




# Sunday 2nd February 2025 — Candlemas

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| <p><b>WORSHIP TODAY</b></p> <p>9:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am St Peter, Bromyard  Holy Communion</p> <p>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Stoke Lacy</p> | <p><b>COLLECT FOR CANDLEMAS</b></p> <p>Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,<br/>         whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,<br/>         in substance of our flesh:<br/>         grant that we may be presented to You<br/>         with pure and clean hearts,<br/>         by Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,<br/>         who is alive and reigns with You,<br/>         in the unity of the Holy Spirit,<br/>         one God, now and for ever.</p> |
| <p><b>TODAY'S READINGS – CANDLEMAS</b></p> <p><i>Morning:</i> Malachi 3.1-5; ;Psalm 24.[1-6] 7-10<br/>         Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40</p> <p><i>Evening:</i> Haggai 2.1-9; John 2.18-22;<br/>         Psalms 122, 132</p>                         |  |

**REFLECTION: Mission - Year of Engagement**

Mission is God’s invitation to everyone to join in the Divine Dance.

2025 is the Diocesan Year of Engagement, when we are challenged as churches and individuals to engage with our communities. It is only through building relationships with people that we are able to engage in mission.

How do we do this practically?

My shelves have books entitled ‘Everyday Evangelism’, ‘Developing Healthy Churches’, ‘Online Mission and Ministry’, ‘Creating Missional Worship’, all of which should be a guide to mission, that act of inviting people to join in the Divine Dance.

The best advice I’ve found comes from ‘Chav Christianity’, which has a section entitled ‘Get off your backside and tell your friends about Jesus’. And it simply says to tell your story, share your faith, and share your hope.

Peter tells us to:

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ... 1 Peter 3:15 (ANIV)*

We don’t/shouldn’t need to initiate conversations about faith. If we are living Christ-like lives, people will be wanting to know what it is that makes us different. The way in which we live, think, act, talk, should attract people. A chorus I learned in my teens says:

*They are watching you, marking all you do,  
 hearing the things you say.  
 Let them see the Saviour as He shines in you,  
 let His power control you every day.*

When we are in the shops in Bromyard, when we’re waiting for the bus to Hereford or Worcester, when we’re at a show or concert at the Conquest, when we’re exercising in the Halo gym, when we’re walking the dog, when we’re at Stoke Lacy coffee morning.

If you want to engage with the community, don’t use the self-service checkouts in the Co-op, do always say ‘Hello’ to a passing stranger, end every conversation with a simple ‘God bless’. It may take a little time, but doors will begin to open!

A thought ascribed to St Francis of Assisi:

*‘Preach the gospel, use words if necessary’*

*Rev Phil*

**Tuesday 4th February 2025**

11:00am Highwell House Holy Communion

**Wednesday 5th February 2025**

10:00am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

**Sunday 9th February 2025 - 4 Before Lent**

10:30am St Peter, Bromyard Holy Communion

4:00pm St Peter &amp; St Paul, Stoke Lacy PM Praise

**READINGS – 4 Before Lent***Morning:* Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138;  
1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11*Evening:* Psalms [1] 2; Hosea 1; Colossians 3.1-22;  
Matthew 5.13-20**HIGHWELL HOUSE**

On Tuesday 4th February Rev Phil and Rev David will be taking Holy Communion to Highwell House at 11:00am. If you'd like to join with this and meet the residents, please let Rev Phil know.

**STOKE LACY COFFEE MORNING**

The next Stoke Lacy Coffee Morning is on Saturday 8th February, 10am—12noon. Great coffee, great refreshments, great fellowship!

**PEBBLES**

Pebbles is the name of our new Parent and Toddler group which will be meeting twice a month on a Monday at The Falcon Mews, starting on Monday 10th February. We have a team in place to work with the toddlers, but we also need a team to sit and chat with the parents. If you would be interested in helping with this, please speak to Rev David or Betty Csullog.

**YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT**

2025 is the Diocesan Year of Engagement, when we are encouraged to look for ways in which we can engage with our communities. Besides activities such as Party in the Park, Stoke Lacy Coffee mornings, and the range of Bromyard Festivals, we need your thoughts and ideas for ways in which we can get to know our communities better. Please let Rev Phil or Rev David know your ideas.

**HALF TERM FUN DAYS**

On Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th February there will be Half-term Fun Days at Upper Sapey church. Music, crafts, games, and story for 4-11 year olds. £10 for two days, £5 for one day. To book places please contact Marion Symmons on 07483 895656 or [marionsymmons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marionsymmons@hotmail.co.uk)

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;  
for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.  
Psalm 24: 1,2*

**BROMYARD FOODBANK**

*Items urgently needed this week:*

**Tinned meats, dried dog & cat food, tinned fruit, jam & spreads, pasta, tinned tomatoes, UHT milk, cereal, coffee, tinned big soup**

Foodbank are always willing to welcome potential new volunteers Please contact Emma Stapley or Rev Phil for more information.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Margaret Hamilton-Herbert, Iain Elliott, Alan Seabrook, Peter Cliff, Rita & Trevor Griffiths

*Recently bereaved:* the families of Netti Evans, Claire Hollis, Peder Nielson, Revd Michael Smith, TJ Biddle, Mary Watkins, Don Griffiths, Rachel 'Hartwright', Malcolm Sheail; Louise Spinks, Richard Orgee

*Wedding Couples:* Henry Henshall & Sofi Buzzard; Ryan Skyrme & Jenna Arnold; Martyn Craddock & Amberley Schuck

*Baptisms:* Chester Davis

**CONTACTS**

**Revd Philip Miller** - Vicar (rest day—Monday)  
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**Revd David Hall** - Curate (rest day-Friday)  
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The Parish Office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am-12noon 01885 483749 [admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetersbromyard.org.uk)

Parish website: <https://stpetersbromyard.org.uk/>

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