

**Please continue to pray** for the sick & those in need:

*Shelagh Ashe; Marjorie Crayston; Osvaldo Ferreiro; Peter Frost; Sharon; Neita Harvey; Digby Horner; Jo, James & baby Daniel; John & Linda; John Parnon; Neil Plevy; Molly Smith; Annette; Val; Alex Williams; Freda; Antoinette; Colin Woods.*

### Saints this week

Wed Anskar, bishop and missionary in Scandinavia (died 865)  
Fri Agatha, martyr (third century)  
Sat Paul Miki and the martyrs of Japan (died 1597-1632)

### Next Sunday: Second before Lent

9:00 am The Eucharist (Common Worship) at Ringland  
10:00 am Plough Sunday Service at Swannington (Antoinette Watts)  
10:15 am The Eucharist and baptism of ARCHIBALD CHRISTOPHER  
MICHAEL HARRIS at Weston Longville



Morton Hall

### Snowdrop Walk

Morton-on-the-Hill, off the A1067  
*by kind permission of Aco, Lady Prince-Smith*

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010  
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

*Sorry, no dogs · Sturdy footwear · Refreshments available  
Donations to Quadenham Children's Hospice*

Very soon we shall begin once again the season of Lent – the annual time of careful preparation for celebrating the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection, which we come to in Holy Week. Our observation of Lent begins with a celebration of the Eucharist on **Ash Wednesday** morning, 17<sup>th</sup> February, at **Attlebridge at 10:00 am**; and all the churches in Sparham Deanery join together for a service the same evening, at 7:30 pm in Reepham parish church. This service will be led by Bishop James who will also preach, and both services will include the imposition of ashes. The ash is made by burning last year's palm crosses, so if you still have one please return it to Selwyn, either in church or through the Rectory letterbox, by Shrove Tuesday lunchtime.

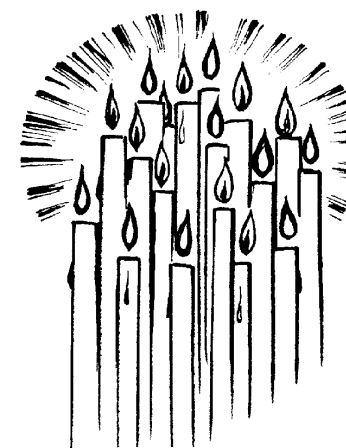


Weston Longville  
Morton-on-the-Hill  
Great & Little Witchingham  
Lenwade  
Alderford  
Attlebridge  
Swannington  
Ringland

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010

10:00 am

# Eucharist for Candlemas



## St John the Baptist, Alderford

*Please take this service booklet away with you. The notices are a useful way of remembering the people and events being prayed about in our churches every day.*

As the service begins, **please stand** and turn around to face the back of the church.

The Lord of glory be with you;  
***And with thy spirit.***

Forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as today we tell of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming as the Light of the World, and his searching judgment; we look back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion and death.

The candles we are holding are blessed:

Lord God, springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of thy faithful people  
the brilliance of thine eternal splendour;  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up this temple to thy glory,  
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,  
and so be counted worthy to stand before thee  
in that eternal temple where thou livest and reignest,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

We light our candles from one another; and as the light spreads we say the familiar words of the *Nunc Dimittis*.

***A light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of thy people Israel.***

***Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.***

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words  
                  most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
A second Adam to the fight  
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
Which did in Adam fail,  
Should strive afresh  
                  against their foe,  
Should strive and should prevail.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
***In the name of Christ, Amen.***



All weekday services this week will be at their normal times.

This week we pray particularly for those who live and work along **Norwich Road** and **Nowhere Lane** in Great Witchingham.

O generous love!  
                  that he who smote  
In Man for man the foe,  
The double agony, in Man  
for man, should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,  
And on the cross on high,  
Should teach his brethren,  
                  and inspire  
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
And in the depth be praise,  
In all his words most wonderful,  
Most sure in all his ways.

