

# 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.**



## 15th November 2020 Second before Advent

**Welcome** to the **Zoom service of Holy Communion**. You might like to light a candle. Following Orthodox tradition and 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.

### Collect for today

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



### Readings

#### Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

## **Holy Gospel** Matthew Chapter 25 verses 14-30 **Glory to You O Lord**

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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

## **Intercessions**

Gathered as God's people let us pray.

Holy God,  
if we are presuming on your mercy,  
alert us and shatter our complacency;  
if we are doubting your mercy,  
affirm in us the reality of your forgiveness.  
May we, as the church, encourage and warn,  
but never condemn;  
acknowledge sin, but never judge.

*Silence* Christ will come again:  
**make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God,  
raise up prophets to speak out your truth,  
and draw attention to whatever needs  
changing in our world,  
our expectations and assumptions,

our management of resources and finances,  
our systems of government and our attitudes.  
May all peoples come to recognise your truth.

*Silence* Christ will come again:  
**make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, fill our homes and places of work  
with so much love that tensions  
and barriers melt away,  
conflicts are resolved  
and troubles lightened  
by being lovingly shared.  
Open our hearts to hope again  
where we had given up.

*Silence* Christ will come again:  
**make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God,  
may all in misery and despair  
turn to find you close beside them in their  
heartache, not condemning  
but loving them in their pain: especially  
May all who are locked in terror or guilt be  
set free, and may those whom long term  
illness wearies be strengthened to persevere,  
freed from resentment.

*Silence* Christ will come again:  
**make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, Lord of the living and the dead,  
we commend to your mercy all who have  
died, especially...  
and thank you for the eternal healing  
which frees us from all pain and suffering.

*Silence* Christ will come again:  
**make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, we thank you for the gifts and  
talents you have given us.  
Give us the courage to use them  
For the good of the world.

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

#### **Diocesan Prayer for Generosity**

Loving God, you are always with us,  
and give us all we need  
to be your church in Suffolk.  
Help us, we pray,  
to give as we have received:  
abundantly, generously, joyfully,  
that our worship and our service  
may bear witness to your kingdom of  
unfailing love.  
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 the 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) and Foodbank area! There is a red donate button.**

## **Study and Prayer Courses**

We shall be following the Diocesan Course 'Living Advent' on Zoom from 4pm on Wednesday 2nd December and each Wednesday following – join when you can.  
– the booklet is available in hard copy. Log in details from Pauline or Chris

**and in the meantime** we are following a 4 week course on Living Prayer. There is picture and written material to look at, so please be in touch if you would like more information and the booklet.

## **Christmas Craft Club** (for adults)



On Zoom from Wednesday 18th November at 7pm. Details from Lisa  
01359 245013



Making simple Christmas decorations.

All materials are provided and can be delivered

# A Call to Prayer for the Nation from the Archbishops

All have been asked to join each evening at 6pm and I can provide a leaflet if you are not able to access the below link.



<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>

We have been asked to ring our bells at 6pm – at least each Thursday evening. Thank you to those – not necessarily Churchwardens who are doing so. It is much appreciated my many.

## Children's Activities over Christmas and Christingle

Pauline and the Messy Church Teams are preparing packs once again and if you didn't receive contact over half term and would like to next time please be in touch. WE sent out almost 50.

I am aware that many of our Christian Charities like the Children's Society will loose income this year and their valuable work with vulnerable children be curtailed. We are planning to run at least one Christingle and so if you can offer help please do so. They are great fun for all ages.

## Please remember the families and loved ones of those recently died

Ken Edmunds and Harold Turner, Barbara Thompson

**May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory**

**Please also remember** those for whom this present new Lockdown is difficult as they will miss loved ones and or work colleagues. The phone call, card or offer of help might make all the difference. Please be in touch with any member of the Ministry Team if you know of anyone in particular need.

*All events are subject to change according to regulation*

**Morning Prayer** on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10am, **Bible Study** 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**  
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