

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.



10th January 2021 Epiphany 1, Baptism of Christ and Christingle

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.

Collect for today

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son,
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children:
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**



Readings Epistle Acts 19.1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

Holy Gospel is from Mark 1.4-11 **Glory to you O Lord**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

Intercessions

Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is affirmed at his Baptism as God's beloved Son, and we too are given the spirit of God which affirms us as God's adopted daughters and sons

Let the Spirit of God in our hearts plead for the Church and for the world.

Great God of all time and space,
fill the church with such joy in believing
that all Christians overflow with love,
compassion, generosity and humility.
We particularly pray for our parishes and leaders here.
Let us walk your way and live your life *Silence*

May the Spirit of God:
Fill us to overflowing

Great God of power and justice,
Fill the arenas of leadership and conflict
with sharpened consciences and courage,
so that wise decisions are made,
needs met and wrongs righted.
We pray for our Prime Minister and Health Secretary *Silence*

May the Spirit of God:
Fill us to overflowing

Great God of gentleness and truth,
fill every home with new insight
and greater understanding.
Break down divisive barriers
and build up our capacity to love. *Silence*

May the Spirit of God:
Fill us to overflowing

Great God of attentive caring,
fill us with your practical compassion;
may all who suffer be heard,
comforted and cared for especially.....
Heal both their situation and our hardness of heart.
We pray for the work of the Children's Society. *Silence*

May the Spirit of God:
Fill us to overflowing

Great God of unending being,
fill death with your life
and the dying with hope in you especially we remember
Prepare us all with life which lasts forever. *Silence*

May the Spirit of God:
Fill us to overflowing

Great God of creation,
fill our mouths with praises
and our hearts with gratitude,
for all the glory that surrounds us.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour 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 There is a red donate button.**

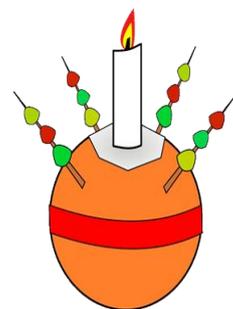
Christmas Services

We were pleased with attendance at our 5 outdoor services and on Zoom. Enormous thanks are due to the Churchwardens and others for their work. The wonderful Nativity images made by Dean Hearn of Harleston provided a good focus at Little Finborough, Onehouse and on Harleston Green. I am sure they will be useful in the future. WE were grateful to the bandsmen of Battsford Free Church and Buxhall Handbell ringers for our music.

Our District Councillor has made a most generous donation to enable the purchase of an outdoor amplification system which will no doubt also be useful in the future.

We shall be celebrating **Christingle** within our normal service today. All donations are in aid of the Children's Society and there will be a short video explaining their work. From their website:-

Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. Our first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a symbol — the Christingle — to do this.



Donations may be made by Cash or Cheque (The Children's Society) and left with Andrew Robinson 30 Willow Close Gt Finborough, Ann Cole 40 Edgecomb Road Stowmarket, Carole Hearn Primrose Barn Harleston Green or either Rectory. Online they may be made by following the link <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/how-you-can-help/donate>. Please return **Children's Society boxes** to Carole, Ann or your usual link asap

A Message from

Mid Suffolk Filling Station Wednesday 13th January 7.30pm

We live in difficult times. Let us keep grounded in God, and his Word:
"I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 NIVUK

And let us continue to meet, to worship, pray and encourage one another.
Richard Fenning will be our guest speaker.

Please contact Rev Chris for the Zoom Log on details

A Reminder

I am available together with Canon Pauline, Rev Alison and members of the Ministry Team for conversations with anyone of you. It is a worrying and most difficult time. The Churchwardens and PCC Chairpersons are meeting to consider how best to respond to the present situation and I know many of you are doing all you can to support those in need both financially and perhaps more importantly with your time. All of us much regret that we do not feel it wise to open our churches for worship, but please watch this space. We will as soon as we can. Rev Chris



Mondays at 4pm

On Zoom each week for anyone who wishes to join for an informal chat with a cup of tea and biscuit.

This is a new venture

Contact details from clergy

All most welcome



Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died
Ron Abbs, Ken Bottomley, David Cobbold, Ray Bullett and Joe Harvey
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 continues on Wednesdays at 4pm on Zoom – please 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