

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



Sunday 11 October 2026

Trinity 19

1st Reading: Isaiah 25.1–9

Psalm: 23

2nd Reading: Philippians 4.1–9

Gospel: Matthew 22.1–14

Hymns

822 When morning gilds the skies

715 The King of love my shepherd is

724 The Lord's my shepherd

432 Let us build a house

Homegroup Wk	Bible Readings	Activities
Mon 12 th Oct	Luke 11.29–32	2.30pm Tea & Tinies
Tues 13 th Oct	Luke 11.37–41	10am–12pm Board Games Café 2pm Mothers' Union Meeting
Weds 14 th Oct	Luke 11.42–46	11am Communion Service 12.45pm Wednesday Afternoon Grp
Thurs 15 th Oct	Luke 11.47–end	2pm Over 50s
Fri 16 th Oct	Luke 12.1–7	10am -12pm Community Coffee 2pm–4pm SNAC–Knit & Natter
Sat 17 th Oct	Luke 12.8–12	

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

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

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:4-7**

PRAYER

COLLECT: Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God,
our heavenly King,
you have prepared a magnificent banquet for your Son
and extended your gracious invitation to all people.
Forgive us when we allow the distractions of this world
to turn our hearts away from your calling.
Strip away our pride, and clothe us instead
with the wedding garment of Christ's righteousness,
that we may be found ready to celebrate inside 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

We are delighted that Ella and Tina will be being baptised in this Sunday's Service, ahead of their confirmation at Earley St Peter's at 6pm on Sunday evening. We wish every blessing on them both!



Oops! Sorry to those who were ready to shop last week! I can however advise that Richard's Fairtrade stall will be with us this Sunday in the Servedy after the 10am service



**Mothers Union Meeting this Tuesday
13th October at 2pm**

Dr Bernie Choi will be giving a talk about

working at Westcall. Come and join us for what I am sure will be a very interesting afternoon.

Thanksgiving Service for baby Ember Saturday 21st November 1pm all welcome, please RSVP to Eleanor or Bethany if you are able to attend.

Eco Church Green Tip

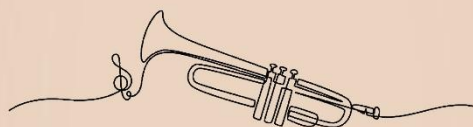
Hedgehogs will start hibernating as the temperature drops to 10°. So if you have piles of wood or garden rubbish you've been meaning to clear, it's best to do this before late October.



**Earley
Environmental
Group 2027
Calendars on sale
from the Parish
Office now! They
are £6 per calendar
and have amazing
photos of local
wildlife and plants.
Come and get one
before they sell out!**



AUTUMN CONCERT



SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
19:30 PM
£12

ST NICOLAS CHURCH
SUTCLIFFE AVENUE
EARLEY, READING
RG6 7JN



Wednesday Afternoon Group

**"A safe space to deepen your
relationship with God in
creative ways"**

**Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of the
month in the St Nicolas Servery**

**You can bring lunch to share at 12.45pm
Or join the session 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

Everyone Welcome

**To find out more speak to Bernie or Ruth Choi
Or email them bernieandruth@gmail.com**

**Planting the word of God in our hearts
Journeying with the Holy Spirit
Sharing together**





CIRDIC

Churches in Reading Drop in Centre

Centre Manager

Drop-in Centre

Reading, Berkshire (On-site)

30 hours – 8:30am – 3:00pm Mon – Fri:

Starting salary: £25,000 - £30,000 per annum depending on experience.

Permanent

Closing date: October 14th 2026

Please apply to:

Chair of Trustees, CiRDIC, 1 Berkeley Avenue, Reading Berkshire RG1 6JT

For more information please click [here](#)

Good Food Good Question Saturday 17th October, 7:30 - 9pm

There must be more than this...

As you look out at the world and see its brokenness, don't you sometimes think to yourself, 'is this really how it's meant to be? Is this really the best it's going to be?' In a relaxed environment, Andy Robinson will speak for about twenty minutes on the goodness of God's creation and his new creation, giving us a beautiful glimpse of how God made the world in the beginning, and how, through Jesus, he will remake it in the end. We'll also have live music, a Q&A, and plenty of cake and desserts!

Venue: Carey Baptist Church, Carey Street, Reading RG1 7JS (parking available in the Carey Centre, entrance off Body Road)



Book your free tickets for this [here](#).

Church Office, The Carey Centre, Anstey Rd, Reading RG1 7JR T: 0118 959 0058 Tuesday – Friday (9am-3:30pm)

www.careybaptistchurch.org.uk



"How are you coping?" I think I have lost count of the number of times in the past two months that people have asked me that. And it usually comes with the follow-up: *"You must be incredibly busy, covering two jobs now that you are the Acting Diocesan Bishop."*

I am deeply grateful for the concern and pastoral care that these comments demonstrate, and I will admit that, yes indeed, life is busy, and particularly so at the current time! However, in responding to those questions, I find I am repeatedly struck by three different thoughts: Firstly, just how incredibly well supported I am by the colleagues and team around me – their work and their encouragement, sharing the load and partners with me in ministry.

And it's not just my wonderful fellow Bishops and Church House colleagues, but also the clergy and lay people, parish by parish right across our diocese – their work and ministry, their support and encouragement.

