

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

Photo by Annika Gordon on Unsplash



Sunday 15th February 2026

Sunday next before Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 24:12-end

Psalm 99

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-end

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Hymns

302 Here in this place

88 Bright the vision that delighted

507 Meekness and majesty

732 The spirit lives to set us free

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 16 Feb	Mark 8:11-13	2.30-3.30pm Tea & Tinies 7.30pm Lent Study Group
Shrove Tuesday 17 Feb	Mark 8:14-21	10am-12pm Board Games Café 11am Family Pancake Jam 2pm Memory Café
Ash Wednesday 18 Feb	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	11am Service with Ashing 6.30pm Service with Ashing
Thurs 19 Feb	Luke 9:22-25	2pm Over 50s 7.30pm St Nics Pub Night
Fri 20 Feb	Matthew 9:14-15	10am-12pm Community Coffee 10.30am Terry Carpenter's Funeral 2pm -4.30pm SNAC – Knit & Natter
Sat 21 Feb	Luke 5:27-32	

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

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

PRAYER

Collect: Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of growth,
in the beginning
you planted a garden
and walked with us,
your beloved creation.
Teach us to tread lightly
as we care for all you made.

God the Sower,
you plant seeds of your Kingdom
in the soil of our hearts.
Water them with your Word
and weed out fear and selfishness.
Cultivate in us your compassion
so we may truly love our neighbours.

God of Gethsemane,
you chose the tree of suffering
which would bring us new life.
May its roots grow deep within us,
inspiring us to seek justice
so all people may flourish
in the garden of your grace.

Amen.

Prayer: Caroline Stanton/CAFOD

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.

NOTICES:

Memorial Service for Roy Carter

On Friday 27th February at 10.30am there will be a memorial service for Maggie's late husband Roy. This will be followed by refreshments in the servery. Please can you advise the Parish office either by email or phone (office@stnicolas.org.uk or 0118 9669080) if you are planning on attending so we can organise the catering. Thank you.

Please bring in any palm crosses you have but no longer want and after the service on Sunday, weather permitting, we will reduce them to ash to use at the Ash Wednesday service.

Revision of our Electoral Roll 2026

I am currently revising the Electoral Roll ahead of this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on Sunday 26 April 2026.

If you are already on the roll you don't need to do anything.

If you would like to be 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 complete the form which you will find in the Church and the Servery and pass it either to Mark, a Churchwarden or Vicki/Ayesha in the Parish Office.

Please let me if you have any questions, office@stnicolas.org.uk

Vicki (Parish Admin, Electoral Roll Officer, PCC Sec)

Liz's delicious sourdough is back for Lent!



As I did last Lent I will making a simple loaf of sourdough bread for anyone who would like it, in aid of St Nicolas. We all know real sourdough bread is costly so what you donate should reflect this - (suggested donation of £4 for a full loaf and £2 for half, with all the money to the church). This real sourdough bread takes about 36 hours to create, resulting in a food many say it is tastier and easier to digest than ordinary bread. Ingredients are only flour, water, wild yeasts from a homemade starter and a little salt. Let me know if you are interested in a loaf or half a loaf. **Liz Kerry 07858463218**

LENT 2026

Two Opportunities for Reflection in Lent

Want to deepen your spiritual life this Lent? We have two opportunities.



Groups

If you fancy a group experience, two of the home groups will be coming together from Monday 16th February onwards meeting weekly in the Church from 7.30pm. We will be using material created by the Bishop of Oxford. The

course is called **Come and See** exploring meeting Jesus in the Eucharist. You can get a sneak preview here: <https://youtu.be/PbIH3KLyuA?si=FsjqWLvCd3IWzh4G>. For more info, contact Christine Seale or just turn up.

Personal Devotion

If you would like to do something just for yourself (or as well!), there will be 40 days of Lent devotions available via the Church of England App, *Everyday Faith*.

Their theme is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. This year's resources explore the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ. <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>



The Impact of AI on Death, Loss and Grief

Greyfriars Church Reading, RG1 1EH. Thurs 19 February, 7.15pm-9pm

An evening exploring how artificial intelligence such as digital reconstructions and griefbots are transforming the way we understand death, remembrance and grief.

The evening will open with a talk from Dr Nathan Mladin, from the think tank Theos, followed by a panel discussion with Nick Jones, senior editor at the Centre for Cultural Witness, and Revd Canon Yvonne Tulloch, founder of national bereavement organisation AtaLoss.

[Find out more and book.](#)

ORANGES FOR JUSTICE

*Oranges for justice,
squeeze profits not people*

Here's your chance to put in another order with Oranges for Justice. Oranges for Justice collaborates with a co-operative in Calabria, Italy, bringing dignity and humanity to migrant workers, ensuring a fair wage and living conditions. By pass the supermarket squeeze and play a small part in improving the welfare of hard working communities. Find out more at <https://orangesforjustice.co.uk/>

There are oranges, and avocados available, all sold in large boxes. If there is enough interest, we can organise a box, or boxes, for St Nicolas.

- oranges 10kg (50-70 fruit) £33 per box
- avocados:
 - 4 kg (20-40 fruit) £27 per box
 - 10 kg (50-100 fruit) £67.50 per box

If you are interested please contact Wendy (wendy@stnicolas.org.uk), stating how many and what kind of fruit you would like.

Orders in by 22 February please

St Nics Pub Night

Join us for an evening
of chat, laughter, and
friendship.

Join us this **Thursday 19th**
February in the **George Pub**
Loddon Bridge Road, Earley
RG6 7EN from **7.30pm**.
Everyone welcome. Contact
Eleanor Gunbie for more details.

Thank you for your continued support of the foodbank. Tom Handy has now put up a notice in the church lobby which will be regularly updated with what they are in need of. They are **currently short of toilet rolls, tins of fruit, tins of veg and tinned rice pudding** if you are able to add this to your weekly shopping it would be greatly appreciated.

Woodley
Food Bank

Next Session Tuesday 17th February



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!

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

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EARLY BIRD OFFER - £2 OFF IF BOOKED BY 14TH FEBRUARY

FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT:

trinityband.co.uk

Trinity Concert Band is a registered charity: 1145098

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



SPREAD THE LOVE

Half Term **FAMILY PANCAKE**



BOOK IN!

SCAN ME



Delicious Pancakes!
Pancake races and trail
All-age kindness-themed activities
Garden fun (weather permitting)

£5 per family (suggested donation)

**Spread the love and
bring a food donation for** 

11-1pm Tuesday 17th Feb St Nicolas Centre, Earley

To book in scan the QR or text Lou on 07340419693

