

Sunday 28th January 2018 – The Presentation

WELCOME TO THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST NICHOLAS GODSTONE,
ST STEPHEN SOUTH GODSTONE AND ST JOHN BLINDLEY HEATH



Rector: Revd Peter O'Connell 01883 741945 rector@godstone.net

Assistant Priest: Revd Evelyn Randall 07590 099326 evelynrandall@uwclub.net

Church Wardens: St Nicholas: Louise Case 01883 740182, St Stephen: Jane Moss 01342 892502,

*A warm welcome to all who are with us today, especially to those joining us for the first time.
Children's Church is available. Please stay for refreshment after the service to meet with us.*

Services for Sunday 28th January 2018

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
10.30 am St Stephens – Family Service
10.30 am St Johns HC, CW
10.30 am St Nicholas HC, CW

Readings: Malachi 3.1-5, Luke 2.22-40

Communion on Wednesday 31st January

10.00 am St John's Church HC, BCP

Services for Sunday 4th February 2018

8.00 am St Nicholas HC, BCP
9.00 am St Stephens HC, CW
10.30 am St Johns HC, CW
10.30 am St Nicholas – Christingle CW

Readings: Colossians 1.15-20, John 1.1-14

Communion on Wednesday 7th February

10.00 am St Mary's Chapel HC, BCP

NOTICES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- **Friday 2nd February - St Nicholas Church DCC now at St Nicholas Church – 8 pm. **CHANGE OF VENUE.****
- **Saturday 3rd February – Café Connect in St Nicholas Youth Centre raising money for Oxted Community First Responders – 10.30 am – 12.30 pm.**
- **Saturday 3rd February – Build@Church at St Stephen's Church – 3 pm.**
- **Sunday 4th February – Christingle Service at St Nicholas Church – 10.30 am.**
- **Sunday 11th February – Baptism at St Nicholas Church – Maximillian Nicholson – 2 pm.**

ST JOHN'S HAVE A BARN DANCE ON SATURDAY 24th FEBRUARY in the Parish Hall starting at 7 pm. Tickets £10 to include food. There will be a Raffle. Please contact Pauline on 01342 833638 for tickets.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR REQUIRED FOR ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL – if you are interested in serving as a school governor, then please speak to Peter. This role is appointed by the PCC and therefore could be a parent at the school, a member of staff at the school, or anyone else who is interested.

FUNDRAISING – After an excellent December we have now raised more than £650 from Easyfundraising for our three churches. Some things only raise a few pennies, but these pennies are adding up! Please consider using one of these links for any internet shopping you do. So far we have raised £283 for St Nicholas, £155 for St Johns and £213 for St Stephens.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicholaschurchgodstone/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephenssouthgodstone/>

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnsblindleyheath/>

All enquiries concerning Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Home Visits and Home Communion to:
Revd Peter O'Connell (contact details above)

Items for this news sheet to Philippa March email benefice@godstone.net

www.godstoneunitedbenefice.org.uk



St Nicholas Church, Godstone

Readings for Sunday 28th January 2018

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.

MALACHI 3.1-5

Malachi is a book of prophecy directed to the priests in the Temple. Priests have replaced kings as those closest to God on earth, but the priesthood is corrupt. The prophet speaks in God's name.

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.

LUKE 2.22-40

Jesus has been circumcised, as required by Jewish law. Now, some forty days after Jesus' birth, Mary brings him along, as she comes to the Temple to be purified after childbirth by a priest.

When the time came for the 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 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 soil too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of 84. 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.

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.

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.

PRAYER LIST

St Nicholas – Caroline Pope, Archie Butler, Christian Schumacher, Daphne Hughes. **St Stephens** - Mona Watkins, Claire McFetridge, Elaine Childs, Ron Harradine, David Snell, Jennifer & Gerry Marks, Barry Slade Joy McGuinness, Daphne Hodge **St Johns** – Hugh Hunter, Julie & Jo Charlton, Daphne & Peter Reed, Janice Reed, Jill Mundy. **The Benefice link with Rutendo in Zimbabwe.**

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

