

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.

A Prayer for St Nicolas Festival

Gracious Lord, you made St. Nicolas a bishop and leader of the church to inspire your people with his teaching and example. May his life be an example to us and may we see, in his life an invitation to imitate his good deeds. Make us always mindful of the needs of others and help us rejoice in the abundance of your goodness around us. Through Jesus our Lord.

Next Week's Services

Open Wednesday (13th 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, 17th December— 3rd Sunday in Advent

09.15: Matins at St Anne's Church

10.45: Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church

6.30pm.: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Nicolas Church

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

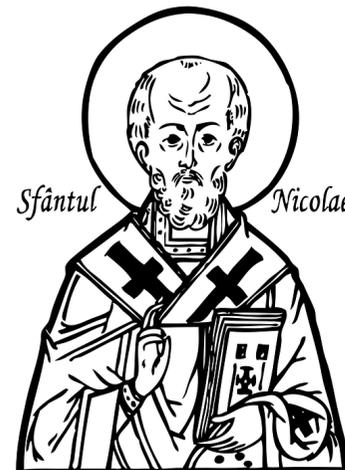
Notices in the Pew Leaflet: If you have a notice or news for the *Pew Leaflet*, please email it to [Jim Oliver \(oliverjim1@sky.com\)](mailto:oliverjim1@sky.com) by the end of the Wednesday preceding the Sunday date you want it in. This leaflet is on the website from the Friday preceding each Sunday.

<p>We are part of</p> 	<p>St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common</p> <p>St Nicolas' Church, Taplow</p> <p>St Nicolas Patronal Festival</p> <p>10th December, 2017</p>	
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Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community



Welcome to this morning's Joint Festival Communion Service. Children are invited to join the Sunday School after the first hymn.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 *God's People Are Comforted*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are

grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Anthem: *I will lift up mine eyes* (Psalm 121)

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

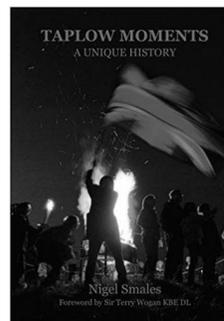
This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **St Anne's Carol Service with Dropmore Infant School:** This service will be held at 3.00pm. this afternoon at St Anne's Church.
- ◆ **St Nicolas School Carol Service:** This service will be held at **6.00pm. on Thursday (14th)** at St Nicolas Church.
- ◆ **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols:** This lovely service will be held **next Sunday (17th) at St Nicolas Church starting at 6.30pm.** Our augmented choir will delight us once again with inspiring Christmas music and we will enjoy the traditional readings and reflect on the true joy of Christmas. Please do come along and bring your friends.
- ◆ **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.



Joy to the World!

- ◆ **Stuck for a Christmas Present idea?:** We have recently received a kind donation from Nigel Smales from the sales of his wonderful book **'Taplow Moments'** which will go towards the eventual work on the south side of St. Nicolas' Church. Nigel has 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. If you haven't yet purchased a copy, please do think about doing so, and if you already have one, do you know of someone else who you think might enjoy it? - perhaps someone who used to live in Taplow and have now moved away? - maybe a Christmas present?! For buying the book, please contact Nigel on cazanig@aol.com.



- ◆ **Cleaning our Church:** For many years, Roger Askew has quietly and efficiently organised volunteers to clean our church each