

Collect for Today

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.
Amen

Readings for This Week (may vary)

Malachi 3.1-5
(Psalm 24.[1-6] 7-10)
Hebrews 2.14-18
Luke 2.22-40

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
(Psalm 104.26-37)
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Verse for the Week:

“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”

Hebrews 2.17

Prayer & Reading Diary Germansweek

Monday

Read: Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

Prayer: Our special church of St Germanus in
Germansweek. Pray for our Clergy, Churchwardens,
PCC and Bell Ringers, all of whom make it so special.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 104.26-37

Prayer: The parents of our young children in
Germansweek and surrounding areas: may they
encourage (by example) their young ones to be part of
our Christian faith.

Wednesday

Read: Colossians 1.15-20

Prayer: The message of love and hope sent to you
Lord on the ‘Prayer Tree’ in memory of our dear
friends.

Thursday

Read: John 1.1-14

Prayer: The wider community of businesses,
especially during this difficult time.

Friday

Read: Deuteronomy 8.1-10

Prayer: Our local people who work so hard to make
this Parish a better place.

Saturday

Read: Matthew 6.25-34

Prayer: Love, Joy and Laughter in this community.
Keep us well to continue to perform our daily lives
but remembering THY WILL BE DONE.

Notices:



* Advance notice of Lent Course 2024 in Okehampton:

The Okehampton/Belstone/Inwardleigh part of the
team will be running a Lent Course again this year
(open to all, of course). They will be in the daytime
and evening, both on a Tuesday, details to
follow. There may also be food. If it is difficult to
access in person, and you need to ‘zoom’ or phone
into the meetings, let me know and I’ll try and hatch a
plan! Rev Gill.

Dates for your Diary:



* **Friday 9th February: All Saints Quiz Night** in the Church Hall, 7 for 7.30pm. Licenced Bar, Raffle. Teams of 4-6 Booking essential.£6 pp incl, refreshments.
Contact Ruth on 07551 655424 to book.

Contact Details:



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Church Services:

Sunday 28th January

(Candlemas)

8:30am

Sticklepath – Holy Communion

9:30am

Northlew – Morning Prayer

Jacobstowe – Holy Communion

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer

Bridestowe – Family Service

Sourton – Morning Prayer

Bratton Clovelly- Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton - Holy Communion

Lydford – Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Morning Service

Exbourne – Morning Prayer

3: 00pm

Meeth – Plough Service

6:00pm

Hatherleigh – Evensong

Sunday 4th February

(2nd Sunday before Lent)

9:30am

Belstone – Celtic Morning Prayer

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

Meeth – All Age Worship

Northlew – Morning Prayer

Exbourne – Family Service

Sourton – Holy Communion

10:30am

Sticklepath - Village Praise

11:00am

Okehampton - Family Service

Hatherleigh – Holy Communion

Lydford – Morning Prayer

11:15am

Germansweek – Holy Communion



Grapevine

Candlemas

28th Jan 2024



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk

Unless you are in a church which happens to have a service of Holy Communion on Friday 2nd Feb, this Sunday is earmarked for Candlemas – one of the Principal Feasts of the Church Year. Today is the day often used to celebrate Christingle. Our Old Testament reading from Malachi speaks of the ‘Refiner’s Fire’ – as you may have prayed in the song “Purify my heart”.

In today’s gospel, prophets Simeon and Anna both knew what they were waiting for, and they both had eyes to see when God appeared in unexpected form – a vulnerable 8-day old baby, brought by parents dressed in everyday clothing. Nothing fancy going on here. Sermons this Sunday will cover the Presentation, so I want to share a couple of phrases in today’s gospel passage which resonate with me.

First, there is Simeon’s prayer, which we have in our *Nunc Dimittis*, “Lord, now lettest thou...” Having sung the words at evensong in cold churches for many years, I often find myself saying them - handing back to God my anxieties, my busyness, and my whole being (hence their use at funerals), looking to God’s salvation.

Second, there is the terrifying prophecy to the new young Mother: “this child is destined for the rising and falling of many, and a sword will pierce your own soul too”. Simeon’s prophecy was a frightening one for a teenage mother to hear. These words touch my heart in sympathy for Mary, who suffered greatly in her role in salvation.

The idea of being refined/purified is not easy. We mark today knowing that the infant Jesus for whom sacrifice was offered, was to become the sacrifice himself (see Verse of the Week), and able to help us in our testing.

With love in Christ, Gill