

## Notices

### Details of All Christmas Services on the website:

<https://stg-stj.org.uk/christmas-2024/>

### Live-streamed worship over Christmas:

Midnight Mass - St George's at 11.15pm

Christmas Day - St John's at 10.00am

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@thebeneficeofstgeorgeandstjohn/featured](https://www.youtube.com/@thebeneficeofstgeorgeandstjohn/featured)

or via [www.stg-stj.org.uk](http://www.stg-stj.org.uk)

### Epiphany House Blessings - Sunday 5th January

If you would like your house blessed, there are sign-up sheets at the back of both churches, or let the office know.

### St George's Themed Quiz - Saturday 25th January 7pm

for 7.30pm start. £15 to include supper and there will be a paid bar. Tickets are available from the church office.

## Upcoming services at St Michael's Enborne

Saturday 21st December - 5pm Forest Church

Christmas Day - 11am Family Communion

Sunday, 12th January - 11am Matins

Sunday 26th January - 11am Holy Communion

Sunday 9th February - 11am Matins

## Key contacts

### Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249 [alex.brown@stg-stj.org.uk](mailto:alex.brown@stg-stj.org.uk)

### Vicar of Benefice - day off Monday

Revd Becky Bevan 01635 524994

[bbevan.vicar@stg-stj.org.uk](mailto:bbevan.vicar@stg-stj.org.uk)

### Associate Vicar - day off Monday

Revd Gary Collins 07986 901879

[gcollins.priest@stg-stj.org.uk](mailto:gcollins.priest@stg-stj.org.uk)

### Curate (part-time)

Revd Leanne Fowler 01635 41249

[lfowler.curate@stg-stj.org.uk](mailto:lfowler.curate@stg-stj.org.uk)

### Churchwardens

**St John's:** David Oats, Alison Foulkes

[churchwarden@st-john-newbury.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden@st-john-newbury.org.uk)

**St George's:** John Huckle, Linda Ling

[churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk)

**St Michael's:** John Bolan, Julian Dickens

[churchwardens.stm@stg-stj.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens.stm@stg-stj.org.uk)

For all other contacts please see the website:

**Website** [www.stg-stj.org.uk](http://www.stg-stj.org.uk)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/stjohnnewbury](https://facebook.com/stjohnnewbury)

[facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury](https://facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury)



South Newbury - St George, St John, St Michael

## 22nd and 29th December 2024

*And the Word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.*

**Happy Christmas  
and every Blessing for 2025!**

## Today's Services - 22nd 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

**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](http://www.stg-stj.org.uk)

## Christmas Eve Services

**St George's** at 4pm - Crib Service

11.15pm - Midnight Mass

**St John's** at 4pm - Crib Service

at 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

## Christmas Day Services

**St George's** at 8.00am - Holy Communion BCP

9.30am - All-age Parish Communion

**St John's** at 10.00am - All-age Parish Communion

**St Michael's** at 11am - Family Communion

## Next Sunday, 29th December

**St George's** at 9.30am - Parish Communion

**St John's** at 10.00am - Parish Communion

## Between Christmas and New Year

**St George's** is open for personal prayer

Friday 27th, Tuesday 31st December, 10am - 2pm.

**All weekday services and activities resume from 2 January.**

The benefice office is closed between Christmas and New Year.

**Emergency contacts between Christmas and the New Year:**

Urgent pastoral matters - Revd Rita Ball 07775 814191.

Emergencies relating to buildings or security contact one of the churchwardens.

**The Collect**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our  
saviour, so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First reading: Micah 5. 2-5**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,  
we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 1. 39-55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a  
Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the  
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Eliza-  
beth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her  
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and  
exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among  
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And  
why has this happened to me, that the mother of my  
Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of  
your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And  
blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfil-  
ment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his  
servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call  
me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

*Gospel cont.*

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

**Post Communion**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**Readings for Christmas Eve - Midnight Mass**

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**First Reading: Isaiah 52. 7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**Gospel reading: 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.

*Midnight Mass Gospel cont.*

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.

## Readings for Christmas Day 2024

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### The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise,  
as we worship you, our Saviour and  
our eternal God.

### Amen

### First reading: Isaiah 9. 2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

*Gospel cont.*

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. them, and they were terrified. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

### Post Communion

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord.

*cont...*

## Readings for Sunday 29th December 2024

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### The Collect

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Amen

### First Reading: 1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

### Gospel reading: Luke 2. 41-end

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

### Post Communion

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Weekly Services and Events from 2nd January 2025

### Benefice Office open Tuesday to Friday 9.30-3.00pm

Monday	<b>Warm Welcome Café</b> at G's 9.30am-12.30
Tuesday	<b>Morning Prayer 8.50am</b> at St John's <b>Babies &amp; Toddlers</b> at St J 9.30am-11.15am <b>Eucharist at 12.30pm</b> at St John's
Wednesday	<b>Morning Prayer 8.50am</b> at St John's <b>Morning Prayer 8.45am</b> at St George's <b>Warm Welcome Café</b> at G's 9.30am-12.30 <b>Social &amp; Midday Prayer</b> , St J from 10.30am <b>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers</b> St G 10am - 11.30am
Thursday	<b>Morning Prayer 8.45am</b> at St George's <b>Café Communion 12 noon</b> at St George's <b>Contemplative Prayer</b> restarts 9th January
Friday	<b>Morning Prayer 8.45am</b> at St George's <b>'and Breathe' school-run café at St John's</b> 8.45am - 10.30am <b>Warm Welcome Café</b> at G's 2.00-4.30pm <b>Soup Lunch</b> at St John's - 12 noon <b>Evening Prayer</b> St John's 5.00pm

### In need of help?

If you need a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact the clergy on the numbers given on the front of this newsletter. We also have a space to write prayer requests, please ask a steward.