

Newchurch, Croft and Winwick Group Ministry

Candlemas – The Presentation of Christ 1 February 2026 Team Service at St Oswald's Church Winwick at 10.30am

"Candlemas marks the point when winter is at its peak, and households needed to manage their dwindling food supplies and the harsh weather. It was a time to check that food stores were not depleted too early. While supplies were running low, Candlemas is celebrated with candles to symbolize the return of light and trust in the Lord for the coming spring"



Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech you, that, as your only begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in the form of our flesh, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,

by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

O Lord, who fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna that they might live to greet the coming of the Messiah: grant that we, who have received these inexpressible gifts, may be prepared to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he lives and reigns, now and for ever.

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord GOD: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.



But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the LORD. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the Devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. He is a light of to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory for your people Israel. Alleluia!

Luke 2.22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the

Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law required for him, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted - and you yourself a sword will pierce - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of 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.

Times of Fellowship together

- A very special service this evening:

CANDLEMAS 2026
4.00pm Sunday 1 February 2026
Deanery Evensong for the Feast of Candlemas
At the historic church of St Oswald Winwick

Led by the Rev Martin Cox,
Rector of Culcheth & Area Dean

- **Sunday 1 February @ 6.30pm**
Cafe Church in Newchurch Parish Hall
- **Monday 2 February @ 1.30pm:**
Deep Divers: Genesis 1: The Seedbed of the Bible - in CCC Parish Hall
- **Tuesday 3 February @10.00am:**
Communion Newchurch Parish Hall
- **Wednesday 4 February @9.00am:**
Morning Prayer at Christ Church
- **Thursday 5 February @ 9.00am:**
Morning Prayer at St Oswald's
- **Saturday 7 February @ 3pm-5pm** Messy Church: Light & Dark at St Oswald
- **Sunday 8 February @ 10.30am**
Eucharist for 2nd Sunday before Lent St Oswald
- **Monday 9 February @ 1.30pm:**
Explorers: A look at Candlemas & Hanukkah

