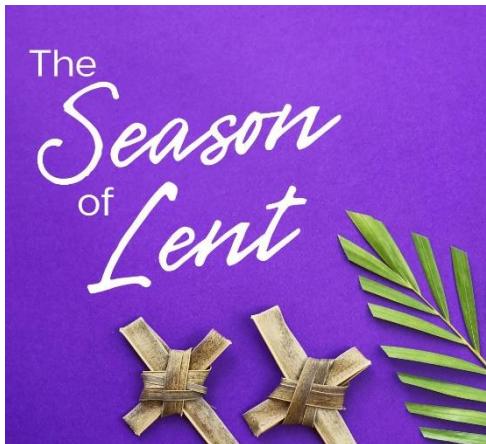


Open to God. Open to one another. Open to the community.

Photo by Annika Gordon on Unsplash



Sunday 22nd February 2026

1st Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

Hymns

589 On Jordan's bank

156 Do not be afraid

317 How deep the Father's love for us

74 Bless the Lord my soul

70 Before the throne of God above

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 23 Feb	Matthew 25:31-end	2.30-3.30pm Tea & Tinies 7.30pm Lent Study Group
Tues 24 Feb	Matthew 6:7-15	10am-12pm Board Games Café
Weds 25 Feb	Luke 11:29-32	11am Communion Service
Thurs 26 Feb	Matthew 7:7-12	2pm Over 50s
Fri 27 Feb	Matthew 5:20-26	10am-12pm Community Coffee 10.30am Roy Carter's Memorial Service 2pm -4.30pm SNAC - Knit & Natter
Sat 28 Feb	Matthew 5:43-end	

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

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

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.³ The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'⁴ But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." **Matthew 4:1-4**

PRAYER

Collect: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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

As mentioned in the Notices last Sunday, we would love to have some more members of our Prayer Ministry Team and volunteers to do the prayers in the service each week. This is open to everyone and you will receive support and training, so do please consider if you would like to take this opportunity. Please speak to any of the Prayer Ministry Team, Churchwardens or Mark if you are interested.

Please feel free to join our **6pm Prayer group every Sunday**
on [Zoom](https://zoom.us/j/87271371558) Meeting ID 872 7137 1558 we will be praying for the needs of the world and our community

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:

Want to know what happened to the palm crosses bought into church last week? Journey with Mark as he makes this year's ashes for use on Ash Wednesday click on the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1732048527773891>



Car Sharing?

Do you have a second car or don't use yours often?

Mark is looking for a kind person/people who might be willing to put him on their insurance for occasional use (e.g. for visits to the Crematorium). Any costs would be reimbursed. Please let Mark know if you'd like to have a conversation about this: mark@stnicolas.org.uk.

Liz's delicious sourdough is back for Lent!

Get your orders in for Liz's sourdough (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.

Liz Kerry 07858463218



The Sunday sheet will now be sent out in a Thursday to give you plenty of time to read it before the weekend! If you have any posters, articles or information that you would like adding to the sheet please ensure it is with the Parish Office by Thursday midday. Thank you! 😊

**ORANGES
FOR JUSTICE**

*Oranges for justice,
squeeze profits not people*

Don't forget to put an order in for your oranges and avocados by 22 Feb contact Wendy wendy@stnicolas.org.uk . 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. Find out more at <https://orangesforjustice.co.uk/>

NOTICES:

Revision of our Electoral Roll 2026

If you have completed a form to join the electoral roll don't forget to hand it into the parish office, or pop it in the pigeon hole

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.

Forms are available in the Church and the vestry.

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

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



Empty Blister Pack Recycling

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing their empty blister packs into church for recycling, you are saving them from going to landfill which is brilliant! I do however need a few volunteers to take them to Boots or Superdrug either in Reading or Bracknell to be deposited in their recycling

boxes. If you are going to either location to do some shopping it would be great if you could take some with you. Please let me know

office@stnicolas.org.uk Thank you!



Love a Board Game?

Come down to the St Nicolas Centre on Tuesday morning at 10am until 12pm. There is a variety of games to play including cribbage, scrabble, drafts, dominoes and backgammon. You'll be guaranteed a cuppa, biscuits and a warm welcome, so do come and join in.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

WYCLIFFE BAPTIST
CHURCH
233 KINGS ROAD
READING
RG1 4LS

at

11.00 a.m.



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

NEWS FROM OXFORD DIOCESE

Archbishop praises Bishop Steven at last Synod

Bishop Steven attended his final General Synod before his retirement, and was bid a fond farewell on the final day in York.

At her first General Synod as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Sarah Mullally gave thanks to Bishop Steven for his “wisdom, care and focus” through his time as bishop, both with Oxford and, before that, Sheffield.

She said: “Throughout his ministering, the furthering of God's kingdom has rightly been at the heart of all that he has done and of his calling – whether it was as a diocesan mission consultant, training and forming ordinands when warden of Cranmer Hall, when in the role of the Archbishop's Missioner and team leader of Fresh Expressions, or during his time as the Bishop of Sheffield and subsequently Bishop of Oxford.” The Archbishop also recognised Bishop Steven's national contribution through the House of Lords, particularly around data ethics and artificial intelligence.

The Most Revd Sarah concluded: “This is not goodbye but farewell as you continue to seek God's guidance for your future. We are grateful for all that you have done as a disciple of Christ, and as you and Ann continue to walk the path ahead, be assured of our prayers for you.”

You can watch the whole of General Synod on YouTube by clicking [this link](#)



Revd Canon appears alongside TV personalities

Revd Canon Val Plumb, Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development in Buckinghamshire, was among the speakers at a fringe event at General Synod.

She appeared alongside *Dragons' Den* investor Deborah Meaden and TV presenter Chris Packham to talk about her private member's motion that calls on the Church Commissioners to protect nature “in line with the scale and urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises”.

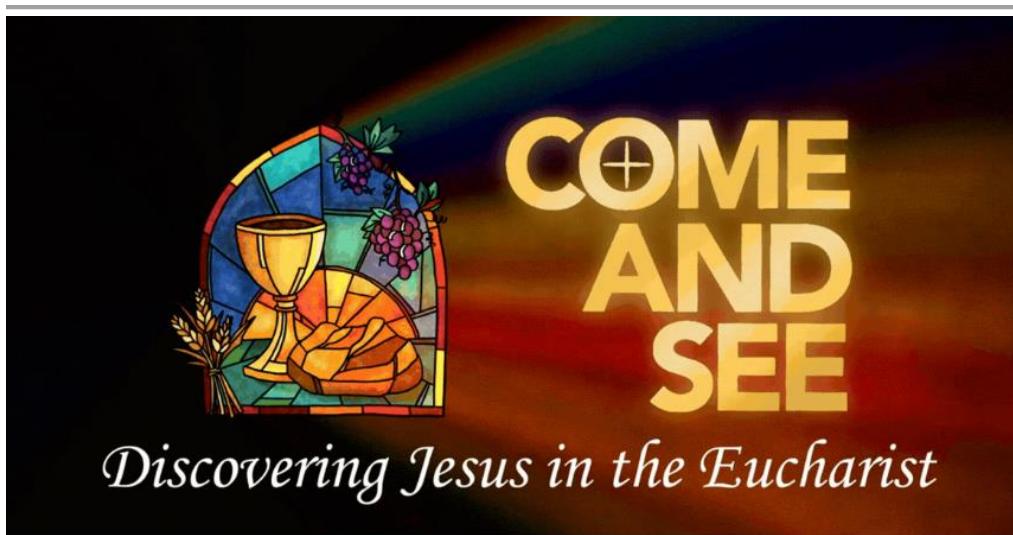
Revd Canon Plumb, acting in a personal capacity, said at the event: “If they can commit to protecting 30% of their land by 2030, the Commissioners can resurrect nature and restore hope in our future.”

NEWS FROM OXFORD DIOCESE

Vice-Chair reflects on LLF on BBC Radio Oxford

General Synod last week gave its backing to establishing working and consultative groups to continue work on same-sex relationships and marriage as its Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process comes to a conclusion. [Read the full story on the Church of England website.](#)

Reflecting on the issue on BBC Radio Oxford at the weekend, Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance Vice-Chair Julie Dziegief said: "There has been a lot of hurt and pain throughout the whole of this process. It is most acute in our LBGTQIA+ plus members, but also among those – and I count myself among them – that would support their position. That has to be deeply regretted and lamented."



There's still time to join Come and See

Lent has begun, and there's still time to join [Come and See](#), our free online journey exploring faith and spirituality.

This year, Bishop Steven guides us through the Eucharist, with short daily reflections and a weekly video.

[Sign up to receive the emails](#) and or join in with the lent course on a Monday evening in Church at 7.30pm. All welcome!

WCB

Woodley Concert Band

MUSICAL Landscapes

SATURDAY 21st MARCH
7PM

HARRIET WALTER THEATRE
REDDAM HOUSE SCHOOL, WOKINGHAM

VISIT WWW.WOODLEYCONCERTBAND.ORG.UK FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1059259

For Tickets and information go to:
<https://www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk/>