

ST PETER
—
DE BEAUVOIR TOWN

CANDLEMAS FAREWELL

31 January 2021



Brendan the Navigator: Strength in Unity
detail from Celtic Cross bronze cast
Wild Goose Studio, Ireland

Welcome to St Peter's...

St Peter's has been at the heart of De Beauvoir Town since 1841. The congregation today is a lively mix of people of all ages from all parts of the world.

An inclusive church in the liberal catholic tradition, faithful to the Anglican Communion, in the Diocese of London - whatever your experience of church, you are welcome here.

While our *Communion in Community* is restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic **Home Worship** is offered weekly online or by signing up for postal mailing.

St Peter's Church is open for **Private Prayer** on **Wednesdays 9-11am** and **Sundays 3-5pm**.

St Peter's Community Partnership has reopened the crypt for restricted community events and activities in line with government guidelines. Please contact the Parish Office with any enquiries.

For restricted funeral, wedding and baptism/christening enquiries, please contact the Parish Office *-be aware when planning ceremonies that restrictions can suddenly change!*

Welcome

Candlemas is a turning point in the church year. It marks the end of the Christmas/Epiphany season and looks towards Lent/Holy Week and Easter.

Traditionally candles are blessed in church for every household to carry into their homes for protection from storms and troubles.

As we journey on from here, let us lament our loss and let us celebrate, with thanksgiving, all that has been shared.

Blessing of incense grains

Incense symbolises three aspects of our worship. It signifies the presence of God, it is a symbol of prayer and it is a sign of offering.

Be blessed by God in whose honour you shall be burned.

Processional Music Claude Debussy *Clair De Lune*
played by Nicholas Bosworth, piano

Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you.

Prayers of penitence

As we journey onward, let us ask forgiveness where
we have failed and hurt one another

Silence is kept

Prayer over a vessel of water

God our Father,
your gift of water brings life and freshness to the
earth;
in baptism it is a sign of the washing away of our sins
and the gift of life eternal.
Sanctify this water, we pray:
renew the living spring of your life within us,
that we may be free from sin
and filled with your saving health;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sprinkling

May almighty God cleanse us from sin
and make us worthy of the kingdom of his glory.
Amen.

Collect *read by Matthew Bull*

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.

Readings

Malachi 3.1-4 *read by Mae Fredericks*

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.

Psalm 24 *read by Iris Bachman*

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

The Gospel *read by Sarah Dallas*

Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 for 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.

Sermon Revd Julia Porter-Pryce

Prayers for the church and the world *by Boachie Dankwah*

The response to each petition

Lord, in the silence

Hear our prayer

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Instrumental J S Bach *Adagio, Gigue, Loure, Preludio*
played by Darius Thompson, violin

Praying Our Farewells

God of our beginnings and endings,
we celebrate all we have shared
and ask your blessing as we continue our journey.

May the love that is in our hearts
be a bond that forever unites us,
wherever we may be.

May the power of your presence
bless this moment of our leave-taking;
This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Great
Redeemer.

Amen.

**We praise and thank you, God of the Journey,
for our sister who is leaving us.**

**We entrust her into your loving care,
knowing that you are always the faithful traveller
and companion on the Way.**

**Shelter and protect her from all harm and anxiety.
grant her courage to meet the future,
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

Amen.

Blessing of Candles

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Candles are lit

We stand near the place of new birth.
Let us shine with the light of your love.
We turn from the crib to the cross.
Let us shine with the light of your love.
We go to carry his light.
Let us shine with the light of your love.
Thanks be to God.

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has
become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with us
and also with you.

Blessing

May the nourishment of the earth be yours
May the clarity of light be yours
may the fluency of the ocean be yours
May the protection of the ancestors be yours
And so may a slow wind wrap these words of love
around you, an invisible cloak to mind your life.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord
We go in peace
Amen

Recessional Music Saint-Saëns *Tollite hostias* Romee
Day, organ & Alec Harmon, oboe

Presentation *by Rosie Wesermann*

Instrumental Chopin *Nocturne* played by Nicholas
Bosworth, piano