



The Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen Benefice News No. 62 Advent Term

26th October 2025 – 4th January 2026



COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE

If you would like to contribute to Benefice News please email Adam Carlill (adamcarlill@me.com) with an article of 100-200 words and a suitable heading by

Sunday 21st December 2025

FROM THE VICARAGE

Mission and Saints

Adam writes



Dear Friends,

Advent and Christmas

As I write this, Gill and I are getting very close to completing on somewhere to live when we leave next Summer. I hope to have more details and dates for you in the next edition of the Benefice News.

In the light of that I am reflecting on what will probably be our last Christmas in Reading. As a family we have never known what it is like not to be busy in Church at Christmas. Harriet and Ranulph in particular have always known that I would be out at work on Christmas Eve Christmas Day. It is part of the role of ministry and they have never complained. I wonder how they will approach this year.

I wonder what you are doing on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Maybe you will be enjoying the warm glow of company with family and friends. Maybe you will be spending another day on your own, not always a welcome

experience, but not necessarily a negative one either.

Maybe for you this Christmas will be different; a first time without a loved one, a first time with a new arrival, a first time with a life-changing event behind you. Whatever your circumstance, Christmas is a very good time to stop and breathe. Turn off the television. Put down the phone. Listen to the silence of the Christmas stars, the presence of God, the eternal sea lapping onto the shores of your conscious mind.

It is a time to remember the God that made you who you are, that loves you for who you are. A God that is constantly there, both young and old at the same time. God in a baby, God on a cross, God in a tomb, God in the light of resurrection.

Confirmations

I am very pleased to say that St Mary Magdalen's will be hosting a confirmation service in the new year on Sunday 8th February at 6pm. Please pray for those from our Benefice preparing for confirmation at this time.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

I am also very pleased to say that St George's will be hosting the united service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday 18th January at 6pm.

House Groups

Finally, do think about getting involved in our home groups. These will be meeting during the run up to Christmas to think about the sermon series, Inspired by Saints. Peter Mayers writes more about them below.

**With every blessing,
Adam**

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED

Home Groups

Peter Mayers writes

Jesus' last words as recorded in Matthew's Gospel include "Go therefore

and make disciples of all nations". What is a disciple and what is meant by making disciples? The Bible study groups that meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays will be exploring these and other similar questions using a study series called "Discipleship Explored". Using videos, Bible reading and discussion, we will be exploring these and other questions as we read through Paul's letter to the Philippians. Everyone who attends will get a book that accompanies the course. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me. The two groups would be happy to welcome you to help discover more about being a disciple.

WHAT'S ON

Weekly Events

Sun	10am, Holy Communion, St George's and St Mary Magdalen's
Wed	10am, Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalen's, followed by coffee.

November

Sun 2	'Inspired by the Saints' a special sermon series begins. 4pm, All Souls Service, St Mary Magdalen's
Tue 4	8pm, Music Committee Meeting
Sat 8	10am, Succession Planning Meeting, 85 Fairford Road
Mon 10	1.30pm, Funeral in St George's
Tue 11	5.45pm, St George's PCC meeting, St George's Centre
Thur 13	7.30pm, Café Théologique, ZeroDegrees Bar, Bridge Street
Mon 17	5.30pm, St Mary Magdalen's PCC, 85 Fairford Rad
Tue 18	6.30pm, Benefice Youth Club, St Mary Magdalen's
Tue 25	7.30pm, St Mary Magdalen's is hosting Reading Deanery Synod.

December

Mon 1	9am and 1.45pm, St Mary Magdalen's welcomes children from Norcot Nursery
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- Sat 6 1pm-8pm, PCEA Christmas Service, St George's
- Tue 9 8pm, Concert by the Bugles and Band of The Rifles, St George's
- Sat 13 10am, Succession Planning Meeting, 85 Fairford Road
- Sun 14 4pm, Christmas Carol Service, St Mary Magdalen's
- Tue 16 6.30pm, Benefice Youth Club, St Mary Magdalen's

School Holidays – 20th December – 4th January

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed 24 Christmas Eve

3pm, Crib Service, St Mary Magdalen's
5pm, Crib Service, St George's
10pm, Candlelit First Communion of Christmas, St Mary Magdalen's
11.30am, Candlelit Midnight Mass, St George's

