

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



Sunday 17th May 2026

7th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10,32-end

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11

Hymns

399 Jesus shall reign

378 Jesus calls us here to meet him

327 I cannot tell

15 All heaven declares

228 Glory to God above

127 Come let us join our cheerful

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 18th May	John 16.29-end	2pm Tea & Tinies
Tues 19th May	John 17.1-11	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2pm Memory Café
Weds 20th May	John 17.11-19	11am Communion Service 7.30pm PCC Meeting
Thurs 21st May	John 17.20-end	2pm Over 50s 7pm Carbon Literacy Course
Fri 22nd May	John 17.20-end	10am-12pm Community Coffee 10-11.30 Full Hearts Friday 2pm-4.30pm SNAC-Knit & Natter
Sat 23rd May	John 21.15-19	

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

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

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
 “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on

earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. **John 17:1-5**

PRAYER

Collect: Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

A Prayer for the Seventh Week of Easter

Lord Jesus,
Pray for Your Church,
that we may be one as You and the Father are one.
Strengthen our witness in word and deed,
that our lives may speak of Your mercy and truth.
Bless our leaders with wisdom,
our communities with compassion,
and our world with peace.
As we await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,
teach us to pray with expectant hearts,
to serve with willing hands,
and to love with the love that You have shown us.
Through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord,
now and for ever.
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:

Update St Nics Summer Fair Saturday 6th June

The Summer fair is getting close and we can't do this without your help. We need you to help in the following ways:

- **We need Tombola Prizes (all brand new please)**– a few ideas below all donations can be left in the box in church – Bags of Sweets, Bottles of non alcoholic drinks, olive oil, bubble bath, colouring books, playing cards, Scented candles, mini hand creams, face masks, bath bombs.
- **Plants for the St Nics Plant stall.** If you have any spare plants after the spring sowing or have extra house plant cuttings, please let the office know so we can plan accordingly.
- **Gazebos** – if you have a gazebo we can borrow on the day please let the office know.
- **Garden** – to help clear a section of the garden for the flood (see poster on page 11)
- **You!** – we need lots of volunteers to help on the day- to set up, man stalls, help welcome visitors, help clear away! Please sign up on the church in church if you haven't already or email the office office@stnicolas.org.uk

This is our first big Summer in event in some years so please help us make it a success! Thank you 😊



You're invited this Saturday

Maggie Carter will be having a celebration in the servery on **Saturday 16th May** to mark her 80th Birthday and you're invited! You are welcome to pop in anytime between **12pm and 4pm** to raise a glass and enjoy some nibbles and wish Maggie many happy returns!

Hope happens here.

Week of Action: 13-20 May

Hundreds of charities (including Christian Aid), communities and faith groups (including Churches Together in England) have come together to launch A Million Acts of Hope. It's a national

invitation to celebrate the everyday acts of kindness, care and connection happening across the UK.

At a time when division can feel loud, A Million Acts of Hope wants to bring together all these everyday acts of hope and shine a light on the people and communities making them happen.

Like us here at St Nicolas. We have Tea and Tinies, Board Games Cafe, Coffee and Chat, Memory Cafe, SNAC, the Pastoral Care Team, regular donations to Woodley Foodbank, The Mothers' Union, the Art Space, the Community Garden and more.

Please look out for the posters around the Church and Centre and add your messages about what gives you hope or what you hope for in our local community. The more we see hope, the more hopeful we can be. You can also join the Fairtrade Foundation and donate a Fairtrade item to Woodley Foodbank. By donating a Fairtrade item to the basket in the church lobby, you are both supporting the people who grow our food, and the people in the UK who need it most. **Thank you.**

For more information: <https://millionactsofhope.org/>



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 Nicos Church Garden,
Earley, RG67JN

*Let's go
outside!*

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

contact louise.bisset@oasisuk.org 07340419693



Artist Trading Card event 24th May

Artist Trading Cards (ATCs) are miniature 2.5 x 3.5 inch works of art created for trading rather than for sale.

We are running an Artist Trading Card event in Art Space in St Nicolas on Sunday the 24th May after Church and from 1-3 pm. Artists of any skill level can come the cafe area to show their work and swap unique, mixed-media miniature 2D creations on cards size 2.5 x 3.5 inches/64 x 89 mm which is the traditional size for this type of work. This photo shows the type of

card already created! It would be lovely if you could join in and resources will be provided if you want to have a go. Please tell others as I am always surprised who finds this sort of art great fun to do!

Liz Kerry

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



LLOYDS
Proud sponsors of the
Community Festival



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!
17th March 21st April 19th May

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](https://www.facebook.com/Earleystnics)

Charity No: 1138037



Bishop Steven signs Armed Forces Covenant

The Diocese of Oxford affirmed its commitment to supporting service personnel across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire by signing the Armed Forces Covenant at a special service this week. The covenant was signed on behalf of the diocese by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, during choral evensong at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on Tuesday night.

Also adding their signatures were Major General Peter Rowell, Commandant of the Defence Academy at Shrivenham, and the Dean of Christ Church, the Very Revd Prof Sarah Foot.

The Armed Forces Covenant, established by the Armed Forces Act of 2011, recognises a duty of care owed by society to those who put themselves in harm's way.

Following the signing, Bishop Steven said: "As a diocese we are keen to support the service communities across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, and their families.

"Today's signing marks a significant step in formalising our commitment to do this and is a recognition of all that our armed forces give through their dedication and service."

Bishop Steven celebrates final Ascension Day

As Bishop Steven prepares to lay down his ministry as Bishop of Oxford later this year, this year's Ascension Day carries special significance.

Today, marking his final celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven as Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Steven will attend the Annual Meeting of the College of Canons at Christ Church in Oxford.

Reflecting on what Ascension Day means, Bishop Steven said: "It is not only about Christ's departure, but about hope, calling and the continuing presence of God in the life of the Church and the world.

"Ascension reminds us that Christ reigns not far away from the world, but over the whole of creation in love. It calls the Church to lift its eyes beyond fear and anxiety and to live with hope, courage and compassion." [Read more](#)

Bishop Steven's retirement – collection and links

It is now possible to contribute to a collection for a special gift for Bishop Steven to mark his retirement this summer.

If you wish to contribute to Bishop Steven's collection then please use the following account details, remembering to use the reference 'Bishop Gift':

- *Bank: NatWest*
- *Account name: Oxford Diocesan Finance Fund*
- *Sort code: 60-03-57*
- *Account number: 78826411*
- *Reference: Bishop Gift*

People wishing to leave a message for Bishop Steven over the next few weeks can do so [on this page](#).

Bishop Steven's retirement will be marked at a ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford on 31 May, starting at 5pm.

You can [livestream the service here](#).



Erleigh
Cantors



CHAMBER CHOIR DIRECTED BY IAN WESTLEY

OBOE AND COR ANGLAIS: Frances Jones

ACCOMPANIST: Martin Jones

READER: Merry Evans

MUSIC FROM ITALY AND ENGLAND

CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC FOR CHOIR, OBOE AND COR ANGLAIS

SATURDAY 6 JUNE 7.00 PM

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

including music by:

Vaughan Williams, Rutter, Monteverdi,

Gabrieli, Gesualdo and Lasso,

and

Ronald Corp – *Missa San Marco*

**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

or email maggie.nunn@btinternet.com.



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.

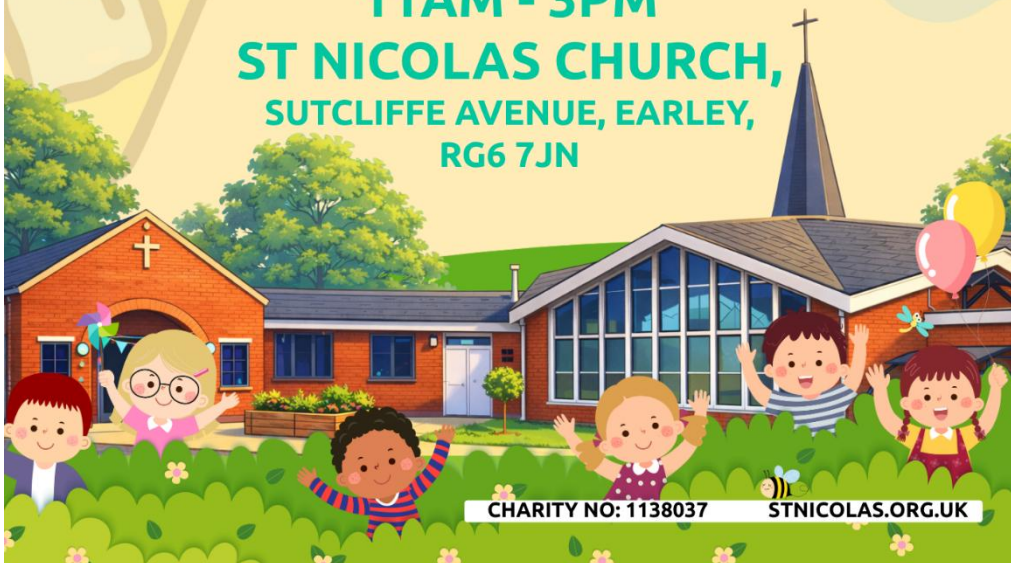
For further details please contact us on:

office@stnicolas.org.uk

6TH JUNE, SATURDAY

11AM - 3PM

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



CHARITY NO: 1138037

STNICOLAS.ORG.UK

Gardeners we need you!

On Saturday 30th May from 9.30am we need help to clear a section in the garden ready for the 'flood' (see poster below) which will take place at the Summer fair at 1pm. Please make a note in your diary as we need as much help as possible. Thank you 😊



Do you care about the environment?

Do you have cardboard in your recycling?

Do you wonder what would happen if there was a huge flood?

Could you make a mini cardboard building?

Then we need you to....

Build a Recycled Community Together

**THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK**



**Bring your mini buildings along to
St Nicolas Summer Fete on
Saturday 6th June 2026
Between 11am and 12 midday**

**Flood starts
at 1pm**

**Mini: you can hold
your building in
one hand**

St Nicolas Church Garden
Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley. RG6 3BY



St Nicolas
Church + Centre



If you are struggling to get started on a template to make you mini building one is available from the Parish Office office@stnicolas.org.uk

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



Summer Fair

**FREE
ENTRY**

Join us for a day full of sunshine,
laughter and community spirit!!

You can bring your own blankets for a picnic....

- Live music & entertainment
- Delicious food & refreshing drinks
- Homemade Cakes
- Fun Games
- Local Stalls
- Jewellery
- Art & Crafts
- Candles
- Books

6TH JUNE, SATURDAY

11AM - 3PM

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

For further details please contact us on
office@stnicolas.org.uk



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