

*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

**A SEASON FOR GROWING TOGETHER**

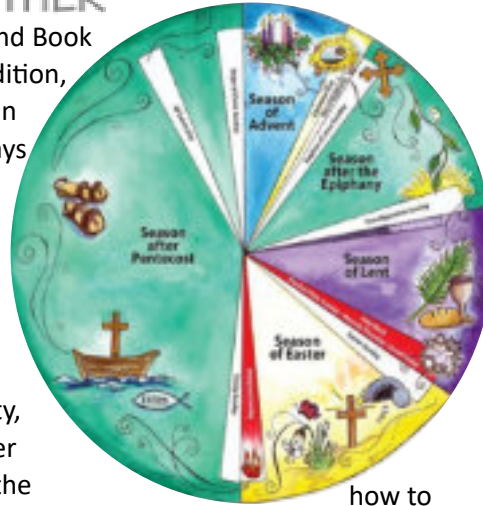
Ordinary Time is the name often given to the weeks in the Church's year that are not part of the great festival seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, or Pentecost. The word "ordinary" does not mean dull or unimportant. It comes from the idea of ordered or numbered time: the Sundays are counted in sequence. In this part of the year, the Church is invited to live out, week by week, what has been revealed in the great feasts of Christ's birth, death, resurrection, ascension, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In many churches this long stretch of green Sundays is called the Season after Pentecost. Pentecost celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church's mission. The Sundays that follow ask what it means to live as Spirit-filled people in everyday life. That is why the season is often associated with growth: growth in faith, in discipleship, in service, and in the life of the Christian community.

In the older Anglican and Book of Common Prayer tradition, the same period is often described as the Sundays after Trinity. Trinity Sunday comes immediately after Pentecost, and the Sundays that follow are numbered from it: the First Sunday after Trinity, the Second Sunday after Trinity, and so on. So "the Tenth Sunday after Trinity" in the BCP tradition belongs to the same broad part of the Christian year that many churches now call Ordinary Time or the Season after Pentecost.

These different names place the emphasis slightly differently. "After Pentecost" reminds us that the Church lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. "After Trinity" reminds us that Christian faith is rooted in the love and life of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. "Ordinary Time" reminds us that faith is formed not only in the great celebrations, but also in the steady pattern of prayer, worship, Scripture, service, and daily obedience.

For that reason, Ordinary Time is not a pause in the Christian year. It is a season for learning



how to follow Christ in ordinary days. The readings often focus on Jesus' teaching, the life of the early Church, and the gifts and responsibilities of Christian discipleship. They invite us to ask how the Gospel shapes our homes, our work, our relationships, and our common life. So as we mark the Sundays after Trinity, we are also standing within Ordinary Time and the Season after Pentecost. This is a good moment to remember that God is at work not only in dramatic moments, but also in the patient growth of faith. We can support one another as we learn, pray, serve, and grow together, trusting that the same Spirit who unites the Church also equips each of us to live with joy and purpose every day.



**OUR CHURCHES:**

St Mark's Cranbury Road,  
RG30 2TA

All Saints Downshire Square,  
RG1 6NN

**OUR STAFF:**

Priest - Revd Jo Williams  
revdjwilliams@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  
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**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  
stmarkandallsaints.safeguarding  
@gmail.com

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!*



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



www.facebook.com/  
StMarkandAllSaintsReading/

# A SUMMER OF FUN

Where do we start? It has been a wonderfully busy summer of parish events and fundraising so far, with so much to celebrate and be thankful for. We began back in May with our jumble sale. As always, the regulars came in force to hunt out some great bargains, and together we raised an impressive £1,062. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, and especially to John and Elizabeth for organising the event and collecting so many items beforehand.

Later in May, we enjoyed a lively quiz night, with Ron doing a splendid job as MC and quiz master. The evening raised £268 for Christian Aid. Thank you to Ron, and to everyone who helped prepare the wonderful interval food, which was very much appreciated.



The Parish Summer Fair followed on 6 June at All Saints Hall. There was a lovely atmosphere, and, unsurprisingly, people made a beeline for the treats homemade cakes, , and bric-a-brac.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and hard work, an amazing £1,000 was raised for parish funds.

Finally, the Family Fun Day at St Mark's Church took place on Saturday 20 June

Summer Fair Stalls	
Bric a Brac	£224.95
Cakes	£176.20
Raffle	£108.50
Mugs	£73
Games	£55
Plants	£22
Knitting	£22.50
Toys	£36.20
Door	£38
Refreshments	£53
Books	£19
Post fair sales	£170
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,000</b>



and had a wonderful buzz about it, with people coming in from the local community.



