

Feast of the Presentation - Candlemas
1st February, 2026

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. Amen

A reading from the book of the prophet

Malachi. (Malachi 3.1–5)

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 24: 'The Lord is the King of Glory'

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 2.14–18

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.

Hear the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke. Luke 2.22–40

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 Prayer

Lord you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah. May we, who have received these your gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life. We ask this in his name your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

HYMN NUMBERS:

44 - Angels from the realms of glory.

80 - When Candles are lighted. (omit * verses)

Sheet - In His temple now behold Him,

309 - Let all mortal flesh keep silent.

429 -Forth in the peace of Christ we go.

NOTICES....

MESSAGE FROM EARNLEY CHURCH

"We have a collection of Demi-Johns at the back of Earnley Church which were left, unclaimed, after a wedding some time ago. These need to be removed, so going FREE to anyone who would like them."

NEXT WEEK - FULL LENTEN DETAILS

Notes on today's service

At the end of the service during the final hymn Our candles will be lit, and the choir and altar party will make their way to the font, for the ending of the Candlemas ceremonies, please turn towards the font and make the responses as shown below.

The Responsory for the Candlemas ceremonies

Priest: Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

All **Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.**

Priest: Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All **Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.**
 Priest: Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All **Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.**
 Priest: Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

All **Help us, who now extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

All now extinguish their candles.

Priest: Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

All **Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Priest: Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All **Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Priest: Here we bless one another in your name.

All **Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.**
 Thanks be to God! Amen.

REGULAR EVENTS:

BIBLE STUDY:

MONDAYS – 2.00pm at St. Anne's church

QUIET PRAYER "PEACE ADVENTURE":

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, at Wind Demons, West Brack Drive from 2pm-4pm & 7pm to 8pm

HEAR HERE CLINIC: 11-12noon

FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

ALL UNLESS OTHERWISE UPDATED

Services this Week

All services at St. Anne's unless otherwise stated
 TUESDAY 7.00pm – Said Eucharist
 WEDNESDAY 10.00am Said Eucharist
Midweek services are held in the side chapel

Services Next Sunday

(Last Sunday in the month 8.00am BCP)

8th February 2026 – 2nd Sunday before Lent
 8.00am Said Eucharist St. Anne's
 9.00am Sung Eucharist Earnley
 10.15am Sung Eucharist St. Anne's
Readings: Genesis 1: 1-2:3
 Romans 8:18-25
 Matthew 6:25-34

*Please send any notices for Pews News to
 Barbara Blundell no later than
 WEDNESDAY EVENING.
 Tel: 670791 or email barbs.blundell@btinternet.com.*

The Parishes of Earnley with East Wittering and Almodington

Pews News.

www.facebook.com/stanneschurcheastwittering
<http://stanneseastwittering.org.uk/>

We welcome all visitors to our churches.

All communicant members of Christ's church are warmly invited to receive the Sacraments. If you do not receive the sacraments then please come forward for God's Blessing.

(All services are at St. Anne's unless indicated)

1st February 2026 Feast of the presentation Candlemas

Before the service and after the second bell, talk to God through quiet prayer and silent devotion, bringing to the Lord those events of your past week, and after the service, then talk to your friends.

If you are a visitor to our church, making a donation in the collection, and you are a taxpayer, the PCC would be very grateful if you could put your donation in one of the envelopes available at the end of the pews, and sign the Gift Aid Declaration on the envelope. In this way, the Church can claim a further 25p for every £1 you give. Thank you.
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "E.W.P.C.C"

Services today

(Last Sunday in the month 8.00am BCP)

8.00am	Said Eucharist St. Anne's
9.00am	Sung Eucharist Earnley
10.15am	Sung Eucharist St. Anne's
4 th SUNDAY of the month – Healing & Anointing	

Intercessions

The sick and those who have asked of our prayers:

Fr. John, Judy Williams, Nick Carter, Lorraine Hall, Len Holliday, Jean Church, Florence Sumakoloyl, Margaret Bate, and members of our congregation who are unwell today.

From our families and friends, we remember

Baby Phoebi, Gerry Davies, Millie Polhill, Sally, Sherline Smith, Matthew Finch, Suzy Tyne, Sue Knight, Ann & Jeff Parks, baby Logan, Pat & John Cox, Jules Pettitt, Dorothy Dixon, Lizi Benjamin, Alan Wilson, Tula Hunt and her family. Also, all those in our local nursing homes & rest homes, the housebound, those who care for them, and all who have been recently bereaved

The Recently Departed

Isabel Farley, Ursula Foster

Those whose years mind falls at this time

Leslie Willett, Raymond Woodham, Mary Barber, Alice Down, Marcus Hamilton, Frederick Bricknell, Betty Hankins, Yvonne Bayley, Paul Robson, Gladys Porter, Eileen Norbury, Revd. John Richardson