

## The Parish of St Mark and All Saints, Reading

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here. John 6:37

### SUMMER TIME

With the School Summer Holiday's well underway, August is often a quiet month in church. Some of us will find ourselves venturing to distant shores, while others remain closer to home, enjoying the beauty of our local surroundings. Regardless of how we spend this season, it presents a unique opportunity to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with God's creation.

The Church of England encourages us to view summer not just as a break from routine but as a sacred time to nurture our spiritual lives. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, it is all too easy to become disconnected from the natural world and, consequently, from God. Yet, during these warmer months, we can intentionally seek moments of stillness and awe in the beauty that surrounds us.

Think about the simple pleasures that summer brings: the

vibrant colours of flowers in bloom, the soothing sound of waves lapping at the shore, and the warm sun on our faces. Each of these sensory experiences serves as a reminder of God's creativity and love.

Psalm 19:1 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." This is our invitation to step outside, breathe deeply, and allow the wonder of creation to draw us closer to the Creator.

For those travelling this summer, consider making the journey a spiritual pilgrimage. Whether visiting a new city or hiking in the countryside, take time to pray, meditate, and immerse yourself in your surroundings. Look for God in the people you meet, the landscapes you explore, and the quiet moments you cherish.

These experiences deepen our faith and provide us with fresh



perspectives on life and God's purpose.

For those staying at home, summer can be a perfect time to engage with nature in your own garden or local parks. Why not host a picnic, invite friends for a barbecue, or simply take time to sit outdoors when the sun is shining, listening to the songs of birds and the rustle of leaves. These moments of connection with nature are also opportunities for prayer and reflection, allowing us to experience God's presence in the familiar.

Whatever your plans this summer I hope that you have an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and rejoice in the love of God, who invites us to enjoy the world He has made.

### ECO GROUP

At our APCM we talked about the importance of caring for our environment and the challenge to work towards "Net Zero" - a way of reducing our negative impact on the climate and the world.

We talked about "quick wins" like supporting "No Mow May" to encourage wild flowers and pollinators and using bird boxes in our church ground to support wildlife, and "Long Term Goals" such as using renewable energy and finding better ways to heat our buildings.

We also learned about the National Eco Church Award [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#)

We agreed this year we should prioritise these issues and focus this year on how we as a church can care for God's world.

We want to setup an Eco Group to help us work towards becoming more environmentally friendly in the parish, and consider how to best work towards an Eco Church award.



Are you passionate  
about caring for  
our environment?

Can you help us come up  
with a plan?

Speak to Rev'd Jo or Jackie

if you would like to be involved

Our church relies entirely on the generous financial giving of our community to support our Mission and Ministry, and to help keep our beautiful buildings open. If you would like to know more about becoming a regular donor please speak to us about our **Parish Giving Scheme**

or visit <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donate/>

Alternatively you can make a donation at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/9a0a2324-3282-4e14-b1f8-dd36c01c9ea2>



Thank you!



#### OUR CHURCHES:

St Mark's Cranbury Road,  
RG30 2TA  
All Saints Downshire Square,  
RG1 6NN

#### OUR STAFF:

Priest - Revd Jo Williams  
revdjowilliams@gmail.com  
07977 142450  
(Rest day Saturday)

Revd Jane Lewis  
07936 940864  
revdjanelewis@gmail.com

#### Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs Sylvia Cummins  
0118 9575049  
Dr Diana Matthews  
0118 9582108

#### Churchwardens

St Marks:  
Kwaw Elliott  
07845 585007  
kwawelliott@yahoo.co.uk

#### All Saints:

Linda Parish  
07894 683377  
carltonexec@hotmail.com

#### Parish Office

0118 950 2620  
Wendy Smith  
(Monday and Friday 1-4)  
allsaintsreading@gmail.com  
Jackie John  
(Tuesday and Thursday 9-12)  
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com

#### Hall Manager - St Mark's

Sharon Hyman  
0770 7523617  
St.mark.church.hall@gmail.com

#### Hall Manager - All Saints

Please telephone the parish  
office—0118 950 2620

#### Safeguarding Officer

Levine Whitham  
stmarkandallsaints.safeguarding@gmail.com



[www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-all-saints](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-all-saints)  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-st-mark](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-st-mark)



[www.facebook.com/StMarkandAllSaintsReading/](https://www.facebook.com/StMarkandAllSaintsReading/)

# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

We had a successful APCM on Sunday 18th May, where we appointed our two **churchwardens**—Linda Parish (All Saints) and Kwaw Elliott (St Mark's). They officially took up their roles following the Archdeacon's visitation on Wednesday 4th June held at Greyfriars Church where they were sworn into the role.

Thank you to Linda and Kwaw for standing again.

In addition to this, we appointed new **PCC** members and have 9 elected lay members of the council as follows:

Anesta Vaughan, Angelina Elliott, Jess Harris, Iva Butler, John Hodge, Suzie Carter, Rosie Hughes, Nana Gyebi-Johnson and Liz Sandford. Congratulations to them and to Helen McLuckie who joins us as a coopted member.

Do say hello to any of our PCC members and remember we represent your views at PCC meetings and so if you have anything you want raising at PCC do get in touch with any of us. Or you can speak to Jackie John (PCC Secretary).

For **Deanery Synod** we have three representatives from our parish—Angelina Elliott, Kwaw Elliott and Rosie Hughes.

**Next year's APCM is Sunday 17th May at All Saints Church. Do put the date in your diary and join us.**

## Environment—care for creation

We then thought about how we can change our practises within our parish to make more of an impact on our environment footprint and working towards being carbon neutral. How can we become more environmentally friendly in the parish and what we can do to care for God's earth. Using the guidance from A Rocha UK and their Eco Church programme, we were able to think about what we are doing well and what we need to do more of using 5 key areas of church life as follows:

- Worship and Teaching
- Buildings and Energy
- Land and Nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

We can hopefully work towards our Bronze Eco Church status this year. If you would like to be part of our Eco Group looking at this, please do email the parish ([stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com)) or speak to Rev'd Jo or Jackie John.

## PCC—WHO WE ARE—MORE BIO'S TO FOLLOW IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

### IVA BUTLER

Iva has been coming to All Saints with her husband and two daughters since it opened its doors again after the Covid Pandemic. She works as a Teaching Assistant at All Saints Infants School and in her spare time she enjoys reading, knitting and seeing friends. She's part of the events committee and occasionally helps Revd Jo with Messy Church.

### KWAW ELLIOTT (CHURCHWARDEN)

Kwaw joined St Mark's Church in 1997. A member of the altar serving team to begin with. He now holds a few roles in the parish; Electoral Roll Officer, Lay Preacher and part of the ministry team for the care homes in the parish. He has been Churchwarden since 2022. He enjoys worshipping with all in the parish and prays we are able to keep growing God's ministry in our community.

### ANGELINA ELLIOTT (TREASURER)

Angelina is a cradle Anglican and has been singing in the choir since she was a teenager. She started coming to St Mark's Church in 1997. She lives in the parish and is our Treasurer. She has always played an active role in the church and loves being part of the community. She enjoys listening to most kinds of music and her favourite thing to do is attend musical concerts.

### JACKIE JOHN (PCC SECRETARY)

Jackie started worshipping in the parish in 2006 when her daughter was baptised. She got asked by Fr Nicholas to be the PCC Secretary in 2013 and has done it ever since! She also works in the parish office two mornings a week and is also a governor at a local secondary school.

### NANA GYEBI- JOHNSON

Originally from London, Nana has lived in Reading for over 10 years and immediately fell in love with the community, which includes St Mark and All Saints. She is currently training to be a psychotherapist and works at a local primary school. When she's not working, she can be found doing a spot of gardening on a (hopefully) sunny day!

### LIZ SANDFORD

Liz has been part of the parish community for over 20 years. She is usually to be found at All Saints on Sundays singing gustily and desperately trying to fit the words to the music!



## SUMMER EVENTS UPDATE...

Our summer events have been a wonderful success and play a key part in our parish fundraising as well as providing an opportunity to welcome the community into our buildings.

It's fabulous to see our community enjoying our events and building relationships with them.

Our Parish Summer Fair was on Saturday 7th June and had the usual games, refreshments, raffle, bric-a-brac, cakes and much more.

Although a smaller turnout than usual, we managed to raise £642.88.



Bric-a-Brac	£211.21
Cakes	£90.03
Raffle	£78.50
Refreshments	£70
Toys	£44.01
Knitting	£43
Games	£30.10
Books	£19.75
Plants	£14.17
Door	£42.11

If you are interested, the breakdown by stall is above



**John Hodge seems to be open to offers if anybody would like to purchase him?**

*Thank you to everybody who donated goods, ran a stall or came along to support!*

Following the Summer Fair, our garden party at St Mark's Church was on Saturday 28th June and we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day. This event always offers free food for the community inviting and welcoming people into our church to share God's love.

It's an important part of our mission and growing awareness of what we offer at St Mark's Church. Whenever the doors are open, people come in to take a look around and chat to us.

In addition to the food, we had plants for sale, a great raffle, cakes for sale and toys and games in the garden.



Our resident DJ (Kwaw) made sure the music was playing throughout!



Although as a community event and fundraising is not our primary objective, we still managed to raise about £240 for Parish funds which is fabulous.

*Thank you to everybody for supporting our events.  
We hope you enjoy the pictures!*



## CARIBBEAN FUN

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July it was a glorious hot and sunny day with several events taking place across Reading including our Caribbean Evening at St Marks Hall..

Our annual Caribbean Evening started a little earlier at 6pm to make the most of great music and food. It was good to see so many from our church and local community at this event.



This year to make it extra special the Mayor of Reading Alice Mpfu-Coles and her Mayoral Escort, Mr Wayne Coles came to enjoy the Caribbean Evening with us.

As in previous years we were also supported by Local councillor Wendy Griffiths.

Norma Parris, one of the long-standing church members welcomed our Mayor and did an introduction followed up by the Mayors' Speech.

There was an array of food on offer including rice and peas, curried goat, fried fish, fried chicken and sweet bread cakes - which were very tasty and appreciated by all. All washed down by the famous Rum Punch!

There was also a raffle during the evening.

I wanted to personally say how grateful I am to have been able to organise this event in memory of the previous organiser Pat Alleyne. YOU are always in our heart.

I also want to say how much I appreciated the support of the many volunteers Norma, Louise, Thelma, Anesta, Judy, Milton, Kwaw, Angelina, James, Rachel, Jackie, Iva, Irene, Hilary and Sharon to name a few. Thank you so much in helping me putting this event together.

Thank you too to everyone who came and enjoyed the evening. Together we raised £545 for parish funds!

Next year it would be good to have an open mic for entertainment if anyone wish to help for next year please do come forward it is always good to hear from our community and church goers.

Blessings to All, Suzelle French



## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 10th May saw the return of our very successful Quiz night at All Saints Hall, with our own Ron Cummins as Quiz Master extraordinaire.

Our thanks go to everybody who helped prepare the delicious food and the organising of the event overall. We managed to raise almost £300 through the ticket sales and raffle. Some of this money being donated to Christian Aid for our charity of the month for May (see right).

If you have ideas for social events you would like to see in our Parish or would like to join our mailing list so we can remind you of upcoming events and services please email [stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com)

## CHRISTIAN AID CHARITY UPDATE

A huge thank you to everybody that kindly donated to our Christian Aid Appeal in May. We managed to raise over £800 which with Gift Aid will be over £1,000. This is an amazing effort by everybody so thank you.

You might be interested to know that over the years, as a parish we have raised over £40,000 for this charity.

Thank you for your continued support.



