

The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for
31st January 2021: Candlemas



www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk

In all we do, we seek to live out Jesus' command to draw close to the love of God in worship, and to share this by loving our neighbour

Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week

O GOD, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Our churches: opening as places for prayer and reflection in our communities

The Parish Church of Louth St James will be open for private prayer between
10am and 1pm

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Please see pages 2 and 3 for details of other churches that are open for private prayer across the Deanery of Louthesk

DIARY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP THIS WEEK...

Services marked * are broadcast via www.facebook.com/louthchurch

Sunday 31st	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'*
Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)		Psalm 24. 1-6, 7-end Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-end; Luke 2.22-40
	10am	Morning Service at North Thoresby
	10 30am	Midmarsh Benefice Service at Grimoldby
	6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James'*
		Psalm 132; Haggi 2.1-9; John 2.18-22
Monday 1st	9 15am	MATINS at St James'*
		Psalm 1, 147.13-end; Hosea 9; 1 Corinthians 12.12-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
Tuesday 2nd	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'*
		Psalm 5; Hosea 10; 1 Corinthians 13
	10 30am	Funeral at Fotherby
	11am	HOLY COMMUNION at St James'*
	11 45am	Praying with the Bible (Lectio Divina)
		Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
Wednesday 3rd	9 15am	MATINS at St James'*
		Psalm 119.1-32; Hosea 11.1-11; 1 Corinthians 14.1-19
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	11am	Funeral at Louth Cemetery
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
	7 30pm	COMPLINE online from Louth Rectory*
Thursday 4th	9 15am	MATINS at St James'*
		Psalm 15; Hosea 11.12-end of 12; 1 Corinthians 14.20-end
	11am	Mass at St Michael's
Friday 5th	9 15am	MATINS at St James'*
		Psalm 19; Hosea 13.1-14; 1 Corinthians 16.1-9
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	10 30am	Funeral at Theddlethorpe
Saturday 6th	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	11am	Marshchapel open for private prayer 'til 12 noon
	12 30pm	MIDDAY PRAYER at St James'*
Sunday 7th	9 30am	Morning Service form Great Carlton via Zoom
Second Sunday		Please contact John S 328369
Before Lent	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'*
		Psalm 104.26-end

Proverbs 8.1,22-31; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14

10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
10am	Morning Service at Marshchapel
10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
11 15am	Holy Communion at Legbourne
6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James’*

Psalm 65; Genesis 2.4b-end; Luke 8.22-35

JOINING IN WORSHIP

All our worship is being streamed on the Parish of Louth facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view these services – just click on ‘Not now’ when it asks you to sign up. www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live

 Watch Louth CofE Services as live streams (and previously recorded) on Facebook. No account needed

DETAILS OF CHURCHES OPEN

Binbrook: Please ‘phone the keyholder on 07778 316486 for access

Covenham: Please ‘phone the Churchwarden on 01507 363508 for access.

Fulstow: closed, please ‘phone 07825 293389 for access.

Fotherby: The Outreach Post Office is open on Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Great Carlton: Please ‘phone the Churchwardens on 01507 328369 or 450527 for access

Grimoldby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 328917

Louth, St James: Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 1pm.

Ludborough: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01472 840505 for access.

Manby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 01507 327199 for access.

Marshchapel: temporarily closed for Private Prayer

North Thoresby: Please ‘phone a churchwarden on 01472 840698 or 840160 for access.

Utterby: Please ‘phone the churchwarden on 07802 182756 for access.



An Order of Service for the Eucharist this Sunday

- *We open our hearts to God, that we might be transformed by his love*
- *We listen to God's Word, and seek to find out how we may grow to understand God's will for us more fully*
- *We gather around the table to share a symbolic meal, a meal that joins us with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; the saints who have lived in all times and places*
- *We pray that we go out as lights that shine with God's love wherever we might go*

The Gathering

The GREETING and PREPARATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Together we pray...

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

As the Ministers enter, organ music may be played or a psalm sung.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say the GLORIA, a Song of Praise written by the early Christians

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The COLLECT prayer

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis. 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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end

A Reading from the book of Hebrews. 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.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2.22-40

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

There will be a HOMILY and period for reflection, after which the service continues with the NICENE CREED:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS, which may include the following bidding and response:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And may end with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A CHANT may be sung, or the organ played, as the altar is prepared.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The prayer at this point may include the following response:

Blessed be God for ever.

The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts, ending with:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.]

The president recalls the Last Supper, after which the following acclamation may be used:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

Amen.

We sit or kneel for the LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.

The priest leads the congregation in 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.

Following this prayer, all join in:

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

We stand, and the priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We stand as the Ministers leave.

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Matins and Evensong: An Order of Service

*If used in the context of a family or household the words in **bold** are said by all. If said alone, all words are spoken by the individual praying.*

Along with this order of service you will need a Bible for the psalm and readings. Details of which psalm and readings to use are found on page 2.

If the service forms the only, or the main, act of worship on a Sunday in a parish church, then the Minister calls on everyone to reflect on those things that distance us from God and, after a pause for reflection, we join in the Prayer of Confession, which is followed by a prayer of absolution or forgiveness:

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, that confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

At other time the service may be begin with the opening responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God

*Say or recite the **Venite, Exultemus Domino** (Psalm 95, at Matins) and the appointed **Psalm(s)**.*

The Psalm(s) end with the 'Gloria patri':

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*A Reading from **The Old Testament**. (See page 2 for details)*

*Say or sing the **Canticle**; either the Benedictus (at Matins) or Magnificat (at Evening Prayer):*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people; And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us: in the house of his servant David; As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets: which have been since the world began; That we should be saved from our enemies: and from the hands of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers: and to remember his holy covenant; To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham: that he would give us; That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies: might serve him without fear; In holiness and righteousness before him: all the days of our life.

And thou child shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins, Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.-

A Reading from The New Testament. (See page 2 for details)

*At Evening Prayer, we also say the **Nunc Dimittis**:*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Creed

You may wish to stand to say the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Prayers

The Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Prayers:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

These Prayers end with one or more Collects for the Day (see the front over) and the following morning or evening Collects:

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A time for Reflection

After any further prayers, there may be a time for reflection including the singing of an anthem. If using this material at home, you may find this a good time to play a piece of recorded music or listen to one of the podcasts/video meditations.

The Conclusion

*The service ends with either a **Blessing**, or by praying the **Grace**:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us now and evermore. **Amen.**

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THIS WEEK'S PSALM AND HOMILY

Psalm 24 1-6, 7-end

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is : the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas : and prepared it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord : or who shall rise up in his holy place?

4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart : and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord: and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him : even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is the King of glory : it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is the King of glory : even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Homily

It is now just over 40 days since Christmas and, today, we celebrate an event that took place forty days after Jesus was born. According to Jewish law, a woman who had given birth to a son could not enter a holy place, or touch anything holy, until she went through a ceremony of purification and presented her first-born son to God (as we read in Leviticus 12 and Exodus 13:11-15). So, Joseph and Mary, and their one-month-old baby, went to Jerusalem to perform this ceremony in the Temple, and took with them a pair of doves which was the traditional offering for poor people.

Now, at the same time as they entered the Temple so did a man called Simeon, a godly old man who was living in eager expectation of the coming Messiah. In fact, God had revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. On this day, the Holy Spirit prompted Simeon to go to the Temple, and he happened to enter its outer courts at the exact moment that Joseph, Mary and their baby also arrived there. Led by the Holy Spirit, Simeon realised that this baby was none other than the Messiah he had been promised. Simeon took the baby Jesus into his arms, not to fuss him like we might do with a young baby, but in excited recognition of who he was. Simeon praised God and said some words which you might recognise from the traditional service of Evening Prayer: 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word'. I remember a friend of mine commenting that he always felt a little odd saying this prayer, because what Simeon meant by it was that he was now happy to die. In seeing Mary's child, he had seen the long-awaited saviour, as promised by God. Simeon also saw Jesus as a light to reveal God to all nations and bring glory to God's people Israel. It is because of this image of Jesus as the Light of the World that some churches have continued to light the Christmas candle at every service until today.

Joseph and Mary were amazed at what Simeon had to say, but then he gave them some mixed news. We read that he blessed them, and then told Mary that not only would Jesus be opposed but she herself would suffer pain and anguish. Jesus would be a cause of division, a rock that some would stumble over and others would build on. Some people would believe in him and flourish, but others would stumble over him and fall. As the priest and author, David Adam, has written, 'Confronted by Jesus, neutrality is impossible'.

Mary and Joseph had hardly any time to take in what Simeon had just said, before Anna, an 84-year-old widow and prophetess, came up to them and she also gave thanks to God for their child. Anna had not heard what Simeon had to say and yet she too was able to identify who Jesus was and speak about him to other people who were gathered there in the Temple.

The story ends by telling us that 'the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him'. There are two truths here that we must keep in balance, although we often struggle to do so: this child was both human and divine, in equal measure. We risk serious heresy, if we focus so much on his deity that we deny or neglect his humanity; or if we focus so much on his humanity that we deny or neglect his deity. This is a danger that can lead us into all sorts of error, and many have gone that way.

