

Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

Sunday 31st January – Candlemas The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Our churches are currently closed for public worship during lockdown

10.30am Beacon Benefice Morning Prayer (by zoom)

Rector's Voice

On Sunday we celebrate the feast of Candlemas – an ancient feast day when the candles of the home and church were blessed and when we remember the account of Jesus being brought to the Temple for dedication to God and for purification of his mother. The sacrifice was to be made- two doves and they meet with two wonderful characters- Anna and Simeon. Both elderly and both waiting.

In this last year and looking forward we are in a time of waiting, we have had to patiently wait out lockdown, wait to see family, wait for a vaccine – wait wait wait!

The Gospel reading for Candlemas is a reminder that good things come to those who wait. That patience is rewarded. Ann and Simeon have both waited in the Temple- afraid to leave in case they miss the most important event in their lives- the coming of the Messiah. And God meets with them

Today as we wait, today as we have to worship in our homes rather than our well- loved church buildings, we can be assured that God is also coming to meet with us as He did with Anna and Simeon. There is a place and time of waiting in a place of faith and belief, knowing that the light of Christ will come and the darkness of lent will give way to the radiant light of Easter.

Those joining with us in the service on Sunday may like to have a candle and a means of safely lighting it at the beginning of the service so we can together remember the joys of Candlemas.

Revd. Janet

Sunday Worship in the media

9.00am Live worship on the Church of England website

10.15am <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>
Gloucester Cathedral Sunday Eucharist

<https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/>

8.10am Radio 4 Sunday Worship

1.15pm BBC1 Songs of Praise

Readings

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.

Psalm 84

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
3 Blessed are they who dwell in your house:
they will always be praising you.
4 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion,
5 Who going through the barren valley find there a spring,
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.
6 They will go from strength to strength
and appear before God in Zion.
7 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; listen,
O God of Jacob
8 Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.
9 For one day in your courts
is better than a thousand
10 I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
11 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory;
no good thing shall the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.
12 O Lord God of hosts,
blessed are those who put their trust in you.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and forever. Amen.

The Gospel according to 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something- what did it feel like?

Have you ever prayed "Father give me patience and give it me today! "?

What is God asking of you and the church in this prolonged season of waiting that the Pandemic has forced on us?

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Andrea Linsell, Frankie Marsh, Rowland** and **Maggie Oxland**.

Hold in prayer all who are alone and frightened during this latest lockdown. Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes, for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time and for all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes. Pray also for all who are worried about the future at this uncertain time.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, especially **Michael Breeze, Pat Daly** and **Percy Franklin**, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon them*

Notices

Following this from the Archbishops:

"In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love."

I invite you to join me each evening in lighting a candle and praying at 6pm.

Prayers can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

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The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed annually from 18 – 25 January. The World Council of Churches (WCC) is inviting all Christians to **join online in prayer on 25 January**, the last day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The online prayer event will be held at 2 pm CET. Interested participants can follow the event on the website of the World Council of Churches, <https://www.oikoumene.org> .

The theme for this year 2021, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit," is inspired by John 15: 5-9. It was chosen to express the Christian community's vocation to pray and work for reconciliation and unity within the Church, our human family and all of creation. International resources for the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common commitment to prayer and Christian unity.

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PSALMS Prayer Requests: Give thanks once again for the Games Night running each Thursday. We had 9 young people attend, across 3 different partner areas. Also, they all connected more with the 5 minute faith segment than previous weeks - so give thanks for that. It encouraged me hugely to see their faces, and to have such laughter in a time of difficulty for many.

As of the end of this week, we will all officially work for OneLife as opposed to PSALMS. In the short term not much will change, but please pray that we effectively communicate well to all stakeholders what this means going forward. Also pray for a prayerful DNA to the newly led charity.

This Saturday PSALMS are hosting a Sports Quiz, run by our very own Tim Fletcher. It will be an easy way to have fun together as a family, so please do pass onto families you have links with. Pray that we get a good number of people engaging with it.

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### Sources of help :

**St. Mary's Pastoral Link system:** Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary's Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email [delyth\\_allen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk)

**Painswick Community Support:** The Painswick Covid-19 Community Support initiative set up in March will be providing ongoing community support for Painswick with the same telephone number but an updated e-mail address. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

**Cranham Covid-19 Community Response Team:** The initial contact for Cranham residents is: [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227

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Weekday Worship

9.30am Thursday weekly via Zoom from Sheepscombe Morning Prayer
If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding kriding07@yahoo.co.uk.

Weekday worship in the media

9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

The Church of England website;

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville Tel:01452 245526 Email: janetbeacon6@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: ajpleach@gmail.com

Website: www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to ajpleach@gmail.com by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

and Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: “ Today... Christian Youth Fellowship Sexuality Course, 8 p.m. Please park in the rear car park for this activity. ”