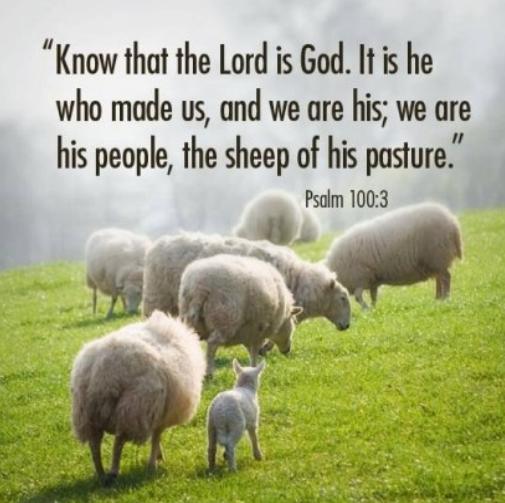




"Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 100:3



~ 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 ~

# The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

## ~ (Candlemas) ~

## ~ Collect (s) ~

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

or

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

## ~ Readings ~

Malachi 3. 1 - 5 OT p 961  
Hebrews 2. 14 - end NT p 1202  
Luke 2. 22 - 40 NT p 1028

(NIV used in sermon preparation)

## ~ Post Communion 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**

Malachi obviously is foretelling the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus but many who have followed have been messengers in their day also pointing to Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

The worshipping community here have been good and faithful servants and until recent years have been equipped to share the message of God's Love. In recent years it has become clear that to remain good and faithful servants we have had to acknowledge that we are no longer equipped to be the messengers here. Various commitments; our age, family needs, health and mobility mean we no longer have the resources to fulfil the vision of reaching the wider parish community to share God's Love. It has been painful as we have been surprised to discover that we have been equipped to share our realisation with our Deanery and Diocese and pass the baton for the future of a Christian presence in the parish to them. God has blessed us with the ability to maintain worship here week by week, and to reaffirm that there is a deep need for a Christian presence here by continuing to be a resource for the wider community through church Services and the hire of our hall for meetings and social events.

There will be a period, called a vacancy, from this Sunday as I retire, adverts will be placed for a new vicar and, by God's Grace the right man or woman is being prepared to hear the Call to come and minister here and grow the wider community in faith.

Weekly Services will continue as will those with Minerva School and Lavender Court. The hall will continue to be hired ~ your enquiries should be made through Sarah in the Link Centre on **01823 350788** or [sarah@tauntoneastdt.org.uk](mailto:sarah@tauntoneastdt.org.uk)).

Initial enquiries for Baptism (Christening), Marriage and Funerals can be made by contacting the Area Dean ~ Revd Lee Mullen on **01823 444793** or [revdlee@me.com](mailto:revdlee@me.com)

**The 01823 339269 number for the vicarage will be disconnected by March.**

Part of our tiny worshipping community will continue to attend here and, along with those moving on, we will hold church and community in prayer.

As your retiring vicar I will miss you all. I have been blessed to minister among you, through church, the Link Centre, Lavender

Court and school and many person to person conversations. I shall miss being part of the community and the opportunities we have had to work and socialise together in the past six years. I have appreciated your care and concern when the antisocial behaviour here has been bad and the church, hall or grounds damaged. I thank God that I was Called to serve all of you.

It feels very strange that this is the final reflection sheet that I shall write but it also feels important that it is the feast of "The Presentation of Christ in the Temple and Candlemas. This Sunday candle will be lit praying for the future of All Saints and in the sure and certain Hope that God is preparing a new and wonderful ministry here which will continue to invite you all to 'come and see'. We, as worshippers here pray that you will respond and be curious to know more of the God that loves you so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to live among us and die for us.

Candlemas reminds us of the infant Jesus being taken to the Temple and Simeon and Anna recognising God in Him, They both gave thanks for the blessing of encountering their Lord and Simeon spoke of the peace that gave him saying ~

"Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."

Things are changing here and all of you are part of that change. God does not change but patiently waits for us to recognise what He is doing in this place and invites us to join with Him in that work. The worshipping congregation will continue to travel with God and we pray you will recognise that there is a place for you here too.

Every Blessing

Elizabeth

Revd Sr Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A.

Incumbent until today (1st February 2026)