

The Stourhead Benefice

Pew Sheet 1 February 2026

candlemas



Presentation of Christ at the temple

A warm welcome to all visitors to church on this day

Today's Services:

10am Holy Communion All Saints Little Bradley

10am Family Service St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Services this week:

Evening Prayer 5pm Monday St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Wednesday 10am Said Holy Communion St Peter and St Paul's Kedington

Services next Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist at St Peter's Little Thurlow

4pm Evensong All Saints Great Thurlow

Ministry Team:

Fr Chris Giles 01440 762901

Jill Davis 01440 713137

Ruth Hopper 01440 783125

Peter Smith 01440 783278

Mary Upton 01440 706237

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**

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First reading Malachi 3 v 1 - 5

Second reading Hebrews 2 v 14 - 18

Gospel reading Luke 2 v 22 - 40

Hear The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord

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.

All Praise to you O Christ

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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**

Home Communions - Pastoral Care:

The Blessed Sacrament is perpetually reserved for the Communion of the housebound, the sick and dying. Please inform Fr Chris or a member of the ministry team, of parishioners who are sick or in hospital, and of those who are in need of pastoral care. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** by arrangement with the Rector.

Prayer List

Our prayers are asked particularly for:

Terry Chittock – Jacob and his family – Leo and Val Farthing – Bryan Chambers – Orla Rev Bob Torrens – Paul Allard – Steve Watts – Andrew Harrison – Iris Eley
Frank Underwood – Peter Phillips – Richard Hart – King Charles

We also pray for others. Those who have asked to be remembered in our prayers in church and at home.

We pray for those that have recently died and whose loss we mourn:

Brian Watts

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord

All And let light perpetual shine upon them

May they rest in peace

All And rise in glory

An invitation: If you wish to receive communion please come forward when guided by the stewards. Members of other churches who usually receive communion are welcome to do so here. Those not wishing to receive communion are welcome to come for a blessing; it is helpful if you indicate this by bringing your service booklet with you. If you find it difficult to come to the altar rail, please tell this to the steward on duty, so communion may be brought to you in your seat.

Gluten free Communion wafers are available – please ask when you come up to the altar rail. If you do not wish to receive from the Chalice, please say 'Intinct' as the Priest approaches you, and they will intinct the wafer in Consecrated wine from a separate Chalice.

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Notices

Forthcoming events:

Please send me details of events you wish to publicise by email or phone, and I will do my best to include it (subject to space):

Fr Chris Giles – stourheadbenefice@gmail.com 01440 762901

Church Coffee Morning “Dolce Gusto” 10am until 12 noon every Tuesday at St Peter and St Paul’s Church in Kedington.

Saturday 21 February 2026 Quiz with Quizmaster Mike Morris. To be held at Kedington Community Centre, Arms Lane CB9 7QQ. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of up to 6. £5 entry fee per person. There will be a bar (cash or card payments) so please do not bring your own drinks but do bring your own snacks and nibbles. There will also be a raffle. Proceeds to be split 50:50 between St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Kedington and Kedington Community Association. To book a table contact Jill 07974 656813 or jill@gourmet-knights.co.uk

Lent Course “In the Dust of Jesus”. Sundays 22 February, 1 and 8 March. In St Peter and St Paul’s Church, Kedington. 3pm until 4pm. All are welcome to join this informal discussion group as we study the Bible together over tea or coffee. Each session stands alone; come to one or all.

Friday 6 March 2026. Little Bradley Quiz in The Garden Barn at Little Bradley. Arrive at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Teams of six. Prices: adult including meal, £17.50. adult without meal £10. child with child’s meal £10. Choice of fish, scampi or chicken with chips. Bring your own glasses and drinks. All tickets to be purchased from Mirjam Gault 01440 783756 mirjamgault@gmail.com All proceeds in aid of Little Bradley Church.

Safeguarding – Safeguarding is about caring for one another and our community. As Christians, this is something we all need to do. If you would like any training or have any questions; please contact Fr Chris or another member of the Ministry team. Benefice Safeguarding Officers are Naomi Shelmerdine and Ruth Hopper. Contact phone number 07405 624132

The Stourhead Benefice News is produced every other month. Hard copies are printed by the Barnardiston School. It is also available on the Stourhead Benefice page of **“A Church Near You”**: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/1948/news/notice-sheet/grid/>

