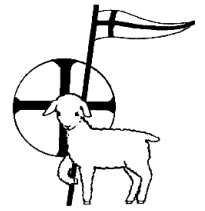


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 4th February 2024

Candlemas



Today's Service

9.30am All-Age Service for Candlemas

Led by the Revd Juliette Hulme

Hymns: When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (words on sheet); 164 Lord Jesus Christ; 17 As the deer pants for the water; 297 You shall go out with joy

Today we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and the faithfulness of Simeon and Anna. There will be an activity for the children, and refreshments afterwards.

The Revd Juliette Hulme is also leading worship at St Peter's Church, Swallowcliffe, this morning.

Wednesday 7th February

3.00pm Service of Healing and Wholeness St Andrew's Chapel

A quiet service of prayer and contemplation for all the churches of the Nadder Valley Benefice, including a reading, a song, a meditation, and prayers for yourself and for those about whom you care. All welcome!

Next Sunday, 11th February

The Sunday Next Before Lent

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Juliette Hulme

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

This year our Ash Wednesday service will take place in the morning, in St Andrew's Chapel. It will include hymns, and the Imposition of Ashes. All are welcome.

Palm crosses needed, please

If you still have your palm cross from last year, please would you bring it to a service this week or next, so that we can burn them to make ash for the Ash Wednesday service? Thank you!

Lent Lunches – can you help?



The three Tisbury churches will again be providing lunch every Wednesday during Lent, between 12 noon and 1.30pm, starting on Wednesday 21 February. St John's will be responsible for the first two, on 21st and 28th Feb. If you would be willing to help, by providing home-made soup and/or by helping on either day, please would you contact Sally Naish on 07939 435474 or sallygnaish@gmail.com

Do please put all five Wednesdays in your diary and come along and enjoy a light lunch – why not bring a friend or two? Proceeds will go to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

In memoriam

The funeral of **Michael Taylor** will take place at 11.00am on Tuesday 13th February at Salisbury Crematorium.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Jeremy Saye** will take place at St John's on Friday 16th February at 2.00pm.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Prue Gingell** will be held at St John's on Monday 18th March at 1.30pm.

Please continue to pray for their friends and families at this time of loss.

The Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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. Amen.

The Reading: Luke 2.22-40

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.

For your prayers

We continue to pray for the mission to our linked diocese of Cueibet, for the success of the visit and the safe passage and return of our colleagues. We pray that their discussions will bring joy, praying also for the Mothers' Union in Cueibet.

As conflict intensifies in the Middle East, please pray for the whole region: for the Holy Land, and especially Gaza, for Yemen, for Iraq and Syria. We pray for an end to attack and retaliation, and instead for negotiation and a lasting peace.

Almost two years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we pray for the people there and for those living as refugees in other countries, for a Russian withdrawal and a return to peace.

As we celebrate Candlemas and the faithfulness of Simeon and Anna, we pray for the elderly in our community, for those at home and for those in Albany House and other care homes.



Children's Holiday Workshop Tuesday 13th February 2.30-4.30pm Dinton

The Nadder Valley Team are holding a Pancake Day Workshop at Dinton Cricket Pavilion. To book your place, please contact the Revd Jo Naish on revdjoannanaish@gmail.com or 01747 871820. All children must be accompanied throughout by a responsible adult.

Starts 19th February Lent Course: A Spiritual Path for Lent and Easter

The course, based on the book 'The City is my Monastery' by Revd Richard Carter, will take place at The Rectory, Tisbury, on Monday afternoons in Lent. For details, please see the separate flyer. Please sign the list in church, or phone or email Juliette, if you'd like to take part, by Wednesday 7th February so that we can order the books.

Hoping to welcome many of you – don't worry if you're not able to come to all the sessions.

Lent talks with supper at Hindon Village Hall

These talks, on the theme of creativity in our spiritual life, will take place on 21 Feb, 6 March and 20 March, starting at 6.30pm. Please would you let Revd Jo Naish know if you would like to go? revdjoannanaish@gmail.com