

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

September always feels like a fresh page. Children and young people are settling into new classes, teachers and staff are finding their rhythm again, and families are adjusting to the familiar mixture of early mornings, packed bags and new possibilities. As a parish, we hold our church school and our community schools in prayer, giving thanks for all who teach, lead, learn, care, cook, clean, govern, volunteer and encourage. Schools are at the heart of community life, and our support matters — not just on special occasions, but through steady friendship, practical help and prayer. If you would like to know more about supporting our schools work by welcoming parents and families to Friday coffee, our monthly coffee and Catchup or becoming a school governor, please speak to Revd Jo.

These months also bring us into Creationtide, the Season of Creation, which runs from 1 September to Harvest. In 2026 the Church of England's theme is "Living Water", drawn from Ezekiel's vision of water flowing from the temple, bringing renewal and life wherever it goes. It is a timely reminder that care for God's world is not an optional extra, but part of our worship and discipleship. From local green spaces to global climate concerns, we are invited to notice, give thanks, and take small faithful steps.

Harvest gives us another chance to practise gratitude. We thank God for food, farmers, growers, shop workers, volunteers and all who help feed our neighbours. We also remember those for whom the cupboards are bare or the bills feel too heavy.

This year as usual we will be collecting donations for



Readifood, Reading's food bank, to help support local people and families who are finding things difficult.

Gifts of suitable food and toiletries etc are very welcome, and donations can be brought to church at any time — not only on Harvest Sunday.

As autumn begins, may we be a church community marked by thankfulness, generosity and hope — supporting our schools, caring for creation, and looking out for one another in the name of Christ.



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
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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!



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



www.facebook.com/StMarkandAllSaintsReading/

STELLA CLARIDGE

It is with real sadness that we share the news that Stella Claridge died peacefully on the morning of Friday 28th August.

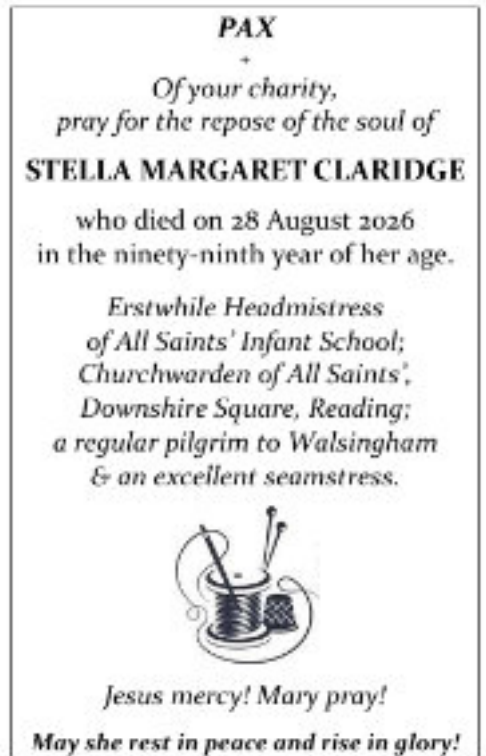
Stella worshipped at All Saints for over 50 years. She was a Headmistress of All Saints infants school for 17 years and also served as Church Warden. Her many talents included Calligraphy and sewing and her hamdiwork can be seen all over church. She loved this church and we have lost not only a dear friend but a great supporter.

Stella's funeral and Requiem Eucharist will take place at All Saints Church at 1.30pm on Monday 28th September and will be followed by refreshments in the hall.

Savoury refreshments will be provided but offers of cakes or traybakes to be served at the wake would be gratefully recieved. Please speak to Revd Jo if you would like to help.



Picture: Stella Claridge and friends at her 98th Birthday celebration on 5th July 2026. She celebrated with tea and cake and was presented with a card and flowers from the parish as well as a gorgeous card decorated with sunflowers from the children at All Saints Infants School.

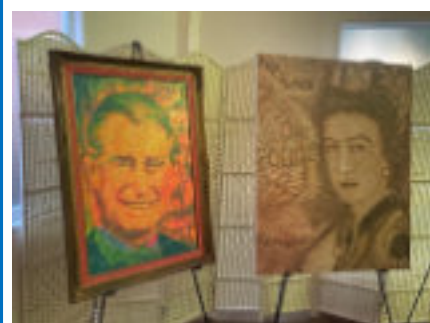


CARIBBEAN DELIGHTS

What an amazing celebration of all things Caribbean! Our famous event, returned to St Mark's Hall on Saturday 4th July, showcasing an array of talent and organisation skills. We were bursting at the seams with the number of people who turned up on the night, using every table and chair possible. It is wonderful to see the support in the community for this event year after year. We had delightful food including fried chicken, fish, rice and peas, jollof rice, curried mutton and sweet bread cakes – topped off with rum punch! DJ Richard was amazing with people dancing until the end of the night.

We were blessed to be joined by the new Mayor of Reading, Cllr Gittings and local councillor Wendy Griffiths.

We were also delighted to showcase some amazing paintings by Florence La Fey. Florence had 3 paintings displayed- a



portrait of King Charles III in his younger days as an environmentalist. A closer look at the portrait reveals the King's 'face' is made up of burning jungles and dying oceans. As temperatures soar due to climate change and the



King confirms his lifelong personal commitment as an environmentalist, the painting takes on new even more topical significance. Florence also had a portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth II on an old pound note, and the third painting - a painting of Jesus. (instagram @florencelafay69)

We raised over £500 for parish funds. It is such a joyous occasion and is truly lovely to see our building full of Caribbean

spirit. Thank you to everybody who helped organise the event this year and thank you to everyone who helped on the night,



PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM – 2026.

Fourteen of us, from various parts of the south of England, arrived in Little Walsingham, Norfolk, on Monday, 10th August, in time for our first visit to the shrine at 4pm. Using the pilgrim manual, we announced our presence to Our Lady and began our pilgrimage. In typical British style, we moaned about the long journey, train delays, roadworks and the rest of it.

Spare a thought for the pilgrims who began visiting in 1066 AD. With no roads, no motorised transport, and horses only for the wealthy, the journey must have been gruelling. We are privileged to travel in relative comfort.

Why do we do it? I have visited annually since 2012, and I know others who have been coming for three or four decades. I can't speak for



everyone, but for me it is the perfect retreat: a holy, quiet and beautiful place where I feel calm and focused. Prayer, meditation, healing, sprinkling from the well, benediction, shrine prayers, confession and communion are all on offer.

Our group came from Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire, Basingstoke, North Hillingdon in West London, and Reading. We were led by Fr. Desmond Bannister SSC.

After Monday's first visit, we settled into our routine of prayers and intercessions. We prayed for our parishes, our departed loved ones, and departed members of the cell, while also joining in the shrine prayers and services.

This year we missed the main Assumption

celebrations, as they fell on the weekend. We are a Monday to Friday group. No overtime.

The clergy concelebrated at Mass, and servers were invited to serve. James Hamblin was happily swinging the thurible on Tuesday and was a torch bearer at Wednesday's procession of Our Lady.

I know many value the ample free time to do their own thing: pray, meditate, visit local attractions or even go crab fishing. I prefer to eat them.

Thank you all for making my pilgrimage so enjoyable; to Peter for wonderfully carving my birthday cake on Thursday, and to Angelina for her booking and bed-listing duties. I sometimes still hear murmurs about the accommodation and hospitality. I have only visited the shrine for 14 years, so perhaps the facilities were not always as good, but today they are nothing short of three- to four-star standard and are regularly renovated.

**Mary, Cause of our Joy,
Pray for us**

Intercede for us

**God bless us all
in the name of Jesus Christ,
your son, our Lord.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT



A big thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Mornings at St Mark's and All Saints'. Both events were very well attended, and it was lovely to see so many familiar faces, as well as visitors

joining us for coffee, cake and conversation. Your generous donations, baking, practical help and cheerful company made both mornings a real success and helped us support the important work of Macmillan Cancer Support.

It was also wonderful to have both churches open for Ride+Stride and Heritage Weekend. These occasions gave

people a chance to step inside, explore our buildings and learn a little more about their history and place in the community. We are grateful to everyone who welcomed visitors, served refreshments, shared local knowledge or simply came along. Opening our doors takes teamwork, and your support brought warmth and life to both churches. We hope everyone enjoyed the events as much as we did, and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest is a chance to celebrate God's goodness in creation, give thanks for food, and share generously with neighbours in need. This year, the Church of England's Season of Creation theme is "Living Water", based on Ezekiel 47:1–12: a picture of God's life-giving water bringing renewal, healing, and flourishing.

At Harvest we remember that everything we have is gift — and that thanksgiving becomes most real when it overflows into practical care. So, as usual, we invite everyone to join our Harvest celebration and support Reading's independent foodbank, ReadiFood.

Please bring harvest gifts if you can. Tinned and dried food, toiletries, and useful cupboard items are especially welcome. Every donation helps ReadiFood provide emergency food parcels for local people and families in need.

ReadiFood has provided an Emergency Food Parcel Service in Reading for over 25 years. They currently deliver around 150–180 emergency food parcels each



week. Parcels are made up according to need, with different sizes for one- or two-person households and for families.

Items in a food parcel can include pasta, rice, cereals, cooking sauces, ready meals, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned meat or fish, biscuits,

tinned soup, tinned or instant potatoes, and other helpful cupboard staples.

Parcels usually include some toiletries, and these can also be specifically requested. People or families living in B&B accommodation can be referred for a "non-cooker" parcel.

Specialist parcels can also be supplied where needed, including vegetarian, halal, diabetic, and coeliac-friendly options.

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

Do come and be part of the celebration. Whether you bring a food donation, make a financial gift, volunteer, pray, or simply join us in giving thanks, your support matters.

You can also [support ReadiFood's work online](#) or [find out about volunteering](#). To donate by text, text "Supporting 10" to 70470 to donate £10, or choose another amount.

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

Please note Change of date...



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



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DOWNSHIRE SQUARE

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
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.

SAFEGUARDING:



Following the July/August Edition of this Parish newsletter regarding safeguarding I wanted to confirm with you all that I

community activities organised by our dynamic Parish. My family and I particularly like running stalls at the Jumble Sale so unless there is something really important in our calendars you will generally see (and hear) us there.

Last year I decided to join the PCC and this has been a real eye opener on all the good work happening in our Parish but also being more aware of the challenges that we have to face.

I am indeed the new PSO for Saint Mark and All Saints! Some of you, particularly at Saint Marks might not know me very well, so I thought introducing myself might be useful and I think it is also important to share with you my motivation for taking on this important role in our Parish. My name is Helen McLuckie and I have been involved in our Parish with my husband David and two children for nearly 15 years. We attend most Sunday services at All Saints but also enjoy many of the

My professional background is mainly in the care sector and education. I currently work in one of our local secondary schools and I receive safeguarding training for this post on a yearly basis. I would say that I am used to spotting and reporting safeguarding situations within my professional life. However when it comes to safeguarding it is important not to be too overconfident as there are sometimes issues or situations that can be missed. In the next few months

I will be undertaking some safeguarding training that is mandatory for taking on the PSO role. I am hoping to share with you what I have learnt in our future Parish newsletter.

In the meantime I would like to stress that **keeping our churches safe is everyone's responsibility** and the importance of reporting your concerns about either your or someone else's welfare to Revd Jo or myself. This includes particularly low level concerns as this will help us nip issues in the bud. So the key message here is **if you are aware of a potential safeguarding issue please don't hesitate to speak up.**

Finally I would like to thank Revd Jo and the PCC for trusting me to take on this new role and I am looking forward to sharing my knowledge and serving you all in this way.



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**.



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

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

WWW.SAFESPACESENGLANDANDWALES.ORG.UK

CHOIR UPDATE

We are delighted to say that the trial choir gatherings over the summer were a real success. People of all ages came along to sing, try things out, and enjoy making music together, and it has been wonderful to see such encouragement and enthusiasm for a new choir at All Saints.

We are now putting the necessary paperwork in place so that the choir can begin formally next month. Once it is up and running, there will be weekly rehearsals, and we hope the choir will become a regular part of our Sunday worship, helping to lead and enrich the singing of the whole congregation.

It's not too late to get involved as we will be recruiting more widely over the coming weeks.

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



Many thanks to those of you who have expressed interest in monthly Book Club*. There will be a short meeting at to get us up and running, choose our first book and fix some dates going forward.

Please join me on

Wednesday 7th October
7pm at All Saints.

If you'd like to suggest a book or simply find out [more](#) please speak to Revd Jo.

*An informal, friendly gathering—over a glass (or cup) of something nice to discuss our chosen book of the month.

Bible Study Group

Come and join us as together we explore selected passages from Matthew's Gospel.

We will **begin with a meal** and then through discussion we will try to uncover the relevance of Jesus' teaching to our lives today.

