

Our churches are open for personal prayer

St George's Church is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm
Holy Communion - Tuesdays at 2.30pm
Morning Prayer - Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8.50am (also accessible via zoom).
(Access to St George's is 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.

Wednesday Worship continues on Zoom at 7.30pm.

Notices

Sundays at 4pm for 3 weeks—Advent Reflective Worship. St John's Church (6th) 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-2020/

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
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Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
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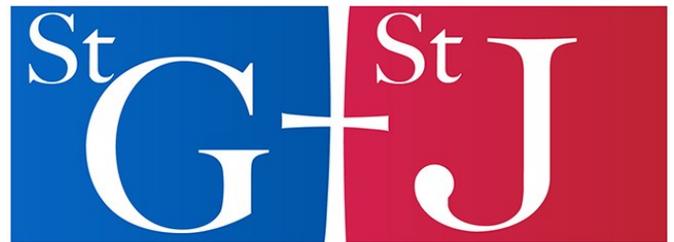
Churchwardens

St John's David Oats, Alison Foulkes
churchwarden@st-john-newbury.org.uk

St George's Rita Gardner, John Huckle
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

6th December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

The second Sunday of Advent - and the second Advent candle - asks us to think of the Prophets who anticipated the coming of God's justice and hope. Many of the names are familiar to us, Jeremiah, Micah, Amos, Hannah, Deborah, Esther ... and of course *the prophet* for the Advent Season, Isaiah. Prophets, despite what we may think, were not seers into future events, but more heralds of the reality we live in, and illustrators of a hopeful future. Prophets then - and today - would look at the injustices and inequalities of the world, and inspire people to think again, to anticipate and live towards a different, more hopeful future. In this season of reflection, and what a year to reflect upon, may we begin to catch glimpses of a different kind of future, one inspired by the vulnerable mystery of the Holy child.

Sunday Worship is back in Church

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

9am and 11am at St George's Church

9.30am at St John's Church

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, 6th December 2020

The Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 40. 1 - 11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel cont.

The Gospel: Mark 1. 1 - 8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
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

Holy Communion	8.50am	Tues 8 th	St George
Morning Prayer	8.50am	Wed 9 th	St George
	8.50am	Thur 10 th	St George
Wednesday Worship	7.30pm	9 th Dec	Zoom
			Zoom coffee at 7pm, on the same login.
Sunday Worship 13th	9am	St George	
	9.30am	St John	
	11am	St George	
	4pm	St George and Zoom	