

THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

Epiphany 4 (Candlemas) – Sunday, 30th January

www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

Collect

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.

Malachi 3: 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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.

Hymn numbers are displayed on the boards in church

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Ray Weaver, Doug Todd, David Major, Doy Marriott, Sue Roberts, Sarah Witheridge.

We pray for those who have recently died; Michael Seeley, Derek Vowles, Michael Thomas, Jeanne Luker.

In our year's mind we remember Ben Bannerman, Dorothy Jones, Michael Clay, David Appleby, John Gammon, David Walker, Ken Waspe and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

Notices

Covid restrictions – Face coverings and social distancing are no longer required in church.

February Parish Magazine is now available and copies are in All Saints and St Mary's for those who do not pay by subscription.

Stepping Stones Bereavement Support is meeting on **Friday, 4th February** (2.00pm – 4.00pm) in St Mary's Church Hall.

Somewhere To Go (somerheretogo.org) is a local organization based in Weston Super Mare providing support for homeless people. It is open 10am – 2pm, Monday – Friday, offering breakfast and lunch and showers for those who access it. Donations of towels, toiletries, warm clothes and dried and tinned food are always welcome. Please ring or text Gail on 07957 617610 if you feel you can help.

The pulpit pedestal flowers at St Mary's are in loving memory of Michael Seeley, former Church Warden, Bell Ringer and Thurifer at St Mary's.

The week ahead

Wednesday communions

10.00am St Mary's

11.00am St Peter and St Paul's at Boxwood Cottage

Tuesday (1st February)
10.10am All Saints School Assembly

Thursday (3rd February)
10.30am Funeral of Derek Vowles at St Mary's.
12.30pm Little Saints, All Saints Vestry

Friday (4th February)
2.00pm Stepping Stones Bereavement Support, St Mary's Hall

Next Sunday (6th February)
8.00am All Saints Holy Communion
10.00am St Mary's Holy Communion
10.00am St Peter and St Paul, Holy Communion (Village Hall)
12.00pm Baptism of Toby Bennett-Clements, St Peter and St Paul (Village Hall)
10.30am All Saints Holy Communion
11.15am St Paul's, Holy Communion