

St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham - Weekly News Sheet for 30th January 2022

Candlemas

Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24.(1-6)7-10; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

Today's service: 'Watching & waiting for the light.'

Hymns: Christ whose glory fills the sky (93); Come thou long expected Jesus (117); Longing for light (401); Cm

Anthem: Blessed bread: Cm Hymn: Take my life and let it be (615); Lord the light of your light is shining (416)

LINK FOR THE LIVESTREAM SERVICE - <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk/streamed-services/>

Please click on the link from ten minutes beforehand and there will be the livestream link to take you to the service

Please do bring a home candle to be blessed at Candlemas if you would like.....



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS – PLEASE NOTE:

RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED – face coverings will not be compulsory, but a personal preference – we will keep the north aisle available for those who wish to continue to socially distance Being mindful of keeping each other safe – observing personal space – hand sanitising & ventilation will help us keep things as covid-secure as possible

Morning Prayer on Zoom – Wednesdays at 9.30am (20 mins) –

please do give this a try if you can – it's a lovely space to take time to pause during the week...

<https://zoom.us/j/99052560006?pwd=RVROa2J6MGdEcGg3UWVJQTFTc2t4QT09>

Meeting ID: 990 5256 0006 Passcode: 113113

Please contact Jacqueline on vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk or 716431 / 07806 775974 if you have a notice to share – or if you would like to talk about something else – her day off is a Monday....

The Collect for Candlemas

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

This week prayers are asked for – Reg Skeet, John Knight, and for Sharon (Dawn's sister), Zoe Perkins – for all who are poorly, especially those succumbing to the local outbreak of the virus.

We give thanks for the healing and ongoing wellbeing of Sheila Carver and Andrew Jones and all who are recovering and on the mend from illness....

Baptism: We pray for Percy Weston and his parents Bridgette and Mark, Godparents and family as Percy is baptised today – may the light of Christ surround him always...

RIP – Priscilla Weldon – died peacefully this week....

– Carol Edgoose (Rachel Sturt's mother – funeral will be 8th February)

Please also pray for the life and work of our Church, that we might be part of God's loving and transforming grace here in our place...

NEW! CHOIR / SINGING GROUP - Tim and David would like to ask if there is anyone who would like to be part of a **choir**, particularly for the 2nd and 4th Parish Communions – and/or a group of **informal singers** – for the 1st and 3rd Sundays, i.e. singing one or two new songs before the service for example... **Please see Tim or David** if you are interested to know more – it will be lovely to revive some of our choral tradition and begin something new... 😊

OUTWARD GIVING – We are delighted to confirm that following the end-of-year accounting, we have been able to send the following donations:

Seeds for Development - £974 outward giving – plus £99.50 from the Carol Service

Step by Step, Aldershot - £974 outward giving – plus 204.74 from the Harvest Festival and Carol Service

The Children's Society - £975 outward giving – plus £149.33 raised at the Christingle

This is a marvellous effort on our part in the light of currently financial constraints – A HUGE WELL DONE!

A CALL FOR PCC MEMBERS, PLEASE! – we will be thin on the ground of PCC members at the next APCM – please do think about coming on board with this – we meet every two months to think about the business and spiritual side of the church because actually – there is no separation, we can't do one without the other – **Please do pray about this and see if you might be able serve in this way.** Please see Jacqueline or Rob or any of the current PCC members if you would like to know more....

– **A plea from Jacqueline: URGENT! WE NEED A TREASURER – NOW!** Pat Lapworth will be standing down in 2022 after an amazing ten years of being the St Peter's Treasurer and Pat has the accounts running like clockwork.

If this is something you might be able to commit to, or if you know of anyone, please be in contact with Pat or myself to talk more.

BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION: Affirming our faith – all ages: if you would like to consider affirming your journey of faith through Baptism and/or Confirmation, then please come and speak to Jacqueline about preparing for this very special occasion – it will be lovely to share the journey with you.... ☺ (07806 775974 / 01252 716431 – vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk)

NEW! – Living in Love and Faith – Another chance to try this thought-provoking course - Begins Thursday 3rd February at 8pm – this might not be something you would usually take part in but I really heartily recommend coming along...

