

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

22nd March 2026 : The Fifth Sunday of Lent, Passiontide Begins

Church Services Today:

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



Stowmarket Chorale – Spring Concert

Celebrating 125 years of the Chorale performing in the heart of Suffolk, there will be a Spring Concert featuring music from Brahms, Ethel Smyth, and Imogen Holst's 'A Hymne to Christ'. It will be held on **Saturday 28th March** at Stowmarket URC, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket IP14 1AD, starting at 7pm and tickets cost £20 with under-19's gaining free admittance. Tickets are available from 07733 298621 or from the website www.stowmarketchorale.org.uk.

Forthcoming Events

- 25th March** – Deanery Synod, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Earl Stonham
- 28th March** – Buxhall Lent Lunch, 12pm to 2pm at the Village Hall, Buxhall
- 28th March** – Easter Egg Hunt, 10am to 12pm, Little Finborough Church, £3.50/hunter
- 9th April** – Rural Coffee Caravan, 10am to 12pm at Combs Green, Combs
- 11th April** – Buxhall Tea Room, 12pm to 3pm at the Village Hall, Buxhall
- 13th April** – Rural Coffee Caravan, 10am to 12pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse
- 13th April** – Rural Coffee Caravan, 1pm to 3pm at Harleston Church
- 15th April** – Fashion Show, 7pm at Great Finborough Church, tickets £5 including complimentary drink, tickets from Sadie 07766196612 or Style at Stow 01449 771315

Meet Up Mondays in Church Hall, Combs

Our next meeting will take place on **30th March 2026** from 10.30am to 12.30pm, for further details 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. All welcome.

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 - Meeting ID: 845 3783 4344 Passcode: 916836

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84537834344?pwd=dmZRdXpkbXNpUk15aVNjdzMwdmg5dz09>

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 the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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. Amen.

Readings

The New Testament reading is taken from Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel is taken from John 11.1-45 : Glory to you O Lord

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was

ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

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

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Father through his Son who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church, give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us**

Bless those who lead the Church's worship at this solemn time, in the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments draw your people close to you.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Strengthen those among us who are preparing for baptism, together with their teachers, sponsors and families, teach them what it means to die and rise with Christ and prepare them to receive the breath of his Spirit.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much that you sent your Son to suffer and to die, strengthen those who work to share the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice, help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus, and in his passion to know their salvation.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship, according to your promises, bring them with all your saints to share in all the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

By the Saviour's cross and passion, **Lord, save us and help us.**

Everlasting God, we thank you for having heard us and, confident that all is safely in your hands, we go back out into the world surrounded by your love and care in all that we do in the coming week.

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

Services for 29th March: Palm Sunday

9.30 am Procession from the Punch Bowl pub, Battisford to church

10.00 am Benefice Holy Communion Little Finborough

Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died including Sybil Chaplin. 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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