

- ◆ **Church office:** The purpose of a Church Office is to provide administrative support to ensure the smooth running of all our church activities. It releases the Vicar (who has no other administrative support) to focus on leading us in fulfilling God's mission in our parish. It also opens the church more as a focal point for our community.



During this new year, we aim to open our office more during the week but this needs the support of people who could offer to help for a morning or afternoon session. You don't need IT skills but if you could give two or three hours during the week, please talk to Jane about it.

- ◆ **South Side Appeal:** To add to last week's impressive summary of fundraising in 2018, the on-going Slimathon has already raised £254 and the final figure for woodwork sales was £1,073. Ideas for new fundraising this year are starting to emerge.
 - ◇ **Quiz Night:** it is proposed to run a quiz night in the Spring. Please let us know if you are interested in being involved in planning this event.
 - ◇ **What else can we do?:** how else do you think we could plan to fund-raise this year?

Services/Events next Week

Wednesday, 9th January: 12:00 to 3:00pm—Open Wednesday with a Service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman's Lunch.

7:00—9:00pm: Connections at St Nicolas Church

Sunday, 13th January: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany: 10:45—Joint Holy Communion Service led by our Area Dean, Revd Rod Cosh.

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.

	<p>St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common</p> <p>St Nicolas' Church, Taplow</p> <p>Epiphany</p> <p>6th January, 2019</p>	
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Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Joint Holy Communion service led by our Area Dean, Revd Rod Cosh. At St Nicolas, children are invited to the Sunday School after the first hymn.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6 *The Ingathering of the Dispersed*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 *The Visit of the Wise Men*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child

who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the

house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Anthem: *O taste and see* Vaughan Williams

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **Connections:** The first session of the new year is this **Wednesday (9th) starting with supper at 7:00pm** followed by the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas around three bible readings and a short commentary. This session is called **'Getting Slavery out of People'**. It explores how we are all 'slaves' to things and how the ten commandments offer a way out of 'slavery'. Good topic for a new year eh?!



- ◆ **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 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