

**Sunday of the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the  
Temple  
31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010**

**TODAY**

6.30p.m. Evensong at St Alban's

**THIS WEEK**

Mon 5.00p.m. Evening Prayer at St Alban's  
(Parish Hall Committee meeting at St Mary's, followed by  
St Mary's Church Committee at about 8.15pm. - *postponed*  
until next week)

Wed 9.00a.m. Morning Prayer at St Mary's  
9.30a.m. Holy Communion at St Mary's

Fri 9.00a.m. Morning Prayer at St Alban's  
9.30a.m. Holy Communion at St Alban's followed by refreshments in  
the Community Room  
10.15a.m. Friday Coffee Pot and Credit Union at St Alban's. All  
welcome

## NEXT SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Lent

**READINGS** for next week : Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-25, Ps. 65, Revelation: 4, Luke 8: 22-25

- 8.00a.m. Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.00a.m. **Informal Eucharist** at St Alban's
- 10.30a.m. **Sung Eucharist** at St Mary's
- 5.30p.m. Choir Practice at St Alban's
- 6.30p.m. Evensong at St Alban's

## NOTES AND NEWS

**COVENANT LENT GROUPS: WHEN I SURVEY... CHRIST'S CROSS AND OURS** - The death of Christ is a dominant and dramatic theme in the New Testament. So it's not surprising that, over the centuries, the Cross has become *the* symbol of the Christian faith. But Christians do not honour a dead hero; we worship a Living Lord. According to the Bible, the death of Jesus is not the end of a track – it's the gateway into life. His crucifixion gives rise to many key themes and you'll explore some of these in this course including: the place of silence in our noisy world; despair and hope; a suffering world; the challenge of living as disciples when Christianity is no longer mainstream. Sign up as soon as possible for these five sessions, meeting at various venues and times from the week beginning February 22<sup>nd</sup>. See the forms at the back of Church. *If you would* like to host or lead a group, please indicate on the form. (**NB**, a change of details from last week)

**THANK YOU** everyone who made gifts towards the new low energy lights at St Alban's, and also to those who climbed up the ladders to install them. They are now all in place, we have some spares, and they were used for the first time at the Deanery Synod on Thursday, when they were much admired. Your generosity is much appreciated.

**THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S** - Would you like learn to chime the bells at St Mary's? Or to improve your technique if you do it already? By request, Gary is doing a training session on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 10.00a.m., for anyone who would like to have a go. You don't need great strength, just a bit of practice. Don't be shy! Come along if you are interested.

**SWINE FLU PRECAUTIONS** - We encourage use of the alcoholic rub provided as you enter the Church, and at any later point you wish to use it. Please speak to one of the Clergy if you have any concerns.

**BASICS BANK** - Are in urgent need of tinned meat. Please help if you can.

**E-MAIL PEW SHEET** - Would you like to receive this Pew Sheet by e-mail each week? If so, send a message to Julie in the Office at Swaythling.Parish@tiscali.co.uk and she will send you a pdf copy.

**The Parish Website is:** [www.swaythlingparish.org.uk](http://www.swaythlingparish.org.uk)

The Vicar is: The Revd Canon Gary Philbrick - 023 8055 4231

**SOME ENGAGEMENTS FROM THE VICAR'S DIARY THIS WEEK.**

In addition to the events listed above, please pray for:

Gary is on retreat this week, apart from...

Thursday lunchtime and afternoon, meeting of the Southern Area Team of Bishop, Archdeacons and Area Deans, followed by Southern Area Pastoral Committee, both in the Parish Hall here.

**THE PRAYER FOR THE LAYING ON OF HANDS  
FOR HEALING**

May almighty God, in his great love for you,  
fill you with his Holy Spirit,  
take from you all that harms you,  
and make you whole in body, mind and spirit,  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

**READINGS FOR TODAY**  
**- and for you to use during the Week**

**Sunday of the Feast of the Presentation Of Christ in the Temple.**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010**

**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.  
**AMEN.**

**A Reading from the Book of the  
Prophet Malachi**

*Malachi 3.1-5*

Thus says the Lord God: 1 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. 2 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; 3 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. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 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.

*At the end, the Reader says:*

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 24:7-10**

Response: **The King of glory shall come in.**

1. Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever-lasting doors;  
And the King of glory | shall come in.  
Who is this | King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is migh-ty in battle.

2. Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever-lasting doors;  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord of hosts, he is the King of  
glory.

## **A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

*Hebrews 2.14-18*

14 Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*At the end, the Reader says:*

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **THE GOSPEL READING**

*Please stand and turn to face the Gospel Reader*

*An acclamation heralds the Gospel, to which all reply:*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Luke 2.22-40*

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 24 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.' 25 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. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 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, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**Lord now you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled  
My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
a light to reveal you to the nations:  
and the glory of your people Israel...**

*(The Nunc Dimittis)*

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 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 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' 36 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 seven years after her marriage, 37 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. 38 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. 39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*At the end, the Reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

(c) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Eucharistic Prayer:  
Special

**POST COMMUNION: Presentation of Christ**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts  
beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he  
comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever. **AMEN.**

## A PRAYER FOR HAITI

Lord, I just want to say THANK YOU, because this morning I woke up  
and knew where my children were.

Because this morning my home was still standing,  
because this morning I am not crying because my husband,  
my child, my brother or sister needs to be dug out from underneath a  
pile of concrete,

because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water,  
because this morning I was able to turn on the light,  
because this morning I was able to take a shower,  
because this morning I was not planning a funeral,  
but most of all I thank you this morning because I still have life and a  
voice to cry out for the people of Haiti.

Lord I cry out to you, the one that makes the impossible, possible, the  
one who turns darkness in to light,

I cry out that you give those mothers strength,  
that you give them peace that surpasses all understanding,  
that you may open the streets so that help can come,  
that you may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and all that they need  
in a blink of an eye.

For all those that have lost family members, give them peace,  
give them hope, give them courage to continue to go on!

Protect the children and shield them with your power.

I pray all this in the name of Jesus!

Xina Nel