



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

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The Rector's usual weekly day off is a Monday

## 1 FEBRUARY 2026 CANDLEMAS



Welcome to our Service today  
And welcome if you are reading this at home

### HYMNS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

**11.15am – Holy Communion**

**82** – Christ whose glory fills the skies

**33** – Angel voices ever singing

**293** – Lead us heavenly father lead us

**395** – Of the Father's love begotten

## THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### Malachi 3. 1-5

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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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.

## GOSPEL READING

### Luke 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 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.'

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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 for seven years after her marriage, 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. 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.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

## NOTICES

**NOTICES FOR WEEKLY BULLETINS** – please send any messages *by the end of a Wednesday* to Netty on: [beneficeoffice@htboa.org](mailto:beneficeoffice@htboa.org)

**COPYING, PRINTING, POSTERS** – please send to Netty on: [beneficeoffice@htboa.org](mailto:beneficeoffice@htboa.org)

**BIRTHDAYS** - Happy Birthday, prayers and blessings to all those with birthdays in this season.

**MESSAGE FROM JENNY** - February has only just begun when we reach the fortieth day from Christmas, marked by a final incarnation story. For those who have long left thoughts of Christmas and Epiphany behind, Candlemas may seem something of an oddity, but for those who have stayed with the themes of the incarnation through January, it comes as a climax: an ending, and a turning point in the Church's liturgical journey. Candlemas is a name dating from medieval times; this day is properly called The Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Luke gives nineteen verses to this story, which follows the shepherds' return, glorifying and praising God, and the naming and circumcision of Jesus on the eighth day after his birth. Now, forty days on, Mary and Joseph come to the Temple for Mary's purification

and for the child to be presented. They are met by Simeon and Anna. On seeing the child, Anna praises God and speaks of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Simeon takes him into his arms, proclaims his Nunc Dimittis, and recognises in him the light for revelation to the nations. He foretells that this child is destined for the falling and rising of many, and that a sword will pierce Mary's own soul also. Mary and Joseph are amazed, and they do everything required by the law before returning home to Nazareth. We hear no more of Jesus until he returns to the Temple at the age of twelve. Our candles are signs of Christ, the true Light, who comes to scatter the darkness of sin and death and to make the world radiant with his eternal light. Mary carried the true light in her arms, and in the same way, we too are called to carry that light into the life of the world, reflecting the radiance of the light we meet and share in Christ.

The light comes and shines upon a world wrapped in shadow; the dayspring from on high has given light to those who were sitting in darkness. As we join in with our lit candles, we show that the true light shines upon us. May we be enlightened and made radiant by that light. Please take your candle home with you as a reminder of the season we have shared. Jenny

**BENEFICE LENT COURSE** - This year's Benefice Lent Course, Finding Jesus in Matthew, will take place on Wednesdays at Holy Trinity, beginning at 10.00 am, on the following dates:

- 25 February
- 4 March
- 11 March
- 18 March

Together we will explore key themes in Matthew's Gospel, drawing on insights from Stanley Hauerwas, N. T. Wright, and the Pilgrim series. The course will be led by the Rector.

If you would like to take part, please contact Netty in the Benefice Office by email to sign up. Further details will be shared in the weeks leading up to Lent. The course will be bookended by Holy Communion at 10.00am: on Ash Wednesday, 18 February, and on Wednesday 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. All welcome.

**LUNCH HOUR CONCERT SERIES DATES** - Join us for our uplifting Series of Thursday lunchtime concerts at Holy Trinity: **12 February, 12pm – Peter Tanfield, Violin**. We welcome violinist Peter Tanfield for a vibrant programme of unaccompanied Bach. JS Bach Sonata No 1 in G minor for Solo Violin BWV 1001 JS Bach Partita No 2 in D minor for Solo Violin BEV 1004

Peter Tanfield, born in England in 1961, began the violin at the age of four and studied internationally with distinguished teachers including Igor Ozim, Felix Andrievski, Alberto Lysy, Herman Krebbers and

Yehudi Menuhin. He is a prize-winner at major international competitions, including the Carl Flesch, Mozart and Bach competitions. As a soloist and chamber musician, Peter has performed throughout Europe, Asia, North America, the Middle East, Africa and Australia, appearing with leading orchestras such as the Philharmonia, City of London Sinfonia, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the RAI Radio Symphony Orchestra of Rome. He has also served as concertmaster with ensembles including the BBC Philharmonic and London Sinfonietta, and has collaborated with artists ranging from Astor Piazzolla and Itzhak Perlman to conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Georg Solti, Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle. Peter has held significant artistic and educational leadership roles in Australia, including leading the Australian String Quartet, serving as Artistic Director of the Adelaide Chamber Orchestra, and holding senior posts at the University of Tasmania and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. In recognition of his exceptional contribution to music education, he was a state finalist in the 2008 Australian of the Year Awards. He now divides his time between performance and professional development projects in Australia and overseas.

