

ST DENYS CHURCH EVINGTON, BULLETIN

Sunday 1st February 2026, **Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**



Readings for today: Hebrews 2 vs 14-end; Luke 2 vs 22-40

Dear Friends, a brief exposition of the theme for Sunday's service:

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated on February 2nd, and also known as Candlemas, occurs forty days after Christmas, marking the formal end of the Christmas-Epiphany season. This feast commemorates the obedience of Mary and Joseph to the sacred laws and rituals of Judaism, which, in their time, required the purification of the mother and the presentation of the firstborn son in the Temple in Jerusalem.

According to the Gospel of Luke (2:22-40), the Holy Family journeyed to the Temple to offer a sacrifice of two turtle doves or pigeons, a gesture signalling their poverty and humility. Yet, this simple event is filled with profound theological significance, acting as a bridge between Christ's birth and the upcoming Passion. While at the temple, they met Simeon, a righteous man to whom the Holy Spirit had revealed he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Taking the infant Jesus in his arms, Simeon recognized Him as the "Light to lighten the Gentiles" and the "glory of Israel".

Simeon's prophetic song, the *Nunc Dimittis*, ("Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace") has echoed through centuries of Christian worship. However, Simeon also offered a sobering prophecy to Mary, stating that the child was destined for the "falling and rising of many" and that a "sword will pierce your own soul too," foreshadowing the suffering of the Crucifixion.

Alongside Simeon, the prophetess Anna, a woman of great age who worshipped with fasting and prayer daily, also recognized the child and spoke of Him to all awaiting redemption.

The feast is also known as Candlemas, or the "Feast of the Candles," because of the traditional blessing of candles for use in the church throughout the year. These candles symbolize Jesus as the "Light of the World". This celebration, with roots tracing back to the 4th-century Jerusalem church, is a joyful yet contemplative moment. It celebrates the Incarnation while preparing believers to enter the journey towards Lent and Easter, highlighting the themes of dedication, light, and prophetic fulfilment.

COMING UP:

Friday 30th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Sunday 1st February 10am Holy Communion in church followed by refreshments in the parish centre.

Monday 2nd 10am Private Booking in the parish centre

Monday 2nd 2pm Monday Meet meet in the parish centre

Tuesday 3rd 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 3rd 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Support in church & parish centre

Thursday 5th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 5th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre



Thursday 5th 10am –12 noon Open Church

Thursday 5th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said)

Zoom Unavailability Worship this coming Sunday 1st February will not be live streamed via Zoom. We are sorry about this and apologise for any inconvenience caused.



Celebration of the Eucharist and marking of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) this coming Sunday 1st February at 10am, to which all are welcome, will be presided over by Canon Matthew who will also preach. Refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service.

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion (said) will be held this Thursday 5th February at 10am in church. The President and Preacher will be the Revd Jonathan Surridge. Refreshments will be served at the back of the church after the service.



Vocations Conversations Morning Have you or anyone you know, ever wondered whether God might be calling you to ordained ministry? Join Bishop Saju and the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Revd Sue Willetts, for an informal conversation about feeling called to ordination. To be held at Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Road Leicester LE2 3BA on Saturday 28th February, 9.30—11.30am. To watch Bishop Saju's invitation video, please see this week's diocesan diomail newsletter.

St Jerome's Book Club



A Zoom gathering for those interested in reading and discussing books that stimulate the mind and spirit.
We meet monthly at 7.30pm.



12 February

The age of AI by Jason Thacker



12 March

Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr



16 April

To be decided



Joining

For the Zoom link, please email: liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org

Diocesan Prayer Diary Every four months, the diocese issues a prayer diary with daily prayer requests. Why not try using this as part of your everyday prayer cycle? January—April is available now, accessible online, by using the following link: <https://leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/prayer-diary/>

Leicester Cathedral have begun their Spring season of classical music lunchtime recitals featuring a mixture of different instruments, piano, organ, saxophone, voice, french horn and tuba! 45 minutes of relaxing music to soothe the soul. Held every two weeks on Mondays at 12.30pm. The next recital is on Monday 9th February. Free entry. Please see the Cathedral website for more details: <https://leicestercathedral.org/lunchtime-recitals>

Thought: Christ whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true the only light, Son of righteousness arise, triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high be near,; Daystar in my heart appear (**Charles Wesley 1707-1788**)



A Flower Creation by Kimberley Tyler

The Display

*In shades of blush like morning skies,
Beneath the light, the bouquet lies,
A silent song of scented grace,
That brings the garden to this place.*
(Author unknown)

I still need people to join the Reader and Intercessor rota. We are in particular, **critically short of people to do the intercessions** but need more readers too. Guidance will be given if necessary. Please contact me if you feel that you can be part of this ministry. **Qyan**

Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) 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.

Pray for the sick: Joan Ackland, Ann Dixon, Revd Richard Howells, Morag and Ron Maund, Isobel Thorpe, Richard Williams.

Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of Barrie Coleman, Brenda Johnson, Revd Brian Thompson

Prayer Tree (picture right) in St. Denys set up by Lottie Tyler as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. If you have someone or something you wish to be prayed for, write a brief description on the cards by the tree and hang it on the tree.

Once a month on a Thursday at Holy Communion, the cards will be read and the request prayed during the service.



Ann Bennett (Churchwarden) 07806 877644

Qyan (Administrator) 07803 828454 office@stdenys.org.uk

St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