Sessions will take place in person on **Thursday evenings** at All Saints Hall (Downshire Room) from **7pm–9pm**.

27th October

3rd November

10th November

17th November

All Welcome



PET BLESSING

All creatures, great & small,
are welcome

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER • 4 PM
ALL SAINTS CHURCH
DOWNSHIRE SQUARE

COME JOIN THE FUN!
Come dressed as a pet — or bring a photo of your pet if they can't come to church.

KEEPING PETS SAFE & HAPPY
Please keep dogs on a lead and other animals in a secure carrier. Bring water if needed, give pets space, and only attend if the setting will be comfortable for them.

MORE THAN SUNDAYS

The old joke says that vicars only work one day a week — and it is true that people often see the vicar most clearly on a Sunday. Worship is at the heart of my week: leading services, preaching, praying, preparing sermons and liturgy, and helping the church gather around God's word and the sacraments. But Sunday is only one part of a wider calling.

Much of my week is spent walking alongside people, encouraging others in their gifts, and helping the church serve the parish, local schools, and wider community. Pastoral care is a big part of that, though it often happens quietly and confidentially. It may mean visiting people at home, in hospital, or in care homes; supporting those who are bereaved, lonely, ill, anxious, or facing difficult decisions; or simply sharing coffee with someone who needs time to talk. The vicar is not the only person who offers this care: an important part of the role is helping pastoral care flourish across the whole church community.

Another area of ministry is what might jokingly be called “hatches, matches and dispatches”. The Church calls baptisms, weddings, and funerals “Occasional Offices”, though they are anything but occasional in their importance. These are moments when people often turn to the church in times of joy, commitment, grief, or hope, and it is a privilege to help mark them with dignity and faith.

There is also, as you might expect, a fair amount of church leadership and management — not the glamorous bit, but a necessary one. Working with the PCC, churchwardens, staff, and volunteers involves safeguarding, finance, rotas, planning, communication, and the everyday decisions that keep parish life moving.

Our church buildings bring their own responsibilities too: repairs, inspections, heating, lighting, accessibility, insurance, and permissions all need attention so that they can remain places of prayer, welcome, memory, and service.



A significant part of my week is also committed to schools and to work with children and young people. In line with our diocesan priorities and our local commitment, we want to help children grow in faith, know that they belong, and discover the Christian story for themselves. As vicar, I am ex officio governor at both our church schools, and I also work closely with the three other schools in our parish through school services, assemblies, classroom visits, and pastoral support for staff and pupils.

Church-based ministry with younger generations, such as MAD Club and Messy Church, matters too. These are places where children and families can learn, pray, create, ask questions, and grow together in faith and belonging.

There is also the wider life of the Church to stay connected with. Deanery and diocesan meetings help me share encouragement, keep in step with wider priorities, and remember that our parish is part of something bigger. Ongoing study, prayer, and learning matter too, because ministry needs to be nourished if it is to nourish others.

Clergy are also encouraged to spend some time each week on ministry beyond their parish responsibilities. For me, this includes serving as Chair of Reading SACRE, supporting religious education and collective worship locally, volunteering as a chaplain at the hospice, and joining the chaplaincy team at Elizabeth Fry House.

So what does the vicar do? The simple answer is: a little of many things, held together by one calling. No two days are the same, and I can go from admin to sitting with the dying,

organising MAD games, fixing toilets, drinking coffee with people, and preparing a sermon all in one day. I do not always get it right, but the calling remains the same.

Whether in church, school, meeting room, home, hospice, or community event, the heart of the role is to pray, serve, teach, lead, and care — not doing everything alone, but helping the whole church grow together in faith, hope, and love.

If you would like to meet with Revd Jo for any reason, please do get in touch. I'd love to talk to you about your life and your work and pray with you.

You are welcome to call or text on 07977142450

or email revdjowilliams@gmail.com

My working hours are flexible but I am often away from my desk. When working I aim to respond to requests in 3 days but if your request is more urgent please phone.

Please note I do not work on Friday evening or Saturday.



Saturday 3rd October 7pm
All Saints Church

<https://rmvc.net/all-concerts-list/>

EXPLORERS – DATES

As our last parish explorers trip to Aldermaston Wharf was so hot, we have decided to visit again. Hopefully with slightly cooler weather. You can join us for a walk or just wait and enjoy lovely tea, coffee and cake in the tearoom. We meet at 10.15am at All Saints Church. Do let us know if you are planning on joining us so we can work out car sharing.

Friday 2nd October – location to be confirmed

December will be the annual visit to Henry Street Garden Centre. Date to be advised.

The Parish of St Mark and All Saints, Reading

Saturday 31st October

1.30pm – 3.30pm

All Saints Hall, Downshire Sq

Proposed date!
Subject to helpers

Please sign-up in church and let us know if you can help (or email the office: stmarkandallsaints@gmail.com)

IS ANYONE THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS YET?

Well, as scary as it sounds, in the parish we will soon be thinking and preparing for our Christmas events. We will have our parish Christmas Fair on Saturday 14th November at All Saints Hall and our Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 5th December at St Mark's Church.

For both events, we would love any donations of items we can use on stalls – such as items for the tombola, bottles of alcohol, unused items for raffle prizes or unused gifts that be put to good use. Toys are always welcome. Nearer the time we will ask for volunteers but for now, if you have anything that might be put to good use, then please do bring them into either church or just put them to one side until nearer the time.

Thank you.

It's also a great reminder as we start to shop online for Christmas, to use 'easyfundraising.org' prior to any on-line order. Lots of companies 'donate' a small percentage of the total cost of your goods to use – it costs you nothing and we get quite a bit of money each quarter absolutely free. See the 'generous giving' page for more details.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



12th September—Macmillan Cancer Support and Mercy Ships UK Ltd (*This will be in All Saints Church*)

10th October – Breast Cancer Now and Prostate Cancer

21st November – Blesma (The Limbless Veterans Charity) and the Royal Airforce Benevolent Fund

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.

Every Tuesday
11am to 12 pm

Parkside Care Home

Parkside Road,
Reading
RG30 2DP

Free event

Call us to reserve your spot or find out more
0118 952 8910

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 23rd September – **'My travels in 2025'** – illustrated talk by Peter Scott

Wednesday 28th October – **'The Samaritans – still listening after all these years'** – Seamus Jennings

Wednesday 25th November – **'Black Gold Black Lungs'** – a talk on coal mining by Lionel Williams



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 out more, please ask.

Our dates for the Autumn will be.

Thursday 10th September

Wednesday 7th October

Wednesday 11th November

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 adjusting to the **change of season**, especially older people, rough sleepers, outdoor workers, emergency services, and all preparing for colder, wetter days.
- for **Harvest, creation care, and climate responsibility**: giving thanks for the fruits of the earth and human work, and praying for wise choices by individuals, communities, businesses, and governments.
- for people in Reading facing **financial pressure as autumn begins**, especially those worried about food, energy bills, rent, school costs, or debt, and for local support services, food banks, and community groups helping those who are struggling.
- for **schools, colleges, children, young people, staff, and families** as the new academic year settles in: for confidence, patience, friendship, safety, and good support for those finding the term difficult.
- for our **national and local leaders**: for wisdom, integrity, compassion, and a commitment to justice as they make decisions affecting public services, the economy, community safety, and care for the most vulnerable.
- for **peace in our world**: for those living with war, violence, displacement, fear, or grief, and for all working patiently for justice, reconciliation, and the protection of innocent lives.
- 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 7th September

Monday 5th October

Monday 2nd November
(this will be at Tazewell Court)

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

Give me
a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the wit
to see a joke
To get some humour
out of life,
And pass it on
to other folk.

Amen

- for those who are **sick or in need** and those who care for them, remembering especially Stella, Stella, Linda, Judith, Ann, Valerie, Christable, Mark and Cheryl.
- for those who have **died recently**, including Shelly, Stella and Judith and for all whose year's mind falls at this time.
- for our **local church community**: for faithfulness, kindness, welcome, and courage through the autumn term as we worship, serve, care for one another, celebrate Harvest, and share God's love in our parish.

M.A.D. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

TUESDAY 13th OCT
TUESDAY 10th DEC
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 finish with a simple meal together- Why not invite a friend? For more information talk to Revd Jo or Iva Butler.

ALL SAINTS FAMILY

COFFEE AND CATCH UP
THURS 22ND OCT

Church open
after school
for refreshments
and a chat

Everyone is welcome



PLEASE COME IN



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.



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.

