

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before attending Church this morning.

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. In doing so, we might stop and consider what we think about the saints. Sometimes we place them on a pedestal at a safe distance and, while we might look at their lives with a certain fascination, we can also think they do not really have much to tell us mere mortals. There is perhaps something to be said about this if we think about all the ways the saints lives have been embellished with legend, myth and miracle. But to leave it at that would be a sorrowful misrepresentation. For we are all called to be saints, each in a way that is true to our distinctive personality and character. In this regard, we should be grateful to the large number of children in the midst of our congregation. Children are often the best evangelists and missionaries when it comes to calling us to our vocation as saints. Children remind us of the wonder, gratitude, trust and sense of justice that are hallmarks of the saints. Perhaps this is the kernel of truth that lies at the heart of even the most fantastical stories about saints – just think of how enduring the story of George and the dragon has been to children and adults alike over the centuries! And, indeed, each saint, in their own way, even those who have been martyred for their faith, evokes our own fundamental childlikeness – how our hearts beat to the rhythm of a child's verve; how our common destiny is to delight with childlike abandon in the beauty of each created thing and each person. You could say that the Feast of All Saints especially resounds with awe of the child's imagination that sees each creature belonging to the company of saints.

The American Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton, captures this vision when he says: 'The little yellow flowers that nobody notices on the edge of that road are saints looking up into the face of God. This leaf has its own texture and its own pattern of veins and its own holy shape, and the...trout hiding in the deep pools of the river are canonised by their beauty and their strength. The lakes hidden among the hills are saints, and the sea too is a saint who praises God without interruption in her majestic dance....' We are created to participate in this symphonic dance by living out the truth of who we are. 'For me to be a saint,' continues Merton, 'means to be myself....' The challenge, however, is to use our freedom, especially as adults, in fidelity to who we are in God's sight; not as others would have us be; nor as we think we should be in isolation from others. Our saintly vocation is, Merton says, 'to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny....' By their holy witness those whom the church calls saints encourage us in this creative work. But they do so by declaring we cannot do it alone. We are sanctified in the truth of who we are only with others. A saint refuses to separate their identity and worth from that of others and the rest of creation, especially those who are suffering, excluded, reviled and exploited. Living out this conviction is to make real in oneself, in communion with others, the love God has for each person in our troubled world. Such is the calling of the saints in Whyke, as in heaven.

With my prayers and blessings,
Fr Angus

Dates -

Monday 31st October - St George's Tots_in the Centre – 10:30am to 12:00pm

Tuesday 1st November – WRAP Community Choir - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Wednesday 2nd Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 11.30am

WRAP-CHAT talk by Father Philip Meader, see below - 3.00pm

All Souls Day Choral Requiem Mass 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd – Said Mass - 9.30am in the Lady Chapel

Sunday 6th – Third Sunday before Advent – Parish Mass 10am

All Souls Day Service – the annual service commemorating the faithful departed will be held on **Wednesday** 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]

WRAP-CHAT – Our next monthly meeting will take place this **Wednesday, 2nd November** in the Centre at 3pm. Father Philip Meader will be giving a talk on *The Life of a Biblical Shepherd*. Authentic items from the Holy Land will be used. A presentation not to be missed, Fr Philip having given it in various countries, including the Episcopal Convention in Los Angeles. 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.

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!!

Our Christmas Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 10th December** - 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. If you have an idea for running a stall please do have a word. Tel. 784424 or in church

St George's is subscribed to **easyfundraising** a site that raises donations for charities whenever you shop online. Sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/> and whenever you shop at over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Waitrose, John Lewis, Sainsburys and M&S or websites such as Amazon a small donation is made to St George's at no cost to you (or us)!

Milk Bottle Tops – We thank all those who donate their washed milk bottle tops and place them in the glass jar at the back of church. A large delivery from St George's was dropped off at St Paul's Church, Northgate earlier this week, our local collection point. All income received is donated to the Chestnut Tree Hospice, the only children's hospice in Sussex. The hospice cares for children and young adults 0 – 19 years of age with progressive life limitation and life threatening illnesses from all over the country. Please keep your clean milk bottle tops coming and thank you again.

The fine acoustic quality of our church was praised by Organ Soloist Richard McVeigh after his recent concert and we continue to be a popular venue for musical events.

October's concert in our Last Friday series was a great success and an appreciative audience enjoyed hearing the **West Sussex Guitar Club Orchestra** performing a wide range of music, all present expressed a wish that the orchestra might return to entertain us again at a future date.

The next Last Friday concert, the last in this year's series, will be on November 25th when the **Chichester City Band** will play for us in what is becoming an annual occasion to close our season of concerts.

The Hampshire Recorder Sinfonia will be performing at St George's on Sunday 20th November 2022 at 3.30 pm with a programme including Handel's Overture to Ode for St Cecilia's Day and The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, R Vaughan Williams' English Folk Song Tickets £10 on the door

And on Saturday December 3rd at 7,30pm the **Chichester Chorale** will Present Ben Chilcott's Christmas Oratorio and music by Britten, Byrd and others, tickets £15 on the door or from chichesterchorale.com.

Contact details:

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

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

Contact during 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

