

A Prayer for the stillness of lockdown

O God, how wonderful are your works!
a blade of grass, an ear of corn, a loving word;
help us turn this narrowing of our lives,
into an exploring of depths,
stillness into reflection,
silence into prayer.
Grant us the wisdom to see life not as a race
but as a matchless gift of grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

In need of Help?

If you need help, a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact clergy on the numbers below or leave a message on the Benefice Office phone, 01635 41249, where messages will be picked up.

The Clergy team will be praying for people on our church databases each day.

Items for Foodbank

Between 9am and 4pm you can leave items in a Collection Box in the St George's open cloister (by the tower). Becky and Phil will deliver to the Foodbank each week. THANK YOU.

West Berkshire Community Hub

The Community Hub is a vital resource for both volunteers and those who need help at this time.
info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-communityhub
Telephone – 01635 503579

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

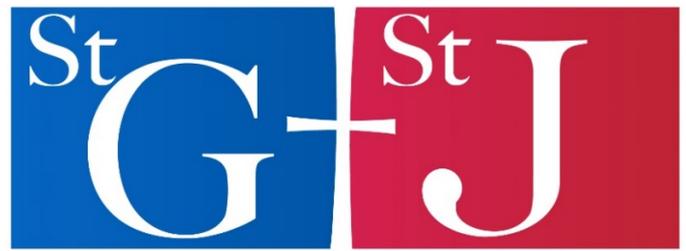
Churchwardens:

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

St George's. Simon Pook, Rita Gardner
churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk

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

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

2nd Sunday of Easter
19th April 2020

New this week; we begin Wednesday Worship, a benefice service every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm via Zoom. Further details are available on the website, with log-in details available each Wednesday after 12 noon. Join us if you can.

Online Benefice Service, Sunday at 10am

Please join us for our Benefice Service of Holy Communion, 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.

Prayers for the Week

Prayers for named individuals are now listed in a Prayer List circulated weekly by email. Please be assured that people will still be prayed for by name.

This week in the Newbury Deanery prayer cycle we pray for St Mary's Greenham - Revd David Mcleod, the clergy team, churchwardens and all who live and worship in Greenham.

Monday 20th Our benefice clergy and their families.

Tuesday 21st Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher, 1109

Our schools and colleges and their provision for home education.

Wednesday 22nd

Charities supported by St George's and St John's and their on-going work at this time.

Thursday 23rd George the Martyr, Patron of England, c.304

On this patronal festival we pray for the life and work of St George's Church, past, present and future.

Friday 24th Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624; The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands, 2003

Our children and young people across the Benefice.

Saturday 25th Mark the Evangelist

That we may share the good news of God's love.

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Easter 19th April 2020

The Collect

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

First Reading.

Acts 2:14a,22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us
are witnesses.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe[d] that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Services

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| Wednesday Worship | Zoom | 15th April |
| link to be released on website | | 7.30pm |
| Sunday Eucharist | YouTube | 26th April |
| | | 10.00am |

Benefice Website – stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk

The website is being updated on a regular basis. It also keeps all **Online Services** (except Zoom services so you can **catch-up** if you missed them. Updates also given on the two **Facebook** pages for St George's and St John's