

SUNDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2025, CANDLEMAS



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

A community together in faith.

Sunday Link

Connecting a community

Contacts		
Rev'd Morna Simpson		07526 026794 revmorna@gmail.com
Rev'd Morna's Parish days are Tues, Thurs & Sun		
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Services this week:

Sunday January 2nd at 9:30am Mission Room
Choral Evensong 6pm at Woodford Church.
Tuesday January 4th at 11am in Church

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, Oliver Grigg, Ivan Titmus, Bob Haseldine. For those who have died, Rev John Slow and those whose Year's Mind occurs at this time - Jessie Kate Ireland.

Notices

Heating update: — an extreme weather plan is being considered with the possibility of moving Sunday service to the Mission room until the end of February.

Open the Book

For those who originally expressed an interest in supporting.

Open the Book at Finedon Mulso Junior School -We will be holding our next visit on Thursday 13th February at 2:50pm and need 8 people for our presentation based on The Good Samaritan. There will be a meeting after church Sunday **2nd February** to allocate roles and go through the material and a run through on the following Sunday, 9th February after church. Please let me know if you are interested. Pete

What is coming up

Saturday, March 1st at 6.30pm in the Mission Room. Beetle Drive and Bingo with prizes, including refreshments. Speak to Julie, Julia or Joanne for Tickets, which are £5 an adult and £1 for accompanied children available from Julie, Julia or Joanne Needle. Includes jacket potato plus filling. Bring own drinks, tea/coffee will be available

Summer Fete and Crowning the May Queen. Saturday 17th May in the Churchyard. Volunteers needed please speak to a Churchwarden or Events Group.

The snowdrops are out in the old Churchyard.

Electoral Roll Renewal Prior to the APCM on 23rd March 2025, we must renew and revise the electoral roll. This means everyone, regardless of whether you are already listed, need to complete a new registration form and return it no later than 7th March. See Churchwardens for your forms.

Contact Forms:-

The distribution of information using the contact form details has worked well recently, if you haven't completed a form. We invite you to complete a contact form ask the Churchwardens for a form. 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. full details of our Privacy Notice can be found on the website: <https://stmarysfinedon.co.uk/privacy>. Thank You.

As part of our 675 year anniversary celebrations,

Over the next few months, we are encouraging you to "share your story". Whether its photos of a wedding, a christening or from one our many events, email them to finedonchurchmagazine@gmail.com

They can be of you, your friends or your ancestors.

The photos will form part of a display at our history open day later in the year. Thanks Christian

Events Group:- The Bible read during Lent last year made £1217.11. Thank you to Pete for organising it and all who took part. The Fund Raising and Entertainment group have changed their name to The Events Group for simplification. Any fund raising ideas please pass on to a member of the team:-Jane, Julia, Joanne N, Joanne W, Jose, Christine C, Julie. Christian, Janet H, Jean M.

Prayer Group:- We will be back praying together at the vicarage at 12noon on Friday 7th February. All welcome.

A Fond Farewell We wish Barry and Shiela well in their move to Spain. We thank them for their support and kindness over the years from Sunday morning readings, welcoming people to church as sides persons to hosting the wine walkabout to list a few. They will be forever in our prayers and look forward to hearing from them in the future. Please stay behind at today's service for farewell drinks.

Floodlight Sponsorship

Gill Letts and Family Memory of Basil, 10th year anniversary.

Victoria Howkins

In memory of Clive Howkins on what would have been his 90th birthday. Love Victoria

John Streater

In memory of his beloved wife on what would have been her birthday.

Evensong Sunday 2nd February

Please note as a one-off Evensong will be in Woodford Church at 6pm on February 2nd. Offers of transport are available from Roy York 01933650607 or 07879656897

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Collect:- 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

Old Testament:- A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: 1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Response to Psalm 24:- The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

R

'Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?' 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud. They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation.' Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

R

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.'

R

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 'Who is he, this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

R

New testament A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help

angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Post Communion Prayer:- Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen