

Sunday 1st February 2026

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST AT THE TEMPLE - CANDLEMAS



Collect for the Week

God of Heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Festival Eucharist (CW)

President: The Vicar

Minister and Preacher: Reverend Nicholas Burton

Please see separate booklet

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Susan Powley Link: Rosemary Romano

Hymns: In the Bleak Midwinter
 I Give my Life to You
 Take my life and let it be
 In Christ Alone
Reading: Micah 6 verses 1 – 8 (NIV page 934)

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister and Preacher: The Vicar

Hymn: NEH 342 Breathe on me, Breath of God
Psalm: 7 verses 1 – 12
1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1.19 – end (NRSV page 262) Barbara Bourne
Magnificat: B
2nd Reading: Hebrews 4. 11 – end (NRSV page 235) Bill Barter
Nunc Dimittis: B
Anthem: O thou the central orb - Wood
Hymn: NEH 247 O Gladsome Light, O grace
Amen: 11

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY 2nd February

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer at the Parish Church – the Vicar**
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

TUESDAY 3rd *Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865* Parish Office closed

- 7.30 pm Worship Committee Meeting at the Lodge

WEDNESDAY 4th *Gilbert of Sepringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order*

- 9.00 am **Morning prayer at the Church Centre – the Vicar**
9.00 am Playtime at St Paul's
10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer

THURSDAY 5th *Agatha, martyr in Sicily, circa 251*

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
11.30 am **Holy Communion at the Church Centre- the Vicar**
12.30 pm Lunch Club at the Church Centre
6.00 pm The Church Youth Club - The Lodge

FRIDAY 6th *The martyrs of Japan, 1597*

- 10.00 am Church Centre open for private prayer
12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre
6.30 pm Junior Choir practice
7.30 pm Full Choir practice

SATURDAY 7th 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café

NEXT SUNDAY 8th February 2026

2nd Sunday before Lent

- 8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am **Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)**
President and Preacher: The Vicar Minister: Daphne Pilcher
- 10.00 am **Family Service at the Church Centre +Zoom**
Lead: Liz Goddard Link: Karen Miller
- 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Choristers Café
- 6.30 pm **Choral Evensong (BCP)**
Minister Preacher: The Vicar

NEWS AND NOTES

The Vicarage

Greetings to you all, and a warm welcome to our services today, the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany when we celebrate Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ at the Temple.


As we worship together today, I pray that the light of Christ may flood our lives afresh and remove any lingering form of darkness, to his praise, and for his glory.

Daytime Lent Group

From Tuesday 24th February we will be starting a weekly daytime Lent Group. The group will meet at the Church Centre at 2 pm. It would be wonderful to see as many of you join us as are able as we journey through the Lenten season together. Sign-up sheets are available in both the Church and the Church Centre. Please see Tim Harrold for further details.

P Church Parking P P

With a wonderfully growing congregation the pressure on the avenue for parking is ever increasing, particularly for our large services.

It is vital that emergency vehicles  should be able to reach the church with ease at all times. The PCC are therefore actively looking for two or three people who would be interested in managing the newly devised parking plans for these occasions. This is probably only four times a year plus large weddings and funerals and will carry remuneration each time. If you are interested please contact either Helen in the Church Office or Chris Dobson Applicants must be over 18.

PILGRIMAGE - SAVE THE DATE

The date for our 2026 Pilgrimage will be **Monday 13th July**, when we will be tackling the second half of The Martyr's Way. As with last year, a weekday will give us the opportunity to visit the greatest number of Churches. This is a 5-mile route starting from the Tyburn Convent where we will be given a guided tour of "The Shrine of the Martyrs" by one of the Benedictine nuns from the Convent. 10 Churches and chapels later, the pilgrimage will conclude in Holborn and after sharing in a meal of fellowship in a building designed by Sir Christopher Wren and from where he drew up the plans for a certain Cathedral, we will bring the day to a close with a service of Evensong from his greatest masterpiece. To register your interest, sign-up sheets will be available in the Church and Church Centre. For any further information please see Tim Harrold.

Stationery for Sierra Leone

As many of you will recall we raised money last year to send stationery sets to students in the Freetown area. I was very touched to be presented with a rucksack, filled with the items put together by us and other participating churches in Ronnie's area, last Sunday. I am sure the students will benefit from receiving theirs. There is still a shortfall in the funds, so if you are able to contribute please speak to Ronnie.

Thank you – Ginette

Family Service Christmas Charity Collection 2025

Many thanks to those from the congregation of the Family Service who made donations in lieu of swapping Christmas cards, which have been sent on to the two charities chosen at the FS meeting.

We have had messages back from the recipients:

Oxfam Water for All - received £50

Card received and on display at the Church Centre

Porchlight - received £50

"We just wanted to say how grateful we are for your donation of £50. We appreciate your sense of mission, and hope that the family service you raised these funds in was very joyful!

Our outreach teams are out across Kent, working with people sleeping on the streets and giving them the support they need to get them into the warm and recovering from the trauma of living on the streets. With the recent funding cuts, the ongoing housing crisis and rapidly rising rental prices, this winter is particularly tough for so many people across Kent.

Therefore, your generosity will provide vital help for people in crisis for whom homelessness seems inevitable this winter - your donation will make a life changing difference to those experiencing, and at risk of, homelessness."



The Altar flowers are given by
Angela Culley in loving memory
of all family members no
longer here but always in her heart.

CONTACTS

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