

SAFEGUARDING ASSISTANTS (SGAs)

Anne Rees now works with our Parish Children and Young People (SGACYP) groups, supporting group volunteers, signposting to training, assisting Wendy by ensuring that our procedures are followed for safer recruitment. Contact her via: anne@parishofbridport.org. Alongside Anne we are **still looking for someone** in a similar role to focus on vulnerable adults. If this is something you could offer, contact Wendy or Di in the office for the role description. We feel that it is important to have this small team functioning across the parish, being known by our church congregations and available whenever a need or issue arises.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Next CTiBD meeting is **6 February** 2025 at 7pm at St Mary's and St Catherine's Church

PENGUIN TALK : TODAY 2 FEB @ 4pm

An illustrated talk by Peter Wright on his recent expedition cruise to the Antarctic and Falkland Islands. Venue: Church House Hall, South Street.

LENT GROUPS 2025

Lent Groups to be announced soon, keep an eye out for a notice in upcoming Parish weekly sheets.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025

The plan so far (subject to change):

Palm Sunday (13 April)

8am JM Book of Common Prayer *St Mary's Bridport*
 9.30am AR/JR Morning Praise *HT Bradpole*
 9.30am Holy Communion *St Swithun's Allington*
 11am PR Holy Communion *St Mary's Bridport*
 11am GP Morning Praise *HT Bothenhampton*
 11am CB Holy Communion *St John's*

Maundy Thursday (17 April)

Morning Chrism *Salisbury Cathedral* – all Clergy
 7pm JM Holy Communion, Foot-washing *HT Bradpole*
 7.30pm CB/LJ/DSH Holy Communion, Foot-washing and Vigil *St Swithun's Church Allington*.

Good Friday (18 April)

12 noon GP **Prayers** *Holy Trinity Bothenhampton*
 12 noon till 3pm JM/JR/AA/CB **Vigil** *HT Bradpole*
 2pm till 3pm CB/PW **Meditation** *St Mary's Bridport*
 2pm **Liturgy** DSm/KO'B *St Swithun's Allington*

Holy Saturday (19 April)

10.30 LJ/CB/JR/AR 'Come & Sea' 2 hours : *St John's*
 8pm JM/AA/JR/PW Easter Eve *St Mary's Bridport*

Easter Sunday (20 April)

Sunrise Service (time tbc) *East Pier West Bay*
 8am CB Book of Common Prayer *St Mary's Bridport*
 9.30am JM Holy Communion *HT Bradpole*
 9.30am LJ/DSH Holy Communion *St Swithun's Allington*
 11am CB Holy Communion *St Mary's Bridport*
 11am JR Holy Communion *HT Bothenhampton*
 11am PR Morning Prayer *St John's*
 11am AA Holy Communion *St Mary's Walditch*

2 February 2025

Presentation of Christ
 in the Temple

PARISH NEWS

Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Many years ago, on a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land we made the journey to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. We were down in the crypt where lies the place traditionally held to be where Christ was born.

If you had been there perhaps you would have found it very moving, but I have to admit to not feeling very comfortable, finding it all a bit sentimental and touristy. I think we were singing something like "Away in a manger" and my toes were curling ever so slightly.

Then a young Palestinian couple entered the crypt carrying a new-born baby, only a few days old. Ignoring everyone around them they approached the holy place of Christ's birth, they knelt and held their precious baby over the shrine for a moment. And everything changed. It was suddenly very quiet, and the moment felt holy, as we watched this simple gesture of faith by parents wanting something special for their baby.

Apparently, this is customary, it's an offering or dedication of the child to God and the seeking of God's blessing for the baby. It was a beautiful and moving experience for those of us privileged to witness it.

That baby is now a young adult, and we know nothing about him or her. We don't even know if he or she is still alive. Perhaps a sword has already pierced her mother's soul? That part of the world is not a safe place for a child. We know that if he or she is still alive, they are growing up, like Jesus, in a land with political and religious divisions which seem to defy all attempts to bring peace to the region.

At Candlemas Simeon blesses Mary and Joseph, but also warns them of the pain to come.

"And a sword will pierce your own soul" -

or in other words: love hurts.

There is suffering today throughout the world and following Jesus does not take us out of that suffering, indeed it can lead us deeper into it. But, however deep it is we share it with Jesus and, however dark it is we *know* that resurrection light can shine in that darkness, which won't overcome it.

Canon Deb Smith

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.

(or)

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.

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.

READINGS

Hebrews 2 : 14 to 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 *Jesus is presented in the Temple*

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.

The Return to Nazareth

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.

Psalm 24 : 1 - 6 *Entrance into the Temple. Of David. A Psalm*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world,
and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the
seas, and established it on the rivers. Who shall
ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in
his holy place? Those who have clean hands and
pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is
false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive
blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God
of their salvation. Such is the company of those who
seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Selah.

THURSDAY PARISH PRAYER

First and third Thursdays of the month 3.30-4.30pm.

6 Feb St Mary's Bridport; **20 Feb** St Swithun's Allington;
6 Mar Holy Trinity Bothenhampton; **20 Mar** St John's;
3 April Holy Trinity Bradpole; **17 April** St Mary's Walditch;
1 May St Mary's Bridport; **15 May** St Swithun's Allington;
5 June Holy Trinity Bothenhampton; **19 June** St John's;
3 Jul Holy Trinity Bradpole; **17 July** St Mary's Walditch;
7 Aug St Mary's Bridport; **21 Aug** St Swithun's Allington;
4 Sept Holy Trinity Bothenhampton; **18 Sept** St John's;
2 Oct Holy Trinity Bradpole; **16 Oct** St Mary's Walditch;
6 Nov St Mary's Bridport; **20 Nov** St Swithun's Allington;
4 Dec Holy Trinity Bothenhampton; **18 Dec** St John's.