

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—for the Newbury Food-bank. Non-perishable foods and toiletries, (shopping list on website), Deliver the box to St George's, or St John's (contact David or Fr Gary) Of course, individual items are also still very welcome. As a bit of extra fun, if you wish, decorate your box and fill it 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
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Curate

Revd Julie Howell
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Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
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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



Welcome to our fourth Sunday in Creation-tide, a time to reflect upon the wonder, the awe, and the responsibility of our lives upon this beautiful planet in a wonderful universe. Such wonder may leave us astonished, wordless, humbled and grateful. The early hymn which forms the basis of our reading from Philippians is pointing to such wordless wonder. Paul sees God as 'giving away' (kenosis) - God's life and love emptied into the world, and that divine life received as a gift. It's not selfish, or self-preserving, but shows that life flourishes when we give ourselves for the sake of others. At this time of both pandemic and ecological concern, it is a reminder that hope - energised by God's Spirit of Life - is always poised to emerge.

Talking of giving yourself away! If you are wondering about serving on the PCC of your church please speak to Rita Gardner or Simon Pook at St George's and David Oats or Alison Foulkes at St John's.

Sunday Worship online Benefice Service, 11.00am

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, 27th September 2020

The Collect

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Philippians 2. 1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Gospel: Matthew 21. 23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?'

Gospel continued ...

And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'

Post Communion

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through 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...

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.

Upcoming services

Wednesday Worship	Zoom	30 th Sept 7.30pm
Sunday Worship, 4th Oct	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.