



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

A community together in faith.

Sunday Link

Connecting a community

Sunday 15th December 2024

Advent 3

HYMN BOARD

Processional Hymn	26 Hark a thrilling voice is calling
Gradual Hymn	34 On Jordan's bank the Baptist cries
Offertory	435 Glorious things of Thee are spoken
Communion	186 Love of the father
Anthem	39 Wake O wake
Recessional Hymn	607 Thy Kingdom come O God

Contacts

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<i>Rev'd Morna's Parish days are Tues, Thurs & Sun</i>	
Churchwardens	Julie Kightley 07936 377030 Colin Needle 01933 682098

Services this week:

Sunday at 9:30am Tuesday at 11am

Cycle of Prayers:

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Janice Pinnock, Jean Rochester, Christopher Munns, Barry Ireland, Amy Su Armitage, Velma Munns, Dave Cheney, Peter Fisher, Janet Maclean, Nina Beetson and Oliver Grigg.

Rest in peace faithful servant Cynthia who died this week almost 100 years old and Heather Smith.

And those whose Years Mind occurs at this time, Rev David Coles, and Eva Faulkner.

Notices

Floodlights:

Finedon Buffs

Christmas Draw 2024

Tickets are still available. This is a major fund raiser, your help in buying and selling tickets would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes containing 2 books of tickets are at the back of the church, addressed to those on the electoral roll and/or who are regular worshippers. Please collect your envelope, details to obtain more tickets are enclosed. If we have missed your name please ask Colin, Julie or Jean.

Thank you. Return the counterfoils by 17th November to win.

The Draw will take place on **Thursday 19th December** in the Mission Room at the seasonal Outreach Coffee morning from 10am. Wear your Christmas jumpers, hats or angel wings. The raffle will be drawn during the morning.

So far, since January, we have raised £1,522.85 for the Restoration fund.

Thank you to all those who have made this monthly coffee morning happen, for the lush cakes, generous raffle prizes and the fund-raising team's time. Thank you to all who have supported the monthly occasion.

Christmas Raffle hampers

Looking for donations for the Christmas Draw hampers. There is a list on the Church notice board.

Saturday Activities

On the 1st Saturday of the month 10-12 our church doors are open for our monthly Craft & Chat group.

On the 3rd Saturday 10-12 we hold our Free Family Funday full of seasonal craft activities for children and families.

Please note, there will be no Family Fun Day or Craft and Chat in December. Back in the new year folks.

Christmas Candles

The Christmas Remembrance Candles will be out on Sunday for Midnight Mass. If you would like your loved one's candle lit on Christmas Eve, please put 50p in the candle holder. If you need a new one please speak to Janet Harris, sits on the back but one row in Church. They are £2.50 each.

Faculty Approval & Heating update

The application for the reordering project has now been given approval by the Chancellor of Peterborough Diocese. We are in the process of setting up a working team to oversee the project and funding opportunities. We will keep you informed of any progress. Obviously, our current priority is repairing the heating, by locating the leak. We are waiting on the final proposal from the contractor and hoping this will be resolved shortly. **Colin**

Advent Prayer Meetings

Our weekly prayer meeting will take place on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Vicarage. I look forward in seeing you then. Morna.

Christmas Windows:

For those who decorate Windows we would like them decorated by Sunday 22nd ready for Christingle and Christmas week. Church will be open from 10am - noon on Saturday 21st December. Alternatively, please work around our Advent services or liaise with Colin about opening up at other times.

Many thanks,

Christian

Schools Service, 9.30am in Church

Christmas Draw and Coffee morning

9 Lessons and Carols, 7pm

Christingle 4pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

Christmas morning service 9.30am

19th Dec

19th Dec

20th Dec

22nd Dec

24th Dec

25th Dec

Collect:- God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament Reading A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time, I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Congregational Response Psalm 146 :- Praise the Lord. O my soul!

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

R

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

R

New testament reading A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Post Communion Prayer:- We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen