

- ◆ **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.



Next Week's Services

Open Wednesday (20th 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, 24th December— 4th Sunday in Advent

10.45: Joint Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church

5.00pm.: Crib Service at St Nicolas Church

10.00pm.: Midnight Mass at St Anne's Church

11.30pm.: Midnight Mass at St Nicolas Church

Monday, 25th December—Christmas Day

10.00am.: Joint Christmas Family Communion 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.



We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

3rd Sunday in Advent

17th December, 2017



Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Service. At St Nicolas, children are invited to join the Sunday School after the first hymn.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 *The Year of the Lord's Favour*

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

"For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting

covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

The Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.” They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”



Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” This all happened at Bethany on the

other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Anthem: *People, look East* traditional French, arr. Malcolm Archer

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



This Week’s News and Notices

- ◆ **Our St Nicolas Patronal Festival:** In spite of the snow, our Social committee laid on a sumptuous feast last Sunday to celebrate St Nicolas day! Thank you to you all for overcoming all the difficulties and making this occasion such a special one.
- ◆ **Open Wednesdays:** After next Wednesday (20th), Open Wednesdays will take a Christmas break and re-open on Wednesday, 10th January, 2018
- ◆ **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols:** This lovely service will be held **today 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.
- ◆ **Thanks:** Jane and Clive thank all those who have sent them individual Christmas greetings and wish everyone at St Anne's and St Nicolas a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
- ◆ **Christmas Home Communions:** if you visit someone in the parish who is housebound and who would like to receive home communion at Christmas, please speak to Jane now and she will be happy to arrange to accompany you to take them Christmas communion between 18th and 21st December.

