

In & around the Benefice....

2nd February | Candlemas

Our Rector is The Reverend Paula York
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www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk



'Church' with a difference

an opportunity for all the family to be creative, meet other families, explore God's word, have fun & enjoy time together.

Friday 14th February 4-6pm

Including supper
At **St Mary's, Grendon**
'Loving God's creation'

Children of all ages welcome,
must bring an adult!
No charge but donations welcome.

Please email
grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com
To book your places.

Worship in our churches

Today.....

8.00am	BCP Eucharist	Whiston
9.00am	Holy Communion	Denton
11.00am	All Age Holy Communion	Grendon
4.00pm	Worship For All	Yardley Hastings

Next Week 9th February, Third Sunday before Lent

9.00am	Holy Communion	Yardley Hastings
11.00am	Holy Communion	Castle Ashby
4.00pm	Worship For All	Denton

Midweek Services

Weds	9.30am	Holy Communion	Grendon
Fri	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Denton

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ The newly elected members of parliament as they take up their duties.
- ◇ Those caught up in the bush fires in Australia, the fire fighters, residents and those who are concerned about relatives affected.
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Edith O'Loughlin, Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Diane Claber, Mandy Bates
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Kate Billson, and all who grieve at this time

Dates for the Diary...

Weds	5th	7.45pm	Benefice Choir practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
Thurs	6th	7.00pm	Denton PCC Meeting
Fri	7th	9.30am	Little Fishes and Health Visitor clinic at St Margaret's, Denton
Fri	7th	10.00am-12	'The Meeting Place' - Coffee morning, Grendon Village Hall
Tues	11th	7.30pm	Castle Ashby PCC Meeting
Weds	12th	7.00pm	Grendon PCC Meeting
Thurs	13th	6.30-8pm	Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon
Fri	14th	4 - 6.00pm	Messy Church, St Mary's Grendon
Weds	26th	10.30am	Castle Ashby Community Coffee morning, The Buttery, Castle Ashby
Thurs	27th	6.30-8pm	Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon
Fri	28th	3.30pm	After School Club at St Margaret's, Denton
Sat	29th	2.00pm	Wedding at St Mary the Virgin, Whiston
March			
Weds	4th	11.00am-12	Little Fishes, St Mary's Grendon
Sat	14th	9.30-4pm	Bishop's Bible Day, Northampton High School. see website for details

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**

(or)

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**

First Reading

Malachi 3: 1-5

Thus says the Lord God:

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2: 14-18

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

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**