

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

2nd February 2025: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas

Church Services Today:

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Little Finborough
9.30 am	Morning Worship	Harleston
9.30 am	Spiritual Communion	Zoom Service*
11.00 am	All Age Worship	Combs Church Hall

* <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88260493673?pwd=dC9qbG5odVpyUktwcm56bGFxSlBqUT09>
Meeting ID: 882 6049 3673 Passcode: 022305

Combs Church Services

During the winter months, from 5th January to 13th April inclusive, our Sunday Services will be held in Combs Church Hall, Poplar Hill, Stowmarket at 11.00am. We will be back in St Mary's church on Easter Sunday, 20th April.

Forthcoming Events

- 3rd February – Little Finborough PCC, 7pm at the Rectory, Combs Ford
- 4th February – Onehouse PCC, 7pm at Trinity Hall, Onehouse
- 10th February – Rural Coffee Caravan, 2pm to 4pm, St Augustine's Church, Harleston
- 13th February – Rural Coffee Caravan, 10am to 12pm, Combs Green, Combs

Meet Up Mondays in Church Hall, Combs

Our next meeting will take place on 3rd February 2025 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, please contact Revd Alison on 01449 541794 or if you require further details. 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 the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Readings

The New Testament reading is taken from Hebrews 2.14-end

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

The Holy Gospel is taken from Luke 2.22-40 : Glory to you O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence

of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Intercessions

Faithful God, we thank you for the example of Simeon and Anna, and their faithful service and witness, for their patient waiting for Christ to be revealed. Help us to serve you faithfully and patiently, watching for you to be revealed in our own lives.

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

Holy God, as we remember the older and retired people in our churches, we give you thanks for all that they do in our Sunday worship, in our church fellowship and in our communities. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire them to use and share their life experiences with wisdom, humility and gladness.

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

Lord God, we pray for all who work for peace and unity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. We pray especially for those fighting terrorism throughout the world and for peace in the Ukraine and Holy Land.

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

Father God, we pray for our Church communities, that each of us might make use of our individual talents enabling each church group to flourish as a witness to the “One Body” of the church. Help us to spread the warmth of your love to everyone we meet.

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

Gracious God, we pray for the work and service of all care homes and day centres for elderly and sick people, and for the charity organisations and shops who raise money to help. We pray for all finding their life painful, lonely or uncertain, especially those who are ill or vulnerable. Help them to sense your comfort in times of need and bless their families and carers.

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

Merciful Lord, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love. May those who have gone before us rest in your eternal peace. We remember before you those who have died and we pray for all whose life is saddened by the death of a loved one, be with them in their loneliness Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Everlasting God, we pray for ourselves; as we go from this church today to start the week ahead, we ask that in all we do, we may we walk more closely with you at our side safe in the knowledge that your fatherly love and care knows no bounds.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Syria and the wider Middle East today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Services on 9th February: Fourth Sunday before Lent

9.30 am	Morning Worship	Shelland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	Buxhall
11.00 am	Morning Worship	Great Finborough
11.00 am	Holy Communion	Onehouse Trinity Hall

**Please remember the families and loved ones of those who have recently died including Raymond Wadsley, Stephen Prohazca and Thomas Clarke.
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>

Rector: Revd Sarah Jenkins 01449 676065 revdsarahjenkins@gmail.com

**Associate Priest: Revd Canon Pauline Higham 01449 771791
paulinehigham@googlemail.com**

Revd Alison Lay 01449 541794 alidivineone@gmail.com