

St George's Church - open for personal prayer

St George's Church is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am - 2.00pm and on Sundays from 9am - 2pm.
(Access via the door on tower side.)

Face coverings must be worn.

St John's Church is closed at present.

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

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

Notices

Can you help?

West Berks Foodbank urgently need drivers to help deliver food parcels from the distribution warehouse at Greenham to homes in Thatcham and Newbury. You need a large car and to be fit enough to carry heavy boxes (up to 15KG). Apply via www.westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Christmas in the Benefice

A look back at the many activities over (a most unusual) Christmas can be found on the website in the Blog Posts.

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
gcollins.priest@stg-stj.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

10th January 2021 The Epiphany

Today we celebrate the Epiphany and the start of the season that brings us all the way to Candlemas. Epiphany comes from Greek word, 'epiphainein', meaning 'reveal'. The season is marked by 'revealing events'; the Magi's visit, the Presentation of Christ, the Baptism of Jesus, The Miracle at Cana, and Paul's conversion. All reveal the incarnate - God 'in flesh'. As we enter another lockdown, and this one maybe feeling tougher and scarier than before, we might ask what is the flesh that God is revealed in?

Is God revealed in our fears and anxiety as well as our hopes? Is God revealed in our yearning for community, our desire for the future, our kindness to others and our growing, heartening, realisation that these are experiences shared by everyone on the earth? Let's hope so - the profound message revealed in the Incarnation is not about God 'on high', but God among us.. walking the paths with us, stirring the longing, and sharing the frustrations and pains too.

In this season, be kind to yourselves, and those around you.. and see if you can discover the divine revealed in ways you had never seen before.

Sunday Worship Online

Please join us at the **NEW TIME OF 10am** for our **Benefice Eucharist available on YouTube** -

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

Or go to the benefice website and click the link www.stg-stj.org.uk

Sunday Zoom Coffee and Chat is back!

Join with others from across the Benefice at 11.00am for a coffee and chat. The Zoom link is given in the email which accompanies this newsletter.

Benefice Eucharist 'Telephone Church' is available for those not on the internet.

Dial this number 01635 959050 which is charged at local rate to hear the 10am benefice service.

Readings for Sunday, 10th January 2021

The Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 60. 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses'
arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought
to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Gospel: Matthew 2. 1 - 12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

cont...

Gospel cont.

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ the 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 this week

Morning Prayer at 8.50am, Wednesdays and Thursdays via Zoom.

Wednesday Evening Worship at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Sunday, 17 January

Benefice Eucharist at 10.00am (but available to view after) on YouTube.