



Pew News

Sunday 31st January 2021 The Second Sunday before Lent

St Thomas's and St James's

Please note that because of the current 'lockdown' all services will be streamed via our website

www.osbaldwickandmurtonchurches.org.uk

31st January The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) **10.30am**

7th February The Second Sunday before Lent Morning Prayer **10.30am**

14th February The Sunday Next before Lent Holy Communion **10.30am**

16th February **7.00pm** Shrove Tuesday celebrate Pancake Day **via Zoom**. Details from Jan or Julie

17th February **Ash Wednesday** Pre-recorded service available on the website.

21st February First Sunday of Lent Holy Communion **10.30am**

28th February Second Sunday of Lent Holy Communion **10.30am**

Sunday Reflection with the Archbishop of York

Every week, the Diocese of York offers a new reflection and prayer resource on video, for churches to use in their Sunday worship, either online or in church as we return to our buildings.

Find the video here, or at vimeo.com/dioceseforyork.

May God's light shine on us so that we might shine on others. How might we be a source of that radiance as we seek to live our lives closer to God? Watch Archbishop Stephen's Our hope is found reflection at www.youtube.be/kLsnloXH-DA



May God's light shine on us so that we might shine on others.

St Hilda's

Sunday 31st January

This Sunday will be Revd Fran's last Sunday service, which will take place on Zoom, and all are welcome to join us at 10.30am.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857691700?pwd=dWpZaGxnbzRDSkxlMklZb1JIMURDUT09)

[691700?pwd=dWpZaGxnbzRDSkxl](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857691700?pwd=dWpZaGxnbzRDSkxlMklZb1JIMURDUT09)

[MklZb1JIMURDUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857691700?pwd=dWpZaGxnbzRDSkxlMklZb1JIMURDUT09)

Meeting ID: 858 5769 1700

Passcode: 249751

Geraldine is encouraging us to bring along a drink and some cake for the end of the service, so we can celebrate.

DailyHope phone line

DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Collects for Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas

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

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. Amen

Malachi 3: 1-5

The Coming Messenger

3 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. **2** 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; **3** 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. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

5 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.

Readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

You may like to look at the other readings set for today:

Psalm: 104.26-37

New Testament: Colossians 1.15-20

St Luke 2: 22 – 40

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

22 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 **23** (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), **24** 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.'

25 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. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** 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, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; **30** for my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** 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 **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36 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, **37** 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. **38** 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.

The Return to Nazareth

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. **40** The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.



Revd Fran writes:

Farewell letter part 2

Dear Friends,

I want to continue where I left off last week. This is to explain how in practice we've worked to make others aware of that deeply embedded vision for St Hilda's to be a church for the whole community of Tang Hall, a vision that was there from its foundation by Archbishop William Temple in 1933.

It all started with the churchyard. At my first PCC it was clear we needed to do 'something'. And that something turned into a bigger project than any of us was anticipating. Grants totalling nearly £20,000 were given over a period of time, which has transformed the churchyard into a Community space with a contemplative Memorial Garden. Before lockdown, we were beginning to explore community groups coming in to use the space for gardening therapy, and I hope that this will be able to continue and expand. As part of this initiative, we've also become a Fairtrade church, and gained our Bronze Eco-award – one of only two churches in the whole of York Diocese to receive this.

We've also worked on the church building – a new sound system, decorating the hall, and worked on other projects to freshen up the space.

But the most important links have of course been with people. Our young people's groups, and toddlers, our 60+ group, and AgeUK group have been a great springboard for this, and I hope that they are able to return to use the building as soon as is possible.

The Community Café all started (as it often does in churches) with tea and cake. We opened the doors on Tuesday mornings for a drop in 'pay as you feel' café. And people started to come. By Christmas 2019, we were able to host a 'bring and share' Christmas dinner for our regulars, which was huge fun, and Archbishop Sentamu would be pleased - we even got students coming (see part one of this letter!) Lockdown meant that we had to curtail this, but many of us continued to meet by zoom, forming a Christian nurture group, and then Bible Book club. We've developed new relationships with local families too – through our Messy Church.

Outside the building, I've formed fruitful links with Tang Hall Community Centre and with our ward councillors. And this has resulted in our councillors coming to the café for surgeries, where locals have been able to drop by and discuss practical issues – as well as sometimes asking me to pray with them! Our local co-op has been really supportive too, and our partnership with other churches, including YCC and Osbaldwick has borne fruit as we've prayed together on a regular basis.

In summary, I'm really proud of what we've achieved together, and I'm so sad that I won't be part of the next chapter in the life of St Hilda's. However, I pray that it will continue to be a source of tremendous fun and great joy as you continue on your journey of discovery to bring about God's kingdom in this special place.

I may be moving away, but I won't stop praying for you, and hope to hear your news. Please also pray for us and our family as we move to a new chapter of our lives.

May God bless you all richly as you continue to journey with Him.

Revd Fran

St Thomas's and St James's send our good wishes to Fran on her retirement



Letter from the Archbishops to the nation:

Dear friends

As we reach the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, we invite everyone in our nation to pause as we reflect on the enormity of this pandemic.

100,000 isn't just an abstract figure. Each number is a person: someone we loved and someone who loved us. We also believe that each of these people was known to God and cherished by God.

We write to you then in consolation, but also in encouragement, and ultimately in the hope of Jesus Christ. The God who comes to us in Jesus knew grief and suffering himself. On the cross, Jesus shares the weight of our sadness.

We therefore encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God. We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities. During this pandemic, we encourage everyone to do all they can to live within the guidelines and constraints given by government following the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser. We show our commitment, care and love for one another by ensuring we do everything we can to stop the virus spreading.

None of this is easy. Very many of us are experiencing isolation, loneliness, anxiety and despondency like never before. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Our economy struggles. Also, the necessary restrictions we live with have also prevented us from being alongside loved ones as they died, or even at their graveside. All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard.

Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines. But we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer. Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. A number of resources will be made available on our website.

Finally, we write of hope. We are grateful for the hope we have because of the service of our NHS and social care staff. What a blessing and lifeline for our nation. We are grateful for the service given in local communities by clergy, other frontline workers and so many good neighbours. We are grateful for the hope of the vaccine. It is a testimony to the God-given wisdom and gifts of scientists and researchers. We urge everyone to take the vaccine as soon as it is offered to you.

Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will be celebrating at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn't have the last word. In God's kingdom, every tear will be wiped away. Please be assured of our prayers. Please join us.

Justin Welby

Stephen Cottrell

*In our pain, anxiety and loss, we cry to you
O God. We bring before you our nation,
neighbourhood, loved ones and ourselves.
Thank you for the skill and endurance of
medics and carers, politicians and scientists,
and those who provide our daily needs of
food and warmth. Sustain them and uphold
them. In the name of Jesus who suffered on
the cross bring comfort, strength
and hope.
Amen.*



A Prayer for all who mourn

Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands who
have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong
compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope.
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

A prayer of Julian of Norwich

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our
preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our
saving.

You are our mother, brother, and Saviour. In
you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous
and plenteous grace.

You are our clothing; for love you wrap us
and embrace us.

You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all
shall be well, and all shall be well, and all
manner of things shall be well. Amen



