

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

Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8.50am—back in St George's church from 3rd December.

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

Notices

Sundays at 4pm for 3 weeks—Advent Reflective Worship. Today by Zoom, thereafter in church and via zoom. Login will be shared by email.

Coming Soon...

For details of all the planned Advent and Christmas services and celebrations across the Benefice, go to our website (being updated regularly with new information)

www.stg-stj.org.uk/Christmas

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 01635 228968
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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 Rita Gardner, John Huckle
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Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

29th November 2020
First Sunday of Advent

*'The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky...'*

Betjeman's words neatly capture the mood of the season as we begin the journey to Christmas. At this the darkest time of the year, symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work as we enter this time of expectation and preparation, watching and waiting for the coming of Christ. And in this particular year we have the opportunity to discover anew the quiet beautiful depths of Advent and to make a slower journey to Christmas.

'Maranatha' - come, Lord Jesus...

Sunday Worship is back in Church from next week

Our churches open again for gathered worship on Sunday 6th December.

The previous restrictions apply—face masks must be worn and social distancing observed.

Remember to let the Office know if you plan to attend a service.

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

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, 29th November 2020

The Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 64. 1– 9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The Gospel: Mark 13. 24-end

Jesus said, “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Gospel cont.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
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. 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 At St Gs	Weds 2nd Thurs 3rd 8.50am
Sunday Worship	9am St Gs 9.30 St Js 11am St Gs 4pm Worship via Zoom	6 th Dec
Wednesday Worship	Zoom	2 nd Dec 7.30pm
Zoom coffee at 7pm, on the same login.		