

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

www.stnicolas.org.uk

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Sunday 24 January
3rd Sunday in Epiphany

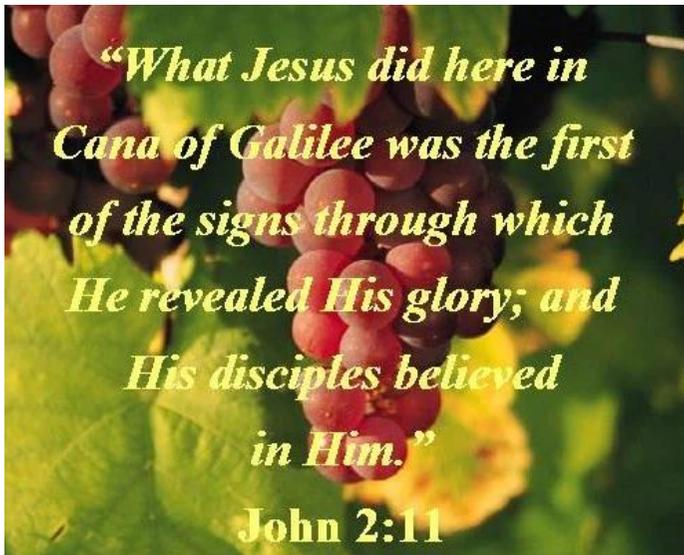
First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel

Genesis 14. 17-20
Revelation 19. 6-10
John 2. 1-11

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

Week Commencing 25 January

Mon 25 January <i>Conversion of Paul</i>	Matthew 19. 27-end
Tues 26 January	Mark 3. 31-end
Weds 27 January	Mark 4. 1-20
Thurs 28 January	Mark 4. 21-25
Fri 29 January	Mark 4. 26-34
Sat 30 January	Mark 4. 35-end



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. Let us grow in our prayer life together.



Message from Libby: Dear All, I'm writing to you now because it's become apparent to me that some people are not aware that the surgery on my knee has been postponed and are continuing to pray for me in that situation. So, I need to try to ensure you do know! My decision to defer the surgery was governed by the current Covid-19 situation. In a few weeks /months time, with the vaccine roll out, life will become safer for us all, and I anticipate having the surgery either in the Spring or early Summer, but, as ever, nothing is certain!

I'm deeply appreciative of the prayers that have been made for me, and many thanks to all who've done so. I don't think there's any such thing as 'wasted' prayer, because the intent of each and every intercessory prayer is in itself an act of kindness and there can never be too much of that in this world.

God bless and keep you. With love, Libby

Last Sunday's **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** organised by Churches Together in Tilehurst and West Reading, with the theme of "Unity and Love". was so busy not everyone could get on to the online platform so please click on the following link if you would like to view the recording

<https://youtu.be/KIZKJswQsA0>

Reminder: Café Théologique: 'Have we found Jesus' House?' Mon 25 January 7:30–9pm The Archaeology of Nazareth and interview with Prof Ken Dark. He will be discussing his recent discovery of the remains of a first-century house in Nazareth and his knowledge of the wider region. [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.

PRAYER

Collect: God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Royal Berkshire Hospital - please pray earnestly for RBH at this time, as the pressure is so acute- particularly on the ICU, but throughout the hospital also.

***Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through 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-19 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 organisations, 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

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..



Keep Active: if you are taking up exercise or want to try something different click the link below which will take you to exercise clips available from the Sport & Leisure team at Wokingham Borough Council.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOxxRlPeIwMyGQuUhCiGcYttIpgEUmIPI> They can also be accessed on the Shine website www.wokingham.gov.uk/shine.

If you haven't already had a look at or listen to the Church of England's



Supporting Good Mental Health publication, I would recommend giving it a go. Go to

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health> or if you would like a paper copy please contact the office

<mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk>



A message from the Archbishop of Canterbury

As a volunteer member of the Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust chaplaincy team, I was given the first shot of the Covid-19 vaccine this weekend. I want to encourage everyone to get the vaccine when they are invited. Staff across the NHS, and health workers across the world, are under immense pressure on the front

lines of this pandemic. They deserve not just our admiration but our support - and getting the vaccine when we have the opportunity is something we can all do to help relieve the burden on them. It has been a privilege to volunteer at St Thomas' over the past year. Chaplains here and across the country are doing a vital job of providing spiritual and pastoral care to patients, staff and relatives at this acutely painful and difficult time. The rapid development of the vaccine is an answer to prayer – and it is central to the recovery from this terrible pandemic. Jesus Christ calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Getting the vaccine is part of that commandment: we can show our love for each other by keeping each other safe from this terrible disease. To everyone in this country and across the world, I want to say please, please accept the invitation to get the jab when it comes - and encourage everyone around you to do the same.

A message
from:



I want to tell you about a plan that will tackle climate change.
I mean an actual plan that will make a difference – one that meaningfully reduces carbon emissions and protects our planet and the people living here.

The leaders of New Zealand, Norway, Costa Rica, and 3 other countries have teamed up to create a new green trade agreement that:

- stops fossil fuel subsidies
- re-shapes trade in favour of greener industries
- makes it easier and cheaper to sell eco-friendly goods and services

We're launching a campaign today to get the UK to join this plan for sustainable trade. [And I hope you'll join us.](#)

Every year, the world spends around \$520 billion subsidising fossil fuels.

The UK alone spends £10 billion a year subsidising coal, oil, and gas.

This means taxpayers' money goes towards making it cheaper to destroy the planet. Burning fossil fuels leads to climate disasters that hit people in the world's poorest countries hardest.

It's hard to believe the government is serious about climate change while this level of spending on harmful fuels remains.

But the plan I'm telling you about today tackles some of the root causes of climate change. It ends fossil fuel subsidies and supports businesses who are protecting the planet – not destroying it.

[Tell the government to join this green trade agreement.](#)

The trade agreement is called ACCTS (short for Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability).

ACCTS moves us towards greener trade and away from fossil fuels.

The UK must send a clear message that it is a champion for environmentally sustainable trade.

[Can you add your name to call on the UK government to join ACCTS?](#)

I hope you'll join the campaign for the government to encourage greener trade and end fossil fuel subsidies.

Thanks, Ed Johnson-Williams
Campaigner at Traidcraft Exchange

CAP Money Course

A free, short course that makes managing your money simple.



budget. save. spend

Online **Christians Against Poverty** Money Course, this is a free course to teach you budgeting skills and to help you to manage your money more effectively.

The course is on **the 26th January**
from 10:30am - 12:30pm
for 3 consecutive
Tuesdays

This is an online course. Details of how to join the course along with howto download the course guide and other material will be sent prior to the course.

For more details or to register contact:

George Mullen tel 07795 424714 or

email georgemullen@capuk.org

Or you can contact CAP directly on 0800 328 0006



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