

The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Notes!*



Mag'n'Nunc

I remember clearly flying solo with my first 1662 Book of Common Prayer Evensong. With no training incumbent attending I arrived early, and went straight to the organist to find out which parts the choir would be singing that evening, as they often changed them around to keep the clergy on their toes!

"The Mag-n-nunc", came the reply from organist Philip. So, I scurried off to the vestry to mark my pages...except I couldn't find the Mag-n-nunc anywhere. I wouldn't be beaten, I couldn't show I didn't know, it's got to be in there somewhere...But, with two minutes to go I admitted defeat, and went to Philip. "Philip, I really can't seem to find the Mag-n-nunc in my Book of Common Prayer. I think this copy must be different to what I'm used to. Could you possible point me in the right direction?"

"They're both in there." Replied Philip. "Here's the Magnificat and here's the Nunc Dimittis - Mag and Nunc."

I think I walked away muttering something under my breath, maybe about calling things by their correct names or perhaps something else!

This week we're thinking about Jesus' presentation in the temple, and it's here we find the Song of Simeon, or the Nunc Dimittis as it's called in the Book of Common Prayer.

Bible Readings

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every

THIS WEEK



A Curate's
Mag 'n' Nunc



Exposé
A Church Warden



News
Your News and
Stories



is Thursday please

way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus presented in the temple

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.

WEEKLY PRAYER

**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.**



A Reflection - by Rev Neil

HUMAN PROMISES

"So, we are saying go to work don't go to work don't take public transport don't go to work go to work. Stay indoors, if you can work from home go to work don't go to work. Go outside DON'T go outside...erm...and then we will or won't...erm...um...something or other."

Those were the words of Matt Lucas from Bake-off. He used them to show how confusing some found Boris' public announcements on the pandemic.

Throughout all of this we have had statements made - some promises, some aspirations, some contradictory and some just plain wrong.

I'm not picking on this government, because I think whoever was in power would be stuck between a rock and a hard place and inevitably make mistakes.

We're all human...and because we're all human, what we promise doesn't always come to pass.

- Sometimes we just get it wrong,
- Sometimes we over estimate
- Sometimes we underestimate
- Sometimes we say things for selfish gain
- Sometimes we just say what itching ears want to hear.

DEFINITION

The Oxford English Dictionary gives this definition of the word 'promise': *'to tell somebody that you will definitely do or not do something, or that something will definitely happen'*

BROKEN PROMISES

The thing is, the more promises are broken, the less inclined we are to listen and take note. Like the boy who cried wolf, no one came to his aid the one time he told the truth.

Broken promises mean that we have become so conditioned to the probability that promises will be broken, that we now take, and make, them

lightly. Even a promise as important as marriage is often entered into with the understanding, *"Well, if it doesn't work, we can get a divorce."*

PROMISES FULFILLED

However, there is one who does not take His promises lightly There is one who's promises are always fulfilled.

Eight days after the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present Him to God.

Waiting there, with the Holy Spirit upon him, was a man named Simeon, and God had promised him that he would see the coming of the Messiah.

When Simeon took Jesus in his arms he saw God's promise fulfilled, and gave us what became known as the Song or Simeon, or Nunc Dimittis.

Simeon: *Now, Lord and King, You can let me, Your humble servant, die in peace. You promised me that I would see with my own eyes what I'm seeing now: Your freedom, raised up in the presence of all peoples. He is the light who reveals Your message to the other nations, and He is the shining glory of Your covenant people, Israel.*

Luke 2:29-32 The Voice

GOD'S PROMISES

God has made many promises.

- He promised Noah and humanity that He would no longer destroy the whole world by water.
- He promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.
- He promised David that his kingdom would rule forever.
- And this final promise was fulfilled in Christ Jesus, born from the line of David, and whose birth, death and resurrection has made those who believe in Him heirs to the Kingdom of God.

The world takes promises lightly, but God does not. In these shifting, uncertain and unprecedented times, we can be assured that

**whatever God promises,
God will fulfill.**

IN DEPTH

Mark Williamson -
Church Warden and
Part-Time Tiger



What was your least favourite food as a child?

Swede, still can't eat the stuff, it traumatised me that much!

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Driving a knackered old JCB 3CX on the 1990 harvest, loading heston bales (half a ton each and about the size of an old Mini, two per grab) on lorries. 27 bales on a step frame trailer, 33 on a drawbar trailer. My first ever load took me 45 minutes to complete, my last was 12 minutes after three Months experience. The machine was constantly breaking down, and I spent my long working days covered in oil, dust and straw, whilst baking in the hot sun driving around in a greenhouse, even my sandwiches melted!

