

Feb 2nd: Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Today we remember the vital moment that Luke records when Joseph and Mary arrive to present Jesus at the Temple and make the requisite sacrifice of a pair of doves, by way of obeying the Jewish Law. They are met by two elderly and faith-filled individuals, Simeon and Anna, whose words of affirmation and prediction are arresting in their impact. Jesus is affirmed as the long-awaited Messiah, and Mary is warned of the suffering that lies ahead for her and for her son, as he assumes his destined role as Saviour. We grateful to have Peter preaching for us again today.

Candlemas Celebration last night at Ripon Cathedral



Last night hundreds of worshippers attended Ripon Cathedral for the annual celebration of Candlemas, lit by 7000 candles, many placed in alcoves 70 feet up.

Lent Resources: The Church of England is finally acknowledging that followers of Jesus Christ really need to understand the vital issues surrounding climate change and environmental protection. As we have recently witnessed almost unprecedented forest fires in New South Wales and desperate flooding in Jakarta – while vast tracts of the Amazon rainforest are going the way of those in Borneo and Sumatra – it is becoming clear that unless something radical is done soon, we may destroy much of the planet in our own lifetime. David Attenborough is about to release a full-length film outlining his suggestions for saving the planet – a film that we should perhaps all go to see?

I still have three copies of Ruth Valerio's book, 'Saying Yes to Life', (this year's Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book) going at just £8 each. As explained last week, Dr Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at Tearfund, is a respected theologian, environmentalist & social activist.. It is a great book, and extremely well written! It is designed to be read by individuals either alone as part of a discussion group. To be used alongside this, the Church of England has produced some thought-provoking booklets with 40 daily prayers, reflections and challenges. There are two versions – an adult- & a children's version. We are being asked to use these through Lent. I now have sufficient copies for every family to have one. They work

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out at about £1.50 per copy. If you would like to chip in towards it, we wouldn't say no! We will be running a series of Lent Course sessions based on this material on Monday evenings, starting March 2nd. Please put those in your diary.



Forthcoming Events:

Hedge trimming.. 10.30am Next Sat morning (8th February) - following on from the men's breakfast. Equipment provided. For further information, contact Revd Andrew.

St Cuthbert's Church, Colburn



Saturdays, 8.30 – 10.30am

Dates for Spring 2020 :

January 11th, February 8th, March 14th, April 4th
St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Colburn Lane, DL9 4LT

Good food, friendly banter, discussing real life issues: all welcome!

Café Church at St Mary's with Revd Canon Dr Alan Bartlett

This month's Café Church at St Mary's, Richmond (4pm, 17th Feb) features Revd Canon Dr Alan Bartlett, Ministry Development Adviser, Diocese of Durham in conversation with +John Pritchard. This should be a very good afternoon. Why not come along & hear what he has to say?

This week in the Parish:

NB: Tonight's Praise & Worship service is cancelled.

Mon: 3.15pm **Funeral: Douglas Ballantyne** Darlington Crem 7 for 7.15pm **Deanery Synod** St Cuthbert's Community Hall

Tues: 6-7pm **Warden's Hour**, meeting room
10-12 noon **Veterans & Community Art Group** in the hall

Wed: 9-11.30am **Drop-in** St Cuthbert's Community Hall

1pm **Rosedale Care Home Hymns and Prayers**

2.30pm **Hillcrest Care Home Hymns and Prayers**

6pm **Hipswell Primary School Governors** Hipswell Primary

7.30pm **Prayers for the World** Meeting room

Sat: 8.30am **Men's Breakfast** in the hall, followed by hedge trimming from 10.30am (optional!)

Prayers For those seeking comfort & healing: Lisa, Glen, Stuart, Lee, Eve, Graham, Angelika, Gracie, Derek, Tricia, Ann, Jenny & Pauline.

We pray for the families & friends of those who have died:

Douglas Ballantyne.

Next Sunday: Third Sunday before Lent

St John's – 9.30am Holy Communion

St Cuthbert's – 11am Service of the Word + KFC