

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.)

St John's Church is open on Wednesdays from 11.00am - 1.00pm. With Midday Prayer said.
(Access via the rear Vestry door.)

Notices

Harvest Box Appeal 2020—make your own harvest box for the Foodbank. Simply find a box, decorate it, fill it with non-perishable foods and toiletries, deliver the box to St George's or St John's (contact David or Fr Gary) before 4 October.

St George's and St John's will both celebrate **Harvest Festival** on Sunday 4 October.

Saturday 10 October 'Listening on the Way' - a Benefice Day of Pilgrimage and Prayer. All are encouraged to set aside all or part of the day to deliberately focus on listening to God. Guided reflections will be offered in church and online throughout the day and mini pilgrimages around the benefice and further afield are encouraged. More details to follow, but please put the date in your diary.

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 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
alex.brown@stg-stj.org.uk *day off Monday*

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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Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



As you will have heard on the news, the Government restrictions are changing again. As far as we know, public worship is exempt from the 6 person rule which means that our current pattern for services will stay in place . Obviously this is a moving situation, so we will let you know any changes as soon as we learn of them.

During this first part of September our Sunday bible readings are about how we live together in fellowship with God and one another - themes of repentance, forgiveness, justice and mercy are woven through the lectionary. We are challenged to reflect on the consequences of human arrogance and hubris. And as we hear these readings in creation-tide, we see the connection with our attitude to the created world and the delicate ecology of life, and how we are called to know afresh our responsibility to God and neighbour.

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 benefice website and click the link

www.stg-stj.org.uk

'Virtual Coffee and Chat' at 12.00pm. Please join us!

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 NOTE THAT FACE COVERINGS ARE NOW MANDATORY IN PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Zoom Coffee and Chat at 12noon, usual details.

In need of help?

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

Readings for Sunday, 13th September 2020

The Collect

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Genesis 50. 15-21

Realising that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Gospel: Matthew 18. 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"

Gospel continued...

And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.*

Coming Soon...

Revd Julie's Priesting is on 19 September and her first Eucharist as the presiding priest is on Sunday 20th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie as she prepares for this new chapter of her ordained ministry.

Annual Church Meetings which were deferred from March are now to take place in October. St George's APCM is on Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm, and St John's is on Thursday 22 October at 7pm. More details to follow.

Upcoming services

Wednesday Worship	Zoom	16 th Sept 7.30pm
Sunday Worship, 20th Sept	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.

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.