

Our churches are open for personal prayer

St George's Church is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm (Access via the door on tower side.)

St John's Church is open on Wednesdays from 11.00am - 1.00pm. (Access via the rear Vestry door.) Face coverings must be worn.

Benefice Morning Prayer is on Zoom for 4 weeks
Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8.50am.

Wednesday Worship continues on Zoom at 7.30pm
These services are on the usual zoom login given by email.

Notices

Benefice Come Dine with Us - Saturday 28 Nov

Fill your lockdown diary with a zoom progressive supper on Saturday evening 28th November. From the comfort and safety of your home enjoy a 2 or three course meal with different zoom guests for each course (recipe cards will be provided so that each group can eat the same food). We will also be raising money for the Foodbank by suggesting a minimum £5 per person donation. Details have been sent with the weekly email.

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 01635 228968
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 Rita Gardner, John Huckle

Website www.stg-stj.org.uk
Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

15th November 2020 Second Sunday before Advent

... and slowly but surely we reach the climax of the church liturgical year. Two weeks away - as we are - from Advent, the year draws to an end in this brief 'Kingdom Season', culminating in next week's Feast of Christ the King.

But, as with every year, the journey from Advent's vulnerable child to being hailed as King is not a journey as we expect - it has many unexpected turns. Today's readings contain warnings about being 'alert' and ready as 'children of light.' To not be seduced by slumber, thinking that things are ok as they are. This year, of all years, has inverted our expectations of 'normal.' The readings stir us to a new and radical consciousness ... they remind us of the subversive inversion of God's 'kin-dom' where the first shall be last and the last shall be first.

Sunday Worship NOT in church for 4 weeks

Due to the lockdown, gathering for worship in churches is not permitted for the next 4 weeks.

Our Benefice Eucharist will be broadcast at 11am. See details below.

Sunday Worship Online

Benefice Communion streamed on YouTube:

Service of Holy Communion (pre-recorded)

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

Or go to the benefice website and click the link

www.stg-stj.org.uk

Apologies for the delay in last Sunday's service going live on YouTube.

Zoom coffee and chat is now on Wednesday at 7pm.

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, 15th November 2020

The Collect

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Gospel: Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Jesus said, 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Gospel cont.

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Post Communion

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long

Coming Soon...

St John's APCM is on November 19th at 7pm.

Due to lockdown, this meeting will take place on Zoom only. Zoom login details will be shared in the Friday email the week before.

The relevant documents are available online, via the Benefice website, under 'Latest News'

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. Names can be added by contacting clergy or the Office but please note that this must be done with the permission of the named person.

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

Upcoming services

Morning Prayer	Zoom	Weds and Thurs 8.50am
Sunday Worship	YouTube	22 nd Nov
Wednesday Worship	Zoom	18 th Nov 7.30pm

Zoom coffee and chat precedes worship at 7pm, and is on the same login.