

Wishing you all a very peaceful and Happy New Year



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

A community together in faith.

Sunday Link

Connecting a community

Sunday, 5th January 2025
Christmas 2

HYMN BOARD	
Processional Hymn	86 From the Eastern mountains, omit v. 4 & 5
Gradual Hymn	85 Earth has many a nobler city
Offertory	89 Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
Communion	88 How brightly beams the morning star
Recessional	91 We three kings

Contacts		
Rev'd Morna Simpson		07526 026794 revmorna@gmail.com
<i>Rev'd Morna's Parish days are Tues, Thurs & Sun</i>		
Churchwardens	Julie Kightley Colin Needle	07936 377030 01933 682098

Services this week:

Sunday 29th December at 9:30am

Tuesday 30th December Morning prayer 11am

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.

For those who have died, rest in peace Heather Smith and Rita Chapman

And those whose Years Mind occurs at this time, Alice Gillam, Ellen, Mary Powis.

Notices

Floodlights:

Liddy and Emma

In loving memory of Robert Ballard, (Bob), on the 1st anniversary of his death. So very much loved and greatly missed.

Paul and Carol Mitchell

In memory of his dad, Ernest Mitchell on 21st anniversary of his death.

Altar Flower List

The new rota for Alta Flowers is now on the notice board for those wishing to provide flowers for the high altar. Please put your name against dates as required.

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.

Church Lighting

You may have noticed a new chandelier on display in the church. Initially it is to replace the two light units at the front of the church. These units have gone to the dark-side. We were able to secure these new chandeliers at a considerable discounted price. A few people have come forward and offered to sponsor a fixture, which leaves 6 units to replace. We were able to secure the discounted price in purchasing the remainder of the units at £150 each. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a chandelier then please see Churchwardens Colin or Julie.

Heating update:— an extreme weather plan is being considered with the possibility of moving Sunday service to the Mission room when required. Please make your views known to Morna or the churchwardens.

Prayer Group

We will be back praying together at the vicarage at 12noon on Friday 10th January. All welcome

Epiphany Carol Service :-Sunday, 5th January at 6pm has been cancelled due to the heating situation and weather forecast.

Knickers:- Rev Morna Notices Knicker collection for abused women – many thanks to those of your who donated. Together we collected 210 pairs!

Foodbank donations :-We are still offering a collection point for any donations. Please use the plastic box at the back of the church

Contact Forms:- We invite you to complete the contact forms at the back of Church. This is so we are able to contact you outside of the times we see you at Church, for pastoral reasons or to keep you up to date on things happening in the parish. Please read the Brief Privacy Notice next to the forms, full details of our Privacy Notice can be found on the website:

<https://stmarysfinedon.co.uk/privacy>. Once completed please put the form in the wooden box. If you have any questions please speak to Rev Morna, Colin or Julie. Thank You.

Beer and Hymns:- scheduled for 22nd February has been cancelled because of the heating situation.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and Happy New Year

Collect:- Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a Star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 148 congregational response :- Kings bow down before him; all the nations do him service.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

R

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

R

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

R

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

R

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

New testament reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable

you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion Prayer:- Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.