

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

14th September 2025 (THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – YEAR C)

Priest-in-Charge: Father Stephen Vooght

Parish Administrator: Dan Wisniewski

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

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WELCOME FATHER STEPHEN!

Following **Father Parick's** departure for his well-deserved retirement, we are delighted to warmly welcome **Father Stephen Vooght** as our new Priest-in-Charge.

This Weekend's Mass arrangements

Saturday 13th September: 6.00pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 14th September: 9.00am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Sunday 14th September: 11.00am at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

2nd Collection at all Masses this weekend:

Catholic Education Services <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>

NEW: Weekday Mass arrangements

Starting this **Tuesday, 16th September**, the following weekday Masses will be regularly celebrated, along with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & The Rosary, as indicated:

Tuesday 16th September: 12.00 Noon at St. Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common

Wednesday 17th September: 9.30 am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Thursday 18th September: 9.30 am at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

Friday 19th September: 7.00 pm at St. Michael's Church, Tadley

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 30 minutes prior to the start of each Weekday Mass
- The Rosary: Immediately following each Weekday Mass.

The Feast of the Holy Archangel's Michael, Gabriel & Raphael – 29th September

There will be a 7.00pm Mass at St. Michael's Church, concelebrated by Father Stephen & Father John Lee, our Pastoral Parish Priest.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Savoury nibbles & cake will be available after Mass.

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GREETINGS TO MY NEW PARISH FAMILY

A Eucharistic Community of Love

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the request of Bishop Philip, I have been given the privilege and honour to serve as your pastoral priest-in-charge at Tadley and Burghfield Common. Following in the footsteps of Fr Patrick, who has served you faithfully for the last seventeen years, it is my intention and hope that, with the help of God's grace, I too will serve you faithfully and as best as I am able to.

I will seek to nurture and help you in growing spiritually stronger and closer in your relationship with Christ, our Lord and Saviour. I will strive to fulfil my duties as a priest by encouraging you to greater faith in God, primarily through proclaiming the Good News, since "faith is born of the Word and nourished by it" (Vat II: PO #4). I want to do all I can to help you grow in holiness, especially by encouraging you to participate fully in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. I particularly want to help foster within you an even deeper love for the holy Eucharist - "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Vat II: LG #11) - and to have an ever-stronger awareness and devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I want to emphasise God's merciful love and the importance of making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I want to promote among you a strong and sound devotion to Our Lady, especially to praying the Rosary, and to always encourage you to have a devotion to the Saints.

My aspiration is to encourage everyone of you to engage as fully as possible in parish life and to help build a strong and sustainable spirit of fellowship among us. Ultimately, it is to help ensure we live together as a truly Eucharistic community of love that bears authentic witness to Jesus to the world and so fulfil His words: "By this everyone they will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (Jn13:35). St Michael the Archangel and St Oswald, pray for us.

Pax Christi,

Fr Stephen

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Stop assisted suicide - further action needed!

Right To Life UK have written to us as follows:

"As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. Right To Life UK has launched a new *EasyAction* tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you.

Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide."

Many thanks to all parishioners who have already sent a Letter to Peers. If you haven't done so already, please consider doing so this weekend.

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NEXT WEEKEND: Relics of St. Columba - Saturday 20th September

The Knights of St. Columba proudly safeguard the revered relics of St. Columba, St Andrew and St Margaret. Once again this year, the local Knights have been helping bring these sacred relics to locations across the country, inviting pilgrims to partake in their spiritual legacy. We are blessed to have the relics of the Knights of St. Columba coming to at **St. Joseph's Church in Basingstoke**. Parishioners from around the Pastoral Area are warmly encouraged to come and venerate the relics on **Saturday 20th September**.

There will be a **short liturgy at 2pm** to welcome the relics. Thereafter, there will be opportunity for silent prayer and veneration of the relics interspersed with gentle music throughout the afternoon. The relics will be displayed until after the **6pm Vigil Mass**. You are welcome to make known any prayer intentions which can be placed before the relics. Please spread the word for this special occasion.

NEXT WEEKEND: CAFOD Meeting – Saturday 20th September

We are all invited to a CAFOD meeting at **St Bedes Church Hall Basingstoke on Saturday 20th September from 10:30am to 1:30pm**. Come and hear about the difference your donations are making to communities around the world and CAFOD's work with partners in Southern Ethiopia . A simple lunch will be provided so please book your place by emailing Jo on jlwry@cafod.org.uk.

ADORE Zoom mini-retreat "*Pilgrims of Hope – Pilgrims of Hope Minister to One Another*" - Saturday 20th September

How can we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help our fellow pilgrims on the journey through life?

We are called to help others along the Pilgrim way, using our God-given gifts and talents for the Kingdom. Guiding people to God as loving Father, Jesus as Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as Counsellor. Providing for the needy; helping the weak; being stewards of sharing God's provision; giving cheerfully & not counting the cost.

This mini-retreat will include an inspiring talk from Geoff Poulter, Director of the Catholic Bible School for 12 years and leader of training courses in Prophecy, Healing and Discipleship.

10.00am - 1.00pm on Zoom. Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADORESEP2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

A Day with Mary – Saturday 4th October, 10.00am – 5.30pm

We are all invited to participate in this day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. Including Mass in honour of Our Lady, Confession, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary. **Venue: Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi, Early, Reading.**

<https://adaywithmary.org/>

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Archangels Social Group Events

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who came to Fr Patrick's Farewell Mass as our Parish Priest last Sunday and contributed to making it such a memorable occasion for him – wonderful music and singing, a full church with "standing room only" in the church porch to cope with the overflow and a great atmosphere at the reception afterwards! Many thanks to those who baked delicious cakes, to the nuns from Hook who arrived generously bearing sandwich platters and to all those who rallied round to help the Archangels with serving, washing up and clearing away (new members always welcomed!). Thanks also for your generous response to the collection for Fr Patrick, which he greatly appreciated.

Mingle – Wednesday 17 September:

Please come along and join us in St Michael's Parish Room next Wednesday afternoon from 2pm – 4pm for tea/coffee, cake and conversation. All being well, Fr Stephen hopes to be able to join us, so please come to mingle and make him very welcome!

Change of Venue for the Card Games' Night on Friday 19 September:

This will now be held in St Michael's Parish Room, Tadley, from 7pm to 10pm. It is not too late to book and of course, bookings would be most welcome from parishioners across all our communities in Tadley, Kingsclere & Burghfield Common.

Please join us for a fun evening of card games for adults such as rummy, golf, uno, cribbage etc. Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be available. There is no charge for this event.

If you would like to come, to help us set up the room, please register by Sunday 14 September by emailing Pauline Penfold (penfoldfamily5@yahoo.co.uk) or calling or texting Mary Lee on 07821 254100. Thank you.

St Michael's Night – Monday 29 September:

Fr Stephen will be celebrating our Tadley Feastday Mass at 7pm in St Michael's Church with Fr John Lee concelebrating. There will be the opportunity to socialise afterwards in the Parish Room and toast the Parish. All welcome! We will be organising some savoury nibbles and cake, so **it would help us to prepare, if you register on the sign-up sheets in our church porches please, if you intend to stay for the refreshments.** Many thanks.

SAVE THE DATE - Quiz Night in Aid of St Michael's Hospice on Friday 17 October:

The Archangels Social Group will be organising a Quiz Night & Raffle at St Mary's Church Hall, Bishopswood Road, Tadley, RG26 4HQ on Friday 17 October. All proceeds will go to St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke. Details to follow, but please start identifying your team members now!

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CTAT

Community Commemoration on The Green:

Thank you to Ben Rowden for representing the Parish last Sunday afternoon at the Service commemorating the 80th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties ending WWII. Thanks also to those parishioners who joined the congregation and stayed afterwards for refreshments in St Paul's Church. The Royal British Legion (RBL) appreciated their attendance, especially on a grey and drizzly afternoon!

The Tadley & District Branch of the RBL meets in the Ambassadors Club (Hangar Rd, Tadley, RG26 4QQ) at 8pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (1st Monday in November). They welcome men and women of all ages, whether they have served in the Armed Forces or not. The Branch works in the local community: helping veterans and their families; raising funds for the Annual Poppy Appeal; and offering a focal point during times of remembrance. To join, please apply online at www.britishlegion.org.uk or email membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk or call 0800 307 7773. If you need help, advice or support, please email info@britishlegion.org.uk or call 0808 802 8080.

CTAT Ladies' Breakfast – Forthcoming dates:

Open to all & Free.

Meeting 10.00am, usually on 2nd Saturday of the month (except August & December)

Venue: Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Malthouse Lane, Tadley, RG26 3NJ

TOMORROW! Sept 13th – Speaker: Penny O'Bee & Elaine Cole (Opportunities for volunteering through Crosslink)

CTAT Men's Breakfast – Forthcoming dates:

Open to all & Free.

Meeting 10.00am, 4th Saturday of the month

Venue: Immanuel Centre, Tadley URC, Malthouse Lane, Tadley, RG26 3NJ

Sept 27th – Speaker: Joyce (Thoughts on the Travel Industry)

Next CTAT Forum:

This will take place on **Thursday 25 September** at St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath, **7pm** for refreshments before the meeting starts at **7.30pm**. All welcome!

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Bishop Challoner Catholic Secondary School is 50 Years Old!

The school welcomes former members of staff to a Patronal Feast Day Mass, on **Friday 26 September at 12.10pm** and afterwards for light refreshments.

If you are able to attend please complete this short form confirming your name <https://forms.office.com/e/Vm4QxvMtd0> or email jubilee@bcs.hants.sch.uk to help us with arrangements for the day.

In addition, the school is planning lots of exciting events to take place during this academic year for past students, families and friends of the school, to celebrate this milestone. Please keep an eye out for further information.

St. Joseph's College, Reading – Open Evenings in October

The school's [Showcase Senior Open Evening](#) takes place on **Thursday 2nd October, 6–9pm**, and will feature a welcome talk from the Head Teacher, tours of the College and interactive activities across departments.

The [Sixth Form Open Evening](#) occurs later in October on **Tuesday 14 October from 6.30-8.30pm**

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Retrouvaille - Marriage support

Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues?

Next programme starts 17th October www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: +44 7887 296 983

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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/>

Have a good weekend.

Fr. Stephen Vooght

Priest-in-Charge

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Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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