



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:

www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 31 January 2021
Australia Sunday

Services 31 January 2021 4th Sunday of Epiphany White Presentation of Christ / Candle Mass

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Malachi 3:1-5 Psalm 24(1-6) 7-end Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Collect God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Anniversaries 24-30 January 2021

St Andrew's: Edward Thomas Guttridge 30 Beryl Stevenson 30

St Thomas':

Holy Trinity: Alwyn Patrick Herbert East 28

St Mary's: Kenneth John Sanders 24 Ada Taylor 25 Alec Wills 26 George Henry (Harry) Hudson 28

Monday 1- Saturday 6 February 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 1	Hosea 9	1 Corinthians 12:12-end
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 5	Hosea 10	1 Corinthians 13
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 119:1-32	Hosea 11:1-11	1 Corinthians 14:1-19
Thursday	M P	Psalm 15	Hosea 11:12-end of 12	1 Corinthians 14:20-end
Friday	M P	Psalm 19	Hosea 13:1-14	1 Corinthians 16:1-9
Saturday	M P	Psalm 23	Hosea 14	1 Corinthians 16:10-end

Mid-week Communion Service - Wednesday 3 February 9.15am Holy Trinity

Services 7 February 2021 2 Sunday before Lent Green

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 3 Wednesday 9.15am Holy Trinity

A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Ely Prayer

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; give us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us the courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Nicholas/Christine Dale, Tom Cullup

Let us remember in our prayers

- all those working for the NHS and in research and the pharmaceutical industry
- all those who cannot work from home and have no choice but to be at risk of becoming infected and infectious
- those in severe economic need and those relying on foodbanks
- those struggling with their mental health in this third lockdown
- our friends in the Diocese of Kigali
- our friends in the Diocese of Vellore
- refugees living in unsanitary conditions
- the people of those countries who are a long way from obtaining vaccine
- all those with the responsibilities of leadership during this pandemic: locally, nationally and across the world.

The families and friends of those who have recently died:

Michael Munns Frank Hallam Elsie Anker Leslie Holman

William Winfield 3 February Peterborough Crematorium 3.00pm

Frederick Hounsham 5 February Peterborough Crematorium 11.00am

Barbara Jordan 8 February Graveside service at Whittlesey Cemetery 10.30am

Edna May Anthony 9 February Fenland Crematorium 1030am

Judy Stewart 12 February Peterborough Crematorium 10.30am

Angela Cullup 12 February St Mary's 2.15pm followed by Peterborough Crematorium 3.30pm

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

Ministry Team - Contacts

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

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MRS JANE RANDELLS **07870 942362** - jane.randells@gmail.com (Editor)

If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

Lent Course We are planning on holding a Lent Course with our four Churches this year, we will assume all those who came to the Prayer Course would like to attend, if not please pass your name to Laura Whitehouse or Jane Randells, if you would like to join please let us know so that zoom codes can be sent. Do feel free to share the zoom code to anyone that asks for it.

Additions to Newsletter If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Jane our editor. It may be something in the parish you would like everyone to know about or perhaps something more personal - things that have encouraged me, or places where I have seen God at work. We would love to hear from you.

St Andrew's Church 100 Club If you would like to join the St Andrew's Church 100 club for this year, please contact Ann and David Mason on 01733 208215 or by email on annandave49@yahoo.co.uk

Expanding the ministry team We are looking for willing volunteers to assist with the collation, development and production of the news sheet each week. It may be an individual or a team of people who could compile the newsletter for the benefice each week, collating notices from each of the churches, on behalf of the ministry team. If you are willing to be involved and would like to volunteer please speak to Jane Randell using the contact details below.
jane.randells@gmail.com

Australia Sunday After my first visit to Whittlesea Australia in December 1993 we have prayed for the people of the parishes there and they have prayed for us especially once a year. Originally this coincided with the anniversary of my visit on the second Sunday in December but it was soon apparent that this was not a good time with all that was happening in the run up to Christmas. It was then decided to move the Sunday when we especially pray for each other to the last Sunday in January as this would be close to Australia Day the 26th January. Whittlesea Australia, with a population of around 6,000, is 25 miles north-east of the centre of Melbourne. The Anglican church at Whittlesea is Christ Church and there is an adjacent parish of St Peter's Kinglake which is covered by the same minister. Kinglake, which has a population of around 1,600, is 16 miles from Whittlesea and was one of the towns worst affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires on 7th February 2009. 38 people died in Kinglake and Kinglake West and more than 500 homes were destroyed including St Peter's Memorial Church. The church was rebuilt and re-dedicated in 2014. Services will be held on Sunday at St Peter's Kinglake at 8.30 am and Christ Church Whittlesea at 10.30 am. Our prayer requests have been sent to the vicar, the Revd Dr Ruwan Palapathwala as follows:

Pray for our parishes which have been in interregnum since August last year. Give thanks for the bishop's appointment of an interim priest to work alongside us, the Revd Phil Marsh; for his guidance and enthusiasm as we wait for the appointment of a new incumbent. For greater involvement by the laity especially as we work to expand our involvement in our communities. During this time when the pandemic has sometimes resulted in no public worship, and also when the elderly members of our congregations feel they need to remain isolated, we give thanks for our on-line service and that participants have extended beyond our usual congregations. Pray also for those who do not have the internet that they may still have the benefit of regular communications. Pray that we may be better equipped to do God's work when the Covid-19 virus has been contained. Roger

Blindness and Seeing, Luke 2:22-40

Let me tell you a little bit about Simeon, some things you may not know, some things that might surprise you.

Simeon is often identified as one of the seventy Hebrew scholars who translated the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek, what we know as the Septuagint. He was aware of Malachi's prophecy, "The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple." Simeon, as St. Luke tells it, had also been promised that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Simeon has been waiting, anticipating, and preparing a long time for the fulfilment of that prophecy and promise. Not just years or even decades but centuries. Tradition says that Simeon was more than 270 years old when he received Jesus in his arms. It's no surprise then that Christian iconography shows Simeon to be old and hunched over, as if the years of waiting weigh heavy upon him; tradition also says that Simeon was blind.

How can this be? Two hundred seventy years old? Blind? What could a 270 year old blind man possibly see? None of this makes sense. Blind men don't see. So, do we deny the tradition and declare it to be untrue? Do we discount Simeon's own words, "My eyes have seen your salvation?"

That's the tension in this story and it says something about our understanding and experience of God, life, and the world. For most of us the world is limited to the physical, the tangible and the sensory. We have come to believe that reality and truth are defined by what we know, what makes sense, and what we understand. More often than not this is determined by our five senses, sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. Seeing and blindness just don't go together - that makes no sense. They are opposites, so Simeon either has sight or he is blind.

What if it's both at the same time? What if Simeon is blind and he does see? At some point we have to admit none of this makes sense, that admission is the beginning of learning to see in a new way. It is our opening into a larger world, as long as we try to make sense of this and resolve the tension between seeing and blindness, we will miss the beauty, deeper meaning, and invitation of this story. We will live unaware of the presentation that is taking place every moment of our lives.

The tension between Simeon seeing and his blindness is not an issue to be resolved, it is our entry into another realm. It is the doorway into the temple of our life and another way of being, another way of seeing, another way of knowing.

Seeing is more than sight. That day in the temple Simeon saw more than what physical eyes could perceive. Physical sight would see Jesus, a forty day old baby; but that's not what Simeon says he saw. He says, "My eyes have seen your salvation." Which is it? Is it a baby or is it salvation? The answer can only be, "Yes."

It's not just "yes" for Simeon. It is also "yes" for you and me. This is not simply an event in history. The presentation of our Lord in the temple is happening all the time. The invisible is seen, the intangible is touched, the unspoken is heard, the uneaten is tasted, and the odourless is fragrant.

There are times in each of our lives when we come to the temple and we catch a glimpse of what Simeon saw. Think about a time when you thought to yourself or maybe even said aloud, "I never want this moment to end." Recall a day when you were so absorbed with other people or your work that you lost all track of time and it was as if you were living outside time. Remember a day when you thought, "I just can't do this. It's too much. I can't go on," but somehow you did and you have no idea how. In those moments you experienced a presence greater than the people who were there. You heard more than the words spoken in conversation, you felt more than what you could touch, you saw more than what was in front of you - you knew there was more going on than the events of that moment.

Regardless of the circumstances you somehow experienced that all was well. Everything was just right, perfect, and complete. Nothing was lacking. Your life was more than you had ever previously known it to be. Those are the moments of presentation. Those are the moments when we see salvation and are now free to go in peace.