

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

21st December 2025 : Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Services Today:

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

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

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Readings

The Old Testament reading is taken from Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew 1.18-end: Glory to you O Lord

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by

the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Intercessions

Everlasting God we come today on the last Sunday of our Advent journey towards Christmas and we give thanks as we remember those journeys that were being taken on that first Christmas over 2000 years ago.

Father, we pray for the unity of your church. We pray that we, and all who worship you, will remain faithful and true to your word brought to life in our Lord, Jesus Christ. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution, torture and death because of their faith. Help us to use our freedom to work for their liberation.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Creator God we pray for our world, may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that they may uphold what is right and good. We pray for the future of our world as climate change continues to make itself felt in so many unsettling ways.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Lord, as we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to make time in all our busyness for quiet prayer and contemplation; that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the reality of the Saviour’s birth to permeate our hearts and minds and souls. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real and our lives worthier of Christ’s incarnation and sacrifice.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who have enriched our lives by their goodness, all who have accepted us and cared for us. We pray for all who are separated from those that they love, either by physical or emotional distance. We pray for all who are alone, that they may not feel lonely. We remember all who are ill at this time, and those who are anxious for them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, give us ears to hear and minds to understand the message and gift of Christmas so that we may look forward with patience and confidence to that time when we will join you in the peace of eternity. We pray especially for any we know who recently died and are on that journey to you.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, who chose the Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish

our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives.

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

Services on 24th and 25th December – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

24th December: Christmas Eve

2.00 pm	Crib with Carols	Combs
3.00 pm	Crib with Carols	Onehouse
4.00 pm	Crib with Carols	Great Finborough
4.00 pm	Carol Service	Harleston
6.00 pm	Candlelit Said Communion	Combs
7.30 pm	Christmas Communion with Carols	Buxhall

25th December: Christmas Day

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.00 am	Holy Communion	Shelland
10.30 am	Family Communion	Onehouse

**Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died.
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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