



Dornoch, Lairg, Brora, Tain and Tongue News

Just where did January go? It seems to me that as we get older, time seems to pass more and more quickly and it feels like only yesterday that we were gathered around the manger singing Christmas Carols – and yet, here we are, already entering February!

One of the great feasts of the church in February is *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple* (sometimes called *Candlemas*). The story of the Presentation of Christ told in Luke's gospel is one in which Anna and Simeon have a 'senior moment' to die for – they are privileged to see the one who is to be the Saviour of the world.

Usually, when we talk about having a 'senior moment', it's a rather rueful reference to memory loss. It's one of the kinder ways in which we refer to the business of growing older. Our society isn't always as kind when old age is under discussion. We sometimes hear hints that old people pose a problem: we hear that pension funds won't last because people are living longer; there are concerns about funding care for those who can no longer look after themselves, or finding people to do the caring.

The story of the *Presentation of Christ in the Temple* involves two old people who show some of the positive attributes of old age. In the eyes of those around them, maybe Simeon and Anna didn't appear to have achieved very much. But old age isn't necessarily the time for productivity, perhaps it's the time for fruitfulness, a much longer-term result of growth. It's the stage of life when the **wisdom** we have acquired over the years can be harvested and shared.

For Simeon and Anna, Wisdom begins with attentiveness to God in prayer and worship, and alertness to the signs of God's coming in daily life. And they show us that wisdom grows when we give ourselves time to reflect, and give God a chance to reveal truth to us. Simeon and Anna took time – time to stand on the edge of the mystery of life and to wonder at it.

Candlemas is sometimes spoken of as the day when the Church's year changes direction. We stop looking back to Christmas, and begin looking

forward to Lent and Good Friday and Easter. It's the growing time of the year, a season that will offer us plenty of opportunity to practise and grow in wisdom, so that, like Anna and Simeon, we recognise the moments of God's coming, and rejoice in God's love every day!

- Rev Fr Simon

VESTRY MEMBERS!

Don't forget!

St Finnbarr's Vestry meet on Tuesday 11th February at 6.30pm

St Andrew's Vestry meet on Thursday 27th February at 6.45pm

AN INVITATION

The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board would like to invite you a meeting
with Bishop Mark on

Saturday 8th Feb at 11am

Programme

11.00am Worship in Inverness Cathedral. The service will be led by the members of the Diocesan Youth and Bishop Mark will preside.

Following worship we will then adjourn to Kenneth Street Hall where tea and coffee will be provided (transport can be arranged if necessary).

12.30 Bishop Mark will introduce the Mission Plan and take questions.
Copies of the plan will be available on the day.

1.15 Lunch. Please bring your own packed lunch- tea and coffee will be provided.

Over lunch we are asking people to share their responses to the questions below.

1.45 Finances of the Mission and Ministry plan will be presented.

2.15 Plenary -discussion of responses to the questions.

2.45 Growing together in vision and final act of worship

3.00 End of the day.

We are asking each person who comes to bring with them some thoughts on the following three questions. Please do share them in advance with others who may not be able to attend and bring their responses along too!

- a) 3 things to celebrate in the life of your worshipping community
 - b) 3 challenges facing your worshipping community
 - c) 3 constructive changes you would like to see
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THANKS TO 'THE TEAM'

As you will know, a team of valiant individuals have stepped up to help us keep our regular church services running during this interim period of vacancy for St Andrew's Tain and The Mission Charge. Our thanks go to all of them for helping us. We thought it might be useful to include in this newsletter a list of who is leading at each service this coming month. So, here you go –

Sunday 2nd February

8.30am – St Maelrubha, Lairg – Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Monica Dargie

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Don Grant

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Simon Scott

Sunday 9th February

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Simon Scott

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Alexander Gordon

4pm – St Columba, Brora - Service of Prayer and Healing – Rev Fr Simon Scott

Sunday 16th February

8.30am – St Maelrubha, Lairg – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Simon Scott

11am - St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Lizzie Campbell

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Simon Scott

Thursday 20th February

12 noon – St Trola, The Crask – Holy Eucharist - Rev Fr David Balfour

Sunday 23rd February

11am – St Finnbarr, Dornoch – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Simon Scott

11am – St Andrew, Tain – Holy Eucharist – Rev Fr Alexander Gordon

4pm – St Columba, Brora – Communion from Reserved Sacrament – Elizabeth Doyle

A regular service of either Holy Eucharist or Communion from Reserved Sacrament happens at St Andrew's in Tain EVERY Thursday at 6pm. Thanks to Janet McDonald and the Rev Fr Cliff Piper for their efforts in making sure this mid-week service continues to take place.

READINGS THIS MONTH

Sunday 2nd February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachai 3.1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

Sunday 9th February – Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6.1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

Sunday 16th February – Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17.5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15.12-20; Luke 6.17-26

Sunday 23rd February – Epiphany 7

Genesis 45.3-11,15; Psalm 37.1-12, 41-42; 1 Corinthians 15.35-38, 42-50; Luke 6.27-38

CONTACTS

Priest

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Scottish Charity Numbers: Missions: SC023271, Dornoch: SC009639, Tain: SC009500