

The Combs and Finborough News Sheet

Buxhall, Combs, Gt and Lt Finborough, Harleston, Onehouse and Shelland



WELCOME

As we keep in touch, pray and support each other

14th December 2025 : Third Sunday of Advent

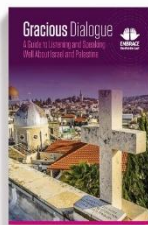
Church Services Today:

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
11.00 am	Christingle	Onehouse
4.00 pm	Christingle	Great Finborough

Service on 16th December:

7.00 pm	Carols by Candlelight	Little Finborough
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Advent Course – Gracious Dialogue



For our Advent course this year we will be using resources prepared by the charity Embrace the Middle East. As in previous years, we will be running our 4 week course on Zoom on Thursday mornings on the **27th November, 4th December, 11th December and 18th December**. If you would like a copy of the booklet we will be using please let revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com know so that sufficient numbers can be ordered before we start the course.

Stowmarket Foodbank – Christmas Appeal



Stowmarket Foodbank has shared their Christmas Shopping List of items they are hoping will be donated so that they can distribute to families in need within our community. Please phone the Foodbank on 01449 774000 if you are able to donate any of the items on this list, all donations will be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Forthcoming Events

18th December – Advent Course, 10am to 11.30am, on Zoom

19th December – Carols in the Pub!, 6pm at The Chestnut Horse, Great Finborough

7th January – Treasurers' meeting, 7.30pm at The Rectory, Combs Ford

13th January – Combs PCC meeting, 7pm at The Rectory, Combs Ford

14th January – Ministry Team meeting, 2pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse

22nd January – Shelland PCC meeting, 7.30pm at New Farm Granary, Shelland

28th January – Great Finborough PCC meeting, 7pm at Great Finborough Church

Meet Up Mondays in Church Hall, Combs

Our first meeting for 2026 will be a 'Bring and Buy' taking place on **5th January 2026** from 10.30am to 12.30pm, for further information please contact Revd Alison on 01449 541794. All most welcome.

Wednesday Mornings in Trinity Hall, Onehouse

9.30am Wednesdays Said Holy Communion followed at 10.30am by coffee and cake. Services will take place on **Christmas Eve** and **New Year's Eve** as usual.

Saturday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 10am

Join us for a short service of Morning Prayer on Zoom, this is the link to join the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84537834344?pwd=dmZRdXpkbXNpUk15aVNjdzMwdmg5dz09> Meeting ID: 845 3783 4344 Passcode: 916836

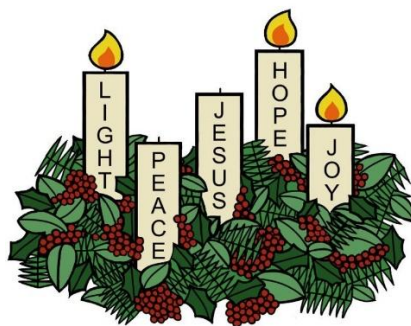
Prayer Group

We have a group of people from across the Benefice who pray individually and privately for anyone who asks for prayerful support, whatever the situation may be. All information given is kept totally confidential. Our only request is that the person receiving prayer gives their consent. If you or someone you know would welcome prayer, please contact Elizabeth Mooney at emooney6@sky.com.

Collect for Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ADVENT 3



Readings

The New Testament reading is taken from James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew 11.2-11: Glory to you O Lord

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by

his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Intercessions

Everlasting God, as we continue to prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for time to be quiet where we can, through prayer and reflection, to appreciate the wonder of your love. As we revisit the story of Jesus' birth through our Advent worship deepen our joy, invigorate our prayers and our praise and help it to challenge the way that we live our lives.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for the nations of the world especially where pride interferes with power to produce tyranny, where the divide between rich and poor is beyond imagination and where people have been hungry for so long that many have never experienced a satisfying and sustaining meal.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God we pray for those whose children cannot take part in Christmas celebrations because of the expense; those who put themselves seriously into debt attempting to meet expectations; those who may have to use foodbanks for a Christmas meal. Help us to do all that we can through our prayers and through our giving to the local and international charities that are helping the less fortunate.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we raise before you the sick and the suffering, that you would show the strength of your arm and scatter everything which prevents them from enjoying health and wholeness in body mind and spirit.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, we rejoice for those who now experience the joy of heaven according to the promises you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to us, his descendants, forever.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the

strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Services on 21st December : Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 am	Holy Communion	Harleston
10.00 am	Carol Service	Shelland
11.00 am	Carol Service	Combs
3.00 pm	Evensong	Little Finborough
4.00 pm	Village Carols	Great Finborough
4.00 pm	Carols Around the Village	Onehouse
6.30 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	Buxhall

**Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died including Rose Stockings and Ivy Friston.
May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.**

As a Group of Churches we are committed to promoting a 'Safer Church' for all. Information relating to Safeguarding is available in all our churches and from our Diocesan Website <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/promoting-a-safer-church>

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