

RG31 St Catherine's Tilehurst Parish Magazine Summer 2024



St Catherine's Tilehurst
Wittenham Avenue, RG31 5LN

Summer Fair

Saturday 15th June
12 noon - 3 pm

- BBQ
- Grand Tombola
- Games
- Stalls
- Raffle
- Refreshments
- And much more !

A FUN AFTERNOON FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Admission : Simply throw a coin in the bucket!



Photos from the Summer Fair

From the editor



back to just the shell of a community building handed to Tilehurst Parish Council for fitting out.

The original builders went out of business and different parts were developed by different builders making the area less homogenous. This, coupled with the physical layout which split the area into what was effectively four separate estates, made all our efforts to involve the local community far less productive.

We ran an after-school club, did Carol singing and visiting house to house, Litter picking, Bluebell walk, an outdoor 'Songs of Praise' and regular Community Newsletters.

We organised a big community event and open day in 2006 involving all the hirers to celebrate the 15th 'birthday' of the Cornwell Centre.

In 2019, with Rev Gill Rowell appointed and wishing to prioritise children's work, it seemed right to move our 11.00am All-Age service to the St Catherine building.

We were still getting used to the change of venue when Covid hit, but by pooling our resources and the help and encouragement of curate Phil Price we devised a joint online service at 10.00am and this continued with the merging of the three congregations when it was possible to meet in person.

Cornwell 0-5s toddler group will meet for the last time in the Cornwell Centre on Thursday 18th July 2024 and this will end over 32 years of hiring the building and a long and fruitful association with the Cornwell Centre that has touched many lives.

Tony Bartlett

My wife and I have had a long association with the Cornwell Centre, on page 7 you can read all about the toddler group (Cornwell 0-5s toddler group) that she started and that first met on Thursday 2nd April 1992.

During 1993 the local Church Ministers discussed 'planting' a new church on an area of new housing that became known as 'The SNW Estate'.

In the event it was a joint venture between St Catherine's and Tilehurst Free Church, and after 9 months of planning, training & preparation teams were 'sent out by their home churches. That small team began meeting on a Sunday morning in the Cornwell Centre from Sunday 7th November 1993. Then on 16th January 1994 'Cornwell Community Church' was launched with its first public service.

We continued worshipping in the Cornwell Centre until 2nd June 2019 when we had our final service which celebrated and gave thanks for those 25 years.

We had accepted that over those 25 years the local estate had not developed as first planned. Original plans had included a school and a church but this was scaled

Rev Jackie Fountain

And it's summer already! Time seems to have flown by, and here we are with the schools getting ready for the summer holidays and people planning, looking forward to and heading off on holidays.

We have heard the sounds of sports day, the visit from the circus and the end of term productions at Birch Copse School.

We are preparing to say goodbye to the children who are leaving our 0-5s groups and Tots Praise because they are heading on to full time nursery in September.



Exams are finished for our young people, and they have various exciting activities planned for the summer holidays while they wait for results.

We are looking forward to our Holiday Club here at St Catherine's from the 19th-21st August. The theme of it is "Wonder Zone", looking at the amazing world which God has created. It is open to primary aged children. Emma and the team have done a great job in planning and preparing for it, and there is a good team in place.

There are still places available if you know any children who would like to come along. Details are on the web site.

During the summer holidays we will be holding our Sunday morning services outside (weather permitting!) and we will be looking at "Meals With Jesus." Jesus spent a lot of time eating with people and going to parties. Food matters.

Meals shared together matter. Meals can be full of significance. Shared meals connect us with others. We will see what we can learn together as we share these meals with Jesus over the summer.

Over the summer there will also be a hive of activity in the church hall as we have new cupboards fitted preparing for the 0-5s Toddler Group to move to St Catherine's in September. These groups have been meeting at the Cornwell Centre and we are looking forward to welcoming them into the building at St Catherine's. They will meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

We pray for each other over the summer break- for some rest and relaxation. That we will have time to enjoy God's beautiful creation and what it teaches us of the God who created. That we will have time to enjoy God's presence with us.

Many blessings

Jackie



THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A SIMPLE SHOEBOX GIFT BEGINS WITH YOU



PACKING, COLLECTING & SHIPPING

Our supporters pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches, schools and groups collect these boxes during National Collection Week. Then, thousands of volunteers check and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the good news of Jesus and bless children.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Our ministry partners around the world hand out shoebox gifts in the local community at festive outreach events. Along with the shoebox gifts children are also offered a Bible story booklet called The Greatest Gift, which tells them the story of God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus.



DISCOVER, FOLLOW, SHARE

Churches also invite the boys and girls (with parents' consent) to take part in a Bible discovery course, The Greatest Journey. In 12 fun, interactive sessions, they can explore how to follow Jesus and share Him with others. Through this, families are reached, churches grow and communities are transformed.



Operation Christmas Child



Now is a good time to begin collecting the items to fill a Shoebox for 'Operations Christmas Child'.

Our 'Shoebox' service will be 10.00am on Sunday 17th November. There'll be leaflets explaining all about the scheme

and a supply of 'flat pack' Shoeboxes by the end of August, you will just need to buy/find suitable gifts to fill them.

There'll be more information on the Notice sheets or speak to Tony Bartlett or Joanne Freeman.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT

Wonder Zone

Discovering God's wonderful world

Holiday Club

at St Catherine's Tilehurst

For children aged 5-11
Mon 19th - Wed 21st August
10:00am - 12noon

There will be games, crafts, songs, science experiments and bible stories.
The cost is £10 per child with a reduction for additional children in the family.
To register, or get more information, please contact us as detailed below.
Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

St Catherine's Church
Wittenham Avenue
Tilehurst
RG31 5LN

For more information go to
www.StCatherines-Tilehurst.org.uk
or email Office@StCatherines-Tilehurst.org.uk
or ring Tony Bartlett on 0118 967 8659

Opportunities

We're excited to be able to put on a Holiday Club after an enforced absence of four years.

Wonder Zone is Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st August 10.00am to 12noon. We're starting small, so just 3 days with a maximum of 60 children.

