

Presentation of Christ in the Temple 29th January 2012

TODAY

At this morning's Services at St Alban's and St Mary's (10.30a.m.) we will offer the Laying of on Hands with Prayer for Healing, as we do on the last Sunday of each month.

6.30p.m. **Evensong** at St Alban's

THIS WEEK

Mon	9.00a.m.	Morning Prayer at St Alban's
	7.30p.m.	Parish Hall Committee meets in St Mary's
	8.15p.m.	St Mary's Church Committee meets in St Mary's.
Wed	9.00a.m.	Morning Prayer at St Mary's
	9.30a.m.	Holy Communion at St Mary's

- Thu 7.30p.m. Homegroup meets at 61 Bassett Green Road. All welcome
 7.30p.m. SUGCR Ringing Practice at St Mary's
 Fri 9.00a.m. Morning Prayer at St Alban's
 9.30a.m. Holy Communion at St Alban's
 10.15a.m. Friday Coffee Pot and Credit Union at St Alban's. All welcome
 10.15a.m. Magazine Committee meets in the Community Room at St Alban's

NEXT SUNDAY 3rd Before Lent (Stewardship Sunday 1)

READINGS for next week: Isaiah 40:21-end, Ps. 147:1-12, I Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

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

NOTES AND NEWS

PARISH GIVING SCHEME - We are one of 10 Parishes in the Diocese to be asked to trail a new Giving Scheme for Parishes, to help to reduce the work involved in Gift Aid, and to make the whole system more efficient. 10 people are being asked to be the 'Guinea Pigs'! (If you would like to volunteer, please speak to Gary/Sheena).

BAPTISM on February 12th at St Mary's of Vicky (Maunder) and Robin's three daughters, at the 10.30a.m. Service. All welcome, of course - ***NB, we're still debating whether this should be a Parish Service (with no Service at St Alban's) - see next week's Pew Sheet.***

SHROVE TUESDAY, February 21st - Community Pancake Lunch, 12.00noon-1.30p.m., in the Community Room at St Alban's - please come to help and to host. ***PARISH PANCAKES***, 6.00-8.00p.m., also at St Alban's - come and bring your friends!

ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22nd - Eucharists to celebrate the beginning of Lent at 9.30a.m. at St Mary's, and 7.30p.m. (Sung, with Ashing) at St Alban's. Full Lent Programme in the February Magazine.

REAL EASTER EGG - The Fair Trade shop in Eastleigh is taking orders for Real Easter Eggs, price £3.99, made with Fair Trade Chocolate, and telling the story of Easter. Supermarkets are not stocking very many of these eggs this year, so they may be hard to get hold of. If you would like to order one or more, please sign the list in either church before the end of January.

Churches Together in Swaythling & Bassett - LENT GROUPS - It is hoped to have Lent Groups running for the five weeks from Monday 27th February. This year we will be using material from the C.T.B.I. entitled "The Way to Freedom". (See their website for more details of the course.) For this to happen we need people who are prepared to either lead, or host a group, during the daytime or in the evening. Anyone willing to do either please contact Wendy Rowe Tel. 8032 7728 or email stephenrowe0248@btinternet.com as soon as possible (before Sunday 29th Jan.) giving your details and the day of the week and time available. A sign up sheet for people who would like to attend the course will follow shortly.

The local churches have come together in this way for many years and those who take part in the groups generally feel they have benefited greatly in the fellowship and time of sharing.

PHONE FOR St MARY'S - we could do with a new phone for St Mary's, for emergency use. If you have one you are not using, please speak to Gary/Sheena or the Wardens. It's needs to be touch tone, and not plugged in to the mains. Thanks.

THE BASICS BANK - is providing for more people than ever at the moment, and needs to increase the stock of Hot and Cold Meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned tomatoes; potatoes; Tinned Spaghetti; Pasta; Weetabix; Sauces; Rice Puddings; Custard.

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.

You can donate to the Parish of Swaythling by text: Just text **70070** with the message: **SASM22** followed by **£** and the amount you'd like to donate, up to £10. All of your donation is sent to the Parish.

THE PRAYER USED AT 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.

SOME ENGAGEMENTS FROM THE VICAR & CURATE'S DIARIES THIS WEEK. In addition to usual parish duties and the events listed above, please pray for:

Gary is away on retreat this week.

Monday evening, Sheena has a meeting with other curates.

Wednesday lunchtime, Sheena is on Chaplaincy Duty at Cantell School, and leads Reader Training in the evening.

Thursday evening, Sheena has an IME course for Curates.

The Parish Website is: www.swaythlingparish.org.uk

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

This Week At Morning Prayer

W/C 30th January

In Leviticus the Lord sets out various fasts and feasts the Israelites are to keep and, while we no longer order our days or years according to these statues, important principles endure. First, these readings make clear there is no distinction between 'religious' and 'secular' activity; second the Sabbaths show there must be respite for people and for the land to remain healthy. 1 Timothy gives us some of St Paul's most edifying teaching about the spiritual life, alongside some seemingly less helpful words about topics such as women's hairstyles.

M: Lev 19.1-18 & 30-end, 1 Tim 1.1-17; T: Lev 23.1-22, 1 Tim 1.18-end of 2; W: Lev 23.23-end, 1 Tim 3; T: Lev 24.1-9, 1 Tim 4; F: Lev 25.1-24, 1 Tim 5.1-16; S: Num 6.1-5 & 21-end, I Tim 5.17-end.

READINGS & HYMNS
- for you to use today and during the week

Presentation of Christ in the Temple
29th January, 2012

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

*Malachi, writing in about 450
BC, looks forward to the coming
of the longed-for Lord, and warns
that his arrival will bring
judgement.*

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

7. Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever-| lasting doors;
And the King of glory | shall come in.
8. Who is this | King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is migh-| ty in battle.
8. Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O ever-| lasting doors;
And the King of glory | shall come in.
10. 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

In this short extract from a complex letter, the writer explores the importance of Christ being fully human.

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.

When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Luke 2.22-40

Luke describes the unexpected way in which the Lord appears in the Temple as a baby, recognised as the one who will bring salvation to God's people, Jews and Gentiles. The judgement foretold by Malachi will appear later in the adult life of Jesus.

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons”.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 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)

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

At the end, the Reader says:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(At the end, the Reader says:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.)

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

Eucharistic Prayer: Special

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Presentation
Sunday**

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.