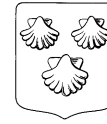
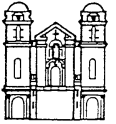


Worshipped by angels.
Proclaimed among the nations.
Believed in throughout the world.
Exalted to the highest heavens.
Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation.
Now and for ever, Amen.



Welcome to
The Church of St James the Greater
Leicester



HYMN 50 The heavenly child in stature grows

*The Procession moves to the Font
and the congregation turn to face the Baptistry*

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.**
Here, in Holy Scripture, we have heard of the loving purposes of God.
Help us, who have heard the Word, to be thankful for your gift.
Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.
**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**
Here we greeted the light of the world.
**Help us, who extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

All now extinguish their candles, as the Church lights are raised.

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.**
Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.
**Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**
Here we bless one another in your name.
**Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sit ORGAN POSTLUDE
'Mr Theo Saunders – His Trumpet Tune' by Antony Baldwin
composed for Theo in 2011

A Service for Candlemas

(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple)



Sunday 31 January 2016
at 6.30 pm

**This service is especially dedicated to the memory of Theo Saunders
Director of Music at St James the Greater for 11 years (1991-2002)
who died on Tuesday, 12 January, aged 58 following a long illness.**



Theo's post at St James's was held jointly with Stoneygate School – whose premises were then nearby on the London Road – where he was Head of Music. Although not a formal 'choir school', Theo aimed to recruit half of the church's boy choristers from among the pupils.

As well as being a distinguished musician, Theo had a deep appreciation of liturgy and was highly co operative with the Vicar in devising special services. A particular example of this continuing legacy is the cycle of special services beginning on Advent Sunday and completed in this Candlemas Service.

Theo left St James's to be Organist and Master of the Choristers at Armagh Cathedral, from where he took early retirement through ill health early last year.

The Archbishop of Armagh wrote

“Over the past decade, Theo has served the music and the worship of the Cathedral with immense dedication and musical skill”.

Theo will be fondly remembered by all who knew him as a good and godly man.

*Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your master.
Matthew 25.23*

ORGAN INTERLUDE

Improvisation on 'Theisms' – by Michael Rule, Organist

Electric lights are lowered.

All stand as the procession moves into the nave

The Gospel and Procession

ACCLAMATION The Presentation of Christ – Eccard
Choir When to the Temple Mary went,
and brought the Holy Child
him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed,
He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen
the Hope of Israel, the light of men.
Help now thy servants, gracious Lord that we may ever be
as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in thee;
And when we must from Earth departure take,
may gently fall asleep and with thee wake.

Priest **GOSPEL** Luke 2. 22-28

Choir **CANTICLE** *Nunc Dimittis*, the Song of Simeon – Howells St Paul's setting
Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation :
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

Candles are raised for the last verse of the Canticle

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Luke 2. 29-32

GOSPEL Luke 2. 33-40

ACCLAMATION
Priest Let us acclaim the living God. He was born of the Virgin Mary.
All **Revealed in his glory.**

continues over

Kneel or sit

The Prayers

LITANY led by The very Reverend Derek Hole, Vicar 1973 – 1992
In peace let us pray to the Lord.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh.

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God.

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the Baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan.

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

For the kingdoms of this world,
that they may become the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ.

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For your holy, catholic and apostolic Church, that it may be one.

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the witness of your faithful people,
that they may be lights in the world.

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer;
that they may be relieved and protected.

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For the aged, for refugees and all in danger,
that they may be strengthened and defended,

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

For those who walk in darkness and in the shadow of death,
that they may come to your eternal light.

All **We pray to you, O Lord.**

Father. source of light and life,
grant the prayers of your faithful people,
and fill the world with your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Priest Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, we pray:

All **Our Father, who art in heaven ...
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sit ANTHEM O Nata lux (O born light of light) – Tallis

The Congregation's candles are lit during the anthem

The Service of Light

Please stand as the choir processes in silence to the back of the church

Priest We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,
in the midst of your temple.

Sanctuary candles are lit and then torches held by Acolytes

Priest Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be glory and praise for ever!
For you are our light and our salvation
and we your children wait for your loving kindness
in the midst of your temple.
In your Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,
there is a light sprung up for the righteous
and joyful gladness for those who are faithful.
As we, like Simeon and Anna, welcome him with joy,
presented before us as the light of the world;
may we be filled with his Spirit and be made a living temple
to the praise and glory of his holy name.
And, as we join our praises with theirs,
grant us a quiet night and a perfect end, now and for ever.

The church is bathed in light

Choir INTROIT Hail Gladdening Light – Wood

Priest Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

All **A light which no darkness can quench.**

Priest As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION by Canon Glynn Richerby, Vicar

HYMN 33 **Of the Father's love begotten**

The Choir processes to the Chancel

The Service of the Word

Sit FIRST LESSON
Exodus 12.51; 13. 2, 11-16 read by Matthew Haynes, Director of Music
Consecrate to me all the first born.

Priest Search the Scriptures, as Christ told us in the Gospels.

All **We find him born in our midst.**
Presented in the temple and carried by Simeon.
We find him born in our midst.
In truth he has appeared in the world.
We find him born in our midst.

Priest O Lord, you have given us your word
for a light to shine upon our path.
Grant us so to meditate upon that word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines more and more
until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Stand HYMN 4 **Christ whose glory fills the skies**

Sit SECOND LESSON read by Vicky Roe, Pastoral Assistant
Leviticus 12. 6-8 The Law of Purification

Priest From the Virgin Mary shines forth Jesus our Saviour.

All **Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.**
He gives light to those in darkness.
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.
He is the one who offers and is offered for us
Sun of Righteousness, our God for ever.

Priest Almighty and everlasting God,
you have stooped to raise fallen humanity
by the childbearing of blessed Mary.
Grant that we who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature,
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image,
and conformed to the pattern of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Stand HYMN 311 **Virgin born, we bow before thee**

Sit THIRD LESSON Isaiah 6. 1- 8 read by Jeremy Josephs, Stoneygate School
I saw the Lord, and his train filled the temple

Priest Simeon takes in his arms the Lord of glory
Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.
He who speaks through the prophets.
Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.
Offering himself for us, in his own dwelling place.
Now I am set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.

Priest Lord God almighty,
you have given us the vision of your holiness,
and thereby of our own unworthiness to be your witnesses.
Touch, we pray, our lips, with your cleansing fire;
that so cleansed and hallowed,
we may go out into the world with the authority of your commission;
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Stand HYMN 96 **Bright the vision**

¶ Worship Committee

Sit FOURTH LESSON Haggai 2.1-9 read by Margaret Terry,
I will fill this house with splendour

Priest Zion, adorn the bridal chamber.
All **Welcome Christ the King of glory**
He comes to earth and appears in the temple.
Welcome Christ the King of glory
Praise to the Lord Jesus Christ, giver of life.
Welcome Christ the King of glory.

Priest Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple
and acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented to you
and in the world may reflect his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Stand HYMN 314 **Hail to the Lord who comes ...**

during which a collection is taken
please be as generous as your means allow