

The Benefice Bulletin

1st February 2026 – Presentation of Christ

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Barton under Needwood DE13 8HU



Please take this bulletin home with you

Here for the first time? Relax. Please make yourself at home and please sit where you feel comfortable. Those who greeted you, our wardens, or the clergy will answer any practical questions that you may have. Posture notes on the service sheet and verbal instructions are intended for those who can comfortably follow them. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Services this week

Sunday 1st February

- 09:00 Holy Communion
St Mary's, Dunstall
- 10:30 Holy Communion
St James', Barton
- 10:30 Holy Communion
St Michael's, Tatenhill

Wednesday 4th February

- 09:15 WoW Wednesday
including informal worship at 10:00
St James', Barton

Thursday 5th February

- 09:15 WoW Thursday
including informal worship at 10:00
Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for the Presentation of Christ

Readings

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| Psalm | 24 |
| Old Testament | Malachi 3.1-5 |
| New Testament | Hebrews 2.14-End |
| Gospel | Luke 2.22-40 |

The 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

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

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Coordinator	Beth Flashman ☎07464 835189	✉ coordinator.bundtbenefice@outlook.com
Churchwardens:		
St James'	Ray Holder ☎01283 327814	✉ rayholder2006@gmail.com
St Mary's	Angela Moffat ☎01283 713735	✉ rangelamoffat@icloud.com
St Michael's	Phil & Emma Coleman ☎01283 538983	✉ stmtatenhill@gmail.com

Malachi 3.1-5 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. ² 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; ³ 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. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years ⁵ 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.

Hebrews 2.14-End ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters¹ 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. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40 ²² 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 ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴ 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.' ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.' ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' ³⁶ 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, ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

For your prayers

The World: We pray for His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the wider Royal Family. We pray for all areas of the world where there are conflicts, poverty, drought, disaster, terrorism, and humanitarian crisis.

The Anglican Communion: The Church of England

Our Diocese: We pray for Bishops Michael and Matthew and Archdeacon Megan

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for all those who work within the Diocese of Lichfield.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Crowberry Lane and Peel Place in Barton, Home Farm Sprinks Barn in Dunstall and Main Street South in Tatenhill. May God be with all those who live and work in these places as they go about their daily lives this week.

Those who are not well: Heather S, Lesley S-D, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Sara, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess, Cliff, Rebecca, Viv.

Those who have died: Frank Clarke, Geoffrey Wright, Foster Roger, Carol Billings, Mike Storr. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- **Bible Group** starts again for 2026 on Friday 23rd January at 10:00 in St James' Church. All are welcome to this mixed, friendly group to discuss aspects of the bible and our Christian faith. Refreshments provided. For more information if you have any questions, please speak to Paula Drage in church or call 07879 882058.
- Rev Andy will be running a joint **Lent Group and Confirmation Class** this year on each Monday during Lent. The sessions will look at the foundations of our faith and the Eucharist. The sessions will run at 19:00 starting on Monday 23rd February at St James' Church. All are welcome to join.
- If you are interested in being **confirmed**, then please speak to Rev Andy for more information. The confirmation class will run jointly with the Lent Group on Monday evenings at 7:00pm.
- There will be **no Home Group** in March due to the Lent Course running. Please do feel free to join the Lent Group that week instead.

If you would like a home visit from the Ministry or Pastoral Visiting Team, please contact the Benefice Office on 01283 712359 to arrange a time.

Diary Dates for the Week Ahead

Monday 2nd February

19:00 Home Group

The Vicarage, Barton

Tuesday 3rd February

Wednesday 4th February

09:15 WoW Wednesday

St James', Barton

14:00 Dunstall PCC

Dunstall Church Hall

Thursday 5th February

09:15 WoW Thursday

Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 6th February

17:00 Music Group

St James', Barton

Saturday 7th February

Sunday 8th February

09:00 Holy Communion

St Michael's, Tatenhill

10:30 Second Sunday Service

St James', Barton

16:00 Evening Prayer

St Mary's, Dunstall

Future Dates

Monday 9th February

13:30 Tea and Chat

St James' Church Hall

Friday 13th February

17:00 Music Group

St James', Barton

Tuesday 17th February

13:30 Funeral of Foster Rogers

St James', Barton

Wednesday 18th February

19:00 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
with imposition of Ashes

St James', Barton

Monday 23rd February

11:00 Barton Pancake Races

Main Street, Barton

18:00 Lent Time and Space

St James', Barton

19:00 Lent & Confirmation Group

St James' Church, Barton

Tuesday 24th February

19:00 Barton PCC

St James', Barton

Wednesday 25th February

14:30 Funeral of Carol Billings

Bretby Crematorium

Hello All,

We turn this Sunday from the crib to the cross; our focus shifts from the word made flesh to the physical pain and the fathomless joy of Easter. Although Lent is only a couple of weeks away, we still have a long way to go; there will be ups and downs as we journey together. We have to continue to live our human life, dealing with the mundane day to day chores and our encounters with others. Perhaps moments of pain, death and mourning, perhaps moments of joy and delight. Sometimes we will feel close to the divine, sometimes more distant but the kingdom of God is always at hand, we just need to be still and discover that presence in the present moment (like Simeon and Anna) because, at the end of the day, the present moment is all we ever have.



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +