



SUNDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2019
THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
THE FIFTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
(Fourth Sunday after Epiphany BCP)

We welcome Rev. Peter Irwin-Clark at 8am

TODAY	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Family Service
Mon 4th	10.30am	Avon House Group
	7.45pm	Evening House Groups
Tues 5th	10.15am	Assembly – Balcombe School
	7.45pm	Bell ringing practice
Fri 8th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 10th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist

Monday House Groups

During term time on Mondays, in the morning at 10.30am and in the evening at 7.45pm.
Contact Julia Wilson on 811304 or Julie Mitchell on 819262.

***Monthly Morning House Group - The Wednesday Group**

This group meets on the last Wednesday of the month, 10am at the house of Bridget Gosney, Twittens, Oldlands Avenue. We will be starting a new study entitled "Paul: His Life and Teaching". The next dates are Wednesdays 27th February and 27th March. Please contact Lorna (819149) or Rosemary (400373) for further details or if you would like a lift. All welcome

FR. KEITH RICHARDS' INDUCTION
TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.30PM

Website: www.stmarys-balcombe.org

FAMILY SERVICE READING SIMEON AND ANNA

When Jesus was one week old, Mary and Joseph held the usual ceremony to promise their son to God and officially name Him. They also made a trip from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. It was traditional for Jewish families to take their first son to the temple there to give thanks to God and make a sacrifice of two doves or pigeons.

In Jerusalem, there lived an old man whose name was Simeon. He was a holy man and had always tried his best to live a good life. God had promised Simeon a reward for his lifetime of faithful service. He promised that he would not die without seeing the Messiah who was to save the world. For years Simeon longed for this wonderful day to come.

On the morning when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon was already there. God's Holy Spirit had spoken to him earlier, telling him that the day had finally arrived.

Simeon hurried to the temple straight away. As soon as the old man caught sight of the tiny baby, he immediately knew who He was.

"Thanks, be to God," he cried, taking the little bundle in his arms. "Now I can die in peace because I have seen the saviour who will bring glory to Israel and spread the Word of God to everyone on Earth." Mary and Joseph were amazed. "your little child is a sign from God," Simeon continued, "but many people won't believe what He says and will turn against Him." Simeon looked at Mary with great pity in his eyes. "Because of this, great sorrow will one day pierce your heart like a sword."

Just then an old woman who visited the temple every day came shuffling over. Her name was Anna and she was a prophetess.

"Can I see my saviour?" she asked. By now, people had begun to crowd around to see what was going on. As Mary and Joseph showed Jesus to Anna, she started telling everyone how the baby came from God and was the hope of the world.

When Mary and Joseph finally left the temple that day, they couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by the amazing events that were happening.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS:

Monday:	John 13: 1-11	Thursday: John13: 31-end
Tuesday:	John 13: 12-20	Friday: John 14: 1-14
Wednesday:	John 13: 21-30	Saturday: John 14: 15-end

PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

All those who live in: Rowhill Lane, Stockcroft Road, Stumblemead.

All those who are sick, especially:

The departed and our own departed loved ones and those whose anniversaries occur during the week:

St Mary's Lent course 2019

Topic - Daring to See God Now

Venue- St Mary's Church, Balcombe. Time 7.45pm

Dates:

Thursday 14th March – The Good News of God

Thursday 21st March – The Time is Now

Thursday 28th March – God is Present

Thursday 4th April – Change Your Mind

Thursday 11th April – Live It!

Everyone is welcome to join us at St Mary's for our Lent Course. It is a chance to reflect, discover, discuss and share our faith. Booklets are available from Rosemary Corder, cost £3.75.



EVENTS AND NOTICES

CUCKFIELD DEANERY DAY 2019

Saturday 23rd February 2019, 10am to 3:30pm
Old School (Tudor Hall), Cuckfield RH17 5JZ

Please bring your own lunch

Mission and Vocation

Speaker: Fr Damian Feeney SSC

This day will explore the relationship between our baptismal calling as Christians and our shared call to mission. How might this be best understood? How does that work out in the lives of individuals and communities?

Fr. Damian Feeney has been Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ettingshall (Wolverhampton) since 2015. He combines this with his role as Catholic Missioner to the Diocese of Lichfield. Prior to 2015 he was Vice-Principal and Charles Marriott Director of Pastoral Studies at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and an associate member of the University of Oxford Faculty of Theology. Prior to 2009 he was a parish priest and missioner in the Diocese of Blackburn and was a member of the working party which produced the original *Mission-shaped Church* report. He is a member of the *Leading your Church into Growth* team and the *College of Evangelists*, having initiated Eucharistic church plants in Harrogate and Preston; he is also a member of the *Society of the Holy Cross*, and of the General Synod. He is married to Fiona, a church primary school head teacher, and they have three grown up children.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BIRCHANGER GARDENS

THE WORRALL FAMILY HAVE KINDLY INVITED US BACK TO BIRCHANGER GARDENS ON SATURDAY 4TH MAY. THIS IS ALWAYS A WONDERFUL EVENT, SO PLEASE PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY.

Pack Up Your Troubles

Tony Perkins filmed the concert which took place in September for the History Society and has created a DVD.

Please contact Ali Cunningham (811370) if you would like one.
The cost is £5; proceeds to the Balcombe History Society

The Ardingly Senior School Choir

The Choir kindly came to perform in the Church on Monday 15th October. It was a beautiful concert with wonderful singing; there was no charge but generous donations of £163.55 were received, for which we are very grateful. If you missed it, you still have a chance to hear them as they have created a CD of Christmas music; again, contact Ali if you would like one.

The cost is £10

We are looking for people to join the rota for cleaning the church or polishing the brass. This takes an hour or so once every couple of months - it will be less frequent if we have more people on the rota. Please speak to Ali Cunningham at church or email ali.cunningham99@btinternet.com if you can help. Thank you very much".