

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

2nd February 2025 (The Presentation of the Lord – “Candlemas”)

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

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Dear All,

Our Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) Unity Service in Saint Michael's Church last Sunday, following the fine one at Mortimer Methodist Church of the Sunday before, went exceptionally well. In spite of the inclement weather, around 50 people attended from our local Christian communities, and there was a real "buzz" during the reception afterwards. Our thanks to Mary Lee and her group of volunteers who presented a fine selection of cakes and biscuits alongside tea and coffee. The Collection for the work of Sam Dunn, our CTAT Youth Worker in our local schools, came to £153.00. More about his work and how you might help in the section of this Newsletter about "Love our Schools".

The Service addressed the development of the Pray Tadley initiative, beyond our Advent concern to pray for hope, peace, love and joy within Tadley and surrounding areas, for all people to feel God's presence, whatever their situation.

This initiative is to continue into 2025 and beyond, recognising that so many around us are sometimes struggling in various ways, including our youngsters. There are cards in Saint Michael's Church porch enabling you to join me in this prayer, sending prayer requests for yourself or others who have asked you to do so, having received their permission first.

Many thanks to Peter Hughes for the photographs in the newsletter, which were published in our Diocesan e-news alongside a good report from him also. I believe the Rev. Karen West is contacting the Anglican Diocese of Winchester for a similar report. Sadly, our Salvation Army Moderator, Stuart Madden, was unable to attend because of a bad throat.

Catholic Post

Available in both our churches are one-off free copies of the Catholic Post, the UK's first carbon neutral Catholic newspaper. Over the last three years the paper has become well established.

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Subscriptions: Claire - subscribe@catholicpost.co.uk

Editorial: Nick Layton - editor@catholicpost.co.uk

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements (Candlemas)

Saturday 1st February: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 2nd February: 10.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Reminder: There is no Mass at St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common, this weekend

Note: For both Masses this weekend, please kindly endeavour to be in church 20 minutes prior to the start, so that we can all be properly ready for the Solemn Candlemas Procession.

Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's, Tadley

The next Children's Liturgy at St. Michael's will occur during the 9.00am Mass, next Sunday 9th February.

REMINDER: First Holy Communion Preparation Meeting, Tuesday 4th February

Takes place in the Parish Room of St. Michael's on Tuesday 4th February 4.30pm – 5.15pm.

Archangel's Events

Mingle at St Michael's – Wednesday 5th February

The Archangels Social Group is looking forward to welcoming you at the next Mingle events in St Michael's Parish Room, 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Wednesday 5th Feb.

Please do come along for the usual dose of good company, conversation and laughter, while enjoying tea/coffee and cake!

REMINDER: Parish Skittles Evening - Friday 28 February – ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT!

The Archangels Social Group is organising a fun Skittles Evening at the AWE RecSoc Skittle Alley on Friday 28 February, commencing at 7pm. The ticket price of £15 per person includes a hot bar snack meal of one of the following:

6 scampi & chips

6 fish fingers & chips

2 sausages & chips

Tuna mayo jacket potato & salad

Cheddar cheese & beans jacket potato & salad.

Places are limited. To book, please contact Mary Lee on 07821 254100 or email her

at maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk Food choices and payment should be received by Friday 14 February. Please

note that AWE RecSoc operates a card only bar, so a credit or debit card will be needed to purchase

drinks. Please join us for an entertaining evening!

CTAT Events

REMINDER: CTAT Ladies' Breakfast - Saturday 8th February

Our speaker on 8 February will be Margo, a Ukrainian refugee, who will share her experience of leaving her family and homeland to travel to Tadley to live and complete her studies. We meet every 2nd Saturday of the month to share a continental breakfast and conversation from 10am to noon at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ. All welcome!

REMINDER & NEW APPEAL: CTAT “Love our Schools” fortnight, 10th – 23rd February

WEEK 1:

There is an opportunity for anyone to gather from across the churches on the 12th & 19th Feb for a prayer and worship evening. It would be wonderful to be able to bless our schools with as much support spiritually but also practically. If you would like to support our efforts across this week in providing brunches in a few schools to show our appreciation to the staff, please get in touch with Sam Dunn - samd@bccnet.org.uk

WEEK 2 (Half Term):

We would love to be able to support practically in our schools. Things like, garden work, painting & any other jobs that you can think of would be welcomed. CTAT have created a place for people to sign up as to when they can help and at which school. Once they have the list of jobs from the school, they'll work with the PTA to align days and jobs etc. <https://ctat.churchsuite.com/events/x50tzvjf>

NEW APPEAL:

As part of the “Love our Schools” fortnight, it is planned to put on an afternoon tea as a way to say thank you for all they do for our children. We all know it's a tough job working in schools, so this would be a great way to show the love of Jesus through this simple act of kindness.

In order to cater for all staff members across the local schools, at least 300 scones will be needed!

Therefore, if you bake, please kindly consider baking some scones for our schools. Clearly, this is a large number of scones to fulfil but can be easily done if enough people offer to bake.

If you are able to, please can you let Sam Dunn know by emailing samd@bccnet.org.uk and he will tell you when he needs them to ensure each school is provided with a sufficient amount.

SAVE THE DATE! – CTAT Word Day of Prayer celebration, Friday 7th March

CTAT's celebration of World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 7th March, at the United Reformed Church Tadley, start time 2:00PM. The theme is Together in Prayer, prepared by the people of the Cook Islands. All are welcome.

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New Basingstoke Foodbank Posters

There are new posters up in St. Michael's Church from the Foodbank focusing on "Worrying about Money?", These are as a result of their new initiative, which they describe hereunder:

We're keen to make sure that the community knows about us and that we're there for them, and that we have invested in working with agencies who can help signpost people both for vouchers AND for help with whatever financial challenges people may have that have triggered their struggles to make ends meet.

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CAFOD – Making a difference in Kenya, Saturday 22nd February

Would you like to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya? Then please come to our CAFOD meeting in February:

Saturday 22nd February, at Christ the King Church Hall, Northumberland Road, Reading, RG2 8NR from 10:30am to 1:30pm please bring your own packed lunch and tea / coffee will be provided.

Please book your place by emailing Jo Lewry on jlewry@cafod.org.uk so that she has an idea of numbers.

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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.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 & a joyful celebration of Candlemas!

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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A registered charity number 1199568

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