

# Pews News

## 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

### Epiphany 4

### Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Bellini

#### 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.

#### 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.

Epiphany 4: 1 Kings 17.8-16, 1 Corinthians 1.18-end, John 2.1-11

Presentation of Christ: Malachi 3: 1-5, Hebrews 2: 14-18, Luke 2: 22-40.

2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent: Genesis 1: 1-23, Romans 8. 18-25, Matthew 6. 25-end.

### Candlemas by Malcolm Guite

They came, as called, according to the Law.  
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,  
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,  
For God was coming with them to His temple.  
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle  
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,  
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,  
Had made a killing on the two young doves.  
They come at last with us to Candlemas  
And keep the day the prophecies came true  
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,  
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.  
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,  
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

### Prayer for Candlemas

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, the flame of your love never be quenched in our hearts. Waking or sleeping, living or dying, let us delight in your presence. Let the flame of your love brighten our souls and illumine our path, and let the majesty of your glory be our joy, our life and our strength now and for ever. **Amen**

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

**Among those in special need:** Esther Bird, Stella Joslin, Jo Weir, Fran Griffiths, Mike & Jenny Ford, Lesley, Gabrielle and Matthew, Fr David Harris, Lesley Harris, Edwin; Rupert; Carol, Paul & Linda Buckingham; Jean Howarth; Helen Lange; Christopher; Katharine; Jonathan Davis; Morag & Robert Curtis; Tessa Bullick; Margaret Morrissey; Jill Smith; Ruth Davis; Pam Revell.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped me to update the list and asked me to retain the names of these people, who continue to need our prayerful support. As always, please contact me at any time to update the list – please phone 01305 268749 or 07800 962672, leaving a message if necessary; or email [johnsamwood@me.com](mailto:johnsamwood@me.com)

**Among those who have recently died:** Very Revd Alan Woods, Judith Foster, Judith Jones, Kathleen 'Kate' Penfold, Robert 'Bob' Cook

**Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week** Gary Saunders, Victor Wakely, Robert Wills.

---

**Dorcas MU** next meets on Wednesday 11 February at 10am at meets at 9 Powys Close, for prayer, bible study and fellowship. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Janet 01305 260259.

**TEA TOAST and TODDLERS** Calling all under five's and their grown ups. Do come along on a Monday (term times) 9.30-12pm and have company and fun with lots of toys and activities. Drinks are available and tea and coffee. Fruit, toast and cake are also available. Suggested donation is £2 per family. This is a joint Benefice activity held in St George's Church Hall. For more information contact Ruth McGee Tel. 07984 021132

Following last year's success, the Dorchester Committee of **The Children's Society** is hosting another **Winter Tea** at St George's Hall, Fordington on **Monday 9th February** from 2.30 - 4 pm. Tickets are £4 per person (pay on the door) which includes tea, Dorset Apple Cake and crumpets. There is waitress service and some accompanying background music. The atmosphere is always friendly with everyone welcome. Bring a friend or meet some new ones. We hope to see you there.

**GOOD BYE LUNCH FOR REV'D. HEIDI MERRETT - 8th February** - We will be having a benefice lunch in St George's Hall to say goodbye to Revd. Heidi from 12.00 onwards. All are invited so that we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Heidi and celebrate her ministry among us. There will be sign up sheets at the back of your churches to get an indication of number of people coming. If you are able please bring something to share like a carton of juice, bottle of cordial or even a bottle of wine. Alternatively please bring something sweet like cake or biscuits for pudding. Vegan cakes very gratefully received so that Heidi has something too.

**The next Ladies Breakfast** will be held on Saturday 14th February at 9.00 at The Taste Cafe which is next to the Museum and St Peter's church on High West Street, Dorchester, DT1 1XA.

All are most welcome to join us. If you have any queries please phone Ginny Farmiloe on 01305 262811.



**Learn about the crises in the Sudans and how the Church can respond** Join the Webinar hosted by the Salisbury-Sudans Partnership and the Diocese of Salisbury on Tuesday 3 February, 18:30-19:45

**World Day of Prayer at United Church Hall**, South Street, Dorchester on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10am to 12 noon including sale of cakes and preserves, books, greetings cards and cds etc and coffee and biscuits for £2.00

Peacemaking in our Time and in the Gospel -  
The Role of the Military in Peacemaking

**Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 pm** St Mary's Rectory, Edward Road, Dorchester DT1 2HJ

Mr Nicholas Orr, who has recently retired from a senior position in the British Army, will lead a discussion on how, from a Christian perspective, the military can contribute to peacemaking. All are welcome to join us. It will finish at 1 pm.

## St Peter's Church

The church is open **daily from 10am - 4pm during the winter.**

**Sundays** BCP Eucharist at 9am & Common Worship Eucharist 10.30am.

**Mid-week - Morning Prayer at 9.15am** on Monday & Thursday

**Midweek Eucharist** Our Midweek Eucharist is at **10.00 am on Thursday**. This is always followed by refreshments. Please do consider joining us.

