

# Candlemas





Candlemas is a day in February when Christians remember something special that happened in the life of Jesus, around 2,000 years ago.



40 days after Jesus was born, he was taken to be presented to God at the Temple in Jerusalem, by his parents, Mary and Joseph.





It was the Jewish Law that the mother of a new baby boy had to go to the Temple 40 days after the birth of her son.



It was also Jewish Law that a first-born son was “holy to God” and had to be presented to God at the Temple.







Candlemas is when we remember the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple.

It is celebrated **40** days after Christmas, on February 2nd.

At the Temple Jesus and his parents met two important people, called Anna and Simeon.

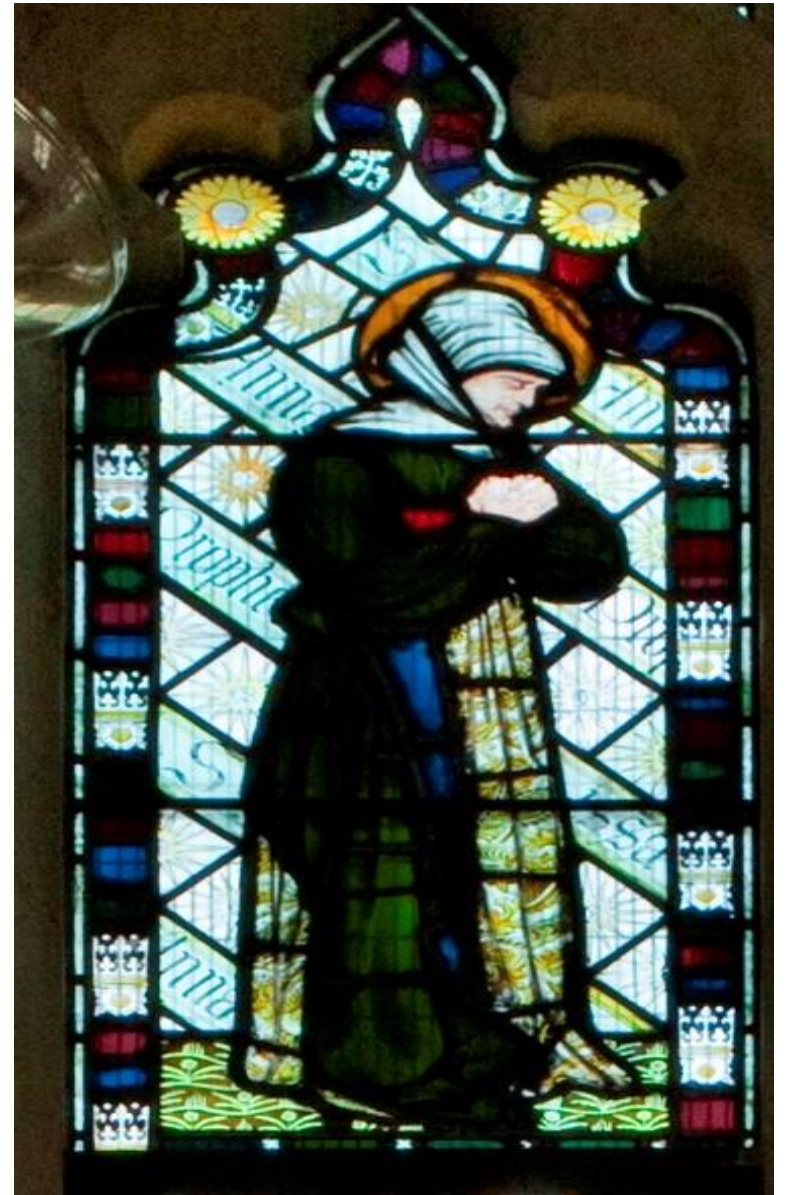
Anna and Simeon had never seen Jesus before but they both knew at once that Jesus was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, to Christians.





**Anna** was a prophetess:  
someone who proclaimed God's  
message. She was 84 years old  
and her husband had died many  
years ago.

Anna spent all her time at the  
Temple. When she saw Jesus she  
thanked God, because she knew  
he was special.





Simeon was a holy man who had been guided to the Temple by God on that day. Simeon had been promised by God that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

When Simeon saw Jesus he took him in his arms and praised God.



When Simeon saw Jesus he was so happy because he knew that God had kept His promise to him and that Jesus was “the light” of the world, the Messiah.





In churches, **Candlemas** is the end of the celebrations that started at Christmas, when Christians remember Jesus's birth.

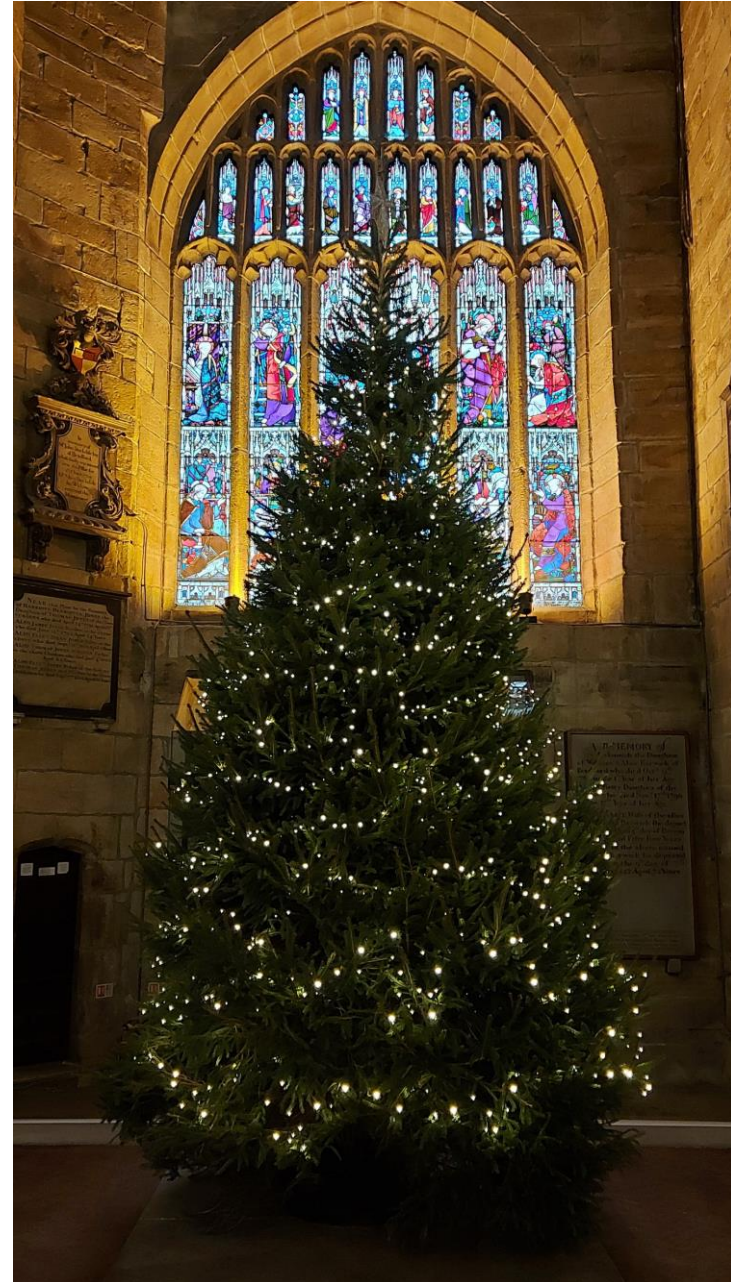


It is when lots of churches like ours, turn off or take down the star in the tower.





Years ago, the evening before Candlemas was when people took down their Christmas decorations.





Before Christian times, people used to hold a festival at this time, halfway through winter.

Some people didn't like the dark and so they lit candles to make everything seem better.





The lights from the candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.