



The Benefice of Tilehurst St George and St Mary Magdalen Benefice News No. 52 Lent Term

18th February – 31st March 2024



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 24th March 2024

FROM THE VICARAGE



Adam Carlill writes

Dear Friends,

Getting Closer to God

During the season of Lent we can spend extra time getting closer to God. Our sermon series, which began on Sunday 11th February, will help us to do this. The five topics are these:

1. Seeing God (11th Feb)

Imagining God (catching glimpses of God in creation, in religion and in pain)

2. God and Me (18th Feb)

Imagining Our Self (knowing who we really are, warts and all)

3. Talking with God (25th Feb)

Learning to Pay Attention (to the visible - meditation; to the invisible - contemplation)

4. The Only Way is Up (3rd Mar)

Treading the Dark Path (becoming utterly dependent on God)

5. One with God (17th Mar)

Each week there is a sheet in church for

you to take home and keep. On it you will find sermon notes from both churches, 3 questions for you to ponder, and a space for you to write or draw anything you like in response to those questions. These sheets are being used each week at the Lent Groups on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so bring them with you.

Instead of keeping these sheets you could hand your reflections back to me. This is because, in Holy Week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Eve, I will preach again on each of the subjects, feeding in any feedback I receive from you, so that we can all reflect further together.

Then, after Easter, we shall take names for our **Whole Day with God** at St Mary's Convent in Wantage. Please put this date in your diary now! – **SATURDAY 6th JULY**

During this day we will spend time on the first three topics – **Seeing God, God and Me, Talking with God** – in a beautiful and peaceful place, taking time to become more conscious of the presence of God with us.

With love and best wishes,
Adam

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Praying for Christians around the world

- 18-Feb Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- 25-Feb The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- 03-Mar The Church of the Province of Uganda
- 10-Mar The Episcopal Church
- 17-Mar The Church in Wales
- 24-Mar The Church of the Province of West Africa
- 31-Mar The Church in the Province of the West Indies

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.
- Fri 10am, Holy Communion, St George's, followed by coffee and chat until 12pm.

Weekly Lent Groups

- Wed 10.30am, St Mary Magdalen's
- 7.30pm, St George's Centre
- Thur 7.30pm, 112 Grovelands Road

February

- Sun 18 10am, Week 2 of our Sermon Series, Getting Closer to God – **God and Me**
- Sun 25 10am, Week 3 of our Sermon Series, Getting Closer to God – **Talking with God**
- Mon 26 5.30pm, St Mary Magdalen's PCC, 85 Fairford Road

March

- Fri 1 10.30am, World Day of Prayer, Reading Salvation Army Central, Castle Hill. RG1 7JR
- Sat 2 2pm, Crafts and Cake, St Mary Magdalen's Church Hall. Get creative over a cuppa and some cake with friends
- Sun 3 10am, Week 4 of our Sermon Series, Getting Closer to God – **The Only Way is Up**
- Tue 5 5.45pm, St George's PCC, St George's Centre
- Sun 10 **Mothering Sunday.** We have a week off from our Sermon Series. There will be a visiting organist at St George's at 10am
- Sun 17 10am, Week 5 of our Sermon Series, Getting Closer to God – **One with God**
11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Mary Magdalen's

Holy Week and Easter

Sun 24 Palm Sunday

10am Palm Sunday Liturgy including the procession of palms and the Passion Gospel, both churches

Mon 25 Holy Monday

6pm Holy Communion and Night Prayer, St Mary Magdalen's. There will be a reflection on Week 1 of our Sermon Series, Closer to God, in this service: **Seeing God**

Tue 26 Holy Tuesday

6pm Holy Communion and Night Prayer, St Mary Magdalen's. There will be a reflection on Week 2 of our Sermon Series, Closer to God, in this service: **God and Me**

Wed 27 Holy Wednesday

10am Holy Communion, St Mary Magdalen's. There will be a reflection on Week 3 of our Sermon Series, Closer to God, in this service: **Talking with God**

Thur 28 Maundy Thursday

6pm Commemoration of the Last Supper, Foot Washing and Vigil, St Mary Magdalen's. There will be a reflection on Week 4 of our Sermon Series, Closer to God, in this service: **The Only Way is Up**

Fri 29 Good Friday

10am Good Friday Service, St George's
12noon Prayers around the cross at Tilehurst Triangle
2pm Good Friday Liturgy, St Mary Magdalen's

Sat 30 Easter Eve

6pm Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter, St Mary Magdalen's. There will be a reflection on Week 5 of our Sermon Series, Closer to God, in this service: **One with God**

Sun 31 Easter Day – British Summer Time Begins

10am Holy Communion, both churches
29th Mar – 14th Apr Reading Borough Council School Holiday

ADVANCED DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

Sun 14 11.30am, Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St George's

May

Sat 4 10am, Benefice Hymn Practice at St Mary Magdalen's
Sat 11 7pm, Christian Aid Quiz Night, St Michael's Church Hall

July

Sat 6 **Getting Closer to God – A Whole Day with God.** A Benefice away day at St Mary's Convent in Wantage.

RAHAB

Providing outreach to sex workers in Reading

Christine Munday writes

Rahab in Reading (www.rahab.co.uk) is part of The Mustard Tree. A charity which is passionate that every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Through its Christian outreach to sex workers, the team is building up trust with the women, so that when they need us, we can support them. If they want us to pray with them, we will, if they want to talk about God and our faith - we will; but we will also talk about any other topic of conversation going. We will ask them how they are, where they are living, what has happened to them recently and we will listen without judgement.

Could this be you? We are looking for Christians across Reading to join us on outreach to look out for these women, meet them where they are and simply be there for them.

We are out mid-weeknights from 9.30pm to 11pm and ask that volunteers do a minimum of two nights a month (of course, you can do more if you wish).

We are out in small teams giving out refreshments, toiletries, and condoms. You will have the support of a team leader who knows the women. To find out more visit our website www.rahab.co.uk and in the chaplaincy page you will be able to download our volunteer information pack. You can also read our regular blog on life in Rahab. Alternatively, call Christine Munday on 07443 487191 or email rahab@themustardtree.org. Thank you.

BENEFICE RECORDS

Baptisms in the Benefice

14-Jan Millie-Rose Harper House

May God bless them on their journey of faith.

Couples from the Benefice preparing for marriage or dedication of civil marriage

20-Apr Joshua Francis Talib and Emily Mary Prince

We pray for the blessing of Love on them at this happy time.

Funerals from the Benefice

01-Feb Hilda Olive Fortnum

06-Feb Eileen Emily Cox

22-Feb John Richard Treacher

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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:
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tel, 0775 341 1989;

write to, 98 Grovelands Road, Reading RG30 2PD

www.stgeorge-tilehurst.org,

www.stmarymagdalen-tilehurst.org,

www.facebook.com/tilehurststgeorgeandstmarymagdalen

Wednesday/Thursday Evening Bible Study Group:

Peter Mayers (0118 962 4409,

peter.d.mayers@ntlworld.com)

Contacts for St George's

Church Wardens: Sue Baker (0118 962 2671), Anne Howell

Treasurer: Bridget Britton (0118 959 6583, rodbritton@sky.com)

MU: Gill Johnson (0118 996 8355)

Hall Bookings: Bridget Britton (0118 959 6583, rodbritton@sky.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