



Candlemas

2nd February 2025



'Those who oppress hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan.' Malachi 3.5. Image by Revd Jess, see Bible Art below for commentary.

The season of Epiphany concludes this Sunday with Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Jesus is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, in the temple. He is described as both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering. Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter. It is the moment in the church year when we turn away from the crib and towards the cross. On Candlemas it is a tradition for Christians to bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. These blessed candles serve as a symbol

of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World. You are welcome to bring a candle to either the 8am or 10am all age service.

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Readings

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



Benefice Announcement

It is a joy to be able to announce that Revd Dominic Fenton will be licensed as our new benefice vicar by Bishop Martin on Thursday 13th March at 7.30pm at St Mary's. Save the date. This means that Revd Dominic will be with us for much of Lent and in time for Easter. Good news!

Taizé for Healing this Sunday



A candlelit time for peace and healing with beautiful chants from the Taizé Community. No experience of Taizé singing is needed. Individual healing prayer is offered at the close of the service for those who would like to receive this ministry.

Please consider joining the flower team. The flower team would be very happy to welcome anyone wishing to join us. We work on a rota basis and always have a fellow team member working with us. Normally flowers are arranged on a Saturday morning. If you can spare time once a month to help us it would be greatly appreciated. Training if required will be given. If you would like more information, please contact me by email, or approach me in church for a friendly chat. **Linda Caffyn** (lindacaffyn@gmail.com)

Sponsored Altar flowers.

The sponsored flower list is now available for anyone wishing to select a date on the list at the back of the church. Please talk to Linda Caffyn to discuss colour choice and budget.

'Friends' a new social group.

This will be the name of a new social group (instead of the Fellowship lunches), meeting at Joy's, 3 Kings Walk on 1st and 3rd Friday in the month 2- 4pm. Chat and games, tea and cake will be on offer as well as a warm welcome. If you would like to come to meet or make friends, please let me know. Lifts may be possible. Starting dates 7th and 21st Feb. We will also become friends of the Children's Society, and we ask for a small donation for them. (Suggested minimum £2 per afternoon). Chris and Michael are supporting this venture. I look forward to hearing from you. Joy tel. 01273 462584



Bible Art (see image at top of newsletter)

Malachi 3: 1-5 "Those who do not fear me..." says the Lord.

There is so much in the beginning of this passage would have been deep in the hearts of Simeon and Anna as they spoke about the infant Jesus when he was presented in the

temple; but it is the end of the passage which I have illustrated.

The man in the middle is the one who (amongst other things) oppresses widows and orphans, and thrusts aside the alien (refugee or stranger). I have given him a happy face because he is ploughing ahead with his way of life ignoring completely all that the Lord asks of us. In this passage the Lord says that he will be swift to bring judgement and bear witness against such as these.

How are we to hold ourselves to the will of God and the teachings of Jesus in the face of many who now think and act like the man in my drawing? May the Lord give us (and our country) the strength to do what is right.

Revd Jess

World Day of Prayer 2025

A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement. This year, the service has been prepared by Christian Women from the Cook Islands on the theme:

I MADE YOU WONDERFUL

Friday 7th March 2025

Hosted by: St Mary du Haura Church

Service starts at: 10:30 am

with refreshments afterwards.

Further information wwdp.org.uk

If anyone feels willing to take on being our church representative for WDP please let me know. I have fulfilled this role for many years now and would be happy to assist the next person. Thank you. **Elizabeth** Tel:07980 978767

Healing Prayer is offered most Sundays after the 10am in one of the side chapels.

Year of Faith 2025 is the year of celebration of the Christian faith across Sussex.

It marks the 950th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Chichester and

Chichester Cathedral and 1700 years since the Nicene Creed first emerged. Each deanery has a celebration.

The Hove Deanery service is Thursday 6th February 7.30pm at St Leonards in Hove. All welcome. There is a website for information about, and links to, the events and celebrations which will form part of this special year for both diocese and cathedral: www.celebratingfaith.co.uk

February afternoon drop-in for half-term. Help spread the word. Children must be accompanied.



And finally...



The Sea Lights children have been working hard to prepare for Candlemas.

Expect lots of candle lanterns this Sunday!

I work half-time and the usual days when I am available are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings, *Revd Jane*

Services this week

Sunday 2nd February

8am – Holy Communion with Revd Jane.

10am – All Age Communion with Revd Jane.

Please note that we don't stream our all-age service on the first Sunday of the month.

6pm – Taizé for Healing

Tuesday 4th February

9.30am – Holy Communion with Revd Pat.

Wednesday 5th February

6pm Celtic Evening Prayer on

Zoom [CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 868 1252 3106 Passcode: 960274

Friday 7th February

8am – Meditation with Morning Prayer A benefice service at St Mary de Haura

Saturday 8th February

8am – Morning Meditation – in the Good Shepherd and on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81286470381>

Meeting ID: 812 8647 0381



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Church website

www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk

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Good Shepherd Hall bookings

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