

Sunday 30th January 2022

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Welcome to everyone today in church.
Welcome, too, to those joining our livestreams via Facebook.

We hope to relax some Covid-safety measures in church from next Sunday.

For today:

please wear a face-coverings in church

please choose to sit away from others as far as possible

there will be no Offertory procession.

Holy Communion will administered, standing, in one kind only.

there will be no refreshments after church

We want everyone to feel, and to be, safe. Please help us to keep this possible.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

***St Thomas* 321**

***St James* 408**

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.

First Reading *Malachi 3.1-5*

A reading from Malachi.

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.

GRADUAL HYMN

St Thomas 118

St James 44

Gospel Reading Luke 2.22-40

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN	<i>St Thomas</i>	448
	<i>St James</i>	185
COMMUNION HYMNS	<i>St Thomas</i>	288, 63
	<i>St James</i>	391, 341

Prayer after 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.

FINAL HYMN	<i>St Thomas</i>	46
	<i>St James</i>	338

The Week Ahead & Information

Today	3.30pm	Christingle Service <i>at St Thomas'</i>
Monday-Saturday	9am	Morning Prayer <i>on St Thomas' Facebook page</i>
Tuesday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St James'</i>
	1.15pm	Funeral service for Alan Papworth RIP <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	7pm	St James' PCC
Wednesday	1.30pm	Over 50s Social Group <i>in the Refectory</i>
Thursday	10am	Eucharist <i>at St Thomas'</i>
	11-1	Refectory Café open

2.30-3 Prayer Group at St Thomas'

Friday 9.30 Church cleaning at St Thomas'

Next Sunday – 6th February

9.15 Eucharist at St Thomas'

10.45 Eucharist at St James'

12.15 Holy Baptism at St James'

3.30pm Holy Communion (BCP) at St Thomas'

Eat & Meet Lunches will resume from 8th February.

Thursday Friends & Food will be in St Thomas' Hall, at 2.30pm, on Thursday 10th February.

Post Plan B

From next Sunday we will relax some of our Covid safety-measures. Face-coverings will be optional and we will re-introduce social events and refreshments after services. We will continue to offer Holy Communion in one kind only for the time being. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to one of the clergy or Churchwardens.

Bacon butties after church

St Thomas', 6th February & St James', 27th February.

Alistair and Alex, two of our local Scouts will be raising money to help pay for them to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023, by providing bacon butties after church each month throughout the year. Please bring some extra cash with you on those days, enjoy a bacon buttie and help them to reach their combined total of £8000!

Prayers

Please let Fr David know of anyone who should be included on our weekly prayer list. (frdavidstephenson@gmail.com, 07539 264279)

Names of those on the parish prayer lists will also be pinned to the prayer boards in each church.

For your prayers

For the sick: Ian, Charley, Mandy, Lizzie, Janet, Asia, Danielle, Derek, Jean, Rachael, Mike, Mother Mo, Bishop Julian, Mother Enid, Margaret, Philip, Connie, Genevieve, Marie, Denzil

For all who have died in the past week and all whose anniversaries fall in the coming week. *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.*