The church doors and railings were decorated so brightly that no one could miss the fact that we were open! There were plants, cakes, refreshments, a raffle, and plenty of things to win and do, including making cress houses. The day raised a fantastic £281.19. A Huge Thank you to Teresa for organising such a cheerful and welcoming event.

And there is more to look forward to! **Don't forget to put the Caribbean Evening in your diary: Saturday 4 July, 7pm at St Mark's Hall, Cranbury Road.**

It promises to be another joyful parish occasion.

## WHEELIE WELL DONE SHARON!

On Sunday 21 June, Sharon Hyman braved the heatwave to take part in the 54-mile London to Brighton Bike Ride, raising funds for the British Heart Foundation.

A keen cyclist, Sharon decided to take on the challenge in memory of loved ones and to support the charity's vital work in funding research and helping people affected by heart and circulatory disease.

Cycling from London to Brighton is no small undertaking at the best of times, but doing it in hot weather made the achievement even more impressive. Sharon kept going, mile after mile, with determination, good humour, and plenty of heart.

Thanks to the generosity of her supporters, she has raised over £1,000, which is a phenomenal achievement and a wonderful tribute to those in whose memory she rode.

Very well done, Sharon, from everyone in the parish. We are proud of you — and we hope you have had a very well-earned rest!





# EVENTS JULY AND AUGUST

**Reading Sinfonietta**

**MENDELSSOHN:**  
INCIDENTAL MUSIC TO  
'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'

**HAYDN:**  
SYMPHONY NO. 103  
'DRUM ROLL'

CONDUCTOR: CATHAL GARVET

Saturday 18th July 7.30 p.m.

All Saints Church, Downshire Square

Reading Sinfonietta returns to All Saints Church this summer performing Mendelssohn's enchanting incidental music to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and Haydn's 'Drum Roll' symphony.

Saturday 18th July, 2026, 7:30pm

All ages (under-16s must be accompanied by an adult)

Tickets adults £18

Students and <18 £7.50

available from

<https://wegottickets.com/f/22197>

**Make a Postcard PUZZLE**

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

**What you need:**

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)

**What you do:**

1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.

The Parish of St Mark and All Saints, Reading

*Don't miss out*

**ST MARK'S CHURCH INVITE YOU TO OUR FAMOUS CARIBBEAN EVENING**

**SATURDAY 4TH JULY 7PM - 10PM**

**FOOD MUSIC FUN**

TICKETS IN ADVANCE - £10 Adults, £4 Children, Under 5's free (price includes 1 free drink, Bar available).

Email: [stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com) or telephone parish office 0189502620 St Mark's Hall, Cranbury Road, Reading, RG2 9 2TA

St Vincent & the Grenadines Association (Reading)

**Seaside Trip to MARGATE**

Saturday 15th August 2026

Relax on Margate main sands, explore the Old Kent Market and head to amusement Park

Departure - Liphing Church, Oxford Road to Margate  
Arrive by 8.30am  
Coach leaving 8.45am sharp

Departure - Margate to Liphing Church, Oxford Road  
Coach leaving 6.30am sharp

Price £25 per head

Contact Sharon McKee 07861727444 or Sharon Clarke 07808 728783

## BESIDE THE SEASIDE?

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Association, Reading is organising a trip to Margate on 15th August. Details on the poster above. Places are limited so please do book yours now if you would like to attend. The SVGA supports Vincentians and their friends in Reading, the UK, and St Vincent & The Grenadines. The association is dedicated to relieving poverty, promoting leisure, recreation health, welfare, and education for the community, and organising fundraising, social events, and trips that bring people together and celebrate their shared heritage. The association also provides community news, support, and advice on important topics such as the Windrush Documentation and Compensation scheme.

Membership is open to all who wish to join, participate, or support the mission of the association.

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

Fun  
Activities  
Family  
Games  
Crafts  
Friends  
Faith  
For everyone!

**MESSY CHURCH**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DOWNSHIRE SQUARE

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2.30 - 4.30PM**

For more information call Revd Jo 07877 142450 or email [stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com)

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

# SAFEGUARDING: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Safeguarding is one of those words we hear quite often in church life, but it is much more than a policy folder, a training course, or a notice on the wall. At its heart, safeguarding is about helping our churches to be safe, welcoming, and caring places for everyone: children, young people, adults, volunteers, visitors, and those who may be vulnerable for any reason.

