

Cross Talk



January 2025

Cross Talk is published monthly by email. To receive a copy please contact kitnorris@live.co.uk

Cross Talk contains the weekly Collect and Readings together with details of Church services in the Benefice and news and items of interest supplied by our readers. The magazine will also be available on the web sites: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/3447 and baldersbychurch.com.

CHURCH SERVICES

St. James' Church, Baldersby St. James with Dishforth, Rainton and Skipton on Swale

Sunday 2 nd February, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>
Sunday 9 th February, 9.30am	Breakfast Service <i>with coffee and croissants</i>
Sunday 16 th February, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>
Sunday 23 rd February, 9.30am	Morning Service <i>followed by coffee</i>



St John the Evangelist Church, Dalton

Sunday 2 nd February, 11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th February, 11am	Family Service

Services are followed by refreshments



St. Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society

Sunday 2 nd February, 6.30pm	Evensong for Candlemas <i>followed by pre-supper refreshments and wine</i>
Sunday 9 th February, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>
Sunday 16 th February, 10.45am	Sung Matins <i>followed by refreshments</i>
Sunday 23 rd February, 10.45am	Holy Communion <i>led by Revd Robert Williamson</i>



February Reflection - Richard Byas *page 4*

Thurstan – a Saint?– Richard Byas *page 5*

Village News *page 7*

Readings for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple : Candlemas, to the Second Sunday before Lent

(Page numbers refer to the Common Worship Lectionary.)

Sunday 2nd February, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple : Candlemas

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.

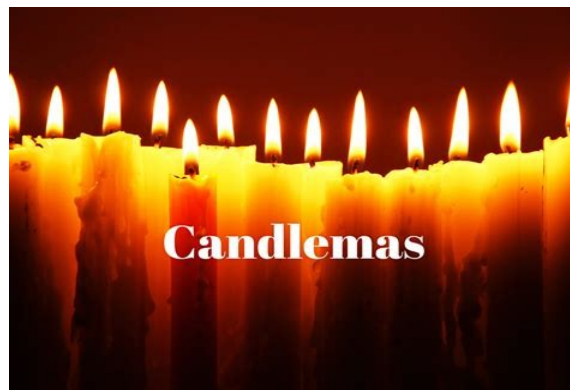
Readings (p788)

Malachi 3.1-5

Psalm 24.[1-6,] 7-10

Hebrews 2.14-18

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40



Sunday 9th February, The Fourth Sunday before Lent

Collect

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for
ever.

Readings (Proper 1 p794)

Isaiah 6.1-8, [9-13]

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15.1-11

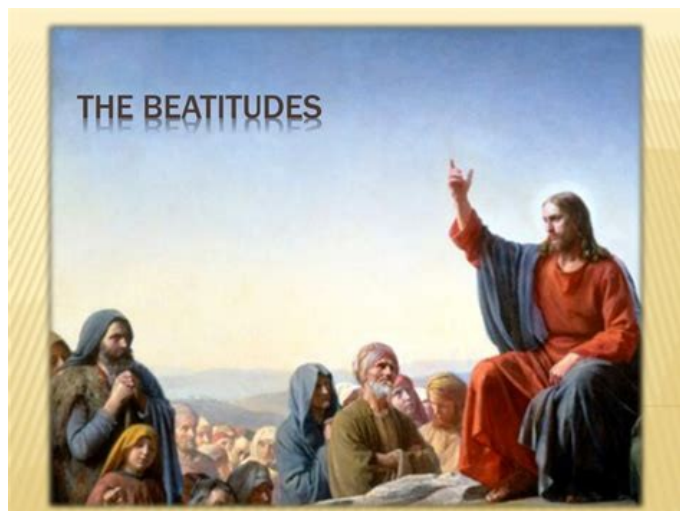
Gospel: Luke 5.1-11



Sunday 16th February, The Third Sunday before Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful
humanity:
give your people grace
soi to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Readings (Proper 2 p797)

Jeremiah 17.5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15.12-20

Gospel: Luke 6.17-26

Sunday 23rd February, The Second Sunday before Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

Readings (p803)

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25

Psalm 65

Revelation 4

Gospel: Luke 8.22-25

Reflection February 2025

There is an old tradition that Candlemas, which is celebrated on 2nd February, is the day that really ends the Christmas season. It is the day when everyone's Christmas decorations should be taken down. (if they haven't already been taken down by Epiphany). Because Candlemas is about half-way between Christmas and Good Friday – half-way between Jesus' birth and Jesus' death it may be seen as marking the turning point of the



Christian Year. It also occurs at a turning point in the natural world when the first signs of Spring are often in the air – snowdrops appearing together with some hints of warmer and lengthening days. It is the point where we stop looking back on the celebrations of Jesus' coming at Christmas and looking forward to Jesus' passion. We turn from birth towards death and resurrection.

