

**Junior Church** would like to divide into 2 or 3 groups to provide appropriate care and learning for each age group. If you share this vision, or if you could help, particularly with a secondary or pre-school group, contact Rachel Morris or clergy.

**Good at building relationships with children?** CYO are looking for a volunteer to help existing staff with a Lunch Club at Richard de Clare. The club runs every Monday, 12.30-1.00pm. It is attended by about 10 children usually, a mix of yr 3 & 4. For more details please contact Linda Davis 478907 or email [linda.1918@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:linda.1918@hotmail.co.uk).

The **Good Friday Workshop** needs leaders and helpers. Offers please to Rachel Morris or clergy.

### For your diary...

- **31<sup>st</sup> Baptism Preparation Evening** in church at **7.45pm**
- **4<sup>th</sup> February** The **PTFA** are holding a **Fun Quiz** at **Holy Trinity School** at **7pm**. Teams of up to 6. **BYO** snacks and drinks. **Tickets** are **£2.50 pp** from the **school office 472096**.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Deanery Synod** meet in the Centre at **7.30pm** to discuss the **Anglican Covenant**. This is an **open meeting** so **all are welcome** to attend.
- **11<sup>th</sup>** This year the **Colchester Area Conference** marks the 350th anniversary of the **Book of Common Prayer** and explores the way we pray together in the 21st century. With two keynote speakers and a choice of workshops, the 2012 conference promises to be both informative and inspiring. It takes place at St John's Church Colchester from 9.30 to 3.30pm. £5 per person (or £20 for 5 people). Closing date 31st January. Please see booking forms at the back of church or clergy for further information.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Home Group** meet at **Mallows House** starting at **7.30pm**. For more details speak to **Jim and Linda Davis**.
- **22<sup>nd</sup> Mother's Union** meet in the Centre at **7.30pm**.
- **17<sup>th</sup> March Vocations Day** is a chance to find out more about opportunities to serve God and his people. It is a time of discovering your own direction in life. And it is also an occasion to meet and talk with fellow explorers.

**St Andrew's Halstead is part of the Halstead Area Team Ministry**

**Team Rector:** The Revd Canon John Blore 01787 472171

**Self Supporting Curate:** The Revd Mike Bursell 07971 926937

**Fulltime Curate:** The Revd Sally Lodge 01787 475528

**Churchwardens:** David Lorkin 01787 475483

Brian Vidler 01787 475186

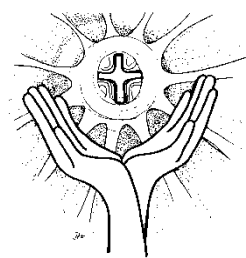
**Reader:** Mrs Terry Streamer 01787 473038

**Parish Administrator** Rachael Haylock

07963 764 350 [halsteadparish@gmail.com](mailto:halsteadparish@gmail.com)

The Office will usually be open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 – 2.00.

**Welcome to  
St Andrew's, Halstead**  
[www.halsteadchurches.co.uk](http://www.halsteadchurches.co.uk)



## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Candlemas

We warmly welcome you all to St Andrew's today. We are pleased you are able to worship with us today. If you are a visitor or new to the church please do make yourself known to the clergy or one of the welcomers at the door.

If you have **young children** with you, you may wish to make use of the Children's Corner where there are toys and books. There are toilets and baby changing facilities in the St Andrew's Centre across the road from the church. Please feel free to move in and out of the church during the service!

There is a **loop system** in operation – please set your hearing aid to the "T" position.

### Today's Services

**8am** Holy Communion  
**10am** Team Communion at  
St Catherine's, Gosfield  
**6.30pm** Evening Prayer (BCP)

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February Education Sunday

**8am** Holy Communion  
**10am** Parish Communion and Prayer for  
Wholeness and Healing  
**6.30pm** Evening Prayer (BCP)

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**In your prayers please remember the sick:**

Shirley Lock, Caroline Smith, Canon Stephen Carter,  
Diane Bettley, Margaret Fletcher, Hannah Barry, Baby  
Eddie Hall and Rosa Hayes

**And those who have died:**

Jill Callow, Ada Stickley, Ronald Hayes, Sue Fisher,  
Margaret Marquez, Peter Smith, Dorothy Tremain,  
Brian Newitt and Liz Garlick

## **COLLECT for Candlemas**

**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:

<sup>1</sup> 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.  
<sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. <sup>5</sup> 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.

## **SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14–18**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

## **GOSPEL READING Luke 2.22–40**

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

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> 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.' <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> 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.