

- ◆ **Open Wednesday:** This will begin **this Wednesday (18th)** at St Nicolas Church from 12:00 with the lunchtime service at 12:30 followed by a ploughman's lunch.
- ◆ **Tots & Tea:** This will start again **this Thursday, (19th)** at St Nicolas Church from 1.30pm until 3:00pm
- ◆ **The Spring Newsletter:** Tony and Hilary have produced the second of these seasonal newsletters and it is available both as a leaflet and online (our website). Please read it and equally importantly, please sign up for delivery in the roads around your home to ensure everyone receives it. Thank you.
- ◆ **Oasis:** The next session is called **"Growing through Losing"** conducted by Fi Ivin, who is an Ignatian Spiritual Director. The day uses silent reflection on scripture and other sources, and creative techniques, for individual exploration of loss in our lives. The day will end with a simple liturgy. **Thursday, 26th March; 10:00am to 3:00pm at Burnham Abbey.** Please book by Thursday, 19th March by contacting Rob Penn 07768483385 or email robipenn@aol.com
- ◆ **A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 29th September to 6th October 2021:** If you are interested in being part of a group from St Nicolas and St Anne's joining this pilgrimage which will be led by the Rev'd Mandy MacVean, known to Jane and recommended by her, please see the information at the back of church and ask Jane to send you the electronic link. There are a maximum of forty spaces on the trip; seven people from Mandy's own parish have already paid their deposit and we need to act now to secure our places. Jane will be participating in this trip.



Services/Events next Week

Tuesday, (17th): 8:00pm—PCC Meeting at St Nicolas Church

Wednesday, (18th): 12:00—Open Wednesday with service at 12:30 followed by Ploughman's lunch.

7:30—Lent Course 'From Now On', Session 2/3 at the Rectory.

Thursday, (19th): 1:30pm—Tots & Tea at St Nicolas Church, Taplow

Sunday, 22nd March: Mothering Sunday

09:15—Choral Matins at St Anne's Church, Dropmore

10:15—Refreshments and making posies for the Mothering Sunday Worship for All Service at 10:45 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: 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

We are part of

St Anne's Church, Littleworth Common

St Nicolas' Church, Taplow

3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, 15th March, 2020

Faithful to God

Caring for each other

Serving the Community

Welcome to today's Holy Communion Service. At St Nicolas, Children are invited to our Sunday School at the end of the first hymn.

Collect (or Prayer for Today)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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: Romans 5:1-11 *Results of Justification*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Gospel: John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."



Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said

to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Anthem: *Call to remembrance* Farrant

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This Week's News and Notices

- ◆ **Cake Sale:** Today is the monthly cake sale in aid of our heating fund. Enjoy!
- ◆ **PCC Meeting:** The next meeting is **this Tuesday (17th) at 8:00pm**. The PCC will discuss the next steps re the heating and forthcoming events, consider reports from the Worship and Mission/Outreach Sub-Committees, approve the annual accounts and reflect on one of the 'seven marks of a healthy church'. Outcomes next week.
- ◆ **Coronavirus updates:** You may have already heard the Archbishops' latest advice to churches to *offer Communion in one kind only to all communicants i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer/host, with the priest alone taking the wine; suspend handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace; suspend direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands'*. On our website are some valuable thoughts from Bishop Olivia about *remaining calm, caring, considerate and Christ-like*. Please continue to pray for all those infected or fearful (prayer on our website) and if you are asked to self isolate, please ring either one of the clergy or wardens and we will try to support you in whatever way we can, whether practically by delivering shopping or medication or spiritually by praying with you and providing emotional support over the phone.