

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

25th May 2025 (6th Sunday of Easter) & 1st June 2025 (7th Sunday of Easter)

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

Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

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

Dear All,

**** Double Newsletter this week - Next Newsletter will for the Weekend of 8th June ****

Barry Rockhill RIP

The attendance of parishioners from both our church communities for Barry Rockhill's Funeral Mass on Thursday was notable. Peg and the Rockhill family were greatly appreciative of your support. Also, a special thanks to those in the Saint Oswald's community who helped welcome and assist the many visitors who attended that day. I know Peg would like me to mention Andy and Sarah Hunneman in particular, having been involved in various ways in the days before and on the day itself.

It was good that Deacon Tony Darroch was able to assist me at the Mass, having known Barry well. I express my thanks to him for his help, which is always greatly appreciated when he is available (on a separate note, he has an interesting article in the current Diocesan e-news concerning the day Pam & himself met the present Pope whilst in Rome, before the death of Pope Francis).

Pastoral Area - Ten Year Mission Plan

On the Wednesday of last week, I was joined by a small group of parishioners from both our church communities at a meeting of almost 3 hours at Saint Bede's Church Hall to pray and reflect upon elements of the Ten Year Mission Plan concerning our Pastoral Area becoming one Parish. All our other parishes in the area were similarly represented at the meeting by small groups chosen by our priests, to begin outlining the future ahead.

Please note in your diaries that there will be a meeting for all parishioners of this Parish in the Leonard Rooms, adjacent to St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, on Monday, 30th June from 6.30 PM, to feedback from the Saint Bede's meeting. My sincere thanks to Sarah Hunneman, our Saint Oswald's representative on the central PA body, for suggesting this a couple of weeks ago and actioning it swiftly for the benefit of us all. More details will follow in our future Newsletters

First Holy Communion Day

This will be celebrated on Sunday, **1st June at Saint Oswald's Church at 10.00 AM**, and will be the **only Sunday Mass in the Parish that day**. The Saturday Evening Vigil Mass will be available as usual at 6.00PM in Saint Michael's Church on 31st May.

So please keep in your prayers: Suzanne, Nan, Isabella, Olivia, Davidas, Leja, Luka, Maya and George, our candidates this year from across our Parish Area as well as one from Reading.

It has been most enjoyable to be with them at most of their preparation meetings as I prepare to retire. We are greatly indebted as a Parish to Marion Evans and Jenny Seaborn for their long-time ministry with our Parish First Communion programmes during my time as Parish Priest. Their commitment and care for the many youngsters who have journeyed to receive the Body and Blood of our Risen Saviour has been outstanding. Keep them in your prayers.

Anne Heavey RIP – Funeral Arrangements

The funeral service for Anne will take place on **Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 12:00 pm at St. Marys Church, Upper Woolhampton**, followed by committal at **West Berkshire Crematorium at 2:00 pm**.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 24th May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 25th May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley – **With Children's Liturgy!**

Sunday 25th May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Ascension Day – 29th May

This Holy Day of Obligation is celebrated on Thursday 29th May, with Masses at 11.00 AM (Burghfield Common) and 7.00 PM (Tadley). All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass that day unless there is a serious reason for not doing so.

Sunday 1st June – ONE PARISH MASS at 10.00am

As mentioned earlier, please note that there will be only one Parish Mass on Sunday 1st June at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, as we all join together in great joy, to celebrate, as one Parish, the First Holy Communion of our candidates from both churches.

The Saturday Evening Vigil Mass at St. Michael's Church will be celebrated as normal at 6.00pm on 31st May.

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First Holy Communion - Arrangements

Reconciliation for our candidates: Saturday, 31st May at 10.30am, St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, RG7 3HQ

First Holy Communion Mass: Sunday, 1st June, at 10.00am, St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, RG7 3HQ

2nd Collection – Weekend of Sunday 1st June

Please note that the 2nd Collection at all Masses on the weekend of 1st June will be for the Catholic Communications Network. Gift Aiders, please be sure you use the correctly labelled envelope located at the back of your box.

Children's Liturgy – For your diaries

In addition to this Sunday's Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's, please note that the remaining dates prior to the Summer Holidays will be on 15th June & 13th July.