## READING MALE VOICE CHOIR

On Friday 16th May we were blessed to host Reading Male Voice Choir and the Barberettes at All Saints Church. For a spectacular evening of musical entertainment.



Both choirs are over 40 strong and they filled the space with their wonderful harmonies and a cappella chorus singing songs old and new. The church acoustics being used to full effect. They were raising funds for the Royal Berkshire Charity Breast Screening Appeal and managed to raise £500.

## COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER...



Join us for our Macmillan Cancer  
Support coffee mornings

**Saturday 13th September**

St Mark's Church, Cranbury Rd  
All Saints Church, Downshire Sq

**Further details to follow**

Every penny we raise means Macmillan can help more people with cancer live life as fully as they can.

Email: [stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com) or telephone the parish office: 0118 9502620 for more information.

St Mark's Church, Cranbury Road, Reading, RG30 2TA

All Saints Church, Downshire Square, Reading, RG1 6N Charity number: 1160687

## SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

### RIDE AND STRIDE AND MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENTS



Ride and Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make grants to places of Christian Worship. 50% of the funds raised are split between the nominated trust and the participants chosen church.

**Would you like to take part this year? Get sponsorship to walk, cycle or drive or ride to as many churches as you can on Saturday 13th September.**

*Can you help us keep our churches  
open and welcome visitors during  
these events?*

*Look out for a sign up sheet in  
church or contact the office.*

Both St Mark's Church and All Saints Church will be open this year for Ride and Stride, and at the same time we'll be hosting our Macmillan Cancer support coffee morning events. For more information speak to Judy (who did the event last year) or see the link below.

<https://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/>



June 16th—22nd was Refugee week (The theme for that week was Community) with that in mind I was inspired to write the following:

written by Paul Farmer

Here they stand, countless strangers, in an alien land.  
Driven from their homelands  
Due to diverse atrocities and dangers.  
Lost and alone.  
No belongings, no home,  
And with no tears left to cry.  
To have stayed was often a sentence to die,  
No choices then and no voices.  
Surely this is not how God meant it to be?  
(So many frightened and displaced families labelled 'refugees'—reliant on Charity).  
They might not have had much,  
But what meagre belongings they had I'm sure they truly cherished.  
(All gone with the wind now—every glimmer of hope for their belongings vanished).  
We cannot change the world,  
But we can change our small corner of it (it is, at least, a start).  
The world is nothing but a global village after all,  
So let's show some compassion and help them to make a new start.  
Hold out our hands in friendship,  
(We are, after all, together in this brief dance with time, which we call life)

## THANK YOU—READIFOOD

Thank you for your gifts of tinned goods and toiletries brought to church throughout the summer term.

These have been sorted and delivered to Reading's foodbank Readifood, (Thank you Diana and Tanya!)

Your generosity will help local families who struggle with food poverty through the summer months.

We will continue to collect for Readifood in each church on the first Sunday of the month and our next big collection drive will be for Harvest Festival in October.

Thank you.



## GROWING IN FAITH?

We often talk about the summer months, those long weeks of the season after Pentecost or Trinity, as the green and growing time of the church. With no particular festival season to prepare for or celebrate, these months encourage us to reflect on our ordinary everyday life with God and to grow in faith. So how is that going for you? And how can we help?

We know that people grow in faith when they are able to take responsibility for their own development and develop a helpful structure within which to grow. *Gifts for Everyday Faith* is a simple survey that helps you identify your gifts and calling in everyday life and will help you to think through where your gifts are strongest. you can access it [here](#).

If you're keen to feel more confident and equipped to live out your calling, you could also explore a Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP).



## WHAT IS A PDP?

The PDP builds *Gifts for Everyday Faith* and is an accompanied faith journey to take with a local minister or encourager that explores six questions to help discern what God is doing in your life, and what you might be called towards.

- Core gifts – What are my gifts? How am I sharing them?
- Attracted by – Where may God be calling me?
- Listening – Where am I being guided to gain experiences?
- Life – What else is going on in my life now? What is my ideal future?
- Experience – What energises me? What challenges me?
- Discipleship – How am I deepening my daily spiritual life and faith?

If you would like to find out more about PDP or talk about your journey of faith speak to Rev'd Jo, or visit the Diocese of Oxford website— <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/everyday-faith/discipleship-resources/personal-discipleship-plan/>

## M.A.D. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Social gathering for children (aged 5+) of the church community

## WATCH THIS SPACE!

Our MAD Club has been running 18 months and we have had a lot of fun but this school year we want to make it even bigger and better. We are currently exploring what the best day and time is for people to meet and will be relaunching MAD Club at a new time in October. Watch this space... we will let you know as soon as we have sorted the details.

Rev'd Jo, Tanya and Iva

# DESERT ISLAND HYMNS



Imagine a small, sandy island surrounded by crystal-clear turquoise waters. In the foreground, there's a gentle shoreline with soft waves lapping at the sand. Scattered around the beach are tropical palm trees, their fronds swaying gently in the breeze. In the background, a vibrant sunset paints the sky

with hues of orange and purple, casting a warm glow over the scene. On the beach, are a group of people gathered in a circle, praising God and singing hymns, their faces illuminated by the fading sunlight. Nearby, other instruments rest against a palm tree, inviting others to join in the music...

OK maybe not! But have you ever considered what hymns you would take with you to a desert island? This year, to help us get to know each other a little better, we will be inviting different people to share 3 of their Desert Island Hymn choices with us. Rosie Hughes discusses her choices...

## Hymn One "Majesty"

The hymn "Majesty" was composed by Jack Hayford in 1981. It has since become a staple in many Christian worship services often sung repeatedly as a time of praise and worship. The hymn emphasizes the majesty and sovereignty of Jesus, calling worshippers to exalt His name and recognize His glory. It reflects themes of worship, honour, and praise directed towards Christ as the King of all kings

It is possibly the shortest hymn in History (just 55 words long!) but when you've been used to 15 verses of it during communion in a Baptist church, it brings a smile to your face!

## Hymn Two "Purify my heart"

Also known by the words of the refrain "Refiners fire".

I like this one because the refrain is very easy to sing along and usually everyone can pick it up, it is also beautiful if a choir or worship group can get the harmonies right. It's a great piece because of its first person focus; it doesn't tell a story, it just outlines how we feel and how much we want to serve.

It is based on the image from Malachi 3:1-5 of the Lord coming like a refining fire or fullers soap, to cleanse and purify, and 1 John 1:9 which reminds us "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Hymn Three "Rejoice!"

A Graham Kendrick special! Everything about this hymn is perfect, even when it's played too slow, its message still has the same impact and people do start "praising" on the chorus.

This is a rousing call to Christians to "march upon this land" and reminds us that we are spreading the good news.

I love it because its narrative displays exactly what we do. I also love this song because of its musical development; it rises in pitch from the beginning and throws the key change into the chorus—such a joyful worship song.

**And it's hard not to choose In Christ Alone too!!**

**Thank you Rosie for sharing your favourites with us!**

**If you would like to tell us your top 3 Desert Island Hymns, speak to Revd Jo**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OPEN GROUP

We meet at 2.30pm in the Downshire Room, All Saints Hall (unless otherwise stated) Payment is £10 per year (excluding July/ Aug and Dec) or £2 per meeting.

**Wednesday 20th August 12.30-2.30pm** Garden Party Bring and Share at 'Kaikoura' - Philip's house. Please contact Philip 0118 3766425 at least one week before to discuss what to bring. Two hour parking available on the roads.

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### **Wednesday 24th September**

2.30pm—My travels in 2024 illustrated talk by Peter Scott



'Heritage Too' playing for Open Group on 30th April—a fabulous event. Proceeds were donated to Diabetes UK/ Parkinsons—enjoyed by 15 people

### LINK GROUP

Link Group usually meet on Wednesdays at 11am until 12 noon (in the Downshire Room, All Saints Hall, Downshire Square) for coffee, chat, prayer and study of a bible passage

**Wednesday 13th August**

**Wednesday 10th September**



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY continued...

