

The Combs and Finborough News Sheet

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



WELCOME

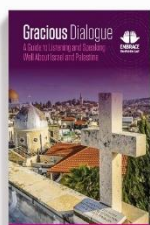
As we keep in touch, pray and support each other

30th November 2025 : Advent Sunday

Church Services Today:

10.00am Benefice Service of Holy Communion Buxhall
Guest Preacher: Revd Canon Sharon Connell
Head of Chaplaincy Services, St Nicholas Hospice

Advent Course – Gracious Dialogue

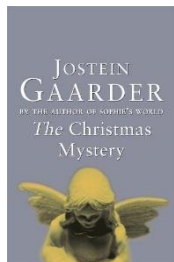


For our Advent course this year we will be using resources prepared by the charity Embrace the Middle East. As in previous years, we will be running our 4 week course on Zoom on Thursday mornings on the **27th November, 4th December, 11th December and 18th December**. If you would like a copy of the booklet we will be using please let

revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com know so that sufficient numbers can be

ordered before we start the course.

'The Christmas Mystery' by Jostein Gaarder



Here we are at the beginning of Advent and I've got my copy of 'The Christmas Mystery' ready to read once more. 'The Christmas Mystery' is an Advent calendar in book form which tells the story of the nativity in a different way to that which we're used to, it's a story within a story and is a lovely way to prepare for the season of Christmas.

Stowmarket Foodbank – Christmas Appeal



Stowmarket Foodbank has shared their Christmas Shopping List of items they are hoping will be donated so that they can distribute to families in need within our community. Please phone the Foodbank on 01449 774000 if you are able to donate any of the items on this list, all donations will be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Forthcoming Events

1st December – Harleston PCC, 7pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse

4th December – Advent Course, 10am to 11.30am, on Zoom

8th December – Rural Coffee Caravan, 2pm to 4pm, Harleston Church

11th December – Advent Course, 10am to 11.30am, on Zoom

11th December – Rural Coffee Caravan, 10am to 12pm, Combs Green, Combs

13th December – Messy Christmas!, 10.30am to 12pm, Trinity Hall, Onehouse

13th December – Buxhall Tea Room, 12pm to 3pm, at the Village Hall, Buxhall

18th December – Advent Course, 10am to 11.30am, on Zoom

Meet Up Mondays in Church Hall, Combs

Our final meeting for 2025 is a special and will take place on **8th December 2025** from 11.30am to 1.30pm, places need to be booked by contacting Revd Alison on 01449 541794. All most welcome.

Wednesday Mornings in Trinity Hall, Onehouse

9.30am Wednesdays Said Holy Communion followed at 10.30am by coffee and cake.

Saturday Morning Prayer on Zoom at 10am

Join us for a short service of Morning Prayer on Zoom, this is the link to join the service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84537834344?pwd=dmZRdXpkbXNpUk15aVNjdzMwdmg5dz09> Meeting ID: 845 3783 4344 Passcode: 916836

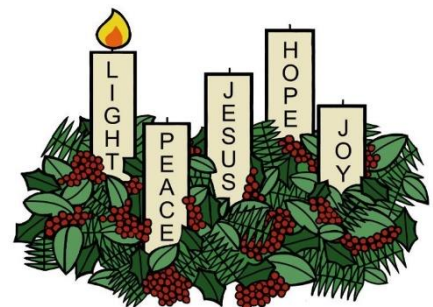
Prayer Group

We have a group of people from across the Benefice who pray individually and privately for anyone who asks for prayerful support, whatever the situation may be. All information given is kept totally confidential. Our only request is that the person receiving prayer gives their consent. If you or someone you know would welcome prayer, please contact Elizabeth Mooney at emooney6@sky.com.

Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ADVENT 1



Readings

The New Testament reading is taken from Romans 13.11-end

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness,

not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew 24.36-44 : Glory to you O Lord

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

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

Intercessions

Lord as we come before you today on this First Sunday of Advent we ask you to prepare us for your coming, you promised through your son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith and we bring before you today the needs of the Church and the world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for your church today, gathering all around the world in tiny churches and great cathedrals to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite instead behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Loving God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule in areas of the world where there is conflict. We ask you to govern the hearts and minds of those who lead our nations and for those in authority that they may act justly, with honesty and integrity according to your will.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

On this day we pray for the homeless, the refugees, the expelled and forgotten people everywhere. May they know that your guiding hand is with them in their daily lives and tireless endeavours to find sanctuary. We ask you to help us all to use our gifts and our talents to the greater good of all, challenge us to drive away

complacency and apathy when we know in our hearts that we can do more to help and sustain those in need.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for others for whom this day will seem long and hard, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression, those seeking work, and for those for whom this day will be their last. Comfort and heal all who suffer, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have already gone before us and we light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

As we leave this place today Advent Lord come even nearer. Come to rejuvenate our faith, come to fortify our social conscience, come to widen our eyes of wonder, so that when the Saviour comes he may steal into our hearts and find them ready.

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

Service on 7th December : The Second Sunday of Advent

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Great Finborough
11.00 am	Christingle	Combs

**Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died including Imogen Curtis and Rose Stockings.
May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.**

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/promoting-a-safer-church>

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