

***The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury***

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February (Candlemas)**

God comes into a world filled with uncertainties and darkness.

**God seeks out the voids of belief and conviction.**

God embraces the wounded and broken.

**God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

**God is the light of our lives.**

God is the one who makes all things new.

**Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

**Amen**

**CONFESION**

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do and think and say.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son.

Father, forgive us:

**save us and help us.**

**ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**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.**  
**Amen**

**Old Testament Reading: 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. 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.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

**Epistle: Hebrews 2: 14-end**

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.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:

**Glory to you O Lord**

**Luke 2: 22-40**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:  
**Praise to you O Christ**

## REFLECTION

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

*We bring our prayers using the response: Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray*

**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**

## Peace

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

## **Offering Prayer**

Giving God, we give you thanks and praise for all your gifts to us. Use our offerings for the work of your kingdom here on earth. As we offer ourselves to you, take us and use us, that our hands may reach out in service, our feet may walk the path of reconciliation, and our words may be words of peace.

**Amen**

## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.**

**O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

**Amen**

## **Blessing**

The holy and strong one, the mighty one, grant you renewal, restoration and His power for the days to come; 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.**

## **Notices**

### **This Week's Services- 1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Gnosall 8am Holy Communion  
Benefice Zoom Service 10am**

### **Next Week's Services- 8<sup>th</sup> February**

**Gnosall 8am Holy Communion**

**10:30am** Holy Communion  
**Knightley 9:30am** Morning Worship  
**Adbaston 9:30am** Family Communion  
**Norbury 11am** Morning Worship  
**Moreton 11am** Holy Communion

#### Coffee and Chat

All Welcome for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

#### Bingo and Bangers

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 7.15pm for 7.30pm start  
Norbury Village Hall. Admission £6.00 (children £3.00) Price includes 2 books and Hotdog in the interval. Please bring own drinks and glasses  
*Proceeds to Church funds*  
Contact 01785 284463 for further information

#### Lent Get-Togethers

Rachael would like to invite you to join her for coffee, cake and prayer at 11am on each of the Fridays during Lent. You would be welcome to come along to any or all of the sessions. There will be an opportunity to explore this year's theme of 'Life Giving Habits for Lent' and the sessions will include conversation, prayer and a short time of worship. Do come along!

Friday 27th February 11am Millenium Hall, Moreton  
Friday 6th March 11am Jubilee Rooms, Adbaston  
Friday 13th March 11am St Peter's, Norbury  
Friday 20th March 11am Woodseaves Village Hall  
Friday 27th March 11am The Vestry at St Lawrence

#### Lent Resources

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is 'Draw Near: Life-Giving Habits for 'Lent.' For each of the days of Lent, there will be a reflection exploring a different aspect of Christian discipleship, helping us to learn how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. A booklet containing all 40 daily reflections is available from Church House Publishing. You can also download the Everyday Faith app to access free daily reflections. These are also complimented by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2026 Lent Book, 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God' (SPCK) which contains stories of discipleship from across the Anglican Communion. For more information, visit the Church of England website.

#### Eco Tip of the Month

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Find out more and sign up at [climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/](http://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast/)

#### Contact Details for the Church Office.

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth  
Office email: [churchofficegnosall@gmail.com](mailto:churchofficegnosall@gmail.com)

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. When the office is not staffed, leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.