



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026

## The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas

### Services Today

9:30am	Said Mass with Children's Church
11:00 Hymns	Sung Mass with Procession <b>188: Responsorial Psalm 24: 439: 44: 408</b>
2.30pm	Creative Children's Church
6.30pm	Town Church Evensong at St Stephen's

### CHORUS

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine though the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*

### End of Procession

℣ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
℟ **He is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe! You make our darkness to be light. For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light. Blessed be God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### 725 Suscepimus

**Introit** We have waited, O God, for thy loving kindness in the midst of thy temple; according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the world's end: thy right hand is full of righteousness. **Psalm** Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. Glory be to the Father...

**Gradual** We have waited, O God, for thy loving kindness in the midst of thy temple: according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the world's end.  
℣ Like as we have heard, so have we seen the city of our God: even upon his holy hill. **Alleluia** Alleluia, Alleluia  
℣ The old man carried the Child: but the Child governed the old man. Alleluia.

**Offertory** Full of grace are thy lips: because God hath blessed thee for ever.

**Communion** It was revealed unto Simeon by the Holy Spirit: that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Anointed.

## 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.

## Old Testament Reading - Malachi Ch3 v1-5

‘I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the Lord Almighty.  
2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

5 ‘So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud labourers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,’ says the Lord Almighty.

## Responsorial Psalm 24: ‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory’

## New Testament Reading - Hebrews Ch2 v14-18

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, 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.

## Gospel – Luke Ch2 v22-40

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 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 dismiss 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. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 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.

## Post 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.

## NOTICES

**Monday - Friday 8.00am Morning Prayer**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 11.00am Mass**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 1.00pm Said Mass**  
(Whilst Town Church is closed)

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am Coffee and Chat in Church**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Second Sunday before Lent**

**9:30am** - Said Mass with Children's Church  
**11.00am** - Sung Mass  
**6.30pm** - Town Church Evensong at St Stephen's

### **Please remember in your prayers**

Fr John & Carol Luff, Willa Owen, Brian Garner, Jill Stephenson, Paulo De Augistino, Margaret Morris, David and Barbara Streek, Wendy Clamp, Mandy Le Tissier, Margaret Boden Heaume, Lindsay Gallagher, Barbara Renouf, Peter Le Page and Helen Shepherd

Please join us for refreshments  
**In the Vestry after the 11am Mass**

*After Mass please put the kneelers back on the shelf. Thank you!*  
Deadline for notices for next bulletin – **6.00pm Thursday**  
To Fliss or email [fmil397026@aol.com](mailto:fmil397026@aol.com)