I am particularly humbled each Sunday, as I take services out in the parishes and, week after week, I am named and supported in the prayers of intercession, as people stand with me and pray God's blessing on me.

Secondly, when I am busy, I am forcibly reminded of my need not to look to my own strength, or to my energy, or wisdom or agenda, but to look to God: This is a key and repeated Biblical theme, seen most clearly perhaps in the wonderful verse in 2 Corinthians 12:9: *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness."*

And my third thought – and again maybe this applies to all of us – is that perhaps I need to stop work and simply rest and chill a bit more.

If, in the busyness of life, I am giving a message of needing to be constantly on the go, constantly working, constantly charging from one task straight into the next one, then as well as being life-quenching when Jesus' intention and gift is that I am called to live a life that's abundant – life in all its fulness – I'm also living in a way that undermines and negates the Gospel I am called to declare and to live by.

It is God who provides, God who resources, and God who I am called to put my trust and dependence in, and not my own effort, hard work or achievements.

And, for me as Bishop and for each of us as disciples, I think that maybe the most powerful way we can declare the grace and power of God in our world and in our lives is if we simply learn afresh and live out what it is to enjoy life, to rest, to play, to have fun!

We are called and privileged to be “*Children of God*”, and, I think, perhaps the greatest defining characteristic of a child should simply that they know how to have fun – they know how to play!

So, whatever responsibilities you or I may hold, and whatever work may need to be done, may we nevertheless resolve to pause, to look up and look around in delighted wonder at the world around us, and then to step out and enjoy it.

In play, in rest, in recreation. In whatever it may be for you and for me that puts a smile on our face and enables us to live and to enjoy “*life – life in all its fulness*”.

With every blessing in Christ,
Bishop Gavin

Bishop gives speech to mark 7 October attacks

The Acting Bishop of Oxford spoke on Wednesday at a service to remember the events of 7 October 2023. You can [read the speech](#) Bishop Gavin gave at the interfaith gathering outside the Oxford Jewish Centre.

The Archbishop of Canterbury also [released a statement](#) marking the anniversary. In addition to this, a group of Diocesan Inter Faith Advisors have expressed their concerns about the Green Party vote regarding Zionism. [Read their statement online.](#)

Advent Come & Sing

Saturday 28th November | Singing from 10am | Concert 6pm

**St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Shinfield RG2 9BY
near Reading, Berkshire - M4 J11**

Conducted by Beth Fitzpatrick | Vocal coaching by Alison Chamberlain (CBSO Chorus Vocal Coach)
with organ and string quartet | Professional soloists: Emerging Artists

Handel's Messiah + Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio

with Berlioz, Rutter, Bach, Kodály and Mendelssohn

Come and sing

- Singers of all abilities welcome - no need to read music.
- Learning tracks sent to you in advance.
- A day of expert tuition: four sessions from 10am to 5pm, with expert-led warm-ups.
- Perform at the 6pm concert with professional soloists, organ and string quartet.
- Singer ticket £30. All ages welcome.
- Dress code: all black, with optional festive sparkle.

Come and listen

- A public concert at 6pm with professional soloists, organ, string quartet and the Come and Sing Choir.
- Finishes by 8:30pm, with a 30-minute interval.
- Adults £12 (£15 on the door), under-15s £8 (£10 on the door).
- Doors open 5:30pm. Free parking and step-free access.
- Licensed bar before, during and after the concert.
- Printed programme included.

A lovely way to lift your mood and switch off from work.

Bring friends, colleagues or family - to sing, or to listen.

Tickets on Eventbrite

Scan a QR code to book.

More information: www.loddonreach.org.uk

All profits support St Mary's, Shinfield.



Come and sing



Come and listen



Woodley Light Operatic Society

WEST END

Musical Moments

Relaxed Performance

Tuesday 1st December, 7.45pm

Oakwood Centre, Woodley

Tickets are free, thanks to Tesco Blue Token Scheme, to anyone with additional needs who might otherwise find a standard performance difficult to attend, and their families. The audience are welcome to join in, unexpected noises or movements are not a problem and some audience members have even been known to have an impromptu moment on stage in the past. All are fine.

The show is a combination of music and dance from a variety of West End shows from Wicked and Jersey Boys, to Waitress, Come from Away and Les Mis - all presented in a cabaret style suitable for all ages.

Please contact tickets@wlos.co.uk for more info and tickets



Family Workshop Cyber Safety For Families

Protecting you in the Digital World

**A fun, interactive workshop for Adults, Carers,
Grandparents and their children aged 9+ years**

- Get smart and overcome your fears about cyber security
- Protect yourself and your family online (phishing emails, scams and password security)
- Unlock the full potential of the digital world (what are cookies?)
- Get practical advice and friendly guidance (know what to do when things go wrong)

Booking is Essential

**Cyber
Security**

Tuesday

27th October

2026

9.30am - 11.00am

OR

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Fee £12 per Family

(Maximum 2 children per adult)

Due to funding restrictions this workshop is 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

training@earleycrescent.org



www.facebook.com/earleycrescent/

Charity No. 1092607 Company No. 4383491



REINSPIRED QUIZ NIGHT

+ Raffle and Heads
and Tails game

Saturday,
Nov 21

at St Nicolas Church
Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley
7:00pm

£10

per person.
Teams of 8
Bring your
own drinks
and snacks



For registration & further information email
marketing@reinspired.org.uk



To register email marketing@reinspired.org.uk