



The Bridge Group of Churches

Nackington - Lower Hardres - Bridge - Patrixbourne - Bekesbourne

Weekly Sheet for the Bridge Group of churches:

Sunday 31st January 2021, Candlemas / The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Today's Readings:

Malachi 3:1-5; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40

Upcoming Services:

At present all services are being offered online.

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.

Amen

Readings

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 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.

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.

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 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.

Parish News

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who joined in our Celebration Service on Zoom yesterday it was a joy to celebrate and praise God together. Thank you to those who sent cards and messages of support. We have very much enjoyed our first three years in Bridge and look forward to many more! Estella

Supporting our church financially

Just a reminder that even though we are unable to hold services we do still have bills to pay – if you are in a position to be able to give please remember you can use our online giving

at: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/50a9529f-4dc5-4e6e-a429-ce51883d637b>

or you can pop a cheque (payable to 'PCC Patrixbourne with Bridge') through the Vicarage door.

Virtual Suggestion Box

Over the course of the last year, we have tried various different ways to keep connected and maintain our worshipping life across the Parish – this has included our weekly online service on YouTube, some more interactive services via Zoom (Evensong and Christmas morning), Zoom ‘coffee and chat’, small group reflections during advent, sharing printed and online devotional materials and other things as well. As we find ourselves ‘locked down’ again I would love to hear from you – what have you found helpful or what you might find helpful in the weeks to come, particularly as we approach Lent.

We are limited by our resources (human, technological and material!) but would love to hear your thoughts. Do drop me a line with your suggestions estellalast@gmail.com.

Churches open for private Prayer

Unless circumstances change, the churches of the Bridge Group Parish remain open for Personal Prayer / Quiet time as follows:

St Peter's Bridge	Wednesday 10-4pm
St Peter's Bekesbourne	Sunday 10am -12pm
St Mary's Patrixbourne	Tuesday 2-4pm & Saturday 10am-1pm
St Mary's Nackington	Sunday & Wednesday 10-4pm
St Mary's Lower Hardres	Monday & Thursday 10-4pm

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