

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 during July on (01189 811247). And Bill Reilly during August (01189 813784)

**NEWSLETTER 26th July —8th August
2020 AD**

**THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH SUN-
DAY OF THE YEAR**

BREAKING NEWS ON PEOPLE AGED 70+

We have been advised from the Diocesan Office that those age 70 and over, providing they are hale and hearty, MAY NOW VOLUNTEER TO HELP STEWARD OR CLEAN IN OUR CHURCHES. IF HOWEVER YOU SUFFER FROM ANY OF THE MEDICAL CONDITIONS AS LISTED BELOW ADVISED FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND, YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO CONSIDER YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE CHURCH. THE PARAMOUNT PRINCIPLE OF THE CHURCH IS THAT PARISHIONERS ARE SAFE.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

Any existing underlying health condition (Comorbidity)
Cardiovascular Disease
Diabetes Mellitus
Chronic Lung Disease (inc. Chronic Severe Asthma, COPD, Intertistial Lung Disease, Emphysema or Bronchitis)
Chronic Kidney Disease
Chronic Liver Disease (Hepatitis)
Sickle Cell
Chronic Neurological Conditions, (Parkinson's, Motor Neurone Disease, MS, Cerebral Palsy)
A Weakened Immune System due to certain conditions/ medicines
Pregnant Women

If you wish to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office with your details and we will forward this information onto Gina Poulter (St Michael's) and Ellen Goodall (St Oswald's) who have kindly agreed to manage the Rotas for Volunteers. Please bear in mind that although we will need 2 Stewards per Mass, we will also need another person to be available as a 'Stand In' in case of an emergency.

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REOPENING FOR MASSES

The final time for PRIVATE PRAYER at St Michael's Church will be from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm on Saturday 25th July. Father Patrick expresses our thanks to those who volunteered as Stewards since 4th July, enabling St Michael's Church to be open on the last four Saturdays, giving a good number of parishioners the opportunity to pray before The Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, having made the journey to our local church to be with Jesus in a special way. We thank them for their 'pilgrimage' and witness, noticed by local residents.

Fr Patrick has decided that from the weekend of Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August, both St Michael's Church, Tadley,

and St Oswald's Church, Burghfield Common, will be open for Mass at limited times and with all the necessary health restrictions operating. However, there is a caveat (a caution) on this.

On 29th June 2020, the Metropolitan Archbishops in England published a letter about the resumption of Public Worship in England. They acknowledged that the opening of Welsh churches is devolved to the Welsh Assembly, and is not within their competence during the pandemic in respect of The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. They made these points among others in the letter:

'It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going back to normal.'

Before Mass is celebrated, there must be two Stewards present. Should this not be possible, Mass will be cancelled for that day in that particular church. All hygiene regulations must be observed if Mass is celebrated, and a list of that which is required follows in this Newsletter. It will be necessary to book to attend Mass, details to follow. Social distancing of 2 metres will remain as per Diocesan Guidance.

Fr Patrick will celebrate:

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass at Tadley and

Sunday 10.30 am Mass at Burghfield Common starting 1st/2nd August 2020.

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ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISH

All must WEAR THEIR OWN FACEMASKS OR FACE COVERINGS at all times except when one lowers the mask on the face during the distribution of Holy Communion.

- (i) Please USE THE HAND SANITISER (70% Alcohol) WHEN YOU ENTER AND LEAVE THE CHURCH. If you are sensitive to alcohol sanitisers, please bring your own strong sanitiser.
- (ii) Stewards will direct you to your seats, and only those who have booked will be allowed to attend, having given their names.

- (iii) Queuing to receive Holy Communion will be in single file with Social Distancing observed. Stewards will shepherd this as necessary. Communion will be given under one kind (The Host) and will be given on the hand.
- (iv) Please be advised that during Mass you are asked not to kneel, but remain seated so that you do not come into contact with the pew in front of you. If you do so, you will break the 2 metre separation guidance and may compromise the safety of the Parishioner in front of you.
- (v) Church toilets will be closed.
- (vi) Stewards will direct when to exit from your pew once Mass has finished.
- (vii) PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THE PEW ENDS AS YOU PROGRESS THROUGH THE CHURCH TO YOUR SEAT.

A Guidance Bulletin will be issued on Friday next week to help familiarise yourself for attending Mass.

