



*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

THE ROMANS SENT A MESSAGE; GOD SENT ONE, TOO

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule! That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said

to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified. But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the precious body of his Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness. God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do — the assassi-

nation of the Holy. That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring). After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed ... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses .... Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

OUR CHURCHES:

St Mark's Cranbury Road,  
RG30 2TA

All Saints Downshire Square,  
RG1 6NN

OUR STAFF:

Priest - Revd Jo Williams  
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stmarkandallsaints.safeguarding  
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READING  
HALF  
MARATHON  
22ND MARCH 2026



As in previous years many roads  
around the parish will be  
closed to traffic.

**There will be no  
11am service  
at All Saints Church on**

**SUNDAY 22nd MARCH**

Please join us for worship at 9am  
at St Mark's Church, Cranbury Road.

British Summer time begins on  
PALM SUNDAY

**Sunday 29th March**



**DON'T FORGET TO PUT YOUR  
CLOCKS FORWARD BY ONE HOUR!**

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](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/)

# LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

## **DRAW NEAR** LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

The Church of England’s theme for Lent 2026 is

**Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent.**

This year’s resources have at their heart the theme of a ‘rhythm of life’ – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God’s saving love at Easter. During Lent, reflections are centred around the [summary of the Christian Way](#) (opposite), which identifies six activities essential to our calling as disciples.

Each week a different contributor is exploring a different aspect of Christian discipleship –

**worshipping** together,  
**praying**,  
**exploring the Bible**,  
**sharing communion**,  
**offering service** and  
**sharing the good news** with others.

You can still sign up to receive daily reflections into your inbox or download the Everyday Faith App.

*“Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too.”*

*Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally  
& Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

## AFFIRMATION OF THE CHRISTIAN WAY

As we follow the Way of Christ, we affirm the presence of God among us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God calls us to share in worship.  
*Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in prayer.  
*Jesus said, remain in me, and I will remain in you.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share the Scriptures.  
*Jesus met his disciples on the road and opened the Scriptures to them.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in communion.  
*Jesus said, do this in remembrance of me.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share in service.  
*Jesus said, as you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**

God calls us to share the good news.  
*Jesus said, go and make disciples of all nations.*

**Jesus, you are the Way:  
guide us on our journey.**



Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name *Eostre*, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus’ victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to *Eostre*, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to *Eostre*. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, coloured eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.

# LENT 2026

## Lent Lunches

A light meal of soup bread and cheese followed by a short Lenten reflection

Wednesday 18th March 12.00 - 1.30pm St Mark’s

Tuesday 24th March 12.00 - 1.30pm All Saints

## Lent Bible Study

“The Difficult sayings of Jesus”

Do you struggle with some of Jesus’s teaching?

Come and explore through discussion as we try to uncover his meaning.

Thursday 12th March Matthew 25:14-30

TUESDAY 17th March Luke 16:1-13

Thursday 26th March TBC

Meet in the (warm!) Sacristy at all Saints Church.

Doors open 7.00pm for coffee,

Meeting begins 7.15 and ends at 8.00pm.

Each session is complete in itself so come when you can.

## LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

St Mark and All Saints, Reading

### **PALM SUNDAY** **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

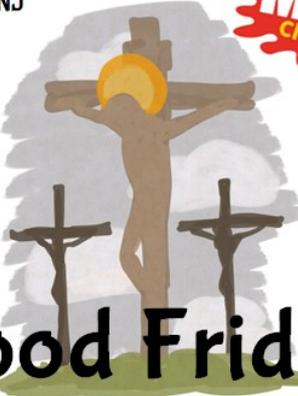
The service commences with  
the Blessing of the Palms

**St Mark's Church, Cranbury Road**  
**at 10am**

We remember Jesus triumphal  
entry to Jerusalem as we  
**process to All Saints where**  
**the service will continue at 11am**

You can join the procession at any point on  
route (Cranbury Road top, Tilehurst Road,  
Brownlow Rd top, or at the West door).

