



CHURCH NEWS

St. Augustine's Church, Whitton, Hospital Bridge Road, Twickenham, TW2 6DE

Candlemas



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

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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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Thought for the Week

In every evening prayer we say what we call the Nunc Dimittis – Simeon’s song. It has been a part of Christian evening services since the 4th century, so you can imagine it has been recited innumerable times over the years. And one could think that Simeon’s word is a recital only for closure: closure of the day and of a life as we can sense in what is said: “Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation...”. It is a closure therefore fitting to close Christmas and start preparing for Lent and the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But with every closure comes a new opening. A new beginning. New opportunities and new life. As we close Christmas and soon enough put a closure to winter, we are encouraged to look for God’s sign of newness and openings in our lives where we are.

Simeon continues the canticle and praise with the words: [thy salvation...]"To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel".

There is a natural rhythm in the coming and going of seasons, just like Ecclesiastes proclaims so beautifully: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. The circle of life.

So when Simeon is closing his own chapter, he is opening a new chapter for us. The promise of God’s salvation through Christ. The vulnerable child in the manger is now growing up to spread the good news Simeon saw and take on all our vulnerabilities and imperfection. All so that we can live.

Look for God’s light around you this week and allow God to shine in and through you. To see and be that light that Simeon saw and proclaimed.

Extension to January’s Retiring Collection

At its last meeting the PCC agreed to extend January’s retiring collection to Sunday 15th February. This is to enable the Parish to designate the whole of the Lent period to Bishops Lent Appeal.

January’s Retiring Collection – The Motor Neurone Disease Association sponsored by Graham Dale

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is when messages from the nerves known as motor neurones gradually stop reaching the muscles and it leads the muscles to weaken, stiffen and waste effecting how the patient walks, talks, eats, drinks and breathes. Some people also suffer cognitive and behavioural changes. The disease affects everyone differently and not all symptoms affect everyone in the same way or the same speed. MND is life shortening and there is no cure, but the symptoms can be managed to help achieve the best quality of life.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the only national charity in England, Wales and Northern Ireland focussed on MND care, research and campaigning. The MND Association with nearly 8000 members provides powerful national and local network that provides information and support alongside fighting for improved services. I’m not expecting you to run seven ultra marathons in a week, as Kevin Sinfield, Rob Burrows great friend, has done; but please give generously. More information about the charity you can [Click this link](#) or go to <https://www.mndassociation.org/> Thank you.

Retiring Collection from April 2026 onwards

The retiring collection to which you so generously donate to is selected based on your nominations to the PCC. The PCC aims to make its selection from a pool of Local, National and International organisations. If you would like to nominate a charity that you support, please write to Pauline Churchman at staugustine.whitton@hotmail.com giving a brief description of the charity no later than 31st January 2026 for discussion at March PCC meeting.

Work Party Saturday 7th February

If you have a couple of hours to spare on Saturday 7th February, please come and help us tidy up our grounds from around 10:00am. Tea, coffee and biscuits are offered to the willing volunteers.

Sunday School and Messy Church

Sunday School is on 1st February. The next Messy Church is on 22nd February.

Palm Crosses

As we prepare for the solemn season of Lent, we invite you to bring in your blessed palm crosses from last year. These will be gathered and burned to create the ashes for our Ash Wednesday service on February 18. Please place them in the designated basket at the back of the Church by Sunday 15th February.

Foundation Governor Vacancy at Bishop Perrin

A vacancy has arisen for a Foundation Governors, nominated by the PCC at Bishop Perrin. The PCC would like to invite interested parties wishing to serve as Foundation Governor to submit their written application providing a precis of their reason for wishing to serve in this role to Mrs Pauline Churchman, PCC Secretary, no later than 31 January. The PCC will consider the applications received and will put forward their nominee.

For further information or to find out more about the Key role of a Foundation Governor and the Eligibility Conditions please speak to Mrs Alwyn Williams, Chair of Governors or Reverend Helen.

Time to think about confirmation



Confirmation is for all who are baptised and want to learn how this can be a positive resource in your life. Confirmation is to affirm your baptism and continue exploring a life in faith in relationship with God and each other.

Adults and children in school year 5 and up are invited to join this year's confirmation course.

Please note, that if you are not baptised yet but curious about Christian faith and life, you are more than welcome to join.

Day: Thursday **Time:** 5-6 pm for children
7-8.30 pm for adults

Dates: 23rd and 30th April and 7th, 14th and 21st May

For children: All sessions in person at St Augustine's church.

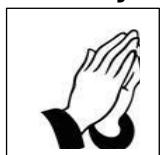
For adults: First and last session in person at St Augustine's church. The session in between will be on Zoom.

For both children and adults: Rehearsal Saturday 30th May at 2pm.

Confirmation: Sunday 31st of May at 10 am.

Contact The Reverend Helen Calner for more information and to sign up vicar@staugustinewhitton.com

Our Prayer



Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Those who are sick and struggling:

Jo Dale, Willem Cheng, Anne Newman, Lucy Brooks, Emily Adams, Ann Cadogan, Lyn Watts, Boyce & Millicent, Emma Piper, Joan Greening, Wyn Morris, Cheryl, Heather Woodworth, Connie Chingwaru, Mavis Walter and Dennis Williams.

Recently Departed:

This week we remember the anniversary of the death of

- (1)** Stanley Weeks (04), Peter Gilbert (07)
- (2)** George Bartle, Myrtle Mattis, Amy Daws (01), Marjorie Pentelow (04), Margaret Wenham (10), Peter Congdon (17)
- (3)** Gertrude Olding (78), Donald Cosh, Irene Grimes (12), Robert Price
- (4)** Gladys Elkins (73), Gladys Sparling (75)
- (5)** Maud McClean (59), Brenda Penson (11)
- (6)** Mary Bezant (27), Mabel Nott (07), Jeanne Hickey (16)

Diary Dates – At a Glance		
Sun 1 st Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist – Candlemas
Sun 1 st Feb	10:00am	Sunday School –in the church
Sun 1 st Feb	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 3 rd Feb	11:30am to 12:30pm Please note Change of Time	Quiet Space - I have called you by name – living in the light of God
Fri 6 th Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sat 7 th Feb	10:00am to 12:00pm	Work Party
Sun 8 th Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist – 2 nd Sunday before Lent
Sun 8 th Feb	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 10 th Feb	2:30 to 4:00pm	Cornerstone cafe
Tues 10 th Feb	7:00pm	Standing Committee
Wed 11 th Feb	9:40am	Strollers Walk – Route to be confirmed
Sun 15 th Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist – All Age Eucharist, Sunday next before Lent
Sun 15 th Feb	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Wed 18 th Feb	7:00pm	Evening Eucharist Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes
Fri 20 th Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sun 22 nd Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist – 1 st Sunday of Lent
Sun 22 nd Feb	10:00am	Messy Church – in Church Hall
Sun 22 nd Feb	6:00pm	Evening Prayers online follow the link Compline Zoom Link or Church website Worship then Evening Prayer
Tues 24 th Feb	7:00pm to 7:30pm	Evening Eucharist
Tues 24 th Feb	7:30pm to 8:15pm	Lent Course – Women of Holy Week
Fri 27 th Feb	10:00am	Holy Eucharist followed by Friday Fellowship at 11:00am
Sat 28 th Feb	9:30am	Morning Eucharist Walsingham Mass
Sat 28 th Feb	9:40am	Strollers Walk – Route to be confirmed