**Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)**

The link for our pre-recorded worship is:
<https://youtu.be/RlRWLmmKhR0>

**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. **Amen**

**Gospel**: 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.

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**Lent will soon be here**…and over the next few weeks this spot will be filling up with information and links to follow, as all our Lent Groups will be by Zoom this year out of pandemic necessity.

Lent Book:
**Phoebe: a story** by Paula Gooder
ISBN 978-0830852451 - available in paperback, hardback, Kindle edition and audiobook. Offers to host a book-club styled discussion on Zoom towards the end of March and/or after Easter would be warmly welcomed. (I’ve never been to a book-club!)

Lent Devotional Group:
**Commitment to Christ**Mondays at 7.30 pm, from 22nd Feb.
Expressions of interest to Janet Phythian
Mobile and WhatsApp: 07471-509950.
*Janet is a member of the congregation in Plaxtol and a returning missionary with links in Mozambique.*

Lent Study Group:
**Living in Love and faith**Chance to participate in the wider Church of England process concerning Inclusion, gender and sexuality.
Short online video preparation and Zoom discussions,
Wednesdays at either 11am or 8pm, from 24th Feb.
Expressions of interest to Peter Hayler (Rector):
[rectorswp@gmail.com](https://d.docs.live.net/7317fe87a3798587/Desktop/Lockdown/rectorswp%40gmail.com)

Our **Parish Magazines**, the Shipbourne Newsletter are Plaxtol Herald are both moving to be published online at least while we remain in lockdown– see shipbourne.com and plaxtol.com

Diocesan Link with Kondoa, Tanzania:
Please pray for Bishop Given. Covid is on the increase again, and the Government in Tanzania are denying it.
You make like to watch a short video showing the beginnings of their new Cathedral: [Kondoa Cathedral](https://kondoa.anglican.org/Articles/601403/Building_progress_January.aspx)

Archbishops call for prayer as 100k death toll passed
We are being encouraged to spend a short time in prayer and reflection at 6pm each day from February 1, praying for the victims of the pandemic, those on the front line and the public bodies and private businesses that make up our common life:
[www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)