There's still time to get involved:

- As a helper, lot's of different ways to be involved for teens upwards, there'll be a thank-you lunch for helpers on the last day. Speak to Emma Deacon or Tony Bartlett if you'd like to be involved.
- For children at Primary school, we still have spaces available.

More detail on our website (see back page)

Before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He sent angels to warn Lot and his family to get out of town: "'Run for your lives!' (one warned). 'And don't look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!'"...But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt' (vv. 17, 26 NLT). By looking back, Lot's wife disobeyed a direct instruction from God. As a result, she died - stuck in the past.

There are three important lessons here for you.

1. 'Don't...stop anywhere in the valley!' We all go through valley experiences in life, but we must not get stuck in them or set up residence in them.
2. 'And don't look back.' The reason the windscreen in your car is larger than the rear-view mirror is because you're supposed to spend most of your time looking through that one, and only periodically glancing in the other in order to make corrections so that you can continue to move forwards safely and reach your destination. Getting the idea?
3. 'Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!' When someone hurts you, you have two choices: take the high road or the low road. When you take the low road and retaliate, something within you begins to die spiritually. But when you take the high road, you grow stronger, wiser, and more mature.

When you get stuck in the past, it's always at the expense of the future. Always! God has better days and better things in store for you. So forgive, forget, and move forwards.

This thought is taken from 'The Word for Today', Daily Bible reading notes produced quarterly by UCB (United Christian Broadcasters Ltd) PO Box 255, Stoke on Trent, ST4 8YY. If you would like to receive these free (although UCB do welcome donations) notes or those aimed at Secondary School age, call UCB on 01782 911 000

Miscellaneous observations:

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright - until you hear them speak.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify ..." I answered, "a doctor."

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President, and 50 for Miss America?

0-5s

In 1992 Evelyn was talking to a neighbour and both saw the need for a mother & toddler group in the newly opened Cornwell Centre, so they approached Tilehurst Parish Council with a view to hiring the Cornwell Centre.

The group began meeting on Thursday 2nd April 1992 and soon expanded to 3 sessions a week.

In the following years there were many changes, a committee was formed to run the group, it registered as a charity with the need to have formally appointed Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. To meet the running costs fundraising events were organised, fun days, shopping evenings. Each session had an appointed session leader who would plan the session and craft.

The group's fortunes fluctuated with changing committee members as toddlers joined and then went on to nursery or school.

This logo was designed, a website and Facebook group set up



At one time the Sure Start centre became involved and a hot meal was provided.

By 2017 it was becoming more difficult to find mothers willing or having the time to organise sessions or take on the roles of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

The group was only kept running with the help of two of the regular childminders, Sharon & Emma.

They agreed to run the group until Easter 2018 when, unless the committee could be re re-formed and the way ahead clear, the group would have to fold.

After some difficult discussions with the St Catherine's PCC it was eventually agreed that St Catherine's would take over the group. This meant that admin, finance, insurance and Safeguarding would all be covered, and there were enough volunteers from the church ready to take on the running of the two sessions each week.

We're now taking the next step and moving the group from the Cornwell Centre to St Catherine's Hall. Logistically it means finding space for all the toys and equipment that have been acquired over the last 32 years (and the chance to have a good clear-out). We believe that closer links with the St Catherine's family will ensure the long-term survival of the group, and we hope that all the carers; Mums, Dad, Grandparents and Childminders, together with the dozens of children that they bring will find a welcome there.

Our final session at the Cornwell Centre is Thursday 18th July and we begin afresh at St Catherine's from Tuesday 10th September when we become:



It is sad to end an association with the Cornwell Centre that has been home to the group, but we look forward to a new beginning at St Catherine's Hall.

Tony & Evelyn Bartlett

Fellowship Feedback

It's a Tuesday afternoon and we open the front door to a cheery hello. During winter and darker days there are little candles twinkling. Sofas, armchairs and garden chairs await the gatherers. Everyone gradually arrives and the room bubbles with greetings.

We're very committed to our charity giving and so £1 coins are placed or tossed! into our tin. When we reach £100 we decide which charity to support. As a large group this happens about every 10 weeks or so.

Time to settle down and we start on the sermon, readings, notes and questions from the previous Sunday. Everyone is

fully engaged and much is discussed. This study time is so valuable and thought provoking.

Then it's time for tea and biscuits and the room turns to the buzz of fellowship chatter which finally gives way to the peace of prayer time.

I'm sure other groups feel just as blessed and from our group, we very much appreciate and thank Anne for the hospitality in her home.

We'd like to encourage everyone to join the life of a Life Group!

From Anne's Life Group

The Leprosy Mission

During June, Gabby from TLM gave us a compelling presentation on the inspiring skills of the Chanchaga Orthopaedic Workshop in rural Nigeria.

Here lives of leprosy disability are transformed by the provision of custom made prosthetic limbs and other aids such as protective shoes, crutches and wheelchairs.

After despair and exhaustion, where the workshop is the last hope there is excitement in restoration.

So thank you for donating to this ancient but curable disease. You are helping to enhance the lives of those suffering from the stigma and pain that is Leprosy.



Donations are most welcome and the online shop is a great place to find your gifts and cards!

Lorraine Roberts

St Catherine's Gardening Club



Hello again. I've just re-read our Spring article, and been reminded of how incredibly wet it had been last autumn and throughout much of the

winter. We had to wait and wait for warm days and nights to arrive this spring, and now, after a few weeks of real summer weather, the ground is being drenched with extremely heavy downpours. At least our empty water butts are now full again! Climate change is messing with our seasons and yet we still find it so difficult to grasp all that we need to do, as individuals and nations, to reduce our carbon output sufficiently to slow down the frightening rate of change.

Sorry to start on such a "cheery" note, but as someone who delights in God's wonderful creation, and in each season as it unfolds, I have to confess, I am seriously concerned about what the future holds for our children and grandchildren.

As I said, chilly nights and dull days meant a slow start for many plants this year, although we did have plenty of beautiful bulbs to enjoy. The colourful buttress bed next to the door to the sanctuary was brightened even more to make the Easter Garden with pipe cleaner flowers made by children. The three crosses and the tomb reminded us of what happened on Good Friday and then on Easter Sunday.

