

Services/Events next Week

Wednesday, (1st January): 12:00 to 3:00pm—**Open Wednesday;** service at 12:30pm followed by ploughman's lunch at St Nicolas Church

Sunday, 5th January: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

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

A Prayer for the New Year



God of Day and night, of frost and sunshine, of rest and growth,
we praise you for the rhythms and patterns of life:

For the gentle dying of each season and the coming of the next;

For the wonder of new life, in all its forms, and the quiet flowing
of youth into age.

Give us eyes and hearts to perceive you in the unfolding of our
years, and help us in this new-born year to make more space for
you, the Giver of all.

Amen.

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:
janeecresswell523@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

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

We are part of



St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, 29th December, 2019



Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to this morning's Holy Communion Service. At St Nicolas, pending the replacement of our heating system, we have temporary heaters: **Parents and carers are asked to keep children away from these gas heaters on both sides of our church.**

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: Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself

was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 *The Escape to Egypt*

Now after the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."



When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Anthem: *The Shepherds' Farewell* Berlioz

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

- ◆ **A time for reflection:** huge thanks are due to many people for their contributions to our Christmas celebrations and worship. The wonderful concert by Peter and Verity Auty brought in many people to our church, our carol singing around Taplow highlighted our presence in the community. People gave generously of their time, energy and money through providing



Christmas presents for children with nothing (Operation Christmas Child), through establishing our beautiful Christmas tree, through arranging flowers, designing and selling our Christmas cards, providing refreshments, through rehearsing and performing wonderful music to inspire us, preparing for all our services in all sorts of ways and countless other acts of selflessness, all adding to the joy of Christmas time. Thank you.

- ◆ **'Our 21st Century Challenge':** If you feel that you are not fully aware of the gap between our income and our church expenditure, there is a leaflet at the back of church which explains the situation clearly and suggests ways we can contribute to meet our financial challenge. In the new year, we hope to alert the wider community to this challenge but in the meantime, this leaflet offers us the opportunity to think through what we can do ourselves.



- ◆ **New Year Sunday Lunches:** Sue will be holding another Sunday Lunch to help raise money for the heating in St Nicolas Church. A two course, traditional lunch will take place in her home on **19th January at 1pm**. A donation of a minimum of £10 is requested. If you would like to join her please ring 01628 661815.