• Lonely? • Looking for Company? •  
• Want to make new friends? • Building Community?  
• New to the area? • Bored at home? • Bereaved?  
• Fancy a chat? • New Baby?

## Coffee on Mondays

Join us for coffee and a chat.

Every Monday  
10:30–12.00



Church also open for prayer and reflection.

## Fancy a cuppa?

Join us at our regular Monday coffee mornings at All Saints Church or at our monthly charity coffee mornings in the Downshire room All Saints Hall.  
(For full details see below).

## Coffee, chat and companionship Everyone is welcome

Coffee is also served on  
Friday mornings at 8.40  
(term time only)  
before our weekly  
Infant School service.

## CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

10.30am—11.30am



Downshire Room, All Saints Hall

Includes raffle, tombola  
and bring 'n' buy

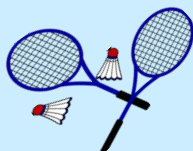
**Sat 9th August**—Alexander Devine Children's Hospice

**Sat 13th September**—Macmillan coffee in  
**All Saints Church**

**CHANGE OF DATE—November 8th will  
now be Nov 15th**

25% of the fundraising from each coffee morning will be donated to Parish Funds, the remaining donations go directly to the charities listed.

## BADMINTON CLUB



Monday 7.30–9.30pm

Tuesday 7.30—8.30pm

All Saints Hall £4

## WALSINGHAM MASS

The cell of our Lady of Walsingham meet to celebrate Mass at 7pm at All Saints Church (on the first Monday of the month (excluding bank holidays):

2025 dates are:

Monday 4th August—**Tazewell Court**

Monday 8th Sept

The Walsingham pilgrimage is 11th—15th August.



## We're hosting a coffee morning

Join us for a coffee and a friendly chat every Tuesday morning. Make new friends and enjoy a slice of home made cake!

Everyone's welcome.

Every Tuesday  
11am to 12 pm

Parkside Care Home

Parkside Road,  
Reading  
RG30 2DP



Call us to reserve your spot or find out more

**0118 952 8910**

ext 1200

We may record or monitor our calls.



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

Hopefully you have had your summer holidays before I mention the word 'Christmas'... It might seem a long way off, but we need to start thinking about our Christmas fundraising events.

In particular we need to source our usual tombola gifts, raffle prizes, Christmas decorations, toys, bottles of alcohol—we can in fact use (almost!) anything.

Over the summer perhaps you could look to see if you have anything at home that you are able to donate, or you might like keep an eye out whilst shopping for items on sale or to see if anything is on offer in the supermarket.  
Please do start collecting a few bits if you are able.

Many thanks.



144

Days  
til

Christmas



## GENEROUS GIVING

Don't forget our Parish is also a charity and there are many ways you can support us.

- You can remember loved ones by **sponsoring our weekly service sheets**. We recommend a donation of £20 and we can print a short tribute (up to 50 words) on the front of the service sheet on your chosen date.

- If you're a fan of online banking why not give **direct by BACS** to St Mark and All Saints Church PCC.

Sort Code **30-91-31**,

Account number **02374937**.

- Become a **regular giver** by setting up a regular amount via the Parish Giving Scheme—<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donate/>

- **Scan the QR code in the service sheet** (and the front of this newsletter) and make a donation on your smart phone with your card.

- **[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)**—perhaps the easiest thing to do if you shop on-line. Companies 'donate' a small percentage of the total cost of your goods to us—it costs you nothing. Just hover over the QR code with your camera on your smart device and it

take  
will  
you



to St



Raise **free funds**  
every time you  
**shop online**

Mark and All Saints Reading  
easyfundraising's cause page.

*Thank you for everything you currently do. It makes a huge difference.*

**THANK YOU!**

The monthly charity coffee mornings  
for the months January to June 2025

have in total raised £845 (£200 of which is for  
church funds and £645 for the different monthly charities).

My thanks to all of those who have supported these coffee mornings throughout the year. Paul Farmer

The Parish of St Mark and All Saints Reading

# SCOTTISH DANCE

Saturday 11th October  
7pm - 10pm

Come and enjoy a fun evening  
of choreographed dance  
routines

St Mark's Hall, Cranbury Road, Reading,  
RG30 2TA

Bring and Share Buffet  
BYO (soft drinks available)  
Tickets £5

## HALLS FOR HIRE

Our two beautiful Church halls are available for regular hire for groups and organisations or one off hire for parties and events.

Rental income from our halls plays a huge role in balancing the parish finances so please consider us if you are looking for a space and recommend us to your friends.

The Downshire Room at All Saints is also available separately for smaller groups.



**All Saints Hall,  
Downshire Sq,  
RG1 6NH**

Email the Parish  
Office:  
allsaintsread-  
ing@gmail.com

or stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com  
or call 0118 9502620



**St Mark's Hall,  
Cranbury Rd,  
RG30 2TA**

Email Sharon:  
st.mark.church.hall@gmail.com  
or telephone 0770 752 3617

## PRAYERS...

Do you have something or someone you would like us to pray for?

We are happy to receive weekly prayer requests using the prayer boxes in church or by speaking to the wardens or clergy on a Sunday morning. If your request is not for yourself, please check that the person for whom you are requesting prayer is happy for you to share information with us. In public prayer only first names or initials will be used. God, who knows all things, hears beyond the words we speak aloud to the intentions of our hearts and will not fail to listen. If you would like someone to pray with you, please speak to one of the clergy or ministry team.

In particular we invite you to pray :

- For God's guidance and Blessing on our community .
- For our government and council.
- For peace in the world
- For all those affected by war, terror or violence of any kind.
- That we might seek to safeguard the integrity of creation.
- For our Diocese and the Church House staff as they support local parish ministry.
- For our Bishops Stephen and Mary .
- For rest and renewal for all those attached to our Church Schools over their summer break.
- For safe travels for those going on holiday.
- For families struggling with the cost of food and necessities.
- For those who are lonely or in need.
- For all who are sick including Russell, Pam, Clyde, Elizabeth and David, Ben Kwaw and A.
- For all those who have died, or whose year's mind falls at this time.

## COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Our Parish is blessed with TWO church schools serving 400 children and families across our town.

All Saints Infants School (next to All Saints Church) and St Mary and All Saints School, (Wensley Road, Coley)

Many Diocesan church schools were established in the 18th and 19th century under trusts to provide education for the 'poor of the parish' with teaching according to the Church of England.

Although these schools are open for children of all faiths and none, we still have a responsibility to support them in providing a distinctively Christian Vision and Ethos. To do this the church appoints a number of Foundation Governors to the school's governing body. (Our Vicar Revd Jo is also a governor at both church schools).

Governors provide critical strategic leadership for school communities leading to high aspirations for children and young people. They support and challenge the head teacher and school leaders to promote school development and improvement. It's a voluntary role that is vital to the successful running of a school.

**Both schools desperately need governors**

It's an incredibly rewarding role. You don't need a background in education and the diocese and school offer training and support.

If you would like to find out more about the role of school governor, please speak with Rev'd Jo or contact the parish office (stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com or telephone 0118 9502620)



**Become a school governor in Reading**

Brighter Futures for Children

- ★ Would you like to shape the future for the next generation?
- ★ Do you want to promote school improvement?
- ★ Do you have professional skills you can share?
- ★ Do you want to contribute to your local community?

**Get in touch!**

[stevedaniels@allsaints.reading.sch.uk](mailto:stevedaniels@allsaints.reading.sch.uk)

We welcome anyone who is interested in school governance. Full training and support will be provided. Find out more about volunteering on our website. [www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org](http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

**Make a difference for children and young people**

## JOIN US FOR PRAYER ...



**Compline** (Night prayer) is online each Wednesday and Sunday night at 9pm .

**Parish prayers** meet fortnightly online on alternate Monday evenings at 7pm, to pray for the Parish and our community.

