



A CELEBRATION OF CANDLEMAS

Sunday 4th February 2024

10.00am

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Today is the feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It is also called the feast of Candlemas. We gather as family to ask God's blessing on us all, that we might walk in the light of God's love all our lives.

Hymn

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.**

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
The light of Christ, fullness of grace.*

**The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.**

A glory dawns in every dark place

**The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.**

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
The light of Christ, fullness of grace.*

As we gather together

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we put aside the things that distract us

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we leave behind the things that worry us

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we forget about ourselves

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we worship you with songs of praise

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we listen to stories from your Word

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

As we hear your teaching

All Lord, help us to concentrate on you

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD

Light shows up things that have been forgotten or lost or hidden. As we come into Jesus's presence, his light reminds us of all the good things we have forgotten to do and all the things that have been hidden away. But if we say sorry, then we can walk in the light.

For all the times we have ignored people in need, Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

For all the times we have deliberately made wrong choices, Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

For all the times we have forgotten your love, Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive you your sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

CANDLEMAS POEM

TURNING FIGURES TO LIGHTS!

IT'S HARD TO SEE WITHOUT LIGHT!

Hymn

*The light of Christ
has come into the world;
the light of Christ
has come into the world.*

**All men must be born again
to see the kingdom of God;
the water and the Spirit
bring new life in God's love**

The light of Christ

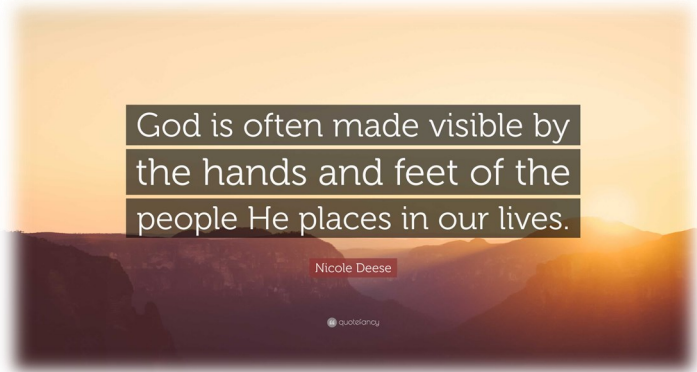
**God gave up His only Son
out of love for the world,
so that all men who believe in him
will live forever.**

The light of Christ

**The light of God has come to us
so that we might have salvation;
from the darkness of our sins
we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.**

The light of Christ

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN MAKE VISIBLE! During this time others are invited to look at the newspapers and think or talk to others about which countries or situations need God's light now.



THE WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, N by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you

PRAYERS

We light a candle for each country or situation needing prayer and God's light. We finish our prayers by saying together the Lord's Prayer

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

GIFTS!

Hymn (*during which a collection is taken for the work of this parish. The contactless giving machine is also available at the back of church*)

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Shine, Jesus, shine
fill this land with the Father's glory
blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with love and mercy,
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

Shine, Jesus, shine

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus, thank you that Simeon and Anna recognised you as a special baby, and knew you would grow up to do God's special work. Help us to discover who you are, and how you are special. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, and with those whom you love and pray for, today and always.

All Amen.

We go to carry his light and blessing.

All Let us shine with the light of your love. Thanks be to God.

NOTICES

REFRESHMENTS - There is tea or coffee available in the Hall.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE - do join us from 10.00-12noon every Wednesday. Everyone is welcome.

JUNE JAMES - June's funeral is on Wednesday 7th February at 1.45pm at St James's Church. In view of this, there won't be a mid-week communion service on that day.

READERS AND INTERCESSORS AT ST JOHN'S - It is great across the Parish that we have people to take part in our worship by reading and interceding on our behalf. At St John's we could do with a few more people to take on this role. If you never prepared intercessions - don't worry both Ruth and Sandra have lots of books to help you. Don't be afraid to ask! It is a privilege to help worship in this way so please do consider if this is something you can offer.

JAM JARS NEEDED - Our Lent Appeal this year will be for UNICEF and we will use their idea of Jars of Grace. If you have any spare jam jars (lids would be great but not essential) please could you bring them before 11th February.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH- COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR -
A big thankyou to those who have donated towards the public access defibrillator to be sited at St James but for use by all the community 24/7. We are over a third of the way to raising the £2000 needed for a defibrillator, heated cabinet and upkeep costs. Did you know that in the event of cardiac arrest each minute that defibrillation is delayed reduces victim survival by 10%, but defibrillation within three minutes has a 70% success rate?! Please help by giving via BACS with the reference 'DEFIB' or via the just giving link below. Thank you so much, your gift is potentially life saving. Carolyn Gomersal (Parish Nurse)
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/savingbaildonlives>

COFFEE MORNING FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR APPEAL -
Apologies that the coffee morning arranged for 10th February at St James is cancelled. Hopefully a defibrillator event will be possible in the future.

SHROVE TUESDAY - this year is Tuesday 13th February and we will be holding our Pancake Party at St James's Church at 6pm. Come and join us for some lovely pancakes and toppings, quiz and sharing together as we prepare to begin Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY - is an important day in the lives of Christians as we mark the beginning of Lent. We will be holding two Ash Wednesday services in the parish - Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at St James's Church at 12 noon and St John's Church at 7.30pm.

TRIBUTE NIGHT - We are in need of any raffle prizes that could be used on the night, there is a box at the back of the church for items.

CHOCOLAT - you are probably aware of the film 'Chocolat', which this year we will use for our Lent reflections. There will be two sessions each week - one on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in St James's Church and again on Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm at the home of Lesley Hallas. It would be great if we could have an idea of how many people are interested in this and we have put two sign up sheets at the back of church. Signing up doesn't mean you have to come, it just gives us a bit of an indication.

WATCHING CHOCOLAT - before we start Lent we will be showing the film on Sunday 11th February. We will provide a simple lunch for you and then we watch the film in St John's Church Hall, we will gather for lunch at 12noon. It would be a good idea to know numbers and there is a sign up sheet for this at the back of Church.

BEGINNERS COMPUTER COURSE - Learn how to get connected to the internet and be able to find information, connect with family and friends and access services in a convenient way. If you, or someone you know, want to use a digital device or be able to do more with a digital device, our free course 'Using Your Device Online' could help. Bring your own device or use one of ours to get started. The six week course begins on 13th February at The St Hugh's Centre, Coach Road. Sessions run 1.30pm to 3pm. For more information and to book your place on this FREE course contact Becky Fazackerley at Worth Connecting: 0808 50 15 939 or email info@worthconnecting.org

PARISH TREASURER - Do you have experience in accounting or financial services? Do you love working with figures? Would you get a buzz from leading a team of willing volunteers to make a difference? If so, we could have the job for you! We are looking to appoint a part-time Treasurer for the Parish of Baildon for a payment of £3,000 per annum. Closing date: Friday 12th February 2024. Interview date: Thursday 15th February 2024. For more information, a Job Description and Application Form please email sandrabenham@btinternet.com or for an informal chat please phone Sandra Benham on 01274 589005.

COMMUNITY WORKER AT ST JAMES'S HUB - I am delighted to announce that Julie Bower has been appointed as Community Worker at St James's Community Hub.

THE WORLD WIDE DAY OF PRAYER - this year has been put together by **Christians in Palestine**. This was decided about five years ago - but how ironic, considering the present situation in that land. This year the Service is being hosted by **US** at St John's Church on Friday 1st March at 7,00pm. **Please come and support Christians in The Holy Land - they desperately need our prayers.**

