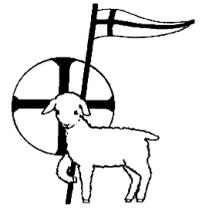


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 1st February 2026

**The Presentation of Christ
(Candlemas)**

Today's Service

9.30am All-Age Service

Led by Canon Judy Anderson

We celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and the centuries-old festival of Candlemas, where the candles for use in church during the year were blessed. The children will be invited to decorate a candle to take home after the service – there might even be a few spare so that adults can join in too!

Wednesday 4th February

10.00am Holy Communion

President: The Revd Tina Fox

Next Sunday, 8th February

The Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Mark Hayter

In Memoriam

The funeral of **Felicity Corp** will take place at St John's at 11.00am on Friday 27th February. Please pray for her brother, John, as he mourns.

For your prayers

In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray this month for the Anglican church school there, for the pupils and their teachers, giving thanks for the progress made in the new buildings and praying for suitable weather that they may finish the building before the rains. Please pray especially for the WBFM, the group pastoring new mothers in Cueibet, and the role they play in the worship of the diocese.

As we celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple, we pray that, as Simeon and Anna welcomed the Light, we may have the grace to recognize where our lives need changing and to reflect God's love to those around us. We pray for the whole Church, that, like Simeon and Anna, it may recognize and proclaim Christ as the light to the nations and the glory of God's people.

Please continue to pray for world peace, that the Light of Christ may dispel the darkness of conflict and bring peace and hope to those living in fear in troubled nations. Please pray too for wisdom in leadership and justice in our communities.

As we advertise again for a Rector to lead the Upper Nadder Benefice, please continue to pray that God will put it into the heart of the priest he would send to us to apply for the post.

Work in church

The long-awaited replacement of the Lady Chapel ceiling, which collapsed in the 18th century, begins this Monday, 2nd February, with the erecting of scaffolding in the Lady Chapel. The work is expected to take around two months in total. We hope that having the ceiling in place will reduce draughts and improve the temperature in church during the colder months.



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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 2.22-33

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

Revd Joanna Naish

At the direction of Bishop Andrew, our Associate Priest, Revd Joanna Naish, is taking an extended break from ministry, with immediate effect. Bishop Andrew writes: 'Jo has been working exceedingly hard and needs urgent respite.' Please do rest assured that we are doing all we can to ensure that church services continue to run smoothly and pastoral needs are met. If you need a priest, please feel free to contact the Rural Dean, Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple, on RevdRuth@outlook.com or 01722 697022. For practical matters, please continue to contact a Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator (details overleaf).

Please pray for Jo as she takes this much-needed break.

Lent Course

It is with great regret that the decision has been made that we are no longer able to offer the planned Lent Course. With the absence of the Revd Joanna Naish, we are even more thinly stretched than before, and it is unrealistic to expect to find enough time for all that is involved in the running of such a course, not least the preparation time. With sincere apologies for any disappointment, and thanks for your ongoing understanding and support during the Vacancy.

Palm Crosses

Do you still have your palm cross from last year? If so, please could you bring it to church during February so that it can be burned and mixed with holy oil to form the ashes for Ash Wednesday? Thank you!

Congratulations ...

... to the Revd Rebecca (Becca) McDonnell, former member of St John's, who was instituted as Rector of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton on Thursday. We pray for Becca (and for Stewart, Cullin and Murdo) as she begins this exciting new phase in her ministry.

Giving to the church



Thank you very much to those who continue to give regularly to the church. If you haven't committed to regular giving, why not consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme? If you go to www.parishgiving.org.uk you can get onto the secure website and set up a login and password. This will enable you set up your own direct debit (and sign up for gift aid if applicable). Alternatively, you can pick up a leaflet in church. Any cheques should be made payable to Tisbury PCC.