

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



**Sunday 12 July 2026 -Trinity 6**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 55.10-13  
**Psalm:** 65 8-end  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Romans 8.1-11  
**Gospel:** Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

**Hymns**  
 491 Love divine  
 322 I am a new creation  
 533 Now the green blade riseth  
 853 You shall go out with joy

	<b>Bible Readings</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Mon 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 10.34-11.1	<b>2.30pm Tea &amp; Tinies</b>
<b>Tues 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 11.20-24	<b>10am-12pm Board Games Café</b> <b>2pm Mothers Union Summer Party</b> 7.30pm PCC Meeting
<b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 11.25-27	<b>11am Communion Service</b>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 11.28-end	<b>2pm Over 50s</b>
<b>Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 12.1-8	<b>10am -11.30am Full Hearts Friday</b> <b>10am-12pm Community Coffee</b> <b>2pm-4.30pm SNAC-Knit &amp; Natter</b>
<b>Sat 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Matthew 12.14-21	

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

<sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

**Matthew 13:20-23**

# PRAYER

**COLLECT:** Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Loving God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you,  
that we, loving you above all things,  
may obtain your promises which  
exceed all that we can desire;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **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.

Please feel free to join our **6pm Prayer Group every Sunday** where we will be praying for the needs of the world and our community.

This is back on Zoom now, to join please click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83985221424?pwd=iYlbb3mjOd4gSviyUwVgp7fBOGRAbP.1>

Meeting ID: 839 8522 1424

Passcode: 981055

## NOTICES:



**Mothers Union Summer Party this Tuesday 14th July**

Please come along for tea and cake and enjoy a good chat with one another.

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### St Nics Whatsapp

I am pleased to say that Emma Major has offered to be the admin for the St Nics Whatsapp Group so if you would like to join please email your name and phone number to [office@stnicolas.org.uk](mailto:office@stnicolas.org.uk) and we will add you in.



**No Cake and Craft on Sunday 26 July** but it will be back on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September so don't forget to make a note in your diary!

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**Artspace in St Nics July Exhibition** - Adelle Antony first exhibition with us is called 'Time and Eternity' and 'Held in Time'.

'Time and Eternity' is based on a series of paper chains using paper ephemeral. Things like old note book pages belonging to her grandparents, sweet wrappers and other mundane personal material are used to express the transcendental nature of the present. 'Held in Time' are prints to show the continuity of time, and asks you to stop and be present.

Our 'Meet the Artist' is 1pm - 3pm this Saturday 11th July in the Coffee area of the St Nicolas Centre.

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### Oxford Diocese Course:

#### Introduction to Positive Mental Fitness and Faith

Online. Monday evenings from 7 Sept to 12 Oct. 8-9pm

A six-week online course facilitated by Jackie Meek from Future Path Life Coaching. This course explores how strengthening your positive mental fitness muscles can liberate you from thoughts that steal the fruitful abundant lives that are ours in Christ.

£35 per person

For more information and to book your place, email

[jackie@futurepathlifecoaching.co.uk](mailto:jackie@futurepathlifecoaching.co.uk)

# The People's Emergency Briefing



10th July



14th August




**Our food, energy, water and national security are increasingly threatened. This film by leading experts, hosted by Chris Packham & Deborah Meaden, brings you the latest evidence, science, and ideas for change**

**on 2 Fridays, 10<sup>th</sup> July & 14<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm, in the Shinfield Cinema, School Green, RG2 9EH**

***WATCH the film and KNOW the facts, SHARE your thoughts with others, JOIN the national conversation, and ACT with your community***

**A 50-minute film followed by friendly discussion + Q&A**

  
Booking pages

<https://tinyurl.com/Shinf-10July>

<https://tinyurl.com/Shinf-14Aug>

*or use one of the QR codes above*



***From Bishop Gavin...***

There are some places that never quite leave you. For me, the Holy Land is one of them.

In my late teens, I had the joy of spending six months living and working on a kibbutz in the Galilee region of Israel. It was a remarkable experience that allowed me to travel widely across the country. We would hitchhike through the West Bank, visit Jerusalem and Jericho, and encounter people from many different backgrounds and traditions. Looking back now, I realise what a privilege it was to experience such freedom of movement and to glimpse something of the extraordinary richness and complexity of the land where Jesus lived and ministered. It breaks my heart to see the suffering, division and fear that have become such a defining part of life there today.

Like many of you, I have watched events unfold in recent years with a deep sense of grief. We have seen lives lost, families torn apart and communities devastated. The Holy Land, which has shaped the faith of Christians for two thousand years, has become a place where so many people now live with violence, uncertainty and loss.

As Christians, our first instinct is rightly to pray.

We pray because we believe God hears us. We pray because we know that Christ himself wept over Jerusalem and longed for peace. We pray because, when the needs of the world seem overwhelming, prayer reminds us that the world remains in God's hands.

But as I have prayed about the Holy Land, I have found myself asking another question. What does faithful prayer lead to?

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus' compassion is never passive. Time and again he sees, he is moved, and he acts. His love is expressed not only in words but in deeds.

As those who seek to follow him, we are called to ask ourselves how our own compassion finds expression in the way we live.

I wonder, when we pray for peace, are we also willing to become peacemakers? When we pray for justice, are we willing to support those who seek it? When we pray for those who suffer, are we prepared to stand alongside them in whatever ways are open to us? None of us can solve a conflict as deep and complex as this. Yet none of us is called simply to turn away because the challenge feels too great.

[The Time to Act campaign](#) has been shaped by the appeal of Palestinian Christians, who have asked the worldwide Church not simply to remember them in prayer, but also to respond in practical ways. I believe we should listen carefully when our brothers and sisters in Christ ask us not to forget them.

This campaign offers one way of responding to that invitation. It encourages Christians to continue praying, to learn more deeply about the realities facing those who live in the Holy Land, and to add their voice to others calling for a just and lasting peace.

Each of us must decide prayerfully how we respond. But I hope none of us will allow the enormity of the situation to persuade us that our response does not matter.

The Christian story is one of hope. Not because the world is always as it should be, but because God is faithful, even in the darkest places. That hope calls us to pray. It calls us to persevere. And it calls us to act. My prayer is that, as we continue to pray for the Holy Land, God would give us ears that are willing to listen, minds that are ready to learn, and the courage to act where he calls us. May we each play our part in seeking justice, upholding the dignity of every person, and working for a just peace for all who call the Holy Land home.

+Gavin

[Visit the Just Peace coalition website](#) to sign the petition and join the growing movement of people committed to listening, learning, living differently and taking faithful action.

## Bishop Mary in conversation with Krish Kandiah

When conversations about migration become increasingly polarised, how should Christians respond? That was one of the questions explored by best-selling author, broadcaster and founder of the Sanctuary Foundation, Krish Kandiah, as he joined Bishop Mary for the latest episode of her Common Ground podcast.

Drawing on decades of experience working with refugees, foster families and churches across the UK, Krish argued that Christians are called to offer a different story – one rooted not in political ideology but in the life and teaching of Jesus.

[Read more](#) | [Listen on Spotify](#) | [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)



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# Art Class with Jonathan Newey ● ● ● ● ●

**Coastline in bright colours with palette knife painting & acrylic**



**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July**  
**9.30-4pm**

@ Earley Crescent Resource Centre,  
Warbler Drive, Lower Earley RG6  
4HB (next to police station)

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To book contact Jonathan on  
[jnewey210@gmail.com](mailto:jnewey210@gmail.com) or  
call: 07947237505 or scan QR code

**£48 pp**



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# PORTRAITS OF RESILIENCE



Featuring portraits and personal stories that explore journeys of sanctuary, courage and belonging.

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## A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION CELEBRATING REFUGEE WEEK

In collaboration with [jjkeithphotography](#) and [Open Britain](#).

Wokingham Library  
6<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July  
Free Admission

