

## Reflection Luke 2.22–40 *Candlemas or The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

For the last few years, we have made Christingles at Candlemas to celebrate and underline the idea of Christ as the Light of the World. This ties in with the feast of 2 February, and also means that Christmas celebrations are not too overloaded.

Christingles in their present form and popularity are relatively recent, with a link to the Children's Society dating back to the 1960's, but the original idea is much older. From their website:

"Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. Our first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany.

At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this."

A reminder of what the symbolism means:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

There will be a retiring collection for the Children's Society. For more info see

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/fundraise-and-events/christingle>

Fr David



We are making Christingles this Sunday from 10am.

**NEXT SUNDAY 09.02.2025** 4th Sunday before Lent  
10.30am in the Hall

**READINGS:** OT Isaiah 6: 1-8 (9-13)  
NT 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11  
GOSPEL Luke 5: 1-11



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

## 2nd February 2025

### Candlemas

*10.30am in the Hall*

### Today

#### Sung Eucharist

*Hymn Numbers*

*321 Love divine, all loves excelling*

*118 Faithful vigil ended*

*317 Lord, the light of your love is shining*

### Tuesday 4th February

**7.30pm** House Group at Helen's House to learn about Candlemas

### Wednesday 5th February

**10am** Walsingham Mass

### Thursday 6th February

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd  
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

### Friday 7th February

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

### Saturday 8th February

**9am** Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers



## 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. **Amen**

## Malachi 3: 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. 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.

## Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## 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,<sup>37</sup> 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.<sup>38</sup> 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.

## Post 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. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**Warm Space will** return on Thursdays, from 3pm in the Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet other people. A start date will be announced once the administration has been completed. A rota is being prepared to see if this is still feasible for February and March. We are very grateful for the volunteers who have come forward.

**Poems for the Path Ahead: Quiet Morning Tuesday 11th February, 10am-1pm St Stephen's.** This half-day retreat gives you the chance to read and maybe write poetry. Beginners and experts welcome. £10 per person To book please email [helen@helenevans.co.uk](mailto:helen@helenevans.co.uk)

**St John Passion, Saturday 16th February 6pm at Holy Cross Crediton.** Tickets £12. All proceeds to Second Sight, a charity working with blind people in India. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/init/FGHEEIM](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/init/FGHEEIM)

## Advance Notice

**Ash Wednesday** 5th March