

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II  
1926-2022



Dear Friends,

The nation is in mourning. The last week has witnessed an outpouring of emotion across the country as people respond to the death of the Queen. Countless numbers have lined streets to pay their respects to the Queen's passing coffin. People have left tributes, lit candles, laid flowers, sought out in churches to reflect, pray, sit quietly. And, most recently, thousands have joined an ever-expanding pilgrimage to queue in patient solidarity to bid farewell to the Queen as she lies in state in Westminster Hall. Whatever one's views on this, it is striking how life-affirming this shared experience of grief has been. In death, the Queen somehow comes closer to us.

This is something that all who mourn a loved one may recognise. Though we no longer see them, they visit us intimately, poignantly, in our memories, our hearts, in turns of phrases, places, seasons, music, how we see the world differently because of them. In these moments, suddenly it is as if the person is there – just around the corner, in the other room, still flying the flag at Balmoral Castle or St George's, Whyke. A veil of separation is lifted. But, just as quickly, such moments dissipate and we are left with a crushing absence and our hearts buckle. But isn't this how it should be? Should it not hurt that the one we loved is gone? As the Queen herself said, 'grief is the price we pay for love.' What these recent days remind us of, however, is that this grief is best expressed through giving time for rituals that take us out of ourselves, say more than our words can say, and connect us to each other in our common experience of loss and love. As humans we need these ritual symbols for us to be carried into a sense of meaning and belonging that is greater than we can conjure ourselves.

There has been much talk about what happens after this period of mourning, when reality hits and the pageantry stops. When we cannot escape the pressing concerns of financial and political uncertainty, poverty, war. Part of our response is surely to bring with us, into our anxieties, what we have been reminded of so palpably during this period – the power of shared ritual to bind us together and transform our darkest experiences into life-giving, hope-filled communion. Indeed, God shows us nothing less when he gives us Christ crucified, dead and risen in the chief ritual of our faith – the Eucharist. Let us then use the momentum of this moment of national mourning to reclaim the power of the Eucharist to transform all lives. Let us join our faith with that of the late Queen's, and Christians' throughout the ages, to share with all those who weep and wait and watch this day the truth and power of the Church's life-giving ritual, the Sacrament Divine, the bread of life, Christ himself, in whom is given to everyone the tribute of God's undying love; in good times and bad; high days and every day; life and death.

With my prayers and blessings,

Fr Angus

**A special Commemorative Choral Service** with prayer, remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Her Late Majesty will be held at St George's at **6pm this evening, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September**. All are welcome and after the service we invite you to join us in drinking a toast to Her Majesty.

The union flag will be flown at half-mast and the church will be open each day until Monday from 9am to 6.30pm. Members of the public are most welcome to attend to sign the Book of Remembrance that has been provided, to light a candle, say a prayer or to just sit for a period of quiet.

**Baptism Today** – Today it is with great delight that Luca and Lorenzo will be baptised during our All-Age Eucharist. Together their parents, godparents, family and friends, we welcome them in the household of faith and the family of God at St George's. Let us pray for them both and their families on this joyful occasion.

**Dates**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – St George's Tots has been cancelled for today

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – WRAP Community Choir - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Said Mass - 11.30 am in the Lady Chapel.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Said Mass - 9.30 am in the Lady Chapel

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pop up Pantry – Centenary Centre 10.00am - 11.00am

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 15 - Parish Mass - 10:00am

### **Exciting News - A new outreach activity at St George's**

A new monthly social group is being set up to meet on each first Wednesday in the month in the Centenary Centre, commencing @ 3pm. Admission £2.

Open to all, the aim is to have an interesting speaker, or musical entertainment or fun board games as well as refreshments. For now, please mark **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm** in your diaries.

**Please note** – During this past week a meeting has taken place to make final arrangements. Fr Bill Johnston and Fr Philip Meader have generously volunteered to take it in turns to host the monthly meetings, and we have an enthusiastic team of hospitality volunteers. We are looking for someone who is familiar with the sound system, screen etc that could either take responsibility on the day or to share knowledge on how everything works. Next week we will share with you who our first speaker is to be for our first meeting!! Also, the name we have given to the new activity.

Keep watching this space!

**Pet Blessing Service** - Fr Angus is keen to gauge whether there is any interest in holding a Pet Service during which people are invited to bring along their pets to be blessed. This usually falls on or near the feast of St Francis (4<sup>th</sup> October). The current suggestion is to hold the service on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for those who are interested. Please, also speak to Fr Angus if you have any questions.

### **Last Friday Concert. September 30<sup>th</sup>**

The next concert in our Last Friday series will be an organ recital by Richard McVeigh, If you enjoy organ music at its best then this is an event not to be missed. We are publishing this early note for you to put the date in your diary. Richard's recital will feature contributions from soprano Caroline Balfour, his wife [and a former pupil of Susan H-E].

**Our Harvest Festival** is being celebrated on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October and we are planning a Ploughman's Lunch after the morning service at about 12.00. The cost will be £5.00 for adults, to include coffee and cream - children free. After the lunch Fr Bill is going to amuse and entertain us with tales about Harvest & Food in Africa during which games will be provided for the children in the Church. To help us estimate numbers please sign the list at the back of the Church. Everyone welcome.

**Ride & Stride** – Our thanks go to Katrina for organising the annual walk, this year visiting various churches and chapels within the city.. It was lovely to see so many others out and about, signing the forms available at each venue, all sporting their bright yellow "Ride & Stride" badges. Our morning ended by relaxing for coffee and biscuits at the delightful eaterie located in Priory Park. Thank you to those who offered to sponsor individuals for this important annual event.

**Moonlight Walk** – Sadly, for this year, the event was cancelled, it having been arranged for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, two days after the death of Her Majesty. However, the three ladies from St George's who had committed themselves to doing the 10 mile walk decided that after taking part in the Ride & Stride and after a light lunch they would carry out their commitment by walking 10 miles down to the harbour, along the coast and back to Chichester, enabling them to collect sponsorship funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice. Margaret, Rosemary and Jane thank those who have already paid their sponsorship commitment. Anyone else who would like to contribute, please see the ladies in church on Sunday.

### **Contact details:**

**Parish Office:** Tel. 01243 782885 Email: [georges@whyke.info](mailto:georges@whyke.info)

**Rector:** Revd. Fr. Angus Reid Tel. 01243 533112 Email: [frangusreid@outlook.com](mailto:frangusreid@outlook.com)

### **Contact during the time of Churchwarden vacancies:**

Geraldine Burrows – [gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk) – 01243 539620

**Newsletter Editors:** Ken Green – [kaagreen@talktalk.net](mailto:kaagreen@talktalk.net) – 01243 789869  
Geraldine Burrows – [gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk) – 01243