

# Outlook

*"I am the Lord  
your God,  
who brought you  
out of Egypt,  
out of the land of  
slavery."*

*"Honour  
your father  
and your  
mother..."*

from Exodus 20

We're continuing our series on the 10 Commandments today with a focus on the first commandment that comes with the promise of a blessing: **"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."** Today is also the Sunday in the Church's calendar that we remember the day on which Mary & Joseph took Jesus as a young child to the temple to fulfil what our Heavenly Father had commanded in Exodus 13 - that every firstborn male would be consecrated to the Lord. We call this day 'Candlemas' because of what Simeon said when he held Jesus in his arms, that Jesus is, **"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."** (Luke 2:32.) Jesus is the light, the 'candle' for the whole world.

If we put our 2 themes together we are left with a question. God's desire is to 'lead us out of slavery' and he has commanded us to 'honour our mother & father' as a step in that direction. The question then must be: Will we honour our mother and father? Will we live in his light, or go our own way?

## A Collect for this Week

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God. Amen.



## Exodus 20:1-2 & 12

1 And God spoke all these words:  
2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

12 Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."

## Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord'), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' 33 The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' 36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the

child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace

of God was on him.

## Lent Course 2026

We plan to run a Lent Course this year. The same material will be repeated on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons through Lent (so you only need to attend one or the other). Might you join us?

EAST LEIGH  
PARISH



### CHRISTIANITY|**EXPLORED**

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

A 7-week course for Lent 2026. Reading the Gospel of Mark we will see who Jesus says he is and why his death & resurrection are so important.

**7:30pm Tuesdays 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**1:45pm Wednesdays 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - 1<sup>st</sup> April**

(same material both sessions - attend either Tues eve or Weds afternoon)

More info via [ChristianityExplored.org](http://ChristianityExplored.org) & 07809 668 118

## Thinking Through the 10 Commandments

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Why not take a moment to consider the 3 pictures we've been using to help describe the commandments?

### **The Magnifying Glass:**

How do the commands clarify the beauty and majesty of God?

### **The Megaphone:**

What is the important warning message that God seeks to communicate through each command?

### **The Mirror:**

How does each command help us to see ourselves as God sees us?

## When You Pray...



Please keep Dave S; Julie G; and; Jan S in your prayers as they each face significant health challenges.

## Holocaust Memorial Event: 7pm Thursday 5th Feb in All Saints'



A special event to mark this year's Holocaust Memorial Day named "**The Fiddle**" has been organised to take place in All Saints' on Thursday 5th Feb. Our special guest Natalie Cumming will share the story of a particular fiddle that has been passed down through the generations - an instrument that, like her family, has lived through the Jewish persecution of the

Russian Revolution and also through the horrors of Auschwitz. Natalie inherited the violin from her father in 1985 and during the evening it will be played by a professional musician as the story of its history is told to us. You can see some of its story [here](#) from when it appeared on BBC's '[The Repair Shop.](#)'

## Serving in the Life of Church: How might YOU serve in 2026?



Romans 12 tells us, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

>>> Might you serve in one of the following ways?

- \* We need someone to take care of the gardens/lawns outside All Saints' - we'd love to have this in place by the end of Feb.
- \* After quite a few years in post, Phil is keen to step down as Treasurer. Do you have the skills needed to serve in this way?
- \* Can you give financially to the church? Might you set up a regular gift?
- \* Have you got DIY skills? Keith would love a hand with maintenance.

>>> Speak to Sue for more information about serving.

## Keep in Touch



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