

wantage parish

CANDLEMAS 2 February 2025

Choral Eucharist: Communion in F (Harold Darke) **Gloria:** Gloria from the Mass of St Thomas (David Thorne) **Motet:** When to the temple Mary went (Johannes Eccard) **Voluntary:** Carillon (Louis Vierne)

Hymns at PC: NEH 408, 439 (omit *), 8, 157

Hymns at HT: NEH 408, 44, 439 (omit *), 8, 157

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Saturday 1 February 4pm Storytime Service (Holy Trinity)

Sunday 2 February **CANDLEMAS**
8am Eucharist (Parish Church)
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Curate*
10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: James Clarke*
5pm Choral Evensong & Benediction (Parish Church)

Monday 3 February 9.30am Requiem Eucharist (Parish Church)
7.30pm–9pm Home Group (*see notice below*)

Tuesday 4 February 9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group (*see notice below*)
10.30am Care Home Communion (Stirlings)
5.30pm for 5.45pm start Bible Reading Book Club (Holy Trinity)
7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

Wednesday 5 February 12 noon Holy Half Hour (Parish Church)
3pm–6.30pm Around Table (Holy Trinity)
7pm Eucharist followed by PCC Meeting (Parish Church)

Friday 7 February 12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)

Saturday 8 February 4pm Vigil (Holy Trinity)

Sunday 9 February **FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
8am Eucharist (Parish Church)
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Vicar*
10.30am Choral Eucharist (Parish Church) *with the Street Pastors*

Morning Prayer is said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday–Friday.

Eucharist at the Convent Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

READINGS & PRAYERS

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.**

First Reading: 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.

Psalm: 24.7-end**Response: The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in. **R/.**

'Who is the King of glory?'
'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.' **R/.**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in. **R/.**

'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.' **R/.**

Second Reading: 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.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

Alleluia,

Alleluia

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia

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.

Post-Communion Prayer

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.**

For Your Prayers: Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda, Angela, Martin, Michael, Deirdre, Danielle.

RIP: Jacqueline Chamberlain, Danny Rusher, Billy Stevens, Heather Howell.

Please also pray for: the PCC meeting; bishops-designate the Revd Canon Mary Gregory and the Revd Canon Dave Bull, who will be consecrated this month to serve in our diocese.

Readings & Hymns for next Sunday:

Isaiah 6.1-8, Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15.1-11, Luke 5.1-11

Hymns at PC: NEH 345, 146, 353, 361

Hymns at HT: NEH 433 (omit *), 200, 146, 353, 361

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PARISH PANTOMIME RETURNS! (O yes, it does!) with a sparkling production of **DICK WITTINGTON** on **Saturday 1 March** (matinee at **2.30pm** and an evening performance at **7pm**) in the Parish Church. Written by our own Sheenagh Dernie and produced by Wantage Parish Music Guild, the pantomime tells the story of how Wantage's most famous son-in-law, Dick Whittington (and his cat), take on King Rat and his minions. Fun for all the family! Tickets available from Ticketsource (<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-parish-music-guild>), or see the link in the eNews.

CHRISTMAS FUND-RAISING: Thank you to everyone who donated their money, time and effort to raise a total of £2,148 at the Dickensian Evening for parish funds, and £2,772 (including Gift Aid) for our Christmas charities: BeSpace (providing spirituality resources for local schools), Sobell House Hospice and the British Red Cross Gaza Appeal.

SPIRITUAL ART WORKSHOP Saturday 8 March 10.30am–3.45pm at Holy Trinity. Led by the Revd. Catherine Lomas, who is trained in traditional iconography and produces spiritual art in a range of styles. Learn about the history and technique of icons, and praying with icons, followed by an opportunity to create our own artistic responses to scripture. There will be a service at 4pm for those who wish to stay. Cost £30 to include a light lunch and materials. Places are limited; contact the Parish Office (administrator@wantageparish.com) to book.

TWO NEW MONTHLY ONLINE PRAYER GROUPS are starting which you are invited to join on either a regular or occasional basis:

***Contemplative Prayer Group**, with an emphasis on Julian prayer, will be held on the **1st Thursday of each month at 8 pm**, commencing this coming week: **Thursday 6 February**.

***Intercessory Prayer Group** will meet on the **3rd Thursday of each month at 8 pm**, commencing **Thursday 20 February**. These are new ventures which we hope will develop as the meetings take shape. For further information or to request the online links, contact Susie Lapwood at pdp@wantageparish.com.

AROUND TABLE PLEA ... for clean, lidded food-storage containers (e.g. ice-cream or take-away containers). Donations can be left in either church and would be greatly appreciated.

TRINITY TOTS: on **Monday 10 February** from 9am–11am at Holy Trinity. A relaxed play session for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents/carers, with refreshments for all. £3.00 per family. Booking via the Wantage Parish events page at Ticketsource (<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wantage-parish>) and on our website.

HOME GROUP: at Caroline and Andrew's house, Priory Cottage, Church Street (the white house opposite the main entrance to the Parish Church) on **Mondays from 7.30pm–9pm**. For conversation, bible study and prayer and tea/coffee. Contact candahaines@gmail.com.

'**FULLY BOOKED**': a new Book Club for Christians of all denominations across the Deanery. Meet at The Bear in the Market Place on the third Wednesday of the month. The first book is 'Small Pleasures' by Clare Chambers. The next meeting will be at **8pm on Wednesday 19 February**. Contact David Richardson (dcrwantageparish@gmail.com).

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY GROUP: **Tuesdays mornings at 9.30am** at Felicity's house: 24 Smith's Wharf, Wantage, OX12 9GQ. Please contact Sheenagh for more information (sheenagh.dernie@btinternet.com).

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

Curate: Revd Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

Parish Administrator: Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

Churchwardens: Alastair Hunter alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

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Parish Assistant: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

Director of Music: Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

Personal Discipleship Plan: Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

Parish Website: www.wantageparish.com