



Sunday 31st January 2021 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Services in Lockdown Update (31st Jan 2021)

Whilst staying under review at the current time we are offering the following:

Services via zoom: Each Sunday we will offer a service via zoom alternating between 9.30am and 11am and during the week we will hold morning prayer Monday - Thursday at 9am via zoom.

Communion (said): On Sundays we will have a short said communion service alternating between Denbury and Ipplepen (see notice sheet for details).

During the week we will continue (for the time being) to have said communions on a Tuesday at Ipplepen and Thursday at Denbury at the revised time of 10.15am.

We have reviewed our Covid precautions to ensure that our buildings and any physical services are COVID secure, especially procedures designed to avoid mingling before and after physical services. Services themselves have been pared right back to a simpler, shorter format. No one should feel any obligation to attend.

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon, Church Warden from St Andrew's, Ipplepen, will be available by phone, with joy, whether you already know Sheila or not, for an hour and a half following the services. So up to about midday following the 9.30am service and up to about 1.30pm following the 11am service, although Sheila always enjoy a chat any other time too!. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Written materials: In addition to services, we are producing weekly written reflections on the Sundays, readings via our notice sheet and are using our Facebook pages to offer further thoughts and reflections during the week.

We will be reviewing arrangements regularly so please look at the church notice sheet, notice boards, Facebook pages and website for up to date information in this rapidly changing situation.

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Melachi 3:1-5	Proverbs 8:1, 22-31
Psalm	24:1-6, 7-10	104:26-End
Second Reading	Hebrews 2:14-End	Colossians 1:15-20
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	John 1:1-14

Readings for the week ahead:	Day	Reading
	Mon	1 st Mark 5.1-20
	Tue	2 nd Mark 5.21-End
	Wed	3 rd Mark 6:1-6a
	Thurs	4 th Mark 6:7-13
	Fri	5 th Mark 6:14-29
	Sat	6 th Mark 6:30-34

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Mission Community Morning Prayer	- Zoom
	For the Zoom password, email	rachelbelringer@gmail.com
11am	Holy Communion (said)	- At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday
this week on Zoom email rev.andrewdown@gmail.com for a link.

Private Prayer & Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 4pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

Tuesday	10.15am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	- St Mary's, Denbury

Next Sunday – Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am	Mission Community Morning Prayer	- Zoom
	For the Zoom password, email	rachelbelringer@gmail.com
11am	Holy Communion (said)	- At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Notices:

In memory

Michael Basset, Michael Harrison, Betty Adams, Ethel Irish, Francis Harvey, David Hallett.

Calls For prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called on the nation to remember the 100,000 people across the UK who have died after contracting Covid-19 and all those mourning them. In an open letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell invite everyone across England – whether they have faith or not – to pause, reflect on the “enormity of this pandemic” and to pray. The Bishop of Exeter has called for a Diocesan Day of Prayer for all schools across Devon on Tuesday 2 February. It is hoped that churches and individuals will take time during the day to pray for school staff, pupils and families.

The Beacon

Look out for the February-March issue of the Beacon. Out Soon!!

Online Sermon for this Sunday

Our online sermon for this Sunday comes from the Rev'd Prebendary Kim Mathers who will be speaking on the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>



Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas

Luke 2:22-40

Sunday 31st January 2021

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, usually known as Candlemas which refers to the custom of blessing and distributing candles. The light of the candles is symbolic of Christ as the light of the world. It is a reminder of the words Simeon said about Jesus “To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel”.

In the Western Church, Evening Prayer on Candlemas, February 2nd, marks the end of the Christmas and Epiphany Season. This is traditionally when churches will take down their cribs and pack away Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus for another year as we leave Christmas behind us and turn our attention towards Lent and the start of our journey towards the Cross. Candlemas links the lights of Christmas and the light of Easter.

In our Gospel reading today we hear the story of Simeon and Anna and their encounter with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. What struck me was that only these two elderly people recognised who Jesus was. The temple would have been a busy place. There would have been others around going about their business, totally unaware of the significance of this particular baby boy. Both of them had been waiting for and anticipating this moment for so long. Simeon was waiting for the saviour who would bring comfort to Israel and Anna was waiting for the redemption of Israel. They had waited faithfully, guided by prayer that enabled them to recognise the saviour in the baby they met.

We all know what it is to wait. Maybe more so over the last year as we are now in our third Lockdown, waiting for it to end. Waiting for there to be some sign that things will become less restricted and we can meet family and friends again, in real life not just virtually. The news is full of how devastating this pandemic has been for so many not only in our own country but throughout the world. So many lives have been lost, so many futures have been changed. We may have begun to wonder where is God in all of this. We all have hopes and expectations about what we would like God to be doing in

our lives and for the world. Simeon and Anna teach us the importance of faithfulness and of being prepared to wait patiently. We have to faithfully wait, trusting and anticipating the promise that God is present and working in our lives, even if we can't see or clearly understand what it might be. We live in an age where, with a click on Amazon, we can seemingly have everything we want almost immediately. We need to remember God's time is not our time. We must live in expectation and hope, anticipating the future, and decide to still believe in God's future and that he will come to us. We need to be open and alert to recognise him and his work in our world and in our lives, which can so often be through our encounters with other people. We need to continue to pray. To set aside time to be with God. For the moment all we have to do is continue to spiritually show up even when we have no words. But sometimes showing up is the most difficult thing we can do and it takes all our effort, but we must continue to trust as we faithfully look for signs that God is with us.

The snowdrop is sometimes known as the ‘Candlemas flower’ because it flowers at this time of year. These small white flowers give us hope that spring is coming after a long, cold, winter. Next time you see some snowdrops let them be a sign of hope that God is working in the world and that he is with us. Like Simeon and Anna, be glad about God's wonderful love and faithfulness.

