

Sunday, 23rd March, 2025, Lent 3



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
<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 March 23rd at 9:30am Church
Rev. Haydon Spenceley
Tuesday March 25th at 11am in Church

Hymn Board

Procession: 386 Be Thou my vision
Gradual: 426 Firmly I believe an truly.
Office: 586 The God if Abraham praise
Communion: Plainsong
Anthem: Let thy merciful ears Mudd
Recessional: 125 We sing the praise of him who died

Please remember in your prayers this week:

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

Notices

A warm welcome to Rev Haydon Spenceley who will be taking today's service. For accessibility reasons communion will be taken at the low altar.

The Prayer Course

Throughout lent we are looking at The Prayer Course (<https://prayercourse.org/home/>) in groups meeting on Tuesday from 3pm or Thursday from 7pm at the Vicarage - do join us.

Father Peter

Thank you everyone for your cards and good wishes and presents for my 90th birthday. It is so good of you and I do appreciate very greatly the people of St Mary's. I have never worshiped in the same congregation for so long in my life and am grateful for your constant support, love and prayers. Peter Baden

Floodlight Sponsorship

Finedon Buffs

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

member. Volunteers wanted to make cakes for Church Fete, donations for a plant stall, someone for a Children Stall.

Call for all former May Queens and May King for a Photo shoot on May 17th at midday.

Beer and Hymns Sat 14th June

Part of the History Weekend

Easter Flowers :-The box for donations for Easter flowers will be by the South door.

Lent and Easter services

A detailed guide will be available to provide information on all service types and times for Lent and Easter from next week, this will be emailed out via the contact list, paper copies are available for those who require a hard copy.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Parish Meeting will now be held on April 6th at 11am in Church.

Fundraising opportunity The Benefactor Group via 'Movement for good' This provides charities to be nominated by individuals to be entered into various draws that the Benefactor Group run providing grants from £1000 - £5000. The more people who nominate us the more chance we have of winning. A separate guidance sheet is available. See Colin for more information

Offers to make cakes for Christian Aid Coffee morning held at the Chapel Saturday May 10th

Volunteers See Julie or Jane
Pop Up Shop

Mothering Day and Easter Cards available by donations. Cute knitted hens with Cadbury Cream Eggs, £2,00 (thanks to Julia). Beautifully made bag for raffle, £1.00 a square.

WANTED

The Family Fun Day team are looking for donation of Traditional LEGO. So if you have or know anyone who may wish to pass on and donate to the Family Fun Day then please contact churchwarden Julie.

What is coming up Family funday next Sunday, 23rd March in the mission room 2-4pm'

Open Church Stewards

During Holy Week, we are opening the church between 10am – 2pm, a few slots are left if you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours, refreshments will be available for stewards and any visitors, see Churchwardens or the notice on the notice board.

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Collect:- Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament:- A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm :- Response to Psalm My soul thirsts for you, O my God.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water; Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

R

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

R

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

R

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

R

New testament A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of

them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Post Communion Prayer:- Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen