

## 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:

Kathryn Garden  
Email: [tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmandsto.org.uk](http://www.stmandsto.org.uk)

### Covenant to the People

If you would like help from the Covenant to the People scheme, please call Bill Reilly on 0118 9813784 during December.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament is celebrated on request at the present time in the Parish Room at Tadley. Please book with Fr Tansey by telephone.

## NEWSLETTER

### The Second Sunday in Advent and Third Sunday in Advent 5th & 12th December 2021

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY NO 246871

### Tadley, Kingsclere and Burghfield Common Masses

6:00 pm	Saturday Vigil Mass	Tadley
9:00 am	Sunday Parish Mass	Tadley
11:00 am	Sunday Parish Mass	Burghfield Common

#### **Weekday Masses:**

Tues 7 Dec	12 noon	St Ambrose of Milan (Memorial)	Tadley
Wed 15 Dec	12 noon	Advent Mass	Tadley

Advance booking is not required for weekend Masses but please telephone or email to advise if attending so Father Patrick can ensure we keep within acceptable numbers.

---- + ----

### Second Sunday of Advent – Year C

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Responsorial Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

### Third Sunday of Advent – Year C

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18. Philippians 4:4-7. Luke 3:10-18

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us..

### Next Sunday's Reading (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Micah 5:1-4. Hebrews 10:5-10. Luke 1:39-44

---- + ----

### Mass Attendance on 27th/28th November 2021

Tadley 6:00pm: 23 Tadley 9:00am 32

Burghfield Common 11:00am: 18

## LET US DREAM - AND LET US LISTEN IN PRAYER

The Diocesan Conference for clergy, entitled The Post-Covid Church - Let Us Dream, was held on 29th/30th November in Southampton, led by Bishop Philip and a small group of clergy and lay facilitators. Its purpose was to address the serious problems facing our Diocese and its Mission over the next ten years, accelerated by the Covid Pandemic.

These challenges will become clear in the coming months as the process spreads across the Diocese, with Pastoral Area and Diocesan meetings impacting all, including retired clergy and those studying for priesthood and the Permanent Diaconate. Considerable changes will take place in our Diocesan landscape, impacting upon our present parish structures, church buildings, the deployment of clergy all requiring the support of theologically and pastorally formed lay people who wish to be involved and, inevitably, our use of financial resources which are under considerable strain. Our Bishop's hope is that a vibrant and flourishing local Church will emerge, although greatly reduced in numbers and moving away from set practices to more relevant pastoral and theological structures. Quite simply, unless we accept that things will change radically, we may no longer be relevant as a Catholic Church to people around us. And it is also a challenge (and an opportunity) to be addressed not only by us but by the Church throughout England and Wales in our covid age.

What was remarkable about the Conference was that, although many of us were intellectually and mentally drained by Tuesday afternoon, there was no sense of gloom and doom throughout it. Central to our discussions was the need to put Christ at the centre of this challenge, and the need to allow The Holy Spirit to help us to listen and discern in prayer the will of God for our Diocese. On the final afternoon many felt that The Holy Spirit was truly present, alongside the prayers of many for their clergy at this difficult time. So thank you for being present in Spirit!

Clergy meetings can be quite fractious at times - we are human beings who have our particular agendas, and religious outlook, which can lead to backbiting and confrontation. But I must say that this was not present over the two days - which was a great blessing!

We listened with respect to each other, although not always in agreement on particular areas, and were very honest in stating reservations about Diocesan structures and communications. Yet there was no anger and a real desire by the Bishop to hear that which we had to say and to address concerns.

In Let Us Dream, Pope Francis asks: "What is the Spirit telling us? What is the grace on offer here; if we can only embrace it; and what are the obstacles and temptations? ... Where is the good news hidden within the sombre news? ... Be careful of those who claim now to see the future with a kind of clarity and security ... God acts in the simplicity of open hearts, in the patience of those who pause until they can see clearly.

Discerning what is and what is not of God, we begin to see where and how to act."

So prepare to be very patient over the next ten years. Be ready to listen constantly, asking The Holy Spirit to lead us in prayer to the right decisions. Engage in this process, even if it challenges our assumptions of how the Church should be modelled by our thoughts, rather than by the direction of God's Spirit. As Bishop Philip said, we are in a different age to the one we have been accustomed to.

*Father Patrick*

---- + ----

## A CONFERENCE REFLECTION

Before becoming Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Ratzinger made that which many regard as a prophetic statement in 1969. It was mentioned at the Conference and these are some of his thoughts of a future Church: "She will no longer be able to inhabit many of the edifices she built in prosperity. As the number of her adherents diminishes . . . she will lose many of her social privileges. As a small society, [the Church] will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members... It will be hard-going for the Church ... The process will be long and wearisome. ... but when the trial of this sifting is past, a great power will flow from a more spiritualized and simplified Church.

