



SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2018

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
CANDLEMAS**

*We welcome Rev. Clay Knowles at 8am
and Rev. John Morris at 10am*

TODAY:	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
Monday 29th	10.00am	Haywards Heath Film Society – see below
	10.30am	Avon House Group
	7.45pm	Evening House Group
Tuesday 30th	10.15pm	Open the Book Assembly - Balcombe School
	7.45pm	Bell Ringing Practice
	7.45pm	Cuckfield Deanery Synod – see below
Weds 31st	9.30am	Daytime Bible Group – see P4
	10.00am	Haywards Heath Film – see below
	8.00pm	PCC Meeting – Parish Room
Friday 2nd	6.30pm	Locus Youth Group – Parish Room
Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Family Service

*Cuckfield Deanery Synod – Tuesday 30th January 2018 – 7.45pm for 8pm
St Richard's Church, Sydney Road, Haywards Heath
Subject: Ministering to people with dementia
Open to all*

Haywards Heath Film Society had asked to use our church to make a small film for a competition on **Monday 29th and Wednesday 31st January**. If anyone would like to be an 'extra' for this, they would be most welcome. Please come to the church at 10am on the above days

Website: www.stmarys-balcombe.org

READINGS AND PRAYERS

The 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. Amen.

The New Testament Reading Hebrews 2 14-end

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason, he had to be made like his brothers 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. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:22-40

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 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”.

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 upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. 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. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

The Post Communion Collect

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. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:

Monday	1 Corinthians 12: 12-end
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 13
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 14: 1-19
Thursday	1 Corinthians 14 20-end
Friday	1 Corinthians 16: 1-9
Saturday	1 Corinthians 16: 10-end

PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

All those who live in: High Street, Jobes, London Road

All those who are sick

St. Mary's

EVENTS AND NOTICES

MOTHERS UNION AGM

2.15pm Thursday 8th February

Our first meeting of the year will be held on **Thursday 8th February, at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.** It will be our AGM. It will be an opportunity to get together after the Christmas break and look ahead to our activities for the coming year. New members will be very welcome. Membership renewals are due on that day, and are £22 this year. It would be very helpful if any members who are unable to attend the meeting could forward their subs to Rosemary Corder or Lorna Robinson.

ST MARY'S BALCOMBE QUIET DAY – OPEN TO ALL

Friday 9th February 10.30am – 4.00pm

THE CHEMIN NEUF COMMUNITY (Storrington Priory)

Members of the Chemin Neuf live a life of prayer and community, sharing Storrington Priory with the local Roman Catholic parish and taking an active part in the ecumenical life of the neighbourhood. We are organising a Quiet Day, led by the Community, with teaching on prayer, guided scripture reading, times of reflection if desired, a short service & various activities on offer. There will be refreshments provided & a simple lunch will be served. The cost will be £15 per person (individuals may also choose to make an extra £5 voluntary donation to the Community). Car-sharing arrangements for those requiring transport. **Please come and join us.** Further details and an application form are on the Welcome Table, or email balcombe.stmarys@gmail.com/ call 01444 811699.

DIOCESAN INTERCESSIONS LIST: We have just received a letter from Canon Tim Scholfield at Chichester Cathedral, to let us know that on **Friday 9th February** they will be praying for our church at their 8am Holy Communion service and Evensong at 5.30pm. A full copy of the letter is on the Welcome Table. We were delighted to see that the date coincides with our Quiet Day.

DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY HOUSE GROUP

This is a daytime Bible Study House Group which meets on the last Wednesday morning of each month. The venue is Twittens, Oldlands Avenue, and the time **9.30am to 11am**. The next 3 dates are **Wed 31st Jan, Wed 28th Feb and Wed 28th March**. The theme will be The Sermon on the Mount. Anyone who wishes to join us will be very welcome. Please speak to Lorna Robinson or Rosemary Corder for any further details.

Lent Course 2018 – 5 sessions

On the Third Day - The Resurrection - Then and Now

1. Have I got news for you!
2. So what? The implications of the Resurrection
3. Let him Easter in us
4. Celebrating and praying Easter
5. A risen Church

Everyone is welcome to join us at St Mary's during Lent to explore the meaning of the Resurrection. If you wish to find out more about this course please contact Rosemary Corder. We meet on Thursday evening during Lent at St Mary's Church, Balcombe at 7.45pm on the following dates:

**Thursday 22nd February, Thursday 1st March, Thursday 8th March,
Thursday 15th March & Thursday 22nd March.**

MOZART REQUIEM

*A candlelit performance by
Coro Nuovo*

Saturday 17th March 2018 – 7.15pm St Mary's Church, Balcombe

St Mary's Interregnum – UPDATE! (February Parish Magazine copy)

In the November magazine, I mentioned that the Diocese were planning to refurbish the Rectory in 'the coming months', and we'd be hoping for a new Rector by the end of 2018. Basically, nothing has changed, but it may be helpful to give you all a bit more detail.

When the Archdeacon first spoke to me in late September last year, she said that it was likely that there would be a significant redecoration and refurbishment of the Rectory in 2018, and that the Diocese would want to recoup some of the costs of this through a 6 month letting in the Spring. The property has not had a significant refurbishment for almost 20 years, and the expectations for clergy have considerably increased during this time. So it's a wise thing to do to attract the best incumbent for our village!

Our new Patron, Will Gibson, and I met with Archdeacon Fiona Windsor shortly before Christmas. She explained that she is completely committed to seeing a new Priest-in-charge to take up the vacancy in Balcombe, by late 2018, and her biggest concern is to ensure that the Rectory is finished to as high a standard as possible before we advertise for a new incumbent.

However, a few months ago, the Diocesan Surveyor found that we had Bats in the attic. Oh dear! It was hoped that they could be relocated, which would have taken time in itself, but after consulting a number of experts it has been decided that the particular bats in question will have to stay, but will be restricted to a section of the attic with specialist materials. This did however put back the visits by the estimating contractors, and restricted some of the work envisaged at that time.

I'm guessing that the quotes should be finalised in a few weeks. The Diocese are very experienced in managing this process, as they obviously have a lot of parishes to look after. The works should be done so that the Rectory is ready for occupation in the Spring. We had most of the work in the garden done last October; it looks bare now, but in the Spring new things will sprout up for sure!

With a short letting, we would expect to advertise for a new Priest in late Summer, with a view to their Induction before Christmas – in time to take all our Christmas Services! This is as much as we know at present, but I will keep you posted if the envisaged timetable changes.

Charles Wilson, with Jacky Hall, Churchwardens

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS 2009 – 2017

****ON SALE AT ONLY £5 PER COPY****

Desmond's monthly letters from the Parish Magazine have been compiled into a book which is for sale at the back of the church. All proceeds will go towards St Mary's Church as his final contribution towards the fundraising which preoccupied much of the Burton's time in Balcombe.

**++ SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS REQUIRED ++
PLEASE SPEAK TO DENISE, JANE OR JULIA IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO ASSIST (APPROXIMATELY 6 TIMES PER YEAR).**