

Our new Benefice Office Manager begins this week

We are delighted to welcome **Alex Brown** to the team and pray for her as she begins her new role on Tuesday. The Benefice Office in St George's church will remain closed but a 'virtual office' will begin to open from 5 May, Tuesdays – Fridays, 9.30 – 3.30pm. Bear with us for a few weeks as new systems are put in place, but our aim is to get Alex up and running as soon as possible answering queries and distributing information as well as helping us to move forwards as a Benefice fit for the future.

More Good News - our placement curate is staying

We are also delighted to announce that **Revd Julie Howell's** curacy is to be transferred to this Benefice so that she can continue her ministerial training with us for the next two years. We await news from the Archdeacon about when Julie might be able to move to the Benefice but hopefully as soon as the lockdown lifts. We surround Julie with our prayers as we formally welcome her to our parishes.

Christian Aid Week 10 -16 May

Please support Christian Aid in their task of raising money without the usual collections and events. Their work includes emergency help to Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh where Covid-19 adds to existing threats. See www.christianaid.org.uk

In need of help?

If you need help, a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact clergy on the numbers below.

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

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

3rd May 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

As May begins and lockdown continues, we are acutely aware of the need to stay connected, especially as weariness is bound to be setting in a bit. Please keep playing your part in holding our community together and keep making those phone calls and joining in church online worship and fellowship if you can. Most importantly, keep praying for our community, our world and one another. The benefice website is constantly being updated - www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk And please share news with those not on the internet. Facebook users, please keep sharing posts from the St George's and St John's Facebook pages, especially to other local community groups. Thank you!

Online Benefice Service, Sunday at 10am

Please join us for our online Benefice Service of Holy Communion. The service will be available on YouTube 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 via e-mail. See note on back page about new Zoom user requirements.

Wash Commoner Magazine - May

You can read an online edition on our website (with articles of interest beyond Wash Common).

Giving to our churches during Covid 19

Thank you to all who support St George's and St John's in all sorts of ways. Both churches rely on the generous giving of time and money from parishioners. This has always been the case and both churches are testament to the on-going generosity of many people past and present. In the current climate, with collections on a Sunday no longer happening, and with lost rental income from hirers in both parishes, we are asking all who feel able (*and please ignore this if your income is currently reduced*) to read carefully the letter sent to you from your Church Treasurer and Churchwardens. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have questions or require further information. Glenn Wycherley, Treasurer St George's 580115
Kim Whittaker, Treasurer St John's 07899 818466

The Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Gospel

John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Post Communion

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Week

Prayers for named individuals are now listed in a Prayer Diary circulated weekly by email. Please be assured that people will still be prayed for by name. The clergy team pray for people on our church contacts lists every day.

This week in the Newbury Deanery prayer cycle - Thatcham, St Mary and St Barnabas

Revds Mark Bennet, Nicola Hulks, Brenda Harland, Leonard Onugha.

Monday 4th English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era

Our Vicar, Revd Becky Bevan and Phillip.

Revd Julie Howell as she formally joins our benefice as curate this week.

Tuesday 5th May

Adequate provision of medical equipment across our health care system.

Alex Brown as she begins her new job as Benefice Office Manager today.

Wednesday 6th May

Health and Social Workers in the community.

Thursday 7th May

Countries facing Covid-19 with poor facilities and for the work of The World Health Organisation.

Friday 8th May Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer and Mystic c 1417

Our hospital chaplains.

Saturday 9th May

Those in our Benefice suffering financial hardship.

Upcoming Services

Wednesday Worship	Zoom	6th May
Link to be released via email.		7.30pm

It seems that security now requires users to have registered with Zoom.

This is free and painless!

Sunday Worship	YouTube	10th May
		10.00am

All our Services, (except Zoom services) remain available on the benefice website and on YouTube.