The Church of England describes safeguarding as an integral part of the Church's mission and ministry. In other words, it belongs right at the centre of our life together, because caring well for one another is part of what it means to follow Christ. Good safeguarding helps us notice concerns, respond properly, and make sure people are listened to and supported.

We are very pleased to introduce Helen McLuckie as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

Helen is a regular attender at All Saints and a member of the PCC, and many of you will already know her around the parish. In this role, Helen will work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC, and diocesan safeguarding team to help us keep our safeguarding arrangements up to date and to respond appropriately if concerns are raised.

Helen will be completing her safeguarding training over the next few months — and there is quite a lot of it! We are grateful to her for being willing to take on this important responsibility and for giving her time to help our parish continue to be a safe and supportive community.

Safeguarding is not only the responsibility of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the clergy, or the PCC. It is EVERYONE'S responsibility. If something does not seem right, if someone tells you something that worries you, or if

you have any concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child or adult, please do not keep it to yourself. It is always better to share a concern promptly than to assume someone else has noticed.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to Helen as soon as possible. (Whilst Helen gets settled in her new role she can be contacted via the Parish Office clergy or wardens) You can also speak to Revd Jo or one of the churchwardens if that feels easier. Concerns will be taken seriously and handled with care, sensitivity, and appropriate confidentiality.

Thank you, Helen, for taking on this role, and thank you to everyone in the parish for helping us to build a church community where people are valued, respected, and safe. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and together we can help make our churches places of trust, care, and welcome for all.



Safeguarding is exactly what it says – guarding the safety of the members of our Church Community and as such it has its roots very firmly in our Christian duty to **love one another**.



There will be vulnerable people in most congregations, including ours, who need us to look out for them.

We all have a responsibility for Safeguarding, that is looking out for each other's wellbeing.

We tend to think of the abuse of children when we think of Safeguarding, but people can be vulnerable at any age and in a number of different ways (we'll explore these in another article).

Your Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) works alongside and on behalf of the PCC to ensure that all who worship with us and visit us are as safe as they can be.

You should speak to your PSO if you see or hear anything that doesn't feel right – because if it doesn't feel right it probably isn't.

Your Parish Safeguarding Officer is:

**Helen McLuckie**



**Safe Spaces** is an independent and confidential support service for adults who have been abused by someone in the Church.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can support you.

Call our free helpline  
**0300 303 1056**

[safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk)

**Opening hours**  
Mon- Fri- 9am-9pm  
Sat- 9am-1pm  
Sun- 1pm-5pm

[WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK)

## COULD YOU HELP US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE ?

There is something very special about music in church. A familiar hymn can lift our spirits, a simple harmony can make the words feel new again, and a choir can help the whole congregation sing with more confidence and joy. For many generations, music has been an important part of worship at All Saints, and we would love to see that tradition grow again.

So, this autumn, we are exploring the possibility of starting a new parish choir. At this stage we are not asking anyone to make a firm commitment; we are simply trying to find out who might be interested. If there are enough willing singers, we hope to gather a small core of people who could sing regularly at services and rehearse together.

You do not need to be an expert musician, and you do not need to have sung in a church choir before. If you enjoy singing, are willing to learn, and would like to help lead worship, you would be very welcome. Enthusiasm matters much more than perfection!

In time, we hope the choir might grow into a family choir, where children, teenagers, and adults can sing alongside one another. One of the lovely things

about a church choir is that it brings together people of different ages and backgrounds in a shared purpose.

- For adults, it can offer friendship, musical development, and a meaningful way to contribute to parish life.
- For older members, it can provide companionship, continued musical involvement, and a sense of belonging.
- For children and young people, it can build confidence, develop musical skills, and give them a real role within worship.

As a church choir, we hope to offer something distinctive: the opportunity to sing liturgical music in the setting for which it was written. There is a wealth of sacred repertoire which is in danger of being lost to future generations if we do not give our present congregations the opportunities to experience it.

We may also be able to explore opportunities such as the Royal School of Church Music's Voice for Life programme, as well as ways of developing keyboard, musicianship, and listening skills. But the first step is



simply to gather people who would like to sing.

At this stage, we are not asking people to commit. We are simply trying to discover whether there is sufficient interest to establish a sustainable choir.

If you are interested, or if you know someone who may be, please speak to Revd Jo, Jerry, Katharine or Rosa or email Katharine at [sherbornecats@gmail.com](mailto:sherbornecats@gmail.com) or contact the parish office.

Music has always been one of the church's greatest gifts. With your help, we hope to see that gift flourish once again.

### NEW MONTHLY BOOK GROUP

#### — WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?



We're exploring the idea of a monthly book group at church.

The plan would be simple: choose a book with a spiritual theme, read it over the course of a month, and then meet for an informal, friendly discussion—over a glass (or cup) of something nice.

If you'd like to take part (or help shape what the group looks like), please speak to Revd Jo.



### FLOWER ARRANGING

It is lovely to have flowers in Church, especially for our festivals. The Flower arranging team at All Saints has dwindled as some of our older members has retired and we need more help

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.

## EXPLORERS LATEST ADVENTURE



On Friday 26th June, our Explorers group enjoyed a lovely morning visit to the quiet village of Aldermaston Wharf, famed for its scenic canal views and tranquil atmosphere. Despite being one of the hottest days on record, they made the most of the fresh air, waterside views, and time together outdoors as they explored the canal, chatted together, and enjoyed a change of scene. As the picture shows, it was a lovely morning and a great opportunity for the group to share an adventure together.

If you would like to join the Explorers on their next adventure, please contact Revd Jane.



## CHILDREN'S HOSPICE MONTH

As June was Children's Hospice month and as I have supported and fundraised for Berkshire (Alexander Devine) Children's Hospice (even before it acquired the land it was built on), I submit the following (self-penned poem)

They say time is a healer,  
 And that everything has its season.  
 That there is a purpose behind everything  
 And that nothing happens without good reason.  
 But I have to admit my heart often rebels  
 Against these comforting homilies.  
 For it seems to me, it defies all rhyme and reason  
 That so many children are chosen to flourish and flower  
 For the briefest of seasons  
 Struggling to grow like sunflowers in the snow—special  
 gifts each one.  
 But too precious (unlike us) to live to grow old.  
 Lent to us with love (and to love us)  
 And then—far too soon—taken back (seemingly without  
 reason).  
 And yet like the gently caressing summer breeze  
 I believe they are always with us (sharing our every second)  
 Until it is time for us,  
 Our individual releases from life to receive  
 I have no proof of this, to share with you  
 But in this (as a Christian) I truly believe so we must cease  
 our weeping  
 Although rivers we could cry  
 And work towards turning our losses into lasting legacies  
 (local children's hospices)  
 That we must ensure will endure for evermore.

Submitted and written by Paul Farmer

# Puzzle!

Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.)  
 Circle each place as you find it.  
 Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome

# NO MOW MAY AT ST MARKS By Teresa Colliass

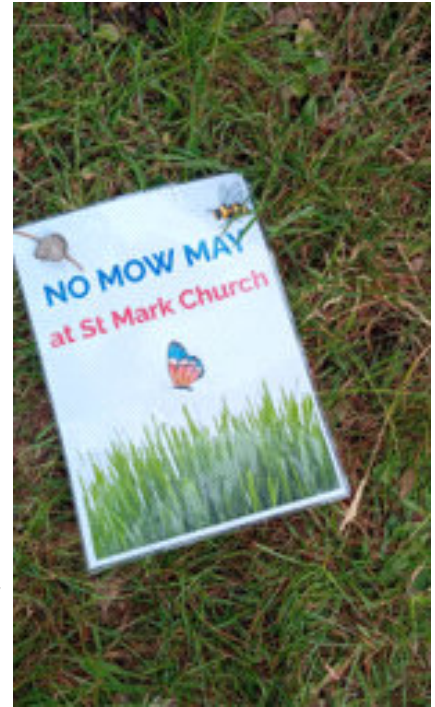
When I was little, my grandad took great pride in mowing his lawn, always making sure the lines were perfectly straight. These days, many people have replaced real grass for artificial turf or, like me, opted for slate chippings - sorry, grandad.

Here at St Mark's, we still have the real thing, and this year I decided to join in with *No Mow May*. The idea is simple: leave the lawnmower in the shed for the month of May to give wildflowers and insects a chance to thrive.

By letting the grass grow, we allow the wildflowers to bloom, providing vital nectar for the bees, butterflies and countless other insects. patch of unmown grass becomes part of a much bigger patchwork that supports the wildlife we depend on.

