

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 29th January 2023



Candlemas

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



Readings this week:

Malachi 3: 1-5

Psalm 24: [1-6] 7-10

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Luke 2: 22-40

Candlemas...

Throughout Epiphanytide, as we noted in our 'Thought' last week, we've been hearing of the various ways in which Christ's glory became apparent and was recognised by others in his early life. We've noted, too, the imagery of 'light' in that process.

Now this Sunday we shall read again the story of 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple' (to give the festival its full title) where the elderly Simeon cradles the infant Jesus as:

*'a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel'*
(Luke 2:32)

before predicting to Mary the child's destiny and her own future suffering.

The feast of The Presentation is thus associated with 'light'. Hence its now common name of 'Candlemas' and the custom which developed of blessing church candles, with prayers that those who see them will themselves be aware of the light of Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate Candlemas, here is a poem based on this week's Gospel reading about Christ's Presentation:



The Presentation in the Temple by Giovanni Bellini

'A Sonnet for Candlemas' by Malcolm Guite

*They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things
simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.*

~Liam Pilgrim~

Let us continue to support and strengthen each other

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord's Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

Our Services:

Sunday 29th Jan 2023 Candlemas	10:00am Group Eucharist Revd Lynn Chapman (Rural Dean, Priest in Charge of Brooke Benefice)	Bedingham Church
Sunday 5th Feb 2023 3rd Sunday before Lent Proper 1	10:00am Morning Prayer in the Iona Tradition	Topcroft Church

Please note that, in addition to our Group's morning service, the Brooke Benefice has extended an invitation to anyone in our Deanery to join their evening **Candlemas Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 29th January at Brooke Church**. The service takes advantage of the dark for candlelight and there will be a 'good sing'.

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The unity of the Church
- ◇ The peace of the world
- ◇ The healing of the sick
- ◇ The revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden
- ◇ All who travel
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

Food Bank

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

Sunday 5TH FEBRUARY 2023 Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

SUGAR
UHT FRUIT JUICE
INSTANT MASH

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

PASTA
CEREAL
SOUP

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,

Phillip, Sophie, Ross

Bedingham/Woodton:

Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie,

Bruce, Pat, Basil

Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:

Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED:

Cecil Lloyd, Sheila Burroughs

Please ring us if you need:

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

