

# The Combs and Finborough News Sheet

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

**WELCOME** as we keep in touch, pray and support each other especially those who cannot come back to our buildings yet.



**13th December 2020      3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome** to the **Zoom service of Holy Communion**. You might like to light a candle. Following Orthodox tradition you may wish to join us with a piece of bread as the 'Bread of Fellowship' given to those in their churches who do not receive the Sacrament.

**Welcome** to those in church in **Combs** and **Shelland** today.

## Collect for today

God, for whom we watch and wait,  
You sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



## Readings

**Epistle Isaiah 61.1-4,8-1**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.  
For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1.6-8,19-28

**Glory to you O Lord**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

**Intercessions**

Come, Holy Spirit of God, come upon us,  
that you may send us out in your power.  
fill us with your grace and goodness,

that we may be able to bring the Good News to the oppressed,  
to comfort the broken hearted,  
and to bring liberty and freedom to your people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen**

Holy Lord, you come to us, you inspire us, you enable us;  
grant that we may proclaim your loving presence  
and show your saving power.  
Let your church be seen to be working for justice and  
righteousness, for liberty and peace;  
Lord, that we may live at peace and oppress no one.  
Make us instruments of peace within our communities and within our homes  
Lord of freedom, **hear us**

We remember before you all who are seeking freedom:  
we pray for nations burdened with great debt,  
for families who have lost their homes, peoples denied justice.  
We pray for families who are suffering from violence or tyranny.  
We pray for the work of Amnesty International,  
we remember all who care for prisoners.  
We pray for all who are hostages at this time  
Lord of freedom, **hear us**

Lord, teach us to appreciate what we have and to be aware of all that is done for us.  
Let us not take each other for granted.  
Let us hold fast to all that is good and abstain from every form of evil.  
May our homes be homes of holiness and hospitality, of grace and goodness.  
Lord of freedom, **hear us**

We remember in your holy presence, God of liberty,  
all those whose lives are diminished by poverty or neglect,  
all whose confidence has been lost by harsh treatment or scorn.  
We pray for all who have been betrayed, especially those betrayed by loved ones.  
We remember all who have lost their dignity through illness.  
We remember friends and loved ones in their troubles especially.....  
Lord of freedom, **hear us**

Lord, you have done great things for us already, and yet, greater things to come.  
We pray for the departed from us especially Derek Wiggins, Pat Turner and Jack Bingham.  
May they be numbered with your saints and know the glorious liberty of the children of God  
Lord of freedom, **hear us**

In the name of your son who gave his life for us, Jesus Christ **Amen**

**Stowmarket Foodbank**  
Supporting individuals and families in crisis

Your donations are very gladly received at this time of  
considerable need either by being left at a Supermarket in  
the box provided or in the Box outside the Food Bank in the  
Community Centre Hillside Stowmarket between 9 and 1  
each weekday. **Monetary donations may be made through kindlink which can be  
reached by their website: [www.livingit.org.uk](http://www.livingit.org.uk) There is a red donate button.**

## Study and Prayer Courses

We are following the Diocesan **Course 'Living Advent'** on Zoom from 4pm on Wednesdays– join when you can.

– the booklet is available in hard copy. Log in details from Pauline or Chris

**AND** there is another course that looks interesting. It's at [www.adventonline.faith](http://www.adventonline.faith) and is a series with an **Advent Calendar**, thoughts, music and traditional things for each day.

## Christmas Craft Club



On Zoom from Wednesday's at 7pm. Details from Lisa 01359 245013

Making simple Christmas decorations.



## Carol Services – this coming Week

**Thursday 17th** 6pm Outdoors at Trinity School Lavenham Way Combs with Stowmarket Concert Band

**Saturday 19th** 5pm – Drive in Finborough School Gt Finborough  
Booking [bernice52nigel@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bernice52nigel@yahoo.co.uk),  
Or telephone 01449 675344

## Children's Activities over Christmas and Christingle

Pauline and the Messy Church Teams have prepared packs once again and if you didn't receive one recently and would like one please contact Pauline or Chris as there are some spares or of course, to put your name on the list for next time.



## Cake Stall

**Combs Church Hall Car Park Poplar Hill**  
**Wednesday 16th December 11-1pm**

in aid of Combs Church. Offers of cakes to Jenny on 615956

**Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died**  
Lilly Riley, Elaine Tomlinson, Pat Turner, Jack Bingham and Derek Wiggins  
**May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory**

*All events are subject to change according to regulation*

*Morning Prayer on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10am, Advent Group on Wednesdays at 4pm continue on Zoom – ask for details*

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 village websites including Combs Village  
<http://www.combsvillage.org.uk/st-marys-church/pew-sheets/>

**Rector: Rev Christopher Childs – 01449 673280**

**Associate Rector Rev Canon Pauline Higham 01449 771791**

