

## ***In & around the Benefice....***

*31st January | The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany  
+ The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*



**Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson**

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**@BeneficeYardley**

**[www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk](http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk)**

Please join us for Zoom Church from **10am on Sunday 31st January**  
using the following details if you are joining with a computer, tablet or smart phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029900359?pwd=UzFzeDNJc3FKb3FZdEVhTTAwUDdEQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 2990 0359, Passcode: 625693

Or dial in from a landline on this number: **0131 460 1196**

and enter this Meeting ID: 890 2990 0359 and this Passcode: 625693 when asked to do so.

Our new service **Holy Ground** is pre-recorded and can be accessed anytime using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdSRfMmAE2Q&t=1s>

It is a time where we remember Jesus in three ways before going out into our communities to be a reminder of Jesus - similar to our Zoom services but perhaps better for the introverts amongst us who prefer to listen rather than interact. Do let us know what you think!

*St Mary's, Grendon will be open for private prayer as usual*

In response to your opinions from last weeks survey, **Book Club** will run on the first Tuesday each month, beginning with this **Tuesday (2nd Feb)**, to talk about our favourite books and to choose a book to read together.

Joining details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88935125401?pwd=dTJTYnFtYS94dWhGc2JL0DhUVTFuQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 3512 5401 Passcode: 634789

**Lent Study** - The Ministry Team are preparing for a Lent Study with a difference!

We're planning to thread some reflections around the Lenten journey through crafting activities.

If you think you could offer a 'craft' please do be in touch with a member of the Ministry Team (Rev Morna, Rev Janet, Rev Amanda, Glyn Hughes, Deborah Rush, Liz Taylor or Charlotte Tipping).

### **Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- Each of our village communities in lockdown
- All who are lonely, fearful and anxious
- All who are ill in body, mind or spirit
- All those who are affected by COVID-19 in any way
- Pubs and other businesses in our area who may be finding these times difficult
- Our schools (Grendon C of E Primary School, Denton Primary School and Yardley Hastings Primary School), their Headteachers, teachers, staff and pupils
- Young people struggling with doing schooling in challenging conditions
- The parents within our benefice, trying to work from home whilst teaching their children and keeping the home running
- The government and wider MPs as they lead our nation through these complex times
- Our friends in the US, those who believe that there has been a conspiracy, and those who do not; prayers for wisdom for President Biden and his office as they seek to bring healing
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Jean Eldred, Judith Keggin, Jane Cave, Tom Stock, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Dwain and Elaine Winter, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Leslie Biggin, Muriel Hollis, Nicholas Vaughan, Malc Wright, Brian Binley, Christopher Burrige, and all who grieve at this time

### What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Zoom Church at 10am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Monday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm	Julian Group @7:30pm (monthly)
Tuesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Coffee Morning @9:30am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Thursday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm

**Morning or Evening Prayer** - all are welcome to join, please just ask Rev Morna for a Zoom link - email: [revmorna@gmail.com](mailto:revmorna@gmail.com)

**Julian Group** is about joining together for 30 minutes of silent prayer, and will be meeting **monthly**, with our next meeting on Monday 22nd February from 7:30pm. If you would like to know more, ask Rev Morna.

If you would like to join our virtual **coffee morning** by zoom on Wednesday please use these details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89455443105?pwd=eTN1RVRvWUYwUU54NjMwMnpmajUzUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 5544 3105, Passcode: 114822

Or dial in on this number: [0131 460 1196](tel:01314601196) with the same Meeting ID: 894 5544 3105 & Passcode: 114822

### For the Children

For information and ideas for activities relating to Candlemas and the Transfiguration, please visit the children's section of our website at

[www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/welcoming-children-to-our-churches/](http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk/welcoming-children-to-our-churches/)

### What Can I join in with further afield?

Services at Peterborough Cathedral - for more information please click here:

<https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/services.aspx>

Church of England Church Online - for more information please click here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

The Church of England's free phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers - call 0800 804 8044

Listen and sing along to the hymn for the day - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Download the Daily Prayer app or Time to Pray app from your App Store which gives you services of prayer with set readings for the day.

BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r3q5> or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 5:43 each morning.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 9:45 each weekday morning.

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought - Listen each weekday on the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p015nm0y/clips> or live on BBC Radio 2 at 9:20am.

BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday - Listen each Sunday on the BBC Sounds App, here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wqvh> or live on BBC Radio 2 each Sunday at 6:50am.

Songs of Praise - Watch on BBC Two at 1:15 each Sunday, or catch up on iPlayer.

### Something Interesting to Read or Listen to?

If you haven't discovered it yet, please take a look at Rev Morna's blog, which she's aiming to keep up to date with a mixture of photographs, reflections and poems: <https://teaandtheology.org>

On Being (<https://onbeing.org/>) is full of interesting things to read or listen to with interviews from so many marvellous minds.

Poetry Unbound (<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>) is a series of podcasts with Padraig O Tuama reading and exploring a poem - they are wonderful and Rev Morna highly recommends them to you.

A few beautiful songs to encourage: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1fXA1B7Pkc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1fXA1B7Pkc)

and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTb7Q9c6lgY>

This second song came out at New Year, but I wonder whether it is still a message we need to remind one another of.

## REFLECTION

### Walk in the Light

Early on Wednesday morning this week I had a simple 'God instance'. For some of us these happen quite regularly, and we can spot them immediately. For me, however, I am always a bit late to the party, and it is only when I look back over my day that I become aware of God working in my life. However, it was obvious at 6.30am on Wednesday, when I put the news on the TV and heard Dan Walker of BBC Breakfast announce that the Archbishop of Canterbury would be live on the show at 8.30am, helping us to make sense of the dreadful landmark number of 100,000 deaths occurring due, in part, to the corona virus.



This is a staggering number, one we can hardly imagine. Wellingborough Borough has a population of just 60,000.

In the interview at 8.30am, Archbishop Justin spoke deeply about how this impact will be felt by millions of people. When asked about hope, he explained how he finds hope in the story of God made real through His son Jesus. How he finds hope in community focus and the unbelievable work of our NHS staff and care workers. How he finds hope in the country looking to reform the world into a better place. A place where we all work to make poverty a thing of the past and to re-balance the divides caused by it.



Grief is something we will all be feeling in some way or other. That sense of impending doom and hopelessness. The Archbishop used careful words to give us all back that hope. He explained how death lies to us. How death says that things will not get better, that we will never rebuild our lives, but God says we will!

We will rebuild our lives, we will start a new, better chapter in our history. But we will only do this if we '**walk in the light**' if we become the light of a different world, the energy of new growth and the voices of hope. If we start to nurture within us a desire to make this world a better place, then into this soil we can plant new growth, a new healthier world, a new world of hope, a world where those who have lost their lives to this dreadful virus, and those deeply affected by this loss, will not have suffered, or died, in vain.

### **God Is Light 1John 1: 5-7**

*<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup> but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Brothers and sisters let us pray. Nurturing our soil is done through prayer. Let me encourage you to join Rev Morna for morning or evening prayer, be encouraged in our new services and in those God instances we become more aware of.

Amen.

### **An extract from a letter to the nation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York: -**

'Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom every tear will be wiped away.'

### **Church of England call to prayer February 2021**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nationprayer>

***Are you baptised but not yet confirmed? Would you be interested in confirmation classes?***

Whilst we may not be able to be clear on when the Confirmation Service will happen just yet, if this is something you would like to explore further, please be in touch with Rev Morna to register interest.

### **The Collect**

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 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**