**Pastoral Visiting** - If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home please contact me by phone or email. **Keith**

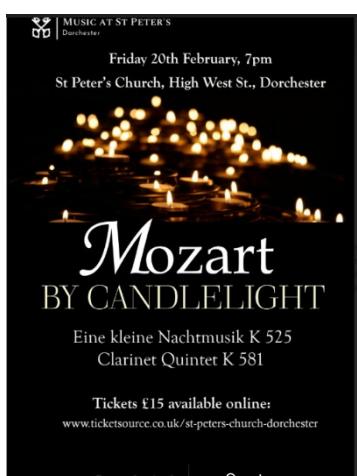
**GOOD BYE LUNCH FOR REVD. HEIDI MERRETT - 8th February** - We will be having a benefice lunch in St George's Hall to say goodbye to Revd. Heidi from 12.00 onwards. All are invited so that we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Heidi and celebrate her ministry among us. There will be sign up sheets at the back of your churches to get an indication of number of people coming. If you are able please bring something to share like a carton of juice, bottle of cordial or even a bottle of wine. Alternatively please bring something sweet like cake or biscuits for pudding. Vegan cakes very gratefully received so that Heidi has something too.

**Storehouse Church Food Larder** During the next weeks in the lead up to Christmas, as well as the normal food and toiletries, please could you consider donating seasonal items such as biscuits, cake and puddings. The more vulnerable families in our town would greatly appreciate them.

An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

**Coffee Rota** We need more volunteers to go on our coffee rota. We also need someone to co-ordinate the rota as Judy is stepping back. Many thanks to Judy for all that she has done. If you would like to volunteer or co-ordinate, please speak to Keith.

## **Music at St Peter's**



Two fantastic concerts to enjoy over the next few weeks. For our **Lunchtime Concert**, from 12.30pm—1pm on Saturday 14th February, we welcome the distinguished **Organist, Broadcaster and Composer Simon Lole**. Simon, who was for some time Director of Music at Salisbury cathedral, presents 30 mins of varied organ music with some wonderful anecdotes along the way! Admission is free, so please come along and bring family and friends. On Friday 20th February please join us for **Mozart by Candlelight** from 7pm-8.10pm. Enjoy Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Clarinet Quintet performed by Natalie Burton (clarinet) and a distinguished String Quartet led by Christina Scott, Head of Strings at Bryanston School. Tickets are available at [www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org](http://www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org) or from David Elliott after any service. Our **Choral Eucharist** at 10.30am on Sunday 22nd February includes some wonderfully reflective music to mark the beginning of Lent as does our **Choral Evensong** on Saturday 28th February at 4.30pm.

## St. Mary's Church

[www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662](http://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662)

On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist at 9.45am

On the first Sunday of the month, next is 1<sup>st</sup> February, there is a Said Eucharist at 8am and Taize Worship at 6pm

Gluten Free Communion is available—please ask the Sidesperson

**Morning Prayer** on Tuesdays at 9am followed by **Said Eucharist** at 9.30am.

**The Contemplative Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's.** Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence. The group will meet at 5pm every Wednesday up to and including July 15th EXCEPT the following Wednesdays when there will be no group : 18th February: 25th March: 1st April: 20th May and 24th June Everyone from across the Benefice and beyond is welcome

**The Sanctuary Lamp Candle** is given by Jan Milree in thanksgiving for her grand daughter Edie whose birthday is on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**Our Organist today is Simon Clarkson**

### **Alan Woods RIP**

Alan's Requiem Mass will be at St Mary's on **10th February at 2pm**. Please pray for Barbara and Alan's family as they grieve and prepare for his funeral.

**The Bible Study Group** meets once a fortnight at the Vicarage 17a Edward Road on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm

**Thank you to all who helped at church cleaning** last Thursday morning. The church cleaning group next meets on Thursday 26 February but not on 26 March as on Saturday 28 March there will be a Spring Cleaning morning 10am - 12noon, please put the dates in your diary and come if you are able to. All welcome, refreshments!

**GOOD BYE LUNCH FOR REV. HEIDI MERRETT - 8th February** - We will be having a benefice lunch in St George's Hall to say goodbye to Revd. Heidi from 12.00 onwards. All are invited so that we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Heidi and celebrate her ministry among us. There will be sign up sheets at the back of your churches to get an indication of number of people coming. If you are able please bring something to share like a carton of juice, bottle of cordial or even a bottle of wine. Alternatively please bring something sweet like cake or biscuits for pudding. Vegan cakes very gratefully received so that Heidi has something too.

**Concert on Sunday 22nd February**, at 3pm, our musical director Kris Emmett will be presenting a selection of music from his repertoire, followed by refreshments. Suggested donation £10.

**Olive Branch Coffee Morning** on Friday 6th February at 10.30. At Crossroads Cafe Crown Square Poundbury. All Welcome.

**Save the Date - Quiz Night** on Saturday 7 March at 6.30 pm. Further details to follow, but if you want to register a team immediately please email Moira Farley on [moira.farley@me.com](mailto:moira.farley@me.com)

Peacemaking in our Time and in the Gospel -

[The Role of the Military in Peacemaking](#)

**Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 pm**

St Mary's Rectory, Edward Road, Dorchester DT1 2HJ

Mr Nicholas Orr, who has recently retired from a senior position in the British Army, will lead a discussion on how, from a Christian perspective, the military can contribute to peacemaking. All are welcome to join us. It will finish at 1 pm.

