

Coming Soon ...

Ash Wednesday worship 17 February - Zoom service at 7.30pm.

Our Lent course 'On the Third Day' will start the week beginning 22nd February at 5 different times each week of Lent on zoom or conference call. More details are on the website, including the days that are available, but if you want to join a group please let Kathy Winrow know (kwinrow@btinternet.com) by 4th February.

Lent Lunches - Thursdays at 12.30pm for 4 weeks from 25 February via Zoom and individually at home supporting the work of Christian Aid. No need to book, just turn up!

Other notices

Thank you to everyone who participated in the candle-lit Lament and Vigil which took place last Friday. The service can still be viewed on our YouTube channel at <http://tiny.cc/stg-stj>

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting everyone to set aside time at 6pm each day to pray for our nation and the world during this critical stage of the pandemic. See Prayer Diary.

Key contacts

Vicar of Benefice

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Associate Vicar

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Associate Priest—St George's

Revd Terry Winrow 01635 45380
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Curate

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Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
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Churchwardens

St John's David Oats, Alison Foulkes
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Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
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Newbury, St George & St John

7th February 2021
Second Sunday before Lent

Last week we said goodbye to Christmas and Epiphany with our delightful all-age Candlemas service (and a huge thank you to everyone involved in that).

The Candlemas service always ends with a poignant liturgical shift in direction - we take our candles carrying the light of the incarnate God and turn our faces towards Lent and the beckoning mystery of Easter.

It's a shift from celebration and wonder to the harder task of bearing out hope in a world troubled by pain and suffering.

The next two weeks will dwell in ordinary time once again - finding God in the everyday, before we enter the deeper drama of life; pain, solitude, resurrection and redemption tumbling over each other as we head with Christ towards the passion of the Cross.

Sunday Worship Online

Please join us at 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

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.

Upcoming services this week

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

Wednesday Evening Worship at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Sunday, 14 February

Benefice Eucharist at 10.00am on YouTube.

Readings for Sunday, 7th February 2021

The Collect

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things,
now and for ever.

Amen

First Reading: Colossians 1.15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Gospel: John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Post Communion

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life
was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished
at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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.

In need of help?

If you need a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact the clergy on the numbers given here.