hand.

Material from Common Worship included in this booklet is © The Archbishops' Council 2000. Any hymns reproduced in accordance with a CCLI Licence, 209707.

## Order of Service

## The Gathering

Notices are given before the service. **Stand** for the opening hymn:

Hymn 33 (omit v. 2 & 3)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Dear friends: forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Iesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Almighty 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.

## **Confessing our Sins**

The Celebrant introduces a period of silence in which all call to mind their sins. Then all kneel or sit.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces the forgiveness of sins. All stand.

The Gloria is sung, the congregation singing parts in bold.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

We worship you, glory in the highest, give you thanks, glory in the highest, praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory

of God, the glory of God the Father. Glory to God, glory in the highest, peace to his people, peace on earth. Amen. Amen.

The Celebrant says: 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. All say Amen. All sit.

## **The Scriptures**

#### 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## Remain seated as the Choir sing Psalm 24 Domini est terra

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas: and prepared it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord: or who shall rise up in his holy place?

Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart: and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord: and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him: even of them that seek thy face, O.Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory: it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is the King of glory: even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

#### Hebrews 2:14-end

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. This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 157* 

During which candles are lit

Turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it moves to the centre of the nave. 'Alleluia' is sung.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

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 Ierusalem whose name 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,

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy 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.** 

Extinquish candles. A sermon is preached.

#### The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended

into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Intercessions & Peace**

Kneel or sit to pray. The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

At the end: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Stand** for the Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** 

As the altar is prepared, candles are lit, and the collection is offered to God, we sing:

## Christ be our light

## During which candles are lit

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:

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 power to save us. Make us your living voice.

## Christ be our light!

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, Shared until all are fed:

## Christ be our light!

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, Walls made

of living stone.

## Christ be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

Christ be our light!

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Celebrant prays over the offerings, and all respond Amen.

The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Celebrant prays the Preface, leading into:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in

the highest. All kneel or sit

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender

mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and 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, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. *All say boldly:* **Amen.** 

## **Preparation for 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.

## Extinguish candles

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.

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

## **Holy Communion**

Sidespeople will indicate when to move for Holy Communion. All who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion, or do bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

After all have received Holy Communion, Stand as the Celebrant says Let us pray: 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. All say Amen.

All say Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

\_\_\_\_\_

Hymn 500

During which candles are lit

## Going out into the World

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth. Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise. Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna. Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we stand near the place of baptism. Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion. Help us, for whom Lent is near to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we have greeted the light of the world. Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ. Extinguish candles The Lord be with you. And also with you.

May God give to you and to all those you love his comfort and his peace, his light and his joy, in this world and the next; and the blessing...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ, Amen!

The organ postlude is part of our act of worship, please remain quiet.

If you are able, do please stay for refreshments after the service - served in The Sunley Room (behind the organ)

Rembrant's 'Song of Simeon'



## A message from Derek Kirkaldie, Reader

Thank you to all those who joined the latest Zoom Compline (Night Prayer) service. This ancient and beautiful service lasts around 25 minutes and is rooted in prayer and musical reflection. If you would like to help lead the service please see Derek.

To access the service please see
www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/zoom-compline
or email 24 hours before to
d.kirkaldie@stclementsandwich.org.uk for a personal invitation
The next service is this Tuesday (4th) at 7.30pm

## Congregation Questionnaire

You can complete the questionnaire online at www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/questions - or hard copies are available in church.

In order to help us in making decisions about priorities, the Parochial Church Council ask everyone to consider filling in the congregational questionnaire that we have launched today.

The responses will be of huge benefit in guiding our next steps. This is an opportunity for everyone - no matter how long or short your time at St Clement's has been - to have your say.

## Church of England National Online Service

Every Sunday the Church of England offers a pre-recorded online service, coming from a different Church, primarily for those at home. This week St Clement's has been asked to lead the worship, with readings, a visit to the Churchyard Rediscovered, a sermon, and several pieces from our Choir.

You can watch it from 9:00am today by going to www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/onlineservice



# Parish Directory

## PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Flynn Parish Administrator

St Clement's Hall,

Church Street St Clement's,

Sandwich. CT13 9EH.

Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm (1:00pm Fridays)

020 3089 4745 - please leave a message with BT Callminder.

admin@stclementsandwich.org.uk www.stclementsandwich.org.uk

#### THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sebastian Hamilton fr.sjm.hamilton@gmail.com + 01304 746033 Day of Rest: Monday, Study Day: Saturday

## **CHURCHWARDENS**

Diane Coller + d.coller@stclementsandwich.org.uk + 01304 619403 Howard Evans + h.evans@stclementsandwich.org.uk + 01304 449961

### HON. SECRETARY

Val Oates + oatesrvc@gmail.com

### HON. TREASURER

Steve Kirkpatrick + treasurer@stclementsandwich.org.uk

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Julian Sampson + sampson@supanet.com

## The week ahead

Monday 3rd February - The Feast of St Anskar, B

Tuesday 4th February - Feria

Wednesday 5th February - Feria

10:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Thursday 6th February - Feria

Friday 7th February - Feria

10:00am Coffee Pot (Parish Hall)

Saturday 8th February - Feria

Sunday 9th February - The Fourth Sunday before Lent

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10:30am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

Celebrant: The Rector Preacher: The Rector



Please take this booklet home with you to read, recycle, or pass on