The roses outside the north entrance eventually came into bloom and have been exceptionally beautiful this year, and much admired by all who use the centre.



The Erigeron and perennial Geraniums in the east facing buttress bed have also greeted those using the lower car park with a very pretty display.



A rose outside the Hall window

Some beautiful clematis have decorated the fence along the north lawn this summer, although some have sadly not survived.



Wild flower corner and the 'Bug Hotel'

"No mow May" gave us our annual treat of wild flowers on the North lawn, and the official wild flower corner is coming along well. Unfortunately, Hazel has been suffering from reduced mobility again recently, limiting how much time she has been able to spend gardening.

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Paddy's "apprentice", Rachel, has been making progress helping with the mowing, whenever the weather has allowed.

I pruned the Weigela on the East facing buttress bed rather late this year, but I am hoping it will still have time to grow flowering stems before next year. I have also planted a Sambucus Niger at the other end of this buttress bed, in place of the Pieris which died after a severely cold winter followed by a severely hot summer. The new shrub has certainly been well watered in during the last couple of days!!

Thankfully, Chris and Richard have recently improved the supports for the trellis behind the gardener's bench. It has been very rickety since the fence behind it blew down on top of it.

There are many areas in the church garden desperate for attention while we give priority to other jobs. For example, we need to protect people walking past the church from the persistent brambles in the hedge growing out to obstruct their path. Paddy has kindly used his hedge trimmer to make it more passable, but those brambles just keep coming back.

Please get in touch with Jo Day 0794 100 2946 or Chris Addison 07966 105056 if you feel you could spare some time to give us a hand on a Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, enjoy the summer season!

Jo Day

*"At Christmas I no more desire a rose,
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows."* –
William Shakespeare

Summer blooms around the Church Grounds



God our Protector

I'm of the Baby Boomers generation and for the most part I have felt relatively safe.

Now though, we are under a constant barrage of differing dangers, deceptions and threats, both from home and abroad. Both physically and spiritually. Discerning the truth can be difficult to navigate without conflict causing anxiety.

Psalms 91 is my 'go to' for peace of body and soul. I believe Father God is reminding us of His promise.....



Whoever goes to the LORD for safety,
whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him
“You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.”

He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases.

He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care;
his faithfulness will protect and defend you.

You need not fear any dangers at night or sudden attacks during the day
or the plagues that strike in the dark or the evils that kill in daylight.

A thousand may fall dead beside you, 10,000 all round you, but you will not be harmed.

You will look and see how the wicked are punished.

You have made the LORD your defender, the Most High your protector
and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home.

God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go.

They will hold you up with their hands to keep you from hurting your feet on the stones.

You will trample down lions and snakes, fierce lions and poisonous snakes.

God says, “I will save those who love me and will protect those who acknowledge me as
LORD.

When they call to me, I will answer them; when they are in trouble, I will be with them.

I will rescue them and honour them. I will reward them with long life;

I will save them.”

"Thank You Almighty Father For Your Everlasting Peace and Protection. Amen"

Proverbs 18:10 ESV The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Lorraine Roberts

Those church bulletin notices that went wrong somewhere....

- This Sunday morning following services we will have our monthly feelowship.
- This blooper showed up on the main page of the Internet web site for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: "In a show of near anonymity, the convention approved full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada."
- Glory of God to all and peas to his people on earth
- Join us for a skirt presented by the Drama Team.
- We will have a Super Bowel party this Sunday night. We will also have our regular service.
- Applications are now being accepted for two-year-old nursery workers.
- The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will light their candle from the pastor's candle. The ushers will turn and light each worshipper in the first pew.
- Song Lyrics: What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and briefs to bear.
- (For the group of ladies called 'Mums Who Care' and pray for the children in school). When their meeting was cancelled one week: There will be no Mums who care this week.
- Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.
- Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.
- For the word of God is quick and powerful...piercing even to the dividing asunder of soup and spirit.
- Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peach to men.
- We pray that our people will jumble themselves.
- Hymn of Response: Crown Him With Many Cows
- Childcare provided with reservations.
- I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirty and you gave me drink.



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

March

The evening concentrated on the World Day of Prayer service prepared this year by the Christian Women of Palestine. It was such a poignant service given the present situation. We each were given an olive branch bookmark and concentrated on the words of the hymn by Fred Kaan –

Put peace into each other's hands

And like a treasure hold it'.

Bill's sensitive accompaniment on the keyboard greatly added to the atmosphere, and it was good to know that this same service was taking place in over 146 countries and islands around the world praying with and for the people of Palestine.

April

Hilary opened the meeting and welcomed John Painter to talk about the Local Pilgrimage Walks. He had previously talked about Reading Abbey, its history and how it shares with other sites of importance in the local area.

St. James Roman Catholic Church was built by Pugin in 1840 in the Abbey precinct. It contains a shrine and dedicated windows to St. James and is the starting point for the St. James Way.

The Abbey, built in 1121, held many relics including the 'Hand of St. James' which is now held in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain where his remains are buried.

During the Middle Ages Reading and Caversham were known centres of

pilgrimage including various sites of interest. A modern shrine built in the early 20th century can be found at Dean's Farm Lower Caversham. St. Annes' Well water was said to have curative powers but is now dry. Caversham Court Gardens and St. Peters' Church – of Norman foundation and Victorian rebuild – is a lovely area beside the Thames.

Medieval St. Anne's Chapel was built on the Caversham side of the Caversham bridge as well as a second one on the Reading side for travellers to pray under cover but now there is just a plaque on the Reading side of the bridge.

Other places of interest are De Montfort Island (now Fry's Island) where a trial by combat was held between Robert de Montfort and Henry of Essex. Essex recovered from his near fatal wounds and became a monk. Greyfriars was a Franciscan (Grey) friary which was dissolved in 1538 and ultimately became a church.

St. Lawrences church was an oratory for pilgrims to use before entry into the Abbey and the medieval Hospitium of St. John remains as a Nursery school behind it.

The Abbey Gateway has a carved pilgrims head wearing a hat bearing a scallop shell and a staff. The scallop shells have been adopted by pilgrims to Reading in the form of a round badge with 3 shells and is the emblem of St. James for those heading for Santiago. They can be found in 5 places in Reading.

