

Notices

Advance notice that for the five Sundays of August we will be directing our online worshippers to services on the Oxford Diocese YouTube channel. More details to follow.

St John's Baby and Toddler Group.

The Tuesday morning group has now finished for the summer break. It will restart Tuesday 14th September.

Pilgrimage to Oxford Cathedral over 3 days

(returning to Newbury each evening by minibus) Friday 20 August—Sunday 22nd. If you are interested in joining all or part of this pilgrimage organised by St George's church please don't hesitate to contact Peter Wright via the Office for more information.

Shoemakers makeover

Shoemakers Christian bookshop will be closed from 12- 26 July inclusive for redecoration.

Wednesdays—Space to Be at St John's

11-1pm. Coffee and chat until midday, then a short service of prayer and space for private prayer. Refreshments now provided!

St John's PCC meets this week, Tuesday 20th 7pm on Zoom. Please pray for them.

St Johns are looking for cleaners to add to the rota, if you would like to help, please contact Wardens.

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
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Associate Priest—St George's

Revd Terry Winrow 01635 45380
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Curate

Revd Julie Howell 07919 207137
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Benefice Office Manager

Alex Brown 01635 41249
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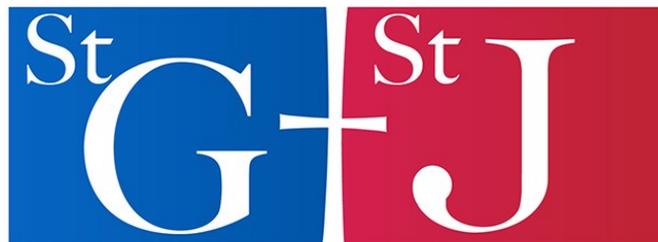
Churchwardens

St John's David Oats, Alison Foulkes
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St George's Rita Gardner, John Huckle
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Website www.stg-stj.org.uk

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facebook.com/StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

18th July 2021

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

The Gospel reading this week reveals a contrast between the pressing crowds and the need to 'retreat' into a desert space.

Metaphorically we know that the desert is a place of deep exploration; where all other distractions (and comforts) are removed, where we are left to examine our deeper selves and—for the mystic minded—to discover God in those depths. I wonder what the desert might be for you? Sometimes they are beautiful moments, other times they can—like deserts—be disorientating and terrifying.

But this contrast plays the other way also; the crowds, the need to meet, serve and 'be with' is another way to discover something of God - in 'the other' - in the challenging call of the broken and the marginalised, and to learn again.

So it seems we are caught in-between, or maybe dancing between the two poles; discovering something of our *selves* in isolation, quiet, silence, alone; and in discovering our *selves* in others, mirrored back in relationship. Like Christ we discover the fullness of ourselves within the dance of both.

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

Please note that Sunday Zoom Coffee and Chat has now stopped for the summer .

Upcoming services this week

Morning Prayer at 8.50am, Wednesdays on Zoom and Thursdays at St George's Church and on Zoom.

Wednesday Worship on Zoom at 7.30pm, preceded by chat at 7pm.

Sunday, 25 July: Eucharist at St George's at 9.00am and 10.30am (booking is essential).

Eucharist at St John's at 10.00am (booking is essential).

Benefice Eucharist at 10.00am on YouTube.

Readings for Sunday, 18th July 2021

The Collect

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading: Jeremiah 23. 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

The Gospel: Mark 6. 30-34,53-end

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.*

Open for personal prayer ...

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

St John's Church is open on Wednesdays from 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Face coverings must be worn in both churches.

Benefice Morning Prayer at 8.50am

Wednesdays on Zoom

Thursdays at St George's Church and on Zoom

In need of help?

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