

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

9th February 2025 (5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C)

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

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

Dear All,

Jubilee Year Hope?

The Tablet Catholic weekly reported last weekend that in 2023 Mass attendance on Sundays appear to increase by roughly 50,000 in England and Wales. In 2022 the figure was 503,308; in 2023 it was 554,913. However, it is not clear why there is an increase.

Nevertheless, the increase falls short of the numbers pre-Covid. In 2019, according to the Bishops of England and Wales, 701,902 attended on a Sunday.

Stephen Bullivant, Professor of Theology and Sociology of Religion at Saint Mary's University, Twickenham, suspects that the extra 50,000 is an influx of new people, bigger for the first time than the numbers leaving after Covid. There is a similar development in Scotland, with 95,029 attending Sunday Mass in 2023, compared to 89,420 in 2022. But again, this is well below the 2019 figure of 127,003.

Whatever the cause of the increase in England and Wales and Scotland, it appears to be good news. Let us pray that it continues.

We are in a Jubilee Year, centred on Hope, one of the aims of which is to address the continuing outcomes and effects of Covid across our world. Christian hope is rooted in our relationship with Christ, whom we need to be with regularly on Sunday, The Day of Resurrection. Bishop David Oakley, Chair of our Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, rightly reminds us that, sadly:

"We live in an age that has almost lost touch altogether with the supernatural.... We even see signs of this within our communities of faith. We might pray for a deepening of the theological virtue of hope.... The Scriptures constantly focus our hearts and minds on the need to deepen hope.... Within a society radically anchored to life within the present moment, it is difficult for us to imagine what life will be like in the future. We often find ourselves trapped within the anxieties of what may have happened in our past and fear of what is to come.... An encounter with the healing love of the Lord enables us to imagine something different. And this is what hope is about".

So let us pray that those returning to church on a Sunday, or experiencing a celebration of The Resurrection Day for the first time, will find a joyous welcome in our Christian Communities.

At the present moment, Churches Together Around Tadley (CTAT) are praying for our local town and the surrounding villages. Praying that God's blessings come down upon those who are finding life difficult because of length of years or sickness, those struggling with various addictions, those youngsters who may be in broken marriages or suffering domestic abuse. There are so many areas of all of our lives needing a sense of God-given Hope, of His Peace and Love and, importantly, His Joy filling our wounded humanity. Why not make the this part of your Jubilee Prayer as well?

Pat Welsh

Pat is in Basingstoke hospital at present & was visited today by Deacon Tony. Her daughter Cecilia would be very grateful for prayers to be offered for her during this time.

Happy birthday, Margaret!

Margaret Thompson of our Tadley community celebrated her 90th birthday recently, and was treated to an enjoyable celebration at The Mingle meeting in the Parish Room on Wednesday 5th February. I had the pleasure of receiving her into Full Communion with the Catholic Church a few years ago, and she has a great love of Saint Michael's Church and community, alongside her Christian Faith. Congratulations on behalf of all in our Parish Area, Margaret!

Happy Birthday, Sylvia!

I was delighted to hear from Deacon Tony that Sylvia Stamp celebrated her 89th birthday earlier this week & I was able to have a nice chat with her on the phone today (Friday). Please keep her in your prayers, which she greatly appreciates.

Joan Roddy, RIP

The Funeral Service for Joan is at 1.00 PM on Thursday, 13th February at St. Michael's Church. May she rest in peace.

Tree surgery work

The patio at Saint Michael's church is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday next week for work on trees and shrubbery. Also, the Parish Room is not available on those days as it will be in use by those conducting the work.

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This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 8 th February:	6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley
Sunday 9 th February:	9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley – with Children's Liturgy!
Sunday 9 th February:	11.00am at St. Oswald's, Burghfield Common

Archangel's Events

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

TOMORROW!!!: 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: 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 at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, at 7.45pm - 9.30pm**, 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 - sam@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 sam@bccnet.org.uk and he will tell you when he needs them to ensure each school is provided with a sufficient amount.

ADVANCE NOTE: CTAT Men's Breakfast – Saturday 22nd February

Open to all, just come along! Cooked breakfast & good company. This month's event will feature a talk on: Aviation & Faith. Starts 10.00am at the Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Main Road, Tadley, RG26 3NJ.

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ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat – 22nd February – PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE WAY

The second of the "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" series of meetings for 2025, which, month by month, will be moving forward with expectant hope in the providence of God; a firm trust in the victory of Christ; and joy in the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit for revitalising the Church.

The Keynote speaker is (our very own parishioner!) **Gerry Penfold**, Leader of Called and Gifted UK. Called and Gifted is a spiritual journey that helps you understand your own calling and identify the specific charisms that the Lord has given you to share with others.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat 22nd February 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GUIDE." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

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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,

Father Patrick.

Fr. Patrick Tansey

Parish Priest

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