

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



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Acts 2:42-end

**Psalms:** 23

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Peter 2:19-end

**Gospel Reading:** John 10:1-10

**Hymns**

334 I heard the voice of Jesus say  
 715 The King of love my shepherd is  
 724 The Lord's my shepherd  
 340 I will sing the wondrous story  
 633 Put peace into each other's hands  
 663 Sing of the Lord's goodness

	<b>Bible Readings</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Mon 27 April</b>	John 10:1-10	<b>2.30-3.30pm Tea &amp; Tinies</b>
<b>Tues 28 April</b>	John 10:22-30	<b>10am-12pm Board Games Café</b>
<b>Weds 29 April</b>	John 12:44-end	<b>11am Communion Service</b>
<b>Thurs 30 April</b>	John 13:16-20	<b>2pm Over 50s</b> <b>2pm Net Zero Meeting</b> <b>7pm Carbon Literacy Course</b>
<b>Fri 1 May</b> <i>Phillip &amp; James, Apostles</i>	John 14:1-14	<b>10am-12pm Community Coffee</b> <b>10-11.30 Full Hearts Friday</b> <b>2pm-4.30pm SNAC-Knit &amp; Natter</b>
<b>Sat 2 May</b>	John 14:7-14	

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

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

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**John 10:7-10**

# 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 Prayer for the Fourth Week of Easter

Risen Lord,

You are the Good Shepherd who knows us by name  
and leads us into life.

In this Easter season, open our ears to hear your voice  
above the noise and distractions of our daily lives.

Give us the courage to follow where you lead,  
even when the path is unfamiliar or the valley is dark.  
Strengthen us to be your hands and feet in the world—  
seeking out the lost, binding up the broken,  
and welcoming the stranger into your fold.

We pray for your Church throughout the world,  
and for all who are discerning their vocation,  
that they may be filled with your Spirit of wisdom and grace.

Keep us always in the joy of your resurrection,  
that we may live as people of hope and witnesses to your love,  
now and forever.

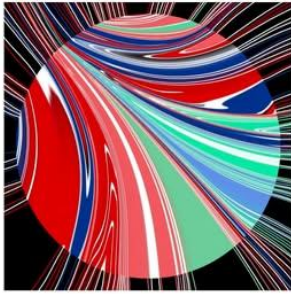
**Amen.**

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](mailto: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:

### Earth Day 2026 Our Power, Our Planet



Slippery slope  
Is there any turning back?  
Climate action now

Caring for Creation Together by Emma Major

importance of protecting the environment. This year's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet", celebrating the daily actions we can all take towards environmental progress.

We all have the power to create change and recommit ourselves being the good stewards that God calls us to be.

You can find out more about Earth Day and suggestions for actions we can take here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>

At St Nicolas, we are running a carbon literacy course and starting an exciting Net Zero Project to look at ways to reduce our carbon emissions.

Our Justice, Peace and Environment Group (JPEG) are reviewing our Eco Church status with a goal of applying, eventually, for a Gold Eco Church award.

St Nicolas is committing ourselves to change to project God's beautiful creation.

With thanks to Emma [@emmuk74](#) for sharing her painting and haiku poem from her book Caring for Creation Together.

**Wendy Neale**

For Christians, "Easter is not a single morning miracle". The Resurrection is a new beginning of love and hope, for us to take forward into the year.

As we are now living in a period of global instability, how can we take love and hope forward? Well, we do all have the power.

**Today, 22 April, is Earth Day**, an annual global event to highlight the

## APCM this Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Please come to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) this Sunday after the 10am Service. The APCM Booklet and Annual Accounts are available via the links in the Sunday sheet email and paper copies will be available on the day.

If you are interested in standing **for a place on PCC, Deanery Synod or as a Churchwarden the forms are available in church** please complete get a proposer and a seconder and then pass it to Vicki, Parish Admin before the meeting. If you would like the form emailed to you please email: [office@stnicolas.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk)



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### St Nicolas Net Zero Project - First Meeting Thursday 30 April at 2pm

We introduced our net zero project at the open meeting earlier this year. After receiving a grant from the Diocese of Oxford, we commissioned an expert to carry out a feasibility study into how St Nicolas can move to becoming a net zero carbon church. The measures identified include low-energy lighting, insulation, solar panels on the roof of Servedy and replacing our ageing gas boiler with an air-to-air heat pump. As well as reducing our carbon footprint, these measures would mean lower running costs in the long term and a more comfortable church. We also know that the roof of the church will need replacing soon, so it seems sensible to include this work in the scope of the project.

We will need people with a variety of skills to be part of the project team, but more importantly a passion to see our church develop and serve our community. There will, of course, be a financial cost, but we hope that we will be able to access grant funding for some of it. There will also be support from the Diocese to take the project forward.

