



Holy Communion

Collect for Sunday

Merciful Lord,
cast your bright beams of light upon the Church:
that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed
apostle and evangelist Saint John, and by the
inspiration of the first martyr Stephen
who prayed for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
so we may walk in the light of your truth
through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading - Exodus 33:7-11a

(page 91 of OT in bibles)

Read by Rachel Thake

New Testament Reading —Acts 7: 51-end

(page 156 of NT in bibles)

Read by Hugh Fisher

Gospel—Matthew 10: 17-22

(page 15 of NT in bibles)

Eucharist presided by Bishop Andrew Proud

Preaching by Bishop Andrew Proud

Worship led by Revd Gary Collins, Revd Christine
Bainbridge & Revd Mark Laynesmith

Prayers led by Annie Theogaraj

Hymns for Today

Tell out my soul

Come thou long expected Jesus

The servant king

Wait for the Lord

Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Christ be our light

All are invited to come for communion and prayer.

*If you do not wish to take communion, please come for prayer. If you
have any particular need, problem or prayer request please speak to a
member of the clergy after the service.*

Bishop Andrew

We are delighted to welcome Bishop Andrew Proud,
the Bishop of Reading, to celebrate our patronal
festival today. Please stay for coffee, cake and chat.

Because of the historic joining of two churches in East
Reading, we find that we're an unusual congregation
with two patron saints! The point of a patronal
festival is to recognise and celebrate the inspiration of
our saints John the Evangelist (27th Dec.) and
Stephen the Martyr (26th Dec.)



New Piano

Dear Lorna and everyone at Church

Michael and I would like to thank you all for inviting
us on Sunday and making us feel so very welcome.
We did enjoy the Service with the excellent music,
choir and readings, and it was so good to see the very
small children taking part.

I really wanted to say a big thank you for the very
beautiful flowers which look lovely in my hall.

I am so pleased the piano has found a good "home"
and will be played very regularly- the congregation
were very complimentary! We wish you all a very
happy Christmas and good wishes for the New Year.
Sincerely, Sheila Aris

Trauma Informed Communities

9th January 2019 at 5.30pm

St John's primary School RG1 3JN

Come and see the film '**Resilience. The Biology of
Stress and the Science of Hope**' and discuss what can
be done to prevent childhood trauma and improve
quality of life for those affected by childhood trauma
by creating trauma informed communities.

Spiritual Direction

Some of you know that we are training as spiritual
directors with the Diocese. As part of our training, we
need a couple of people to practice on!! If you would
like to help, and have some spiritual direction along
the way, please speak to one of us. Thank you!

Richard and Rosemary

Any old bikes?

Do you have a bike which is doing nothing? If so, it
could help a refugee or someone else in need. I can
come and have a look at it, and, if it is suitable, take it
to do up and channel to someone in need. So far I
have given bikes though the refugee centre in
Reading, the International Care Network in
Bournemouth, and CIRDIC. Most in demand are adult
mens' bikes rather than children's or ladies'. If you
can help, please contact me by email on
steve@brownshouse.com, text on 07941543213 or
phone on 0118 9669393.

Thank you! Steve Brown

Church Lunches

The total raised from the December lunch (and given
subsequently) amounted to £200. This sum is on its
way to Novi Most International towards the cost of a
new minibus needed for the youth ministry in Bosnia
& Herzegovina, as explained by Matt and Rowan on
their visit. More information at novimost.org.

We were also able to send another £47.50 to
Christian Aid representing Gift Aid recoveries on
donations made earlier in the year. Note that there
will be no church lunch on 6 January.

Birthdays

Chris Bicknell (25th)
Norma Stevenson (27th)
Alice Ripley (28th)

Prayers

- Pray for those in our community who feel isolated and lonely at this time of year
- Please pray for Bill Gothard and his worsening Parkinson's Disease. Please pray too, for their daughter, Alice, who has MS, for Chris's sister who has advanced cancer and for the impact of all this on Chris.
- Prayers for John Lawrence, son of Judith, as he continues his treatment
- Prayers for Leslie & June Russell.
- Prayers for Carol Meunier

Please give any items for prayer or notices to The Office *before* 9am on Wednesday by pigeon hole, e-mail or phone.

 **DIOCESE OF OXFORD**
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

Called to be Christ-like
CONTEMPLATIVE • COMPASSIONATE • COURAGEOUS

Church Diary

Sun 23rd	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung) Patronal Festival for John and Stephen
	2-5pm	Contact Centre
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Celebration
Sun 30th	10.30am	Holy Communion (sung)

Wishing everyone at
St John's and St Stephen's a very Happy
Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Please note the Church Office is closed from
the 24th December until 8th January 2019

Small Groups

Oasis (Bridget Barwick)	966 9735	Wed 1.30pm
Richard & Rosemary Croft	926 0672	Thurs 8.00 pm
Jeremy & Rachel Thake	987 1288	Thurs 8.00 pm
Judith Lawrence	954 1332	Thurs 7.30 pm

You are welcome to join - please speak to contact/leader

Vicar: **Rev'd Vincent Gardner**
On extended leave

Curate: **Rev'd Gary Collins**
07986 901879

Associate Priest: **Rev'd Christine Bainbridge**
07939 662980

Church Office: **Tanya Penn**
(0118) 926 3633

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**Advent 4 – The Patronal Festival
of St John & St Stephen**
23rd December 2018



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH.

Don't rush away! Please feel free to join us after the morning service for a cup of coffee or tea. We look forward to your company.

23rd December—Marian Harwood & Friends
30th December—Thake Homegroup

Welcome Team leader **Norma Stevenson**
On-duty Warden today is **Ian Maynard**

Don't rush away! Please feel free to join us after the morning service for a cup of coffee or tea. We look forward to your company.

Picture Credit, Cy Twombly *Treatise on the Veil*, 1970