

- ◆ **South Side Appeal:** The turn of the year seems a good time to reflect on how we are doing towards our target of £75,000 for repairs to St. Nicolas' Church South Roof, South Gutters and Downpipes and South Wall. Our funds currently stand at around £44,700; nearly 60% of what we need. This tremendous achievement of 2018 is made up of:
 - ◇ £15,000 already in Restoration Fund/Roof Fund at start of Southside Appeal being the residue from previous fabric fund-raising, such as North Roof, North Gutters and Downpipes and North Wall, and the Tower Parapet.
 - ◇ £9,500 from Grants and Foundations
 - ◇ £4,163 from The Psalmathon
 - ◇ £579 from Sue Blore's Sunday Lunches
 - ◇ £1000 from the Royal Wedding themed Garden Party
 - ◇ £650 from Bonfire and Bangers Evening
 - ◇ £789 from Palace to Palace Cycle Ride
 - ◇ £963 from Bowled Over Woodwork Stall
 - ◇ £235 from Chutney Kitchen
 - ◇ £184 from Carol Singing at Taplow Tesco's
 - ◇ £743 from Sunday School Cake Sales
 - ◇ £1,200 from 'A Taste of Taplow'
 - ◇ Additional money from the sales of Christmas table decorations, fresh eggs, Honesty Box Books, Taplow Moments and Taplow tea towels.
 - ◇ Plus a Taplow Choirs donation and other anonymous donations

So how can we build on this success in 2019? Well, the Sunday School Cake sales will continue (next one 13th January) and Phil and Christine plan to do the London to Brighton Cycle Ride in June (54 miles!) but **we need to start planning much more...** Do you have suggestions as to how we can raise more money in 2019. We need ideas asap!


Services/Events next Week

Sunday, 6th January: Epiphany: 10:45—Joint Holy Communion Service

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.



We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

1st Sunday of Christmas

30th December, 2018



Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

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

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 *The Child Samuel at Shiloh*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

The Gospel: Luke 2:41-52 *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to

search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.



Anthem: *The Infant King* Trad Basque arr. Edgar Pettman

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **Christmas Services:** huge thanks to everyone who made contributed to making our Christmas services such worthy acts of worship. From the Christingle service on 23rd, through the beautiful nine lessons and carols service put together with such care and quality, then the crib service, midnight masses and the Christmas morning service, we can be proud of what we offered led by Jane, our Vicar. Well done.
- ◆ **Connections:** The first session of the new year is on **Wednesday (9th**



January) starting with supper at 7:00pm followed by the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas around three bible readings and a short commentary. This new year, might you think about using Connections (once a

fortnight but you don't have to attend every session) to help in maintaining and developing your faith?

- ◆ **Church office:** Another new year opportunity is to provide more administrative support for our Vicar by volunteering to help in our Church Office for a morning or afternoon session during the week. The more administrative tasks we can take on to give Jane more time to carry out her 'real' work, the better. You don't need IT skills but if you could give a half day session during the week, please talk to Jane about it. It also has the advantage of opening the church more.

- ◆ **Oasis:** 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**



The Oasis at St Anne's

from 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Rev'd Janet Minkinen, 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.

Then 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