

Notices

Wash Common Christmas Concert - Sunday 8th December St George's Church, 7pm Tickets are £10 (£5 for under-18s) proceeds shared between West Berks Homeless and church funds, and are available on the door (exact cash only please).

St John's Christmas Tree Festival - Thursday 12th to Tuesday 24th December 10am- 4pm. FREE entrance but donations are welcome to support the work of Newbury Soup Kitchen, and there will be a Raffle.

Tuesday 17th December - Advent meditation for Mary 7pm at St John's Church. A warm and reflective meditation on the woman right at the heart of the story.

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas carol sing-alongs at 7pm at The Bowlers Arms and 7.30pm at The Dolphin. A chance to join with the local communities, singing favourite carols.

Saturday 21st December - Forest Church 5pm at St Michael's. Marking the winter solstice. Wrap up warm!

Benefice Carol Service - Sunday 22nd December 4pm - a traditional carol service featuring the combined choirs of our churches.

West Berks Foodbank are running two campaigns asking for much needed donations. There are lists and collection points at St George's and St John's. Please support if you are able.

Key contacts

Benefice Office Manager

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

Vicar of Benefice - day off Monday

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

Associate Vicar - day off Monday

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

Curate (part-time)

Revd Leanne Fowler 01635 41249
lfowler.curate@stg-stj.org.uk

Churchwardens

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

St George's: John Huckle, Linda Ling
churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk

St Michael's: John Bolan, Julian Dickens
churchwardens.stm@stg-stj.org.uk

For all other contacts please see the website:

Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

Facebook facebook.com/stjohnnewbury
facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



South Newbury - St George, St John, St Michael

8th December 2024 Second Sunday of Advent

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
7.00pm - Wash Common Christmas concert

St John's at 8.30am - Holy Communion
10.00am - Parish Communion

Live-streamed worship this week is from St John's on YouTube from 10.00am - <https://bit.ly/3PMxGPY> or via www.stg-stj.org.uk

Next Sunday, 15th December

St George's at 8.00am - Holy Communion
9.30am - Parish Communion
St John's at 8.30am - Holy Communion
10.00am - Parish Communion
St Michael's at 11.00am - Holy Communion

Weekly Services and Events

Benefice Office open Tuesday to Friday 9.30-3.00pm

Monday	Warm Welcome Café at G's 9.30am-12.30
Tuesday	Morning Prayer 8.50am at St John's 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 9.30am-12.30 Social & Midday Prayer , St J from 10.30am Tiddlers & Toddlers St G 10am - 11.30am
Thursday	Morning Prayer 8.45am at St George's Café Communion 12 noon 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 - 10.30am Warm Welcome Café at G's 2.00-4.30pm Soup Lunch at St John's - 12 noon Evening Prayer St John's 5.00pm

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: Malachi 3. 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3. 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

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. A Weekly Prayer Diary 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, only with the permission of the named person.

Upcoming services at St Michael's Enborne

Sunday 15th December - Holy Communion
Christmas Day - 11am Family Communion
Sunday, 12th January - 11am Matins
Sunday 26th January - 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 mainly open Tuesday to Friday from approx. 9-5pm. The red flag flying indicates openness.

St Michael's Church, Enborne is open every day in daylight hours.

Come, sit in peace, and enjoy the quietness of these sacred spaces.