

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Team:

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Dear Friend

As you receive this newsletter, (yes, No. 18), the 10am Mass will be resuming this morning, with Father John Hall taking the service. A Covid19 risk assessment has been carried out, the seats have been set at a social distancing of 2 metres, the church has had an amazing spring-clean, and individual service sheets have been produced and placed on the seats.



However, with no homily for the newsletter both Ken and Geraldine feel that perhaps this is the right time to finish producing the newsletter in its current format. With service sheets now being produced on a weekly basis we would still like to keep in touch by sending you a copy each week containing any news, details of forthcoming events and anything we feel you should know about. If you would prefer not to receive this form of communication please just let one of us know.

You may recall that, way back in March, Father Tim, Ken and Geraldine agreed that it was important to keep in touch with everyone during the period of lockdown, and for the past 18 weeks the newsletter has been emailed out to over 100 email addresses each week as well as being hand delivered to those who do not have email facilities. We have received so many complimentary messages of appreciation over the weeks and we thank you.

We have been looking back over the past 18 weeks and thought you might like to join with us in going down memory lane with some gentle reminders, so here goes:

What we have appreciated:

We have been appreciative of the weekly homilies received from Fr Tim, and on his leaving from The Right Reverend Bishop Michael Langrish, The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel, Archdeacon of Chichester The Very Reverend John Hall KCV0 and The Reverend Dr Lawson Nagel. Their contributions have been a comfort and inspiration to so many. Thank you!

Lyndwyke Stores, Bognor Road Co-op and other local services who helped keep us provisioned in the early days and weeks of lockdown. Also, those lovely neighbours who looked out for, did shopping for and regularly checked up on those on a very strict lockdown.

Sue Bainbridge for keeping us up to date regarding the urgent needs of the local Foodbank and the availability of the Citizens Advice Bureau and how to contact them. Sarah Sharp for providing regular reports regarding the future of Rumboldswyke Infants School.

Those who kindly sent in contributions for the newsletter, including messages of appreciation.

John Wilton setting up a Whatsapp Group enabling anyone from St George's to link in and chat, share stories, express concerns etc.

Being entertained by Fr Tim with his weekly Gentle Humour corner.

Our health and wellbeing; for those with a garden the joy of spending time outside, particularly with the amazing weather. That precious one hour of being allowed to leave the home for exercise. Learning how to shop on line and having everything delivered!

What we have missed out on:



Due to the lockdown we were denied the opportunity of sharing with Fr Toby his licensing and induction on 25th March at St Mark's Church, Swindon Newtown. The licensing had to take place in a private ceremony within the Bishop of Bristol's chapel. So many were deeply disappointed in not being able to be there, wanting to send him on his way with love and prayers into the next stage of his Christian journey.

A very sad time for us all, including we know for Fr Tim, was not having the opportunity of being with him for his final Mass on 19th April, not being able to share cake and wine and to say goodbye. We miss his kindness, his caring and unassuming manner, his playing of the organ, his laughter, we have missed him not being here with us.



We were denied being together for part of Lent, the Friday evening Stations of the Cross, the build up to celebrating Easter, Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Vigil, Good Friday with its hot cross buns, Holy Saturday followed by the celebratory Easter Day. We also missed out on the lovely Mothering Sunday service.

We have missed the wonderful uplifting organ playing by Sue Howell Evans on Sundays along with the beautiful singing of the church choir.

We have, to date, missed out on the popular Last Friday in the Month concerts, Sue HE having worked so hard in gathering together a wonderful choice of entertainers to perform for us.

St George's Ramblers had to cease rambling and Tea and Chat had to stop meeting for tea and cake. The Monday Tots had to close down and the J-Team had to take a long break.

Corpus Christi came and went without celebrating as did various Saints days.

The Friday Lunch Club for those who are less fortunate had to stop and we wait to hear whether it will resume at some time in the future.

We missed out on Ken's booked quiz evening and also what has become an annual event, the Vintage Tea Party hosted by Hilary and Mike Nation.

What we have reported on:

The CofE Legal Office & Diocesan officers took the decision that the date of the APCM should be extended to 31st October and that churchwardens should continue to hold office until 31st January, Deanery Synod representatives to hold office until November 2020 and members of the PCC until such times that the APCM takes place.

The achievement of passing Level 1 of the Church of England's *Safe Quality Protects* (SQP) the safeguarding and protection of young people and vulnerable adults at St George's. We are waiting to face the challenges of Level 2 and Level 3.

The likely closure of Rumboldswyke Infants school only to be told at the last minute that it's future had been saved by the Bishop Luffa Academy of which the school will become part of. The legal side of this amazing achievement, with members of the parish having worked tirelessly to keep it open, will now commence. Thank you to all who fought so hard.

Friends who have sadly passed away:

Our dear friend Kay Glover quietly slipped away in April whilst in a nursing home in Clevedon, Somerset, near to where her son lives.

We also learnt of the passing of Caroline Cosens who worshipped at the 8am Sunday Mass, wife of the late Revd Ted Cosens who was a chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers.

A very regular attendee at the 10am Mass, Roger Allen passed away after a period of illness, our thoughts and prayers were with his wife Elena at this very sad time.

In recent days, Priscilla Gamble who had been a regular worshipper at St George's passed away at a nursing home in Selsey.

What we have read about

On the 75th anniversary of VE Day sharing the experiences of Fred Corbin, Doreen Jenner, Ken Green, Garry Long, Lois Brown and Colette Grey during those years of war.

Geraldine knitting her figureless gloves and of her holiday during lockdown by moving into the spare bedroom!

Titbits from old parish magazines during the 1950s.

During mid-May we read about the necessary procedures a church must follow in finding/selecting a new incumbent and the responsibilities of the churchwardens during the Interregnum.

Letter No. 10 enabled us to peep inside the two churches that Fr Tim is now responsible for, giving us an understanding of his challenges, and to wish him well. We hope that one day soon we will have the opportunity of meeting with him again.

We heard from Pat Sparkes about the strong community spirit amongst the residents of Forbes Place, Pat's early morning responsibility being to spray the lift and access buttons along with the various handles.

In recent weeks we read with interest how The Revd Dr Lawson Nagel became Canon of Popondota Cathedral, Papua New Guinea, along with the colourful photograph.

You read it first here that Muchos Nachos at the Crown Inn is safe and that the current tenants have successfully completed the purchase of the property.

We were delighted to report that at the request of Bishop Martin, The Very Reverend John R Hall had agreed to become a sequestrator for St George's during the period of interregnum. Eventually the government announced that churches could open for private prayer and we took this on board. With a clean church, hand sanitisers and paper towels put out, St George's was ready for opening on four days each week.

And now, the announcement that collective worship can resume again. This is subject to Government rules & regulations, advice from The Bishop, with risk assessments to complete, more cleaning again, recruiting Stewards, confirming the rotated priest is still able to take the service. We must take it slowly and not fear, all has been done to ensure this morning's service goes smoothly, and there we have it, we have gone full circle!



Canon Gate by our very own resident artist, Ken Green

We pray for those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold
them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We pray for hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and
resilience to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a
cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be
restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.