
Today we celebrate our Dedication Festival Mass – It is also with great joy that Inigo will be baptised during our main service today. Alongside his parents, brother Ivo, godparents, family and friends, we welcome him into God's family at St George's. Let us keep Inigo and his family in our prayers.

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the dedication, or consecration, of our church building. Ken has helpfully informed me that St George's was consecrated by Bishop Ernest Wilberforce at 2.30pm on Monday 29th September 1902, on the feast of Michael and All Angels. There was then tea in the Rectory and the Chichester Brass Band attended. The Bishop and the Dean of the Cathedral later presided and preached, respectively, at Evensong on the same day, the first service to be held at St George's. It is wonderful to think that on the feast of the holy angels, the people of the new parish of St George's joined their voices with those of the heavenly choir to sing of the beauty of God's holiness in this place.

As we mark this occasion today, let us reflect on what it means that St George's is not just any old building, but a building consecrated to God. The Church of England, oddly, has little formally to say about the rite of the dedication of a church. The Roman Catholic Church, however, provides this helpful reflection: 'Through his death and resurrection, Christ became the true and perfect temple of the New Covenant and gathered together a people to be his own. This holy people, made one as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, is the Church that is, the temple of God built of living stones, where the Father is worshiped in spirit and in truth. Rightly, then, from early times "church" has also been the name given to the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and to celebrate the eucharist. Because the church is a visible building, it stands as a special sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.' 'And the altar of a church, around which the holy people of God gather to take part in the Lord's sacrifice and to be refreshed at the heavenly meal, stands as a sign of Christ himself, who is the priest, the victim, and the altar of his own sacrifice.'

The Church sometimes seems desperate to hatch new initiatives about how it might repurpose its holy spaces to be more relevant and appealing. We would do well, however, to rededicate our churches to their true calling, trusting that this answers to people's deepest aspirations. Let us in our hearts, minds and lives reconsecrate St George's to be a sanctuary and house of prayer; a bastion of humanity in all its glory and vulnerability; a hidden magnetic threshold drawing heaven and earth together; a meeting spot of God and human community; a studio set aside for creativity nourished in friendship; a premises licensed by the Spirit to celebrate, mourn, fight injustice and make peace; a space of enquiry, wonder and exploration for young and old alike; a workshop humming with love, forgiveness and life-giving discipline; a school outstanding in the Lord's service; an inn rated in the hospitality of God shown in Jesus Christ; a home-beyond-home open to all who seek more than the mundane amid the everyday. Let us rededicate ourselves and our church this day and every day to be a ladder, a gateway, upon which, by the grace of God, angels and mortals dare dance together in joyful service of God's kingdom, the good of all people and the whole of creation. Let us give thanks for our place of worship.

With my prayers and blessings,
Fr Angus

Dates - October

Monday 3rd – St George's Tots

Tuesday 4th – WRAP Community Choir - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Wednesday 5th - Said Mass - 11.30am in the Lady Chapel.

Wednesday 5th - **WRAP-CHAT** 3.00pm [see item within this newsletter]

Thursday 6th – Said Mass - 9.30am in the Lady Chapel

Friday 7th – Pop up Pantry – Centenary Centre 10.00am - 11.00am

Our Harvest Festival is being celebrated next Sunday 9th 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. The Harvest Festival gifts will be given to the foodbank.

Our new outreach activity, **WRAP-CHAT at St George's** is to commence next **Wednesday 5th October - 3pm to 4.30pm**, in the Centenary Centre. Our first speaker will be our rector, Father Angus, his talk is entitled "*My journey from the day of the 9/11 attacks to Ordination*". Admission is £2 to include refreshments. All are welcome – we look forward to seeing you there and at future events on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Why not bring a friend.
Any query please have a word with Geraldine, Fr Bill Johnston or Fr Philip Meader.

Harvest Flowers for the church

The flower team will be arranging the flowers for Harvest Festival on Saturday 8th October. All the team are welcome. Sue B.

Quiz Evening - One of our ever-popular Fish, Chip and Quiz Evenings, will be held on Friday November 11th, Not to be missed, this is a preliminary note to put in your diary, further details will be published nearer the time.

Old £50 and £20 notes – We have been advised by our bank that the old paper £50 and £20 notes ceased to be used as currency as of last Friday 30th September. If you so wish the church is allowed to accept them as collection for a week or two but then the holder must hand them in at their own bank.

This evening [Oct 2nd] at 6pm the Chichester Chamber Ensemble will be performing at the Holy Trinity Church, Bosham. Ben Lathbury, former Director of Music of our WRAP Community Choir will also be performing. A recital of piano trio works, including Haydn's *Gypsy*, Rachmaninov's *Vocalise* and Mozart's ever popular *Eine Kleine Nechtmusik*. An evening not to be missed. Admission free, donations accepted

Chichester Food Bank – Words of appreciation have been received from the Food Bank, all donations received are truly appreciated. Currently they are **not** in need of the following: Cereal, Baked beans, Pasta, Tea & Coffee. However, they really would appreciate any of the following: Tinned carrots & Green beans. Long Life fruit juices. Cooking Oil Sponge Puddings. Treats e.g. Chocolate bars and Energy bars. Long Life Non Dairy Milk e.g. Soya & Oat. Jams & Spreads. Tin Openers. Dried Pulses. Household cleaning materials.

Today I have nowhere to go a poem by Eliza Barret

Today I have nowhere to go, I don't need to be here or be there.
I've a wonderful feeling of space, for today I'm free as the air.
Today I can sit in the window, and watch as the world hurries by,
Or, curl up with a book by the fireside, and no-one is going to ask why.
I could sit and eat biscuits all day, or invite a friend round for some tea,
And I won't feel a moment of guilt, because, I'm completely and utterly free.
Today I can watch the rain fall, or the flowers and trees as they grow.
I can do just whatever I want for today I have nowhere to go.

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