

Notices

Post-Lockdown Guidance

The PCCs of both churches are unanimous in the view that throwing all caution to the wind and dropping all safety measures at this point would result in many people not feeling able to attend church. So, guided by the desire to act with love and respect for all, we have decided to approach the lifting of restrictions in a gradual and pastorally sensitive way as outlined in last week's mailing. All went well last Sunday so we will stick with these arrangements during August. Be assured that the situation will be constantly reviewed as we seek to get the balance right between the longed for return to normal and the ongoing concerns about the virus.

West Berkshire Foodbank – is running Hungry Holidays over the 6 weeks of the school summer holidays to support those families needing support during this time. They expect to cater for a further 200 people per week which equates to an extra TWO TONNES of food a week!! The only way they can support these families is by the generous support of the community. Please continue to support using drop offs at the supermarkets or St George's.

Holiday Club—Thank you for your prayers for the St George's Holiday Club and outing which went really well. Fun was had by all! Our thanks go to Terry and Kathy Winrow and all the team.

Key contacts

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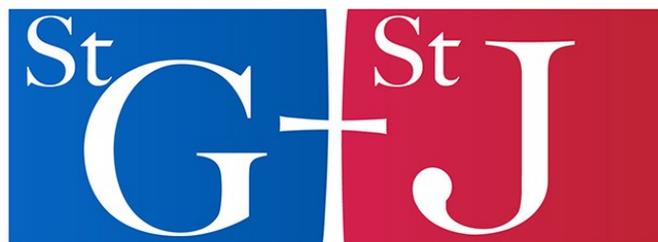
Churchwardens

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Newbury, St George & St John

1st August 2021

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

'I am the bread of life' - this extraordinary claim of Jesus' is the focus of our Gospel reading this Sunday and next. Indeed John's Gospel devotes a whole chapter to this 'I am' saying, linking the person and work of Christ to the overarching story of God's action in the world as giver and sustainer of life. Bread, a staple food necessary for physical life, is linked by Jesus to all that is necessary for life in all its fullness, body, mind and soul, the life-giving love of God healing, redeeming, transforming life from being more than mere survival. Like manna in the wilderness, or food for 5000 from a few loaves and fish, the point is about God's gift of life as a miracle, a wonder, to be shared and expanded and never greedily consumed as if it belongs only to us. 'Give us our daily bread' is the sentence at the centre of the prayer Christians have prayed for 2000 years. It is a simple and profound acknowledgement of our dependency on God and one another for food for our stomachs and food for our souls. Notice the word 'us' not 'me' - the prayer is to shape our actions to live and work in co-operation with God for the nourishment and flourishing of all.

Sunday Worship Online

Please join the service broadcast on the Oxford Diocese link: www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream

And/or find a reflection for the week from our own Benefice on our YouTube channel - <http://tiny.cc/stg-stj>

Or go to the benefice website and click the link www.stg-stj.org.uk

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, 8th August:

St George's at 8.00am - Holy Communion and 9.30am - Parish Communion

St John's at 10.00am - Parish Communion

Readings for Sunday, 1st August 2021

The Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First reading: Exodus 16. 2-4, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." ' '

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

The Gospel: John 6. 24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.

cont...

Gospel cont.

For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Post Communion

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of
your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ
our Lord.

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.

The wearing of facemasks is still recommended.

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.