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Please see the back page for a list of upcoming services in the United Benefice

Sunday 31st January 2016 - CW edition



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),
Cheersley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Prayer



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**

Collect for the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

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**

Readings for Today:



The Old Testament: 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 judgment; 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.

The 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.

The Gospel: 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 turtledoves 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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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.

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**

Notes for your diary:

Friday 29th January 2016 7:30-9:00pm Benefice choir rehearsal (for Sunday 31st Jan) at St. Mary's, Long Crendon. The Benefice choir would love to have more adult/child members. So come and have fun! Please contact Chris Mundy chrismundy100@gmail.com or Catharine Meek on 208536.

Saturday 6th February 2016 9:30 - 10:30 am, St. Mary's Long Crendon: Following the publication of the advertisement for a new Vicar for our Benefice, come together to pray for faith and vision for our churches, for those involved in preparing the way for the new Vicar, and for our Lent House Groups and services. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

Wednesday 10th February 2016 is Ash Wednesday – we will be delighted to welcome Derek Witchell who has kindly agreed to take the service at 7:30 pm in St. Mary's, Long Crendon, and look forward to seeing you there.

The Benefice Lent Group will run 19:30 to 21:30 on Tuesday evenings in Church House, Long Crendon for 5 weeks from Tuesday 16th February 2016. The theme is the Women who encountered Jesus, and will also introduce us to women who are being helped by one of Chearsley's charities - ***Embrace the Middle East***. If interested please e-mail llm.chearsley@btinternet.com so we can print the right number of booklets – or just turn up, we'll have some spares. All are welcome. John Scholefield

Long Crendon Home Groups: please see poster on St. Mary's noticeboard and website with details of the various dates and times for Home Groups, and the subjects covered. Please contact Robert Hutton on 202060 or Ray Copping on 208509 for further information.

Saturday 12th March at 7.30 at St Mary's, the Witchert Chorale, a concert with readings, entitled "Remembering the Golden Age". Tickets will be £10 each (children £5) from Friends@FSMLongCrendon.org or call Geoff Smith on 01844 208205. Refreshments will be offered.

Services in the United Benefice

Service Sunday 31st January 2016 – Epiphany 4 or The Presentation of Christ or Sexagesima

10:00 am United Benefice Service LC Gordon Kuhrt

Note: this is a fifth Sunday and there will be no service in Chearsley or Nether Winchendon on this day

Services Sunday 7th February 2016 – The Sunday next before Lent or Quinquagesima

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) NW Steve and Rose Williams
10.00 am Café Sunday LC Ray Copping
10:00 am Family Communion Ch Steve and Rose Williams
6:00 to 7:30 pm Rock Solid Youth Group

Service Wednesday 10th February 2016 – Ash Wednesday

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday service LC Derek Witchell

Services Sunday 14th February 2016 – The First Sunday of Lent

10:00 am Morning Celebration Ch Lay Led
10:30 am Holy Communion LC Bishop Alan
6.00 pm Evensong Ch John Scholefield
There will be no service at Nether Winchendon on this Sunday.

Services Sunday 21st February 2016 – The Second Sunday of Lent

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Ch Andy Bell
10.00 am Family Service NW Andy Bell
10:30 am Family Service LC Ray Copping

Services Sunday 28th February 2016 – The Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Family Service Ch Derek Witchell
10.30 am Holy Communion with choir LC Ian Ogilvie
5:00 pm Evensong NW Robert Hutton

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on llm.chearsley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield