



St Mary the Virgin | Finedon

*A community together in faith.*

## Sunday Link

*Connecting a community*

### Contacts

Rev Morna Simpson 07526 026794

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Churchwardens	Julie Kightley	07936 377030
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### Services this week:

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 9.30 am Eucharist

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 11am Communion

Please note , no Church on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Procession	398 Christ Triumphant
Gradual	174 Breath on me breathe of God
Offertory	109 It is a thing most wonderful
Communion	598 There's a wideness in God's mercy
Anthem	O Lord increase our Faith - Loosemore
Recessional	534 O for 1000 tongues

### Please remember in your prayers this week the sick

Ron, Marilyn, Claire, Christopher Munns, Dave Cheney, Peter Fisher, Mark, Nina Beetson, Sarina, Gill Foster, Mark Butts, Georgie Grigg, David Wison and Margaret Coombs.

Also pray for Robert Haseldine whose Years Mind occurs at this time.

Also, please pray for the family of Bettie Carter as she is laid to rest this morning. A faithful member of our Church may she rest in peace.

### Floodlight Sponsorship

#### Barbara, Jo, Debbie, James and families

In loving memory of Bob Haseldine who died on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

#### Valerie, Jane, David and families

In memory of Derek on what would have been his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Easter shop

Is available for cards and gifts at the back of Church. Thank you.

### Race Night

Thanks, all horses and jockeys are sold. March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Cricket Club from 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm. Free admission. See you there folks.

### Easter Flowers.

There is a box for donations for easter Flowers and list for dedications at the back of the Church.

### Holy Week - Open Church

The Church needs Stewards for Holy Week. If you can help, please contact the Churchwardens. Open Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 12 noon to 6.30pm. People will be able to explore the journey to the Cross through immersive and interactive prayer stations.

### Coffee Morning 19<sup>th</sup> March in the Mission Room

Raised £229.00

### Lenten Study Group

Now at the vicarage. Meetings will start at 7:00 on Tuesdays for approximately one hour.

### Clocks Spring forward on 29<sup>th</sup> March, Palm Sunday

### The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 11.00 am in the Church. The Annual Report and Financial Statements will be available following approval from the PCC at their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March. Elections will be held for 2 churchwardens, 4 members of the laity to the PCC and 2 members of the laity to the Deanery Synod.

Nomination forms are available in church. If you have any questions or want further information regarding becoming a member of the PCC please speak to Reverend Morna, Reverend Yvonne or the churchwardens.

**Collect:-** Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **First Reading from the book Ezekiel.**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in

Lent 5, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2026

you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational response to Psalm 130:- With the Lord there is mercy and plenteous redemption.**

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

**R**

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

**R**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night-watch for the morning, more than the night-watch for the morning.

**R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**R**

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

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**This is the word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God**

**Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John**

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'