

Events This week

Friday 2nd Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill

Friday 2nd Holy Communion 2.30 pm Charlton

Sunday 4th

Family Service 10 am Charlton

Morning Worship 10 am Penton

Holy Communion 10 am Enham

All age Worship with informal Communion 10 am
Hatherden

Family Service 10.30 am Weyhill

Wednesday 7th Holy Communion 10 am Tangley

Thursday 8th Compline 9.15 pm Charlton

Notices from around the Benefice....

Save a date Monday 26th March the 2018 Retreat Day
full details coming soon.

If you would like a prayer said for you, family or
friends by the benefice prayer group please
email prayer@pastrowbenefice.org.uk

Issue No 57 Sunday 4th February 2018

In your Prayers please pray for.....

The families of those recently bereaved may Gods
love and strength carry them forward on the path
of healing

Our wedding couples this year, as they progress
in their preparations may they journey with Gods
wisdom and love

All our families and friends in the Pastrow
Benefice as we progress in this year of
Discipleship

Community Diary Dates

Testimony Evening with Paul Jones (Manfred
Mann and The Blues Band) and Fiona Hendley
(actress and acclaimed musical performer) on Sat
10 Feb 18 in John Hanson Community School hall.
Tickets are free but need to be booked at
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-paul-jones-and-fiona-hendley-tickets-41964601252>

Readings This Week

Prov 8 1, 22 – 31
Col 1 15 – 20

Ps 104 26 – end
John 1 1 - 14

Next Week

2 Kings 2. 1 – 12
2 Cor 4 3 – 6

Ps 50 1 – 6
Mark 9 2 - 9

Words of Encouragement

By Terry Milne

*'The Light shines in darkness and the darkness did not
overcome it.'*

That famous verse, taken from the Gospel reading for
the 2nd Sunday before Lent, is very appropriate when we
consider that Candlemas has just been celebrated on 2nd
February. Candlemas is a traditional celebration
occurring 40 days after Christmas Day and reflecting the
purification of the Virgin Mary and, importantly, the
presentation of Jesus in the temple. Jewish Law
required the first born son to be presented to the
priests at the temple 40 days after birth and then a
sacrifice offered. As good Jewish parents Mary and
Joseph clearly wanted to conform with the law so went
to the temple. But it is what then happened that is
much more important. On leaving the temple the family
met Simeon. He recognised Jesus for just who He really
was (and is). The words of the Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2,
29-32) contain the words Simeon spoke 'A light to
reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people
Israel.' Jesus is indeed the light that can give us comfort
and direction even in the darkest of times. Jesus himself
said 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness but have the light of life'
(John 8:12).

We too can be a light to others in times of trouble – we
should not hide the light of our faith under a bushel.
We cannot be exactly like our Lord and Saviour but we
can be a reflection of His glory and shine as beacons in
all the surrounding secularisation of our increasingly
busy lives.

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Congratulations to our new Pastoral Visitors and thank
you to all those who came for the commissioning
service on Monday, a lovely service enjoyed by all.