

FAMILY SERVICE

Christingle for Candlemas

Sunday 1 February 2026



There will be a Choral Evensong service today at 4pm



THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, SERVING
CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

Everyone Welcome!

Welcome to our Family Service this morning.

Sunday Club and STAY are not running today as the children and youth join us in church.

Their usual Sundays are:

Sunday Club (Reception to Year 6) - 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month in the Ark during term time.

STAY (Year 7 upwards) - 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of each month in the Ark during term time.

The children's area is open and toys are available for younger children there. Please would parents supervise their children using this area and tidy toys away afterwards.

Please do join us for refreshments in The Ark following the service.

To request more information about our church activities please scan the QR code to the right or contact the church office by telephone or email - details on the back page.



If you would like to make a donation to the ministry and mission of this church you can do so by leaving a donation in the collection plate, using the contactless terminal by the main church door or scanning the QR code here:



*The responses and prayers in **BOLD** type are said by the whole congregation*

We stand to sing the hymn (A&M 356)

All nations of the world

be joyful in the Lord:
with willing hands your Master serve with one accord:
in ceaseless praise
with heart and voice in him rejoice through all your days.

Be sure the Lord is God,
creation's Source and Spring:
in him alone we live, to him our lives we bring.
From days of old
he feeds his flock and guides the wanderers to his fold.

In gladness go your way:
approach his courts with song
in thankfulness to him to whom all things belong.
His name adore:
his gracious mercy, truth and love for evermore.

WELCOME

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Please sit for the notices

CONFSSION

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness but shall have the light of life'

cf John 8:12

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts: Lord have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We are assured of God's forgiveness:

The God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Please stand

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:
let us sing to God with thankful hearts.

Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

cf Colossians 3.16,17

We sing the hymn (A&M 113)

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

2. The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.

A glory dawns in every dark place ...

3. They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

A glory dawns in every dark place ...

4. But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

A glory dawns in every dark place ...

5. The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

6. They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

A glory dawns in every dark place ...

7. The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

A glory dawns in every dark place ...

Please sit for our Reading from the Bible.

Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying.

Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The children gather at the front.

THE TALK

The Christingles are lit and held up.

Glory to Christ, Son of Mary; born a child, you are one with us.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of David; born to rule, you reign in our hearts.

Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to Christ, Son of man; born to save, you are the light of the world.

Glory to God in the highest.

The children return to their seats

We stand to sing the hymn (A&M678)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Please sit

PRAYERS

We sit or kneel to pray for the world, the church and our community.

These responses are used:

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

And at the end of the prayers:

**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. Amen**

We stand to sing (A&M 719)

**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!*

2. 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 darkness:
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine ...

3. 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.

Shine, Jesus, shine ...

We sit or kneel for the Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Birthday cards are given out.

We stand for the final blessing.

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Hymn (A&M 708)

'Lift up your hearts!' We lift them, Lord, to thee;
here at thy feet none other may we see:
'lift up your hearts!' E'en so, with one accord,
we lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.

2. Above the level of the former years,
the mire of sin, the slough of guilty fears,
the mist of doubt, the blight of love's decay,
O Lord of light, lift all our hearts to-day.

3. Above the swamps of subterfuge and shame,
the deeds, the thoughts, that honour may not name,
the halting tongue that dares not tell the whole,
O Lord of truth, lift every Christian soul.

(verses 4 & 5 overleaf)

Parish News

CHORAL EVENSONG takes place at 4pm this afternoon in church followed by tea and homemade cakes in the Ark.

JOAN PRATT RIP - We assure Jimmy and their children of our prayers at this difficult time. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 26 February at 12.30pm in church.

GLORIA CLEVERLY RIP - We remember the family and friends of Gloria and assure them of our prayers. Gloria was baptised in St. Andrew's and worshipped here for 97 years.

Her funeral will take place Monday 9 February at 1pm in church.

RENDEZVOUS LUNCH CLUB - the next lunch club will be on Tuesday 10 February. Join us for an opportunity to chat with old friends and make new ones. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The menu for the lunch is cottage pie or vegetarian pie followed by pavlova and tea/coffee.

To book please call Hilary in the Parish office on 0118 969 3298 or email office@sonningparish.org.uk

HOME GROUPS - Wednesday @ 8 (online bi-weekly) and Thursday @ 8 (in-person weekly) are back after the Christmas break. Our aim is to deepen our faith, build friendships and enjoy time together with God at the centre. If you want to know more please contact Helen (helen.craig50@gmail.com) for Thursday or Gemma (gemmajanewest@hotmail.co.uk) for Wednesday.

FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW'S FORTHCOMING EVENTS - We have The Bourne Again Shadows performing at Reading Hockey Club on 20th February @ 7.30pm with tickets costing £22. This is followed by the Quiz and Fish & Chip supper (and AGM) on Thursday 26th March @ 7.30pm. Tickets £20. Please contact Sally Wilson on 07876 899513 or mustangsallywilson@gmail.com if you would like tickets.

FoStAC Trustees

WOODLEY FOODBANK - Please leave any donations for the Woodley Foodbank in the green box as you enter church. They accept all donations of dried or canned food, cereals, coffee/tea and toiletries so please do consider bringing an item with you to church to donate.

Prayer Team and Pastoral Visiting

The Ministry Team are always happy to visit, pray for or take home Communion to those in need. Please contact the Parish office if you would like to arrange this.

We remember any who have died who are known to us:

Mavis Newnham, Gloria Cleverly, Joan Pratt

We remember any whose anniversaries fall around this time:

Roy Scally, Jack Restall, Richard Jeffery, Beryl Tomlin, David Sims, Gwendoline Clarke

The Week Ahead

Monday 2 February

6.00pm STAY on Monday The Ark

Wednesday 4 February

10.00am Holy Communion The Ark

8.00pm Wednesday at 8 (*gemmajanewest@hotmail.co.uk* for details)

Thursday 5 February

1.00pm Funeral of Mavis Newnham Church

7.30pm Bellringing practice Bell tower

8.00pm Thursday at 8 (*helen.craig50@gmail.com* for details)

Friday 6 February

6.30pm Adults and Youth choir practice St Sarik

6.45pm STAY on Friday The Ark

Sunday 8 February

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist Church

12.15pm Baptisms Church

6.00pm STAY Youth Service Church

Parish Contacts

Vicar: Revd Jamie Taylor 0118 969 3298 *vicar@sonningparish.org.uk*
(off duty Friday)

Youth Minister: Chris West 07946 224 106 *youthminister@sonningparish.org.uk*

Youth & Children's Minister: Corinne Robertson *corinne@sonningparish.org.uk*

Parish Office Manager: Hilary Rennie 0118 969 3298 *office@sonningparish.org.uk*

The Parish Office is open from 9am - 1pm Monday - Friday. At all other times please leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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