

Parish of Tadley (with Kingsclere) and Burghfield Common - PARISH NEWSLETTER

11th May 2025 (4th Sunday of Easter)

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 Email tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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Office hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs, Fri: 9.45am-2.45pm. Closed on Mondays

Dear All,

HABEMUS PAPAM! WE HAVE A POPE!

We keep in prayer Pope Leo XIV, elected as Pope on Thursday 8th May 2025. Ad multos annos! (To many years!). Please have your Prayer Cards, which were issued when Pope Francis died, at Mass this weekend, since these include the prayer for his successor which we will say at all our Masses.

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a special time of prayer for priestly, diaconal and religious vocations. It seems to have fallen into the background in recent years, excepting the Obligatory Collection for The Clergy Training Fund being promoted. NOTE: For all those who are giving via the Gift Aid envelopes - Special Collection envelopes are all grouped at the back of the boxes, behind all the normal Sunday collection envelopes. So please be sure to place your Clergy Training Fund donation in the correct envelope. Happy hunting!

I shall be speaking at our Masses about the importance of this weekend, especially in relation to the Ten Year Mission Plan now moving forward in our Pastoral Area, an important meeting being held at Saint Bede's Church on Wednesday 21st May. All being well, there will be feedback about this soon afterwards in our Parish Area.

However, there is now developing a vision of a priesthood amongst our younger and older priests in the Diocese, which will involve a closer cooperation of lay ministry with clergy, requiring a deeper commitment to, and understanding of, Baptism and its demands. This will be a challenge for all, involving an embrace by all of evangelisation of a growing non-Christian, secular society. If not addressed, the demise of the Catholic Church will probably accelerate significantly around us.

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 10th May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 11th May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 11th May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Note: The 2nd Collection at all Masses this weekend will be for The Clergy Training Fund – Gift Aiders, please be sure you use the correctly labelled envelope located at the back of your box.

The Solemnity of The Ascension of The Lord

Our Saviour's Ascent to His Father in Heaven to prepare a place for us for eternity is celebrated this year on Thursday 29th May. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, when Catholics are bound to attend Mass, unless there is a serious reason for not doing so. There will be a Mass at 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church that day, and an evening Mass at 7.00pm at Saint Michael's Church. Make a date in your diaries now!

REMINDER: First Holy Communion

Next preparation session: Tuesday, 13th May at 4.30pm - 5.30pm, St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Looking forward

From now on, I am generally increasingly focused on retirement preparations & therefore available for emergencies only, except for limited Parish commitments.

The Parish Office will be open as normal during the coming week, so please kindly direct enquiries via Dan, our Administrator.

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Thank you, Helen!

The sudden death of Helen Warner in February 2023 was a major loss to our Parish in many ways, especially in respect of her work as a member of our Parish Finance Committee. Earlier this year, her brother Geoff informed me that she left £2,000 in her Will to the Parish. We keep her soul in our prayers.

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Gardening Group at St. Michael's

The Gardening Group will be starting up again this **Saturday 10th May (TOMORROW!)**, and thereafter will be looking to do gardening at St. Michael's twice a month on the second and fourth Saturday.

Any parishioners willing to help can join any session, weather permitting.

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Archangels Social Group Events

THIS SUNDAY! - Parish Cake Sale & Tombola for Christian Aid - Sunday 11 May: The Archangels are organising this to raise funds for Christian Aid Week – please come in and join us after the 9am Mass in the Parish Room. **Cake donations most welcome on Sunday or please donate cakes or gifts for the tombola at the Saturday 6pm Mass** in the box or bag marked 'Donations for Christian Aid' in the church porch. Please put donations for the Foodbank in the normal Foodbank container. Many thanks in anticipation!

REMINDER - Mingle at St Michael's: The next Mingle will be on **Wednesday 14 May** and thereafter will be held on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month from 2pm to 4pm in the Parish Room or hopefully out on the patio, weather permitting!

REMINDER - Volunteers to help organise our Parish Farewell for Fr Patrick: The Archangels are small in number, so if YOU are willing to join a **team to help organise the Farewell Gatherings**, your help would be much appreciated – please call or text Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email her at maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk to register your willingness to help. **We need to organise a planning meeting, so please let Mary know as soon as possible, if you can help.** Thank you!

As previously advised, the proposal is to hold a Farewell Party at Heath End Village Hall on Friday 29 August from 7pm to approx 10pm (we will have to clear and vacate the Hall by 11pm). Fr Patrick's Farewell Mass will be on Sunday 7 September in Tadley, followed by the chance to socialise over tea/coffee and cake. There will be only the one morning Mass in the Parish that Sunday. We do hope you will be able to join us!

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CTAT Events

TOMORROW! - CTAT Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 10 May: Dina Haywood will be our guest speaker, describing her experience of volunteering at the Basingstoke Night Light Winter Shelter, a pop-up shelter run by the churches to provide food and overnight accommodation for rough sleepers in the coldest months of the year. The Ladies' Breakfast is held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, RG26 3NJ from 10am to noon. All welcome!

Help needed for the CTAT stand at the Treacle Fair please – Sunday 1 June: As per previous years, CTAT will have a stand at the Treacle Fair on Sunday 1 June. Dina Haywood has, once again, volunteered to co-ordinate arrangements, but needs our help. Can YOU spare some time on the day to assist please?

We need volunteers to help: transport items on the day; set up the pitch; man the stand during the day (even for a limited period); break down the stand; transport items back at the end of the day. If you can help, please contact Dina: dinahaywood@btinternet.com Thank you!

Plant sale & Coffee morning - Saturday 17th May

10am to 12 noon At Silchester Methodist Church Hall

Also, on the topic of plants, Green Health Tadley (allotment project on Rowan Road site) is in need of extra volunteers, particularly during the summer whilst so many plants are needing attention. If you can help in any way, for any amount of time, please call Dave Lupton on 07519 586407 for a chat.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 24th May

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday 24th May, at **10.00am – Noon**. Full English breakfast, good company & conversation. Venue: Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ. Our speaker will be Michael Laizans on "Stratfield Saye: Some historical highlights".

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ADoRE mini retreat "*Pilgrims of Hope - Filled with Joy.*" - Saturday 31st May

ADoRE will bring their Day of Renewal to St Philip Howard Church in Fareham for a joy-filled mini-retreat. "This session will be looking at the importance of thanksgiving and praise as a vital part of our worship: sharing our joy and hope with all around us; binding up the broken hearted and bringing comfort to mourners on our pilgrimage through life".

Guest speaker Jenny Baker, a popular conference speaker and Leader of the Celebrate Trust, can be relied on to give an inspiring and uplifting talk. There will also be Mass and Praise, Prophecy, and Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be fanned into a flame, so that participants can be beacons of hope in the darkness of our present age.

After the talk, a shared picnic lunch will allow time for fellowship. Then, in the afternoon, there is extended Adoration and an opportunity for Reconciliation and personal prayer ministry.

There is no need to register in advance for this month's meeting. You can find more information [here](#).

For those who cannot attend in person, the morning sessions can also be watched on the parish's [YouTube live-stream](#)

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Pastoral Letter from the Presidents of Churches Together in England

The Pastoral Letter regarding The Nicene Creed, read out at all Masses last weekend, is attached to this Newsletter.

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Diocesan Vacancies

For current vacancies visit: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers/>

There are also opportunities in our Diocesan schools:

<https://www.casop Portsmouth.org.uk/current-vacancies-2/>

Further reading

Portsmouth Diocese news items:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales news items:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/>

Caritas Portsmouth Newsletter:

<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/news-events/>

Best wishes for the weekend.

Father Patrick

Fr. Patrick Tansey**Parish Priest**

St Michael's Church, Tadley

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ATTACHED: Pastoral Letter

The Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a pastoral letter to mark the joint celebration of Easter 2025 and the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea.

The Acts of the Apostles records that in the earliest days, as the message of Jesus was preached and it spread across the Mediterranean lands and beyond, questions arose and there were tensions and divisions among those who came to the faith. In response to this, the apostles and elders were gathered together in Jerusalem to address these pressing matters. This was a prelude and guide as to how the universal Church would guard and defend the Truth of God, Who is none other than Christ Himself – the way, the truth and the life of the world.

Over the years, new controversies and challenges arose and in the year 325 Emperor Constantine convened a gathering of Christian elders in Nicaea (situated in modern day Türkiye), from across the Roman Empire to discuss and clarify certain issues, especially that of the Person of Jesus Christ. He did so also in response to threats to the cohesion and stability in society, recognising that harmony in society drew on stability in religious belief. The critical challenge centred on how the Church should understand the relationship between the Father and the Son. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the 318 church leaders who attended the gathering stated that the Son is, in fact, “homoousios to Patri”, of the same essence or nature as the Father, and in one voice of unity proclaimed this to the world. The second Person of the Holy Trinity is not created, and is not of a different essence or nature from the Father, but is “true God from true God”. In time, this gathering that offered the first definition of the Christian Church’s faith would come to be known as the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea. This model, later named a synod, would also become a means of setting the boundaries of the faith.

As inheritors of the proclamation and the statement of faith that came from this important event, Christian leaders throughout the world gather this year 2025 to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. We come together to participate in the Lord’s unity to proclaim and affirm that – “We believe in one God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; He is, as we affirm, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of the same and one essence as the Father”. In a world suffering because of our fallen nature and our desire for each of us to define Truth according to our own understanding, we are given a breath of hope when we reflect on the sacred words of the confession of our common Christian faith and recall that we still share our belief in the Son of God, Jesus the Christ. Often divided by our sins and arrogance, we now come together in unity, with one voice and one heart, as did those divinely-guided individuals seventeen hundred years ago to defend the Truth that has been entrusted to us. We come together to reiterate the message and truth of Nicaea. It is a special blessing from God that this year all Christians will celebrate Easter – Pascha – on the same Sunday. We are empowered by this and we draw strength to face the realities of our divisions with a new hope of reconciliation. For it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us that we should all be one and that the people of God should come to one accord, as did the early Church. It is in this spirit, with humility and in Christian love, that together we proclaim and dedicate this year to the Council of Nicaea and we pledge to look to the unity of the faith, as did those elders seventeen hundred years ago.

We call on all our members gathered in the name of Christ, and to all Christian people, to celebrate this important anniversary and to proclaim to a world the oneness that we seek to be more fully manifest. We proclaim that in the person of Jesus, humanity finds its fullest truth, its sure guide and the bringer of peace.