

CANDLEMAS OR THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday 5th of February

Dear Friends,

Eileen and Brian are away for until Saturday and I hope they come back rested.

It has been a busy week at **GAINFORD SCHOOL**, due to an inspection by the Church Education people, which happens to all Church Schools. The highlight, as far as I am concerned, was an Open the Book school assembly, when a team from Saint Marys went into school and acted out a bible story, helped by some of the children. We all dress up and it is fun (most of the time). We go to do this every half term and we have saved this one so the inspector could watch it.

The story is called **A HOLE IN THE ROOF** and tells of Jesus curing a lame man who is lowered through a hole made by his friends. We used a special video effect for the lowering as the school were not too keen on us putting a hole through the hall roof!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GAINFORD

Andy Mitchell, who runs the **Foodbank at the Well in West Auckland** will talk about his experiences at 7pm on Tuesday 21st of February in St Osmund's Parish Room. Come along and hear about this amazing work.

The talk will be followed by a quick AGM of Churches Together in Gainford.

LENT LUNCHES this year will be in aid of the Well Food Bank and are on the 7th of March at Saint Mary's and on the 21st of March at Saint Osmund's, both at 12.30pm

I repeat below Eileen's appeal for help.

God bless,

Geoff Taylor

Churchwarden

AN OPPORTUNITY AND AN INVITATION!

We are greatly blessed with caring and flourishing parishes and parish churches. They are diligently and joyfully looked after. But many who have been doing this on behalf of us all are getting on in years or have needs that prompt them to hand over the baton. Many hearts and hands sharing the joy of the Lord make light and inspiring work! **Will you be among the hearts and hands that enable the inspiring continuity of our churches?** If you are daunted in some way, come and speak to a member of the present PCC or speak to me. This is part of bringing heaven's glory to

earth. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you.

SERVICES this Sunday 5th of February

9.30am St Andrew's, Winston – Communion (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop)
 10.45am St Mary's, Gainford – Communion (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop)

NOTICES:

- ✦ **You are invited to our EPIPHANY BIBLE JOURNEY!** There will be 2 sessions on **Wednesdays 8th and 15th February at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Gainford.** To find out and to register your interest contact Cressida Heath c/o stmarys@gainfordwinston.church This is open to anyone from all 4 parishes and anyone interested from further afield.
- ✦ **WARM & WELCOME Gainford:** Come to relax and enjoy time with others in a Warm Space with a warm welcome from 10am to noon every Friday in Gainford Village Hall. Yummy home made cakes and scones, with tea, coffee and hot drinks are free. Donations are welcome but completely voluntary. For more information contact Wendy Broderick: warmandwelcomegainford@gmail.com
- ✦ **[YOUTH SAINTS in Saint Mary's on Thursday 9th of February at 6.30pm with Bible Study at 5.45pm](#)**
- ✦ **Please pray for loved ones of the recently departed:**
 - Sylvia Watson on the passing of her beloved husband Patrick from Winston (in Wear Valley Crematorium, 6th February at 11.30am)
 - Steve and Alison White and family on the passing of Steve's mother Isobel Appleton (service in Wear Valley Crematorium, Friday 10th February at **1.30pm (not 11.30 am as incorrectly noted in the last Newsletter)**)

And pray for all for whom this is a difficult time missing loved ones departed.

Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
 give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise,
 that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed
 where true joys are to be found;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity
 of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Malachi 3 v 1-5

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.^[a] 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.

Luke 2 v 22 -40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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.