The complete pilgrimage goes from Durham to Reading then Basingstoke, Winchester and Southampton - sailing across to A Corunna and on to Santiago.

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More information can be found at Reading Museum.

Hilary thanked John after a number of questions were answered and then refreshments and the raffle were enjoyed.

May

At our May meeting Hilary welcomed visitors from St. Georges and St. Michaels and our speaker Jenny Searle accompanied by her husband Tony.

Jenny is a member of St Michael's Mothers Union and also on the board of trustees for the Oxford Diocese as Fundraising and Communications co-ordinator.

She reminded us that "Transform Now!" is in its 3rd year and is concentrating on raising the profile of the MU within the church and the local community.

How to appeal to today's younger people is a challenge but if we are encouraging and enthusiastic about MU projects which are relevant their interest will develop. For example, the subject of domestic abuse.

"Rise Up" is the MU campaign – the initial letters standing for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. Information on this and other projects can be found on our Narthex notice board.

This gave Jenny the chance to mention the Notice Board Challenge 2024 which catches the eye and informs and encourages new and present members to be open to different structures within the organisation and reaching out to non-members.

A quote from Isaiah 43: 18-19 encouraging forward looking -

*Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.*

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

*I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

And Jenny finished with this prayer –
Transform our struggles into victories.
Transform our doubting into certainty.
Transform our stumbles into confidence.
Transform our sorrow into worshipping,
Gracious God, we pray.

Hilary thanked Jenny for an informative and enthusiastic talk and presented her with a floral gift in appreciation.

MU Quiz 12th June

This was attended by nearly thirty members and friends and was very successful.



Hilary asked us a variety of questions such as What is the capital of New Zealand? and What colour is the Northern Line on Underground maps? The worthy winners were the Nonamers.

We all enjoyed a delicious supper of ploughmans followed by teas, coffees and home made cake.

Many thanks to Hilary and all who helped in any way.

Answers are Wellington and black!

Rosemary Cunningham

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The Quiz in full swing

July

17 members and husbands enjoyed a delicious meal at the Toby Carvery – unfortunately some members had to drop out with colds and possibly Covid.

When we had finished Moira thanked Rita for organizing the evening and gave her a present to show our appreciation.

Sheila Bryant

Future MU meetings

Community Prayers

Thursdays 2.00pm, the Garden Room

After the 9.00am Communion service

3rd Wednesday in month - Bible study

4th Wednesday in month - Fellowship

Wednesday 14th August

Afternoon Tea 2.30pm

Wednesday 11th September

Service and AGM 7.30pm



Mothers' Union Organisation 2023



The annual review of the 4 million strong organisation details what we achieved in 2023, as we work together to bring about the change we want to see in the world. From stories of AFIA (Away From It All) breaks bringing much-needed hope and respite to struggling families, to the power of our literacy programmes that give women a second chance as they lift themselves and their families out of poverty, to the church leaders you're empowering to stand up against domestic abuse and gender-based violence, it demonstrates the impact of faith in action.

Here's a snapshot of what we've achieved together:

- We have supported over 2.8 million people around the corner and around the world.
- Our awareness raising campaigns like RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse have reached over 15,000 people.

- More than 20,000 items have been lovingly crafted and gifted to those in need.
- Over 3,000 adults and children have benefited from an AFIA break.
- 50,000 women have participated in our literacy and savings programmes – changing their lives and many others in the process.

But beyond the statistics, it's the stories we most want to share with you. Stories of how lives have been transformed thanks to Mothers' Union, and our incredible community of nearly four million members.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to Mothers' Union. Together, we are transforming lives around the corner and around the world.

Chief executive Bev Jullien

St Catherine's Summer Fair

This was held on 15th June and was a huge success. After rain in the morning, the weather cleared up so we were able to have some events such as the barbeque, skittles and plant stall outside.

There were stalls selling household items, toys and beauty products, a raffle and tombola, a silent auction, a cake stall, a craft stall, hamper raffle and many fun games for everyone to enjoy. Delicious teas and refreshments were offered in the church.

It was so good to welcome so many local people to the event who all seemed to be having a good time. A little girl won the teddies and promptly gave one to her sister! There was plenty of chat and laughter!

Thank you to so many people who worked so hard to make the fair so worthwhile. A special thanks to Sue and Sonia!

Rosemary Cunningham



Around the Summer Fair - Paul Fountain

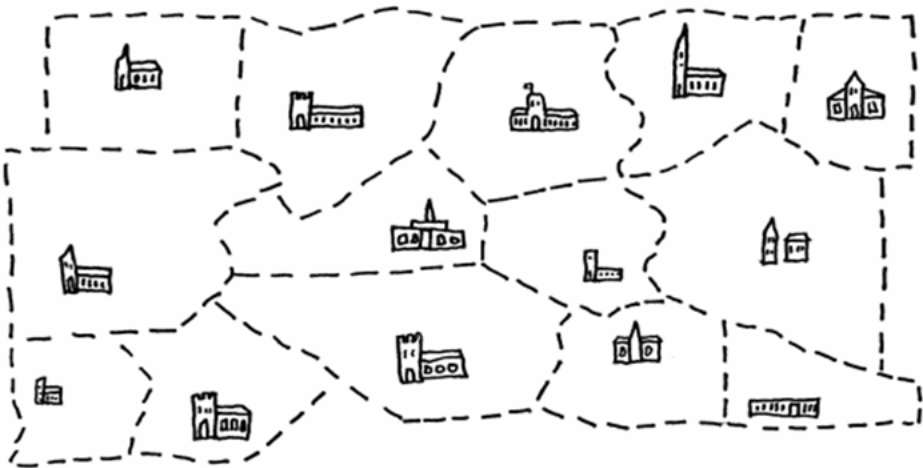
St Catherine's place in the C of E

Our Parish was originally formed as a 'daughter' church of St Michael's in response to the development of the area. It was named St Catherine of Siena after the 14th Century Mystic and Theologian. The church building was officially opened on Palm Sunday 1963.

