

NORTH WEST

HAMPSHIRE

PASTORAL AREA

Serving the Parishes of

ANDOVER, BASINGSTOKE, HOOK,
TADLEY AND BURGHFIELD COMMON



**St Michael's Parish, Tadley,
Kingsclere,
and St Oswald's Church,
Burghfield Common**

St Michael's Church

Bishopswood Road, Tadley
RG26 4HG

St Oswald's Church

Abbey Park, Burghfield Common,
RG7 3HQ

Parish Priest:

Rev Fr Patrick Tansey
0118 981 4572

Safeguarding Officers:

Mrs Kath Murtagh (Tadley)
0118 981 4658
Mrs Ellen Goodall (Burghfield Common)
0118 983 3332

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Barbara Davis
Email: tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.stmandsto.org.uk

Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Gerry Penfold on (0118) 9881247 during the months April and May.

NEWSLETTER

The Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Easter

24th/25th April, 1st/2nd May and
8th/9th May 2021

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

MOVING FORWARD SLOWLY AND PATIENTLY

In LET US DREAM (THE PATH TO A BETTER FUTURE), Pope Francis states: 'We cannot return to the false securities of the political and economic systems we had before the crisis It is an illusion to think that we can go back to where we were.: But he is very wary about providing pleasing blueprints for the future; wary about those who presume they are the only ones who have the solutions, religious or otherwise.

He believes that the greatest fruit of the three 'COVIDS' in his own life, before the present worldwide COVID crisis, is 'patience sprinkled with a healthy sense of humour, which allows us to endure and make space for change to happen'. The time ahead calls us to discern God's way forward, not claiming to have the answers, but applying the guidance of God's Word to new situations, alongside patient discernment in the Spirit with others of a similar mind. It might be said that we have a long road ahead of us, with a good number of bumps to slow us down! Festina lente—hasten slowly!

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OBLIGATORY COLLECTIONS

- 1) This weekend 24th/25th April, there is The Clergy Training Fund Collection. The monies raised pay for the training of the future priests of our Diocese, so please be as generous as possible.
- 2) On the weekend of 15th/16th May there is a collection for The Catholic Communications Network.

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EASTER THANKS

The Holy Week and Easter Liturgies went extremely well, and it was good that St Oswald's Church opened for Easter Sunday. Many thanks to those who made this time memorable—the Stewards, the Musicians and the desire of Parishioners to be back worshipping publicly, albeit in limited numbers.

It was a great pleasure to Receive into Full Communion with The Catholic Church. Maureen Dudgeon-Smith, at the Easter Vigil in Tadley, and to Confirm her. She greatly appreciated the support of her sponsor, Helen McGivern and of members of the Tadley community.

In both communities a considerable amount of work went into preparing The Easter Vigil and the Easter Sunday Mass, including the cleaning of both churches, the arrangement of flowers and the organisation of the Easter Gardens. The photographs are of the Garden at St Oswald's Church, which many parishioners liked greatly. A splendid 2021 Easter!

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A CHURCH FAR AWAY CALLED ST MICHAEL'S OF TADLEY

The following poem was sent to Fr Patrick by Geevetha Samuel, the sister of the late Paul Samuel. Paul cared for the church grounds around St Michael's Church for some years before his death in August 2018. Their present colourful and welcoming aspect reflect his loving care of them.

When lockdown eases, a plaque to Paul will be placed outside the Parish Room on the wall beside the door onto the patio, and Fr Patrick expresses his thanks to a parishioner who contributed generously towards this, covering most of its costs. Beneath the plaque will be roses, and at the front of the Presbytery flowers and shrubs will be planted. This will honour the gifts of £200 given in June 2020 from Paul's Estate, to be used in this respect by Brenda O'Donovan who is continuing his work. Our thanks to Christine and Bryan Watson and Ralph, his Executors, and we hope they will be able to attend on the day, in accordance with prevailing regulations. Our thanks also to Geevetha who has so generously given £100 to be used by the Church as seems fit.

A church far away called St Michael's of Tadley
A lovely church in England in the Hampshire County
Small yet surrounded by a garden of blooms
A place where my late brother found his home

My late brother he was Paul Samuel
With no where to go, he went there to heal
A house of God, St Michael's was truly eminent
In its labour of Love and Mercy, my brother lived permanent.

St Michael's you will be forever remembered
Tadley you will always be favoured
Rev Fr Patrick, we thank you in our best
For in holiness you prayed his eternal rest

St Michael's we the family revere you
A place so Holy and Mighty, we look upon you
For you were not just a church made out of bricks
But a church where the Love of God truly speaks

O Lord our God who held Paul in St Michael's Tadley
We give You thanks and Praise O Lord, so earnestly
For all You did for Paul in his last days
For Your Home You offered to him in Grace.



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THANKS TO FR PATRICK FROM WEST BERKSHIRE FOOD BANK

Sheila Moore, the Collections Manager writes: ' We really appreciate the support that St Oswald's Church provides to West Berks Foodbank—it allows us to help many struggling families and individuals in our local community.' Our Foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust Foodbank Network, and we'd love for you to have the opportunity to hear more about how the work we do locally fits into the 'bigger picture' across England.'

Unfortunately, he is unable to attend the online Trussell Trust's Big Church Leaders Breakfast on Wednesday 28th April, but has sent his apologies. In doing so, he had a useful conversation with Sheila in respect of the Foodbank re-opening in a few months.

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THANKS TO HUGH LOBO AND BARBARA

As the lockdown eases, The Leonard Rooms at St Oswald's Church will be able to open in a limited way for permitted groups of essential users and for the May Elections, complying with 2 metre distancing, sanitisation requirements and risk assessments. The 2 metre rule allows only a maximum of 15 persons to be present and church meetings are not yet allowed.

A special thanks to Hugh Lobo of our Tadley community, who like others from Kingsclere and Tadley enjoys attending the 10.30 am Sunday Mass at St Oswald's church, for the support he has given Barbara, by installing all the new sanitisers and dispensers. Recently they were working from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm on a Friday to expedite matters, and he provided considerable help when our churches were allowed to open last July.

Our part-time Secretary, Barbara, has once again been working beyond her regular hours to ensure that the building complies with Church and Government Guidelines. This has involved the establishment of moveable sanitisers, compliant toilet facilities and various other requirements. Also linking with the authorised groups and the electoral authorities and our Diocesan Health and Safety Officer. The income generated will be of considerable help to our Parish Finances.

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PARISH CONDOLENCES

Father Patrick learned recently that Desirée Partridge, formerly of our St Oswald community, had died. Desirée was a delightful person and was well-loved by those who got to know her. Her daughter, Denise Dobbie, was greatly involved in St Oswald's Church until she and Desirée moved first to Silchester and then to Basingstoke. Her funeral will be at St Mary's Church, Upper Woolhampton, and Father Peter Bowe OSB will officiate at it.

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HAPPY RETIREMENT FR PETER!

Father Peter Bowe, who has been parish Priest of the Douai Abbey Parish, which included St Oswald's Church until Father Patrick was asked to take charge of it for the Portsmouth Diocese in 2015, is retiring in the near future. He has been Parish Priest since 2012 and was very helpful when St Oswald's Church left his care. Father Patrick sends the best wishes of our Parish for a good retirement.

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LESLAW ('LES') SCHERER RIP

On Saturday 17th April, Les died, after a long time of illness from January 2021, aged 88. He was a member of our Burghfield Common community, who attended Mass until becoming housebound some time ago. His Funeral Mass will be at St Oswald's Church at 10.00 am on Friday 7th May, followed by burial in St Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Burghfield, where his wife also rests.

Our condolences to his son, Leszek, and his Daughter-in-Law, Hilary. COVID restrictions continue to apply to Funerals, so only 30 people may attend. Fr Patrick will be discussing this with his son and wife, and expresses thanks to Ellen Goodall and Anne Howlett who will act as Stewards in accordance with the regulations

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CAROLE ANN RABJOHNS RIP

We also keep in prayer the soul of Carol Rabjohns, of Tadley, whose Graveside Funeral Father Patrick will conduct on Tuesday 27th April at 10.00 am at Tadley

Cemetery.

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THANKS TO ANDY & SARAH HUNNEMAN

Andy and Sarah promote the MISSIO RED BOXES in Burghfield Common, and report that these raised the sum of £181.56 in 2020. They thank all who have contributed.

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CAFOD THANKS

Jo Lewry, CAFOD Portsmouth Co-Ordinator, sends her thanks to all who contributed to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. She thanks us for our steadfast support.

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CALLING ALL TADLEY GARDENERS

Care of our Church Grounds at St Michael's Church begins again on Saturday 8th May from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm with social distancing and other regulations adhered to. Please contact Brenda O'Donovan if you wish to volunteer or have any questions (01189 814269).

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