

The Finborough and Combs News Sheet

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

WELCOME as we keep in touch, pray and support each other



29th March 2020 Passion Sunday

As a result of the COVID 19 Corona Virus our services of worship and use of our churches is suspended – but not our faith or our common life I share with you a prayer from the Church Missionary Society which several of our parishes support and retain personal links through Michael Green. It was published in their Prayerlines booklet recently:-

“Christ who appeared to your disciples when the doors were shut; appear unto all of those in the world today who live their lives behind closed doors.”

Very timely.....

Pauline or I are in touch with or know the leaders in each of our communities who are prepared to assist those self isolating or otherwise. Please make contact if you know of anyone in difficulty. There have been some surprising cases. We are seeing a wonderful outpouring of support and organisation. There is no doubt of its benefit now.

There will be a service of **Holy Communion** on behalf of us all today and it is our intention to hold such a celebration each Sunday at 11am. You can be with me in Spirit, follow the service yourself and listen to the sermon on the link shown on the e mail that sent this. You might like to light a candle. The Readings are below.

Collect for Passion Sunday

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

Ezekiel 37.1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.'⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.

Romans 8.6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

John 11.1-45 The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴But 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.' ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹Jesus 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. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹²The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ 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.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met

him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The 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.'

For your prayers this week

For those who are ill
For all medical staff and medical researchers
For our schools especially Gt Finborough and Trinity
For those continuing to work to provide food and services
For the Christian communities
For each other especially the anxious and lonely
For the Church and our individual response
For the World its leaders and especially our Prime Minister

And from the Book of Common Prayer of 1928

Grant we beseech thee, merciful Lord, help and deliverance unto us, who are visited with grievous mortality and sickness. Sanctify to us this our sore distress, and prosper with thy continual blessing those who labour to devise for mankind protection against disease and pain. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

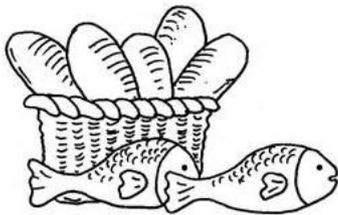
May God bless and sustain us through the coming uncertain weeks and months.

It would be kind to phone someone you would have met in church or even someone you think might be alone. You might even like to discuss the sermon!

We were all invited to join our Bishops in a National Day of Prayer and action about the Coronavirus last Sunday and I know many people did by **lighting a candle in a window at 7pm.** Will you join in – it supports others in showing light and hope.

If you would like the special set of prayers I prepared for each church please email. National set prayers are available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>. Various broadcasts and Apps are also available. Our Diocesan schedule of services and information is at <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops/broadcasting-live-services>

Tues 31 March	Funeral of Dorothy Spain, (Lt Finborough) West Suffolk Crematorium
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Your donations are very gladly received in the supermarkets whilst the churches are closed. Urgent needs this week is tinned fruit of any variety



Whilst some of us cannot get out.....

What about this wonderful idea from Grace Gemmel's Craft Group at Gt Finborough, who writes:-

Sadly our craft group has had to close along with everything else but making things is good for morale as we know. How about we crochet some lovely bunting together. Lots of patterns most quite easy on line. Can't crochet ? well now is your time to learn, tutorials a plenty on line. Go on you know you want to. If we all made one pennant a week even then put ours together with long ties each end they could be joined perhaps and used to decorate say local church, pub, the postponed street party or our own garden parties. Let's make this a positive time and make something beautiful. Any help I can give just ask

There is a Trinity Hall Quiz in Onehouse – *contact details for both from Rev Chris*

Many of you will remember Rev Trudy Gray who was a Priest here for many years. She has written recently sending her prayers and best wishes to us all at this time.

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/safeguarding>

This pew sheet is also now published on the Combs Village website by popular request! <http://www.combsvillage.org.uk/st-marys-church/pew-sheets/>

Rector: Rev Christopher Childs - 01449 673280
Associate Priest Rev Canon Pauline Higham 01449 771791

All information to combsandfinboroughparishes@aol.com by Monday for inclusion in the following Sunday's news sheet

If you would like this Pew Sheet e-mailed to you,