



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



Sunday 2 August 2026 - Trinity 9

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm: 145:8-9, 15-end

2nd Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Hymns

33 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

745 There's a quiet understanding

328 I come with joy

273 Great is your faithfulness

	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 3rd Aug	Matthew 14.22-end	2.30pm Tea & Tinies
Tues 4th Aug	Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14	10am-12pm Board Games Café 2.30pm
Weds 5th Aug	Matthew 15.21-28	11am Communion Service 7pm Dialogue Society Mtg
Thurs 6th Aug <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Luke 9.28-36	2pm Over 50s- tbc
Fri 7th Aug	Matthew 16.24-end	10am-12pm Community Coffee 2pm-4.30pm SNAC-Knit & Natter
Sat 8th Aug	Matthew 17.14-20	

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

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

¹⁶Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. **Matthew 14:16-21**

PRAYER

COLLECT: Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
you made us for yourself,
yet our hearts are often restless.
Pour your Spirit into our lives,
and ground us in your peace.
When the world distracts us,
remind us of your grace.
Help us hold lightly to earthly things,
and live as faithful stewards of your kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 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:

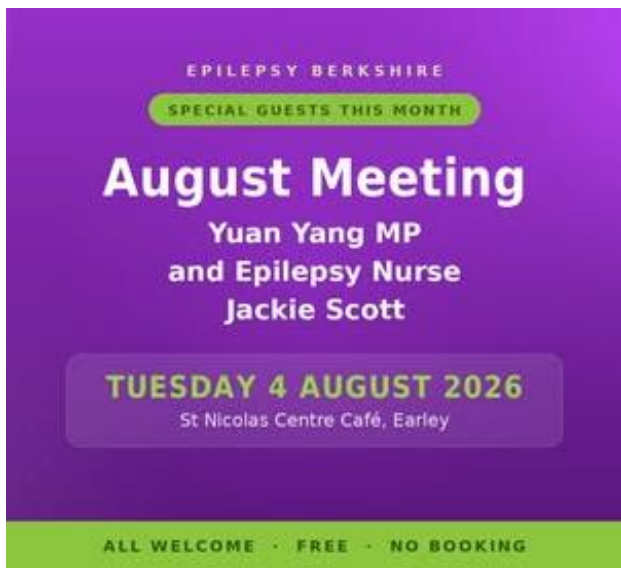
St Nicolas Summer Bring and Share Lunch Sun 9th August

We are having a Summer get together after the Service next Sunday so if you would like to come along please either sign up in church and tick what you will be bringing or email the Parish Office at office@stnicolas.org.uk and I can let you know what items are on the list.

Message from Marjory Codling

Thank you so much for the beautiful orchids which arrived today and have pride of place in the living room. We will miss you all and miss St Nicolas Church. We joined in 1966 and through the years, the children sang in the choir, we all took part in concerts, pantomimes, Easter plays and Christmas fetes. St Nicolas church and the congregation were an important part of our lives. So much to be grateful for for.

All best wishes, Marjory

A purple poster for the August Meeting of Epilepsy Berkshire. At the top, it says 'EPILEPSY BERKSHIRE' in white. Below that, a green oval contains the text 'SPECIAL GUESTS THIS MONTH'. The main title 'August Meeting' is in large white letters. Below it, the names 'Yuan Yang MP and Epilepsy Nurse Jackie Scott' are listed in white. A green box at the bottom contains the text 'TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026' in white, with 'St Nicolas Centre Café, Earley' in smaller white text below it. At the very bottom, a green bar contains the text 'ALL WELCOME · FREE · NO BOOKING' in white.

EPILEPSY BERKSHIRE
SPECIAL GUESTS THIS MONTH
August Meeting
Yuan Yang MP
and Epilepsy Nurse
Jackie Scott
TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026
St Nicolas Centre Café, Earley
ALL WELCOME · FREE · NO BOOKING

If you live with epilepsy or are a carer or a family member and can get to Epilepsy Berkshire's meeting, please come along. Having a member of parliament and an epilepsy nurse together, is a rare opportunity to ask questions and offer thoughts as to how parliament should support the epilepsy community. Meeting 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Dialogue Society Meeting this Wednesday 5th August in the Servery 7pm to 9pm This month's topic is 'the purpose of life'. Everyone welcome.



Hope you're all still enjoying our glorious summer.
We thought we'd provide an update from us.

Currently, we are experiencing what many would call a 'Perfect Storm', where demand has increased, and donations have decreased considerably over a period of time.

So, our plea is a simple one, if you are able to help us, we would truly appreciate anything, to add to our shelves.

We are particularly asking (if possible) for the following items to help.

- Soups (meat and Veg)
- Tinned Desserts
- Custard (Tinned and packet)
- Meat meals (Fray Bentos pies etc)
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned spaghetti - hoops etc
- Cereals
- Biscuits and Crisps
- Loo Rolls
- Packet noodles
- Pasta sauces

Sadly all these items are in short supply.

However, if a financial donation is preferable, this can be achieved on our website below and we can then replenish in your name.

Thank you all for reading, we understand times are extremely challenging, however, we cherish each and every one of you.

Warmest Regards, Your Woodley Foodbank Team

<https://woodleyfoodbank.org/>

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

GREEN FAIR 2026

SATURDAY
1ST AUGUST
10AM TO 3PM

**FREE
ENTRY**

**MAIDEN ERLEGH
NATURE RESERVE**
(BEECH LANE END)



www.facebook.com/earleytowncouncilofficial
www.earley-tc.gov.uk

HOMEMADE CAKES



PLANT STALLS



GIFTS & GOODIES

GARDEN GAMES



MEET ONE OF THE
NEWLY NAMED
ROADSWEEPERS & MUCH MORE!





God said 'Rest' and they all slept late

Those are the closing words from *When the World was New* by Alicia Gracia de Lynam; a wonderful retelling of the biblical accounts of creation for children.

'God said "rest" and they all slept late' is an expression of God's rest on the seventh day of creation. (In another of my children's books on creation, God is depicted putting his feet up on a planet on this seventh day! Can you tell that I love children's books?).

This is not the only time that God models or mandates rest, of course. Keeping a sabbath – a day without work – is one of the Ten Commandments, and there is rest for the land, too; every seven years a jubilee when the fields lie fallow, wildlife is undisturbed and all of creation 'sleeps late'.

After the joyful intensity of ordinations and the tearful end-of-term rituals for every child moving on to new educational settings, or to work; after the re-creation of an earlier England in the church fete, and the high-octane competition of the village show, we might find ourselves moving into a more fallow season when we breathe more deeply; have time to consider the lilies of the field.

To all of you gearing up to lead holiday clubs or to host many summer weddings, who may now be laughing with deep irony – I see you and

hear you! Thank you for making your summer a time of service. Even so, I hope that everyone's summer has some space for idling away the hours; for settling a knotted handkerchief on your head and paddling in the sea; for reading a book in the shade; for napping like your Nanna; to be 'busy doing nothing'. Exhale.

And I hope that your learning of leisure over these weeks can be applied to every week. Not just a day off a week, but 36 hours – not including sleeping time! – has been mandated by General Synod for clergy and this should be the absolute minimum for busy lay people too. To rest in this way – and to go on retreat, and to take all your holiday – is good stewardship of the life that God has given you. To rest is holy. And it is worship; an acknowledgement that God has ordered the world this way, that the kingdom isn't dependent on your industry; that when you stop, still God's work advances.

Over recent weeks I've had the joy of hosting Berkshire clergy and their partners who have school-aged children for supper. There we've had great conversations about the priority of family life; about how being a priest doesn't trump being a partner and a parent or, for that matter, a child of God. Instead, these vocations should be woven together, held in balance, where one serves the other, where going to your child's dance competition (or darts match) is as important as the PCC, where honouring your parents preaches as clearly as any well-crafted sermon. (And, for that matter, where your sermon might be silenced if there's no integrity between how you live and what you preach.)

So can we become a people who hold one another to account for this integrated, holy life, where resting is honoured, where pause and pace are privileged parts of our lives together, where we celebrate stopping as well as honouring sacrifice.

And now – pull up a stool (or a planet) and put your feet up and know that this, too, is living as God intended.

Bishop Mary



St Nicolas
Church + Centre



Summer SUNBURST!

POP-UP FAMILY ACTIVITY SESSION
FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

10.30AM-12.30PM ST NICOLAS CENTRE HALL & GARDEN

**CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, TREASURE HUNT,
GARDEN GAMES, SNACKS & CAFE,
COMMUNITY FUN. PARENTS STAY
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