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

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 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

MAD CLUB by April

I like coming to MAD Club because it is fun and I get to see my church friends. We usually meet after school on a Tuesday. There is always an art and craft to do and games to play and I like it when we spend some time praying together.



We have dinner together before we go home (my favourite is Pasta). In the holidays we had a MAD Club rollerblading morning in the Hall. Not everyone could make it because of holidays but we still had fun. There were spare skates so everyone could join in and we all helped each other to stay on our feet! Afterwards we walked down to Coley to buy chips for lunch.

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON

If you are applying for a place at Blessed Hugh Faringdon School (for September 2027) and need a letter to accommodate 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 link here: <https://www.hughfaringdon.org/home/join-us/admissions-information/>

September

Tues 1	NO EVENTS	
Wed 2	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 3	NO EVENTS	
Fri 4	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
	10.00am Explorers	
Sat 5	NO EVENTS	
Sun 6	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 7	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	7.30pm Walsingham Mass	
Tues 8	4.30pm MAD CLUB	AS HALL
Wed 9	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 10	11.00am Link Group	AS HALL
Fri 11	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
Sat 12	10-1pm Ride & Stride and Macmillan coffee	STM
	10.30-12 Ride & Stride and Macmillan coffee	AS
Sun 13	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 14	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	7.00pm Parish Prayers	online
Tues 15	NO EVENTS	
Wed 16	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 17	NO EVENTS	
Fri 18	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
Sat 19	NO EVENTS	
Sun 20	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 21	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
Tues 22	NO EVENTS	
Wed 23	2.30pm Open Group	DR
	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 24	NO EVENTS	
Fri 25	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
Sat 26	NO EVENTS	
Sun 27	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 28	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	1.30pm Funeral Stella Claridge	AS
	7.00pm Parish Prayers	online
Tues 29	NO EVENTS	
Wed 30	9.00pm Compline	online

October

Thur 1	NO EVENTS	
Fri 2	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
	10.00am Explorers	
Sat 3	NO EVENTS	
Sun 4	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	2.30pm Messy Church	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 5	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	7.30pm Walsingham Mass	
Tues 6	4.30pm MAD CLUB	AS HALL
Wed 7	11.00am Link Group	AS HALL
	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 8	NO EVENTS	
Fri 9	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
Sat 10	10.30am Charity coffee	AS HALL
Sun 11	HARVEST FESTIVAL	
	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 12	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	7.00pm Parish Prayers	online
Tues 13	4.30pm MAD CLUB	AS HALL
Wed 14	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 15	NO EVENTS	
Fri 16	8.50am School Family Worship preceded by coffee	AS
Sat 17	NO EVENTS	
Sun 18	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 19	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
Tues 20	NO EVENTS	
Wed 21	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 22	NO EVENTS	
Fri 23	NO EVENTS	
Sat 24	NO EVENTS	
Sun 25	9.00am St Mark's Eucharist	STM
	11.00am All Saints Eucharist	AS
	2.30pm Messy Church	AS
	9.00pm Compline	online
Mon 26	10.30am Coffee on Mondays	AS
	7.00pm Parish Prayers	online
Tues 27	NO EVENTS	
Wed 28	2.30pm Open Group	DR
	9.00pm Compline	online
Thur 29	NO EVENTS	
Fri 30	NO EVENTS	
Sat 31	NO EVENTS	

November

Thurs 11th Link Group

Sat 14th Parish Christmas Fair

Wed 25th Open Group

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 27th October

British SummerTime ends

Put your clocks BACKWARDS one hour

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

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=ZytBWfpleGdlUXovdGcyelZ0elZBdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 7816 2379 and Passcode: worship (or 7805385 if dialling by phone) You can

A FINAL THOUGHT



Benjamin Weir, a missionary in the Middle East, was taken captive and held in solitary confinement. Blindfolded and cut off from the outside world, he faced deep isolation. To endure the long days, he began drawing on what was already stored within him. After his release, he said, "I called up my memory bank, things that were stored in my mind." He remembered Scripture, hymns, songs, poetry, loved ones, and the

steady grace of God throughout his life. Looking back, he summed it up simply: "Whatever is in your mind is what you have to draw on." What we place in our minds today shapes what we will lean on tomorrow. It invites a simple but important question: What are we storing away? May we fill our thoughts with what is true, pure and life-giving, the words of Scripture, the story of Christ, and the hope of His grace.