

**The Marden Vale Team Ministry**  
**Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill**  
**Sunday 31st January – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**  
**(Candlemas)**

**Today's Services in the Marden Vale Team**

**Public worship is currently suspended in our churches.**

There is a short service of Morning Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage at 10am - email [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk) for link.

'Gogglebox Candlemas' from St Mary's, Calne [here](#)

Also available:

**8.10am** Sunday Worship on BBC Radio 4

**9am** [Church of England online](#)

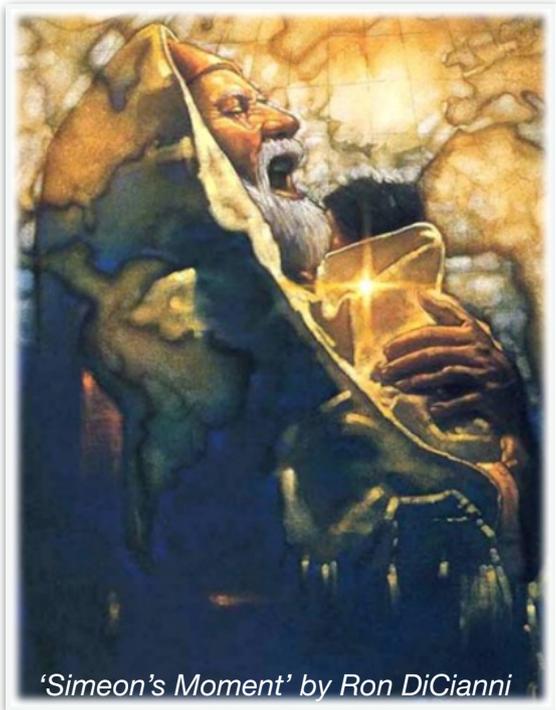
**1.15pm** Songs of Praise on BBC1

**Bells**

Tune in to 'Bells on Sunday' on Radio 4 at 5.43am. Or listen later [online](#) From the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Wilfred Ripon.

**Midweek Service**

There is a short service of Evening Prayer via Zoom from Derry Hill Vicarage every Wednesday at 5pm - link available via email as above.



*'Simeon's Moment' by Ron DiCianni*

**Calne Food Bank**

Open 12-4pm Tue & Fri, 10am-1pm Wed at:

4A Mill Street (previously Marden Cafe)  
Calne, SN11 8DP

Website: <https://www.calnefoodbank.co.uk/>

Tel: 07752 213029 Email:

[calnefoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:calnefoodbank@gmail.com)

You can find out how to support your local church through the [Parish Giving Scheme](#)

**Prayer** Join the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk) and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

**In the coming week please also pray for:**

- all who are affected by coronavirus, all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- the vaccination programme in this country and across the world
- all those affected by storm, flood, fire and earthquake,
- shelter for the homeless and rough sleepers
- fighting to cease and peace to prevail in all the places in the world marked by conflict and violence
- those who are anxious, exhausted, isolated. May those whose mental health is fragile be able to access the counselling, medication and support they need
- our local schools, for those learning online and those in the classroom, that everyone will be kept safe and healthy.
- local shops and businesses
- Kingston House residents and all who work there
- Lucy Ayles (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid
- our brothers and sisters in Sudan & South Sudan
- all who are sick, awaiting diagnosis, those in hospital. Especially we pray for: **Mark Steele, Christine Gundry, Mark Jennings, Lynne Cottrell, Rob Simons, Len Jones, Jacob Maloy, Paul Crayford, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Sonia Strange, Barbara Starr, Elizabeth Hannah and Sarah Green.**
- All who have died in recent weeks, the bereaved, and all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially John Bevan, John Philip and Peter Dunkerton.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

**Light a Candle** May I encourage you to continue this practice of praying, and placing a lit candle in a window as a sign of hope each Sunday evening.

**Private Prayer** (1 individual or household at a time)

Christ Church, Derry Hill

Thur to Sat 10am-3pm Sun 12-3pm

St Martin's, Bremhill Daily 9am-4pm

**Keeping in touch** Contact Linda 01249 817926

or email [lindac@mardenvale.org.uk](mailto:lindac@mardenvale.org.uk)

Website [www.mardenvale.org.uk](http://www.mardenvale.org.uk)

Derry Hill's [Facebook page](#)

## Readings for Candlemas

### 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.

### Psalm 24:7-end

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.

### 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-end

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, 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.

### 'A flame that cannot be put out by' Jan Sutch Pickard

In the dark days:  
under rain-heavy clouds,  
among broken branches,  
on sodden earth,  
the snowdrops light their candles.

A flame that cannot be put out  
by darkness or gales or doubt.

In the salt wind,  
rooks buckle like broken umbrellas;  
as the bare trees  
heave a great sigh,  
the snowdrops tremble.

But their flame cannot be put out  
by darkness or gales or doubt.

Perfect, as though carved  
in green-veined marble,  
life pulsing through tissue  
delicate as the eyelids  
of a sleeping child,  
curved like small fingers, holding on.

Their flame is steadfast:  
it is full of hope and new beginnings.  
Darkness or gales or doubt  
cannot put it out.

*For Candlemas, light a candle and pray:*

Blessed are you Lord our God for you have called us out of darkness to share in your light. The bright light of Christ scatters the darkness from within and is a lantern to our path. Bless this candle that we light in our homes, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit: that it may remind us of your presence and of your saving love revealed through Jesus Christ to others in our homes and lives. Amen.