If you were an animal, what would you be?

Lion. I'm lazy and lion's like lying down!

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I used to Drive articulated lorries for Tesco part time at nights, and also used to drive for a friend collecting turkey waste from Bernard Matthews in Norfolk to Demulders. Great job in summer! Plus part time bus driving for Leon motors, again evenings and weekends. But you may already know this.

What's the most exciting thing you've done?

I have done a few things, but maybe driving a modified Mk 2 Transit fitted with a V8 engine down the Santa Pod drag strip. I was once a crew member of a Drag car race team (Team "Tender Trap") great times.

If you performed in a circus, what act would you be?

Clown of course!

My Aunty Bess

My Aunty Bess was in her seventies when she wrote "Life in the village". She was assisted by my mother, Ethel. They lived in Wymondam Leistershire but Ethel was brought up in Waltham-on-the-Wolds. Bess was the eleventh child of George and Lisa Kellam. Sadly I never knew my maternal grandparents. In 1940 Bess married Earnest Roythorne. They were married in the church of Mary Magdalene by Cannon Robson. Earnest joined the Home Guard and worked for Lord Gretton for 31 years at Holgate Fam. More about Ernie in a further article.

The House

My mother was born in Colston Basset. Her house belonged to the Duke of Rutland who lived in Belvoir Castle. He sold the row of cottages for £120. The focal point in the only room was a black leaded grate with an oven and boiler on either side. The boiler was kept filled with water brought in from a pump in the middle of the large yard. The steel top and fender were cleaned by dipping a wet cloth in the ashes and given a good rub. A large handmade hearth rug covered a large part of the floor. There were two rows of large white slabs the rest were red tiles. The washing was done on a scrubbed table and a large tray. The flat irons stood in front of the fire on a trivet to get hot. The pantry was sloping under the stairs. We had two bedrooms with two beds in each but we were quite happy. Our Grandfather clock had two heavy weights to be pulled down each night. We had ordinary furniture before Mam bought two chairs. But they were too good for us to sit on! They would be put on the road for people to rest on as they made their way to the Church. (There was no bier then) We had two large tubs to catch soft water. There was a large granite stone on which we cleaned our shoes and boots.

Alan Whitehall

A Ringer In Our Midst

Head Teacher, Sharon Patton, from St Oswalds Church of England Academy, is also bell ringing Tower Captain of St Mary's Church Tickhill. She tells us about her visit (pre COVID) to York Minster.

I was highly privileged to be able to join the Doncaster and District Society's outing to York on leap year day. The absolute highlight of the day was the opportunity to ring at the Minster itself.

Having only been learning to ring for a little over a year, and being one of the least experienced ringers on the visit, it's safe to say that I was absolutely petrified! At the first tower I was so nervous I couldn't stop shaking and by the time we got to the Minster was only marginally calmer. I didn't for one minute believe that I would actually be allowed to ring any of the bells but was quite happy to just be there and to enjoy the sounds as they were rung by others.

On arrival at the Minster we were taken on a private tour. I've visited the Minster many times before but never taken a tour - I really wish I had. Our guide, Alison, was extremely knowledgeable and made us all feel so welcome. It helped that she was a fellow ringer and able to add in some stories of her own experiences.



Having finished the tour, we made our way up the 100 stone steps to the ringing room. What a fabulous space! So bright and airy with impressive views over York itself. Watching the Minster ringers ring was a great experience in itself - there's certainly a lot to be taken from them on technique!

A visit to watch from above the bells was something not to be missed and they looked and sounded incredible. It's safe to say at this juncture I was completely awestruck. They certainly sound very different to our 'home tower' bells.

Back in the ringing room we were all made to feel extremely welcome, regardless of our level of experience. I was given the opportunity to ring rounds on the middle eight and despite the nerves I managed to stay in the right place and stand my bell at the right time! Phew! A kind and watchful eye was kept on us all and slowly the nerves began to disappear.

Thinking that I'd had my turn and was more than happy with what I had achieved, I settled in to watch and listen to my more experienced counterparts. I was surprised to be asked to ring not once but twice more and even had a go at my very first 'rounds on 12' which was a challenge but one that I thoroughly enjoyed.

One day (maybe when my ringing technique is better) I'd love to visit again, but even if I don't this will always be an amazing, special memory for me. I'm thankful to all who helped to organise this event and to those who helped us and encouraged us along the way.

DID YOU KNOW?

2nd Feb: Candlemas, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the



A Prayer for Light

Fountain of light, source of light,
Hear our prayer.
Drive away from us the shadow of sin.
Seek us, kindly light.

