

Notices

Pilgrim Course. The course on the Eucharist led by John Fuller continues on Wednesday at 7.30pm, but we will meet at John and Jill Fuller's house – 11 Ratcliffe Gardens (a turning off St James') instead of meeting in St Peter's Hall. You are very welcome to join us – any queries do phone John on 01747 850079.

Team Office. Please note that the team office will be closed for one day on Monday 29th January.

A Date for your Diary We plan to hold a **Motcombe Gardens Open Day** on Sunday 3rd June which is something this village hasn't done for several years. I know there are lots of you who have lovely gardens and it would be marvellous if you could let me know if you could take part in this fundraising event for St Mary's Church and open your garden for the day. More details nearer the time. Liz Pocock Tel: 852647 e mail: jepocock@uwclub.net

It is time to prepare the church annual report, ready for the APCM in April. We will be sending out an email shortly inviting contributions from activity leaders, but if anyone else has a relevant contribution regarding our church in 2017, please email it to Phil (wpr01@wpr01.co.uk) or Revd Pam for inclusion, before 14th February.

Service Rota - Please could chalice assistants, readers, intercessors, sidespeople and Wardens let Revd Pam know their availability for March, April & May as soon as possible, so that the new rota can be prepared. Many thanks.

Notices for next week's pew sheet by Wednesday to Dennis Rink on dennis.rink@gmail.com

Please take this pew sheet home to keep you informed of events this week and commend them all to your prayers.

GIFT AID envelopes are available on the pews and from the table near the door. If you are a UK Income or Capital Gains Tax payer, please help us to make the most of your offering by filling in the details on the envelopes. This will enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation.

WELCOME to St Mary's Church, Motcombe

Newcomers and visitors are welcome. Please stay for refreshments and a chat after the service.

Sunday 28th January

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Services today

9.30am Parish Communion Rev Simon Chambers

Events this week

Morning prayer is said at 8.30am Monday – Wednesday and Saturday. Holy Communion is said every Thursday at 10.00am – all are welcome.

Monday 2.00pm Funeral of Sylvia Crouch at Harbour View Woodland Burial Ground, Poole

Tuesday 7.30pm Deanery Synod meet at St Mary the Virgin School, Gillingham

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm Bell-ringing Practice

Next Sunday, 4th February

Second Sunday before Lent

11.15am Parish Communion (BCP) Rev Simon Chambers

For more information on church activities, or if you would like to get in touch regarding any other matter, please contact

Team Vicar: Revd Pam Rink: 01747 590712 pam@shaftesburycofe.org.uk
Churchwardens: Gill Waine 01747 851007 NickWaine@outlook.com
Liz Pocock 01747 852647 jepocock@uwclub.net
Team Administrator: Katy Ashman, 01747 853060 office@shaftesburycofe.org.uk
St Mary's Church, Motcombe Website: www.shaftesburycofe.org.uk

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

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.

Second Reading Hebrews 2.14-18

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.

Gospel Reading 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.

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.

Please pray for:

- † those who live in Shorts Green Lane and Frog Lane.
- † healing and wholeness in body, mind and spirit for those who are suffering, especially our own Revd. Pam Rink, and Katie Johnston and her family.
- † our school, for the staff, children, governors and parents