

# ST JAMES CHURCH CLIFTON

## THE VIEW FROM LISTER STREET



## Dear Friends

In the soft light of the temple, an old man takes a child into his arms – and something eternal stirs. This Sunday, we keep the Feast of Candlemas: the moment when Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple, and Simeon and Anna meet him there.

It is an encounter shaped not by urgency or spectacle, but by faithfulness over time. Simeon has waited – not passively, but attentively – trusting the promise that God would be faithful in God's own time. Anna, too, has remained rooted in prayer and worship, showing us a life formed by steady devotion rather than quick results.

Mary and Joseph come in simple obedience, doing what the law requires, offering what they can. Nothing about the scene is dramatic – and yet everything is holy. God's promise is recognised not through power or certainty, but through patience, attentiveness, and trust.

Candlemas reminds us that faithfulness is often quiet. It is found in showing up, in praying when answers feel distant, in continuing to do the small, loving things even when progress is slow or unseen. A grandmother lighting a candle for a grandchild she rarely sees. A nurse whispering a prayer as she tends to a patient no longer responsive. These quiet acts carry the weight of devotion. God meets us not only in moments of clarity. He meets us in the quiet rhythm of faith – in lives lived steadily, humbly, and with open hearts.

As we hold candles and hear Simeon's song this Sunday, may we be encouraged to trust that God is at work – even in waiting, even in ordinary obedience – and that faithfulness itself is a light in the world.

With prayers and blessings,  
Mthr Caroline

## Dates for your Diary

3 February - 9.30-11.30am Warm Space  
11am Weekday Eucharist  
18 February - 6pm Ash Wednesday Service  
19 February - 6pm Taizé  
*Details of Lent Courses to follow*

## Readings

*Click below to read the passages*

[Malachi 3.1-5](#)

[Psalm 24](#)

[Hebrews 2.14-18](#)

[Luke 2.22-40](#)

## 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.

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.

## Donate

If you would like to donate to life of the church, just click [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



## Pray for:

We pray for all those considering and preparing for baptism

For those places in the midst of war and conflict.

Gratitude for our church family

For the appointment of a Community Worker

If you would like us to pray for someone or something in particular, send an email to Mthr Caroline to add to the list (*please ensure you have the person's permission*)

## Contact

*Social Media links*

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W: [A Church Near You](#)

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