Even though I don't have grass in my own garden, I've planted pollinator-friendly plants to play my part.

*No Mow May is a trademark of Plantlife.*



## TOO HOT TO IGNORE

This summer, we're feeling the heat more than ever with an intense heatwave sweeping across the country.

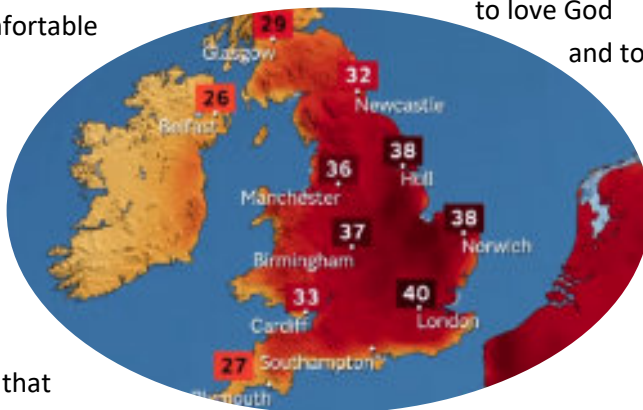
As I sit at my desk editing this newsletter the thermometer on the wall tells me it is a very uncomfortable 34°C, and I think every conversation I've had this week has begun with the word's "It's HOT!"

It's hard to ignore the record-breaking temperatures and the strange weather patterns that seem to be becoming the new normal. These changes remind us that climate change is real and affecting our planet, and it's time for us to step up and do something about it.

In our Diocese of Oxford, we're being encouraged to take a proactive stance. The fifth mark of mission states that as Christians, we are 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' Environmental issues and the state of the earth are not just the responsibility

of scientists, ecologists, conservationists or so-called 'eco-warriors'. They are an integral part of what it means to be a Christian. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded

to love God and to



love our neighbours as ourselves.

To love God is to love all that he has made and created. And to love our neighbours as ourselves is to ensure that our actions and decisions are a force for good, not harm.

We cannot show love to God and neighbour without acting for the good of creation. As a community of faith, we have a unique opportunity to lead by example. Our calling is not just to pray for the world but to actively

engage in caring for it. The current heatwave serves as a wake-up call, urging us to rethink our habits and consider how we can live more sustainably.

The Creation Care Pledge is more than just words; it's an invitation to roll up our sleeves and take action together. Whether by reducing our carbon footprints, supporting local sustainability efforts, or advocating for greener policies, planting trees, or simply being mindful of our energy use at home. every little action counts.

As we navigate this heatwave, let's remember our responsibility to care for the beautiful world God has given us.

We are looking for people who can help our churches to work in a more sustainable way for the sake of the world. Can you help us? If so please talk to Revd Jo or our church wardens.

By coming together in prayer and action, we can be stewards of creation and help ensure a healthier planet for generations to come.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS



This year we are proud once again to support Ride and Stride, to raise money for historic church buildings. Participants are sponsored to walk, cycle or scoot between as many churches as they can on the day. Money raised is split between the nominated trust and the participants chosen church.

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 across the UK.

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 12th September.

Both St Mark's Church and All Saints Church will be open this year for Ride and Stride and at the same time we will be hosting our Macmillan Cancer support coffee morning events.

Fancy giving it a go?

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



**Macmillan Cancer Support  
event and Heritage Open Day  
Saturday 12th September**

St Mark's Church, Cranbury Rd - 10am—1pm  
All Saints Church, Downshire Square - 10.30am—12pm

**Come and support Macmillan as well as view our beautiful churches during our Open Day.  
(both churches open 10am—2pm for viewing)**

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, RG1 6NN

## SAVE ME A PEW

In smaller churches like ours, it can sometimes feel like church is all about the numbers. Sidespersons count the number of people who attend each service and the clergy count how many receive communion each week to record in the Service Register which we are legally obliged to keep.



We like it when our churches feel full and we can celebrate together and we worry when our numbers are lower.

At Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea, they have rather the opposite problem: making sure there is room for everyone!

Yoido Full Gospel Church began in 1958 with just a handful of people meeting in a home. From those very

small beginnings it grew into one of the best-known Pentecostal churches in the world, with hundreds of thousands of members and several satellite congregations across Seoul.

Its main sanctuary, located across from National Assembly Building, is enormous by our standards, seating about 26,000 people, and yet the congregation became so large that extra services and satellite congregations were needed to help everyone worship. Now the membership is so large that attendees are assigned specific weeks of the month to attend services!

