

Today we welcome the families and friends of Jayden at his Baptism. A Baptism is a happy and special event, usually the first 'formal' event in a child's life and it provides an opportunity for all the family, relatives and friends to come together. We are pleased to be able to share it with them, enjoy the service and we hope that Jayden's baptism will be a wonderful and memorable occasion and that it will mark the beginning of a long and happy association with our church.

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that begins like this: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." After the parable, Jesus issues a warning: "all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." Jesus offers a cutting critique of being falsely religious which is nothing but a pretence for being fixated on ourselves. This also applies to those who call themselves spiritual but not religious. All paths of spiritual self-improvement carry the risk of emphasising self over against others. This holds even when we use the language of charity and compassion. These can be a disguise for shoring up our own spiritual achievement, status and worthiness in comparison to others whom we prejudge.

But there is also a more hidden risk of self-regard when we go to the other extreme and revel in denying ourselves. Again, we might use the language of serving others as justification for refusing to accept the value of who we are, not based on our achievements or lack thereof, but as a matter of God's gift. Yet in doing so we are still squarely stuck with ourselves, albeit through embellishing negative thoughts about ourselves. As a counter to these false paths, Jesus calls us in humility to forget ourselves so that we can be open to God, others and the world. And so resounds the tax-collector's cry in the Gospel: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" Paradoxically, such self-forgetfulness frees us to express who we truly are in our interdependence on others before God.

Here religion and spirituality entwine as true worship infused with justice and compassion. For spiritual worship must be a response of our whole self to the gifts God has given us – the gifts of being, life, thought, freedom, fulfilment, vocation, identity, love. True worship cannot be selfish or done to curry favour with God. Instead, we receive all these gifts fully only by sharing them self-forgetfully with others in a common life open beyond itself to God and world. Such worship flows into justice. It channels the energy of God's fierce concern to celebrate the value of each person. The God who cares not for granting favours but attends to all who cry out in need. The God who delights in the gift of each tiny child, like Jayden, who is being baptised today at St George's and whom we celebrate as a precious gift of God. In this era of crisis, when so many despair and shout for justice, dare we abandon narrow self-concern, in all its guises and disguises, and, in humility, let our religion, our spirituality, our worship, our lives, sing out God's fearless delight in every human soul and pursue the good of all?

With my prayers and blessings,
Fr Angus

Dates - October

Monday 24th –No St George's Tots [Half term]

Tuesday 25th – No WRAP Community Choir (Half term)

Wednesday 26th - Said Mass - 11.30am in the Lady Chapel.

Thursday 27th – Said Mass - 9.30am in the Lady Chapel

Friday 28th – 7.30pm Last Friday Concert by the West Sussex Guitar Club Orchestra

Sunday 30th - 10.00am - Parish Mass and celebration of All Saints Day

Extraordinary PCM after today's service. Everyone on the electoral roll is invited to attend an extraordinary parochial church meeting to discuss and approve our annual accounts which have now been signed off by the independent examiner. The meeting will take place after the main service. Copies of the accounts are available at the back of church.

All Souls Day Service – this annual service commemorating the faithful departed will be held on **Wednesday 2nd November** at 7.30pm – a list is available in church to add names to be read out, or if you cannot get to church, they can be sent by email [stgeorges@whyke.info] or leave a message on the office telephone, 01243 782885, before Friday 28 October 2022

WRAP-CHAT – Our next monthly meeting will take place on **Wednesday 2nd November**, in the Centre, @ 3pm. Our very own Revd Philip Meader will be giving a talk on The Life of a Biblical Shepherd. *At Christmas time they abided in the fields.....* yet do we really understand the life of a shepherd in biblical times? Fr Philip will be using authentic items from the Holy Land, he has given this presentation in Russia, Germany and America, including the Episcopal Convention in Los Angeles. Another meeting not to miss! Refreshments will be available before the commencement of the presentation. Our December meeting will be an afternoon of musical entertainment, provided by Sue Howell Evans our Director of Music, and will include a light tea party and a raffle. If you have anything suitable that you would like to donate as a raffle prize, please do have a word with Fr Philip, Fr Bill or Geraldine.

Pet Service Those who came to the Pet Service on Saturday 15th October enjoyed a fine occasion. Also attending were dogs, tortoises, and hamsters. Some dogs were vocal and obviously expressing agreement with Father Angus as he gave his talk. All the animals received a blessing and tealights were lit as we remembered pets that are no longer with us. Donations kindly received were divided between Mount Noddy and the Chichester Foodbank.

Harvest Lunch – A belated, but very sincere thank you to Sue Bainbridge and her hard-working team for the much-enjoyed harvest lunch on the 9th October. The Centre was full of smiling diners and to top it all £136 was donated to church funds.

Ecumenical Service of Prayer – This service, with music from Taizé will be taking place on **20th November** @ 4pm at the Catholic Church, Fairfield Road, Bosham PO18 8JH. All are welcome, if you would like to join the choir, please arrive for 2.45pm. Refreshments will be available after the service. The Taizé services bring Christians together from different denominations.

Last Friday Concert - Come and enjoy vibrant guitar ensemble music at our concert next **Friday, 28th** @ 7.30pm, presented by the **West Sussex Guitar Club Orchestra**, directed by Linda Kelsall-Barnett and exploring a wide range of repertoire. Admission £10, [under 18's free] Includes refreshments during the interval.

Our Christmas Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 10th December**. Please put the date in your diary. Sue Bainbridge is appealing for items for the craft table. If you are into craft making, of whatever type or perhaps you have items to donate already Sue would love to hear from you. Perhaps you have an idea for running a stall, please do have a word with Sue. Tel. 784424 or in church. Ask one of the greeters if you would like an introduction.

Do not miss a great evening out at the prodigious and ever popular **St George's Quiz with Fish and Chips Evening** on **Friday November 11th** @ 6pm. Tickets are now on sale from Ken or Sue Bainbridge. £10 to include Fish and Chips. [a selection of alternative dishes is available]. A great opportunity to test and display your knowledge!!

Message from the Royal Mail - If you have purchased any postage stamps in recent weeks you will have noticed they now contain a barcode.

As of 31st January 2023, postage stamps without a barcode will no longer be valid. You can either use up these stamps before this deadline or swap them for the new barcoded ones.

For more information please visit - royalmail.com/barcodedstamps

Contact details:

Parish Office: Tel. 01243 782885 Email: stgeorges@whyke.info

Rector: Revd. Fr. Angus Reid Tel. 01243 533112 Email: frangusreid@outlook.com

Contact in Churchwarden vacancies: Geraldine Burrows - gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk - 01243 539620

Newsletter Editors: Ken Green – kaagreen@talktalk.net – 01243 789869

Geraldine Burrows – gmburrows@hotmail.co.uk – 01243 539620