



### Coffee Cup Collection

Our coffee cup collection in January and February is for the Chilterns Neuro Centre. This is a local charity based in Wendover.

It has provided support to people with MS, as well as their family and carers, for almost four decades. More recently it opened up its services to people affected by Parkinsons and strokes.

### APCM and Electoral Roll 2025

This year we are required to prepare a new electoral roll. Everyone must sign up to it if they wish to be included, even if they are currently on it. The roll is open until 16<sup>th</sup> February. Do please sign up to the electoral roll and also consider standing for the PCC if you would like a say in the running of the church.



To join the PCC you must be on the electoral roll. There are paper forms at the back of both Churches, or you can fill the form in online.

If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Church Wardens, or Dee James, our Electoral Roll Officer. [www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm)

### London Marathon 2025

Two young people who grew up in our church will be running in the London Marathon this year to raise funds for a good cause that is very close to their hearts. When Elizabeth Rysdale was just one year old she was diagnosed with cancer, but thanks to the amazing support and dedication from doctors, nurses, and a charity known as 'Children with Cancer' she is still alive and healthy today. Elizabeth will be running the marathon with her brother Joshua because there are many more children today who are fighting this disease. Please support them by signing up on the form in church.

*Thankyou*

	Network Name: <b>SJB Congregation</b>	We now accept online donations. You can donate at: 
	Password: StJohnBaptist	

Website: [www.stonedintonhartwell.com](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)  
 Pewsheets: [pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com)  
 Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: [drphilgroves@gmail.com](mailto:drphilgroves@gmail.com) 01296 748390  
 Benefice office: [office@wychertvale.org](mailto:office@wychertvale.org) 01844 291108

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



# Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025



## Notices for the week

*Our church is a member of the Wychert Vale family of churches*

9:00am **MATINS** led by David Pickup

10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**  
led by Revd Phil Groves

*Presentation of Christ in the Temple*



*Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.  
Amen*

### This week

Tues	11:00 - 13:00 <b>Café in the Park</b> – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Thurs	09:00 - 10:30 <b>Little Wrigglers</b> – in the Jubilee Pavilion
	20:00 <b>Praying together</b> (online) see separate notice
Sat	10:00 - 12:00 <b>Café in the Park</b> – in the Jubilee Pavilion

### Services next week

10:30am	<b>FAMILY COMMUNION</b> with EXPLORERS
6:00pm	<b>EVENSONG</b> at SPP DINTON

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## Luke 2:22-40

### Jesus Presented in the Temple

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> 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."

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:



<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.  
<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> 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.

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

The words spoken by Simeon in verses 29-32 are well known because they are used in the Prayer Book Evening service and are known as the 'Nunc Dimittis'. Simeon was an old man who had waited his whole life for the promised Messiah to come. Having now recognised the baby Jesus for who he was he was content to 'depart in peace'.

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Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to be presented in the Temple in Jerusalem. Because of this the official name in the Church of England for today is: **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**. If you count 40 days from Christmas, this gets you to 2 February, which happens to fall on a Sunday this year. Jesus was presented in the Temple because it was required in the Old Testament (Leviticus 12).

Today is also known as **The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin**. According to the Law of Moses, a mother who had given birth to a son remained unclean for forty days after birth. After this time the new mother was to bring to the temple a sacrificial young pigeon or turtle dove (Leviticus 12). Then a priest would pray for her, and she was cleansed.

The third name for today is **Candlemas**. It comes from the use of candles to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world. When Jesus was presented in the Temple, Simeon recognised the baby Jesus as 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2:32). By tradition all the church candles for the year are brought for blessing on this day. Candlemas is the moment in the church year when we '[turn from the crib to the cross](#)', remembering that Jesus came into the world to die for our sins. Christmas and Epiphany are behind us and so we turn our attention towards Lent and Easter at this point.

Finally - have you seen the snowdrops that are coming through in the churchyard? And did you know they are also called 'Candlemas bells'?

### Praying together

On Thursday evening we will again be gathering together on Zoom to give thanks for all the good things God is doing and to seek His guidance and wisdom in our future plans. Please join us if you can at 8pm even if you just want to listen in quietly. The session will last for 30 minutes.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81163764469?pwd=JzmJJy8BKj5s79dbXqJbVBcSjvHCV.1>

### Café news



Wow – what a week! After a really busy Café in the Park on Tuesday we had an incredible Saturday yesterday as well. Not only was it busy right from the start but people kept coming all morning and stayed for longer as well. This is the first time we have run out of food to cook before the end of the session (sausages, bacon, eggs).

Fortunately we have some fantastic home bakers who generously provide attractive and tasty cakes. Thankyou to everyone who helps to make the Café the thriving hub that it has now become.

The café is open the first Saturday of each month 10:00 – 12:00 and every Tuesday 11:00-1:00 in the Jubilee Pavilion in the recreation ground.

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