

Notices

Saturday 11th March - coffee morning at St Mary's Greenham in aid of the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake. 10.30am - 12.30pm. All welcome.

Saturday 18th March - Newbury Christians Climate Action Day, 10am - 4pm at St John's. Talks, discussion groups, Q&As. Come and be part of the solution.

Soup lunches for Lent at St George's - Join us for the final soup lunch on Friday 17th March at 12.30pm on North Meeting room area to support the work of Christian Aid. No need to book.

Lent Groups - it's not too late to come along. Groups meet in St George's Church on Tuesday at 10am and Thursday at 7.30pm. Phone the office 01635 41249 to book. All warmly welcome.

Saturday 1st April - Newbury Chamber Choir, The Way of the Cross by Franz Liszt. 7.30pm at St John's Church. Ticket £15 (under 18s free) from www.newburychamberchoir.org or on the door.

Downe House concert. A big thank you to everyone who in any way supported last Sunday's event which raised the splendid sum of £1,800 for Christian Aid. Thank you to those at St George's running or supporting the Friday Soup Lunches there. If you could help with Christian Aid's next fund-raising event, a collection at the Retail Park Saturday April 1st, please contact David Oats on 07713 050 145. Olive Maines

War. Art. Hope - an exhibition at West Berkshire Museum until 26 March (Wed-Sun) features the work of three Ukrainian artists in Newbury.

Key contacts

Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
alex.brown@stg-stj.org.uk

Vicar of Benefice

Revd Becky Bevan 01635 524994
bbevan.vicar@stg-stj.org.uk

Associate Vicar

Revd Gary Collins 07986 901879
gcollins.priest@stg-stj.org.uk

Associate Priest (part-time)

Revd Terry Winrow 01635 45380
terry-winrow@st-george-newbury.org.uk

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

For all other contacts please see the website:

Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

12th March 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

Everyone is welcome at our churches and all are warmly invited to come along. We look forward to seeing you.

Today's Services

St George's at 8.00am - Holy Communion

9.30am - Parish Communion

St John's at 8.30am - Holy Communion

10.00am - Parish Communion

Live-streamed worship this week is from St George's on YouTube from 9.30am - <https://bit.ly/3PMxGPY> or via www.stg-stj.org.uk

Services coming up

19th March - Mothering Sunday. All-age services at 9.30am (St G) and 10am (St J)

26th March - Forest Church at 6pm, St Michael's, Enborne

Holy Week and Easter Services are on the website here: www.stg-stj.org.uk

Weekly Services and Events

Benefice Office open Tuesday to Friday 9.30-2.30

Monday **Warm Welcome Café** at G's 9.00am-noon

Tuesday **Babies & Toddlers** at St J 9.30am-11.15am
Eucharist at 12.30pm at St John's

Wednesday **Morning Prayer 8.50am** at St John's
Morning Prayer 8.45am at St George's
Warm Welcome Café at G's 9.00am-noon
Social & Midday Prayer, from 10.30am St J
Tiddlers & Toddlers St G 10am - 11.30am

Thursday **Morning Prayer 8.45am** at St George's
Eucharist at 2.00pm at St George's
Contemplative Prayer 6pm at St John's

Friday **Morning Prayer 8.45am** at St George's
'and Breathe' school-run café at St John's 8.45am - 10am.

Warm Welcome Café at G's 9.00am-noon
Soup Lent Lunch at St G's 12.30pm
Soup Lunch at St John's 12 noon

The Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First reading: Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

The Gospel: John 4. 5-30, 39-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’

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Gospel cont...

Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

Post Communion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you,
the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Upcoming services at St Michael’s Enborne

Sunday 12th March, 11am Holy Communion
Sunday 26th March, 6pm Forest Church
Good Friday, 12 noon - 1pm Prayer and Reflection
Easter Day 9th April, 11am Holy Communion

Open for personal prayer ...

St George’s Church is open daily (except Monday) from 9.30am - 2.30pm. (Access via the door on tower side.)
St John’s Church is open on Wednesdays from 10.30am-12.30pm, and many other times in the week.
St Michael’s Church, Enborne is open every day in daylight hours.
Come, sit in peace, and enjoy the quietness of these sacred spaces.