

Open to God. Open to one another. Open to the community.

www.stnicolas.org.uk

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Sunday 17 January
2nd Sunday in Epiphany

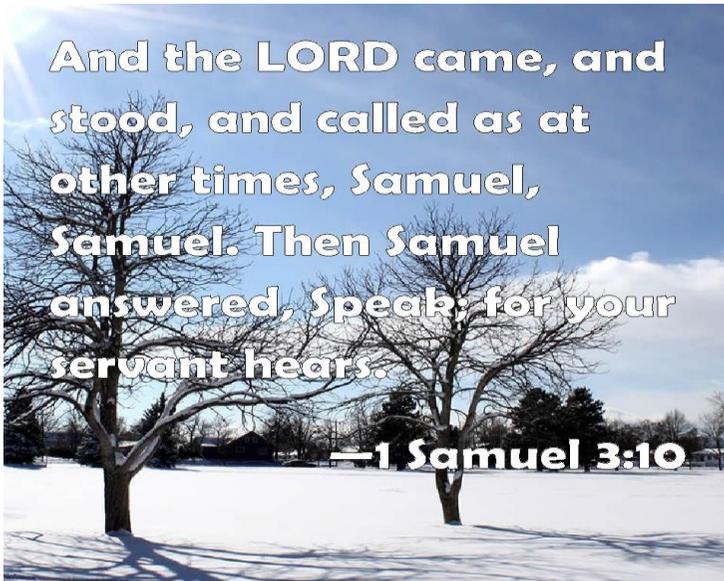
First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

I Samuel 3.1-10 (11-20)
Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-end

**To phone in and listen to this week's 10am Sunday Service please call
01184 693023**

Week Commencing 18 January

Mon 18 January	Mark 2.18-22
Tues 19 January	Mark 2.23-end
Weds 20 January	Mark 3.1-6
Thurs 21 January	Mark 3.7-12
Fri 22 January	Mark 3.13-19
Sat 23 January	Mark 3.20-21



Notices:



Join April for daily online prayer. Practicing contemplative ways to pray live at 8.30am

Monday to Thursday, and after that the recordings are available at any time on our website, on [Youtube](#), and on our [Facebook](#) page. There is a short verse of scripture, a prayer for the day with simple prayer practices, and a weekly pattern to help us keep a rhythm. Let us grow in our prayer life together.

Reminder for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity organised by Churches Together in Tilehurst and West Reading, with the theme of “Unity and Love”. Taking place at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 17 January and the Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546265111?pwd=b0dXdGIQVkk0TXZBWnU0NmE0dDdpUT09>



Café Théologique: 'Have we found Jesus' House?' Mon 25 January 7:30–9pm

The Archaeology of Nazareth and interview with Prof Ken Dark. He has been conducting archaeological research in Nazareth and Galilee since 2006. He will be discussing his recent discovery of the remains of a first-century house in Nazareth and his knowledge of the wider region. He is a University of Reading-based archaeologist whose other studies include Early Christian sites in Britain and Roman survivals at Hagia Sophia in Istanbul. **Join the meeting** All welcome, no booking.

Please be advised that the next St Nicolas Earley Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th January 2021, via Zoom, starting at 7.30pm. Minutes of this meeting will be published on the website when available.

Yeldall Manor is pleased to announce the launch of '**Esthertime Helpline**' aimed at ladies who may have noticed an increase in their drinking during this lock down.

Call Mandy on 0118 940 4411 during office hours

PRAYER

Collect: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

JPEG's Three Things

JPEG (St Nicolas Justice, Peace and Environment Group) would love it if you joined us in prayer for the following items. You can click on the links to find out more.

- The environment. This is a key year with the UN Biodiversity conference in May; the G7 meetings in June and The UN Climate meetings, hosted by the UK, in November (COP26)
- The Covid pandemic on top of climate change as it affects us all, and especially those in the less advantaged nations. Continue to pray that justice for all and for the environment would be priorities in recovery plans
- Relationships in Palestine/Israel. Pray for Jewish citizens who are raising their voices against the injustice. Recently 16-18yr olds refused to do service with the Israeli army because of these issues.

<https://www.972mag.com/sixty-teens-israeli-army-objectors/> Also an Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem, has produced a report headed 'This is Apartheid' and showing how vaccines are being taken into the West Bank but only for the illegal settlements. Palestinians still have no access to vaccines.

https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid

Prayer Ministry Prayer Chain Requests

via Janice Williams, office@stnicolas.org.uk or 07453 859159

Find St Nicolas on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @earley_stnics Registered Charity No. 1138037

Notices cont..