You, who created us in holiness,
Who condemned our sin,
Who redeemed us from our sin,
Sustain us by your power.

Pour your gentle light into our dull minds,
Filling our heads with holy thoughts.
Pour your glorious light into our cold breasts,
Kindling holy love within our hearts.

From horror, lust and fear,
Guard us while we sleep.
And if we cannot sleep,
Let our eyes behold your heavenly host.

By Alcuin of York, c. 735 - 804, was later abbot of Tours.

Old Age

On the outside: why so faded,
Colours chipped and hair awry?
Ageing's price has been exacted,
Hope extinguished, love gone by.

Middle Age

Halfway there with lines appearing,
Self-help books are piling high.
Dreams still beckon; future yearning,
Life has not yet passed me by.

Adolescence

Teenage daring, risk unflinching;
Health and vigour promise more
Every passion lurks, so tempting
All sensations to the fore.

Childhood

Child amazement, world untested;
Safely kept in others' care.
Now emerging, trusting, fearless
Stain-free soul to taste the air.

Moral

Cast off now your stubborn pride.
Liberate the child inside.

(See Matthew 18:3) By John Barton

TRUTH AT RISK OF BEING AUCTIONED TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER – ARCHBISHOP

Truth is becoming a commodity, up for auction to the highest bidder, says Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell in a recent article published in Radio Times.

Lamenting the decline of truth in public life, the Archbishop explains “The echo chambers of social media and the fake news that often goes with it have led us to mistrust and cynicism.

“In other parts of the world, even news channels seem to be mouthpieces of certain political parties or vested interests.”

Commenting on the US Presidential election, Archbishop Cottrell says “Look at how divided and mistrustful of each other the people of that nation have become. Most alarming of all, there seems to be no common understanding of what is true or who can be trusted. Truth itself seems to have become a commodity, bought by the highest bidder.”

The Archbishop’s words echo those of former President Barack Obama, who told the BBC that the US was more sharply divided now than when Donald Trump won election four years ago.

‘truth decay’

Using the term ‘truth decay’ to describe a rise in conspiracy theories and disinformation in the US, Barack Obama said, “I think at some point it's going to require a combination of regulation and standards within industries to get us back to the point where we at least recognise a common set of facts before we start arguing about what we should do about those facts.”

The Archbishop of York, who took up the post last July, is warning that the divisions in the US could come to the UK. He believes that the BBC and other UK ‘public service broadcasting’ channels like Channel 4 have a vital role in holding the country together.

He says “I know that there are many across the country who feel that during this terrible pandemic year, others have been favoured at their expense. The vision of the united but diverse nation that we see on TV programmes such as ‘Gogglebox’ is not always what we see around us.”

The Archbishop is worried that the rise and spending power of US broadcasting giants Netflix and Amazon places “our British way of doing broadcasting under threat. A voracious, unchecked market may just sweep it away. Even some of our own politicians don’t always see this.”

Repentance unravels sin and makes sin not to be. – Thomas Watson

The best prayers have often more groans than words. – John Bunyan

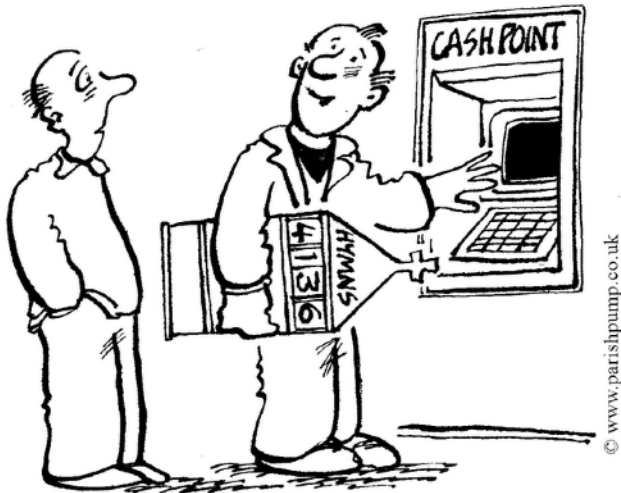
Jesus walking on earth is far more important than man walking on the moon. – Anon

Jesus Christ: no other man has ever humbled himself so greatly; and no man has ever been more exalted as a result. – Anon

Those who go against the grain of God’s laws shouldn’t complain when they get splinters. – Anon.

Just For Laughs

We never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!



A parcel for Justin! Now lockdown at home would be more bearable.

Live Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship. If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk or 07875 500555.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

Email: parishoffice@fabparish.org

Web: www.fabparish.org.uk

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Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Robinson on 07875 500555