

FEBRUARY 2025

FROM THE RECTORY DESK

Dear Friends,

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (2nd February) - also known as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary - ends the Christmas and Epiphany season and the crib is put away for another year. The observation dates back to the 4th century and recalls the Jewish requirement for women to be purified after



giving birth and to present the child to the priest for anointing. The travelling nun Etheria celebrated this feast day in Jerusalem 40 days after Christmas. By the middle of the 5th century candles were used in the service and blessed for the year ahead, hence the name Candlemas.

Candles are rich in symbolism and have been used for centuries in church worship. The living flame represents the light of Christ and the surrounding glow the *shekinah* for those engaged in divine prayer.

Why not light a candle on Candlemas day and recite the glorious canticle from Luke's gospel known as the *Nunc dimittis*:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.*

- 2 *For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;*
- 3 *Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;*
- 4 *To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel*

Wishing you a blessed Candlemas.

Rector

ZOOM CHURCH

Every Sunday at 6.00 pm Virtual Compline

For all zoom services please use this link: [Church Services](#), then enter this Passcode: 2022

Or by phone - dial one of the following: 0203 901 7895 ; 0208 080 6591
Meeting ID: 81259506242 – then enter Passcode 2022, followed by # when asked (you may need to repeat the last step)

Download Order of Service here: [Virtual Compline](#)



FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday 2 February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (White)

9.00 am Morning Prayer St Bartholomew, Wanborough.
Readings: Exodus 13.1-16 ; Romans 12.1-5. Hymns: 80, 30, 516.

10:30 am Holy Communion St Laurence, Seale.
Readings: Hebrews 2.14-18 ; Luke 2.22-40. Hymns: 80, 360, 496, 516.

Sunday 9 February – Fourth Sunday before Lent (Green)

9.00 am Holy Communion The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 ; Luke 5.1-11. Hymns: 492, 233, 376, 429.

10:30 am Morning Prayer St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Readings: Jeremiah 26.1-16 ; Acts 3.1-10. Hymns: 492, 376, 429.

Sunday 16 February – Third Sunday before Lent (Green)

9.00 am Holy Communion St Bartholomew, Wanborough.
Readings: 1 Corinthians 15.12-20 ; Luke 6.17-26. Hymns: 368, 391, 468, 604.

10:30 am Morning Prayer St Laurence, Seale.
Readings: Jeremiah 30.1-3, 10-22 ; Acts 6. Hymns: 368, 391, 604.

Sunday 23 February – Second Sunday before Lent (Green)

9.00 am Morning Prayer The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Readings: Job 28.1-11 ; Acts 14.8-17. Hymns: 413, 202, 267.

10:30 am Holy Communion St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Readings: Revelation 4 ; Luke 8.22-25. Hymns: 413, 202, 557, 267.

DIARY FOR THE MONTH

Tue 4 Feb	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 5 Feb	2.00 pm	Pilgrim Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands
Tue 11 Feb	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 12 Feb	2.00 – 4.30 pm	Tower Café at St John the Baptist, Puttenham.
Tue 18 Feb	12.00 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 19 Feb	11.00 am	Pastoral Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Tue 25 Feb	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Shepherd's Rest Café at The Good Shepherd, The Sands.
Wed 26 Nov	2.00 pm	Bible Hub at The Good Shepherd, The Sands Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

STEWARDSHIP AND GIVING

We rely on the generosity of our worshippers, regular members and visitors to fund the costs of quota, maintaining the buildings and running costs and fulfilling our mission to the churches in the parish.

It costs about £8,000 per month to keep our churches in good order and open for regular services. Apart from rental income from Glebe Cottage, we receive no financial support for operational costs other than what you give. Our giving is always a response to God's unfailing generosity and grace and to the needs of the church.



GIFTING TO THE CHURCH

BY BANK TRANSFER OR STANDING ORDER: to the SPWPCC bank account, which is at Lloyds Bank, Farnham, sort code 30 93 20, account number 02210758, (do include your name for reference).

BY CHEQUE: Send to the Treasurer, c/o The Rectory, Elstead Road, Seale, Farnham, GU10 1JA. Contact the Churchwardens for Gift Aid forms and increase the value of your giving.

CONTACTLESS: now available at Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough.

ONLINE: once or monthly [by following this link, where you will find a Gift Aid option.](#)

PARISH GIVING SCHEME To change your regular Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donation, please write to: Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD, email to info@parishgiving.org.uk or phone 0333 002 1260. It helps to include the PGS reference number, which can be found below your address on PGS correspondence. If you would like to start a regular PGS donation, or have any questions, please contact Mike Cloughley, our PGS coordinator: Telephone number: 01252 793639 Email: cloughley@btinternet.com



Please contact any member of the Ministry or Pastoral team if you are anxious, lonely or would like a spiritual or social chat.

THE RECTOR: 01252 783057 or Rector@spw.org.uk

PASTORAL TEAM: Linda Thatcher & Kathleen Smith



SAFEGUARDING AND DBS OFFICER

ANNE CONCANEN: 01483 811017

You can contact Anne confidentially if you have any safeguarding concerns.