

Information about Christingle Services

Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. The first Children's Society 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.

Over the last 50 years, Christingle celebrations have raised millions of pounds to support our life-changing work with children and young people. The money you raise can help connect them to our services, and rekindle the hope they deserve.

Rev'd Sarah



Codes for Zoom Evening Prayer, details tbc

Meeting ID: 861 6577 7243

Passcode: 202677

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 06.02.2022 4th Sunday before Lent

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church. 5pm Zoom

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

Sunday 30th January 2022

Candlemas

10.30am in Church

Our understanding of the **Covid situation** is that mask-wearing in Church is no longer obligatory, but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. Please also feel you can put a little distance between yourself and your neighbour if that makes you feel more comfortable. As we move forward in this situation towards the Spring, one priority for our worship is the involvement of more people in reading and intercessions on a Sunday morning, previously limited so that fewer people were walking around in Church.

Candlemas is traditionally celebrated on 2 February, but it makes good sense to mark this feast day on the nearest Sunday, hence our worship today, making use of the theme of candles and light. The day after, in other words 3 February is given over to St Blaise, hence **St Blaise's Day**, and the ancient practice was to rub the blessed candles on your throat to prevent infection. Presumably they were snuffed out by then.

Fr David



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, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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.

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**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish. Please don't be embarrassed to be safe. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter January 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Next Meeting on **Tuesday 8th February 2022.** We will be comparing other religions with Christianity, new people very welcome!

Volunteers are needed to clean the Church nave. The nave is divided up into small blocks for people to take on and clean about fortnightly. Please see Judith for details.

Flower Team. If anyone would like to join the flower team they would be most welcome. This would involve arranging flowers for various occasions and watering and dismantling them when appropriate. We are looking to form a rota. If you are interested please contact Ian.

Street Pastors are starting their training sessions on 7th March 2022. If anyone is interested in joining the Street Pastors please see the website below.
www.streetpastors.org/locations/exeter

Community Larder The Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon. Thanks to everyone for their generosity in 2021.