

The United Benefice of Hampton, Sedgeberrow with Hinton-on-the-Green Newsletter for Sunday 29 January 2012

Services and events for the coming week

29 Today

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8am Holy Communion Hampton
10am Benefice Eucharist (coffee after) Hampton
12noon Baptism (Calland) Hampton

1 Wednesday

10am Holy Communion Hampton

3 Friday

1.15pm St Andrew's Tots Community Hall

5 Next Sunday 3rd before Lent

8am Holy Communion Hampton
9am Holy Communion Sedgeberrow
11am Family Service (coffee after) Hampton
6pm Holy Communion Hampton
with prayers for healing Hampton

In the Benefice we include in our prayers

Baptisms...

Oliver French who was baptised last Sunday; and Elizabeth Gillian Calland who will be baptised today and their parents and godparents.

Those who are ill:

Maggie Bailey, Pat Bayliss, David Brasher, David Canning, Pamela Collins, Pam Eustace, Monica Garston, Ella Hampton, Sue Jones, Clifford Lewis, Beryl Lord, Elaine Major, Brian Palmer, Iris Pinkstone, Rosie Rencher, Alan Roberts, Philippa Shepherd, Celia Sheward, Joan Simpson, Pat Smith, Margaret Thomas, Doug Thompson, Clive Thomson and Susan Wakefield.

Notices

Church Together in Evesham and District

The calendar of events for CTED is on the notice board in the porch at St Andrew's and includes events across Evesham which you might like to join. Some of the events coming up are already highlighted but there are many more including 24 hours of prayer for the town on 24-25 February.

The Herald

The February edition of the Herald is available today. Copies are available by the font at St Andrew's and bundles are ready for distributors to collect.

Notices

Hinton Community Church Gardening Day:

On 11th February 2012 Hinton Church will be holding their Community Church Gardening Day. Everybody is invited to join in with activities to target high priority tasks such as de-mossing the pathway to the church.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Each year women from one country plan this event which is held on the first Friday of March in countries in all corners of the globe.

This year the service is being held at Evesham Methodist Church on Friday 2nd March at 2pm. The ecumenical service has the theme '**Let Justice Prevail**' and has been organised by the Christian women of Malaysia.

Although the service is planned by women it is open to all – men and women of any age. It is always an uplifting service and there will be refreshments afterwards. Please make every effort to attend if you can.

Hampton Fund Raising

We are holding another Ladies Only Pamper Evening on Saturday 24 March in the Community Hall. Tickets will be available in due course.

We would be most grateful to receive any unwanted Christmas Gifts or suitable items for a Raffle or Tombola. We are also looking for donations of unwanted GOOD condition second-hand clothes.

Thank You
St Andrew's Fundraising Committee.

Authorised Lay Ministry

Next autumn the Diocese is running more training on Authorised Lay Ministry. Details are available in the February Herald. It is not too early to start thinking about this, as applications need to be submitted in May.

The course will feature two new specialist modules: Community Worker and Music Ministry in addition to those that have been run in the past: Pastoral Workers; Evangelist; Worship Leaders; Youth and Children; Parish Administrator.

Please talk to Mark if you are interested in finding out more.



Our Benefice is part of the Asum Group

Large print hymn books are available at St Andrew's and can be found on the bookshelf by the font.



St Andrew's is fitted with a loop system. To use this please switch hearing aids to 'T'

Please email contributions to pewsheets@hamptonchurch.org.uk no later than 10am on Friday.

Sunday

29 January 2012

Presentation of
Christ in the Temple

The 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.

First Reading

Malachi 3.1-5

A reading from the book of Malachi.

Thus says the Lord God: 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 judgement; 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.

PSALM Psalm 111

R *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*

Alleluia.

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the faithful and in the congregation.
The works of the Lord are great, sought out by all who delight in them.
His work is full of majesty and honour and his righteousness endures for ever. **R**

He appointed a memorial for his marvellous deeds; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He gave food to those who feared him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He showed his people the power of his works in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hands are truth and justice; all his commandments are sure. **R**

They stand fast for ever and ever; they are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have those who live by it; his praise endures for ever. **R**

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Hebrews

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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.

Prayer after Communion

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.