The theologian, Daniel Migliori, has put it this way: 'If God in Christ is not present to us in the depths of our human finitude, misery and godforsakenness, then whatever this person may have said and done, he cannot be the saviour of human beings . . .'. But he also said, 'If Jesus Christ is not God with us, if the life and forgiveness that he offers are not God's own life and forgiveness, if his self-giving, sacrificial love poured out for our sake is not God's own love, then he cannot be saviour and Lord. Christianity cannot compromise either on the full humanity or full deity of Jesus Christ'. Amen.

Homily Reflection

1. Imagine you are Joseph or Mary taking your new baby son to the Temple and being confronted first by Simeon and then by Anna. What would you be thinking and feeling as you listen to what they have to say?
 2. Imagine you are Simeon or Anna. What does this encounter make you feel and think about the baby and about God?
 3. In what ways might we as Christians and churches risk denying or neglecting Jesus' humanity or deity?
 4. Is there anything else from the passage that speaks to you not already discussed? What is it?
 5. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today?
- #everydayfaith

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME

A range of spiritual resources remain available across the deanery as follows:

- **Parish of Louth on Facebook:**
All services are being streamed on Facebook Live (you do not need to be a registered facebook user):
<https://www.facebook.com/louthchurch>
- **Parish of Louth website:**
Downloadable resources (including this leaflet), an uploaded broadcast of Sunday Eucharist from St James, and regular video meditations:
www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk
- **Deanery of Louthesk: The Confraternity of St Herefrith**
Video and other prayer resources will be available from the confraternity's website, including a regular meditations by members of the clergy serving the Deanery of Louthesk.
<https://herefrith.org/confraternity-resources/video/>
- **'Praying with...'**
Online sessions, available live via Zoom (see Parish Notes for details) or as a video on the Parish of Louth facebook page.
- **St Andrew's Stewton Church Community** welcomes everyone. Since March 2020 we have produced an email 'Post' every Sunday morning to sustain the life of our church community on-line. You can access these Posts via the web site www.standrewsstewton.co.uk or have your email address added to our circulation list on request to windhover22@live.co.uk

NOTES AND NOTICES

- James and Arabella have now moved into the Rectory in Louth. They are, at the time of print, still without an internet connection and landline contact telephone number. Once works are completed, new contact details will be made available.

PASTORAL CARE NETWORK



- providing regular contact by phone
- delivering food and medication

Contact louthparishpastoral@gmail.com, or leave a message on 01507 605803 if you know someone in need

The Parish of Louth - served by the Louth Team Ministry and the Parochial Church Council of Louth (Reg'd Charity No. 1132658)

COVID -19 REMINDERS

We can only continue holding public worship if we all adhere very closely to the guidance in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Here are some reminders of how this should affect our behaviour in church.

- **Social distancing remains as important as ever**, sadly, as even post-vaccination we may be able to transmit the virus. Please do remember to keep the 2m distance from one another, vergers and clergy at all times, inside and outside.
- **Mask-wearing is also essential**, unless you are medically exempt. A visor on its own does not protect others from potential transmission
- **Before the service**, once we have given track & trace details and sanitised our hands (letting them air-dry, not wiping off the gel) we proceed directly to our seats.
- **After the service**, we make our way directly and immediately out onto the cobbles where the priest will already have gone to bid the congregation farewell and hear any pastoral needs or concerns.
- **Orders of Service** (Parish Notes) should be taken with you after the service, in order that the vergers do not have to handle them.

In our prayers this week...

All those affected by the current pandemic

The Sick and those in need: Marguerite Baillie, Peggy Baillie, Anne-Marie Bidwell, Helen Blakey, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Dettmer-Beecroft, Rosemary Huke, Fr James Drayton, Christina Livesey, Roly Livesey, Mal Locking, Bob Lowis, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Eileen Robinson, Tracey Russell, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson

Those who have died: Dorothy Odlin, David Chamberlain, John Lomas, May Wildsmith, Trevor Ireland, Patricia Tointon, Christine Scott, Anne Leak, Jennifer Carlyon, Enid Dalzell, Ida Broxholme, Christopher Rolph, Greta Rainthorpe. Nigel Pickering

PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail louthparishpastoral@gmail.com or 'phone 07500 965321 or 07734 871159.

Deanery Office 01507 610247

louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
and other enquiries

Trinity Centre 01507 605803

trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk

For matters relating to activities at Trinity Centre

Safeguarding concerns 01507 610752

For information about how to respond to safeguarding concerns,
or for sources of support, please see Safeguarding Notices in church porches

www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk