

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

EVERYDAY MOMENTS:

October has arrived and with it the autumn weather! The crisp air and turning autumn leaves remind me of the beauty in transformation and the importance of living our faith in the everyday moments of life. Each day presents us with opportunities to embody Christ's love, whether through a kind word to a neighbour, a helping hand to a friend, or a moment of prayer in our busy routines.

This month, I invite you to contemplate how you can integrate your faith into daily life. Are there small, intentional acts you can take to reflect Christ's love in your home, workplace, or community?

The new academic year is for many a time of new beginnings and full of opportunities for learning and that learning doesn't stop when we leave school! Our new Bible study sessions on the Acts of the

Apostles (see below) are an excellent opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding and help us live out our faith, I do commend them to you!

Also this month "MAD" club starts back, and we hope the new day and format will help our younger members to grow in their discipleship.

If you find yourself seeking deeper understanding or would like to talk about your faith journey, I encourage you to have a chat with myself or one of the ministry team members. We would love to meet with you to listen, support, and guide you through any questions or thoughts you may have. We are all growing in faith. As we seek to be more Christlike, more contemplative and more courageous in our faith, together, let's explore what it means to live our faith authentically all we do.



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

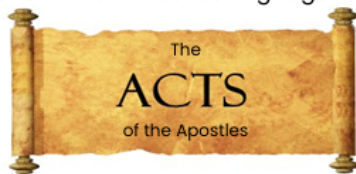


Bible Study

**Tuesdays
7-9pm**

7th 14th 28th October
The Downshire Room,
All Saints Hall RG1 6NH

This term we will be looking together at



Dinner at 7pm

(please let us know numbers for catering*)

Bible Study and discussion

begin at 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome

Come and join us as together we explore
the life and mission of the early church.

*To book speak to Diana or contact the Parish Office
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com 0118 950 2620

Reading Deanery

As part of Bishop Mary's visit to
Reading Deanery

you are warmly invited to a

Service of Evening Prayer

to be followed with a time for
Questions and Answers

at St Michael Tilehurst
New Lane Hill, Reading RG30 4JX
on Thursday 16th October at 5.00pm

No need to RSVP, simply turn up. All welcome!

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!



www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-all-saints
www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-st-mark



www.facebook.com/StMarkandAllSaintsReading/

HARVEST: What is Readifood?

Harvest is always a time when we celebrate God's bounty in the gifts of the earth. From the earliest days God's people have brought offerings of the fruit of their labours in accordance with God's instruction to "bring a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings our God has given you". (Deuteronomy 16:9-10)

This year as usual we are asking for harvest donations to support Reading's Foodbank., Readifood.

Readifood have provided an Emergency Food Parcel Service in Reading for over 25 years. They currently deliver between 150 -180 emergency food parcels each week. "Food Parcels" are designed to meet the needs of the recipients, and come in different sizes depending on whether it is intended for a 1 or 2 person household or family.

Each parcel contains enough food for at least three days, but many report making them last a week. Certain items such as cereals and biscuits can of course last longer.

Items in the food parcel can include: Pasta, rice, cereals, cooking sauce, ready meals, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned meat and/or fish, biscuits, tinned soup, tinned or instant potatoes and a variety of other useful cupboard items.

They usually include some toiletries, but these can also be specifically requested. A person or family in B&B can also be referred for a "non-cooker" parcel.

Readifood can also supply specialist parcels appropriate to vegetarians, halal, diabetics, coeliacs, etc. when needed

ReadiFood is an independent foodbank affiliated to "[IFAN](#)" the "[Independent Food Aid Network](#)".

If you'd like to help, you can [support their work](#) in many ways and even [volunteer](#) with us.

To donate – Text "Supporting **10**" to 70470 to donate £10 (or other amount)

For any enquiries email: admin@readifood.org.uk

These are their current shortages:

Tinned tomatoes
Tinned vegetables
(carrots, peas, sweetcorn)
Tinned fruit
Cooking oil
Tinned meat
Pot noodles
Long-life or UHT milk
40s tea bags
Basmati rice
Rice pouches
Cartons of juice
Drinking squash
Coffee

Specialist foods needs

Dried noodles
Dried lentils
Dried couscous
Plain flour
Gluten Free Cereals

Other

Sanitary items
Shampoo
Conditioner
Hand soap
Shower gel

Harvest Festival

Sunday 12th October

9.00 St Mark's Church RG30 2TA

11.00 All Saints Church RG1 6NN

We welcome your Harvest donations
especially tinned vegetables,

dry food and toiletries

for [Readifood](#)
([Reading Foodbank](#))



For more information please contact:
The Parish Office. 0118 950 2620
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com

MACMILLAN THANK YOU...

This year we held our Macmillan Cancer support coffee morning events on Saturday 13th September—the same day as Heritage Open Days/ Ride and Stride to try and encourage people into our two churches.

It was wonderful to see so many people in our churches that had never been into our church buildings before, at the same time as raising much needed funds for Macmillan cancer support.



Tours at All Saints Church

Tony offered guided tours to our visitors at All Saints explaining the history of the church which was fascinating.



We managed to raise a phenomenal £316.50 at St Mark's Church and a further £420 at All Saints Church. A truly wonderful day.



Fun at St Mark's Church

Thank you to everybody who baked, helped, ran a stall or came along to support!

THE FACE OF OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP!

After a year of waiting, it was announced today (Friday 3rd October) that his Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury.

Sarah Mullally was born in Woking in 1962 and became a Christian at the age of 16. Before being ordained, Bishop Sarah worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as 'an opportunity to reflect the love of God'.

She first trained as a midwife and then specialised as a cancer nurse and, at the age of 37, became the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England, the

In her new role, Archbishop Sarah will lead the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion, navigating both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As well as being the most senior bishop in the Church of England, she will also serve as the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury and play an important role as "first among equals" of the leaders of the Anglican Communion, which consists of around 85 million people, across 165 countries worldwide.

Bishop Sarah said: "As I respond to the call of Christ to this new ministry, I do so in the same spirit of service to God and to others that has motivated me since I first came to faith as a teenager."



Sarah as she seeks to draw the nation, the Anglican communion and the Church of England into a deeper love of God and a stronger love of neighbour."

"I want, very simply, to encourage the Church to continue to grow in confidence in the Gospel, to speak of the love that we find in Jesus Christ and for it to shape our actions."

youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

Ordained in 2001, she served her curacy in the Diocese of Southwark, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004.

In 2012, she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter.

On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Her journey has been marked by dedicated service, compassion, and a deep desire to connect with people from all walks of life.

Known for her pastoral heart and her commitment to social justice, Archbishop Sarah has consistently advocated for those on the margins of society, championing causes that reflect the love of Christ in action.

"At every stage of that journey, through my nursing career and Christian ministry, I have learned to listen deeply – to people and to God's gentle prompting – to seek to bring people together to find hope and healing."

"And I look forward to sharing this journey of faith with the millions of people serving God and their communities in parishes all over the country and across the global Anglican Communion. I know this is a huge responsibility but I approach it with a sense of peace and trust in God to carry me as He always has."

As we welcome her appointment, it is essential that we support her through our prayers. Her leadership will be crucial in fostering unity and guiding the Church in its mission to serve and uplift our communities.

Our own Bishop Stephen welcomed spoke very warmly of her appointment saying: "This is an historic announcement for the Church of England and for the Anglican Communion. I warmly commend our Archbishop-designate Dame Sarah Mullally and her family to the prayers and affections of the Diocese of Oxford. Sarah will bring proven wisdom, love, dedication and vision to her new role.

"Please do pray for Bishop

Bishop Sarah is married to Eamonn and they have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.

Currently known as the Archbishop of Canterbury-designate, Bishop Sarah will legally become the Archbishop of Canterbury at her Confirmation of Election at St Paul's Cathedral in January 2026, with a service of installation taking place at Canterbury Cathedral in March.

A PRAYER FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY DESIGNATE

God our Father, Lord of the church,
We thank you for calling Sarah Mullally
to be our new Archbishop.

We thank you for her willingness
to respond to your call,
and pray that you would pour upon her the
strength, wisdom and vision that she needs
as she leads and serves us.

May we in turn commit to praying for
Archbishop of Canterbury-designate Sarah
and her family,
that you would bless and protect them,
and enable your church to walk together under
her leadership in grace, unity and love.
We ask this through our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen

PCC—WHO WE ARE—MORE BIO'S BELOW..

LINDA PARISH CHURCHWARDEN

Linda first came to All Saints Church in 2002 when she moved from Lower Earley into Reading. She was brought up Church of Scotland until moving to England in 1969 when she was confirmed in CoE. She used to breed and show Samoyeds, entering Crufts most years! She loves cruising and has been churchwarden since 2022.

DIANA MATTHEWS LLM

Diana first came to All Saints in 1984 but was not a continual worshipper until 1996. In 1998 she joined the team who ran the after school club organised by Sylvia. Then in 1992 she was elected Church Warden first with Fr Henry and then with Fr Nicholas. When this ended she was encouraged to try for selection as an LLM and managed to survive the selection process! She does some preaching, helps Sylvia with the Care Home ministry, especially in Maitland House and Florence House, and in the past has done various home Communion to the housebound and the sick. She also serves as Sacristan at All Saints Church.

SUZIE CARTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

Suzie is our Health and Safety Officer and can often be seen in church either doing her monthly H&S risk assessment checks (at either church) or enjoying the service.

If you have any health and safety concerns or spot a problem please let her know.

JUDY VAUGHAN CO-OPTED

Judy has been part of the St. Mark's Church family since the late 1970s. In 2000, she was confirmed here, marking a deepening of her faith and commitment. Since then, she has been a regular and active member of the congregation, sharing in worship, fellowship, and the life of the church community.

ROSIE HUGHES

Rosie has been a member of the church since 2005. Rosie and her mum were warmly greeted by Alison Whittaker and the lovely John; Mum commented that day that he shook hands with every single person in the church. It was a welcome like this that secured a second visit to All Saints. She got married in the church, had both children christened here and was an active member of the choir years ago. She was governor at St Mary and All Saints school for 8 years and is currently a teacher at The Wren School.

ANESTA VAUGHAN

Anesta has been part of the St. Mark's Church family since the late 1970s.

In 2000, he was confirmed here, marking a deepening of his faith and commitment. Since then, he has been a regular and active member of the congregation, sharing in worship, fellowship, and the life of the church community.

PCC VACANCIES

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

After 3 years helping us stay safer as a church Levine has stepped down from this role. We wish her well in her new endeavours at work and we are thankful for all she has brought to the job. So, we are searching for a new Parish safeguarding officer. This is a crucial role in ensuring that our community places safeguarding at the heart of all we do. Full training is provided. The main responsibilities would be to meet with the vicar regarding any reports and keep our parish dashboard up-to-date.

If you think you could help, please speak with Rev'd Jo or Jackie.

ECO GROUP

Thanks to those of you who have enquired about the 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. We will be arranging a meeting soon but we still need passionate people to help us with our plan. Speak to Rev'd Jo or Jackie if you are interested.



NEW COMMUNITY VENTURE

ALL SAINTS FAMILY*

As a Church, both nationally and locally we have committed ourselves to striving to do more to encourage children and young people to grow in faith. Every church is being encouraged to try something new for children and families alongside their usual provision.

PCC would love to try a new venture for school families, to create community space and encourage relationships to grow and flourish between the church and the school.

We would like to invite families to pop in to church for a drink and a snack and chance to chat on the way home from school, initially once every short term. To do this we need your help!

Could you spare an hour and a half (from 3pm) every once in a while to welcome people to church, make drinks and chat to people? If you would like to help, please speak with Rev'd Jo.

*If we have enough volunteers we would love to offer this to families of Battle school (St Marks) as well.



... IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

All Souls Day is observed on 2nd November in many Christian traditions and is a day dedicated to remembering and honouring the souls of those who have died. Every year we hold a special service for anyone who has lost a loved one at any time, who would like to come to give thanks for their life and remember them before God.

You are warmly invited to join us for this special service of remembrance at All Saints Church on Sunday 2nd November at 3.30pm.

During the service prayers will be offered and the names of those who have died and whose memory we cherish will be read aloud and families and friends are invited to come and light a candle to show that though they are gone from this world, they cannot be gone from our hearts.

As Christians we find comfort in the belief that death is not the end but a

transition into the eternal life with our Lord. In John 11:25, Jesus himself assures us, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." This promise gives us hope as we gather in remembrance.

The roll of remembrance will be available in church from 19th October. Please feel free to add names to the list. All names will be read out but we encourage you to attend and light a candle if you are able, as we remember them together.

We hope that this year's earlier time of 3.30pm will make it easier for more people to join us at this very special time and you are welcome to invite your neighbours friends and family as well. If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone, please contact one of the ministry team.

All Souls Day A service of loving remembrance

Sun 2nd November
3.30pm All Saints Church

For all who have lost someone
at any time;
an opportunity to come,
light a candle
and remember them
before God.



Remembrance Sunday 9th November

9am St Mark's Church

10.55am All Saints Church
with a two minute silence at 11am

...We shall remember them...

Made Holy By Their Dreams

**Saturday 8th November 2025
at 7.30pm
All Saints Church
Downshire Square
Reading RG1 6NN**

**Daniel Mahoney, conductor
Tom Winpenny, organist**

READING
BACH
CHOIR



Tickets
£18 in advance
£20 on the door
Under 18s: £5
**Buy tickets via
the website:**

www.readingbachchoir.org.uk

@readingbachchoir



Image: John Hamilton Glass SSA (fl.1890-1925) -
Watercolour, Haymaking by the River. Effort has
been made to trace a copyright holder.

Reg. charity
no. 286414

**Marking Remembrance Sunday,
Reading Bach Choir presents
Gerald Finzi's deeply moving
Requiem da Camera.**

READING
BACH
CHOIR

On 18 September 1918, Second Lieutenant Ernest Farrar was killed at the Battle of Éphy. Before enlisting, Farrar was the teenage Finzi's first composition teacher. The tragic death of such an influential figure on the young composer led Finzi to memorialize him and all those "who went ungrudgingly, and spent their lives for us...." in the *Requiem*.

Two decades later, Finzi wrote *Lo, the full, final sacrifice* for the consecration of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton. This festival anthem is a reflection on the translations of St. Thomas Aquinas by 17th-century metaphysical poet and cleric Richard Crashaw.

J.S. Bach's motet *Komm, Jesu, komm*, BWV 229 completes and complements this programme. The richly varied double-chorus work highlights the Baroque master's inventive musical ideas alongside his rich faith.



EVENTS ...

The Parish of St Mark and All Saints, Reading



Saturday 18th October

1.30pm – 3.30pm

All Saints Hall, Downshire Sq

GRAB A BARGAIN!

50p
entry

Clothes, household bits, books, and toys. All proceeds to parish funds.

All Saints Hall, Downshire Square, Reading,
RG1 6NH Charity number 1160687

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



Our MAD Club is back on a new day and with a slightly different format! Meeting one **Tuesday** a month, we will still be having fun, playing games, making crafts but we will also be spending time together looking at how we can grow in our faith and make an even bigger difference in our world. We will finish as always with a simple meal (Pasta, Pizza Hotdogs etc). Why not invite a friend? For more information talk to Revd Jo or Iva Butler.

All Saints Church, Downshire Square, Reading.



THE GREAT ADVENTure

Sunday 23rd November
2.30–4.30pm

An afternoon of activities and worship
for children and their families to prepare
for a faith filled Christmas together.

For more information contact
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com or Revd Jo 07977142450

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ...

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

One of the easiest ways to help us raise money is by signing up to easyfundraising. There is an article later in the newsletter, but with Christmas shopping about to start—we will all be shopping online more than usual. It raises money for the parish without it costing you anything. All you need to do is shop via their website (easyfundraising.org.uk)

Christmas Tree Festival—do you work for a company that would like to display a tree? Do you volunteer at a charity that needs free publicity by putting up a tree?

There is no charge for them. The company/ charity just puts up an artificial tree and they decorate it to represent themselves. It's a great community event and we would love more local companies to join us.

If you would like more information please speak to Jackie or email the office at:
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com

Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS PLEA

With our Christmas fundraising events next month, we would love any donations to make our events extra special.

In particular we have decided to concentrate on the following:

Chocolate—boxes of chocolates, sharing bags, chocolate orange, multi-packs—any chocolate at all...we can use these on a chocolate tombola or create a chocolate hamper. Lots of uses for chocolate!

Bottles—non alcoholic bottles of drink—we can create a bottle tombola which all ages can have a go at.

Gifts—as always, if you have any unused gifts - we can always repurpose these on the raffle, gift stall or create hampers. They could be toiletries, candles, gift bags etc.

Boxes will be available at the back of both churches for donations.

Many thanks.



THE PARISH OF ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS READING

CHRISTMAS FAIR & SALE

Admission 50p
ALL SAINTS HALL, DOWNSHIRE SQ

SAT 22ND NOVEMBER 3PM - 5PM

- RAFFLE
- GIFTS
- KNITS
- GAMES
- REFRESHMENTS
- CAKES
- BRIC-A-BRAC
- TOMBOLA

ALL SAINTS HALL
DOWNSHIRE SQ, READING, RG1 6NH

EMAIL: stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com
TELEPHONE: 0118 9502620

A detailed illustration of a Christmas tree with green needles, red and gold ornaments, and a red star on top. Several wrapped gifts in red and green paper are placed at the base of the tree on a snowy surface.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

The Parish of St Mark and All Saints, Reading

Christmas tree festival & fair

St Mark's Church
Saturday 6th December
1pm - 4pm

Visit our church and see Christmas trees decorated by the local community. Vote for your favourite!

Festive music and carol singing and enjoy stalls and refreshments

Email: stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com for more information
www.achurchnearyou.com/reading-st-mark

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

A detailed illustration of a Christmas tree with green needles, red and gold ornaments, and a red star on top. Several wrapped gifts in red and green paper are placed at the base of the tree on a snowy surface.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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. Angelina Elliott discusses her choices...

My favourite hymns change quite frequently and today my favourite 3 are:

Hymn One

Ancient Words by Michael Smith

I have never actually sung this in church. Not quite sure where I first heard it.

*Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the ancient words impart.*

*Words of life, words of hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home.*

**Chorus: Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.**

*Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.*

*Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

Chorus x 4

*We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.*

<https://www.lyricsondemand.com/m/michelwsmithlyrics/ancientwordshymns.html>

Hymn Two

Beauty for brokenness by Graham Kendrick

I heard this for the first time on Songs of Praise but I can't remember how long ago this was. The lyrics that I like most is in the second verse, 'rights for the weak, voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak'. God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pay, melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain, come change our love from a spark to a flame.

*Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair, Lord, in
Your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace, sunrise
to sunset, Your kingdom increase!*

*Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills, work
for the craftsmen, trade for their skills; land for
the dispossessed, rights for the weak, voices to
plead the cause of those who can't speak.*

**Chorus: God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray: melt our cold
hearts, let tears fall like rain; come, change our
love from a spark to a flame.**

*Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear, cities
for sanctuary, freedoms to share. Peace to the
killing-fields, scorched earth to green, Christ for
the bitterness, His cross for the pain.*

*Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
plundered and poisoned – our future, our
dreams. Lord, end our madness, carelessness,
greed; make us content with the things that we
need.*

Chorus: God of the poor . .

*Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame until
Your justice burns brightly again; until the na-
tions learn of Your ways, seek Your salvation and
bring You their praise.*

Chorus: God of the poor . . .

Hymn Three

Begone unbelief, my Saviour is near

I heard this hymn for the first time in 2006 at my Dad's funeral. The lyrics that touched my heart was 'With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm'. I can always find comfort in this hymn as I believe that Christ is with me in all I do.

*Begone, unbelief, My Savior is near, And for my
relief Will surely appear; By prayer let me wres-
tle, And He will perform; With Christ in the ves-
sel, I smile at the storm.*

*Though dark be my way, Since He is my Guide,
'Tis mine to obey, 'Tis His to provide; Though
cisterns be broken, And creatures all fail, The
word He hath spoken Shall surely prevail.*

*His love, in time past, Forbids me to think He'll
leave me at last In trouble to sink: Each sweet
Ebenezer I have in review Confirms His good
pleasure To help me quite through.*

*Why should I complain Of want or distress,
Temptation or pain? He told me no less; The heirs
of salvation, I know from His Word, Through
much tribulation Must follow their Lord.*

*How bitter that cup No heart can conceive,
Which He drank quite up, That sinners might live!
His way was much rougher And darker than
mine; Did Christ, my Lord, suffer, And shall I re-
pine?*

*Since all that I meet Shall work for my good, The
bitter is sweet, The medicine, food; Though pain-
ful at present, 'Twill cease before long, And then,
oh, how pleasant The conqueror's song!*

Thank you Angelina 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

• 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

October 11th—Breast Cancer Now

November 15th—Thames Valley Air Ambulance

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

DON'T FORGET!

Sunday 26th October
British Summer Time ends
Put your clocks BACKWARDS
one hour

Enjoy an extra hour sleep (then get up and come to church!)

ADVANCE NOTICE

All Saints Patronal
(joint parish service)



Join us at our Patronal Festival on
Sunday 2nd November at 10am
at All Saints Church, Downshire Square

The service will be followed by coffee and cake.

(There will be no service at St Mark's this day)

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.



PACT Carols at the Minster

A Christmas celebration for all the family

We are delighted to invite you to celebrate the festive season with us (and the elves) at Reading Minster.

Join us for a fun-filled, family-friendly afternoon of music, performances and Christmas reflections to celebrate and raise money for PACT's life-changing work with women, children and the local community.

Saturday 6th December 2025

Reading Minster, Chain Street, Reading, RG1 2HX

Refreshments from 3pm with the main event 4pm-5.30pm

Tickets available now * £3 for children, £12 tickets for adults and family options!

Children (and adults) are welcome to dress up as elves.

All proceeds will go towards PACT's work supporting children, families and our local community.

If you have any questions, please email Julie.Maclean@pactcharity.org

*Ticket bookings close at midnight Friday 5th December or buy on the door.

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 the People of Gaza and Ukraine and all those affected by war, terror or violence of any kind.
- That we might seek to safeguard the integrity of creation.
- For our Archbishop Designate, and Local Bishops Stephen and Mary
- that local churches will be a place of welcome and kindness for those seeking refuge.
- For wisdom and understanding in the heated discourse around immigration in the UK,
- For the work of READIFOOD
- That our Harvest celebrations might be a time of meaningful engagement especially with schools and Families.
- For those who are lonely or in need.
- For all who are sick including Pam, Elizabeth and David, Ben Kwaw and A
- For Russell, and all those who have died, or whose year's mind falls at this time.

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

WALSINGHAM MASS



NEW MEETING TIME 7.30PM

The cell of our Lady of Walsingham meet to celebrate Mass at 7.30pm at All Saints Church (on the first Monday of the month (excluding bank holidays):

Monday 6th October

Monday 3rd Nov

Monday 1st Dec

Dates in red (in the colder months) will be meeting at Tazewell Court

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 29th October—Reading Accordion Group

Wednesday 19th November - The Samaritans—'still listening after all these years' (talk by Seamus Jennings)

Wednesday 10th Dec 3pm—4.30pm Christmas Cream Tea (£4) - speak to Philip Cook for further details

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 1st October

Wednesday 12th November

Wednesday 3rd December



Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)

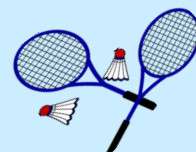


What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



BADMINTON CLUB



Monday 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday 7.30—8.30pm

All Saints Hall £4

GENEROUS GIVING

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

If you are shopping online then please consider first registering with easyfundraising.



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

www.easyfundraising.org.uk—perhaps the easiest way to support our church financially if you shop on-line. Many companies ‘donate’ a small percentage of the total cost of your goods to your nominated charity and it costs you nothing.!

Just hover over the QR code with your camera on your smart device and it will take you to St Mark and All Saints Reading easyfundraising’s cause page.

easyfundraising

You spend, retailers donate

Sign up to easyfundraising
and see your favourite
retailers donate to

St Mark and All Saints Reading

whenever you shop with them

Sign up and get started

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

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 Reading

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.

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:
allsaintsreading@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



BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON

If you are applying for a place at Blessed Hugh Faringdon School (for September 2026) and need a letter to accompany your supplementary information form (SIF), please email your request to Rev’d Jo by the end of November. Email: revdjowilliams@gmail.com

Details about the application process and supplementary form can be found at the below link.

[HTTPS://WWW.HUGHFARINGDON.ORG/HOME/JOIN-US/ADMISSIONS-INFORMATION/](https://www.hughfaringdon.org/home/join-us/admissions-information/)

THE MONTH AHEAD...

OCT

Wed 1st	11.00	Link Group AS hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 2nd		NO EVENTS
Fri 3rd	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 4th		NO EVENTS
Sun 5th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 6th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass AS
Tue 7th	7.00	Bible Study (AS Hall)
Wed 8th		NO EVENTS
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 9th		NO EVENTS
Fri 10th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 11th	10.30	Charity coffee (AS Hall)
	7.00	Scottish Dance SM Hall
Sun 12th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist—HARVEST
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist—HARVEST
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 13th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tues 14th	7.00	Bible Study (AS Hall)
Wed 15th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 16th		NO EVENTS
Fri 17th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 18th	1.30	Jumble Sale AS Hall
Sun 19th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 20th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 21st		NO EVENTS
Wed 22nd	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 23rd		NO EVENTS
Fri 24th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 25th		NO EVENTS
Sun 26th	9.00	St Marks Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 27th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tues 28th	7.00	Bible Study (AS Hall)
Wed 29th	2.30	Open Group AS Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 30th		NO EVENTS
Friday 31st		NO EVENTS

NOV

Sat 1st		NO EVENTS
Sun 2nd	10.00	All Saints Patronal festival AS (there is no service at SM)
	3.30	All Souls service AS
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 3rd	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass AS
Tue 4th		NO EVENTS
Wed 5th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 6th		NO EVENTS
Fri 7th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 8th	7.30	Reading Bach Choir (AS Church)
Sun 9th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	10.55	All Saints Eucharist with 2 min silence
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 10th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 11th		NO EVENTS
Wed 12th	11.00	Link Group (AS hall)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 13th		NO EVENTS
Fri 14th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 15th	10.30	Charity coffee (AS Hall)
Sun 16th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 17th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 18th		NO EVENTS
Wed 19th	2.30	Open Group AS Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 20th		NO EVENTS
Fri 21st	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 22nd	3.00	Parish Christmas Fair (AS Hall)
Sun 23rd	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 24th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 25th		NO EVENTS
Wed 26th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 27th		NO EVENTS
Fri 28th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 29th		NO EVENTS
Sun 30th	9.00	St Marks Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist

FUTURE DATES 2025

OCTOBER

Sat 11th Scottish Dance SM hall
Sun 12th Harvest
Sat 18th Jumble Sale AS hall

NOVEMBER

2nd AS Patronal Festival 10.00 AS
8th Reading Bach Choir AS Church
22nd Parish Christmas Fair AS Hall

DECEMBER

6th Christmas Tree Festival SM
21st All Comers Nativity 11.00 AS
21st Carols by Candlelight 6.30 AS
24th Crib service 5.00 AS
24th First Mass 9.00 SM
24th Midnight Mass 11.30 AS
25th Christmas Day 10.00 AS

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

EVER OUTWARD

Heidi Hyland Mann

Poet Rainer Maria Rilke said, "I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world." Indeed, we all do. As newborns, we focus only on ourselves. But as we grow, little by little we learn that the people and things around us are separate from us. Soon we can attend to others' actions, needs and feelings. Like ripples from a stone dropped in water, our circles of care widen from family (biological or otherwise) to friends (playmates, classmates, colleagues), church family, community, country and finally even people across the globe.



The ministries of Jesus and his disciples also were widening circles: first "to the lost sheep of Israel" (Matthew 10:6; 15:24, NIV) but soon to "all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Early church leaders took the gospel message ever outward, as Jesus had directed them: first to Jerusalem, then Judea and Samaria, and finally even "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV).

As our faith matures, our impact spreads outward too. Some people move geographically farther from home, while others use prayer, communication and technology to widen their reach of spiritual, emotional and financial support. How exciting that God's love encircles us all and that we can share it far and wide!