

Horsford Benefice Weekly News Sheet

Parishes of Felthorpe, Hevingham & Horsford

Sunday 31 January 2021:

Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Candlemas

Readings

Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

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. Amen

Specific prayers for this coming week:

- For the family & friends of those whose funerals take place shortly:
 - Patrick Crossley, Horsford Church, Monday 1 February
 - Joan Batty, St Faiths Crematorium, 10 February
 - Marjorie Marshall (private)
- Election of Church Wardens for all 3 Parishes on 11 April
- The Parish Councils meeting this week: Horsford (Monday) and Felthorpe (Tuesday)
- Archbishops' call to pray for the nation, starting 1 February.

Reflection by Richard Turk, Ordinand

Today we celebrate Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. In some churches this is when Christingles are made and shared, reminding us of Christ's light in the world. Even if you ate the sweets from your cocktail sticks, peeled the red tape and orange peel off your orange to eat the fruit before Christmas, Candlemas is still a reminder of Christ's light.

It isn't always easy to recognise the light. When we look at the Bible, we find we're in good company. Many people failed to recognise the light, and even some of them who did recognise it misunderstood it. In our reading from Luke, we've two examples of people who do recognise the light, Anna and Simeon; in doing so they become lights for us.

Do we recognise the light when we see it? Where do we see it? Having seen it, what do we then do? These are questions we can ask ourselves now and can keep asking. The answers change according to our circumstances.

In 'normal' times, we'd have gathered in a church building and I would have met you in person. I'd probably have seen the light of Christ shining from each of you, experienced that light in the hospitality and welcome you'd have shown and responded by sharing that light with you and taking it out to share with others. But we've not met in person. The welcome I've received has been at a distance and through the internet.

Back to the questions. Anna and Simeon responded; Anna in particular makes the light known to others. In their individual situations, they made known the light of Christ.

How can we do the same? As you pray this week, take some time to think about how you might respond to the light of Christ currently and how you might help others to do so too.

Pray for the Nation week 1:

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.

Small Change Jars Collections

Thank you for those returned so far; please do get them to Margaret at The Rectory by **Sunday 7 February**. If you'd like them collected, phone Margaret on 893108. For Felthorpe collections contact Brian Rowlands or for Hevingham contact Crystal Delph.

Horsford Helpers Food Parcels

Thanks from Anna Green for the food and other donations made, they're *really* appreciated. Please continue to donate in Horsford and Felthorpe church buildings; financial donations via Margaret.

Benefice Website: www.horsfordbenefice.org.uk

Our Benefice Team

Rector:	Rev Margaret McPhee revmargaretmcphee@gmail.com 1B Gordon Godfrey Way, Horsford NR10 3SG <i>Margaret's day off is Thursday & also 3rd Friday each month</i>	01603 893108
Lay Reader:	Richard McPhee	01603 893108
Home Communion Team:	Rev Margaret McPhee Richard McPhee Brian Rowlands	01603 893108 01603 893108 01603 754763
Toddler Group Leader:	Lizzie Baker	01603 893824
Church Wardens: <i>Felthorpe</i>	Brian Rowlands	01603 754763
<i>Hevingham:</i>	Mike Delph	01603 754427
<i>Horsford:</i>	Vacant: contact Rev Margaret	
<i>Benefice Safeguarding Officer:</i>	Susan Jarvis	01603 279238
<i>Electoral Roll Officers</i> <i>Felthorpe:</i> <i>Hevingham:</i> <i>Horsford:</i>	Brian Rowlands Vacant: contact Rev Margaret Rachel Stowell	

**For home communion, christenings, weddings and funerals
contact Rev Margaret McPhee, revmargaretmcphee@gmail.com**

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