

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

Sunday 20 Sept 2026 - Trinity 16

Season of Creation

1st Reading: Jonah 3.10—end of 4

Psalm: 145.1–8

2nd Reading: Philippians 1.21–end

Gospel: Matthew 20.1–16

Hymns

349 Immortal, invisible

686 Take my hands, Lord

542 O give thanks to the Lord

275 Guide me O thou great Redeemer



	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 21st Sept <i>Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	Matthew 9.9–13	2.30pm Tea & Tinies
Tues 22nd Sept	Luke 8.19–21	10am-12pm Board Games Café
Weds 23rd Sept	Luke 9.1–6	11am Communion Service
Thurs 24th Sept	Luke 9.7–9	10.45am Delia Turner's Funeral & Wake 2pm Over 50s
Fri 25th Sept	Luke 9.18–22	10am-12pm Macmillan Coffee Morning 2pm-4pm SNAC-Knit & Natter
Sat 26th Sept	Luke 9.43b –45	10am Decorating Church for Harvest

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

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



PRAYER

COLLECT: Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving and righteous God,
you are far more generous to us,
and to all who work in your kingdom,
than we desire or deserve.
Make us generous to others
as you have been to us.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
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

Cake and Craft Stall after the 10am Service this week!

Delia Turner's Funeral

Delia's Funeral will take place on **Thursday 24th September at 10.45am** in Church followed by refreshments in the servery and hall. You would be most welcome to come and pay your respects and share your memories of this lovely lady.



It's our **Macmillan coffee morning next Friday 25th September 10am-12pm** so do please come to the servery and enjoy

some homemade cake and a cuppa. If you are able to bake a cake please let Vicki in the office know. Remember all funds raised go the Macmillan Cancer support!

Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

4 Oct Baptism in the 10am Service of Baby Luca

4 Oct Richard Cocks Fairtrade Stall after 10am Service

11 Oct Tina & Ella's Baptism in 10am Service

1 Nov 4pm All Souls Service

6 Dec Patronal Festival Bring and Share Lunch after 10am Service

12 Dec 1pm-4pm Christmas Fair –details to follow, volunteers needed!

Season of Creation at St Nic's



Thanks to everyone who has already filled out our lifestyle survey

at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/eWxZrCCQf1>.

If you haven't yet, there's still time - please do take a look. Or pick up a paper version near the door in church.

Green Tip: 22 September is World Car Free Day. Passenger vehicles account for about 17% of the UK's carbon emissions. We can reduce these by driving smaller cars, car sharing, keeping the car in good condition (especially tyre pressure and the exhaust system), using a cleaning agent and/or better fuel, driving smoothly at a consistent speed, turning the engine off whenever stationary, avoiding using AC, removing roof racks when not in use, planning ahead to combine trips or using the very handy train and bus services in Earley.



It's **Harvest Festival** next **Sunday 27th September** so we will be **decorating Church on Saturday 26th Sept from 10am, if you are able to lend a helping hand we would love to see you** If you can donate any **hydrangea heads with stems please leave them in the lobby by 10am on Sat (26th Sept)** so we can use them in the decoration, don't worry if they have turned brown we can still use them. If you have any queries please speak to Jane (Churchwarden).

Please do stay after the Harvest service on 27th for danish pastries and coffee/tea, we would love to see you.

We are again supporting **Woodley Foodbank and CIRDIC with Harvest donations** so if you are able please **bring them to the service on 27th September**, list of the items they require are as below:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sugar• Coffee• Pasta• Cereals• Pasta Sauce• Spaghetti (dried)• Noodles (incl Pot Noodles)• Tinned Vegetables (all types, incl potatoes)• Tinned pies (Fray Bentos Meat and Veg varieties)• Tinned fish• Tinned fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tinned Soups (Veg and Meat)• Meat meals (tinned)• Biscuits• Crisps• Custard - tinned and dried• Tinned Desserts• Long Life milk• Juice (cordial and long life)• Toothbrushes and toothpaste• Shampoo and Shower Gel• Deodorants (M&F)• Toilet Rolls• |
|--|--|

Thank you!

Fairtrade Fortnight

21st Sept - 4th Oct



The theme for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight is "Do it Fair", but as Christians it's not just a slogan we adopt for two weeks. It's what the Bible says we are called to do, week in and week out.

The people who produce our chocolate or grow our tea are our neighbours. We should show them loving kindness and care whether they are being treated justly. When farmers and workers are paid fairly, they are able to provide for their families, tackle the challenges of the climate crisis and live a happier life.

St Nicolas is proud to be a Fairtrade church. We can all play our part by choosing Fairtrade and Fairtrade products are available in pretty much all supermarkets. We also welcome Richard Cocks who will be bringing his Fairtrade stall to St Nicolas after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday 4 October.

Businesses that put profit over people and planet are still the norm. Please also sign the petition in church or [online](#), asking the government for legislation to guarantee that everything we buy in the UK is produced with fair pay, safe working conditions, and care for the environment.

We all have the power to create a fairer world for the people behind the products we love, and for the planet. Fairtrade Fortnight now falls within The Season of Creation. Farmers are among those who are most vulnerable to climate impact and care for the environment is an integral part of Fairtrade standards.



Felix Tetteh, a cocoa farmer from Ghana says, "Climate change is now one of the greatest threats to cocoa farming in Africa. In my community, the rains no longer come when they should. Sometimes we experience longer droughts that destroy young cocoa trees and at times there are heavy floods that wash away farms and spread diseases among crops".

A Prayer for Fairtrade Fortnight 2026

(written by Revd Michael Harrison, Fairtrade Campaigner, and Eleanor Harrison OBE, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation)

Lord, you have created a world for our use in which everyone is equal in your eyes.

Help us to recognise the many ways in which we have forgotten or ignored your generosity to us and the equality which is part of your plan.

Help us to be courageous in building a more socially just world.

Lord, you have created a world for our use in which the natural world is pivotal for our sustenance, shelter, wellbeing and joy.

Help us to respect and care for the planet you have given us.

Help us to be courageous in taking accountability and making changes to our daily lives, work and play so that future generations may enjoy it too.

Lord, you have given us agency and power in this beautiful world you have created for our use.

Help us to unlock and use this agency and power with thought and grace.

Help us to use our voices, our purchases and our gifts to enable fairer pay, safer working conditions and ensure we are fairer to the planet.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen



Ethical Reading is delighted to be collaborating with four experienced facilitators to bring you a fun and educational [Eco games night](#) at [Zerodegrees](#).

Come along and join your choice of three collaborative eco games -

Climate Fresk -

Discover the science behind climate change, connect the causes and impacts and work together to identify meaningful solutions

Biodiversity Collage - Explore the complex web of life and understand how ecosystems, human activity and biodiversity are interconnected

Conscious Evolution Collage - Step back and look at the bigger picture to uncover the root causes of today's sustainability challenges and explore ways towards a more sustainable future

You can expect to go away with a whole new perspective on some of the crucial environmental challenges we're facing today.

Tickets are free and entitle you to a free half pint or soft drink.

The event is in the Tank Lounge, but please do order something at the main bar downstairs to nibble while you play.

Find out more about the event and how to book your place at

<https://fb.me/e/4gmKQNad3>



THE COWSHED

CRAFT SALE



THURS 24TH SEPTEMBER



10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



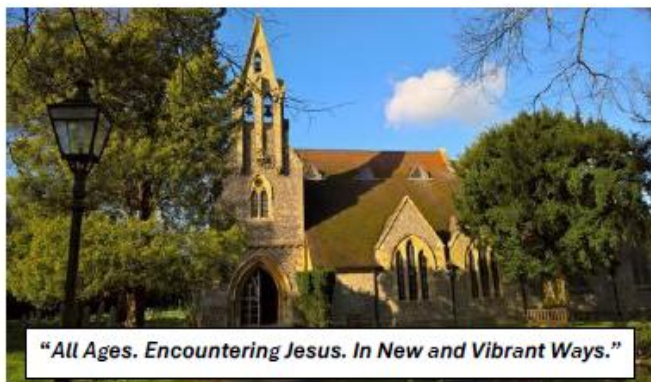
THE COWSHED

Wokingham, RG41 2GY

Calling all crafters!
Shop everything from:

- Papermaking supplies, card, cutters & stamps
- Magazines & books
- Craft kits & patterns
- Fabric & quilting packs
- Yarn & needles & more!





St John's is growing — and we're making room for young people at the heart of our church family. We've created a dedicated youth space, invested in new ministry, and now we're looking for a creative, relational and faith-filled Youth Minister to help our 11–18s encounter Jesus, belong deeply, and grow as disciples and leaders. Our ambition is to develop a thriving community of 20 young people in the next 3 years.

If you're passionate about seeing young people flourish, building trusted relationships and helping to shape a vibrant, intergenerational church, we'd love to hear from you.

What we offer:

- A welcoming and supportive church family.
- A new youth space ("The Flight Deck") and Church Centre ready for imagination and ministry.
- A supportive and enthusiastic ministry team, including a Child & Family Worker.
- Opportunities to help shape worship, discipleship and community engagement.

An Information pack with details about our Church, Job Description, Person specification and details of how to apply can be downloaded from our vacancies page via the link or QR code below :

<https://www.stjohnswoodley.com/vacancies>

Alternatively, contact Paul via treasurer@stjohn-woodley.com for the information pack.



Preferred start: January 2027 (or by agreement)



Being a bishop can be a funny experience. Some people seem to think bishops are able to resolve every problem in the church. Others seem to think bishops are responsible for every problem in the church. Of course, neither extreme is true. Bishops are human beings like everyone else.

God does not show favouritism (Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11). God loves everyone equally.

Recent events, such as the appointment of our new Prime Minister, protests about migration and the tragic loss of life in Tibet and Nepal, have set me thinking about how incapable we seem, in our church and our nation, of treating everyone equally.

We often have very unrealistic expectations of our leaders and they in turn often make unrealistic promises. As a society, we seem incapable of giving equal treatment to refugees, those with different skin tones and those of different nationalities and faiths, to pick just three examples.

At this point, the little book of Philemon came to my rescue. It is Paul's shortest letter and the three protagonists come from very different places on the social spectrum.

Paul is the learned rabbi and the great apostle. He writes to Philemon, an undistinguished member of one of the churches he started. He is writing about Onesimus – a runaway slave who belongs to Philemon. Paul could have addressed this situation using the power of his position. But instead of ordering Philemon and Onesimus what to do, he chooses to appeal to them on the basis of love (V9).

Instead of reminding them of their place in the pecking order below him, he uses his words like "friend" "fellow worker", "fellow soldier", "dear brother", "partner".

Instead of seeing himself as their superior, he sees himself as their equal. His attitude is the same as that of Jesus, who became one of us so that we could become like him.

For Paul, the gospel requires that every person is treated the same, because every person is loved equally by God. Some commentators believe that this seemingly insignificant letter to Philemon was like the planting of a tiny seed that grew in time to undermine the practice of slavery in the entire Roman empire.

In the same way, the gospel calls us to dismantle deference to senior clergy, to destroy racism and every other kind of prejudice in society and to drop the seeds of the gospel to demolish every barrier to God's love. May Jesus give us the courage to do this in our own conversations, whenever the opportunity presents itself.

A postscript: many have wondered how this tiny letter came to be included in the canon of scripture. It is just possible (though no one really knows) that it is because the runaway slave is the same Onesimus who later became the great Bishop of Ephesus, after the death of the first Bishop – Timothy – Paul's "true son in the faith" (1 Tim 1:2). If true, this further illustrates the power of the gospel to "put down the mighty from their seat and exalt up the humble and meek", as the Magnificat puts it.

This is my story too: this bishop was once running away from God and a slave to his own appetites and sins. But God – who shows no favouritism – rescued and restored me and has given me, as he has given you, this beautiful gospel of grace.



Please let's treat each other as equally precious in the sight of God – and take the love of Jesus into every conversation we have.

Bishop Dave

Eco festival at St Mary's, Burghfield

Discover practical ways to care for the environment. The day will feature talks, stalls and displays from local organisations, including the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, alongside opportunities to learn about topics such as bee keeping and solar energy.

The [Eco Festival 2026](#) takes place on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at [St Mary's Church](#) in Burghfield, Reading RG30 3TG).

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are

Place: Earley St Nicolas Church and Centre, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley RG6 7JN

Date: Friday 25th September 2026

Time: 10am-12pm

Contact: office@stnicolas.org.uk

Come and join us for a cuppa,
homemade cake and a good chat,
all whilst raising funds for
Macmillan Cancer Support!
We look forward to seeing you!



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383

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