

Open for personal prayer during the week...

St George's Church is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm (Access only via the door on tower side.) **PLEASE NOTE we can no longer open on Saturdays due to the need to set up for Sunday.**

St John's Church is open on Wednesdays 11.00am - 1.00pm and Saturdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm (Access via the rear Vestry door.)

Other news...

Revd Julie's Priesting—please hold Julie in your prayers as she prepares for her ordination as priest on September 19th. Sadly, attendance at the service will be strictly limited, but we hope and trust it will be live-streamed.

Food Bank—items needed urgently: Meat meals in a can, sponge puddings, ketchup, toothpaste, sugar, chilli mix, shaving foam, tomato puree, mayonnaise, garlic puree.

Shoemakers - the Christian Bookshop in The Arcade in Newbury is now open 9.30 to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Finding the live-streamed service on YouTube—it seems that the live-streamed service can be ironically slower to appear on YouTube than pre-recorded services. We are trying to resolve this. Please try refreshing the page, or using a second device. If we have further info, it will be on the website front page.

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 Monday*

Associate Priest—St George's

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

Curate

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

Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249

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.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook [facebook.com/stjohnnewbury](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnnewbury)
[facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury)



Newbury, St George & St John

26th July 2020
Seventh Sunday after Trinity

As we head towards a summer of unusual challenges and expected delights, the contrast to previous years may become more apparent - revealing something of how much has changed in a short space of time. We may find a little time to pause and reflect on the journey that we, our neighbours—indeed our whole world—continues in. Time to consider the loss, anxiety, loneliness, grief, and yet still some moments of inspiration and perseverance. The small acts of kindness and love which remind us all of the rich diversity of humanity. This week's gospel reading has Jesus pointing to the small things which reveal the kingdom coming—something of hope in the smallest things. May we 'turn aside' to see, the wonder ever-present.

Joining Sunday Worship online **NEW TIME** **Benefice Service, Sunday at 11.00am**

Benefice Service of Holy Communion

<http://tiny.cc/stg-stj>

Or go to the new benefice website and click the link www.stg-stj.org.uk

'Virtual Coffee and Chat' at **12.00pm. NEW TIME.**

Sunday Worship in Church

Holy Communion at 9am at St George's
Holy Communion at 9.30am at St John's
Benefice Holy Communion at 11am at St George's
and live-streamed for the congregation at home.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU PLAN TO COME ON SUNDAY.

Zoom Coffee and Chat at 12noon, usual details.

In need of help?

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

Readings for Sunday, 26th July 2020

The Collect

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard-seed,
make it grow in your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: 1 Kings 3. 5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

The Gospel: Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-46

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect
in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayers for the week

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do.

The Weekly Prayer Diary that is sent out by email with this newsletter includes prayers for named individuals, together with prayer intentions for the week for our benefice, the local community and the wider world.

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

Upcoming services

Wednesday Worship	Zoom	29 th July 7.30pm
Sunday Worship, 2nd August	9am	St George
	9.30am	St John
	11.00am	St George

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

During August...

You'll be pleased to hear that clergy are taking the opportunity to have some time away. We're very blessed to have a large enough clergy team to cover services across the two churches even during the holiday season.

It's been an exhausting 4 months for the team and on your behalf I thank my colleagues for the resilience, resourcefulness and mutual support they have shown through this extraordinary time. We pray for an uneventful August!

Becky

Benefice Eucharist service available via Phone

'Telephone Church' is available for those not on the internet. **Dial this number 01635 959050** which is charged at local rate to hear the 11am benefice service from St Georges.

Please note this cannot become available on the phone until Tuesday, we are sorry for the unavoidable delay.