

◆ **A Prayer for St Nicolas Day**

Loving God, we thank you for the example of St Nicolas, who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all. May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do. Give us the courage, love and strength of St Nicolas, so that, like him, we may serve you through loving our brothers and sisters. *Amen.*

◆ **South Side Appeal Fundraisers:**

- ◇ **A Taste of Taplow—Our own Recipe Book:** Copies are still available but the stock is diminishing! Get copies for family and friends now. Full details are on the website and you can buy a copy (£10) whenever the church is open.
- ◇ **Other Sales Items:** Woodcraft items and Chutney are *not* available after the service at St Nicolas Church today but will be there on the last two Sundays before Christmas: **16th and 23rd December.**
- ◇ **Events for 2019:** We are over the half way mark to our £75,000 target but, as Phil reminds us, we need to start the new year with fresh ideas and commitment to ‘finish the job’. Share your ideas for how we can do this.

**Services/Events next Week**

**Wednesday, (12th):** 12:00—Open Wednesday with Service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman’s Lunch

Thursday, (13th): Advent Star Trail for Year 2 at St Anne’s Church  
6.30pm: St Nicolas School Carol Service

**Sunday, 16th December: Third Sunday in Advent**

10:45—Parish Communion at St Nicolas Church

12:30: Baptism Preparation Course at St Nicolas Church

3:00pm: Carol Service at St Anne’s 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](mailto: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.

	<b>St Anne’s Church, Littleworth Common</b>	
	<b>St Nicolas’ Church, Taplow</b>	
<b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b>		
<b>9th December, 2018</b>		

*Faithful to God*

*Caring for each other*

*Serving the Community*

*Welcome to this morning’s service. At St Nicolas, we have our patronal festival communion and children are invited to 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:** Malachi 3:1-4 *The Coming Messenger*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**The Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6 *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother

Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into



all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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**Anthem:** *Advent Message* Martin How

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### 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 Nicolas Patronal Festival Lunch:** a celebratory lunch will be served after our festival service this morning, for all those who signed up. Happy St Nicolas Day!

♦ **Cake Sale:** Today is also a Sunday School Cake Sale Day after the service at St Nicolas, with the added attraction for those who have ordered Christmas Cakes, who can collect them from Sarah. Congratulations to Sarah on preparing our lovely Christmas Cakes (five hours in the oven for each one!) and raising more funds for our South Side



Appeal—thank you so much; we'll think of you when we eat them!

♦ **Help for the Nuns at Burnham Abbey:** There is not yet a resolution to the practical problems faced by the nuns at Burnham. If you are not aware of this real problem, please do take a letter from the back of church related to this community's urgent need for practical help and give some thought to how this need can be met. Nicki Jeffries can answer any questions you may have and she would welcome any thoughts/ ideas you may have regarding how this situation might be addressed. Thank you.



♦ The new year sees an interesting programme of monthly sessions designed to help us deepen our experience of spirituality as a full part of Christian life. On **Tuesday 15th January, 2019 from 7:30pm – 9:30pm**, Rev'd Janet Minkkinen, Vicar of St Andrew's Cippenham, who has a passion for Egypt and the desert and is a contemplative activist, will be leading us on "**Courageous Prayer**". Starting with ourselves, and our own prayer life. We will be exploring our own courage in the way that we pray, and reflect on the courage that we need to be bold enough to knock at the door of God's heart. This session will be at St Thomas' Church, Vicarage Way, Colnbrook.

On **Wednesday 13th February, 2019 from 10.00am to 3pm**, we are invited to go to Burnham Abbey, Lake End Road (running south from Taplow Sainsbury's), when Alison Webster, Deputy Director of Mission (Social Justice) in the Diocese of Oxford who has recently been involved in a project known as "Death and Life" will be leading a session called "**Courageousness in Later Life**". Growing older is not a choice, but an inevitability. It brings many positive and good things, but also calls out for us to be courageous in the face of vulnerabilities and loss. In particular, as we get closer to the end of our lives, we become more acutely aware of our mortality. The session will explore spiritual journeys – understanding our own and those of others; and the shifts and changes that growing older brings.

Please book for these sessions by contacting Rob Penn Tel:07768483385 or email [robipenn@aol.com](mailto:robipenn@aol.com)