

Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Light

Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

Sunday 30th January

Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30am	Painswick	Holy Communion
11.00am	Cranham with Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
11.00am	Pitchcombe	Three Parish Communion

*The government recommendation is that we continue to wear face masks in crowded and indoor spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. So we ask you to please **wear a face mask in church**, unless you have a medical reason not to and **make use of the hand sanitiser** provided as you enter. Good ventilation is part of covid precautions and our churches may be less warm as a result. Please dress accordingly.*

Not the Rector

For many of us, the celebration of Candlemas is now all that remains of the traditional season of 'Old Christmas' sometimes referred to as "The Greater Christmas" (because it was longer than the 12 days of Christmas). Old Christmas, like Lent, was a period of 40 days. It began on Christmas Day and continued until the day on which Christians recall the presentation of the baby Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem by his parents, Mary and Joseph. (This despite the quirk of our Lectionary readings having already raced ahead to the Baptism of Jesus and the beginnings of his ministry.)

The presentation by Mary and Joseph, described in the Gospel of Luke would have been timed to coincide with the end of Mary's ritual purification after childbirth according to Jewish law – a period of forty days. For that reason, the day is also sometimes referred to as the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin.

Reminders of the tradition in popular culture include reference to snowdrops as 'Candlemas Bells'. However, for most Christians it is the idea of Jesus as light bringer that is uppermost on this day - we remember that Jesus is often described as the "light of the world".

Revd. Andrew

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 24. 7-end

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.

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

Mary and Joseph were faithful to the custom of the forty days: the number of days and nights of the flood, the number of days their child would walk in the wilderness tempted by the devil, the number of years his people had wandered in the wilderness becoming God's people in escaping from Egypt. The offering of these birds would be a memorial to all of the firstborn males ordered killed by Pharaoh in that first Holocaust — the one that only Moses survived. Mary and Joseph had come to make a sacrifice and a commitment — every commitment comes with a cost.

We have now an opportunity to make our commitment, and then live accordingly. We hold the light of the Gospel in our hands, a sign of God's holy Spirit of Love, which enlightens us and empowers us to reach out to one another and allow ourselves to be transformed and to reflect the light and life of God beyond the boundaries of our parish or congregation, our church, our community, and even our country.

Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Richard Garrett, Frauke Hankamer, Andrea Linsell and Jenipher Pritchard** . Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes and for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time.

We pray also for all the charities which this benefice supports, including Christian Aid, Marah, Sportily , Stroud Citizens Advice, Stroud Foodbank and The Vine Project and all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes.

We also remember before God all who have died recently, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time. May they and all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Notices

The churchwardens would like to invite people to volunteer as **sidespeople** at the services in **St. Mary's Painswick**. The role entails the giving out and collecting in of service sheets and hymn books. Welcoming people as they come into the church. Taking the collection when required and tidying up the church at the end of the service . Anyone who is willing to assist with this official role please contact either Sue Welbourn or Margaret Radway for further details.

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Thank you so much to everyone who donated to our last **Foodbank collection** on 12 January. It was a heavy load of tins to carry but Foodbank gratefully received the 186.75kg of food which flies off the shelf soon after we take it to the warehouse. **Our next collection is on Wednesday 16th February from 10 am to 12 noon at the stocks and in Stamages Lane Car Park**. Foodbank would be grateful for toiletries, tinned food, sweet and savoury snacks - but any non perishable, in-date food will gladly received and distributed to those in food poverty. *Painswick Foodbank Team*

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Marah are now providing **hot meals for the homeless and vulnerable** in Stroud 3 times a week and are praying that the funds will allow them to keep this up. Over the years we have raised a steady stream of contributions by collecting your spare change. This continues, though the use of contactless means there is less small change around. But Francis Watson (812 071) and Alison Robinson (812 286) are still very willing to receive bags of 1ps, 2ps and 5ps and pass them on to Marah. Over the past 12 years we have collected more than £5000 by this method!

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**Benefice Prayertime** - Several of us around the Benefice have felt that we should come together to pray for the present and the future of our Beacon Benefice Church family. On Wednesday mornings weekly at 9.00am on Zoom (40 minutes) there will be **an open Zoom meeting for anyone wishing to join in prayer with others**. Obviously, not all can commit to this weekly, but no matter if only two or three meet, the important thing is that prayer is happening regularly and we'll all be welcome whenever we can attend. The format is informal - we may bring/read our own prayers, or speak them as we feel led or just listen as others pray. Coming together in prayerful intent is the aim. The weekly Zoom invitation will be sent out with Beacon Light each week. *Lindsay Gardiner ( lindsay.gardiner@icloud.com ) Karen Riding ( kriding07@yahoo.co.uk*

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Painswick Community Hub @ the Town Hall: Painswick Community Support volunteers will be serving tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the Town Hall every Friday 9.30-11am. People are invited to pay on a Pay-As-You-Feel basis ie. whatever they can afford to /want to. All are welcome so drop in for a coffee and a chat with friends. The volunteers would be very grateful for **any offers of home-made cakes, biscuits or traybakes**. If you are able to contribute to this community initiative, please get in touch with Delyth Allen on 07854262517 or Painswick Community Support on 07956203087 or email painswickcommunity@gmail.com We can arrange to collect cakes from you if more convenient.

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## Sources of help :

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

**Painswick Community Support:** The Painswick Community Support initiative provides community support for Painswick. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

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Weekday Worship

Wednesday weekly: 9.00am Benefice Prayer time via Zoom
The weekly Zoom invitation will be sent out with Beacon Light each week.

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

1st Wednesday of each month: 10.30am Holy Communion at Richmond Village

3rd Tuesday of each month: 11.00am Holy Communion at Resthaven

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## Services next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent

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|---------|-----------|-----------------|
| 9.30am  | Painswick | Holy Communion  |
| 11.00am | Edge      | Holy Communion  |
| 6.30pm  | Cranham   | Evening Worship |

## Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville

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Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com)

Website: [www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)

Information for the next Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

## And Finally...

Seen in a pewsheet: "A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a bring and buy sale. "