



South Wye Benefice Newsletter

Candlemas

1st February 2026

Please welcome Bishop Richard Jackson, who is leading the service this week.

South Wye Services and Events week beginning 1st February

Sunday 1st	9:30am	Holy Communion at St. Martin's
Tuesday 3rd	1pm	Bible Study in the Narthex
	2pm	Tuesday Coffee in the Narthex
Saturday 7th	10am	Parish Consultation Meeting

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Brenda Baylis Maureen Gerard Jean D Ann L JR
Kieran Pam KW Duncan KW Pat D

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Carole.. Marjorie. Phyllis. John. Tom.

If you would like a loved one added to this list, please contact me via the office.

Hereford Diocese is holding a Consultation Meeting on the 7th February,
10am-12.30pm, in St. Martin's church hall, to give everyone a chance to discuss what
attributes they would like our next incumbent to have.

All are welcome.

Collect for Candlemas

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

Reading for Candlemas

Malachi 3: 1-4

3 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in

righteousness,⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Psalm 84

For the director of music. According to *gittith*. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
 LORD Almighty!

²My soul yearns, even faints,
 for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out
 for the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home,
 and the swallow a nest for herself,
 where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
 LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
 they are ever praising you.

⁵Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
 whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
 they make it a place of springs;
 the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength,
 till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
 listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹Look on our shield, O God;
 look with favour on your anointed one.

¹⁰Better is one day in your courts
 than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
 than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
 the LORD bestows favour and honour;
no good thing does he withhold
 from those whose walk is blameless.

¹²LORD Almighty,
 blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Hebrews 2: 14-18

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might

make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2: 22-40

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.^{1d} She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.