Imagine arriving at church and discovering that the question is not "Where shall I sit?" but "Which service am I allowed to attend this week?"

What a powerful witness in a country where only about 30 percent of the population identifies as Christian.

Of course, our own parish life looks very different, and thankfully no one

needs an assigned pew rota here! But the story is still a cheerful reminder that churches can grow in surprising ways when people are welcomed, encouraged, prayed for, and invited to take part.

Growth is not only about numbers. It is also about warmth, faith, friendship, and a sense that there is space for everyone. A church can grow whenever someone is greeted kindly, a new family feels at home, a lonely person finds company, or a neighbour is invited to come and see.

We may not need a bigger building just yet, but perhaps the challenge for us is how we can keep making room in our worship, our conversations, our groups, and our hearts?

Who might be waiting for an invitation, a friendly smile, or simply the reassurance that there is a place for them?

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

• Lonely? • Looking for Company? •  
 • Want to make new friends? • Building Community? •  
 • New to the area? • Moved 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

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



- 11th July**—Alzheimers Society and Age UK
- 8th August**—M.N.D Association and The Stroke Association
- 12th September**—Macmillan Cancer Support and Mercy Ships UK Ltd (*This will be in All Saints Church*)

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

## 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** x10 1200

## 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**

## BADMINTON CLUB

Monday 7.30—9.30pm  
 Tuesday 7.30—9.30pm

All Saints Hall £4

Bring a racket, Tuition available.

## 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 15th July (meet at midday) for 12.30pm lunch at Toby Carvery—annual Open Group meal out.**

**Wednesday 26th August—'Bring and Share Garden Party' - 12.30pm—2pm at Kaikoura (see Philip Cook for more details or telephone 0118 3766425). Two hour parking available.**

**Wednesday 23rd September—'My travels in 2025' - illustrated talk by Peter Scott**



## 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.

If you would like to join us or find our more, please ask.

Our dates for the summer will be.

- Wednesday 8th July**
- Wednesday 5th August**
- Thursday 10th September**

## 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 all affected by the **extreme heat in Reading and across the UK**, especially older people, young children, those who are unwell, rough sleepers, outdoor workers, and emergency services.
- for **climate responsibility and care for creation**: for wise choices by individuals, communities, businesses, and governments, and for those most affected by extreme weather, pollution, and environmental damage.
- for people in Reading facing **financial pressure and the cost of living**, and for local support services, food banks, churches, and community groups helping those who are struggling.
- for **schools, children, young people, and families**, especially the pressures as the end of term approaches and for the summer break.
- for our **national political leaders**: for wisdom, integrity, compassion, and a commitment to justice as they make decisions affecting the whole country.
- Pray for **peace in our world**,
- Pray for **the town of Reading**: for safe streets, good neighbourliness, those affected by crime or domestic abuse, and all who work to make our community more caring, just, and hopeful.

## 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 11th May
- Monday 1st June
- Monday 6th July



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 finish with a simple meal together - Why not invite a friend? For more information talk to Revd Jo or Iva Butler.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

#### A Celtic version of the Lord's prayer

*John Philip Newell*  
Holy One beyond all names  
eternal wellspring  
May love rise again in us today  
With food for every table  
Shelter for every family  
and reverence for every life  
Forgive us our failings in love  
And free us from all falseness  
That the light of our souls may shine  
And the strength of our spirits endure  
Foe Earth and for all its people  
This day, tonight and forever.

**Amen**

- for those who are **sick or in need** and those who care for them, remembering especially Stella, Stella, Linda, Judith, Ann, Valerie, and Christabel
- for those who have recently **died** recently including, Christina, Olive, Evie and Pete, and those whose year's mind fall at this time.
- for our **local church community**: for faithfulness, kindness, welcome, and courage as we worship, serve, care for one another, and share God's love in our parish.

### 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

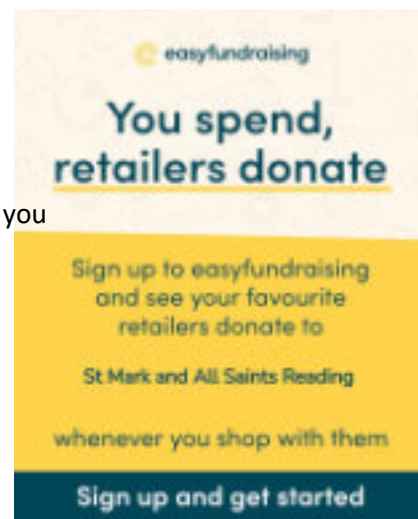
If you are shopping online then please consider first registering with easyfundraising.

