

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

www.stnicolas.org.uk

office@stnicolas.org.uk 0118 9669080

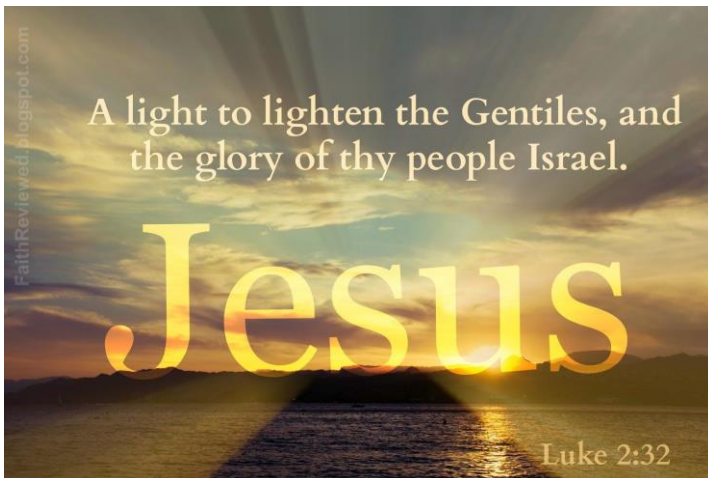


 <p>Candlemas</p>	<p>Sunday 31 January 4th Sunday in Epiphany Presentation of Christ in the temple (Candlemas)</p>
<p>First Reading Second Reading Gospel</p>	<p>Malachi 3. 1-5 Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40</p>

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

Week Commencing 1 February

Mon 1 February	Mark 5. 1-20
Tues 2 February	Mark 5. 21-end
Weds 3 February	Mark 6. 1-6a
Thurs 4 February	Mark 6. 7-13
Fri 5 February	Mark 6. 14-29
Sat 6 February	Mark 6. 30-34



Notices:



Lent Group – Casablanca

Of all the lent groups in all the world.....we're inviting you to walk into ours....

Whether you love the film, never seen it or only know it from the parodies, Casablanca is a most enduring film, dealing with love, loss, regret, betrayal and the agony of making hard choices

Paul Kerensa, a stand up comedian, TV script writer and Christian realised the potential of this iconic film and has written a Lent course which follows the film and its themes. Over the 5 weeks we will watch the film in instalments, discuss its implications for us in the context of particular Bible passages.

We will be meeting on Zoom Tuesdays 7.30-9pm:

23rd Feb, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March

Don't worry if you can't come to every meeting, just come when you can

Is this the beginning of a beautiful Lent group?

Notices:

Refresh and Restore

Mon-Thurs 8.30am
On Facebook, YouTube
Or watch later in the day
www.stnicolas.org.uk



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.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Worth signing...._Traidcraft is asking us all to sign this petition asking the UK to join ACCTS (Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability). See

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/accts>

Currently the UK spends 10 billion every year subsidising coal, oil and gas. Meanwhile climate disasters hit hardest the poorest nations around the world. This seems an unfair 'leg-up' to the fossil fuel industry when so many of us are trying to cut our dependence on that industry.

A number of countries, including New Zealand, Norway and Costa Rica have produced a plan to stop fossil fuel subsidies and instead to bolster a green recovery. This petition is encouraging our government to sign up to it as well. Add your signature and help let the government know it matters to us how they spend our taxes. Sign here: <https://traidcraftexchange.org/accts>



Stay Safe & Well During Cold Weather Spells

Click on the links below for helpful winter resilience resources and advice on staying safe and healthy:

- [Top Tips for Staying Warm and Well](#)
- [Here to Help You Stay Well This Winter](#)
- [Keep Warm and Well This Winter](#)

PRAYER

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

***Gracious God,
as we remember before you the thousands
who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your
strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen 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

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

Notices cont..

Pastoral Care at St Nicolas

We are not alone 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** (please leave a message)
or **April 07951119271**.

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.



Quiz Evening Saturday 13th February

on Zoom at 8 pm. Led by David & Julia Eversham.

*Come on your own and join a team.
Come as a group with your friends and family.*

To book: phone Jenny Bryce on 0118 926 8561

Or email: jennybryce@phonecoop.coop

Notices cont..

Message from St Nicolas' Justice, Peace and Environment Group - JPEG

Make 2021 Count for Creation

The UN Secretary General has called 2021 a make-or-break moment for tackling climate change. Latest estimates suggest that without action we are on track for a rise of 6°C. But it is still possible to limit the worst effects if we cut our carbon footprint and adapt to a different way of life.

<https://climate.nasa.gov/faq/16/is-it-too-late-to-prevent-climate-change/>

Many of us as people of faith in St Nicolas, across the diocese, across the nation and across the world are deeply concerned. We all want to do our bit in making a difference.

And, yes, there is hope. There was an article recently on the BBC arguing that this year could indeed be a turning point. In it the writer gave 5 main points for hope. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-55498657>

1. **COP26 – the crucial UN climate conference** postponed from last year is now scheduled for November of this year, hosted by the UK. The historic Paris agreement of 2015 was nowhere near ambitious enough in its national commitments, so now all signatory nations are being asked to submit new commitments and the pressure is on to make these significant.
2. **Countries are already signing up to deep carbon cuts.**
 - **China** has announced a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2060. In response to the pandemic, it is currently still ratcheting up its coal industry, yet there is hope that it will still do as it has publicly announced.
 - **110 countries** so far have made commitments to reach a net zero target by the middle of the century, representing more than 65% of the world's emissions and more than 85% of its economy.
 - **Jo Biden** has promised to bring the **USA** on track to cut its carbon emissions. Following his election, other sceptic nations, notably **Australia**, are starting to change their rhetoric.
3. **Renewable energy is the cheapest energy ever**, especially solar, and prices are expected to fall further as demand increases.
4. **Business is going green.** Many businesses are already embracing green policies and governments are increasingly talking about taxing those who don't.

5. The Pandemic. With massive amounts of money being promised to reboot economies around the world there is a huge opportunity for governments to embrace the green economy as a way of 'building back better'.

So, these 5 points, encourage us to see this year as a real opportunity for change.

We at St Nicolas will be working with Hope for the Future, Christian Aid and other churches and organisations, to make 2021 count.

It is our hope and prayer that we will be able to encourage each other to each do our bit:

- **Personal things**, like making sure we use green energy, making our homes energy efficient, reducing our travel by car and plane, recycling, choosing our foods and their packaging with care.
- **As a church**, by getting our eco church certificate, auditing our energy use, working with the Oxford Diocese in their aim of being carbon neutral by 2035, encouraging people to walk, cycle or car share to get to Church.
- **Politically**, by adding voice to campaigns, writing to our MPs, and letting it be known that we take it seriously.

May we together make it a year that counts!

Wendy Neale, Margaret Brown, Lindsey Sharpe, Steve Brown, April Becklerleg, Julia Jones, Emma Major, Liz Kerry, Marjory Codling. (JPEG)



"More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love." Archbishops

**Pause, Reflect and Pray
for 10 minutes at 6pm
every day in February with**

Earley 
Help Hub

Everyone welcome.
Please come along and invite
your family and friends.



Joining details:
Zoom account 212 125 0156
Passcode EHH2021