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Parish Office Update

• Dan's availability next week

In previous Newsletters, Father Patrick announced that I would be away on holiday during school half-term next week. However, as of today Friday 23rd May, my plans are now uncertain due to the weather forecast to be going downhill next week, making 4 days in Snowdonia potentially looking like a washout (incredible given the brilliant weather we've recently enjoyed, which looks set to return after half-term!). If we end up cancelling, I may decide it preferable to take the time off on another occasion.

For the time being, please continue to assume that the Parish Office will still be closed all week as previously notified & I will let you know if that changes!

• St. Michael's Church Roof

Following further consideration, it has been decided to defer the work required on the roof verges (as per previous Newsletter) in order get better value for money by combining it with replacement of the entire roof trim (gutters, downpipes, fascias soffits - which are all now very much showing their age), so as to only have to erect scaffolding on one occasion, thereby saving cost. We have been advised that the missing

rooftile previously reported should not pose a threat of rainwater leakage into the church, since it is located over the eaves & therefore sufficiently away from the exterior of the church wall, thereby allowing us time to proceed with the process of obtaining quotes for the expanded workscope.

- **Fire Safety Audit – St. Michael’s Church & Parish Room**

This was conducted earlier this week by an outside company arranged by Worknest, the Diocesan appointed Health & Safety consultancy. We now await their formal report.

Many thanks to our Fire Wardens, Chirstine Caren & Ben Rowden for conducting Fire Drills at the weekend Masses recently & for all your patience, understanding & cooperation in following their instructions on the day. Regular Fire Drills are a key part of our Fire Safety arrangements, as per Article 15 of the Fire Safety Order for “Places of Assembly” & absolutely considered mandatory as per our Auditor’s advice, so it was really good to demonstrate our collective compliance with this key requirement. Thank you!

There will be a similar Fire Drill at St. Oswald’s Church in the near future.

- **Fire Safety Audit – St. Oswald’s Church & Leonard Rooms**

This is scheduled to take place on 24th July.

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Archangels Social Group Events

Donations of sweets and/or wine needed please!

The Parish has once again been invited by St Paul’s Church to have stalls at their ‘Fete on The Green’ on Saturday 14 June. The Archangels plan to run a number of stalls to raise funds for St Michael’s Hospice. There will be some games aimed at children, for which we need donations of sweets please, and one for adults, for which we need donations of wine please – many adults also play the games aimed at the children, but for obvious reasons, children may not play the “Find a Bottle Bag hiding a Bottle of Wine” game!

The sweets are used to make up colourful mixed sweet jars of different sizes. Whilst all donations of any sweets are much appreciated, chocolate buttons and Maltesers are not ideal as they can melt together on a hot day and then be challenging to empty from the jar for the winner to take away and eat! Minstrels or Smarties can work though as they have hard shells. We usually include some unwrapped sweets from bags of Haribo or marshmallows at the top of the jar. Wrapped sweets, chews and lollipops are all ideal as they don’t usually stick to the jars.

Please bring donations and place them in the labelled boxes or bags in our church porches, avoiding the Food Bank containers please! All funds raised from our stalls will go to St Michael’s Hospice in Basingstoke to fund its vital work.

Mingle at St Michael’s

The June Mingle will take place on **Wednesday 18 June from 2pm – 4pm** in the Parish Room or hopefully outside on the patio – please join the Archangels then for a warm welcome and tea/coffee, cake and conversation!

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CTAT Events

REMINDER: 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

UPDATE: CTAT Treacle Fair – Sunday 1 June:

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered, but we still need more to help (even for a limited period) please between 11am and 4pm with either supervising children's activities on the stand or greeting their parents or other visitors with a welcoming smile and chatting to them. Help with breaking down the stand around 4pm would also be appreciated (not 5pm as previously advised). If you can help, please contact Dina: dinahaywood@btinternet.com Thank you!

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast

Please note the gathering scheduled for Saturday 14 June has been cancelled as many of the regular attendees will be helping to set up for the Fete on the Green. **The next Ladies' Breakfast will therefore take place on Saturday 12 July.**

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REMINDER: Called and Gifted online Information Evening - Monday 7th July at 7pm - 8:30pm

The Called and Gifted team in the Diocese are planning to hold an online information evening for Called and Gifted on Monday 7th July. This is intended for anyone who may be interested in hearing more about discerning charisms and the spiritual and practical benefits this can bring for individuals and communities. To register, please email calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk with your name and parish.

ADoRE

ADoRE Spiritual mini-retreat May 31st (Feast of the Visitation) PILGRIMS OF HOPE, Filled with Joy. (Live meeting in Fareham.) Praise and thanksgiving should be our way of life as we travel, sharing our joy and hope with all around us. Binding up the broken hearted & bringing comfort to mourners with the oil of gladness & the mantle of praise. Let us renew our joy in the Holy Spirit, in all circumstances. 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.

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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SHROUD OF TURIN

An exhibition around one of the most famous religious artefacts in history is coming to **St John's Cathedral Portsmouth, from 1st-14th June**. The exhibition, recently in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark, London contains life-sized replicas of the Shroud of Turin. The Shroud is a length of linen cloth which bears a faint image of the front and back of a crucified man. Many believe it is the actual burial shroud used to wrap the body of Jesus of Nazareth after his crucifixion, and upon which his bodily image is miraculously imprinted. New scientific evidence suggests the Shroud is a 1st century cloth. The exhibition will also feature other displays and detailed information boards, which cover evidence revealed by historical and scientific research, explaining how the Shroud's image and bloodstains align with Gospel accounts

BISHOP CHALLONER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

If you were a student at Bishop Challoner or know someone who was, and they still play an instrument, the current head of music would love to hear from you. They're planning a musical performance as part of the school's upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations, and they are looking at forming an orchestra of current and former pupils. All you need to do is send an email to Mr. Bryant letting him know what instrument you play and how well you play it. He'll take care of the rest and be in touch. Email:

James.Bryant@bcs.hants.sch.uk

“ZAC – A familiar Gospel story with a different slant” – Free performance

Christ Church Chineham are advertising a performance of a new musical called “ZAC” to take place on **Saturday 7th June** – Refreshments from 4.00pm – Performance at 5.00pm. The event is free & no tickets are required. Location: Christ Church Chineham, RG24 8LT. Details: David Webb, david@webbfamily.org.uk or 07848 843360. See also the flyer on the St. Michael’s porch noticeboard.

ALERT: Abortion up to birth amendment

The Right to Life Charity have notified us of a new major battle in Parliament, likely to be the biggest threat to unborn children since the Abortion Act was introduced in 1967. Labour MP, Tonia Antoniazzi, has tabled a new extreme abortion up to birth amendment ahead of Report Stage of the Crime and Policing Bill. The amendment would change the law so it would no longer be illegal for women to perform their own abortions for any reason, and at any point up to and during birth. The change to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy and would not exclude sex-selective abortions. This would likely lead to a tragic rise in the number of babies’ lives being ended through late-term abortions carried out at home.

Right now, pro-abortion campaigners are flooding MPs’ inboxes, urging them to back this extreme change. So, we are being asked, once again, to contact our MPs, so that they know how many of their constituents strongly oppose this.

Right to Life have just launched a nationwide 2025 *No to Abortion Up to Birth* campaign and you can access their tool via this link: [email your MP](#), and ask them to vote NO to the Antoniazzi abortion up to birth amendment.

Volunteers wanted - Basingstoke Foodbank

1) DRIVING: Would anyone like to help weekly on WEDNESDAY MORNINGS packing our van at Tempus and driving to our Brighton Hill Foodbank Centre. Timings: approx 8.45am/9am arrive at Tempus to pack the crates that are stacked ready. Then, collection of empty and spare crates at the end of the morning after 12.30pm from Brighton Hill back to Tempus. In between the team collect food from Waitrose. Occasionally there are other collections for the van between these two times.

2) DRIVING: as above but for Monday mornings.

3) STORE COLLECTION. We need a person to empty the donations crate from TESCO CHINEHAM once a month between the dates of 13th - 16th inclusive. We have divided each month into 8 collection slots, so each person only needs to collect some time during their allocated slot. You'll use your own car for this, and there are no mileage expenses available as this is part of the volunteering opportunity. You're welcome to bring a friend with you!

Interested? Please contact : Paula Vallance, Development Manager 07941 336464 or 07722 673645
basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk
facebook.com/basingstokefoodbank

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.casoportsmouth.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

St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Tel: 0118 981 4572

Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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