



## All Saints' Church

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## Sunday 2nd February *Candlemas*

### 10 am Morning Worship *Christingle Service* led by Revd Rachael Hawkins

#### Readings

Malachi 3 vv 1-4  
Luke 2 vv 22-40

#### Hymns

STF 59 Lord, the light of your love  
STF 106 God, whose almighty word  
Sing Christingle  
STF 706 Longing for light

Dear All Saints',



This Sunday we will be celebrating Candlemas and as part of that we shall be having Christingles as part of the service.

Candlemas was never part of my tradition growing up, so for me, it's one of those Sundays when I always have to go back and remind myself what it is all about. Perhaps for you it comes more naturally, or maybe like me, you are also asking 'what is this all about?'

Candlemas comes from the time when people used to bring their candles for the coming year to church to be blessed. Why this Sunday? Because Candlemas marks 40 days since Christmas and so we have the reading from Luke when Joseph and Mary take the infant Jesus to the temple and while there, they are greeted by Simeon and Anna. Simeon takes Jesus into his arms and praises God, amongst other things saying that Jesus will be a "light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel". As we remember Jesus as a light, so we give thanks for the light in our lives. Candles may not

be so essential nowadays, but when did you last give thanks for the electricity that lights our homes each night? Can you imagine life without it? We are so reliant on it, but it's so easy to take for granted.

One of the joys of the Bible is that there is always more of God to be seen within its pages. As I was rereading the passage from Luke this week, the thing I particularly noticed was the inclusive nature of the salvation that Simeon speaks of. Salvation has been prepared for "all peoples", the light is for "revelation to the Gentiles" as well as for "glory to your people Israel". Throughout Luke's Gospel, and the other Gospels as well, there are moments where it is clear that Jesus has come, not just for Israel, but for the whole world. And that includes you and me. It can be easy sometimes to want to keep something special to ourselves, or to want to think of ourselves as special to the exclusion of others, we can want to feel superior. God however, is concerned about the whole world. When we hold our Christingles on Sunday, the red ribbon around the orange will remind us of God's love for the whole world and the candle in the top will remind us of God's light shining over the whole earth. No-one is excluded. Can we say the same? Possibly not, but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't try. Is there someone who needs to experience the amazing, all-encompassing love of God that is there for each one of us, either in practical ways or by us sharing the story of our faith and what it means to us? And do we know God's love in our own lives? Because he is there for each one of us, every day, shining in our lives and bringing light.

Blessings,  
Rachael

**Christingles** - Our 10am service for Candlemas this Sunday (2nd February) will be a Christingle Service. Collections at Christingle celebrations are one of the main sources of income for The Children's Society, and we are asking for your generous support for this cause. Further details are on the homepage of our website:  
<https://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk/>

**Morning Prayer** at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continue on Tuesday morning. Evening Prayer is on Fridays at 4pm. All welcome.

**"Coffee, Chat and Toddlers"** is on **Tuesday mornings**. Everyone is very welcome to come and enjoy a warm drink and fellowship in the Lower Hall from 10 - 11.15am.

**Friendship Club** meets in the Lower Hall on Tuesday afternoons. This week will be a devotional led by Helen and Audrey.

**Flowers** in the church always make a welcome spot for the congregations and visitors. Please consider placing them for perhaps a special day or person and add your name to the Sunday Rota now on the board, at the side of the church. The flowers will be much appreciated. Vases are available or you may use your own. It is the custom not to have flowers during the periods of Lent and Advent, however if these dates are special for you flowers may be left on the remembrance shelf. Thank you.

**Church Opening:** during the roof work we stopped opening the church in the day but we would like to start doing this again. There are a few members who open and close on some days, but other days have no one to cover this. If you would like to serve in this way, either opening the church in the morning or closing in the afternoon, or both, could you please let David Pain know, as he would like to publish a new rota.

**Change of service time to 9.45am** - Following a request from St Martha's, from **Sunday 2nd March** our Sunday morning services will begin at **9.45am**. This will allow Revd Rachael to take 2 services on a Sunday morning. On the Sundays when she is taking 2 services, the services will be slightly shorter to allow her to get to St Martha's for 11am.

The next **Eco Hub meeting** will be at the Friends Meeting House on **Sunday 9th February** from 2.30 - 4.30pm with a very varied programme. See their Facebook page for more details of what will be on offer at their next meeting:  
[https://www.facebook.com/TheEcoHubBerkhamsted/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/TheEcoHubBerkhamsted/?locale=en_GB)

**Quiet Day** on **Saturday 8th February** from 9.30am - 4pm. All are warmly invited to the next Quiet Day at St Mary's Church, Puttenham. This will be led by the Dean of St Albans, Venerable Jo Kelly-Moore with talks and discussion on "Preparing for the Journey" and space for reflection. Holy Communion at 12 noon will be followed by a soup lunch. Please book at [www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news](http://www.tringteamparish.org.uk/news)

## Prayer Requests:

For: Ida Rance; Margaret; Penny Perry; Chris Billington; Sue Judd; Paul Cox; Jonathan and Ann Hayes; for Gill Chapman who has died and for all her family and friends; for Delia Limbrick's family and friends following the death of her husband, Mike;

We pray for the people of Syria that they may find a way to establish a secure and fair way for the government of their country and live in peace and love.

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives have been changed by the events in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, and pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones and homes due to the conflict. We pray that this conflict may not escalate further into neighbouring countries. We pray too for all aid workers who have died or been injured while trying to bring supplies to those in need and for their families.

We pray too for those who are caught up in war in other parts of the world, including Sudan and Ukraine and for those facing the threat of starvation in the ongoing hostilities;

We also pray for:

All who are refugees, especially those who are not receiving help to rebuild their lives in safety;

We pray that the issue of climate change may not be forgotten and all the nations may act to secure the safety of our world. We pray too for all whose lives have been badly affected by climate changes in the areas where they live, especially the people of Bangladesh;

We pray that all MPs may serve their constituents and country with integrity and care for all they represent.

We continue to pray for the children and their families of our church and town and all who work in the NHS; Social Services and the charities who are supporting the sick or frail;

We pray for those who are helped by Embrace the Middle East, Karibuni Children; the Leprosy Mission; Phakamisa, DENS; the Way Inn with Open Door and for all those who work in these organisations. \

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing:

Paul Sear and his wife, Peggy; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Graham Rule; Clare Hancock; Heather Gifford; John Malcolm; Valerie Ruddock; Jenny Wells; Barbara Conway; Lesley Whittaker; Marnie Taylor; Leslie;



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