

Services Today Candlemas

8.00am Holy Communion - Ross
The Rev'd Sarah Jones

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Ross
The Rev'd Sarah Jones

Organ: Adagio in E - Bridge

Setting: Mass of St Thomas - Thorne

Introit: O nata lux - Tallis

Introit Hymn: 325 (vv1,3,5, 8) Of the
Father's love begotten

Psalms: 24.7-10 resp - Maulkin

Gradual: 453 Faithful vigil ended

Offertory: 39 (all vv) Angels, from the
realms of glory

Communion: When to the temple - Eccard
Light of the Word - Dankworth

Post Com: N Lord the light of your love

Organ: Toccata - Mushel

9.30am Eucharist - Walford
The Rev'd Caroline Pascoe

Hymn: 438 Make way, make way for
Christ the King in splendour arrives

Hymn: 162 Father I place into your
hands

Hymn: 419 Lord the light of your love

Hymn: 631 Tell out, my soul

Lord, the light of your love is shining

Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my dark-
ness
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your
story
Shine on me, shine on me



DO JOIN US FOR COFFEE IN
ST MARY'S HALL AFTER THE
9.30 EUCHARIST



The Benefice of Ross with Walford



St Michael & All Angels
Walford

Newsletter

CANDLEMAS

29th January 2012

We offer a warm welcome to everyone at our services today

In November last year, Jill and I went up to the very north of Europe, to the North Cape of Norway in the hope of seeing the Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis. We were disappointed. Whether it was the weather – too much cloud; or the temperature – not cold enough; or not enough electrically charged particles flowing from the sun to collide with the Earth's upper atmosphere – I don't know; but the result was a certain disappointment.

That disappointment was heightened by this last week's spectacular display of the Northern Lights over northern Britain, particularly in Scotland; but even so far south as Northumberland, Cleveland and Yorkshire. It was tempting to say that "It's not fair!"; but that's missing the point, especially as my generation was brought up to believe that life isn't fair anyway.

The emotion I find I shared with some of the people who were lucky enough to see these Lights was one of wonder; wonder at the immensity and generosity of the universe. While so much of the time we think that performances are put on for our benefit – this was certainly not

one of them; but simply the collision between elastically charged particles steaming from the Sun and our atmospheric atoms and ions, causing them to radiate different colours and bands of light.

All too often we take creation for granted; even thinking that it's all there solely for our benefit, and to be harvested or plundered at our whim or will. What this week's display of the Aurora Borealis has reminded us, is that we are part of something greater than we are, something we don't always understand or control; and that, just occasionally, our only response to our Maker can be one of wonder and praise.

Andrew Talbot-Ponsonby

For our prayers this week:

We pray for those who are ill:
Paul Eward, Giles Tipton, Terry Davies .
Gordon Lucas.

We remember those who have died:
Audrey Free, Joyce Roberts
and we pray for their families.

Office Hours this coming week

Monday to Friday 9am-12 noon

Tel: 01989 562175 Email: administrator@rawchurch.org.uk

The Rev'd Sarah Jones 01989 562175 - not Tuesday
The Rev'd Jill Talbot-Ponsonby 01989 565003 - Tuesday

Today's Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Today's Readings

First 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.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2.14-end

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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 Reading: Luke 2.22-40

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 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.

Notices

Mid-week Communion in Ross
Thursday at 10am.

Acoustic Concert Next Saturday (4th Feb). Award winning Canadian duo Madison Violet play St Mary's as part of their UK tour. Profits to St Mary's. Tickets £10 (£5 students) from The Office, Rossiter Books or www.rossroots.ticketsource.co.uk

Lights Please could you leave the lights on as you leave St Mary's Church during the week. We leave a select group of lights on so that people can visit. It can be dangerous if all the lights are turned off. Thank you. Sarah

Services next Week

5th February

8.00am **Holy Communion - Ross**

9.30am **Sung Eucharist - Ross**

9.30am **Matins - Walford**

Mothers Union will meet on Wed Feb 1st 2.30pm Canon Freda Davies speaks on this year's MU Theme "Your Gift - Discover & Celebrate". All welcome.

Coffee Mornings 2012 Just a quick reminder that our first Coffee Morning will be on Sat 4th Feb 2012. Last years Coffee Mornings raised a total of £1027.80 for St Mary's. So please continue to support us. Sue and Pam

St Mary's Coffee rota We will publish the new rota at the beginning of February. If any of you wish to sign up to this sociable and worthwhile service you would be most welcome. Usually you would need to make the coffee/tea 2 or 3 times a year. If anyone presently on the rota is unable to continue please let us know. Thanks and best wishes John and Anna Constance. Tel 564096 or ross.secretary@rawchurch.org.uk

Please note the current and past copies of the newsletter are to be found on <http://www.rawchurch.org.uk/publicationspast.htm>. The newsletter is usually placed there on the Friday before the designated Sunday.