



Mid-Wydean Churches

serving Coleford, Clearwell,
Newland, Redbrook, Staunton
and surrounding communities

Sunday February 1st

Presentation of Christ in the Temple- Candlemas

BIBLE READINGS

Malachi 3.1-5

Psalms 24.[1-6]7-10

Hebrews 2.14-18

Luke 2.22-40

PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

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.

REFLECTIONS.....REV. SARAH BICK

Is there something in your life you are waiting for or expecting? Are you waiting with longing, excitement, trepidation?

When you carefully read this gospel for the presentation of Christ in the temple in Luke Chap 2, you notice that it actually says slightly different things about Simeon and Anna, though we largely put them together and attribute to them the same qualities, gifts and feelings.

Simeon, it says, had the Holy Spirit resting upon him, and he was told that he would not see death until he had witnessed the Messiah - it doesn't actually say how old he was, we just imagine an old man because of the reference to death perhaps, or because of what it says about Anna. Anna, it says, was old. 84 years old! That's not old I hear you cry! (Oh yes, it is! Oh no, it isn't!) And it says she was a prophet, and recognised Jesus when she saw him. But everyone, in theory at least, was waiting for the Messiah, so no doubt Anna was too, if only in that general sense.

CONTINUED....

So Anna and Simeon recognised the Messiah they were waiting for in the form of a baby. Anna at least must have realised that she would not see the fruition of God's plan. I'm sure Simeon was aware that the extent of the promise made to him had been fulfilled. Nevertheless, the recognition that the plan was afoot brought them both great joy

Last Sunday, the news was announced that we will at some point in the next few months will be moving to Cornwall. When I started my incumbency here in Mid-Wydean, following on from my curacy here, I knew there were great challenges ahead. But I felt God's call to be here, and had confidence. We could face those challenges together. Many things have happened since, and not all things have worked out the way we expected or hoped. But God has been with us through these difficult times and there has been much joy. We have been brave in lots of things, and even led the way in some initiatives for the deanery and the diocese. The work here is clearly not complete, but God has never promised that it would be finished before we go (however frustrating that feels for me!)

CONTINUED OVERLEAF...

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

10:30am The Good Shepherd, Broadwell
Parish Communion

4.00pm St.Saviours, Redbrook
All age, family friendly service

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

10:30am The Good Shepherd, Broadwell
All age, family friendly service

10:30am All Saints, Newland
Communion

4.00pm All Saints, Staunton
Evening prayer

PRAYERS AND NOTICES

SARAH CONTINUED....

But I'm going on to a place where gifts I have and skills I've learned here with you can be put to good use for the sake of God's Kingdom. I believe that although it is a wrench to go, it will be a healthy move for our family, and is God's goal for our lives. That being so, out there will be the person that God is calling to Mid-Wyedean.

Please pray for us as I will continue to pray for you. And also pray for the person that God means to send to you, and pray that you will know them when you see them.

FAREWELL SARAH

In thanks for 13 years of faithful service, Wendy and Jane will be organising a collection and farewell for Sarah, Mark, and Isaac. **Watch this space for more details.**

GIVE THANKS....

- for the wonder of creation around us- the return of spring due to the earth moving around the sun, the way that bird song begins to increase and change, the miracle of snowdrops in this cold time of year.

PRAY....

- for those who are sick or sad in our parish or known to us, especially-Jane (waiting for results of several tests), Sue R, Jackie, Dean and family, Elijah and family. Lisa, Percy, Christine (Marian's sister in law)



PUPILS NEED YOUR HELP FOR FAITH SURVEY

Please take time to fill out this questionnaire put together by **Hazel Class** at **St John's CofE Academy** for their RE lesson. They would very much appreciate your support.

Click this link - it will only take a couple minutes.

REGULAR EVENTS + MEETINGS



MUSTARD SEEDS

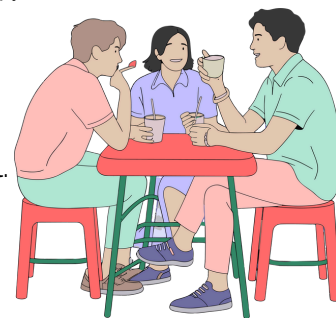
Stay & Play for 0-5 years old.
Tuesdays in term time,
9.45-11.15am
at Coleford Baptist Church.

TOGETHER FOR PRAYER

Tuesdays 12.00- 1.00 at The Vicarage.
All Welcome

BROADWELL CHAT

Coffee and chat
1st Thursday of the month
10.00- 12.00 at The Good Shepherd Church, Broadwell.
Children & pets welcome.
Next meeting Thurs 5th Feb



CRAFT CLUB

Crafts in Good Company
at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell,
Thursdays, 2- 4 pm

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this week Leslie -Alan had the fancy skybanner, but these rockets will be far more spectacular