As the name suggests, this is the time when the church candles are blessed. Light is the theme of the season at a time when natural daylight lengthens. At this pivot point in the year, we may reflect on the light of hope sung by Christmas angels and the light of resurrection in an Easter dawn. Candlemas is known by various names: The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ; the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the Feast of the Holy Encounter.

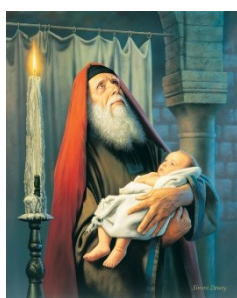
The Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary reflects Judaism's purity laws which required a sacrifice 40 days after a birth. Birth is a messy business and cleanliness in many of the ancient societies was preserved by laws and marked by careful ritual.

As we all know, in general life is messy, so often things do not go to plan. The world is messy. There are things going on that make us unhappy and anxious. We all have things we would like to straighten out. So much is messy that we can readily recognise the desire to do something to help with the mess. The Feast of the Purification, with its scene of Mary and Joseph coming to the Temple to do what was required to handle the messiness is something we can all identify with.

The Law also required an offering to redeem the firstborn son. The first of everything – crops, cows, sheep – was to be given to God. To retain it for yourself, an appropriate offering had to be made instead. And there is so much joy around a birth that to give something to say, "Thank you" seems entirely appropriate – but no gift could ever be as precious as the baby itself. Just as it was for the Jews in Jesus' day, it is still hard for us to give God the first of everything. Time gets swallowed up in business or exhaustion. Our attention is taken up with worry about this or fretting about that.

Many people would like to do something to fix the messiness in their lives. Get their priorities straight. Do the things they think they are supposed to. The Feast of the Presentation, with Mary and Joseph offering to God what they can is a gentle reminder that saying "Thank you" can be offering enough.

As Simeon takes Jesus in his arms and looks down into the face of the God he has worshipped all his life and as Anna bursts out with joy that the Messiah has come, everything turns around and this is no longer about us giving what we can to God. God has turned everything on its head, and it is God who encounters us. The divine has become human, the immortal has been born, the ancient of days is a 6-week-old baby.



Simeon was waiting to see the Messiah. We don't know how long he had been waiting. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit promised it would happen before he died, and we know he was an old man. Nevertheless, it is quite amazing that Simeon recognized the Messiah in the baby Jesus. He must have seen lots of babies, 40 days old carried into the temple by devout mothers and fathers. But holding the infant Messiah, Simeon knows his wait is over, God's promise to him has been fulfilled. He praises

God and sings of light and glory. Perhaps this is why Candlemas is the day on which candles are blessed, marked as signs of the light of Christ in the world – we know we still have need of such signs to get us through the darkness ahead.

So, on this seasonal pivot day, we turn not simply from cradle to cross but from cradle through the cross to the empty tomb and resurrection. Following Jesus is not just about Christmas and not just about Good Friday. Following Jesus is also about the hope and freedom of Easter.

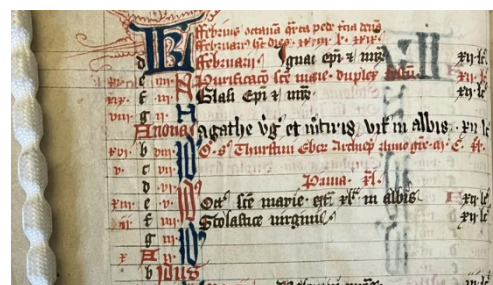
Our own lives offer us seasons in which one thing or another takes primacy in our faith and in our experience. Sometimes, those match up with the liturgical year and sometimes they don't – in which case our worship at Candlemas reminds us that Christ is our eternal light, and it invites us to reflect that light into the world. It reminds us of Christ's presence in our lives, and that we are called to let His light shine through us in all that we do.

Richard Byas

Thurstan - a Saint?

Thurstan, who was Archbishop of York, from 1114 to 1140, gave land to many of the churches of his diocese and founded several religious houses.

It was previously thought he had been passed over for sainthood, but in 2024 evidence emerged that Thurstan had indeed been acclaimed as a saint: his name was found, associated with a feast day of 6th February, in an ancient catalogue of saints' days at Pontefract Priory. A service book from Pontefract Priory listed him in a calendar of saints' feast days observed at the monastery.



Thurstan is well known amongst medieval historians and scholars as a figure of immense political and social significance during the early half of the 12th Century, but until this proof was found, all believed that he never achieved sainthood.

Born in Normandy in about 1070, Thurstan visited the Abbey of Cluny as a young man and vowed to one day become a Cluniac monk. On 25th January 1140, aged nearly 70 and in failing health, he fulfilled this vow by resigning from his position as Archbishop of York and retiring to the Cluniac priory at Pontefract. He died on the 6th February of the same year.

Thurstan is remembered for giving land to many of the churches of his diocese and he founded several religious houses. He founded the first nunnery in Yorkshire when he founded St Clement's, York between 1125 and 1133. The mediaeval parish of St. Clement covered the area bounded by the York city wall to the north, the river Ouse to the east, Knavesmire to the west and extending to that of Bishopthorpe to the south. This district adjacent to the city wall was known as Clementhorpe after St. Clement's church which existed as an integral part of the Benedictine Nunnery of St. Clement and served both as the Priory Church and as the Parish Church for the residents living outside the nunnery boundary. This, the first monastic institution to be established in the North of England after the Norman Conquest, served

successive generations of York citizens for over four hundred years. No signs of the original nunnery remain although it is referred to in street names in the area.

Thurstan obtained for Whitby Abbey a papal privilege of protection and he also helped found the Cistercian Abbey of Fountains by giving the site to monks who had been expelled from the Abbey of St. Mary's, York. In addition, he was a patron to the Augustinian Hexham Priory, founded by his predecessor at York, as well as helping the foundation of Bridlington Priory, another Augustinian house. Hence Thurstan had a considerable influence over the religious life of the North.

Like most senior churchmen of the era, Thurstan was also very active in political affairs. Thurstan supported King Stephen after Henry I's death in 1135 and appeared at Stephen's first court at Easter held at Westminster. It was Thurstan who negotiated a truce at Roxburgh in 1138 between England and Scotland and it was Thurstan who mustered the army which



defeated the Scots at the Battle of the Standard on 22nd August 1138 near Northallerton. Thurstan did not take a direct part in the battle, but he created the standard that gave the battle its name by putting a ship's mast in a cart and hanging the banners of Saint Peter of York, Saint John of Beverley, and Saint Wilfrid of Ripon on the mast. The Scots had invaded in an attempt to aid the Empress Matilda, the daughter of Henry I and Stephen's rival for the throne.

Thurstan, died less than two weeks after joining the Cluniac Priory at Pontefract, and as befitted his status and importance, was buried before the high altar at Pontefract Priory.

A few days after Thurstan's death, the Archdeacon of Nottingham was said to have experienced a vision of Thurstan in a dream, in which he appeared in heaven among the saints. Other sources report that, after Thurstan's death, the monks at Pontefract opened his tomb to find that neither his body nor the vestments in which he had been buried had decayed, and that a sweet smell — thought to be an "odour of sanctity" in medieval times — emanated from the grave.

Finally, the discovery of the calendar of saints' feast days from Pontefract Priory in 2024 confirms that in the years following his death Thurstan was revered as a saint with his saint's day being the 6th February.

Richard Byas

A man, stranded on an island for five years, was finally rescued. The rescuers noticed that he had built three huts. They asked him what they were for. The man said, 'one is my house, and one is my church'. The rescuers said, 'but what about the third hut'. The man replied 'that was the church I used to go to before I changed denominations'.



Baldersby St. James Church Events

Coffee and Chat at 10.00am Tuesdays in church. Everyone welcome.

St Columba's Church, Topcliffe

Wednesday 5th March at 7pm - Compline for Ash Wednesday. At 7pm each Wednesday in Lent we will be holding a Compline service.

Topcliffe C of E Academy dates - Friday 14 February – Break up for half term.
Monday 24 February – School re-opens for 2nd half of Spring Term.

Dalton Events

130 Club Results -

November: £15 – Marion Tracey (No.84); £10 – George & Millie Robson (No.55);
£6 – Faith Bishop (No.78)

December: £15 – Bob Clay (No.37); £10 – Ken Croft (No.19); £6 – Tony Bird (No.35)

January: £15 – Sheila Shuttleworth (No.21); £10 – Charlotte Hudson (No.110);
£6 – Judy Spence (No.93)

Pop-up Pub with Fish and Chips 14th February, 7pm, in the village hall. Contact Eleanor for details on 07841 036340.

Pop-up Cafe 22nd February, 9.30am until 11.30am, in the village hall. Bacon and/or sausage butties and toasted teacakes for sale. Come along and enjoy brunch and a chat. All welcome.

Cottage Pie and Pudding Lunch will be held from 12 noon on Sunday 9th March. Tickets are available from Judy on 01845 577607.

PARISH DIRECTORY

The Parishes of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth and Skipton on Swale, and Dalton.

There is currently no Vicar of the parishes. Until one is appointed, please contact our Area Dean,
Rev'd Mary Rolls, mob: 07877 213327 email: mary.rolls@mowbraydeanery.org.uk

BALDESBY with DISHFORTH and SKIPTON-ON-SWALE - PCC Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Wharton
wharton370@btinternet.com

DALTON - PCC Secretary: Mrs Hannah Bissett tel: 07739 382831 spannerb79@gmail.com

TOPCLIFFE – PCC Secretary: Mrs Roz Norris RozNorris@aol.com