The shape and size of the parish changed in 2007 when it was merged with significant portions of St Birinus Calcot. The official title of the parish became The Parish of Tilehurst St Catherine & Calcot St Birinus. The St Birinus building and vicarage was sold to 'The Gate' church.

Here's a tongue in cheek view of the Church of England parish system

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED INTO PARISHES.
EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN CHURCH. EVERYBODY GOES
TO THEIR LOCAL PARISH CHURCH*



*UNLESS IT IS TOO HIGH, TOO LOW, TOO LIBERAL, TOO EVANGELICAL, TOO CATHOLIC, TOO MIDDLE OF THE ROAD, TOO UNBIBLICAL, HAS TOO MANY BELLS AND SMELLS, HAS TOO MANY SMELLS, HAS SERMONS THAT ARE TOO LONG, HAS TOO MANY CHILDREN, HAS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN, HAS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO OLD FASHIONED, HAS MUSIC THAT IS TOO HAPPY CLAPPY, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A WOMAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A MAN, HAS A VICAR WHO IS A BIT ODD, HAS SERVICES THAT START TOO EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS REALLY BAD COFFEE AFTER THE SERVICES, HAS PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE PEWS, HAS SERVICES THAT CLASH WITH SUNDAY LUNCH PREPARATION TIME, HAS SERVICES THAT DON'T USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, HAS SERVICES THAT DO USE THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER OR ISN'T THE CHURCH ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRIMARY SCHOOL THEY HAD IN MIND

CartoonChurch.com

We are part of The Reading Deanery

The Reading Deanery is one of 29 Deaneries within the Diocese of Oxford.

The Diocese of Oxford covers the three counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire - around 2,200 square miles.

Because of our large size, the diocese is divided into four smaller 'Episcopal areas', each overseen by their own area bishop.

There's Oxford city, Dorchester, Buckingham, and Reading. Each area is divided into deaneries, or groups of parishes.

The Reading Deanery is one of 6 that is under the Bishop of Reading, the others are Bracknell, Bradfield, Maidenhead & Windsor, Newbury, and Sonning.

The Reading Episcopal area extends from west Berkshire along the M4 corridor to Windsor. It includes very rural areas and large centres of population, such as Reading and Bracknell, and, with a population of 800,000, is larger than many dioceses in the Church of England.

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham oversees the area as the Bishop of Reading.

The Rt Revd Olivia Graham became the diocese's first female bishop when she was consecrated in 2019. Priorities for Bishop Olivia



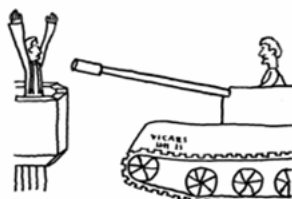
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ARCHDEACONS

THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THEY DO



MAKING SURE THAT PARISHES TAKE CARE OF THEIR BUILDINGS



RESOLVING PROBLEMS BETWEEN CLERGY AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS



INSTALLING CHURCHWARDENS (PUTTING THEM IN THEIR PLACE)



ADVISING ABOUT THE DAMP IN THE NORTH WEST CORNER



MAKING SURE THAT YOU ARE RUNNING A CHURCH AS OPPOSED TO ANY OTHER SORT OF ENTERPRISE



ACTING AS A FOUNT OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

(Continued from page 19)

include the climate crisis and the challenges facing young people.

Olivia is supported by The Ven Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire.

Stephen joined the diocese in 2014, serving as Archdeacon from 2020.

The role of the Archdeacon is a senior leadership role in the dioceses with an important contribution



to mission and strategy. It is a key support to the clergy, their families, to Churchwardens, and Area/Rural Deans.

Liz Jackson is the Associate Archdeacon of Berkshire.

The Revd Liz Jackson joined the Berkshire team in 2020. With a passion for social justice, Liz previously worked with homeless people, refugees and asylum seekers.



Quotes

We receive more than we can ever give; we receive it from the past on which we draw with every breath, but also – and this is a point of faith – from the source of the mystery itself, by the means which religious people call GRACE. - *Edwin Muir*

Every morning after I have cleaned my cell and polished my tins, I read a little of the gospels... It is a delightful way of opening the day. Everyone, even in a turbulent, ill-disciplined life, should do the same. - *Oscar Wilde*

The whole point of this life is the healing of the heart's eye through which God is seen. - *Augustine of Hippo*.

I am a man of hope, not for human reasons, nor from any natural optimism, but because I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the Church and in the world even when His name remains unheard. - *Cardinal Suenens*

Prosperity: A period in which you spend money you haven't got. – *Anon*

Middle Age: when you know your way around, but don't feel like going. - *Anon*

The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. - *Jeremy Bentham*

We are not made to rest in this world. It is not our true native land. - *Fr Andrew SDC*

The person who never worries may not be smart enough to know what is going on. By the time you have enough experience to be smart, your memory is shorter, your stamina is lower, and you are bald. - *HV Prochnow*

Cold feet: The ailment you get when you know what the consequences are going to be. - *Anon*

Holiday resort: Where you go when you are worn out and from where you come back a complete wreck. - *Anon*

Travel: An experience that fills the mind and empties the purse. - *Anon*

At our Annual Meeting, we presented a cheque for £900 to the Reading and West Berkshire Motor Neurone Disease Association. The representatives Lin Jenkins and Wendy Gouldthorpe, who received the cheque, gave a very interesting talk about MND and how the local association supports MND patients and their families.

The charity was nominated by one of our members, Carole Seymour, who had lost her father to MND and appreciated the support that is given to people locally with MND and their carers.

In April, we welcomed Stuart, Wendy and Olivia the guide dog. It was very interesting to hear about the challenges of sight loss, how guide dogs are matched to their owners and of course we enjoyed hearing about Olivia who was a perfect guest and was quite happy munching a carrot! Olivia gives Stuart independence and freedom to go out. Great work, Olivia.



One of our sub-groups, WI singing, really enjoyed their first ever performance. We sang at Friday Friends and the WI singing group was made very welcome by Lynn Stevens. A good time was had by all singing many well known songs including 'Singing in the Rain,' as pictured below.

