



The Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen

Benefice News No. 64

Lent Term

22nd February – 12th April 2026



FROM THE VICARAGE

Adam writes



Dear Friends,

Lent has begun. There are traditionally three aspects to it: prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy. The second and third depend on the first, and even that has to be done in secret to be effective.

Matthew 6:6 But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

During Lent we withdraw from the noise of the world in order to allow God to make our hearts and souls bigger, carved out from the inside in silence and sorrow.

This gives us more internal space for kindness and generosity, the root of all our acts of mercy.

In the next section are some anonymous words from long ago which may help you get started.

Additionally, do come along to the home groups or after church on Wednesdays at St Mary Magdalen for the Lent Course with Peter Mayers.

But, whatever you do, have a truly blessed Lent in preparation for a joyous Easter.

I also commend to you the evening with Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, who is speaking at the

University Chaplaincy on 24th February.

**With every blessing,
Adam**

PRAYER

A homily of Pseudo-Chrysostom

Some words about prayer for the beginning of Lent

The highest good is prayer and conversation with God, because it means that we are in God's company and in union with him. When light enters our bodily eyes our eyesight is sharpened; when a soul is intent on God, God's inextinguishable light shines into it and makes it bright and clear. I am talking, of course, of prayer that comes from the heart and not from routine: not the prayer that is assigned to particular days or particular moments in time, but the prayer that happens continuously by day and by night.

Indeed the soul should not only turn to God at times of explicit prayer. Whatever we are engaged in, whether it is care for the poor, or some other duty, or some act of generosity, we should remember God and long for God. The love of God will be as salt is to food, making our actions into a perfect dish to set before the Lord of all things. Then it is right that we should receive the fruits of our labours, overflowing onto us through all eternity, if we have been offering them to him throughout our lives.

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge of God, a mediator between God and men. Prayer lifts the soul into the heavens where it hugs God in an indescribable embrace. The soul seeks the milk of God like a baby crying for the breast. It fulfils its own vows and receives in exchange gifts better than anything that can be seen or imagined.

Prayer is a go-between linking us to God. It gives joy to the soul and calms its emotions. I warn you, though: do not imagine that prayer is simply words.

Prayer is the desire for God, an indescribable devotion, not given by man but brought about by God's grace. As St Paul says: For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf in a way that could never be put into words.

If God gives to someone the gift of such prayer, it is a gift of imperishable riches, a heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. Whoever tastes that food catches fire and his soul burns for ever with desire for the Lord.

To begin on this path, start by adorning your house with modesty and humility. Make it shine brightly with the light of justice. Decorate it with the gold leaf of good works, with the jewels of faithfulness and greatness of heart. Finally, to make the house perfect, raise a gable above it all, a gable of prayer. Thus you will have prepared a pure and sparkling house for the Lord. Receive the Lord into this royal and splendid dwelling — in other words: receive, by his grace, his image into the temple of your soul.

[Universalis: Office of Readings](#)

NEW FROM READING UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

An evening with The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester

Amanda Titmas writes

You are warmly invited to our annual Chaplaincy in-conversation event. Please do circulate this invitation and book your free tickets as soon as possible.

An evening with The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek

Date: Tuesday 24th February

Location: Van Emden Lecture Theatre, Edith Morley, University of Reading, RG6 6EL

Time : Registration opens from 6:30pm, event will run from 7pm - 8:30pm

An In Conversation event exploring faith,

leadership, and justice in the modern world.

Join us for an inspiring conversation with The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester and Reading alumna.

Drawing on her journey from speech and language therapist to pioneering church leader, she'll reflect on her time at Reading and the role of faith in the modern world.

The Rt Revd Rachel will be interviewed by Bishop Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading, drawing on her experience in the Prison Service and reconciliation.

Admission is FREE but booking is essential. Book your place here

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/events/Feed/2026/February/Chaplaincy-Lecture>

BENEFICE RECORDS

Baptisms in the Benefice

18-Jan Laurence Michael John-Sieracki
May God bless them as they begin their journey in Christ

Confirmations in the Benefice

8-Feb Jimeto Ivan Chibueze-Okafor
Louis Ryan Richardson
Ruby Angelica Richardson

May God bless them as they continue their journey in Christ.

Couples Preparing for Holy Matrimony

21-Aug Robert Andrew Kearney and
Paula O'Neill Anderson

May God bless them at this happy time.

Funerals from the Benefice

06-Jan Doreen Patsy Newsam
21-Jan Frances Stella Faith Perham
02-Feb Graham James Feltham
23-Feb Brian Robinson

May they rest in peace.

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.

March

Sun 15 Today we welcome Ian Westley to play the organ at St George's
Mon 16 5.30pm, St Mary Magdalen's

PCC, 85 Fairford Road
Tue 17 5.45pm, St George's PCC meeting, St George's Centre

School Holidays – 28th March – 12th April

Sun 29 Palm Sunday
10am, Blessing of Palm Crosses and Holy Communion, both churches

Mon 30 Holy Monday
6pm, Holy Communion and Night Prayer, St Mary Magdalen's

Tue 31 Holy Tuesday
6pm, Holy Communion and Night Prayer, St Mary Magdalen's

April

Wed 1 Holy Wednesday
10am, Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalen's

Thur 2 Maundy Thursday
6pm, Liturgy of Maundy Thursday, St Mary Magdalen's

Fri 3 Good Friday
10am, Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ, St George's
2pm, Good Friday Liturgy, St Mary Magdalen's

Sat 4 Holy Saturday
6pm, Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter, St Mary Magdalen's

Sun 5 Easter Day
10am, Holy Communion, both churches

Sun 12 11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St George's

Sun 19 11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Mary Magdalen's

ADVANCED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

Sun 12 11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St George's

Sun 19 11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Mary Magdalen's

Tue 21 8pm, Music Committee at Helen's

Mon 27 5.30pm, St Mary Magdalen's PCC, 85 Fairford Road

Tue 28 5.45pm, St George's PCC meeting, St George's Centre

School Holidays – 22nd – 31st May

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN

COMMUNION

Praying for Christians around the world

12-Apr Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
19-Apr The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)
26-Apr The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
03-May The Church of North India (United)
10-May The Church of Pakistan (United)
17-May The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
24-May The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
31-May Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

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 5th April 2026 (Easter Day)

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

The Revd Dr Adam Carlill:
email, adamcarlill@me.com;
tel, 0775 341 1989;
98 Grovelands Road, Reading RG30 2PD
www.stgeorge-tilehurst.org,
www.stmarymagdalen-tilehurst.org,
www.facebook.com/tilehurststgeorgeandstmarymagdalen

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: Shelley Linney FCA
Shelley@placcoutancy.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: Post Vacant