**Taizé Worship for Candlemas on Sunday February 1st at 6 pm**

St Mary's Church, Edward Road, DT1 2HJ

a service of song, silence, prayer and contemplation on the theme of

**Our Lives made Holy for God**

Taize Worship on Sunday, **March 1st**, on the theme of Prayer, will be preceded at 4.30 pm by some shared learning of new chants, followed by tea

## St George's Church

The church is open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.

### **Sunday Services**

**8.30am** Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays

This is a quiet traditional BCP service in the Edward Chapel.

**10.30am** Holy Communion followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Dragons, our children's group, meets in the church hall during the 10.30 service in term time.

All school age children are welcome.

**6.30pm** Pizza and Praise, first Sunday of the month. A new monthly service for youth and families.

### **Weekday services:**

Wednesday 9.30am Morning Prayer at the back of church.

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

### **Other regular activities:**

**Monday: 9.30-12 Tea, Toast and Toddlers** in the hall

**Monday: Bible Study group 7.15pm** weekly in members' homes.

Details from Rev Cora or Rev Gerry.

**Wednesday 12.30-1.30 Community Lunch and Food Larder** welcomes anyone who needs company, lunch, or food in times of hardship. As the weather gets colder the hall provides a warm space to meet with friends and members of St George's Congregation.

Thursday: Fellowship group 12.00-1.00 in church. A new informal time of prayer and Bible reflection over a sandwich lunch (bring your own!) All are welcome.

Our **COMMUNITY LUNCH AND FOOD LARDER** is currently busier and we welcome donations. Needed items are: Plain microwave rice, Cereals, long life milk, tinned meat/fish, custard/rice pudding; loo rolls, washing up liquid etc. Best times to bring items are at Sunday services, or pop into the hall on a Wednesday from 12.15 - 1.30. Thank you for your support.

### **GOOD BYE LUNCH FOR REVD. HEIDI MERRETT - 8th February** - We will be having a

benefice lunch in St George's Hall to say goodbye to Revd. Heidi from 12.00 onwards. All are invited so that we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Heidi and celebrate her ministry among us. There will be sign up sheets at the back of your churches to get an indication of number of people coming. If you are able please bring something to share like a carton of juice, bottle of cordial or even a bottle of wine. Alternatively please bring something sweet like cake or biscuits for pudding. Vegan cakes very gratefully received so that Heidi has something too.

### **Bingo Evening in aid of Christian Aid**

Friday 27 February in the church hall. Doors open 6pm Eyes down 6.30pm

All very welcome. If anyone has anything that they could donate as prizes, please see Maggie Carter or Helen and David Pickard

### **Date for your diaries - St George's Day Fair, Saturday 25 April, 1 – 4pm**

If anybody has any leftover Christmas chocolates, biscuits or other goodies or maybe unwanted presents, please consider donating them as prizes for the raffle and tombola at the fair and future church events. Offers of help gratefully received as well. Thank you.



## **St Andrew's Church**

**MORNING PRAYER** Every Tuesday at 9.45am - all welcome.

### **PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION**

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

**HOME COMMUNION** If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien on 262421 or email [revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com](mailto:revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com)

**Services** are at 11.15am on first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and 9.00am on 2nd and 4th Sundays. Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available, please ask.

**Church Contacts:-** Team Vicar: Revd Cora Yarrien - 262421

Secretary : Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773



### **St Simon and St Jude, Winterborne Monkton**

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at **11.15am** on the first Sunday of each month. The church is open every weekend 10am-4pm or by arrangement with Judy Norman 01305 262719

On 1 February, next Sunday, **Rev Heidi Merrett** will be taking the Holy Communion service for the **last time** in Monkton before she takes up her new post, and it would be wonderful if you could be there to say good bye to her. We will bring some **refreshments** to have afterwards.

### **Dorchester Strollers:**

**Monday 2nd February**      **10.30am Tesco Fountains**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**      **2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand**



**Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:**

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

Keith.magee@btinternet.com

**Curate:** Revd Heidi Merrett 07706 058676 revheidimerrett@gmail.com

**St George, Fordington** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421  
revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

**St Mary, Edward Road** Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502  
revjimmyholden@gmail.com

**St Andrew, West Stafford** Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421  
revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

**The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches** Rev Teresa Stewart Sykes  
01305 549242 email revteresa@outlook.com

**Parish Office: 01305 250719** dorchesterpcc@gmail.com

**open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri**

**Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett**

**The Benefice Website:** www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk

QR code



<https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

**Don't forget that, on the Benefice website, you can find service times, news of the latest concerts and events, and recordings of sermons preached across our churches.**<https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

**And, if you have news or an event to contribute, please email:** [thedorchestermessenger@gmail.com](mailto:thedorchestermessenger@gmail.com)