**Everyone is welcome to join us at these times.**

"Rejoice at all times, pray without ceasing give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.

Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,

to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.

Praise be to you! Amen.

from *A Christian prayer for union with creation* was published in  
*Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.*



## THE MONTH AHEAD...

### AUG

Fri 1st		NO EVENTS
Sat 2nd		NO EVENTS
Sun 3rd	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 4th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Walsingham Mass (Tazewell crt)
Tue 5th		NO EVENTS
Wed 6th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 7th		NO EVENTS
Fri 8th		NO EVENTS
Sat 9th	10.30	Coffee Morning (AS hall)
Sun 10th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 11th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 12th		NO EVENTS
Wed 13th	11.00	Link Group (All Saints Hall)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 14th		NO EVENTS
Fri 15th		NO EVENTS
Sat 16th		NO EVENTS
Sun 17th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 18th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers (Zoom)
Tues 19th		NO EVENTS
Wed 20th	12.30	Open Group (garden party)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 21st		NO EVENTS
Fri 22nd		NO EVENTS
Sat 23rd		NO EVENTS
Sun 24th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 25th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 26th		NO EVENTS
Wed 27th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 28th		NO EVENTS
Fri 29th		NO EVENTS
Sat 30th		NO EVENTS
Sun 31st	9.00	St Marks Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)

### SEP

Mon 1st	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 2nd		NO EVENTS
Wed 3rd	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 4th		NO EVENTS
Fri 5th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 6th		NO EVENTS
Sun 7th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 8th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Walsingham Mass AS
Tue 9th		NO EVENTS
Wed 10th	11.00	Link Group (AS hall)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 11th		NO EVENTS
Fri 12th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 13th	10.30	Macmillan coffee (AS Church)
		Macmillan event SM Church
		Ride and Stride (AS and SM)
Sun 14th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 15th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 16th		NO EVENTS
Wed 17th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 18th		NO EVENTS
Fri 19th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 20th		NO EVENTS
Sun 21st	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 22nd	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 23rd		NO EVENTS
Wed 24th	2.30	Open Group AS Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 25th		NO EVENTS
Fri 26th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 27th		NO EVENTS
Sun 28th	9.00	St Marks Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 29th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers (Zoom)
Tues 30th		NO EVENTS

## FUTURE DATES 2025

### AUGUST

11-15th Walsingham Pilgrimage

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th Ride and Stride—AS and SM

Sat 13th Macmillan coffee morning AS

Sat 13th Macmillan coffee morning SM

### OCTOBER

Sat 11th Scottish Dance SM

Sat 18th Jumble Sale—PROPOSED DATE

### NOVEMBER

8th Reading Bach Choir

22nd Parish Christmas Fair AS

### DECEMBER

6th Christmas Tree Festival SM

Do email the parish office for any social or fundraising event suggestions. Further events will be added to the list throughout 2025

## SUNDAY ZOOM



We recognise that it can be difficult for some member to get to church each week.

We aim to live stream one service each week over Zoom.

If you are unable to join us in person, please do consider joining our worship online.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85678162379?pwd=ZytBWFpleGdlUXovdGcyeEZOelZBdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7816 2379 and Passcode: worship (or 7805385 if dialling by phone)  
You can also join by telephone by dialling: 0208 080 6592 or 0203 481 5237

## THANK YOU

When is the last time you said thank you to somebody? It's such a simple thing to say and goes a long way in letting people know how we feel about the help and support they give us.

There is no special 'thank you' day this year. Instead the thank you campaign is asking us all to **get out in your local communities to hold your own day of 'thanks!'**

Let's all think about our local heroes and celebrate them with a thank you.

**On behalf of the parish, we wish to say a huge thank you to all of you for all your support throughout the year. The Parish could not operate without you. Thank you!**

