

### Prayer for the Week ahead

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can  
separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Benefice Office Manager

As you are aware recruitment to this post has been underway. We are pleased to announce that Alex Brown, who has strong communication and IT skills and will help us to move forward as a benefice, has been appointed from a very strong field. Alex will be taking up this new post in May.

### Churches are Open

St George's from 9am – 4pm, each day.  
St John's – 11am – 1pm, weekdays.

### The Annual Church Meetings

will be on hold for now... The Diocese has allowed these to be deferred up to October 2020.

### The Food Banks

Still needs our support; if you find any spare food in the supermarkets, please do consider them at this time. Thanks.

### Key Contacts

#### Vicar of Benefice

Revd. Becky Bevan 01635 524994  
bbevan.vicar@stg-stj.org.uk *day off Monday*

#### Associate Vicar of St John's

Revd. Gary Collins 07986 901879  
gary@st-john-newbury.org.uk *day off Friday*

#### Associate Priest – St George's

Revd. Terry Winrow 01635 45380

#### Associate Priest – St John's

Revd. Canon Trevor Maines 01635 551352  
trevor.maines@ntlworld.com

#### Placement Curate

Revd. Julie Howell  
jhowell.curate@stg-stj.org.uk *day off Monday*

#### Churchwardens:

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

**St George's.** Simon Pook, Rita Gardner  
churchwardens@st-george-newbury.org.uk

**Website** www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk

**Facebook** facebook.com/stjohnnewbury  
facebook.com/@StGeorgesNewbury



Newbury, St George & St John

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

**Mothering Sunday – Lent 4**

We may not be able to gather together, but we can stay in touch. Welcome to our new benefice newsletter for this difficult period for us all.

For those who are unable to get out, or who feel they shouldn't, do please get in touch via the benefice office or by contacting clergy if you need any help. Contact numbers are on the back page of this newsletter.

On this Mothering Sunday, when so many are separated from their families, we are invited to think differently about the sacrificial nature of motherly love and what this means for God's church.

### Online Benefice Service, Today at 10am.

Please join us for this first Benefice Service, streamed through the internet.

The service will be available here; <http://tiny.cc/uunolz> (or search YouTube Benefice of St George and St John or via the newly created temporary Benefice website [www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk](http://www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk))

### For your Prayers

#### We pray for those who are unwell:

Sarah Carter, John Fidler, Sam Oats, Adrienne Engert, Phillip Read, Louise Funnell. Margaret Stewart, Steve Athawes, Clair Smith, Tracey Cole, Bob Judge.

Richard Gill, John Kane, Michael Perkins

**Rest in peace:** Brian Durnford

**All this week we pray for** In the Newbury Deanery prayer cycle we pray for Hungerford with Denford & Revd Mike Saunders and his team.

**Monday** - our benefice, that we support one another during this difficult time.

**Tuesday** - all who are suffering because of Coronavirus.

**Wednesday (The Annunciation)** – those in Care Homes.

**Thursday** – those living with disability.

**Friday** – the United Nations.

**Saturday** – Rita and Simon, David and Alison, our churchwardens.

## Mothers' Union

**Songs of Praise Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 1.15pm. BBC1**

Service for Mothering Sunday, featuring the work of the Mothers' Union.

## Light a Candle of Hope

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7pm**

A National Day of Prayer and Action has been announced by Churches Together in England, regarding the Coronavirus epidemic, for this Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

In an excerpt from a joint letter issued today, they wrote:

"At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

Therefore, at 7pm (GMT) this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer."

Wherever you are in the world, we invite you to join with us in prayer to see an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.

## In need of Help?

If you need help, a listening ear, or have a prayer request contact clergy or leave a message on the Benefice Office phone, 01635 41249, where messages will be picked up every day. We cannot promise to help, but will try.

## Temporary Website

As a response to the Coronavirus, and to coordinate the response of our two churches, a new website has been created. [www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk](http://www.stgeorge-stjohn-newbury.org.uk) It's still in development but will help us work together.

## Readings for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

### The Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family  
to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

## Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

## Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,  
You feed us in this sacrament  
With the food and drink of eternal life,  
Help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in  
grace with the household of faith,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.