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.



*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  
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

## SMALL GIFTS, BIG DIFFERENCE

A very special thank you to everyone who kindly donated to Christian Aid during May. Together, we raised a wonderful £924.83, which has now been sent to Christian Aid. This is a fantastic total, and it will make a real difference to people facing poverty, crisis, and injustice around the world.

The money was raised through a number of parish events and donations, including our quiz night, which raised £268, a contribution from the jumble sale, and generous gifts from parishioners through the collection envelopes in church. Every donation, large or small, has helped us reach this excellent total.

Christian Aid works with local partners and communities to help people claim their rights, access essential services such as healthcare and education, respond to humanitarian emergencies, and become more resilient in the face of disasters such as droughts, climate change, and hurricanes. Their work is rooted in the belief that everyone should be able to live a full life, free from poverty.



It is encouraging to know that the money raised here in our parish becomes part of that much wider work of hope and practical support. Whether through emergency relief, long-term development, or campaigning for justice, Christian Aid helps churches and communities stand alongside some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

So thank you once again to everyone who gave, organised, baked, quizzed, sorted, collected, counted, or encouraged others to take part. Your generosity is very much appreciated, and it is a lovely reminder of what we can do when we work together.

**July**

Wed 1st	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 2nd		NO EVENTS
Fri 3rd	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 4th	<b>7.00</b>	<b>Caribbean Evening SM hall</b>
<b>Sun 5th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 6th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass AS
Tue 7th		NO EVENTS
Wed 8th	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Link Group AS Hall</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 9th		NO EVENTS
Fri 10th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 11th	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Charity coffee (AS Hall)</b>
<b>Sun 12th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30</b>	<b>Messy Church AS</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 13th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tues 14th	<b>4.30</b>	<b>MAD Club (AS hall)</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Wed 15th	<b>12.30</b>	<b>Toby Carvery Open Group</b>
Thurs 16th		NO EVENTS
Fri 17th	8.45	School Family Worship AS preceded by coffee
Sat 18th		<b>AS</b>
		<b>Reading Symphony Orchestra</b>
<b>Sun 19th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	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		NO EVENTS
Sat 25th		NO EVENTS
<b>Sun 26th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 27th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 28th		NO EVENTS
Wed 29th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 30th		NO EVENTS
Fri 31st		NO EVENTS

**Aug**

Sat 1st		NO EVENTS
<b>Sun 2nd</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 3rd	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.30	Walsingham Mass AS
Tues 4th		NO EVENTS
Wed 5th	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Link Group AS Hall</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 6th		NO EVENTS
Friday 7th		NO EVENTS
Sat 8th	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Charity coffee (AS Hall)</b>
<b>Sun 9th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 10th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 11th		NO EVENTS
Wed 12th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 13th		NO EVENTS
Fri 14th		NO EVENTS
Sat 15th		NO EVENTS
<b>Sun 16th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 17th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
	7.00	Parish Prayers
Tue 18th		NO EVENTS
Wed 19th	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 20th		NO EVENTS
Fri 21st		NO EVENTS
Sat 22nd		NO EVENTS
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 24th	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS
Tue 25th		NO EVENTS
Wed 26th	<b>12.30</b>	<b>Bring and Share (Open Group)</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Thurs 27th		NO EVENTS
Fri 28th		NO EVENTS
Sat 29th		NO EVENTS
<b>Sun 30th</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>St Mark's Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.00</b>	<b>All Saints Eucharist</b>
	9.00	Compline (zoom or telephone)
Mon 31st	10.30	Coffee on Mondays AS

**July**

- Sat 4th Caribbean evening SM Hall
- Sunday 12th Messy Church
- Sat 18th RSO concert at All Saints Church

**September**

- Sat 12th Ride and Stride/ Macmillan cancer fundraising event (also Table Top at SM Church)

**October**

- Scottish Dance SM tba

**November**

- Sat 14th Parish Christmas Fair

**December**

- Sat 5th Christmas Tree Festival

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: wor-ship (or 7805385 if dialling by phone) You can

**A FINAL THOUGHT!**

Every Season... Turn to God.

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

