

Second Sunday before Lent, 8th February, 2026



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

A community together in faith.

Sunday Link

Connecting a community

Contacts

Rev Morna Simpson **07526 026794**
Rev Yvonne Desroche **07852304740**

Churchwardens	Julie Kightley	07936 377030
	Colin Needle	01933 682098

Services this week:

Sunday 8th February, 9.30 am Eucharist
Tuesday 10th February, 11am Communion

Procession	502 Light Abode
Gradual	513 Shine Jesus Shine
Offertory	498 Let us with a Gladsome Mind
Communion	As Water to the thirsty
Anthem	Look at the World - Rutter
Recessional	267 Thou whose Almighty Word

Please remember in your prayers this week the sick

Ron, Marilyn, Claire, Christopher Munns, Dave Cheney, Peter Fisher, Nina Beetson, Sarina, Gill Foster, Mark Butts, Georgie Grigg, Sheila Patrick, David Hawker and Pete Grindrod.
Also giving thanks for the life of Heather Smith being interred today.

Floodlight Sponsorship

The Ablett Family

Remembering Rod on his birthday with love from his family.

Wooden Crosses

We need more wooden crosses! Last year we asked you to decorate a cross to help us create a unique artwork cross. Unfortunately, we don't have enough to do this, so we have more blanks for people to take and decorate. Speak to Julie, thank you.

Lenten Study Group

Advance notice that there will be the opportunity to meet each Tuesday during Lent, starting on 24th February at the vicarage. Meetings will start at 7:00 for approximately one hour. Details to follow.

Saturday 7th February Craft, 10 – 12 in the Church
Family Fun Day 15th February 2 – 4
In the Mission Room.

A Night at the Races

Friday, March 27th, 2026.

The Finedon Buffs and the Church Events Team are organising an exciting Race Night, which promises to be great fun for the whole family. Raising money for the Buffs and St. Mary's Church at the Cricket Club. Doors open 7pm first race will commence promptly at 19:30. Free entry but Hot Dogs will be available and the bar open. Lots of competitive fun, horses, jockeys, raffle and have a little flutter. Horses and Jockeys are now on sale from the Events team.

Auction of Promises by the Events Team

Coming up in June still raising funds for the new heating:

Looking for more Promises. We need 50 Promises of all kinds, large or small.

Can you offer anything for Auction, bespoke artwork, a tootle on the Church organ, Restaurant vouchers, free dance lessons, handmade craft, dog walking, language lesson, lawn mowing, tour of the Church and Monks cell. Handyman with small repairs and painting jobs, home tuition, car wash, Man with a Van, etc
Offers to Jane Read or a member of the Events Team please.

Ash Wednesday

Please bring back your Palm Crosses before 18.2.26

The beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday service 18th February at 7pm in Church. Look here for Lent services to be announced.

Raffle prizes

The Events team are looking for Raffle prizes for the Race Night evening. Any unwanted Christmas presents gratefully accepted please give to Julie or Colin.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform the Welcomers.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will meet on Thursday 12th February. at 7:00pm at 4 Yorke Close. This will be the final meeting until after Easter.

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Collect:- Almighty God, give us reverence for all Creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the

air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth of everything that has breath. I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational response to Psalm 136:- Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever.

R

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever.

R

Who only does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

Who by his wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

Who spread out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

Who created great lights, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

The moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever.

R

It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

And delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

Who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever;

R

Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever

R

Second reading :- A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to

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futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

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

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Post communion prayer.

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen