

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



Sunday 8th March 2026

3rd Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm: 95

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

Hymns

387 Jesus is Lord

15 All heaven declares

43 As the deer

785 Wait for the Lord

334 I heard the voice of Jesus say

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 9 Mar	Luke 4:24-30	2.30-3.30pm Tea & Tinies 7.30pm Lent Study Group
Tues 10 Mar	Matthew 18:21-end	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2pm Mothers' Union Lenten Serv
Weds 11 Mar	Matthew 5:17-19	11am Communion Service
Thurs 12 Mar	Luke 11:14-23	2pm Over 50s
Fri 13 Mar	Mark 12:28-34	10am- 12pm Full Hearts Friday 10am-12pm Community Coffee 2pm -4.30pm SNAC - Knit & Natter
Sat 14 Mar	Luke 18:9-14	

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

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

¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' John 4 :13-14

PRAYER

Collect: Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and Ever-Living God,
In this third week of our Lenten journey,
we thank you for the gift of your presence that sustains us.
We acknowledge our spiritual thirst,
confessing that we often seek satisfaction in things
that cannot truly fulfill us.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
pour your love into our hearts,
turning our weariness into hope
and our desert places into a watered garden,
so that we may carry out your work in the world.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

And a prayer for peace in our world

Creator God, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.
We pray for an end to violence, war, and bloodshed.
Guide world leaders with wisdom and courage to negotiate
with justice and truth.
Heal the hearts of those filled with hatred and comfort those grieving or
afraid.
Make us instruments of your peace, that we may work together to build a
future where all people live in safety, harmony, and love
Amen

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 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:

Gardening at St Nics

We will be attempting to do some gardening in the St Nics Garden this **Saturday 7 March from 9.30am until 12 pm**, weather permitting. Come for as long or as little as you like.

The next meeting of Mothers Union will be on Tuesday, March 10 at 2pm. We will be having a



Lent Service which is being lead by Daphne and Mark. All are welcome.



Richard Cocks will be here on Sunday 15th March with his Fairtrade stall so do remember to pop into the servery after the 10am service to purchase your goods.

Thank you to Joshua Townson, Generous Giving Advisor from Oxford Diocese who preached at last Sunday's Service on the subject of 'Giving'. If you are in a position to review your giving we would be very grateful. If you have a standing order please can you consider if you could put it up in line with inflation, 3.5%. If for instance you were giving £50 a month this would be an increase of £1.75. Also if you are a taxpayer you can sign up for Gift Aid which allows the church to reclaim basic rate tax (25%) on donations, boosting a £1 donation to £1.25 at no extra cost to you, And finally, if you don't regularly give please would you consider it? If you are not in a position to give via a standing order but would like to make a donation you can do so via the card machines, which are in the Church and Servery. Thank you

We have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting coming up on Sunday 26th April and will have the following elections:

1 x Churchwarden

3 x PCC Members

2 x Deanery Synod Reps

Please do take some time to consider if this is something you can do. If you would like more information please speak with one of the Churchwardens or Mark. Election forms will be going out shortly.



Lent Lunch on Sunday 22 March after the 10am service.

You are warmly invited to join us for a Lent Lunch in Church on Sunday 22 March around midday. This will be a simple meal of soup and bread. There is a **sign up sheet in Church** so please add your name if you wish to attend. If you are able to make soup or bread/bread rolls please note this on the sign up sheet or let the parish office know. Thank you.

Spiritual Exercises over 9 months

The Oxford Spiritual Exercises Network is advertising a 9-month course on the Ignatian Exercises starting this September. The course involves fortnightly in-person meetings on Mondays, 1.30-3.30pm at St Katharine's Parmoor. £800.

This is an opportunity to pray the full Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in a group cohort, as an extended retreat in daily life. Full details are on the attached poster and further information can be found at <https://margaretwhippultreia.org/to-love-and-to-serve/> or email oxfordsen@btinternet.com.

Oxford Spiritual Exercises Network

TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

Praying the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

September 2026 to May 2027

Fortnightly in person at St Katharine's Parmoor
Mondays 1.30-3.30pm
Group and one to one spiritual direction



- Love and follow Jesus;
- Expand and deepen prayer;
- Grow in spiritual freedom and discernment;
- Re-energise your ministry
- Respond faithfully to God's invitation.

Contact oxfordsen@btinternet.com to express interest or request application form

What is Lent for? Have look on our Facebook page and see

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1583699866185968?locale=en_GB

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram



https://www.facebook.com/earleystnics?locale=en_GB

or

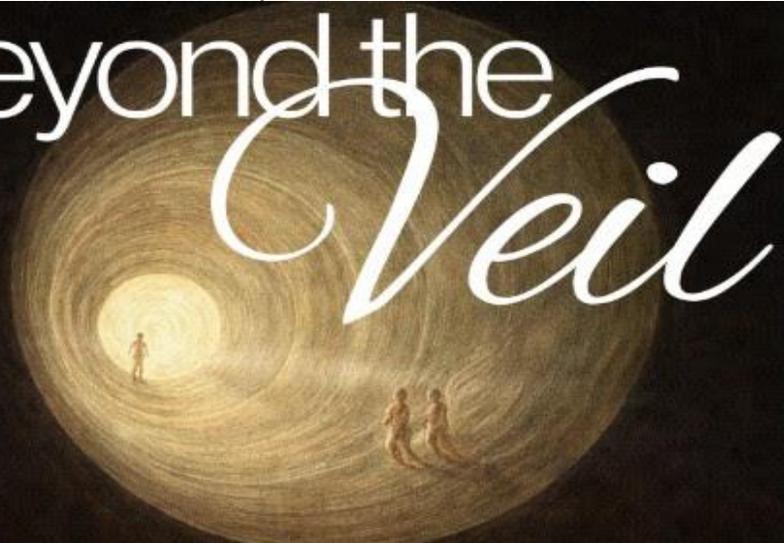


Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/stories/stnicolasearley/3846033786593429612/>

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

Reading Minster Lent Lecture – on Friday 27th March at 7pm Dr Marianne Rankin will speak about Spiritual and Near-Death Experiences across Faiths. The event is free to attend, open to all, and will also be livestreamed. Please see the poster below for more details.



beyond the Veil

Dr Marianne Rankin at Reading Minster

Spiritual and Near-Death Experiences across Faiths

The lecture will consider people's profound spiritual experiences and what we can learn from them.

Marianne is the author of 'An Introduction to Religious and Spiritual Experience'. She has studied the subject in depth across many faiths after years living in different countries and especially in the Far East.

This is an in-person Lent Event at Reading Minster. There will be light refreshments afterwards. The event is free, but voluntary donations towards expenses will be welcome.

Also available on Youtube. Reading Minster: www.youtube.com/@readingminster2354

READING MINSTER LENT LECTURE
FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 7PM

SALE

Ridgeline Trust

Growing together

Help Our Daffodils Bloom



Date: 8th March 2026

A celebration of spring featuring a display of daffodils, a plant sale (just in time for Mother's Day), and delicious refreshments. Free, though donations are welcomed to support the horticultural therapy work

**Location: Ridgeline Trust
Therapeutic Garden, 25
Whiteknights Rd, Reading
RG6 7BY**

**Timings: 2:00 PM – 4:00
PM**





March Exhibition in the Artspace in St Nics

Come and enjoy some lovely mixed media paintings by Carol Stephens for March. Carol is a local well known painter and runs art classes in different centres.

Our **Meet the Artist Event** is on **30th March 2pm - 4pm** at the St Nicolas Centre, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley RG6 7JN. We would love to see you there!



From bikes to bags, toasters to toys, lamps to laptops, chairs to chinos, the list goes on....

EARLEY REPAIR CAFE

Sunday 8th March, 10am - 1pm

Centrepont Community Centre (next to Lower Earley Library on Chalfont Close)



St Nicolas Afternoon Club

Easter Gift & Card Sale



Friday 20th March
from 10.30am – 4pm



There will be a lovely selection of
Handmade Gifts and Cards

Something for everyone of all ages

Tea/Coffee and delicious
homemade cakes will be available.

Please come along and meet your friends
and to support our Church.

