



**28 January  
2024**

**Presentation of  
Christ in the Temple  
Candlemas**



Welcome to  
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and  
St Nicholas' in Worth

This sheet details the readings in today's  
services as well as notices for everyone.

**SERVICES TODAY**

Certain services will still be available  
online (live or recorded)

08:15 Said Eucharist (BCP) St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher Fr Michael Boag

10:00 Child Friendly  
Eucharist St Barnabas'  
Celebrant & Preacher Revd Sarah Upchurch

10:00 Sung Eucharist St Nicholas'  
Celebrant & Preacher Fr Michael Boag

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**Payments to the Parish**

If you possibly can, please transfer the money  
by electronic payment to: Worth PCC, sort  
code 40-18-22, account 61223372.  
If you need help, call the Office.

**Jesus is the Light of the World**

Today we celebrate the time when Jesus was brought to the Temple as was the Jewish tradition and practice in those days. Parents were required to 'buy back' their little sons when previously all first-born sons would have been dedicated to the priesthood. This all changed after the Exodus from Egypt when the priesthood was then ascribed to the tribe of the Levites.

Aside from Mary and Joseph, two other important characters were present at that time which gives insight into the nature of God. The first is Simeon, an old man, blessed by a promise that he would see the longed-for Messiah before he died. This is where a very famous blessing called the Nunc Dimittis comes from, which he uttered on meeting the infant Jesus. In the Nunc Dimittis Simeon refers to Jesus as the Light for revelation to the Gentiles. What better day can we have to bless our church candles as we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World?

The second person was Anna who was a prophet who dedicated her life to God by serving in the Temple. She was always there worshipping, fasting and praying day and night. How do these characters reveal the nature of God to us?

Even though mature in years, they were still precious and 'useful' for God. Both Simeon and Anna trusted God and were patient, these qualities along with wisdom and experience were invaluable then and are still invaluable in our church today. God is faithful, God kept his promise to Simeon, who together with Anna, was rewarded with joy.

Let us value and cherish the older members of our communities and church and learn from their wisdom and experience.

Amen

*Revd Sarah*

## 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**

## 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.

## Reading *Psalms 24*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?



And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

## Gospel *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

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.

Festivals this week	
Tues 30 Jan	Charles, King and Martyr 1649 (LF)
Wed 31 Jan	John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order 1888 (C)
Thur 1 Feb	Brigid, Abbess of Kildare c.525 (C)
Sat 3 Feb	Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden 865 (LF)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

SERVICES THIS WEEK		
Tues 30 Jan	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Barnabas'
Thur 1 Feb	10:30 Said Eucharist	St Nicholas'
Fri 2 Feb	15:00 Golden Wedding Blessing	St Nicholas'
Sun 4 Feb	8:15 Eucharist (BCP) 10:00 Sung Eucharist 10:00 Sung Eucharist 11:45 Baptism	St Nicholas' St Barnabas' St Nicholas' St Nicholas'
<b>Sunday 4 February 2024</b> <b>Second Sunday before Lent</b> Proverbs 8.1,22-31    Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14		

### DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

**Toddlers Group** meets on **Tues 13:00-15:00** and **Thurs 9:00-11:00** during term time in St Barnabas' Hall.

### Parish Prayer Group

will meet at **19:00 at St Barnabas' on Wed 31 Jan**. Please join us at St Barnabas' as we pray for our Parish, its clergy and its outreach.

### Friday Lunches

Friday lunch on **2 Feb** in The Café at 12:30. Two courses and a drink £7.00. To help with catering please book your place at the Café (café open Wed and Sat) or via the Parish Office, by **Wed 31 Jan**. Profits for Parish funds. The lunches are not exclusively for the elderly, why not bring a friend and give us a try. All welcome!

### The Hangout

Youth Club at St Barnabas' on **Fri 2 Feb 19:00-20:30**  
For Year Groups 7-11. Entry free.  
Weekly during term time.



## Saturday Markets

will be held on **3 and 10 Feb 10:00-11:30** in St Barnabas' Café, in aid of the St Barnabas' Refurbishment. Please support us. All welcome.

### Shirley Harris

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Shirley Harris, on 22 January at her Care Home in Horsham.

Funeral details will follow.

Rest in Peace; Rise in Glory



Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)

HEY! THEY'RE A DAY  
OFF! ISN'T IT SUPPOSED  
TO BE "THREE FRENCH  
HENS"?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THE TURTLE DOVES ARE  
AN OFFERING IN MEMORY  
OF THE PASSOVER.



I DON'T THINK  
THEY HAVE ANY-  
THING TO DO  
WITH THE  
SONG.



PROBABLY JUST AS  
WELL, THAT *WOULD* BE  
(A LOT OF POULTRY!



LUKE 2:22-32

© WETZSTEIN 20-12-25

## CONTACTS

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