What does it mean to be human? How should Christians respond to changing patterns in sexuality and relationships in society? What does it mean for followers of Jesus to walk in love, faith and holiness today?

This five-part online course, explores questions of identity, relationships, and sexuality in the light of our Christian faith. In each session, we'll watch some videos together, have a Bible study, and spend time talking and reflecting. The aim is for this to be a safe, respectful, and honest space, where we listen to and learn from each other.

Please email Naomi (nrparkintyrie@gmail.com) to sign up for the course, or if you'd like more information.

You can also visit the LLF Learning Hub (<https://llf.churchofengland.org/>) for some fantastic resources – including podcasts, film clips, and reading suggestions.

Lion's Project Wenceslas fighting fuel poverty

On the 25th Nov the Lions are launching their initiative encouraging people to share their winter fuel allowance with those who need extra funds. With the rise in fuel prices, donating this year is more important than ever. The money goes straight to utility companies and allows fuel cards to be topped up; there is no limit on the relief as well.

If you know anyone in need, please refer them to the Lions, a referral can come from any organisation. Attached is the application form for referring someone. For more details:

<https://www.lionsgiving.co.uk/Appeal/farnhamwenceslas>

COLLECTING BOX FOR USED STAMPS – The box is at the back of the Church in aid of the RNIB and Wendy will send them of in the New Year – thank you, Wendy!

Moira Davies has written a most interesting book – 'Boundstone in the 1960s – this is available for £2 which will be donated to charity (apologies, I can't remember which one – I will confirm next week...)

Moira will be talking more about Boundstone at the History Group on Saturday 9th April

WRECCLESHAM OVER 60'S – On 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month @ 1.30pm – a lovely group meet at the Leverton Hall – please pick up a leaflet for information....

Thank you

- To those who have helped with services today & supplied refreshments – very much appreciated and valued
- To Roger and the team for faithfully producing and delivering our Parish Magazine
- Chris Wilkes – for her admin support – dealing with paperwork concerning our daily life plus weddings, baptisms and (sadly) funerals and churchyard matters – and she is very busy at the moment!
- Sally Woods – for helping us to establish new patterns of staying safe in the light of the lifted restriction and for keep our safeguarding practice up to date and robust
- Wendy Coxall – for all the behind-the-scenes work involved in the facilitating of churchyard/Garden of Remembrance activity and for keeping records up to date
- For all those 'church mice' who quietly keep our grounds and surrounds tidy and cared-for – the surrounds of the church looked especially lovely and tidy this week...

REMINDER – A short version of **Daily Prayer is available on the Church of England Website and as an App.**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> [Download Time To Pray app](#)
[Access the text online](#)

Farnham Foodbank – THE BASKET IS NOW LOCATED AT THE CHURCH!

- **Please only donate long-life goods – fresh and perishable goods cannot be accepted** – thank you for all that you contribute
- Please continue to put donations in the basket at St Peter's, and Lizzy Hendry & Stephanie Robinson will kindly be taking the food to the Foodbank. **Jacqueline holds Foodbank vouchers** - please contact her if you or anyone you know would benefit.
- They urgently need – **Chunky soups – baked beans – sardines in tomato sauce – tinned tuna**

St Peter's WhatsApp Group – a lovely way to share little bits and pieces of our daily lives and thoughts – Please be in touch with Jacqueline 07806 775974 or vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk who can pass your details to Naomi....

Schroder Trust - Funding is available from the Schroder Trust for Wrecclesham residents and organisations who are in need of assistance – please speak to Rob Durrant, Rev Jacqueline or Jack Crawford for further information

Bible Readings – Candlemas

First Reading – Malachi 3:1-5

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

Hebrews 2.14-18

¹⁴Since 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel – Luke 2:22-40

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:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

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.