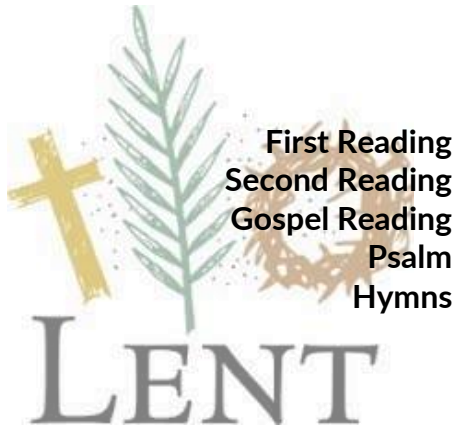


Open to God. Open to one another. Open to the community.



First Reading
Second Reading
Gospel Reading
Psalm
Hymns

Sunday 17 March 2024
5th Sunday of Lent
Passiontide begins

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33
 51:1-13 or 119 :9-16

413 Just as I am
 747 There's a wideness in God's mercy
 507 Meekness and majesty
 556 O Jesus I have promised

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 18 March	John 8:1-11	10am Babies & Bumps 2.30pm Tea and Tinies 7.30pm-9pm Lent Course
Tues 19 March	Matthew 1:18-end	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2pm-3.30pm Memory Café
Weds 20 March	John 8:31-42	11am Service 7.30pm PCC Meeting
Thurs 21 March	John 8:51-end	2pm-4pm Over 50s Bingo
Fri 22 March	John 10:31-end	10am-12pm Community Coffee 2pm SNAC
Sat 23 March	John 11:45-end	2pm-4pm Meet the Artist <i>See inside for more details</i>

To watch the live stream of our Sunday service please go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/@stnicolasearley1496/featured>

PRAYER

Collect: Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Haiku poem from The Lectionary in 17 Syllables by Andy Campbell, Emma Major & Rachel Summers **5th Sunday in Lent (John 12:20-33)**

Grains fall, wither, die,

Regrowth provides the harvest,

Follow God always.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayer at St Nicolas There are a group of people who love to pray for anything which is on your mind. You can contact Jenny Bryce at 07963 905663 or the office on office@stnicolas.org.uk or write a card and put it in the prayer box in church. All requests in the box are prayed at Morning prayer at 9am Monday - Thursday.

Please feel free to join our 6pm Prayer group every Sunday on [Zoom](#) Meeting ID 872 7137 1558 Or join us in person Monday - Thursday at 9am in Church

Notices

Sad News

Elizabeth Abraham sadly passed away last week and Michael wanted us to let you know that her Funeral will be here at St Nicolas on Tuesday 23 April at 1pm.

The lent group will be meeting this Monday, from 7.30-9pm in Church, and will continue following the St Martins in the Fields Lent course 'Inspired to Follow: Art and the Bible Story' – using paintings as a springboard for reflection and discussion. All are welcome. Final meeting 18th March.

A Haiku Share! Saturday 23rd March 2-4 pm. Suitable for all ages.

Are you a poet? Or interested in poetry? Or just enjoy stretching your mind?

One extreme form of poetry reading is called a Poetry Slam, which is highly competitive, but not something we are doing you will be pleased to hear!

Instead, Art Space in St Nicolas are inviting everyone to come to a very easy-going chance to share simple Haiku inspired by the theme of water along with our Artist/Poet Emma Major. Also, a chance to meet the other two artists involved in the exhibition 'Water' over this Lenten time, Lydia Pierce and Sara Hudson. Come and have a go!

Meet the Artist. Saturday 23rd March 2-4 pm. Suitable for all ages.

We will be **Decorating Church ready for Easter on Saturday 30th March from 10am.** As always we welcome anyone who would like to come along and get involved. There will be hot cross buns and a cuppa to keep you going!

For all you early risers - Easter Sunday, 31st March, Sunrise Service, 6.30AM At Maiden Erlegh Lake, on the viewing/duck feeding platform. Suggested parking on Instow Road.

Water exhibition for Lent fifth week

Water, an essential part of our human life.

When we were born $\frac{3}{4}$ of our bodies are made of water, the chemical, electrical connections through the water element allows us to grow and function. We continually need new water to replace what we lose daily. It is essential we live as part of this actively cycling world water system that continually purifies and supports all life.

To hoard water, block access to water, pollute water makes all life suffer and understanding this makes us realise how water is used as a weapon in wars. To 'salt the earth' in historical times was to stop access to water by agriculture, by poisoning the soil of conquered cities. In the Ukraine blowing up dams blocking the river Dnipro caused widespread damage and the spread of landmines.

Whether deliberate or accidental the cost for Palestinians of the damage to the water supply in Gaza is dreadful. Lack of fresh water means disease, poor medical treatment and death for many. Flooding the tunnels under Gaza in a military action will mean polluted aquifers damaging agriculture in the area for ever.



These world events are in our prayers, but also this week let us use our minds to really understand the water we have access to. Our water in Earley mainly comes from aquifers fed by rain in the area also drained by the river Loddon.

The water supply in the Reading area was created after the last great cholera epidemic in 1854 which killed tens of thousands who had poor water supply, spreading the disease to everyone. We are the beneficiary of those great Victorian engineers and those who considered the social good of every one

through an efficient water supply to be of prime importance because of their Christian faith. This photo is of Earley's stand pipe, an historical record of our nations water. Now imagine if this was your main supply of fresh water, and imagine carrying it everyday back to your house! To help the Toilet Twinning project;-Using a public convenience in Victorian times cost a penny. This is the equivalent to 50p



Notice of Revision of Earley St Nicolas Electoral Roll 2024

The Electoral Roll will be revised ahead of this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 28 April. The revision started on 14 March and any additions or amendments must be completed by 7 April

Being a member of the electoral roll gives you the opportunity to have your say. This will include giving you a vote at the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting).

If you are already on the roll you don't need to do anything. If however you have moved or changed contact details in anyway please let the parish office know. There is a copy of the roll at the back of Church on the Noticeboard if you would like to check if you are already on there.

If you would like to go on the electoral roll you must 16 or over, baptised and not a member of the clergy. You must also either live in the parish OR if you don't you must have regularly attended worship at Earley St Nicolas for the last 6 months.

If you would like to be added to the electoral roll please pick up a form from the back of Church or contact the Parish office

office@stnicolas.org.uk

**Date for your Diary: Earley St Nicolas
Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday
28 April 11.30am**

If you are able to make a cake please let Denise Rees know or email
the office office@stnicolas.org.uk



CAKE AND CRAFT SALE

**SUNDAY 24 MARCH
AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE!**

**COME AND ENJOY A SLICE OF CAKE AND
BUY SOME HOMEMADE
ARTS AND CRAFTS
WHILST RAISING FUNDS FOR ST NICOLAS
CHURCH AND CENTRE**

ST NICOLAS CENTRE, SUTCLIFFE AVENUE, RG6 7JN

OFFICE@STNICOLAS.ORG.UK CHARITY NO: 1138037 STNICOLAS.ORG.UK



Memory Café



Join us for tea, chat and light recreation in a friendly atmosphere! The cafe is particularly designed for people who live with some form of memory loss and their carers, but everyone is welcome!

Third Tuesday of every month!

19th Mar 16th Apr 21st May

2:00 - 3:30pm in the St Nicolas Centre

Sutcliffe Avenue Earley RG6 7JN

Tel: 0118 966 9080



Stnicolas.org.uk



Office@stnicolas.org.uk



Earleystnics

Charity No: 1138037

EASTER

at Earley St Nicolas Church

Sun 24th March 10am - Palm Sunday Service

Mon 25th March 7.30pm - Stations of the Cross

Tues 26th March 7.30pm - Taizé Service

Weds 27th March 7.30pm - A Reflective Service

**Thurs 28th March 7.30pm- Maundy Thurs Service
(with watch until 10pm)**

Fri 29th March 10am-12pm- Good Friday Family Fun

Fri 29th March 1pm-3pm Good Friday Service

Sat 30th March 7.30pm- Holy Saturday Service

Sun 31st March 10am- Easter Sunday Service



ST NICOLAS CHURCH, SUTCLIFFE AVENUE, RG6 7JN

**OFFICE@STNICOLAS.ORG.UK CHARITY NO: STNICOLAS.ORG.UK
1138037**