

- ◆ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January 2019**
Churches Together in Burnham and Taplow are holding two services as we pray together for Christian Unity.
 - Sunday 20th January 3pm Ecumenical service at Our Lady of Peace, Lower Britwell Road, SL2 2NL followed by refreshments.
 - Wednesday 23rd January 12.30pm Eucharist with prayers for Christian unity at St Nicolas Taplow followed by optional ploughman's lunch

Diary up to and including Christmas

Tuesday (18th):

7pm to 9pm Connections in St Nicolas Church

Wednesday, (19th):

11:00am – St Nicolas Pre-school Christmas Service

12:00—Open Wednesday with Service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman's Lunch

Sunday, 23rd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:45am: Christingles with Communion at St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

6:30pm: Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Nicolas Church

Monday, 24th December, Christmas Eve

5:00pm: Crib Service

10:00pm: Midnight Mass at St Anne's Church, Dropmore

11:30pm: Midnight Mass at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

Tuesday, 25th December, Christmas Day

10:00am: Family Holy Communion at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

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) 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

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, 16th December, 2018



Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Parish Communion Service. 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20. *A Song of Joy*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory, he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



Anthem: *People, look East.* Trad. 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

- ◆ **Thank you** to the Social committee and everyone who contributed to last week's Patronal Festival lunch. A good time was had by all.
- ◆ **Connections:** The last meeting of the year is this coming Tuesday (18th). NB different day to usual. It is called 'Surprising People' and we will be looking at the unsung heroes of Luke's Christmas story and light candles as we remember the True Light that has come into the world. Supper is at 7:00pm and we leave at 9:00pm.
- ◆ **Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols:** this takes place next Sunday evening 23rd December (6:30pm). Our choir has been rehearsing for it in recent weeks and our act of worship in words and music promises to be a real treat as we reflect on the mystery of the incarnation.
- ◆ **Carol Singing:** Our organist, Neil Matthews is accompanying the carols on the Green in Taplow on Thursday 20th December this year. It would be good to have as many people as possible from our choir and congregation to sing! It is from 6:00 to 8:00pm with seasonal refreshments!
- ◆ **Open Wednesday** – we meet in the usual way this Wednesday 19th December, but the church will be shut on Wednesday 26th December and Wednesday 2nd January. We reopen for mid-week communion and lunch from Wednesday 9th January.
- ◆ **Burnham Concert Band Christmas Concert:** Wednesday 19th December 8pm at St Peter's Burnham, Church Street Burnham SL1 7HX Tickets available on the door. Admission £8 – Concessions £7 A fun programme of festive music. For more details see website: www.burnhamconcertband.org.uk