

Notices

Epiphany house blessings - TODAY. For those who have offered to do the blessings please gather at 3pm (afternoon groups) and 6pm for the evening groups at St George's. Wrap up warm!

St John's Baby and Toddler Group Tuesday 11th January from 9.30am.

Tiddlers & Toddlers Wednesdays at 10am in St George's Hall.

St John's Ladies' Fellowship Tuesday 11th January at 2.00pm in St John's Church. This will be our Seventh Anniversary and we shall be entertained by the Barfield Handbell Ringers. Tea and cakes will follow. For this occasion all members are welcome to invite their partner or a friend to join us. All will be very Welcome.

St George's Themed Quiz Saturday 5th February at 7pm in St George's Hall. After Fawlty Towers and Allo Allo, what will be the theme this year? Places will be restricted and Covid measures will be in place so book early by contacting Carole Neal (01635 45535) carole@kenneal.co.uk or Peter Wright (01635 38369) piwright@hwca.com.

Benefice Quiet Day for Lent with Bishop Olivia at St Mary's Convent, Wantage, on Saturday 5 March - save the date, more details to follow.

Key contacts

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Associate Priest (part-time)

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Churchwardens

St John's David Oats, Alison Foulkes
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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

9 January 2022
Epiphany Sunday

The Magi set out on a journey, they followed a star, not because they knew what would happen but because they had open minds. Their sole qualification for experiencing God's epiphany was that they were open to it, they were prepared to respond to heaven's promptings, to be 'seekers'. A New Year stretches out before us and none of us know what it holds, but epiphany invites us to seek Christ in it, to keep the eyes of our hearts open as we journey on. I love it that at the end of the Gospel story it says that the Magi returned home by another route. Perhaps that means you cannot go back the way you have come when you have had an epiphany. 'Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you... Lift up your eyes and look around', writes the prophet Isaiah, 'then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice' – rousing words for the grey days of January. Happy Epiphany!

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

Upcoming services this week

Morning Prayer at 8.45am, Tuesday on zoom, Wednesday—Friday at St George's.

Eucharist at 12pm on Tuesday at St John's

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

Eucharist at 2pm on Thursday at St George's

Contemplative Prayer on Thursday, 6.00 - 6.30pm at St George's

Sunday, 16 January

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

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

Readings for Sunday, 9th January 2022

The Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First reading: Isaiah 60. 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses'
arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to
you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 2. 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'

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Gospel cont.

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by
your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Face masks are now mandatory in places of worship
unless exempt for health or other reasons.

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.

Open for personal prayer ...

St George's Church is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 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.

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

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.