

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

Final Advent Reflective Worship will be held at St George's Church (13th) 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
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

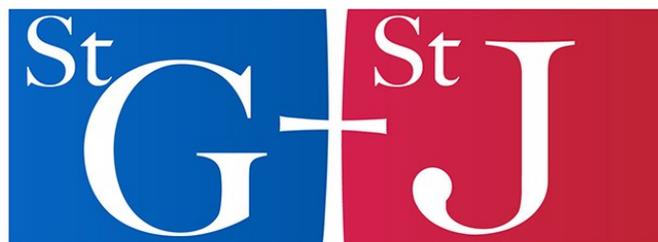
Churchwardens

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

St George's Rita Gardner, John Huckle
churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk

Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

13th December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

As we light the third of our advent candles we remember the fiery passion of John the Baptist and how he prepared the way, pointing towards the coming of the Messiah.

It is also 'Gaudete' Sunday, marked with a pink candle, and with readings rejoicing in God and full of joy - 'I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God.' writes Isaiah, 'for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation...'

Rather like Mothering Sunday during Lent, today is a rest from the sombreness of the penitential season. Go on, treat yourself to an early mince pie!

Sunday Worship is back in Church

Sunday 13th December -

9am and 11am at St George's Church

9.30am at St John's Church

4pm Advent Reflective Worship at St George's

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, 13th December 2020

The Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your
Son:

give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 61. 1 - 4, 8 - end

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the na-
tions,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salva-
tion,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring
up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Gospel: John 1. 6 - 8, 19 - 28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. He himself was not
the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent
priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who
are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but con-
fessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him,
'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are
you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said
to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those
who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He
said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord" ',
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They
asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are nei-
ther the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John
answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you
stands one whom you do not know, the one who is
coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of
his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jor-
dan where John was baptizing.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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 indi-
viduals, 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	2.30pm	Tues 15 th	St George
Morning Prayer	8.50am	Wed 16 th	St George
	8.50am	Thur 17 th	St George
Wednesday Worship	7.30pm	16 th Dec	Zoom
			Zoom coffee at 7pm, on the same login.
Sunday Worship 20th	9am	St George	
	9.30am	St John	
	11am	St George	