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(Continued from page 21)

At our June meeting, we had a very enjoyable evening learning how to paint a seascape with acrylic paints with artist Howard Birchmore. He made it possible for all of us to have a go and produce a painting.



Two members attended the National Federation of WIs Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall in June. It gave a real sense of belonging to a large organisation in England, Wales and the Islands. With 180,000 members it has much influence.

The guest speakers were Nazir Afzel, who at one time was Chief Crown Prosecutor for North West England working on high profile cases including the Rochdale grooming gang, Mel B of Spice Girl fame and Timothy Watson aka Rob Titchener in The Archers.

They were all outstanding in speaking about violence against women by men. Nine out of ten cases of violence are carried out by men.

Mel B was in an abusive marriage for 10 years. She explained coercive abuse and gaslighting and how there was a slow drip feed of ideas undermining her. Her husband sowed self-doubt and confusion in her mind.

She also suffered physical violence and hid her injury on one occasion with make-up, before appearing on the X Factor panel. It was only when Mel B had the courage to speak out and she was believed that she has started to slowly rebuild her life.

Timothy Watson talked about how a storyline of domestic abuse involving coercive behaviour and gaslighting was run for three years on The Archers and the programme worked closely with Women's Aid Charity.

The story very much echoed what had happened to Mel B, where the abusive husband gained power and control over their victim by distorting reality and forcing their wife to question their own judgement and intuition.

All the speakers spoke about bringing their own sons up to respect women and girls and how important it is to educate and inform the younger generation.

The need for men to join the action to end domestic abuse was emphasised by Timothy, and Nazir highlighted the need to 'break the cycle...to challenge behaviours men get from an early age.'

Also, women in abusive relationships need to find a safe place to talk and be believed. If they are not believed their abusers feel able to act.

It was a very interesting, thought provoking and inspiring day.

We wish everyone at St Catherine's a relaxing summer.

Ros Somerville
Tilehurst Triangle WI
tilehursttrianglewi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Summer 10am Services

Once again this year we're holding our Summer Services outside (weather permitting).

At 9.00am each Sunday morning we review the weather, both current and forecasted. If it's going to be too wet or windy, the service will be held in the building.

Even in July and August the weather can vary widely so warm clothing might be advised and whilst we'll bring out chairs from the Hall you may wish to bring your own more comfortable seat.

Following feedback from last summer and with the technical expertise of Paul we will be providing a hearing loop so that those with hearing aids will find it easier to follow the service.

We'll be using a simplified form of service that will be printed on a booklet and Hymns and songs will be from the Blue Hymn books with the addition of a small supplement. Large print copies will be available.



This means that even if we hold the service indoors we will not be using the AV system and screen to project the words.

Our theme for the services is ‘Meals with Jesus’ and this is the schedule:

- **28th July**
Supper at Simon's
- **4th August**
Lunch With Levi
- **11th August**
Mary and Martha's
- **18th August**
At Home With Zach
- **25th August**
We'll be indoors for the special
Holiday Club service, do please come
to welcome the children and their
families
- **1st September**
A Meal To Remember
- **8th September**
An Unexpected Encounter

Then from 15th September we resume our normal indoor services.

For the time being we're continuing with two 10am communion services a month.





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When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind



A . B .
WALKER

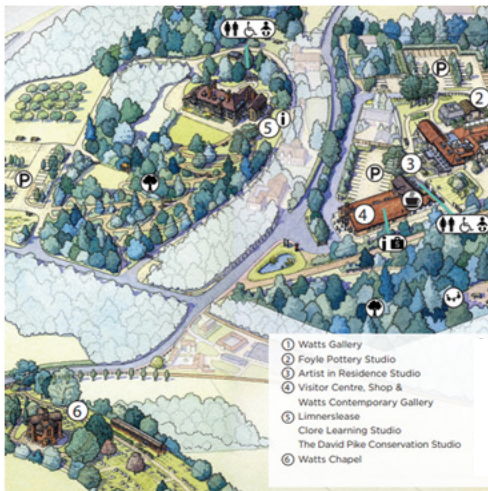
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Tilehurst Afternoon Women's Institute

"We are busy planning our Summer Outing to Watts Gallery near Guildford, where we hope there will be something for everyone. This will be in August when we do not hold a formal meeting.



During the past few months our various groups have been busy having afternoon teas and lunches out. The Book Group will be holding theirs soon at Englefield Tea Rooms.

The Art Cafe morning at Whitchurch on Thames was very successful and we had a lovely sunny morning.

In June members were treated to a Cream Tea after they were entertained by some Bollywood Dancing. We were all encouraged to take part which provided much laughter. Our speaker told us something of her experiences and demonstrated a dance with all the hand movements etc.

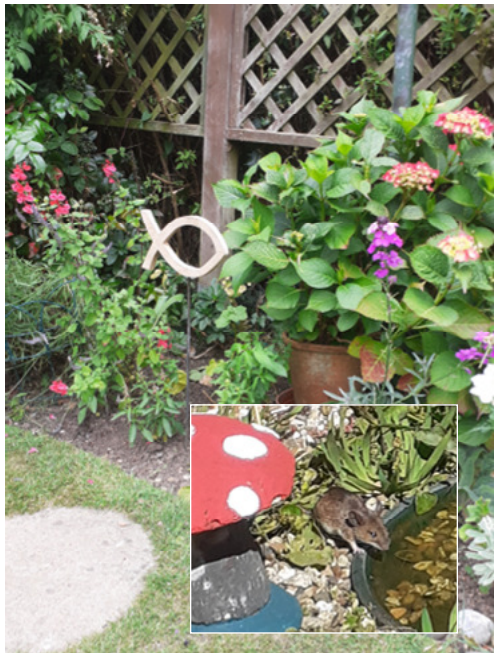
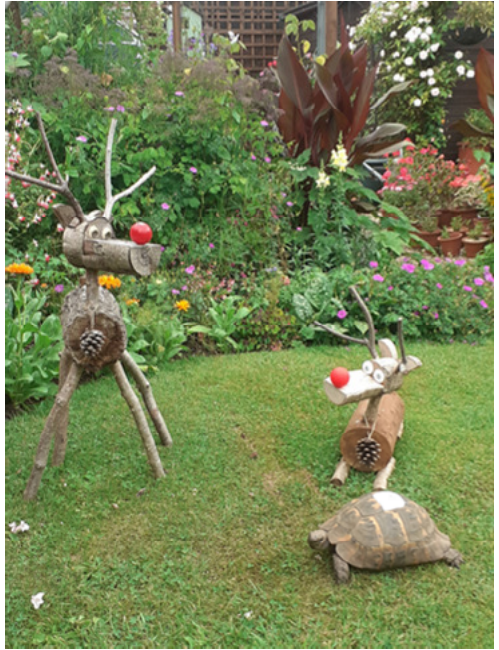
Of course Visitors are always welcome to come to a meeting to see if they would like to join us. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm until 4.00pm in Cafe Siena.



Bollywood Dancing followed by a Cream Tea

Peter's Garden

In our small suburban garden we have a multitude of life. A tortoise that we have had for 47 years, a frog in our small pond, an ever so cute little field mouse, a nearly tame black bird, a Robin and 10 to 11 Sparrows who live in the bird hotel box, all are looking for food and more importantly water, we obviously supply these to encourage them in and for us to enjoy their company.



All these are God wonderful creations
(Continued on page 27)



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that Vivien and I are so blessed to experience.

We also have, 2 rabbits, 2 reindeer, 4 white Doves and 2 fish, but obviously these are not real, just garden ornaments made by me to compliment the living ones.

In my greenhouse I have numerous plants but more specifically I have two cucumber plants. One cucumber has nearly reached the roof to its maximum height with numerous cucumbers in different stages of development, the other sadly is stunted and looks at this moment rather poorly.



Both are grown in identical pots side to side with each other, the seed is from the same packet, the same compost was used for both, both are cared for equally, watered and fed as and when required.

On inspection, there are not any obvious bugs or signs of problems on the sad one.

So on reflection I have a choice; condemn the sad one to the compost bin and try again with a new seed and fresh compost, or stick with the existing little sad cucumber plant.

It may be a slow starter and given time and care will also produce cucumbers long after the other one has withered and died with age and the energy used up from it's fruitful production.

So I have reached the conclusion that the little one also deserves an equal opportunity to reach its own potential, it may take longer to produce fruit and the cucumbers may not be so large or plentiful, but just as important they may have more taste.

So the moral here might be, more is not always best, but if you are patient, then you just may be rewarded

For those who have seen, they have been blessed. For those who have not yet seen, open your eyes and you will surely see.

However much greater is the faith of those who truly believe and have not seen, they will have God's everlasting love for ever and forever.

I'm just a simple guy,
Not always to question,
Or to ask why,
Inquisitive maybe,
And sure as I can be,
God loves us all,
There can be no doubt,
This I truly believe,
It's what it's all about.

Peter

God in the Sciences

Part of a series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Exploring the Big Questions: scientists and theologians share their views

It's important to have debates about science and Christian faith and to dig into the hot topics, but we can't exist solely on a diet of controversy.

I find it helpful, at times, to simply enjoy the wonders revealed by science and the big questions they raise about meaning and purpose.

What's the universe for? What do you do with your feelings of awe and wonder? Where do we get our sense of the value of the living world from?

I had the privilege of meeting a group of Christian scientists and theologians who shared thoughts about these big questions, and will share some of their thoughts here.

The Oxford-based theologian Alister McGrath shared that "science is wonderful at asking questions.

Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions.

But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer...questions like, 'Why am I here?'"

Rhoda Hawkins, a physicist at Sheffield University, has had a similar experience. "I never cease to be amazed at quite how impressive the world is, and how impressive the mechanisms are for how things work...It really is beautiful in many ways, and it leads me to think about God.

I'm not saying that I have any proof, but I'm saying that by looking at the world around me it tells me more about God and it leads me to worship Him."

Another scientist who appreciates beauty is Jeff Hardin, who explained that "studying the wonders of the living world is an exercise in art appreciation.

For me, God is the creator of everything... so the joy of discovery is also the joy of appreciating the world that God has made...and leads me to thank God for the amazing world that we have to enjoy and to explore."

I will close with some words from Jeff Schloss, who – like the others quoted above – finds that Christian faith makes science more satisfying for him.

"Once I became a Christian...I had the sense that I was studying the marvels of the natural world, which are marvellous in their own right but become more profoundly engaging and enticing when one thinks that you're studying the works of God."

Perhaps if we can spend more time listening to people like this, our discussions about science and faith will also be richer and deeper.

Quotes from videos on www.wondersofthelivingworld.org

Musings from Phil French

Job's troubles

In the past, many scientists felt that emotion was just distracting. But, today, Google for (e.g.) Susan David of Harvard Medical School, and Maya Tamir at the Hebrew University at Jerusalem. They've been researching "bad" emotions. It's complex, but a few things stand out.

Yes, when we suffer from negative feelings (sometimes for unsound reasons?) it can make sense to combat them. But "combat" does NOT mean pretending REAL stuff isn't there! Today, some fashions tell us to say "Everything's OK!" But truth is often best.

Research suggests that accepting negative emotions stoically can be better than trying to push them aside. Sharing painful feelings with mates can help when there is more empathy than criticism. Sharing has recently been shown to benefit not just the sufferer but also, mysteriously, THE LISTENER! (And scraps of sound advice might pop up?)

"Positive thinking" has its place, obviously. But there are ways of accepting pain, sharing it, learning from it, etc. etc. Negative emotions need grown-up handling. I think we'll find that they are often best handled honestly, bravely. - and prayerfully.

Comfort

We may find some comfort for ourselves in criticising a "neighbour"? Is that a poisoned trap for us? If we are seen as hostile, I don't need to tell you how the neighbour will see us! We all prefer to listen to folk that seem loving or friendly. I still hear the odd gleeful rant about how

hell is waiting ... odd thing, though, there's seldom a queue to join!

How can we love (or truly care for) our "enemies"? It requires a LOT of wisdom. It's tricky. But is it part of the job?

Let the deaf hear Consonants

Consonants vs vowels?

"The consonants bring me most of the sense?"

"Th* c*ns*n*nts br*ng m*m*st*fth*s*ns*?"

