

◆ **Cleaning our Church:** For many years, Roger Askew has quietly and efficiently organised volunteers to clean our church each week. We are often complimented on our clean church which is an encouragement for many people as it shows we care for our beautiful church, Roger is no longer in a position to organise the rota and be part of the cleaning team and we thank him for all he has done over the years to mobilise us in keeping our church clean. This is a good opportunity to also thank all those on the rota for the excellent work they do. But now we are seeking a volunteer to organise our church cleaning rota from the start of 2018. You don't have to do all the cleaning; we are just seeking help drawing up the rota itself. We are also seeking new volunteers to join the cleaning rota. If you feel you can help in any way, please make contact with Phil or Judy.

◆ **Stuck for a Christmas Present idea?:** The fascinating and definitive book: "Taplow Moments: A Unique History" is still available for purchase by contacting Nigel Smales on cazanig@aol.com. Nigel has recently made a kind donation from the sales of this wonderful book which will go towards the eventual work on the south side of St. Nicolas' Church. Nigel has also generously said that all proceeds from every purchase of this incredibly well researched and comprehensive book about our village are being donated to the church.



Next Week's Services

Open Wednesday (5th December): the church will be open from 12.00 with a service at 12.30 followed by ploughman's lunch and then the church will close at 3.00pm.

Sunday, 10th December— St Nicolas Patronal Festival

10.45: Joint St Nicolas Day Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church

3.00pm: St Anne's Carol Service with Dropmore Infant School

Further information on **St Nicolas Church Website:** <http://st-nicolas-taplow.org>
If you need to **contact the Vicar**, you can ring her on 01628 661182 or email her: janecresswell523@gmail.com

Notices in the Pew Leaflet: If you have a notice or news for the *Pew Leaflet*, please email it to [Jim Oliver \(oliverjim1@sky.com\)](mailto:oliverjim1@sky.com) by the end of the Wednesday preceding the Sunday date you want it in. This leaflet is on the website from the Friday preceding each Sunday.

We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

Advent Sunday

3rd December, 2017

Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Holy Communion Service and a particular welcome to Jane, our Vicar who returns today following her orthopaedic operation. At St Nicolas, children are invited to join the Sunday School after the first hymn.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly

angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Anthem: *Advent Message* Martin How

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **Open to God in Advent:** The Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft encourages all the churches in the Diocese to explore the Beatitudes using a newly written three session course focusing on the three themes of being contemplative, compassionate and courageous. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church if you are interested in joining a group at



the Rectory at 7.30pm on **Tuesday evenings 5th, 12th and 19th December** or a group in the church during **Open Wednesday at 2pm on 6th, 13th and 20th December.**

- ◆ **Choral Concert today:** St Nicolas is hosting another concert at 6.00pm today presented by Taplow Girls' Choir (Gillian Dibden), Maidenhead Suzuki Strings (Helen Styles) and Maidenhead Suzuki Flutes (Julia Bentley Dawkes). Tickets will be available at the door: £10 (£8 students under 16).
- ◆ **Funeral of Tony Hickman:** This will be held **this Friday (8th) at 2.30pm** in St Nicolas Church. We remember Brenda and all the family in our prayers.
- ◆ **Our Patronal Festival: Next Sunday (10th)** is St Nicolas festival. The service at St Nicolas Church will be followed by a Festival lunch Buffet with wine. Everyone is welcome, Adults: £5 Children: £3. Please contact a member of the Social Committee or sign the sheet at the back of church by the end of today.
- ◆ **Traidcraft in 2017:** By the time our St. Nicolas' Traidcraft stall closes today, we will have fought poverty together this year with approximately £1,450 of trade. Phil and Pam thank you for supporting Traidcraft during 2017.
- ◆ **St Nicolas School Governor Vacancy:** Another vacancy has arisen on the Governing Body of our school. It would be good if we can identify someone from our church community who may feel called to this ministry: ideally (but not essentially) with a background in education. If you would like to know more, please have a word with Jane.

