

# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 Letter No. 14

## **Editorial Team:**

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Today's contribution has been provided by The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, KCVO former Dean of Westminster Abbey and a Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth II.



Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 26 – 33

Dear Brothers and Sisters

This has been a strange few months, when we have been unable to get to church in the usual way.

In the whole history of the Church in this country, there has only been one period before now when churches have been closed and barred. And that was in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. King John was in dispute with Pope Innocent III about who would be the next archbishop of Canterbury. The Pope was determined to appoint Stephen Langton, and eventually got his way. But that took time.

In the meantime, he placed an interdict on the Church in this country that lasted from 1208 until 1213. No services took place of any kind: no baptisms, weddings or funerals, no masses. Babies were unbaptised. People were unshriven. Bodies were unburied. Priests had nothing to do. Bishops left the country.

So, these last few months have been nothing like those five years and at least we have social media to keep us in touch, with services being streamed daily. And now this strange period looks as though it might gradually be coming to a close.

So, there is good news. And there is cheer for us in today's Gospel, in Matthew 10. Jesus is encouraging his disciples. 'Not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So, there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.'

Jesus tells us not to be afraid. Of course, we need still to keep safe and protect each other. Over 40,000 Covid-19 deaths represent a significant toll in this country, though over the same period last year there were anyway 130,000 deaths. So, we need to maintain perspective.

The Gospel assures us that we are immensely precious to almighty God. God knows us, each of us, intimately, and cares for us. God offers us a rich promise of life with Him for ever in heaven. So, we are to keep cheerful. And we are to keep faithful.

**Fr John**

We thank Father John for his contribution to our newsletter, he was to have led our worship this Sunday but all being well will do so on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### The opening up of the church

It is good to hear that individuals are taking advantage of the church being open for private prayer and reflection and we hope they find peace and comfort on their visit.

As a reminder, the times the doors will be open during interregnum are as follows:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.30am - 4.30pm

Saturdays and Sundays 09.30am - 12.30pm

As a gentle reminder we are required to request that all who enter the church should use the hand sanitiser available on the table and again as they are leaving the church.

Also, to keep to the regulated 2 metres apart and allowing others the peace and quiet that they may be seeking. Thank you!



We take this opportunity of wishing Prince William, Duke of Cambridge a Very Happy 38<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Sent with all best wishes from St George's

We also wish all Fathers, Daddies, Pappas and any other person who fulfils the role of Dad, a Very Happy Father's Day!

Ride & Stride Event This annual event has regrettably been cancelled for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. It has been suggested that local groups may like to continue in financially supporting the Sussex Historic Churches Trust as well as their own church by holding local sponsored events, photographic competition of local churches, exercise bike challenge, running, walking, dancing, the list is endless. If you would like to get involved in any activity in raising funds please do let us know.

## Rumboldswyke School - Latest News!

## Message from Sarah Sharp

We have two good pieces of news for the community in Whyke to share with you.

On Monday morning we heard from the Regional Schools' Commissioner that an Academy Order was due to be issued for Rumboldswyke School.

On Tuesday morning, the County Council Cabinet was due to consider a recommendation to close the school, but they were under a statutory duty to switch tack and so voted to that the school should not be closed.

On Wednesday evening the Bishop Luffa Directors met and agreed to take on Rumboldswyke within their Multi-Academy Trust. The Order has now been issued!

This is superb news for staff, parents, children and the wider community and Church in Whyke. We have changed the County Council's mind and we have saved Rumboldswyke School for future generations. Also, Clapham and Patching School near Angmering has also been saved. Of the five schools the County Council wanted to close, none have been.

You can read more here as reported in the Chichester Observer

<https://www.chichester.co.uk/news/politics/parents-celebrate-victory-fight-save-chichester-school-2888337>

Today, Thursday, [Cristina](#) and I with other members of the Save Rumboldswyke School team joined a Zoom meeting with the Head of Bishop Luffa School.

We were told about the exciting plans that are already coming together really quickly to transition Rumboldswyke School into the Bishop Luffa Academy.

Mr Hindman shared the news with the school in his daily letter to pupils and he said

*"I have some very exciting news to share with you. Last night, our Directors (the people who oversee our school) voted for us to take on another school, Rumboldswyke Infant School. This means that we will begin running the school sometime later in the year and that you will hopefully get to meet the children there. I would love to have lots of you mentoring Rumboldswyke students and helping them with Arts, sports and music events. Please let me know if this is something that you would like to do."*

By 10.30am 20 students had replied to say that they wanted to help our Rumboldswyke children.

I was pleased to hear that there are no plans to change the name of the school. So the name Rumboldswyke will live on!

Lots more meetings are planned but we should all be proud of what we have achieved as a community to save the school.

I would like to thank everyone who wrote emails to Cabinet Members, to our MP, to Baroness Berridge who helped with our fundraising to back our legal case which helped put pressure on the decision makers.

Everyone's efforts were needed to bring about this decision to keep the school open and thank you if you helped in any way at all over the last difficult 10 months. A particular thanks to Michael Jordan, our solicitor who has supported us hugely over the last few months.

The next few weeks will be very busy for everyone involved in re-shaping the school, but this is work with a positive purpose and a bright new future for the school is now a firm reality.

Sarah Sharp 07789 843556 or 01243 790077 <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/>

## A Second Good News Story for Whyke

Muchos Nachos at the Crown pub on Whyke Road is also safe too. The pub was the subject of planning applications to turn the building into three dwellings. This was turned down in June 2017. Then, in August 2019, there was an application for houses to be built on the car park. This was withdrawn. The news this week is that the tenants have now successfully completed the purchase of the property and, once lockdown is over, we will be celebrating with Morris Dancers! The restaurant is continuing to serve takeaways if you would like to support the existing team, who are now the new owners.

What a week for Whyke! We have saved our school which will slowly be transformed into an all through primary and we will be able to continue to enjoy the friendly ambience of our old pub when we can safely meet again!

Kind regards,

Sarah Sharp 07789 843556 or 01243 790077

### Found in various church bulletins

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale, it's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands!
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I upped my Pledge—Up Yours!"
- The sermon this morning "Jesus Walks on the Water". The sermon this evening "Searching for Jesus".
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Our thanks to Pat Sparks for this week's Gentle Humour corner.

### **Have You Earned Your Tomorrow by Edgar Guest**

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
This day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;  
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along?  
Or a churlish sort of "Howdy" and then vanish in the throng?  
Were you selfish pure and simple as you rushed along the way,  
Or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it, was it well or sorely spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God would say,  
You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?