All Saints Church,  
Downshire Square,  
RG1 6NJ



## **Good Friday**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**10–11.30am**

Join us on Good Friday for activities, crafts,  
and worship as we think about Jesus's life  
and why he died

For more info or to tell us you are coming  
call: Revd Jo 07977 142450

Please remember Messy Church is a family activity and  
children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.00pm**

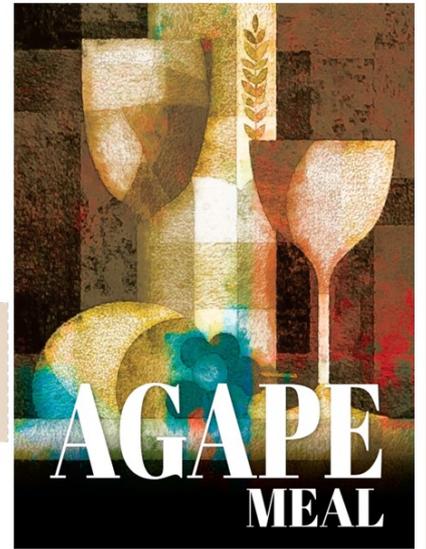
St Mark's Church, Cranbury Rd

A special Holy Week service in  
the context of a shared meal to  
remember the Last Supper  
Christ shared with his friends.

All are welcome but please book so that we  
know the correct numbers to cater for.

Adult £8 Child £4 (Donation)

To book please contact:  
stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com  
(or speak to Kwax or Rexd Jo)



St Mark and All Saints warmly invite you to our

## **Services for Holy Week and Easter**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00pm Agape Meal, St Mark's Church

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

7.00pm Stations of the Cross, All Saints Church

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

7.00pm Stations of the Cross, St Mark's Church

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist, All Saints

*Followed by compline at 10pm*

**Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

10-11.30am Messy Church, All Saints Church

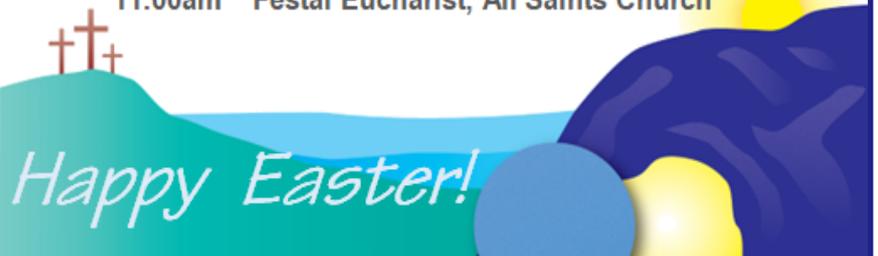
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross, St Mark's Church

**Easter Day Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

7.00am The Easter Vigil and Eucharist, All Saints

9.00am Festal Eucharist, St Mark's Church

11.00am Festal Eucharist, All Saints Church



## TELL ME THE OLD, OLD STORY...

The Easter story is so familiar to us that sometimes we can fail to appreciate the words that we have heard so often and know so well. This year, for a new perspective I encourage you to dive a little deeper into some of the less familiar parts of the story and be curious about the ideas and details that the Scriptures do not record.

For example: I wonder if any Roman soldier was standing in the back *not* mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31). If so, what was he thinking as others threw about insults? I wonder how long it took Joseph of Arimathea to cut his own tomb out of the rock (Matthew 27:57-60). What did he think about as he worked?

The day after Jesus' ascension, I wonder which disciple spoke first at breakfast — and what he said.

Scholars may have chimed in on some of these ponderings, but there's likely no right answer. Add meaning to this year's Easter celebration by letting your wonder wander during Holy Week.

# SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT

As violence once again escalates across the Middle East, I watch the news with horror and with deep sorrow. It is tempting to feel relief that such suffering is far away, yet as Christians we are reminded of our profound interconnectedness. When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. What harms our brothers and sisters harms us also.

Modern Monastic Shane Claiborne this week said “no one kills with more passion than someone who believes that God is on their side.” But history teaches us that every major religion, including our own, has at times been distorted by those seeking to justify hatred or mask prejudice. Christians are not exempt. We must acknowledge with humility the shameful chapters of our own history—crusades, persecutions, and conflicts in which the church strayed far from the way of Christ. Earlier this week I was reminded of a line from the film *Cromwell* feels painfully relevant today:

*“It is an odd thing... every man who wages war thinks God is on his side. I’ll wager that God must often wonder who is on his.”*

Yet Jesus, the Prince of Peace, showed us another way. He blessed the peacemakers. He commanded us to love our enemies. When violence arose among His disciples, He rebuked them. He carried a cross, not a sword, and died with mercy on His lips. This is the Saviour we follow; this is the example we are called to imitate. To be Christian is literally to be called “Christ-like” and Scripture reminds us, the world will know we are Christians *by our love*.

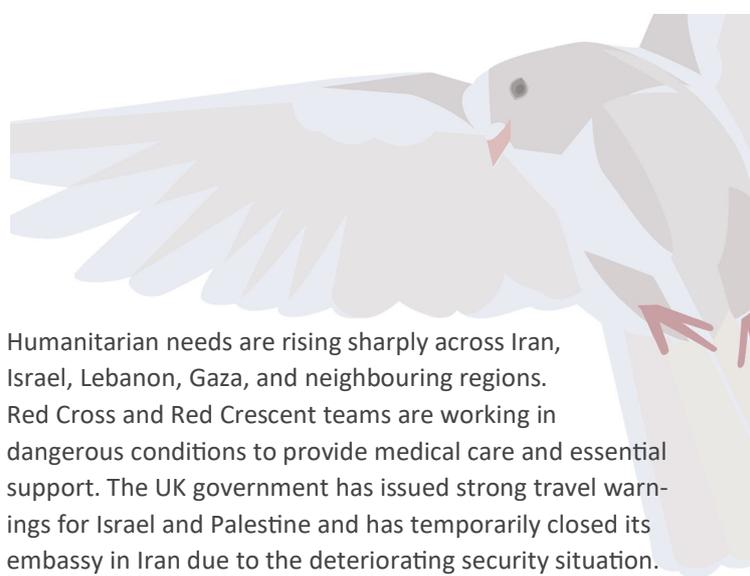
In a time of rising international tensions, the need for peacemakers has never been greater.

## A PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani,  
Bishop of Chelmsford.

Ever-loving God,  
who hears us in our anguish and distress,  
and longs for us to be free.  
We pray for the people of Iran and the wider  
Middle East,  
at this time of fear and uncertainty.  
Be near to those who are anxious;  
bring comfort to all who are suffering.  
Guide those with the power to make decisions,  
and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion  
and moderation:  
that people of goodwill would seek harmony and  
reconciliation.  
Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in  
all places,  
in praying for peace with justice,  
through him who is the prince of peace,  
Jesus Christ our Lord

**Amen**



Humanitarian needs are rising sharply across Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Gaza, and neighbouring regions. Red Cross and Red Crescent teams are working in dangerous conditions to provide medical care and essential support. The UK government has issued strong travel warnings for Israel and Palestine and has temporarily closed its embassy in Iran due to the deteriorating security situation.

It is easy to become overwhelmed by the enormity of world events and question “What can we do?!”

God desires peace—peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities, and peace in the world. Yet living out this call is neither simple nor easy. Each of us must discern what it means to witness to Christ’s peace in our daily lives.

Our call to be peacemakers extends far beyond global conflict. It is also a challenge for our own communities, relationships, workplaces, and churches. Too often we slip into familiar arguments rather than embrace the harder work of reconciliation, compassion, and understanding. Being Christ-like means seeking peace even when it is costly, uncomfortable, or uncertain.

Every week in our service we share in Christ’s peace and pledge ourselves saying “Let us pursue all that makes for peace and build up our common life.”

I urge you **to consider**: what does this mean for my relationship with my neighbours, for my colleagues of other faiths, for the guy who parks across my drive, for the people whose politics I find abhorrent...? How do we seek peace in these things as much as for the nations of the world.

And to **commit to pray**—pray for peace that seems beyond reach, pray for those living in fear, those unable to return home, those grieving losses, and those offering or receiving medical care. Pray for leaders and communities who choose the difficult path of peace over the familiar path of war.

And **to act** to do all that you can to build a more peaceful world.

May Christ, our Peace, guide us in the way of love.

Words of Justice and Peace from the Iona Community

**Spirit of integrity,  
you drive us into the desert to search out our truth.  
Give us clarity to know what is right,  
that we may abandon the false innocence of failing to  
choose at all,  
but may follow the purposes of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# EVENTS ROUND UP

## T'WAS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

With Easter almost upon us, Christmas seems like a long time ago, but I would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas services. Christmas is a major time of outreach for our church, when many people who would not normally attend worship are drawn in by our school and community carol services, Nativity plays, Christingle and Christmas worship.

These services are always special and this year was no exception.

All five of our local primary schools attended at least one service in Church and Revd Jo led carols, compared nativities and told the Good news of Jesus's birth to children and families alike.

Carols by Candlelight was beautifully accompanied by our choir who sang solos and a cappella pieces. Our thanks to Jerome, Rosa and Kathy and our choir for guiding us through this special service.

Thanks are also due to those who take our Christmas celebrations out into the local care homes to enable those who are not able to join our in church worship to hear the Christmas message and feel the Christmas spirit of love joy and peace.



## FOLLOWING JESUS

A serious amount of fun and learning (and Mess!) took place at the February Messy Church which was all about following Jesus. About 40 people came including some families joining us for the first time. We learned about the 12 disciples and how 52 MAB St is a real neat way of learning the Disciple's names (Ask Revd Jo!). We made our own set of disciples in a boat to take home and one child pre-empted the talk by labelling the disciples in her boat with the names of her family and friends saying



"We are Jesus's friends too!"

Other activities included painting our feet to make brightly coloured foot prints, Making awesome balloon people who always land on their feet no matter how high we threw them, to remind us



that God guides our feet too. Many of us stepped out of the busy mayhem to walk prayerfully through our own Labyrinth (Still available by Holy Cross if you'd like to try it), offering God our thoughts and concerns and inviting God to speak to us.

And finally held a Disco Dance off to the accompanying music of Sidney Carter's modern hymn "Lord of the Dance"! The collective worship at the end had us thinking about how we follow Jesus in our lives.

Our next Messy is on Good Friday. Everyone welcome



The Grand Finale of the "Lord of the Dance off"



# CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



1st place—Barbados & Friends Association



2nd place—St Mark's Sunday School

Our Christmas Tree Festival took place at St Mark's Church on Saturday 6th December. It was a bit damp and rainy but we had a steady flow of visitors enjoying the decorated trees, refreshments and singing. We had trees displayed from the Greek Orthodox Church, Reading Street Pastors, Community Payback team, Grovelands Road Pharmacy, Reading Concert Singers, All Saints Church, St Mark's Sunday School, the Barbados & Friends Association and a Blue Tree for those loved and lost. The trees made a beautiful display in church. Our warmest thanks to all involved for your time and effort in making this event a success.



Alongside the trees, we had stalls selling new goods, cakes and refreshments, bric-a-brac, knitted gifts and of course the raffle which in total raised over £390, which will support the ongoing work of our churches.

Knitting £74	Raffle £46	£1 items £49
Refreshments £201.10	Gifts/bric-a-brac £73.30	



Topping it all off was delightful carol singing which everyone joined in with (including guests)



Our winning trees were Barbados & Friends Association in first place, closely followed in second place by the tree from St Mark's Sunday School.

*Thank you all for your continued support of our community events*



## ACTIVITIES

### 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 25th March** - **'The Necropolis Railway'** - a railway line opened in 1854 to carry corpses and mourners between London and the newly opened Brookwood Cemetery. Illustrated talk by David Morton (Chair Reading U3A)

**Wednesday 22nd April**—Jenny Henshall **'My childhood and working life'**



December 2025. 21 people joined for the Open Group Christmas Afternoon Tea.

Speak to Philip Cook if you are interested in Open group activities.

### 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 15th April—NEW DATE**

Wednesday 13th May

In the summer , we are likely to return to the café at Aldermaston where the canal can be seen from the garden. Just before Christmas , seven of us went to Henry Street Garden Centre. We first chatted over a drink and cake and then 'explored' their Christmas displays and for some purchased a few items.

If you would like to know more or have any suggestions as to where we could 'explore' (e.g. somewhere we could see bluebells or a Church with a café close by) for example, please speak or email Rev'd Jane (revdjanelewis@gmail.com)

### EXPLORER GROUP

What does the name 'Explorers' mean to you? The Parish Explorers is a social group that travels away from the Parish to enjoy a drink, if you are tempted a cake, and something interesting to look at. The furthest we are likely to walk is from a car park to the café and maybe outside to look at something of interest.

We will continue to 'Explore' on a Friday but frequency will depend on where we can explore. You don't need to be able to walk very far but we do need enough car drivers.

# M.A.D.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

TUESDAY 10th MARCH

TUESDAY 14th APRIL

4.30-6pm

All Saints Church Hall

MAD Club meets one **Tuesday** a month, for fun, games, crafts and time together to 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.

## 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 13th April

Monday 11th May

## MARCH EXPLORERS

If reading the article to the left has inspired you, then join us at our next explorers outing:

### Friday 27th March

Visiting Thames Valley Hospice Superstore on Richfield Avenue

Come and browse the superstore and have coffee/ cake afterwards.

### 10.15am meet at All Saints Church

Let Rev'd Jane know if you are coming in order to organise transport.

## 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.

### FLOWER ARRANGING HELP



We need volunteers to help the flower arranging team at All Saints Church?

Do you have a bit of spare time?

Do you have the skill or would like to learn?

Please speak to Sylvia or Jackie if you can help.

### AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY

For a little while we have been planning a special event, "And we beheld His Glory", a faithful modern-day retelling of St John's Gospel, written by parish member Charlie Smith.

We are looking for the right people to deliver the performance. Could this be you? If you have a flare for the dramatic and would like to be considered for a role please speak to Revd Jo Kwaw or Charlie ASAP

### COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM

Are you available during the day on Tuesday?

Could you give a few hours a month to encourage and support the Community Payback team who help clean and maintain our buildings. Volunteers keep the church open help allocate jobs and make sure that the team have what they need for the task. Speak to Revd Jo if you can help

## ALL SAINTS FAMILY COFFEE AND CATCH UP

We would like to invite parents and children to our new monthly drop in after school at All Saints Church.

It's a chance to chat and get to know other families. There will be refreshments, hot chocolate, and we will provide a simple craft or colouring for the kids.

**Drop in 3-4 pm in church**

**Tuesday 17th March**

**Friday 24th April**

**Wednesday 20th May**

As we trial this new venture we would like to know which days will work best for you so we will be varying the weekday over the next few months to find the best fit.

We hope you will be able to join us.

For more information please speak to Revd Jo 07977142450  
revdjowilliams@gmail.com



### ST MARK AND ALL SAINTS, INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT:



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DOWNSHIRE SQUARE**

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**2.30 -4.30PM**

For more information call Revd Jo 07977 142450  
or email stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com

Messy Church is a family activity and children must be accompanied by an adult.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

**2nd Saturday in the month (except Nov)**



**14th March**—Alexander Devine Hospice and Young Lives vs Cancer

**11th April**—Thames Valley Animal Welfare and International Fund for Animal welfare

## 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.

Free event

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.



## STRENGTH AND BALANCE CLASS

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

**Tuesday 9.30am—10.30am**

A friendly, supportive exercise class designed to strengthen muscles and bones, improve balance and mobility and help you feel more confident on your feet.

**£8 per class (first session free)**

Classes led by a qualified level 4 exercise instructor.

Contact Laura for more information on 07762 151932 or email [lauramgfitness@gmail.com](mailto:lauramgfitness@gmail.com)

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

## THANK YOU

At the December Charity coffee morning on Saturday 13th December, Paul Farmer raised £160 for Cardiac Risk in the Young.

Thank you for being so generous and supporting these charity events.

## BADMINTON CLUB



Monday 7.30-9.30pm  
Tuesday 7.30—8.30pm

All Saints Hall £4

Bring a racket, Tuition available.

## Thank you

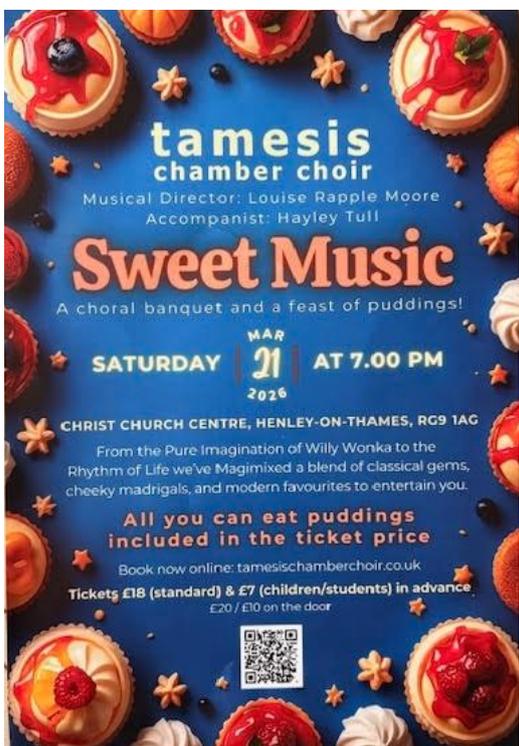
During our Christingle service on Christmas Eve we raised an amazing **£270** for




Thank you to everybody who donated so generously!

The Children's Society fight for hope by deeply understanding the needs of young people and by supporting them through the most serious life challenges.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/>



## tamesis chamber choir

Musical Director: Louise Rapple Moore  
Accompanist: Hayley Tull

# Sweet Music

A choral banquet and a feast of puddings!

SATURDAY **21** AT 7.00 PM  
2026

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, RG9 1AG

From the Pure Imagination of Willy Wonka to the Rhythm of Life we've Magimixed a blend of classical gems, cheeky madrigals, and modern favourites to entertain you.

**All you can eat puddings included in the ticket price**

Book now online: [tamesischamberchoir.co.uk](http://tamesischamberchoir.co.uk)

Tickets **£18** (standard) & **£7** (children/students) in advance  
£20 / £10 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, Iran 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 the PACT
- For those who are lonely or in need.
- For all who are sick including Elizabeth and David, Ben and A
- For Rupert, Anita, Tyler, and all those who have died, or whose year's mind falls at this time.



# We Are Recruiting



Would you thrive in a varied role where every day brings opportunities to support others and strengthen community?

You could be our new

### Operations Administrator.

You would manage a variety of administrative tasks and create a positive and welcoming experience for our service beneficiaries, volunteers and partners

This role will suit someone who is organised and proactive and has strong communication and interpersonal skills. It is for 15 hrs per week with a salary ranging from 25-27k FTE dependant on your experience. For more information, please visit our website: [Join our team - The Mustard Tree](#)

Berkshire Historic Churches Trust

## THE ENGLEFIELD LECTURE, 2026

Elias Ashmole's Church Notes of Berkshire 1665-66

His other Cabinet of Curiosities by Dr Adrian Ailes, FSA

Monday 20 April 2026 at 7.30 (doors open at 7.00)

in the Long Gallery, Englefield House, RG7 5EN

Elias Ashmole (1617-1692), Windsor Herald of Arms, politician, astrologer and student of alchemy, is perhaps best remembered today as an antiquary and collector. His extraordinary collection of artifacts – his 'cabinet of curiosities' – was bequeathed to the University of Oxford, where it formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum.

Less well known are the church notes of Berkshire, his other 'cabinet of curiosities', which he compiled during his heraldic visitation of Berkshire in 1665-and 1666. In these notes he recorded, and sometimes made drawings of, local monumental brasses, sculpted effigies of men, women and children, tombs, incised slabs, wall monuments, carved shields and badges, roof bosses and stained-glass windows They form an extremely valuable record of these monuments and of the appearance of the interiors of churches in the mid-seventeenth century.

In his lecture, Dr Ailes will look at what Ashmole found, highlighting his more interesting discoveries, many of which no longer exist.

Dr Adrian Ailes was formerly Head of Early Modern Records at The National Archives and is currently an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Bristol. An authority on heraldry, he has lectured widely and has an extensive list of publications to his name, most recently an acclaimed edition of the *Church Notes*, published by the Harleian Society in 2024.

Tickets, £17, to include a glass of wine, are available from TicketSource at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/berkshire-churches-trust>

## 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

# GENEROUS GIVING

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



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

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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.

**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 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.

## 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](mailto:allsaintsreading@gmail.com)

or [stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com)  
or call 0118 9502620



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

Email Sharon: [st.mark.church.hall@gmail.com](mailto:st.mark.church.hall@gmail.com)  
or telephone 0770 752 3617

## FUTURE DATES...

Do check church announcements for further information—hot off the press, two events in May.:

**Saturday 2nd May**—Jumble Sale at All Saints Hall.

We will require helpers to set up from 9.30am, sell from 1.30pm and tidy up from 3.30pm. Do sign up when the sign-up sheet appears in church.

**Saturday 16th May**—Quiz night at All Saints Hall

Do put the dates in your diary!

# THE MONTH AHEAD...

## Mar

Sun 1st	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 2nd	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass Tazewell Ct
Tues 3rd		NO EVENTS
Wed 4th	11.00	Link Group AS Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 5th		NO EVENTS
Friday 6th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 7th		NO EVENTS
Sun 8th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 9th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 10th	4.30	MAD Club (AS hall)
Wed 11th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 12th	7.00	Bible Study AS
Fri 13th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 14th	10.30	Charity coffee (AS Hall)
Sun 15th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist—Mothers Day
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist - Mothers Day
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 16th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 17th	3.00	All Saints Family catch up AS
	7.00	Bible Study AS
Wed 18th	12.00	Lent Lunch SM Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 19th		NO EVENTS
Fri 20th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 21st		NO EVENTS
Sun 22nd	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
		(no service at AS due to half marathon)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 23rd	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 24th	12.00	Lent Lunch AS
Wed 25th	2.30	Open Group (AS Hall)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 26th	7.00	Bible Study AS
Fri 27th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
	10.15	Parish Explorers (AS Church)
	10.30	SMAS Easter Service AS
Sat 28th		NO EVENTS
Sun 29th	10.00	St Mark's Eucharist—Palm Sunday
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist—Palm Sunday
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 30th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Agape Meal SM

Tue 31st	7.00	Stations of the Cross AS
		<b>Apr</b>
Wed 1st	7.00	Stations of the cross SM
Thurs 2nd	7.00	Maundy Thursday Eucharist AS
	10.00	Compline AS
Friday 3rd	10.00	Messy Church AS
	2.00	Hour at the Cross SM
Sat 4th		NO EVENTS
Sun 5th	7.00	Easter Fire and Eucharist
	9.00	Festal Eucharist SM
	11.00	Festal Eucharist AS
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 6th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tues 7th		NO EVENTS
Wed 8th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 9th		NO EVENTS
Friday 10th		NO EVENTS
Sat 11th	10.30	Charity coffee (AS Hall)
Sun 12th	9.00	St Mark's Eucharist
	11.00	All Saints Eucharist
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 13th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass AS
Tue 14th	4.30	MAD Club (AS hall)
Wed 15th	11.00	Link Group AS Hall
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 16th		NO EVENTS
Fri 17th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 18th		NO EVENTS
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	2.30	Open Group (AS Hall)
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 23rd		NO EVENTS
Fri 24th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
	3.00	All Saints Family catch up AS
Sat 25th		NO EVENTS
Sun 26th	10.00	Joint Patronal Service St Mark
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 27th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 28th		NO EVENTS
Wed 29th		NO EVENTS
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 30th		NO EVENTS

# FUTURE DATES 2026

## March

- Sunday 15th Mothering Sunday
- Sat 22nd Reading Half Marathon
- ~~Mon 30th And We Beheld His Glory—~~  
(Postponed)

## April

- Sun 5th Easter Sunday
- Sun 26th St Mark Patronal  
joint service 10am

## May

- Sat 2nd—Jumble Sale at AS hall
- Sat 16th—Quiz night at AS hall
- Sun 17th APCM—joint service @ 10am

## June

- Sat 6th Proposed Summer Fair

## September

- Sat 12th Ride and Stride and Macmillan cancer fundraising event

## December

- Sat 5th 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 2026

## SUNDAY ZOOM



We recognise that it can be difficult for some members to get to church each week, particularly in the colder months of the year.

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

## HOPE FOR HOLY WEEK

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Saviour who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