**If you'd like to be part of the team, or just to find out more, please come along on Thursday 30 April at 2pm.** You can also contact Wendy if you'd like more information or would like to see a copy of the feasibility report ([wendy@stnicolas.org.uk](mailto:wendy@stnicolas.org.uk)).

Carbon Literacy  
Project



**Carbon Literacy for Congregations**  
Those who wish to join any of the Carbon Literacy Courses but who have missed the initial video-watching session still can.

The BBC documentary, Climate Change: the facts, can be watched on

IPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>.

Participants should also use the Carbon Calculator: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> (or, if this glitches, this one: <https://carbon-calculator.climatehero.org/>).

Both film and calculator will be discussed during the next session. **The next meeting of the Thursday evening group is on 30th April, 7-9pm.** Home Groups will continue with their normal fortnightly pattern.

Revd Dr Mark Laynesmith

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**The next St Nics Gardening session will be on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May from 9.30am to 11.30am**  
So if you fancy a bit of gardening and some good company feel free to come along. Many hands make light work!



If you like to follow the Sunday service online, please note you can now **download the service sheet from the website** each week should you wish to.



## St Nics needs You!

With so much going on at St Nics we need all hands on deck!

- We need Volunteers to **serve refreshments** when we are a **Polling Station on Thursday 7 May** throughout the day.
- We need volunteers to **serve refreshments** at various times through **Christian Aid week that's 10<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> May**
- We need volunteers to help with our Summer Fair on Saturday 6 June

If you are interested in helping with any of the above please email [office@stnicolas.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk) or call 01189669080. Thank you!

Oasis church reading

St Nicolas Church + Centre

♥ full hearts friday ♥

A garden playgroup for 0-4's with their grown-ups.

£2 per family

Fridays 10-11.30am  
St Nics Church Garden,  
Earley, RG67JN  
contact [louise.bisset@oasisuk.org](mailto:louise.bisset@oasisuk.org) 07340419693

Lets go outside

Crafts, toys, water play,  
books, songs, bubbles,  
snacks & friends

**Earley Environmental Group**



# DAWN CHORUS WALK

Led by

**Elaine Charlson and Cathy Garlick**



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Meet at 5.30am at the Interpretation  
Centre on Instow Road for a walk around  
Maiden Erlegh Local Nature Reserve.**

**Refreshments provided**



**BOOK YOUR  
SPOT**



**[nature@earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk](mailto:nature@earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk)**



# Summer Fair

**CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES!!!**

**Join Our Summer Fair!!**

We are excited to invite local small businesses, makers, and entrepreneurs to be a part of our upcoming Summer Fair - a vibrant community event.

Showcase your products to the local community and connect with new customers.

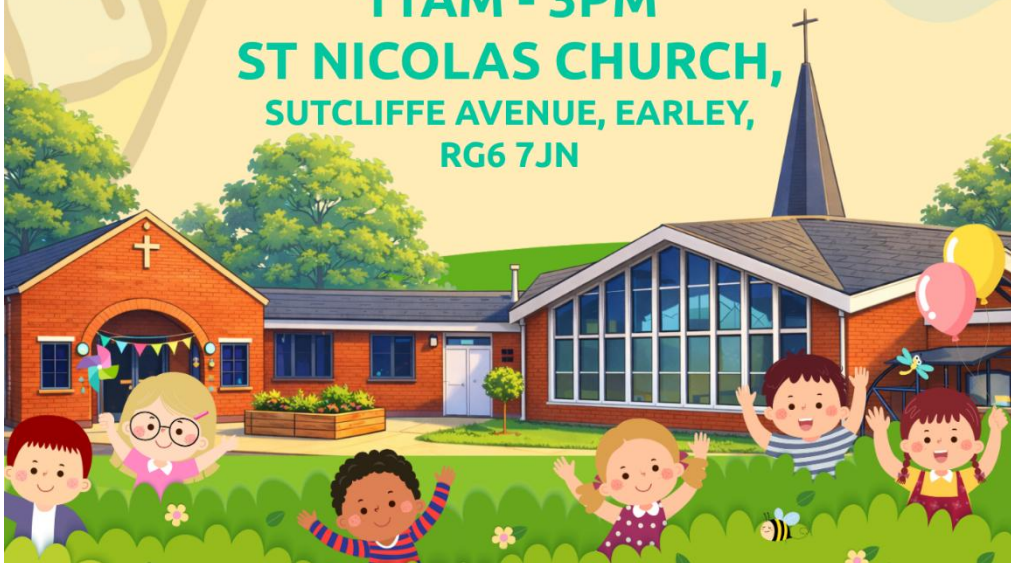
For further details please contact us on:

**[office@stnicolas.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk)**

**6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, SATURDAY**

**11AM - 3PM**

**ST NICOLAS CHURCH,  
SUTCLIFFE AVENUE, EARLEY,  
RG6 7JN**





# Family Workshop An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**A fun, interactive workshop for Adults, Carers,  
Grandparents and their Children aged 9+yrs**

