

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

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 11 May 2025

4th Sunday of Easter



First Reading

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

Psalm

Hymns

Acts 9:36-end

Revelation 7:9-end

John 10:22-30

23

707 All heaven declares

340 I will sing the wondrous story

633 Put peace into each other's hands

724 The Lord's my shepherd

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 12 May	John 10:1-10	2.30-3.30pm Tea & Tinies
Tues 13 May	John 10:22-30	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2.15pm Mothers' Union Meeting
Weds 14 May	John 15:9-17	11am Service
Thurs 15 May	John 13:16-20	2pm Over 50s
Fri 16 May	John 14:1-6	10am-12pm Community Coffee 10am- Full Hearts Friday Toddlers Grp 3pm Afterschool Gardening Club
Sat 17 May	John 14:7-14	

To watch the live stream of our Sunday service please go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stnicolasearley1496/featured>

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one.'

John 10:27-30

PRAYER

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

A Haiku poem from The Lectionary in 17 Syllables by Andy Campbell, Emma Major & Rachel Summers **4th Sunday of Easter (John 10:22-30)**

Walking in winter

The sheep hear the shepherd's voice

Clear from the temple

Lord Jesus,
the Good Shepherd,
we thank you for your unwavering love and care.
As you lead your flock, guide us on our paths,
protect us from harm, and help us to follow your voice.
May we always recognize your gentle guidance
and choose to follow you, even when the path is uncertain.
Grant us the grace to live out your teachings,
to love as you have loved,
and to be a beacon of hope for others.
May your Holy Spirit fill our hearts with your peace and joy,
and may we grow closer to you each day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
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 for on a Sunday morning by our Prayer Ministry Team.

Please feel free to join our **6pm Prayer group every Sunday** on [Zoom](#) Meeting ID 872 7137 1558 we will be praying for the vacancy as well as the needs of the world and our community

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Mothers' Union are having a **focus on South India** at their next meeting on **Tuesday, 13th May in the Church at 2.15pm** when we will be hearing from Wendy Neale, our Churchwarden, who had a most interesting time visiting there. The talk will be accompanied by a slideshow. There will be refreshments served afterwards. All are welcome!



St Nics Community Garden

The vegetable plot this week in May.

We had a great time last Saturday as the grounds work group and its great to see things growing - especially exciting to see things growing in the vegetable planters to eat!

We have a large plant of Sorrel in the long vegetable raised bed next to Sutcliffe Avenue Road. Very few people grow sorrel, and I have never seen it in the supermarkets but its a fine vegetable. One of the earliest and very easy to grow perennial green crop starting in spring.

Once you've got a clump going it needs no attention other than when you want to eat it. Tastes lemony!

Lots of recipes on the internet but my best this year is from Yotam Ottolenghi:

Whizz up equal weights of fresh sorrel and Greek yoghurt with a garlic clove, some olive oil and a little Dijon mustard.

Use as a dressing for roasted root veg, lentils, chicken or potato salad, red meat, oily fish, turkey burgers.

Loads of leaves ready to pick in the long vegetable raised bed. You can eat the stalks and flower heads as well, so bring a bag.

Liz Kerry

Pictured above: nearest is Thyme, next the bright yellow green of Swiss chard, the last Sorrel.

Seven days to make a difference.

With your support, we can fund vital training, so communities can fight the effects of the climate crisis.

Dying crops means food stops

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin. Amelia says: 'I worry about what my children will eat.'



A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water.

The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: 'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (11-17 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

With 7 days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?

Find out more about the campaign at [caweek.org](https://www.caweek.org)

How you can get involved

Donate: You can donate online at the Christian Aid website. There will be collection tins and envelopes in church during Christian Aid Week. Coffee and Cake on Friday 16 May will be taking donations for Christian Aid.

Sign the Petition

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/campaign>

Pray: There are copies of the daily devotional for Christian Aid Week in church.

A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025

Lord, you are faithful to your promises.

Through the Spirit, you bless us with abounding hope.

When power seeks to silence justice, give us the courage to raise our voice.

When an end to poverty seems far off, renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth. When our neighbour reaches out, inspire us to respond with overflowing love.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Christian Aid Walk 2025

Six people from St Nicolas took part in a lovely walk in the Oxfordshire countryside 3 May in support of Christian Aid. Some of us walked 5 miles, others 10 miles. Well done all of you!





