

NOTICES

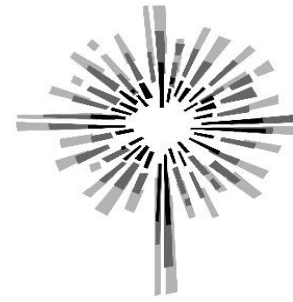
Lent Discussion Groups: Following our reading and discussions last year (and John Bannister's sermon - now on the website), we would like to focus on the spiritual writings of Henri Nouwen. He is a writer who aims to stimulate our self-understanding and sense of purpose. An anthology of his writings, engaging with life's big questions, including commentaries and meditations by Anglican writers, falls neatly into the five weeks of our Lent preparation, and we are looking at a mini-Parish Retreat at St Mary's on 1st April to conclude and prepare for Holy Week. The book is **On Retreat with Henri Nouwen** and costs around **£12.99** and is available from the publisher (<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781786223760/on-retreat-with-henri-nouwen>) and other well-known sources. Please buy a copy soon as delivery times vary.

To find out more, John has reminded us of <https://henrinouwen.org/>, the website of the Henri Nouwen Society which also offers a daily meditation to your email, which might be a focus for Lenten preparation. Groups will meet by Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8pm (facilitated by Mark) beginning on 28th February and on the following Wednesdays at lunchtime in the Parish Centre. As usual, there will be an opportunity to discuss our reading after the Wednesday communion and a team of people will be providing a light lunch.

There will be a concert of popular classical music at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on **Saturday, 18th February at 7.30 pm** with a retiring collection for Christian Aid. Please try and support concerts and events like this as street collections raise less revenue than previously.

Sales of Japonica and Crab Apple Jelly: Ginny Allkins has told us that she has received a lovely letter from **WaterHarvest** in response to the sum of £70 which we raised through Ginny's jam sale last autumn; the total raised by us now stands at a significant £1,788. The charity, **WaterHarvest**, which is now 35 years old and expanding beyond India to sub-Saharan Africa, passes on their warmest thanks to everyone who donates and has enjoyed eating the Japonica and Crab Apple jelly.

For your diary: There are places available on garden tours of Gorhambury House on 11th April, 23rd May and 20th June. If you are interested, please email Olivia Berry, Estate Office Manager at Gorhambury: office@grimstontrust.co.uk



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 5th February 2023:

Candlemas

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion with Christingle-making (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
Donations made at this service will be sent to the charity Youth Talk
6.00 p.m. Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

Sunday, 12th February 2023:

Second Sunday before Lent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd Canon Iain Lane
6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays

Contacts

Key information is available on www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk or via the Parish Office: 01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Children's Church for those in school years Reception to Year 6 meets alongside the 9.30am service during term time. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions.

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents: please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-40 (NT p.54 in the Pew Bibles)

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.

During Communion the choir will sing "Christ is the world's true light" to music by W.K. Stanton.

The words by G.W. Briggs are found as No. 396 in the blue hymnbook

Please remember in your prayers

- those who mourn the death of Sheila (Kay) Doyle
- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws; Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett