

Today we welcome back Father Lawson Nagel to lead our worship.

The church will continue to be open for private prayer and reflection on Wednesdays from 10am-1.30pm, this is for individual persons, single households or support bubbles, entering the church to sit or pray on their own and not as part of a group.

Please note: On Sundays use of the South Porch entrance is restricted to members of the choir. It is important that members of the congregation continue to attend through the double red doors.



A Thank You to all who have contributed in the running of the church during 2020

So many give their time and skills, some quietly behind the scenes, in ensuring St George's church runs smoothly and we thank them all, these flowers are for you, you know who you are.

In particular we would like to mention the team of 'Holy Sanitisers' who ensure the church is cleaned and sanitised after each service in readiness for the next one. Without their support during this past year, the church would not have been permitted to open adhering to the Government's rules on the cleaning and social

distancing for churches.

We must thank our office administrator, Rosemary, who has continued to regularly open the parish office, particularly during the periods of lockdown, ensuring correspondence and messages, including pastoral issues have been dealt with.

To our Sacristans who, behind the scenes are always in attendance to ensure everything runs smoothly in the preparation of the sacraments, the correct colour frontals and that candles are available.

Thank-you to our depleted team of Servers who are responsible for ensuring candles are lit, sacraments and holy books are in place and for assisting the minister at the Eucharist.

Church services would be a little dry without some form of music and we thank Susan, our Director of Music for continually being there for us, and in very recent times members of the choir.

We thank you all!

A message from your editors, looking back on an extraordinary year.

Certain years are so eventful they are regarded as pivotal in history, years when battles were fought, wars ended and national events took place, 1066, 1215, 1666, 1815, 1918, 1945* among them. The year 2020 will certainly join this list, it was a year like none of us can remember or will ever forget.

At St George's we seemed to have been hit with a double whammy. Just as we prepared to say goodbye to Father Toby, we were given the news that Father Tim was also to leave us for pastures new. This was almost immediately followed by the national period of lockdown when the Church was closed for worship. However, as the Queen said in her Christmas Day message "A year that has necessarily kept people apart has, in many ways, brought us closer" in our case we have enjoyed visiting ministers at our Sunday worship, including Bishop Martin, Bishop Michael, Archdeacon Luke, Father John and Father Lawson.

With the appointment of Father John Hall as a sequestrator to St George's, we have truly benefitted from his support, taking the majority of Sunday Masses and other celebratory services, including the period over Christmas and New Year. He has also performed tasks that normally an Incumbent would deal with, such as a wedding and a funeral service, and he has rapidly endeared himself to all, his advice in these difficult times has been invaluable.

It has been so encouraging to see numerous new attendees during 2020, and we welcome them all to the church's family. Sadly, there are those loved members of the church who still feel unable to return and we carry them in our prayers. We try to keep in contact with as many as possible by our News Letter and by 'phone but if anyone feels missed out and would appreciate a call, a chat, please do contact one of the editors and we will ensure someone from our pastoral team will make contact.

There have been so many events that we have had to miss, or can no longer take place: the Friday concerts, Tea and Chat with its Handicraft Group, weekly Bible Study, the St George's Ramblers, Tots, J-team, the WRAP community choir and the Friday Lunch Club. It has made us appreciate how much we have and enjoy being here at St Georges.

Although we may not have been able to meet for the above-mentioned activities works have taken place during the year, including the carpark lines being remarked, the South Porch has been reoiled, a noticeboard has been introduced near the entrance of the churchyard, which continues to be well maintained by Sara and Ed Hands, to whom our sincere thanks. We have also formed a small Pastoral team, headed by Father John to keep contact with those who might appreciate contact.

We were permitted to hold the annual Remembrance Day Service outside by our war memorial, led by Bishop Michael, with the weather in good form. We are nearly there regarding the removal of the Monterey Cypress tree in the west gardens and we are just waiting for a date when it will be removed with the base being ground down. Although a builder has been instructed, we are still awaiting confirmation of when the double red doors are going to be replaced.

We lost several long standing and faithful members of our Church Family in 2020. Including Wilf Louch, Kay Glover and Roger Allen. We cherish our memories of them, may they rest in Peace.

We enter 2021 full of hope, there is a vaccination on the way, Brexit has apparently been sorted and, hopefully, somewhen during the year we will have a new rector in residence.

Your editors wish you all a happy and healthy New Year

St George's Mini Markets

Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to the three pre-Christmas mini markets and raffle. Especially to Sue Bainbridge who organised the events and to her brilliant flower team, to the crafters and the cake makers and to Tom for organising the raffle, both of your editors were much appreciative of their raffle prizes!

The individual events raised: Crafts - £338.30, Cakes - £267.00 and Table Decorations - £214.50p- a magnificent total of **£819.80p** raised for church funds.

The Diocesan Lent Course for 2021 is entitled "Cracked Wide Open"

to see an introduction by Bishop Martin, go to website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ky6P38dvecU&feature=emb_title

Also, if you missed Bishop Martin's Christmas day sermon it has been published on

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/documents/christmas-day-sermon-2020/>

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2021?

Rumboldswyke School is a fantastic school, at the centre of our local community, where your child is at the heart of everything we do.

Find out more by visiting our website

<http://www.rumboldswyke.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

or ring 01243 782368 to chat to one of our friendly staff

The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell provides a series of reflections on his YouTube website

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ArchbishopofYork/featured> they are well worth listening to, many in Chichester remember Archbishop Stephen, who was priest-in-charge at St Wilfrid's, in Parklands, from 1988 to 1993.

***For those that could not remember these dates from their schooldays history lessons (see editors' message at the top of page 3)**

- The Battle of Hastings - 1066.
- Signing of Magna Carta - 1215.
- The Great Fire of London -1666.
- The Battle of Waterloo - 1815.
- Ending of the First World War - 1918.
- Ending of the Second World War - 1945.

Items for future Newsletters We welcome contributions and if there is an item, or two, that you would like to share with us please forward to the editors.

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