

Our new Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown has begun in her new role. The Office remains closed to the public for now but its usual functions – and lots of new ones – will soon be up and running.

Bear with us for a few weeks as new systems are put in place to help us to move forwards as a Benefice fit for the future.

The Office number is **01635 41249** and messages will be picked up daily Tuesday – Friday.

Email Alex on alex.brown@stg-stj.org.uk

Scrub sets for NHS – can you help?

'As new' sheets and duvet covers are needed for making scrubs. Please see further details on the [website](#) or phone Bridget Laxton on 07759 798022 to arrange delivery or collection. If you can sew and would like to help then also get in touch. Thank you.

Christian Aid Week – update

As we near the end of C/Aid Week the 'musical fund-raising project' total stands at £1303.00 (with a target of £1500.00), a really splendid amount. I am proposing to close the JustGiving site at the beginning of next week so please make any last minute donations as soon as possible via <http://tiny.cc/C-Aid-Newbury> With very many thanks. Trevor Maines

Key Contacts

Vicar of Benefice

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Associate Vicar

Revd. Gary Collins 07986 901879
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Associate Priest – St George's

Revd. Terry Winrow 01635 45380
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Associate Priest – St John's

Revd. Canon Trevor Maines 01635 551352
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Curate

Revd. Julie Howell *day off Monday*
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Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
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Churchwardens:

St John's. David Oats, Alison Foulkes
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St George's. Simon Pook, Rita Gardner
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Website www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk

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Newbury, St George & St John

17th May 2020

6th Sunday of Easter

The House of Bishops affirmed last week that individual diocesan bishops could issue guidance about the first stage of a gradual easing of restrictions on our buildings and activities while keeping our church buildings closed. The guidance can be viewed on the Oxford Diocese website. But in a nutshell, there's no change. We await further guidance when/if the Government's benchmarks are achieved for easing of restrictions at the beginning of July. Please hold our Archbishops and Bishops in your prayers as they make difficult decisions. There will be many issues for us to tackle in our churches relating to a gradual easing, and the health and safety requirements this necessitates will need careful planning. We'll keep you posted!

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 register requirements.

Thursday Worship for Ascension Day

This week our midweek worship is a benefice Eucharist on **Thursday 21 May** and available to view on **YouTube** at 7.30pm. The Service Sheet will be on the Benefice Website from Wednesday morning.

Coming soon – Thy Kingdom Come

From next Sunday 24 May we will be joining the global 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative and offering resources and worship to encourage as many as possible across the benefice to join in. More details in the attached letter and on the website.

In need of help?

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

The Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading. Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

The Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love

me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Post Communion

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayers for the Week

Prayers for named individuals are now listed in a Prayer Diary circulated weekly by email.

We pray especially for baby Colby Lawton, who died this week, and for those affected by this news.

This week in the Newbury Deanery prayer cycle: Retired Clergy (*not all active, but still prayed for*)

Rita Ball, George Carey, John Coombs, Dee Dawes, Trevor Dorey, Dick Douglas, Graham Foulis-Brown. Michael Harley, Pam McKellen, Trevor Maines, Piers Nash-Williams, Martin Partridge, Cathy Pynn, Nigel Sands, Patrick Whitworth, Pat Willis, David Winter, Margaret Yates

Monday 18th May Our Associate Priest, The Revd Terry Winrow and Kathy

Tuesday 19th May Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life
Our search for a vaccine and effective treatments against Covid-19.

Wednesday 20th May Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
Our government, scientists and medical experts.

Thursday 21st May Ascension Day
Hail the day that sees him rise. Alleluia!
Our friends, family and all we love and care for.

Friday 22nd May
Those to be ordained and those in ordination training.

Saturday 23rd May
Our Churchwardens and their families.

*The full monthly cycle of prayer intentions can be found on the **website**.*

Upcoming Services

Thursday Worship - Ascension YouTube **20th May**
Link to be released via email. 7.30pm

Sunday Worship YouTube **24th May**
10.00am

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