Pastoral Care at St Nicolas

It is good to hear that some members of our church family have had their first covid vaccine jab and that others have their appointments. There is light at the end of the lockdown tunnel! In the meantime, the next few weeks may be difficult for many of us and we may feel isolated and anxious. We are not alone, however, there is always someone at the end of a telephone! Please remember:-

- If you need any help such as essential shopping, collecting prescriptions.
- If you feel like a chat on the phone or wish to pray with someone

Please contact **Jenny Bryce 01189268561** or **Parish Office 0118 966 9080** or **April 07951119271**. Of course, Homegroups will also be active and keeping in touch with members and the new programme is scheduled to start next week. St Nicolas Pastoral Care Team will continue with Keeping in Touch and their friendly telephone calls to church members who are not in home groups.

Earley Hub earleyhub@gmail.com 07493784091 is also there to offer help to the community -Collecting prescriptions and shopping, prayer, a listening ear and recommending other help see below. Best Wishes, Jenny Bryce

Earley Help Hub

Earley Help Hub has been set up by some local churches with the support of Earley Town Council, to link volunteers with local needs in Earley.

**We can offer to help, or direct you to others who can
All you need to do is call or email**

07493 784091

earleyhelphub@gmail.com

or find us on Facebook

we can help with:

**Collecting shopping. A friendly chat. Prayer. A listening ear.
Recommending other help available.**

Earley Help Hub is a partnership between local Earley churches including Trinity, Brookside, Lower Earley Baptist, St.Nicolas, Bright Hope, Our Lady of Peace and Earley St.Peters.

All our volunteers follow up to date health and safeguarding procedures.

To volunteer or to access our services please get in touch.

Find St Nicolas on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @earley_stnics Registered Charity No. 1138037

Notices cont..

Foodbank Update: Thank you so much for all the recent donations.

Sadly the church is now closed so donations can't be left there. The Food Bank however is still open and operating from Emmanuel Church in Woodley and is meeting the ever-increasing number of people needing help. Donations can be left at Asda and at Waitrose. **If you yourself are in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact them.** You don't have to be referred by a doctor, health visitor or social services – they are open to everyone in need and you will find them friendly and non-judgemental. Many thanks, Marjory



Update from Quench Christian Bookshop: Towards the end of last year, a new online bookselling platform was launched in the UK, specifically designed for the benefit of independent

bookshops.. Without boring you with the details, you can choose us as your shop, and we will receive 30% of the cover price of any book you order. It doesn't even have to be one that we would normally stock! You could order a cookery book, or a historical fiction book - whatever takes your fancy! Obviously not *all* books are available through this website, but why not give it a go? <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/quenchshops>

The Church of England's Everyday Faith page on the website was updated this week with Simon telling us how he finds support at work through prayer.



Giving problems to God: I work as a Paramedic Team

Leader looking after a team of 20 paramedics and Emergency Care Assistants. I love that I can be there for my team and help them in their most difficult times as they deal with the pressures of life and the job. I also find it rewarding to help my colleagues develop in their careers in the ambulance service.

There have been days where it feels like everyone is telling me about their problems and this can be emotionally overwhelming, but I have learned to pray and give these problems to God. Every day, before I enter my ambulance station, I wait in the car and pray asking God to help me through the day and immediately I feel His peace which gives me joy to then serve his people. Being a member of the Christian Ambulance Association has also allowed me to have a support network. I can call on the @christianambassn any time and know that someone is praying for me. Today I ask that you pray for me, that God will give me the opportunity and wisdom to be able to encourage my colleagues to know that true peace only comes from God.



DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS

I received a lovely message on my phone this week which reminded to think of all the things I can do instead of the things I can't:

Not everything is locked down

Remember:

Sunrise is not locked down,
Fresh air is not locked down,
Family is not locked down,
Friendship is not locked down,
Creativity is not locked down,
Prayers are not locked down,
Hobbies are not locked down,
Hopes and dreams are not locked down,
Kindness is not locked down,
Learning is not locked down,
Conversation is not locked down,
Imagination is not locked down,
Sunsets are not locked down,
Hope is not locked down,
Cherish what you have.

Stay at home and make the most of your time.

May you be safe.

May you be happy.

May you be well.

Amen.

by Eo's MICC

Just thought I would share a sunset picture from one of my dog walks in December 😊