**26 March, 12pm – Beatrice Newman**, Cello, accompanied by Bernard Newman. Come and enjoy these concerts during your lunch hour, and be part of our vibrant musical community. All welcome.

**TRUSTEE OPPORTUNITIES** - The Halls Charity is a very small, friendly almshouse charity providing accommodation for men in Bradford on Avon. As a charity our aim is to manage and improve the historical residential building and garden, to offer support to the existing residents, and provide good governance of the charity's services, assets, and finances. We are looking for local enthusiastic individuals who are willing to contribute approx. a couple of hours a month helping in all areas of the charity. In the first instance please email Helen Crapnell at [hallscharityboa@gmail.com](mailto:hallscharityboa@gmail.com) to arrange an informal chat with the trustees.

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ** – Wednesdays from 10am-12noon, Holy Trinity will be holding a weekly community café – coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided on a donation basis.

**WEEKLY PRAYERS** at noon every Thursday in the Saxon Church for Israel and Palestine using prayer from Sabeel based in Jerusalem, 11.50 - 12.10. Everyone warmly welcome.

**MOTHERS' UNION WAVE OF PRAYER** – Friday, 6 February @ 10.30am in St Nicholas Church, Winsley. You are all most welcome.

## THIS WEEK @ HT

**MORNING PRAYER** – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays @ 8.30am

**MAINLY MUSIC** – Tuesday @ 10.30am – fun & friendship for pre-school families (contact Marlene on 864412 if you'd like to come)

**SAXON CLUB** – Tuesday @ 2.30pm – fun & friendship for 'seniors'

**COMMUNITY CAFE** – Wednesday, 10am – 12noon. All welcome

**TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT** – Thursday @ 10.45am. A varied collection of music by composers of African origin, from Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-George, who was a contemporary of Mozart, to 20th century composers, in particular from North America. Concerts last c45mins. There's no need to book, just turn up early for best seats as these concerts are popular!

## FUTURE EVENTS @ HT

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES** - Wednesday, 18 February, 10am & 6pm. Service of Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

**FORGET ME NOT CAFÉ** – Thursday, 19 February @ 11am-12.30pm – lots of fun, music and good company

**LENT COURSE** – beginning Wednesday, 25 February, 10am – running for 4 weeks

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Please pray for all who are sick, remembering especially:** David Chalmers, Betty & Doug Hancock & Mary Needham.

**Pray for all those who mourn and for those who have recently died, especially:** Barbara Adamson, Revd Ron Lowrie & Sylvia Stanes

**Please *always* let Rev Jenny know of any pastoral need, including prayer.**



## FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

- The children and communities of St Laurence School, Fitzmaurice Primary. The Mead, Westwood & Iford Primary
- Thanks for the Presentation of Christ in The Temple, Light of the World
- Hope for world peace
- Families mourning their recently departed
- The terminally ill & those suffering addictions
- First responders
- The changes in our climate
- Our Rector, Churchwardens and PCCs in this season of preparation

God of justice and mercy, we lift up the people of the Holy Land, and all who seek peace. Grant that voices, hopes, and concerns be heard, and that a lasting peace may grow through courage, wisdom, and love. Strengthen all as peacemakers, and guide those who work for reconciliation, so that your justice and peace may flourish. Amen



We continue to work together in our shared commitment to Safeguarding: **'The Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield takes its responsibilities surrounding the safeguarding of children,**

**young people, and adults who may be at risk, very seriously. We work in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury to ensure that we work in accordance with best practices at all times.'**

**SAFEGUARDING** - If you have any Safeguarding concerns please speak to the clergy or our Safeguarding Adviser for the Benefice:

**Andrea Unwin** 07553161654

Email: [safeguarding@htboa.org](mailto:safeguarding@htboa.org)

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from:

[safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org)

to speak to a caseworker, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

01722 438651 and press option 3

## **NEXT WEEK – 8 FEBRUARY – THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**11.15am** – Holy Communion

### **Readings:**

Genesis 1.1-2.3

Matthew 6.25-end