"**e*o**o*a*** **j** *e*o**o* **e*e**e?"

Sorry, yes, that's a repeat. There are usually a number of somewhat deaf people out there. It's frustrating being deaf. Emphasise the vowels a little, but make your consonants VERY strong and crisp. Even if you're reading a sacred text, please try to be clear! We need to understand you!

It needs a little skill to do it nicely - try a secret rehearsal in front of your mirror.

Is anyone there?

Some folk are disturbed by pages on the web suggesting that the essential function of many Churches today is keeping the community healthy - in a real, social sense. (Let's forget the mediaeval Church, which could be tough at times.) Some writers imply that "Godly" beliefs are not really required!! At least one group actually tried to start a purely social "Church" along these lines!

But don't worry too much. If we ARE being influenced to promote social health, this is NOT EXACTLY PROOF that a caring Father is not behind it all?

On the perils of 'standing in' for another vicar

The Rectory,
St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren,

You should not complain about doing duty in other churches when their clergy are on holiday. It is only in other churches that you will be appreciated. Beatification only comes from your own church on the day you leave – which is a way of firing a shot across the bows of your successor. I remember being greeted by a churchwarden on my first day here at St James the Least of All with the encouraging words: 'I've seen six Rectors of this parish; each one was worse than the last.' As the years have gone by, I am sure I will have entirely fulfilled his expectations.

No; when you visit another church, you will be told all the many defects of their own vicar, and whatever you do will be praised. Store up these memories for the day you return to your own patch – when you will then be told how outstanding your own temporary replacement has been and how congregations thrived in your absence.

Naturally, this gives you the right to make similar remarks about your own congregation in the churches you visit. Unfavourable comparisons with the bell ringers, vergers and congregational singing in your home patch to the superb standards in the church you're temporarily serving will be much appreciated. Just make sure that the church you are staffing is sufficiently far from your own that word will not get back to your home team.

It is a mistake I made only once. After filling in for a colleague, I happened to complement the choir on the singing of the anthem. Unknown to me, a tenor was the second cousin of my organist, who received a rather embellished story that I had compared my own choir back home unfavourably with theirs. On my return the following Sunday, all the hymns were played fortissimo and at double speed and the choir in rotation dropped hymn books throughout my sermon.

Inevitably, when you staff another church, you will be told: 'It's the normal Service.' It will be nothing of the sort. Hymns will appear in unexpected places, Sunday schools will enter and leave (and enter again) apparently at random, objects will be brought to you to be read from, placed on the altar or blessed - just as you were about to try and find the pulpit. In any case, wherever you are standing, you will find you should have been standing somewhere else. But not to worry - most mistakes will be forgiven – provided your sermon is short.

So - enjoy your visits to other churches. And above all, make sure that your temporary replacement is so spectacularly incompetent that your own people will welcome you back with open arms on your return.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

St Catherine's Centre

Church and Hall regular bookings
(* is term time only)

Monday

After School Club - 3:30-6.00pm *
Exercise Class - 7.00-8.00pm *
Yoga - 8.15-9.15pm

Tuesday

Breakfast club - 7.30-8.45am *
Childminders Drop-in 10.00-11.30am *
Seated Exercise 1.00-2.00pm
Tuesday Get Together - 10.00am-12.00noon
After School Club - 3:30-6.00pm *
W.I. - 2.00-4.00pm (3rd Tuesday)
AA - 7.00-9.30pm

Wednesday

Breakfast club - 7.30-8.45am *
Communion Service 9.00-10.00am
Yoga - 10.30-11.30am
After School Club - 3:30-6.00pm *
Vivace Voices 1.45-3.45pm
Kettle Bells - 6.30-7.30pm
Mothers' Union - 7.30-9.30pm (2nd Weds)
W.I. - 7.00-10.00pm (3rd Wednesday)
YogaSculpt - 7.45-8.45pm

Thursday

Breakfast club - 7.30-8.45am *
Zumba - 9.30-10.45am
Cafe Siena - 10.00am-2.00pm
Over 60's exercise - 1.15-2.15pm
After School Club - 3:30-5.30pm *
Zumba - 6.00-7.00pm
Stretch & Flow Yoga Class 7.30-8.30pm
Trefoil - 7.30-9.30pm (4th Thursday)

Friday

Tots Praise - 9.15am *
Cafe Siena - 10.00am-2.00pm
Friday Friends - 2.00-4.30pm

Saturday

Yoga - 9.30-10.30am and 10.45-11.45am
Crafty Space - 1.30-5.30pm (once a Month)
Bowls Club - 7.00-9.00pm

RG31 - The Parish Magazine of Tilehurst St Catherine & Calcot St Birinus

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The P.C.C. and Editors are not necessarily in agreement with the views expressed by contributors in this magazine.

We welcome contributions of articles or letters for future issues from anyone living in, or connected with the parish.

All contributions for the next (Autumn) edition must be received by the editors by 22nd September 2024

Contributions may be sent to: magazine@stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk

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*Cover pictures of the Summer Fair by
Paul Fountain & Rosemary Cunningham*

The Anglican Parish of Tilehurst St Catherine & Calcot St Birinus

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst, RG31 5LN

www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk

www.facebook.com/st.catherines.tilehurst

Please check these websites for up-to-date information on services and other events



We are 'live-streaming' our 10.00 am Sunday services so that they can be viewed via our Facebook page. Simply go to: www.facebook.com/st.catherines.tilehurst (you do not need an account to view - if asked to login or join, you can click 'Not Now'). Once shown on Facebook, all our videos can be found again on our Web Site: www.stcatherines-tilehurst.org.uk

Every Sunday, The Ten O'clock Service - varies in style and contents each week, but will always aim to be 'family friendly'. It will contain praise and teaching, with communion on the first and third Sundays and usually include a time of sharing what God is doing amongst us. Refreshments afterwards in the Hall.


On Wednesdays at 9.00 am - there's Holy Communion in church, everybody welcome.

Who's Who in the Parish



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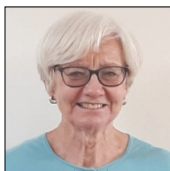


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