Lord, who didst fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna  
as they lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he cometh to bring us to eternal life;  
for he liveth and reigneth with thee, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Here, Father, we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise:  
*help us, who have received the bread of life,  
to be thankful for thy gift.*

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna:  
*help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in thine eternal promises.*

Here we have greeted the Light of the world:  
*help us never to forsake the light of Christ.*

Here we turn from the story of Christ's life and ministry  
to contemplate his passion:  
*help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the mystery of Easter.*

Here we bless one another in thy name:  
*help us, who now go in peace,  
to shine with thy light in the world.*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path;  
Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart;  
Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.*

*A light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of thy people Israel.*

Keeping our candles alight, we now face the altar and sing the first hymn.

Hail to the Lord who comes,  
Comes to his temple gate!  
Not with his angel host,  
Not in his kingly state;  
No shouts proclaim him nigh,  
No crowds his coming wait;

But borne upon the throne  
Of Mary's gentle breast,  
Watched by her duteous love,  
In her fond arms at rest;  
Thus to his Father's house  
He comes, the heavenly guest.

There Joseph at her side  
In reverent wonder stands;  
And, filled with holy joy,  
Old Simeon in his hands  
Takes up the promised Child,  
The glory of all lands.

Hail to the great First-born,  
Whose ransom-price they pay!  
The Son before all worlds,  
The Child of man today,  
That he might ransom us  
Who still in bondage lay.

O Light of all the earth,  
Thy children wait for thee!  
Come to thy temples here,  
That we, from sin set free,  
Before thy Father's face  
May all presented be!

Still keeping our candles alight, we say together the **Gloria.**

*Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace, good will towards men.*

*We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy;  
thou only art the Lord;  
thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost,  
art the Most High,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

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 unto thee  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof,  
but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.*

*If you are not a communicant, but would like to receive a blessing, please bring this  
service booklet to the altar rail with you.*

At the distribution:

The Body of Christ  
*Amen.*

The Blood of Christ  
*Amen.*

**Silence** is kept all through the distribution of communion.

After communion:

Let us pray.

**Please sit or kneel**

Great is the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died:*

*Christ is risen:*

*Christ will come again.*

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of thy divine majesty,  
renew us by thy Holy Spirit,  
inspire us with thy love,  
and unite us in the body of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be unto thee,  
O Father almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

**Please blow out your candles, and kneel or sit as you are comfortable**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
*Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.*

Please blow out your candles and **sit down.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 3.1-5**

Thus says the Lord God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

After the hymn, please **relight your candles,**  
and remain standing for the **Gospel.**



## **GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

### **Please remain standing**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of thy Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be unto us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to thee,  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the cup;  
and when he had given thanks to thee, he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink ye all of this;  
for this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of his kingdom  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ thy Son our Lord.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unwearied praises be,  
Honour, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

**Please remain standing**

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

*It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, who is one with thee from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple  
in substance of our flesh  
to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all thy people  
and brings to light the image of thy splendour.

Thy servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations  
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for thy redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,  
he was lifted high upon the cross  
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart  
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with thee.

And now we rejoice and glorify thy name  
because we, too, have seen thy salvation;  
and join with angels and archangels  
in their unending hymn of praise:

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.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

**Please blow out your candles and sit down for the sermon**

Afterwards please stand for the Creed

*I believe in one God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things  
visible and invisible:*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father:*

*And he shall come again with glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead:  
whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who spake by the prophets.  
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**Please kneel** for some brief **intercessions**. The response each time is:

Lord, have mercy  
*Christ, have mercy*

and after the last section

*Lord God, who kept faith with Simeon and Anna  
and showed them the infant King:  
Give us grace to put all our trust in thy promises,  
and the patience to wait for their fulfilment;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Please stand** for the **Peace**:

In the tender mercy of our God  
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

Please relight your candles as the hymn begins, and keep them alight until  
the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

O that birth for ever blessed!  
When the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bare the Saviour of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
Angel-hosts, his praises sing;  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
And extol our God and King:  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

This is he whom seers and sages  
Sang of old with one accord;  
Whom the writings of the Prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long-expected:  
Let creation praise its Lord,  
*Evermore and evermore.*