

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.



29th November 2020 **Advent Sunday**

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

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ **Amen**



Readings

Epistle 1 Corinthians 3.1-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Holy Gospel Mark 13.24-37 **Glory to you O Lord**

24 'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch

becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

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

Intercessions

Wait for the Lord whose day is near Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Holy God of Advent You became weak
so we could find strength in moments of heartbreak;
you left the safety of Heaven
to wander the wilderness of the world,
holding our hands when we feel hopeless;
you set aside your glory to hold our pain,
so we might be healed, even when there seems to be no hope.
You became one of us so we would never be alone,
in any moment, in any circumstances.

Lord, in this season when every heart should be happy and light,
many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life,
with burdens, that steal our joy.
Fill us with your light instead of our darkness.
You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way;
help us clear the way in our hearts and our minds
to concentrate on the true meaning of Christ's coming
and not on the worldly things,
which so often block out our thoughts and worship of you.

Thank you, Lord, for your grace and the gift of Jesus, our Emmanuel; the word made flesh.

Lord God, we live in disturbing days across the world;
a world filled with doubt and conflict, inequality and injustice.
Make this time of waiting, the time of a new awakening
of thought, consideration, endeavour and action,
by all leaders and all nations,
to bring about peace, freedom and understanding,
through the knowledge of the one true gift,
Jesus our Saviour.

Thank you Lord for the gift of Jesus our Emmanuel; the word made flesh

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ,
understood people's fear and pain
before they were aware of them,
have mercy on those in need,
for the hungry and the homeless,
for those in refugee camps, hospitals and care homes,
for those who are cared for in their own homes.
Bless those who work to bring them relief,
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts
at this time of goodwill to all men.
Our thoughts go out today especially to...

Gracious God,
surround us and all who mourn with your continuing compassion.
We think particularly of the family and friends of...

**Wait for the Lord whose day is near Wait for the Lord; keep watch take heart
Come, Lord Jesus. Pour out your spirit on us today.**

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 and Foodbank area! There is a red donate button.**

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>

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 there is another course that looks interesting. It's at 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.



Children's Activities over Christmas and Christingle

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

Cake Stalls



Trinity Hall Car Park Forest Rd Onehouse
Saturday 5th December 10-12noon

in aid of Onehouse Church

Offers of cakes to Sylvia 615592 or Heidi on 07921 923 365

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 recently died

Lilly Riley and Elaine Tomlinson

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, 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

Associate Rector Rev Canon Pauline Higham 01449 771791

All information to combsandfinboroughparishes@aol.com