

### A Prayer for Every Day

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can  
separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

### The Food Banks

Need our support more than ever, please support the collection points in supermarkets and consider volunteering as a Food Bank delivery driver. Further details are on our website.

### Church buildings closed, but the church keeps going...

As of the 24<sup>th</sup> March, all Anglican Church buildings are closed in an effort to stop the spread of the virus, but that doesn't stop church being church...

### Clocks change

Remember to change your clocks as British Summer Time begins today.

### Benefice Office Manager update

We are pleased to announce that Alex Brown, who has strong communication and IT skills, and will help us to move forward as a benefice, has been appointed from a very strong field. Alex will be taking up this new post in May.

### Key Contacts

#### Vicar of Benefice

Revd. Becky Bevan 01635 524994  
bbevan.vicar@stg-stj.org.uk *day off Monday*

#### Associate Vicar

Revd. Gary Collins 07986 901879  
gary@st-john-newbury.org.uk *day off Friday*

#### Associate Priest – St George's

Revd. Terry Winrow 01635 45380  
terry.winrow@st-george-newbury.org.uk

#### Associate Priest – St John's

Revd. Canon Trevor Maines 01635 551352  
trevor.maines@ntlworld.com

#### Placement Curate

Revd. Julie Howell *day off Monday*  
jhowell.curate@stg-stj.org.uk

#### Churchwardens:

**St John's.** David Oats, Alison Foulkes  
churchwarden@st-john-newbury.org.uk

**St George's.** Simon Pook, Rita Gardner  
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**Facebook** facebook.com/stjohnnewbury  
facebook.com/@StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Fifth Sunday of Lent. Passiontide

We may not be able to gather together, but we can stay in touch. Welcome to our new benefice newsletter for this difficult period for us all.

Please keep looking at the new temporary benefice website for updates –

**www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk**

And please share news with those not on the internet. If you need help or have a prayer request phone one of the ministry team. Contact numbers are on the back page of this newsletter.

### Online Benefice Service, today at 10am

Please join us for our Benefice Communion Service, streamed through the internet.

The service will be available on You Tube here:

**http://tiny.cc/stg-stj**

Or go to the new benefice website and click the link **www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk**

**'Virtual Coffee and Chat' at 11am.** Details on Website.

### For your Prayers

#### We pray for those who are unwell:

Sarah Carter, John Fidler, Sam Oats, Adrienne Engert, Margaret Stewart, Steve Athawes, Clair Smith, Tracey Cole, Bob Judge, Michael Perkin, Julie Pound

**Rest in peace:** Brian Durnford, Jean Heaton, Robert Peel

**This week in the Newbury Deanery prayer cycle** we pray for Lambourn Valley, Revd Julie Mintern, Ven Christine Allsopp and their team.

**Monday** – for all key workers and their families.

**Tuesday** – for West Berkshire Foodbank and other local charities finding new ways to meet real needs.

**Wednesday** – for clergy, our Bishops and Archbishops.

**Thursday** – for those in financial crisis and those seeking to help.

**Friday** – for every blessing despite everything.

**Saturday** – for national leaders, the Royal Family and Government.

Although we cannot contact everyone right away, the Clergy team will be praying for ten people on our church databases each day.

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

### The Collect for Passiontide

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### First Reading. Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

### Romans 8.6-11 (additional)

### Gospel. John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the religious opposition were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus

arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the people had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The visitors who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the people who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the visitors said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the people therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

### Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers  
and sisters we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

### In need of Help?

If you need help, a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact clergy or leave a message on the Benefice Office phone, 01635 41249, where messages will be picked up every day. We cannot promise to help, but we will try.

### Thank you ...

For all the ways you are staying in touch with neighbours and are reaching out to those in need. Keep phoning one another and praying for our community. It makes all the difference.