

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

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)**

Presbytery & Office: Tel. 0118 981 4572 Email [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

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

Dear All,

## **The Nicene Creed**

One of the aspects of this Jubilee Year of Hope across The Church is that we are also celebrating alongside it the 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. It was at this Council that the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, generally known as the Nicene Creed, was established. This Creed we use alongside the Apostles Creed at our Sunday Masses, which is known as the Baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, encapsulating in shorter form the detailed teaching of the Nicene Creed on the Holy Trinity.

The late Pope Francis once stated that if we have no understanding of the history of our Faith, we are in danger of living in a spiritual vacuum, divorced from the reality of being Christ's Body, The Church. So, it is good that the Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a Pastoral Letter to mark our celebration of Easter 2025 (which continues into Eastertide until Pentecost) about the Nicene Creed. I shall read this at our Masses this weekend.

The letter quotes the famous statement that Christ the Son is homoousious to Patri, of the same essence or nature as the Father, not a different essence or nature; in English, consubstantial with the Father (true God from true God, begotten, not made... through whom all things were made).

The Greek homoousios was accepted as the clearest expression of that one essence or nature. The Pastoral Letter outlines the background to this crucial statement.

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## **This Weekend's Mass arrangements**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley – **With Children's Liturgy!**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

**Note:** There will be a Pastoral Letter from the Presidents of Churches Together in England read out at all Masses this weekend – This will be attached to next weekend's Newsletter.

**Note:** Tea & Coffee will be available after Mass this Sunday in St. Oswald's

## **REMINDER: First Holy Communion**

**Next preparation session:** Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 4.30pm - 5.30pm, St. Michael's Church, Tadley

**IMPORTANT NOTE - Attention Parents of all our candidates.** As the May Half Term Holiday clashes with one of our sessions we have cancelled the session on the 27th of May. You should have all received the updated schedule from Marion as follows:

Tuesday the 6th of May.

Tuesday the 13th of May.

Tuesday the 20th of May

Saturday the 31st of May Reconciliation at 10.30am in St Oswald's Burghfield Common.

Sunday the 1st of June First Holy Communion at the 10.00am Mass in St Oswald's.

If you have any queries please let Marion know, or contact the Parish Office.

## Availability next week

Once again, for this coming week I am generally not available, except for emergencies.

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

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## Parish Office Update

### **Benches at St. Oswald's**

Parishioners at St. Oswald's this Sunday will notice that several sections of the benches (pews) have been cordoned off as a precaution. A number of them have damaged or missing supports, in some cases leaving exposed a nail underneath the bench. We are endeavouring to arrange repairs at the earliest possible opportunity. Despite all of this, there is still plenty of space available throughout the Church, so please do attend Mass as normal.

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## Archangels Social Group Events

**Parish Cake Sale & Tombola for Christian Aid next Sunday 11 May:** The Archangels are organising this after the 9am Mass in the Parish Room on the first day of Christian Aid Week, as we no longer undertake the door-to-door collections in the parish. **Please bake a cake to donate for the sale on 11 May or donate gifts for the tombola this weekend (3/4 May)** in the boxes or bags marked 'Donations for Christian Aid' in our church porches. Please put donations for the Foodbank in the normal Foodbank container. Many thanks in anticipation!

**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!

**Volunteers to help organise our Parish Farewell for Fr Patrick:** As you know, Fr Patrick will be retiring this year after nearly 17 years as our Parish Priest!

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.

The Archangels are small in number, so if YOU are willing to join a **team to help organise these 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](mailto:maryt.lee@yahoo.co.uk) to register your willingness to help. **We need to organise a planning meeting, so please let Mary know this coming week, if you can help.** Thank you!

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## CTAT Events

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:dinahaywood@btinternet.com) Thank you!

**REMINDER: Alive 4U, a church service for Children & Families, 11<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am**

Venue: URC, Main Road, Tadley. Info: Mark 07849546894

**REMINDER: The Bible Society's Romans Course – Starting 12<sup>th</sup> May**

7.30pm on Mondays from 12<sup>th</sup> May – 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Venue: Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ.

Info & reservations: [tadleyurc@gmail.com](mailto:tadleyurc@gmail.com)

**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 24<sup>th</sup> 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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**Assisted Suicide Bill**

There is still an opportunity to send cards, available in our churches, to your MP opposing the Assisted Suicide Bill. You can also do this via [www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASVote) . The important Debate in Parliament is within the next two weeks. Please act now: Our Bishop is asking all to engage in this opposition.

**Hope Into Action – Thanksgiving Service – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

Jenny LeLean, Head of Caritas Portsmouth writes: Hope Into Action in Reading partners with the local Catholic parishes to provide housing and support for people who have struggled with homelessness. This includes those who have experienced relationship breakdowns or mental health crises, those fleeing violence or persecution, those in recovery from addictions and those with an offending history.

The help includes provision of shared, single sex independent supported accommodation for single men and women (including single women with a child). Tenancies range from 6 months to 2 years providing a safe home and the security of positive relationships. With this support, Hope Into Action has witnessed tenants find confidence, motivation and belief in change.

To celebrate and give thanks for the successes so far and to invite new volunteers to join the team, Hope Into Action invites you to come to a special service of Praise and Thanksgiving on **Friday 9th May at English Martyrs Church, Reading RG30 2EB from 7-8pm**.

**Caritas & CAFOD: Laudato Si' 10th Anniversary: Saturday 10 May 2025**

Join CAFOD and Caritas in a joint celebration for the 10th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si' at **St Peter's, Winchester on Saturday 10 May from 10am-1pm**. The session will be packed with practical information and opportunity to ask questions on how we can make a difference in our lives and that of our parish, including CAFOD's LiveSimply Award. More information and to register visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>. Everyone welcome.

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## **West Berks Foodbank**

The West Berks Foodbank writes:

- Over £4,000 was raised by the Grand Raffle. These much-needed funds give us more flexibility in supporting clients experiencing difficulties. Thank you!
- We are currently desperately short of volunteers to work in our centres. These are in Calcot, Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford and Burghfield & Mortimer from 1pm – 3pm on different days of the week. Full details can be found on our website. We are particularly looking for volunteers at our Calcot centre but also at Newbury and Thatcham. Contact [Fran@westberks.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:Fran@westberks.foodbank.org.uk)

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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.casopportsmouth.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 good celebration of Victory in Europe Day this Monday, on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the defeat of Nazism. Let us continue to pray for peace in Europe.

Father Patrick

### **Fr. Patrick Tansey**

#### **Parish Priest**

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