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BOOKINGS FOR MASS

This will be organised from the Parish Office, and our part time Secretary, Barbara, has agreed to organise it.

- Five places at each Mass will be reserved for those not online, who may book by telephoning the Parish Office (01189 814572) between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- All others must be done by email to the Office. Please title your email as 'Mass Booking'.
- All those booking must provide name and contact number of the attendee. Families and couples count as one group, BUT NAMES OF ALL OF THOSE ATTENDING MUST BE PROVIDED.
- Please indicate which Church and Mass you wish to attend.
- All email and telephone bookings must be received by 1.30 pm on the Thursday for each coming weekend's Masses.
- Bookings will be taken from 10.30 am Tuesday 28th July - first come, first served. If others apply when the bookings for that particular week are closed, they will be offered the opportunity to attend the following week, space available.

Those suffering from colds or 'flu, must not attend any Masses; if Fr Patrick has one or the other, Mass will be cancelled. Parishioners are reminded that he is in the 70+ Vulnerable group.

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FACING DEATH AS WE GROW OLDER

CARITAS has asked that the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time be an opportunity for reflection on ageing and death. During the lockdown, elderly people in care homes and their many committed carers who stayed in post to help them

were badly let down in the understandable desire to provide hospital beds for those with coronavirus. Many elderly in hospitals were discharged back to care homes without being tested for coronavirus, bringing the disease back to elderly and carers alike. A number of care providers refused to accept any of their residents back until they were properly tested and there were numerous complaints that there was no adequate PPE equipment readily available when coronavirus began to spread through these homes. The now agreed sometime future inquiry into the way the pandemic was addressed by our Government will have this area as one of its major concerns, and we need to engage in the discussions as they develop. And also on the wider issue of the failure of previous Governments to address the struggling area of social care and the dignity of the elderly in our society. CARITAS reminds us:

Today, people are living much longer, into their 80s and beyond. Average ages in churches and our society are rising.

Our parish community is greatly enriched by the caring presence and initiative of older people. They show that deep human desires remain the same, no matter how old we are: for the joy of friendship, and to create belonging. But sometimes words and actions on ageing, and the elderly, fall short of our Christian vision of the fullness of life. Many people, Christians included, fear that growing older will not be a joyful experience. Even greater is the fear that one day our health might require specialist care, perhaps in a care home.

Shortly before the pandemic struck, the Bishops of England and Wales shared their hope that parishes would consider fresh opportunities for older people to experience more of the care and belonging that they want, and that we would hope to see for ourselves and our loved ones. How can our community of disciples be joyfully creative and faithful, in regard to the role and needs of the elderly in this parish and in this neighbourhood?

One character in the gospels who did joyfully give up all she had for God was the widow in the Temple (Luke 21.1-4). It is not just a matter of caring for the elderly but of letting them, along with the young and the middle aged, enrich in wisdom and compassion the diversity and unity of the community.

ASK: WILL THAT BE PART OF OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS PARISH IN THE NEW NORMALITY THAT IS GRADUALLY EMERGING WITH GREAT UNCERTAINTY? OVER TO YOU!

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PARISH VISION - YOUR INPUT!

The Evangelisation Strategy Team (EST), (Fr Patrick, Sarah Hunneman, Rick Wallis, Gina Poulter and Gerry Penfold) have begun thinking about what our parish will look and feel like in 5-10 years' time. This builds on the out-

put from the open meeting that took place last October. As part of our thinking, we have come up with a set of individual words that describe our parish in the future. We would like to test these words with as many parishioners as possible to see which ones best fit your vision of our parish. This input will be really important in shaping our plans for the future and prioritising what we are able to do with limited resources.

So we have created a survey which will enable you to select up to 10 words from a list of around 45 and also to add one or two of your own if you wish. The survey will remain open until **31st August 2020**. We will then collate all the input and share the result with everyone via the newsletter and the parish website. So please reflect on what you would like the parish to look and feel like and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that the words that emerge are truly God's vision for our parish. When you are ready, please go to the survey

<https://www.surveylegend.com/s/2e0e>

and complete it before the deadline. The more parishioners that complete it the better! If you do not have access to the internet, please contact any member of the EST for a paper copy of the word list which can be completed and handed in to the Parish Office, just like the online version.

EST MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS:

Gerry Penfold	07802 608549
Gina Poulter	01256 541052
Rick Wallis	07966 167946

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BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Our prayers and best wishes to Martin and Veronika Kucharcikova of our St Oswald's community on the forthcoming Baptism of Maria. Thanks also to Veronika, and Aggie of the same community, for recently undertaking a preliminary cleaning of St Oswald's Church in preparation for its opening for Mass. Aggie has also been Stewarding at St Michael's Church during the time of Private Prayer. More Volunteers always welcome.

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THANKS TO OUR BASINGSTOKE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

Roy Singh of our Parish, the local Grand Knight, has arranged for a donation of £100 to be divided equally between St Michael's Church and St Oswald's Church to support the Children's Liturgy Groups operating before lockdown in these buildings. Fr Patrick expresses his thanks to the Knights.

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SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



Our congratulations to:

- (i) John and Madeline Roberts who celebrated their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on 12th July 2020
- (ii) Danny and Sue Elliott who celebrated their RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on 18th July 2020
- (iii) Mick and Cath Farrow who celebrated their DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on 23rd July 2020

Fr Patrick has sent best wishes to them all and appreciates their long-standing support of the Parish.

Ad multos annos!

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IN PRAYER

JULIA GOLDSMITH

Julia, a parishioner of St Joseph's Parish, Basingstoke, was a member of the Holy Land Pilgrimage organised by Bill and Joy Reilly last October. We have learned that she is scheduled for an operation to remove a possible tumour on her bladder on Wednesday 29th July. She asks for our prayers - 'the more prayers the better!'

MARK KAN

Jenny Seaborn's friend has been featured in articles in both the Basingstoke Gazette and Newbury Weekly News recently. He is in need of a stem cell donor in respect of his cancer. Please keep him in prayer, asking that a donor will be found. Also his wife Fiona and daughter Lauren, with whom Father Patrick had a pleasant chat whilst walking recently; also keep in prayer his son Joe.

MARY LEE

Mary says 'Thank you!' to all who have been praying for her and asks that you continue to do so.

PAUL KARTAR

Fr Patrick met Paula, his son's wife, in the Tadley Co-Op recently. Things are greatly improved, but please continue the prayers.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Our Congratulations to:

Denis Murtagh who will be 70 on 5th August

Kath Murtagh who will be 70 on 16th August

We thank them for their many years of commitment to our Parish.

AD MULTOS ANNOS, FATHER CHRIS!

On 22nd July, Father Chris Rutledge, our Pastoral Area Co-Ordinator, celebrated 25 years of Priesthood. Father Patrick sent congratulations to him, with best wishes as he prepares to leave Holy Ghost Parish to become Dean of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. This appointment will take place in October, when Father Dominic Adeiza will move to Basingstoke from Faringdon, the Parish which Fr Patrick was responsible for before moving to Tadley. Father Claro Conde, whom Fr Patrick knows well through his working with the Filipino community, will replace Father Adeiza in Faringdon. Keep them all in your prayers, please.

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CALLING ALL GARDENERS

The Tadley Gardening Team hopes to be on site on Saturday 1st August from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. Come and join your Social Distancing Volunteers, who are making the grounds at St Michael's Church a continuing witness to the importance of God's house in our community as it now re-opens for Mass.

Please bring your own food and drink and gardening implements. Our toilets remain closed. Further details from Brenda O'Donovan (01189 814269)

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A REMINDER

Many thanks to those who continue to support our Parish by posting cheques and other contributions through the Presbytery letter box.

Sometimes, however, it is not clear on the envelope the designation of the cash gift: A Mass, a named Church parish collection (St O's or St M's) or other Church supported collection (ie CAFOD) or a gift to the priest.

Please make clear on the envelope that which the item is for, or details of a Mass requested with the attached stipend etc.

However, thanks to all who contribute in various ways. It is greatly appreciated.

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WHERE IS MY NEWSLETTER?

There have been a number of cases where Parishioners have suddenly found that they are no longer receiving either the Newsletter or Deacon Tony's Reflection from us in their Email Inbox, but then found it in their Junk Box!. If there is a problem with non receipt, please do let the Parish Office know. Thank you and happy hunting!

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PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY 3rd AUGUST AND TUESDAY 4th AUGUST.

Please leave telephone Mass Booking requests on the answerphone and these requests together with any email requests will be dealt with on return. Thank you.