Archbishop Stephen writes in the Telegraph on Pope Leo, the first ever American Pope, being elected:

Pope Leo, the first ever American Pope, began his ministry by laying before the world a vision of peace and explaining how humanity needs the good things and the peace that God gives us in Jesus Christ: and also calling for unity; unity within and between the churches, in our world and with all people of goodwill.

Announced at the same time as we were celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, this call for peace and unity is as timely as it urgent. It is a vision that all of us can unite around and I hope and pray not just for God's blessing upon Pope Leo's ministry as Bishop of Rome, but that he may by kindness, witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and generous prophetic gesture continue the journey towards that unity that Jesus desires for his church in the way of his most recent predecessors. What a gift that would be!

A gift, well chosen and well timed, can bring any of us to tears. Such gifts can be rare, but we value them all the more for it. Today, as we mark the election of Pope Leo XIV, I have also been thinking about one particular gift, given by Pope Paul VI to Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, back in 1966.

To read more go to:

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/latest-news/let-us-heed-call-new-pope-ever-greater-unity>

St Nics Garden Update: Thank you to the lovely volunteers who came gardened last Saturday, the fruit of their labour is showing already. Remember if you would like to come and help it is the first Sunday of every month from 9.30am.





Erleigh Cantors



CHAMBER CHOIR DIRECTED BY IAN WESTLEY

ORGAN: *Simon Dinsdale*

TRUMPET: *Mark Kesel*

35th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC FOR CHOIR, ORGAN AND TRUMPET

SATURDAY 7 JUNE 7.00 PM

Earley St Peter's Church, Church Road, Reading RG6 1EY

including music by:

Handel – Zadok the Priest

Parry – I Was Glad

Bach – Lobet den Herrn

Millington – I Sing the Almighty Power

(*première – commissioned for the choir's 35th anniversary*)
and works by Shephard, Campbell and Vaughan Williams

**in aid of ALEXANDER DEVINE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE
and EARLEY ST PETER'S CHURCH**

Admission – suggested donation £12 for adults, £8 for students, under-18s free.

Refreshments will be available during the interval and

Mama Nunn preserves will be on sale in aid of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.

For tickets or more information contact Maggie Nunn on 07946 620560.

Christian Aid Fair

At Trinity Church

Sat. 17th May, 10am-2pm

Coffee/Tea/Cakes

Games

Bric-a-Brac

Books, jigsaws, CDs

Light lunches

Plant Stall

Raising money to help:

- Provide climate-resilient seeds to help families grow food.
- Fund water conservation techniques to protect crops.
- Support vital training so farmers can build a sustainable future.



We have volunteers skilled in electronic items such as phones, laptops, printers, speakers, radios etc. Get your gadgets working again with...

EARLEY REPAIR CAFE

Upcoming Dates: 11th May, 8th June, 13th July

10am - 1pm, Centrepoint Community Centre

(next to Lower Earley Library on Chalfont Close)



The South East Cyber Crime Unit are hosting a series of webinars to help keep people safe online
Webinars include:

- Online Safety Awareness for Individuals
- Keeping Children Safe Online
- Online Safety for Women and Girls
- Cyber Security for Businesses

Book your free place using the Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/police-south-east-cyber-crime-unit-77121396093>



**solstice
sunset
swim**

Launchpad's evening of calmness and community



Join us for a truly special experience. You'll have drinks on arrival, before joining a guided meditation and a soul-soothing sound bath. You'll finish the evening with a sunset swim and sauna.

You'll leave refreshed, knowing you're making brighter futures for people facing homelessness in Reading.

The all-important details:

- 21 June | 8:30pm | Dinton Pastures (RG10 0TH)
- £22.50* to enjoy all activities | spectators = £10
- *Group discounts for three or more people
- Suitable for people 14 or older, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult
- Spaces are limited - book today!



launchpadreading.org.uk/solstice



Launchpad



SELECTION OF
INDOOR AND
OUTDOOR PLANTS
ON SALE

PLANT SALE

SUNDAY 8 JUNE 11.30am-1.30pm

Avoncourt Fuchsias will be here and we will be serving tea/coffee and cake.

If you have spare plants you would like to donate, feel free to bring them along!

All proceeds will go to Earley St Nicolas Church

Avoncourt
Fuchsias



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