

# BRADFORD CATHEDRAL



## **MORE ABOUT CANDLEMAS:**

- Anna & Simeon
- the “Nunc Dimittis”

**Upper KS2-KS5**





## MORE ABOUT CANDLEMAS



**Tell me a little more about the Bible story that forms the background for Candlemas.**

At the Temple the Holy Family encountered the elderly Anna and Simeon, who both acknowledge Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

You can read the passage in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 2:22–38. **See the separate resource.**



This is a painting showing Anna (standing) with Simeon, Mary and Jesus- by the famous artist, Rembrandt van Rijn. It is called "The Prophecy of Simeon to Mary", painted in 1627.

**Who were Simeon and Anna, who are referred to in the Bible passage?**

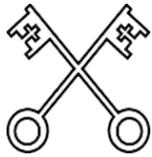


**Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, was in the Temple when Jesus was taken there by Mary and Joseph. The Gospel of Luke tells us that she was a prophetess- someone who proclaimed a divine message.

She is described as being "of a great age" at 84 years old and had been a widow for many years. She spent all her time at the Temple and when she saw Jesus she gave thanks to God and spoke of him "to all those looking for the redemption of Jerusalem."

This is a stained glass window showing Anna the prophetess, in Bradford Cathedral





## MORE ABOUT CANDLEMAS



In Luke's Gospel **Simeon** is described as a "righteous and devout" man who has been guided to the Temple by the Holy Spirit on that day.

We are also told that, "It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah".

When Simeon saw Jesus he took him in his arms and praised God, using words that are now often referred to as the "Nunc Dimittis."

This is a famous painting of the "Presentation in the Temple" showing Simeon, by Peter Paul Rubens, dated 1612-14



### What is the Nunc Dimittis?

"Nunc Dimittis" is Latin (the language of the Church for many centuries) for "Now you let go" or "Now you release...", which are the first words of the Song or Canticle of Simeon:

***Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace***

***Your word has been fulfilled.***

***My own eyes have seen the salvation***

***Which you have prepared in the sight of every people;***

***A light to reveal you to the nations***

***And the glory of your people Israel.***

**Luke 2.29-32**

You can hear the "Nunc Dimittis" being sung in Bradford Cathedral for Candlemas. Please see our accompanying video resource.

