

- ♦ **Winter fuel Allowance:** All those in receipt of this allowance will be receiving notification of it about now. If you know you can easily manage without this allowance this year, might you consider donating your allowance for our church heating? It could make a significant contribution to helping us get this job done. If you can do this, please would you have a word with Phil to transfer the money. Thank you.

£100



- ♦ **Carol Singing:** There are several opportunities to spread the Gospel through carol singing this advent. We are singing around Taplow Riverside from **6:00pm on Tuesday, 17th December**. If you can join our choir, please sign the form in church. There will also be carol singing at St Nicolas Church on **Wednesday, 18th December from 1:30 to 3:00pm** (refreshments available). Then there will be the traditional carol singing around the Christmas tree on the green to raise money for Charity at **6:00pm on Monday, 23rd December**. This year, those organising the event have decided that half the money raised will go to the St Nicolas Church heating fund and the other half will go to the Brett Foundation. We are so appreciative of this community support for getting the church heating sorted out and thank all those involved for their commitment to this cause. Do come along to meet our neighbours and friends and enjoy the singing.
- ♦ **Temporary Heating: Parents and carers are reminded to keep children away from the gas heaters on both sides of our church .**

Services/Events next Week

Monday, (9th): 7:30pm to 9:00pm—**Advent Course** at the Rectory

Wednesday, (11th): 12:00 to 3:00pm—**Open Wednesday** with a service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman's Lunch; St Nicolas Church

Thursday, (5th): 1:30 to 3:00pm—Taplow Tots and Tea; St Nicolas Church

Sunday, 15th December: 3rd Sunday in Advent

09:15—Holy Communion at St Anne's Church, Dropmore

10:45: Parish Communion at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

4:00pm—Christmas Classics Concert 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) by the end of the Wednesday preceding the Sunday

We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

2nd Sunday in Advent

Sunday, 8th December, 2019

ST NICOLAS CHURCH
TAPLOW

Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Service. At St Nicolas, we are pleased to welcome Peter and Verity Auty who will sing an introit to our service and also sing our anthem. Children are invited to Sunday School at the end of 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: Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him

the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.



But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Anthem: Peter Auty will sing *‘Every valley shall be exalted’* Handel

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

This Week’s News and Notices

♦ **Worship Sub Committee Request:** If you were in church last Sunday, you will have taken home the insert to the pew leaflet asking you to make two responses about our Sunday morning service. **Please leave your responses in the red box at the back of church.** If you didn’t get this insert, there are some blank ones next to the box; **please do take one and give it some thought this week.** The box will be there for two more Sundays. Thank you.

♦ **Sunday School Cake Sale: Today** is another cake day! The Cake sale raises more money for our heating system; please do take something home to enjoy knowing it is also contributing to getting us warm again!



♦ **Bowled Over:** Jim is most grateful for over £400 worth of purchases of his woodwork over the last four weeks. Today is the last opportunity to buy remaining items. All takings for the heating fund.

♦ **Our Advent Course:** This three session course began last Monday evening at the Rectory. Each session is self-contained so if you would like to come to either/both of the next two sessions, please do sign up or have a word with Jane. Hot drink on arrival, with home made vegetable soup available to those who have come straight from work without time to eat!

♦ **Oasis:** Jane will be leading the next session **on Tuesday (10:00—13:00)**. It is called **“Light, Dark and Shades of Grey”** and offers a lovely opportunity for reflection during Advent. It is at St Thomas’ Church, Vicarage Way, Colnbrook SL3 0JY. Please book by contacting Rob Penn Tel:07768483385 or email robipenn@aol.com

♦ **Christmas Classics Concert:** Tickets are still available for this very special concert of opera and Christmas music performed by professional singers, Peter and Verity Auty **next Sunday (15th) at 4:00pm** in St Nicolas Church. Please do all you can to ensure we have a full church. Pre-booked tickets are £10 (£5 for under 16s) and tickets are £15 on the door. So book in advance at church or by emailing musicforamoment@hotmail.com.



♦ **Archbishops’ Letter:** Last Sunday, Jane quoted from this letter which offers a valuable reflection on our General Election. It is reproduced in full on our website.