

WHAT'S ON AT ST. JOHN'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Mon. 2 Feb.	19.00	Monday Night House Group
Wed. 4 Feb.	19.30	Sing for Joy Choir (<i>resumes</i>)
Thurs. 5 Feb.	09.30	Holy Communion/prayers
Sat. 7 Feb.	09.00	Men's Breakfast Teaspoons Café
Mon. 9 Feb.	08.00	MONDAY MARKET 'OPEN CHURCH'

Suggestions for your prayers/raise

Please pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Sarah Mullally DBE and the forthcoming Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March, where Archbishop Sarah will pay homage to The King and meet with the leaders of other Christian denominations and other faiths in the UK.

For our Monday Market—for the amazing team who sacrifice their time and it's community outreach.

Lord, help me to draw near to you instead of pulling away. Please give me your daily guidance to keep me on the right path.

¹ Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His Holy Name.

² Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—

³ Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

⁵ Who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

²² **Praise the Lord, all His works everywhere in His dominion.**

Praise the Lord, O my soul. Amen.

Contact details:-

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9.00-11.30 a.m daily except Wednesday

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WELCOME TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SHIPHAY

'A caring fellowship seeking to share the life and love of God'

Sunday 1 February 2026

Welcome - as we gather to celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple—
Candlemas.

On this day of light and promise, we remember Christ revealed as the
Light of the world.

May that light shine in our worship and in our lives.

We're glad you have chosen to come along to this service especially if this is your first
visit to St. John's.

We really hope you will stay and join us for Fairtrade coffee and refreshments after
the service this morning.

Music

Offertory Communion

To God be the glory!

695

In Christ alone

Light of the world

Christ, be our light!

Jesus, King of kings

Jesus, Jesus, Holy and anointed One,

353

Purify my heart

574

My Lighthouse (In my wrestling)



The First Reading

Heb. 2.14-end

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, ¹⁸ fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

A sonnet for Candlemas

Candlemas by Malcolm Guite

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to his temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true;
We share with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps his kindled light:
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.



Bishop
Prayer for
Lord Jesus
Year that
ing into our
us to be
places of

Mike's New Year
2025
we ask in this New
by your grace flow-
hearts you enable
lights in the dark
this world. By your

Gospel Reading

Luke 2.22-40

Jesus presented in the temple

²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'²⁴), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss²⁹ your servant in peace.'

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.'

³³ The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. ³⁸ She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Thanks to our talented Musicians and Flower Team.