## Explore the world of AI:

An interactive session designed specifically for children 9+years and their parents/ Carers to learn the basics of AI

## Learn to spot Real vs AI generated content:

Understand everyday uses, benefits and risks of AI

## Build confidence using AI tools:

Complete activities that help both children and parents/ carers develop practical digital skills



**Thursday  
28<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

9.30am – 10.30am  
OR  
11.00am - 12.00pm  
OR  
1.15pm – 2.15pm

**\*Booking Essential\***  
**Fee £12 per family**  
(maximum 2 children per adult)

Due to funding restrictions this workshop is only open to residents of RG1, RG2, RG4, RG6 and RG41

## Information and Booking:

The Earley Crescent Resource Centre · Warbler Drive, Lower Earley, Reading RG6 4HB



Bus Route 21 from Reading – Beech Lane



0118 9210555 · [www.earleycrescent.org](http://www.earleycrescent.org)

[training@earleycrescent.org](mailto:training@earleycrescent.org)



[www.facebook.com/earleycrescent/](https://www.facebook.com/earleycrescent/)

Charity No. 1092607 Company No. 4383491



## Reading Düsseldorf Churches Interchange: facilitating personal relationships and understanding

**Reading Düsseldorf Churches Interchange seeks to enable and foster personal friendship, understanding, learning and mutual respect among Christians of all denominations in Reading and Düsseldorf.**

Established in a time of great difficulty in the late 1940s, the Reading Düsseldorf Association (RDA) is the overall twinning link between our two cities. Now over 75 years old, it affords wonderful opportunities to explore many aspects of life and culture that we have in common. It is as strong today as ever and has many thriving aspects.

Reading Düsseldorf Churches Interchange (RDCI) is one of these aspects and has been in place for over 50 years. RDCI has developed strong links between Christians in Düsseldorf and Reading and, among other activities, presently runs week-long exchange visits twice every three years, with programmes based on a topical theme. Participants stay in one another's homes, visit places of interest, share meals, discuss hot topics, attend worship and enjoy one another's company. In between exchange visits there are other local social events and an annual service, and we also keep in touch with Reading and Düsseldorf members via online meetings.

Our most recent visit to Düsseldorf was in June 2023, with the theme 'our changing climate', and the next one will take place from 22-29 August this year. These visits are full of interesting encounters and experiences.



*RDCI participants visiting an open cast lignite coal mine near Düsseldorf during the 2023 exchange visit, to learn at first hand more of the issues around the visit's theme, 'Our changing climate'.*

The most recent visit to Reading was in July 2025, when the theme was 'Migration'. The programme is on our website at [Reading Düsseldorf Churches Interchange/welcome](https://www.readingdusseldorfchurches.org/welcome).

**RDCI welcomes new participants.** Anyone interested in participating in RDCI, and possibly also in an exchange visit, is encouraged to make contact to learn more. Hosting our guests is a rewarding though by no means required element. **Local organisers and contact information are to be found at [www.readingdusseldorfchurches.org/contactus](https://www.readingdusseldorfchurches.org/contactus)**

**Everyone's interest and involvement are most welcome - please just contact any one of us.**

## Stanzas of Grace and Light



Written by Emma Major

### Emma's book .....

If you missed Emma's Book Launch and Poetry reading in Church last week you can now watch it on YouTube, just click the link below. If you would like a copy of the book please let the Parish office know and I can pass this onto Emma.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXfA9nLwVUc>

## Following Jesus



Exhibition of Paintings  
by Emma Major

### ....And Artwork

It is also the final week of Emma's artwork exhibition in the St Nicolas centre, so if you haven't managed to come and see it yet it is well worth a visit.

Thank you Emma for sharing your beautiful artwork with us!

**Reading Students' Union**

**100 YEARS 1926 2026 UNIVERSITY OF READING**

**2026**

# CENTENARY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Saturday 16 May | 12:00-5:00 pm | Community Festival, Whiteknights Campus  
Sunday 17 May | 12:00-5:00 pm | RAG Parade and Forbury Gardens Celebration

Find out more and register at: [rdg.ac/centenaryfestival](https://rdg.ac/centenaryfestival)

**LLOYDS**  
Proud sponsors of the Community Festival

Register at <https://www.reading.ac.uk/community-festival/>

# Spring Plant Sale

Sunday, 3rd May, St Nicolas Church  
11:00am - 1:00pm

Avoncourt  
Fuchsias



There will be a selection of Hardy, Trailing, Patio Pot Fuchsias to choose from and Zonal, Scented and Coloured Leaf Geraniums.

Lots of Cultivars you will not find in garden centres.

Cultural Advice will be available.