Thur 25 Christmas Day

10am, Christmas Communion, both churches

ADVANCED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January

- Tue 13 5.45pm, St George's PCC meeting, St George's Centre
- Sun 18 6pm, Churches Together Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, St. George's. Preacher, The Bishop of Reading
- Thur 22 7pm, West Reading Safer Neighbourhood Forum meeting, venue to be confirmed. For more details please email Mary Bartlett marybartlett@hotmail.com

February

- Sun 8 6pm, Confirmation Service by the Bishop of Reading, St Mary Magdalen's

School Holidays – 14th – 22nd February
Wed 18 Ash Wednesday

Café Théologique

Reading University Chaplaincy

Amanda Titmas writes

You are warmly invited to our next Café Théologique event. Please note this will be held on a Thursday evening, rather than our usual Monday:

Thursday 13th November, 7.30-9pm, ZeroDegrees Bar, Bridge Street

Revd Dr Sharon Moughtin, "Reading the Bible as if children mattered: Introducing Childist Biblical Interpretation."

Bishop of Reading Mary Gregory introduces Sharon Moughtin, Old Testament academic, Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London, and creator of Biblical children's story-telling material 'Diddy Disciples'. Sharon will be exploring how the church can read the bible from a child's perspective.

Café Théologique is hosted by the University of Reading Chaplaincy and is a space to explore contemporary issues from a theological perspective. All are welcome. Events are free to attend without booking. Food may be purchased in the venue from 6pm.

For further information, contact m.laynesmith@reading.ac.uk.

Amanda Titmas

Chaplaincy Administrator

(Working hours Tuesday 12-5, Thursday 12-5)

For regular activities see our weekly events page. Follow us on Instagram.

University of Reading Chaplaincy, Park House Lodge, Whiteknights, READING, RG6 6EY. 0118 378 8797.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Praying for Christians around the world

- 26-Oct The Church in Wales
- 02-Nov The Church of the Province of West Africa
- 09-Nov The Church in the Province of the West Indies
- 16-Nov The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria
- 23-Nov The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
- 30-Nov The Anglican Church of Australia
- 07-Dec The Church of Bangladesh
- 14-Dec Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- 21-Dec The Anglican Church of Burundi
- 28-Dec The Anglican Church of Canada
- 04-Jan The Church of the Province of Central Africa

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BENEFICE RECORDS

Baptisms in the Benefice

- 31-Aug Mason Joseph Philip-Hibberd
- 31-Aug Mia Renai Philip-Hibberd
- 14-Sep Chloe Georgina Maclellan
- 26-Oct Amelia Grace Worthington

May God bless them as they begin their journey in Christ

Couples Preparing for Holy Matrimony

- 18-Dec Michael Anthony Frederick Witchalls and Emma Louise Oakman

May God bless them at this happy time.

Funerals from the Benefice

- 22-Sep Deborah Elena Caton
- 21-Oct June Wickens

May they rest in peace.

ADVERTISING POLICY

If you wish to place an advert in the Benefice news please contact Adam Carlill on 07753411989, adamcarlill@me.com.

CONTACT US

For Christenings, Weddings, Banns, and Articles for Benefice News
Contact the Vicar

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tel, 0775 341 1989;
98 Grovelands Road, Reading RG30 2PD
www.stgeorge-tilehurst.org,
www.stmarymagdalen-tilehurst.org,
www.facebook.com/tilehurststgeorgeandsstmarymagdalen

Wed/Thur Evening Bible Study Group:
Peter Mayers (0118 962 4409, peter.d.mayers@ntlworld.com)

Contacts for St George's

Church Wardens: Sue Baker (07899 721958), Anne Howell
Treasurer: Bridget Britton
rodbritton@sky.com)
Hall Bookings: Adam Carlill on 07753411989, adamcarlill@me.com.

Contacts for St Mary Magdalen's

Church Wardens: Rita Hicks (07751 885867), Carl Feltham (07305 422699)
Treasurer: Dale Sutcliffe
Hall Bookings: Margaret Palmer, margaret_palmer@yahoo.co.uk