

St. Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Gatehouse of Fleet

Sunday 1st February 2026 - Candlemas

Celebrant and Preacher: Rev'd Alison Hudson

Please pray for Joyce and Rob Thacker, Laura Durling, Sally-Anne and Peter Madeley, Carol Ducker, Rowan Huggitt, Barbara Graham, Sonia Perry and Dee DuRose
In memoriam Rae Osborne.

Pause for Prayer is now held at Denis and Judy's house at 10am each Wednesday morning, please do join us when you can as we pray for our church, community and the wider world. During Lent we will incorporate a Lenten devotion into this time.

Vestry our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February at 2pm at Fleet Farmhouse. Please do pray for the work of the Vestry.

Foodbank The next collection day is Tuesday 10th February. After a busy January, the shelves are looking bare and we are in need of all toiletries and foodstuffs from the list on the noticeboard - except tea, biscuits and sweets. The drop off point is Gatehouse Post Office.

Fleet Valley Revd Alison will be leading a time of worship at Fleet Valley Care Home on Wednesday 18th February at 2pm. Please do join me if you are able to.

Lent observances We begin with a service of Holy Communion and Ashing on **Ash Wednesday, 18th February** at 10am in St Mary's Church. There will be no 'Pause for Prayer' that day. **Churches Together Lent Lunches** take place each Wednesday from **18th February through to 25th March** with a short reflection at 12.20pm in the Parish Church, followed by a soup lunch in the Hall at 12.30pm. Donations this year will go to Barcaple for the Ukrainian children's summer visit. Anyone is welcome to attend the **Lent Groups** meeting at 11am in the Parish Church Hall led by Val Ott, or at 7pm in Fleet Valley.

A retreat to Iona Revd Dr Elizabeth Breakey is organising a retreat to Iona for people within the Galloway Region. Staying in Bishop's House, this will be a relaxed retreat with a rhythm of prayer, then space to do your own thing through the day, including joining with services in the Iona Abbey. It is on 3-10 October 2026, and will cost £700 for a twin room, £1,050 for a single, full board. If you're interested, see the poster on the noticeboard for more details, or speak to Revd Alison.

Gift Aid and Giving If you are a visitor or come occasionally to St.Mary's, and you are a tax payer, you may want to complete one of the green envelopes in the pew (not forgetting to include your name and address) in order that we can reclaim the tax. If you would rather give a regular amount, either by standing order or by weekly envelope, please contact the treasurer Linda Gaston, who is also treasurer for Greyfriars. Cash bills may still be given to David Hart Tel: 01557 814294 email david21gatehouse@icloud.com, invoices to Linda Tel: 07353 283870 email: lgaston57@icloud.com

Cheques The bank has informed us that we can no longer pay in cheques in Gatehouse, which makes it much more difficult and expensive to process any cheques received. If you can avoid making donations by cheque it would be much appreciated please. Bank details for online payments are available from David Hart. Many thanks.

Rev'd Alison's contact details:

18, Castledykes Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4AN Tel: 07725 467246

email: kirkgatepriest@gmail.com Rest days: Monday and Saturday

Website: www.greyfriarsstmarys.org.uk Facebook: St Mary's Church

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: 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. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R The Lord of hosts,
he is the king of glory.

or

R The Lord whom you seek
will suddenly come.

[The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?

"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud. **R**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation." Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. "Who is he, this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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.

POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.