



St Peter and St Paul, Seal

STORY OF THE WEEK

King David and the Ark of the Covenant
2 Samuel 6

In this story from the Old Testament, King David brings the Ark of the Covenant, into Jerusalem. It will eventually be at the heart of the Temple his son Solomon builds there. It is clearly regarded as a powerful object, a symbol of God's presence. Many years later Jesus will be brought to the Temple – God will once again “come home” to his people.

January 29 2012 Candlemas

SERVICES TODAY CANDLEMAS
 10 am Holy Communion
6 pm United service AT ST LAWRENCE, SEAL CHART

NEXT WEEK
 Wed **10am (Note the new time)**
 Holy Communion (BCP)

NEXT SUNDAY
 10 am Holy Communion
 4-5.30pm Messy Church in the church hall
 6.30 pm “Open Space” Compline with time for discussion

NOTICES

Welcome to any who are visiting us today. Refreshments will be served in church after the 10 am service. Please stay and chat.

ALTERATIONS TO SERVICES.

The changes to our patterns of services which I forewarned you of recently start this week. The Wednesday Communion service will be at 10 am, not 11 am, from this Wednesday. Next Sunday evening sees the first of our “Open Space” services, which will consist of a service of Compline (Night Prayer) with a 15 minute discussion of a theme arising from the readings in the middle of it. Everyone is welcome to this very informal service which will take place in the Lady Chapel.

UNITED SERVICE FOR CANDLEMAS

This evening our choir will join with the choirs of St Lawrence, Seal Chart, and St Margaret Underriver for a special service for Candlemas. This will be **AT 6PM AT ST LAWRENCE**. There will be no evening service at Seal. Everyone is welcome, and the choir would very much appreciate the support of anyone who would like to come.

LENT GROUPS

There will be two Lent Groups meeting this year at the vicarage, on Monday evenings (8-9.30) and Wednesday mornings (11-12.30). Our theme will be Holy Ground and we will be thinking about the ways in which we can encounter God. There are more details in the February parish magazine, which is available at the back of church or from the church website. Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to be part of a group.

THINKING OF BUYING SEEDS AND PLANTS THIS SPRING?

Order from the Suttons fundraising catalogue and the church will get 20% (£1 in every £5) of the value of your order. Please pick up a catalogue and instructions from the red table.

The Revd. Anne Le Bas

WHO'S WHO

- Priest in Charge:** Anne Le Bas 762955
 priest@sealpeterandpaul.com
(Day off Tuesday)
- Readers:** Kevin Bright 458849
 Rosemary Clary 455384
- Pastoral Assistant:** Nicky Harvey 457118
- Churchwardens:** Matt Bell 764227
 Ian Gough 760362
- Treasurer:** Mike Harvey 457118
- PCC secretary** Jennifer Kent 763583
- CHURCH WEBSITE** www.sealpeterandpaul.com



There is a loop system in the church for those who use hearing aids, and **large print** service books and hymn books are available at the back of church. If you would like to receive communion but cannot come up to the altar rail please let us know and we will bring communion to you.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

FIRST READING

Malachi 3.1-5

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.

PSALM 24

R. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

R.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn
an oath to a lie;
'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

R.

'Who is the King of glory?'
'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty
in battle.'

R.

'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

R.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.14-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.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for Mary and Joseph's purification according to the law of Moses, they 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 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.

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.