And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times...But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end ... she will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's home, where he will find life and hope beyond death."

He was speaking of the Church in Europe, that part of the Church of which we are members. As many know, it is very different in parts of Africa and South America. We may need to learn from those areas in the years ahead.

---- + ----

## AN ENJOYABLE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL!

Father Patrick attended Saint Mary's Church for its Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 27th November, before the 6:00pm Vigil Mass. The Mass meant that he was unable to remain for the presentation on the plans to adapt the Church Hall as a community facility. However, the Churchwarden operating the technology gave him a view of the plans, and it was good to exchange words with Councillor Avril Burdett, Chair of the Town Council, also present. Deacon Steve McKay enabled him to 'escape' through the fire doors as the Mayor of Basingstoke and other gathered for the formal display!

Before the 'escape' he had had time to view the Christmas trees well displayed in the church. Congratulations to Helen Warner and Eileen Smith for their simple but effective contribution on behalf of Saint Michael's Church. A number of people commented that they liked it greatly, and it was pleasing to see it near to the splendid tress from Tadley Common Methodist Church and Saint Mary's Church, both in the church sanctuary.

The display of Nativity Scenes from Around the World was fascinating, and the Tadley Men's Shed Tree was very interesting. A splendid beginning to Advent, well done Deacon Steve and Saint Mary's Church!

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS - WEST BERKS. FOODBANK

Sheila Moore writes, "Thank you for your continued support for West Berks Foodbank. I was at the warehouse today and could already see some donations arriving from folk who have been following this year's Reverse Advent Calendar. Having these donations early will enable us to send them out in plenty of time for Christmas.

As well as these essentials, we always like to include some treats to make Christmas more enjoyable and special for our clients. To this end, I have attached our 12 days of Christmas with suggestions of treats that can be sent out with our standard food parcels. Please would you circulate this amongst your congregation? We ask that donations are delivered to our warehouse by Monday 13th December. If you have donations that need collecting, please contact me on 07955 626 621 or [Churches@westberks.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:Churches@westberks.foodbank.org.uk) and I will try to arrange a collection. Thank you".



## CHRISTMAS IS COMING WITH CTAT!

Two CTAT Advent events are taking place this month, the first at St Paul's Church on 22nd December and the second at St Mary's Church on 23rd December, both at 6:00pm. There will be carols with Tadley Concert Brass, readings and refreshments.

## VOLUNTEERS

There has been no response to Father Patrick's request for a second lay representative for our CTAT Forum, to assist Mary Lee in this important ecumenical work.

However, he is very grateful to Geoff and Gina Poulter, Gerry and Pauline Penfold and Sue Tull for agreeing to be part of the hospitality team at the Advent Service at Saint Mary's Church on 23rd December. More volunteers welcome - as there are other areas alongside hospitality - stewarding and social distancing etc. Please let the office know by telephone or email by Tuesday 7th December, so that Father Patrick can inform the CTAT meeting on 9th December of the complete number of volunteers from St Michael's Church.

## A TIME TO PRAY - HOPEFULLY!

Father Patrick will not be available during the period Sunday afternoon 5th December to Saturday afternoon 11th December.

He will be taking time out to give more time to prayer and reflection during Advent in preparation for The Lord's Birth, which he normally did before the pandemic. There is a Day of Prayer for Clergy at Douai Abbey on 8th December, so please keep him and other Diocesan priests in prayer that day. There will be a Parish weekday Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday 7th December at St Michael's Church which he will celebrate, and he has a CTAT meeting on Thursday afternoon to finalise our ecumenical plans for Christmas and Christian Unity Week. Otherwise, he wishes to spend time with the Lord and avoid parish matters.

The Parish Office will be open from 9:30am—2:30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday for matters to be dealt with for the following week.

However, on Tuesday 14th December he will not be available because of a gathering of the clergy of the North-West and North-East Hampshire Pastoral Areas and on Thursday 16th December he will be in London for a meeting of the Administrators of the Secular Clergy Common Fund. As usual, he will be taking Monday 13th December as his day off and the Office will be closed.

He takes this opportunity to thank parishioners for their consideration in not contacting him on Mondays and for respecting the fact that Kathryn, our part-time Secretary, normally has that day off too.

--- + ---

## DO IT YOURSELF ABORTIONS (DIY)

A study has revealed that over 10,000 women have needed hospital treatment following the use of medical abortion pills since March 2020. Our Government allowed this during the pandemic at home without proper medical supervision, as a temporary measure.

The abortion lobby are now running a large campaign in the media to put pressure on the Government to make temporary 'DIY' abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible write to the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, asking the Government to end these dangerous 'DIY' abortion schemes.

Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website today which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit [www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY) to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds. Mr. Javid may also be contacted by a written letter to him at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

--- + ---

## CLEAN UP FOR CHRISTMAS!

The pre-Christmas clean at St. Michael's will take place on Tuesday 14th December between 10am and 12 noon. All offers of help are very welcome. Please contact Tina on 07738-282-574 or [tina@vanewyk.co.uk](mailto:tina@vanewyk.co.uk)

This is for the pre-Christmas deep clean, not the usual cleans between Masses, which will of course be done.

## DECORATING SAINT OSWALD'S CHURCH

As Christmas is fast approaching it would be great if we can get parishioners to help decorate our church. Aggie and Mary spend a lot of time doing the flowers so it would be lovely to help them. They do a fantastic job, thanks ladies.

The plan is to decorate the Church on Sunday 19th (after Mass) or Monday 20th (afternoon/evening). We would appreciate volunteers and the day will be decided depending on numbers of volunteers! Please contact Ellen Goodall on 0118 983 3332 if you can help.

---- + ----

## O COME LET US ADORE HIM

You are warmly invited to "O come let us ADORE Him - Christmas Worship" an hour of Praise, Scripture Readings, Carols and Prayers to prepare us for Christmas. There will be no Mass, Talk or discussion. Just an opportunity to reflect and pray for the Lord Jesus to come even more deeply into our lives, to fill us with all the fullness of God. This zoom session is on December 18th 11.00am to midday, You must register for the Zoom meeting in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREDEC2021](https://bit.ly/ADOREDEC2021)

ADORE is also offering confidential prayer for healing by telephone - please phone (NOT text) 07579 824523 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and leave ONLY name and number. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for healing of physical, emotional and spiritual problems.

---- + ----

## THE PASSAGE - TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS

The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people, is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

---- + ----

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4th and 18th December there will be Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament in Saint Michael's Church from 10:00am to 11:00am. During these times Father Patrick will be available in the Parish Room for any who wish to receive The Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This room was approved by our previous Diocesan Health & Safety Officer as complying with guidance for the Sacrament during the pandemic. Each penitent will be required to sanitise their area so that is available for the person who follows. It will be face to face Confession.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December

6.00pm Vigil Mass for Christmas Tadley

*There will be no midnight Mass for Christmas this year*

### Christmas Day - Saturday 25th December

9.00am Nativity of The Lord Tadley

11.00am Nativity of The Lord Burghfield Common

*No Saturday evening Mass*

### Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday 26th December

9.00am Mass Tadley

11.00am Mass Burghfield Common

We expect that some Covid restrictions may continue in force, so you must let us know if you intend to be at any of these Christmas Masses so that numbers can be assessed. This can be done by phone or email to the parish office, giving details of which Mass you would like to attend, number of people and contact details. Please also indicate if you require to socially distance at Mass. You may be asked to transfer to another Mass if a list is full.

### BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS/ BOXING DAY MASSES ARE NOW BEING TAKEN

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass times. Face coverings are still requested for those attending Mass, unless exempt for medical reasons, hands should be sanitized on entrance and at departure. A steward will be present to make sure we all remain safe. We shall update you on any changes to the pandemic situation that may have an impact upon us towards Christmas. Our Church benches will require sanitisation after all the Christmas Masses to facilitate the Masses for the Sunday (Boxing Day).

---- + ----

## THE BIG PICTURE RETURNS!

Geoff and Gina Poulter write:

'Moving into the New Year (commencing Monday 10th January at 7:30pm and running for ten weeks) the Pastoral Area will be hosting a new programme via Zoom called 'The Big Picture'. We did, of course, successfully run this programme some years ago in our parish but hopefully our spiritual journey since then has changed us so that we will be approaching the course from a different starting point and with a different group of fellow travellers. There will be more information shortly in the Parish Newsletter and on the website so keep your eyes peeled, but why not mark it in your new 2022 diary now?'

---- + ----

## BOXING DAY LIFT

Father Patrick would appreciate a lift from the 9:00am Mass on Sunday 26th December (Boxing Day) at Tadley to the 11:00am Mass at Burghfield Common, with a return lift to Tadley afterwards. Please let him know as soon as possible. He knows he will be tired and will be rushing, which is not conducive to safe driving.