

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday time went backwards. The clocks changed. The days have become shorter, the darkness longer. The historical justification for this annual shift, where we gain an extra hour of light in the morning in the autumn and lose it in the summer, is to do partly with increased productivity and safety in an agricultural economy. The change has a profound effect on people beyond the economic sphere, however, as we adjust to the way our sense of time is out of joint and everything is darker. For some, this is a particularly oppressive and difficult time of year that will last until the lighter days of spring. This sudden alteration of time and seasonal mood, however, is not just due to an act of parliamentary legislation but a powerful reminder of a deeper sense of time that shapes our existence. For a short while at least, in our day-to-day adjustments to this new darkness, we all become like stargazers, cosmologists, philosophers, poets. For time is unveiled not to be a human construct but in its cosmic dimension. We feel, in our bones, how real time is linked to the movement of light and dark; to the earth's revolution around the sun; to the cycles of the moon. With this time, weather shifts. Trees and other plants undergo dramatic changes in display, yield and vitality. Animal life follows different rhythms of behaviour. Stars, suns, moons and planets are born and die.

The church's liturgical year and seasons are closely intertwined with this cosmic pattern of time, light and darkness, and their meaning for all life, not least the life of the human spirit. Each Sunday we encounter this reality in the very orientation of our church. We face east toward the rising sun. This is a sign of how time is given its definitive orientation in the rising of Christ whose victory over the darkness of death has made time anew, heralding the dawn of righteousness and hope. Time is no endless succession of mere identical moments. Time has been reminded of its calling to be the meeting point with the God who seeks to embrace all time and bring the cosmos, all life and us into the light of his eternal presence. And it is with the undying flame of Christ's light transforming the darkness that we now journey through a dedicated time of remembrance. As the nights grow longer and our spirits flicker between all life's highs and lows, let us make time to mourn those whom we have loved; to comfort the sad and sorrowful, the lost and lonely; and let ourselves be comforted. May the words of our hymn today help us measure our time to the rhythm of Christ's music; the song of love divine: *Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom / Lead thou me on / The night is dark, and I am far from home / Lead thou me on / Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see / The distant scene, one step enough for me.... Lead, kindly light.*

With my prayers and blessings,
Fr Angus

Dates - November

Monday 7th -- St George's Tots_in the Centre – 10:30am to 12:00pm

Tuesday 8th – WRAP Community Choir - 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Wednesday 9th - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 11.30am

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

Friday 11th -- Fish and Chips and Quiz evening in the Centre - 6.30pm

Sunday 13th - Remembrance Sunday service -10.00am – followed at 10.55 all gather by the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance.

We are approaching the time when the church rotas are updated, should you wish to join the teams of those reading lessons or those leading our prayers of intercession, or conversely, should you wish to leave the team that you are on, please let Ken know.

St George's Quiz with Fish and Chips Evening next Friday November 11th @ 6.30pm.

Tickets from Ken or Sue Bainbridge. A few tickets still available £10 to include Fish & Chips.
[alternative dishes are available]

WRAP-CHAT - Our thanks to Fr Philip for his most entertaining and informative talk on Wednesday, on the life of the Shepherd in Biblical times.

It was so interesting and to see Philip dressed as a Shepherd added atmosphere to the event. We think this a talk that should be repeated somewhen in the New Year for those who were unable to attend this time round. Thank you.

December 7th's Wrap-Chat event, will be an afternoon of musical entertainment with a light tea party and raffle. Please put the date in your diary.

Our Christmas Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 10th December** - this event is usually our biggest fundraiser. We will have all of the usual stalls and a visit from Father Christmas.

As ever we need your help. We need bottles for the tombola, children's books and toys, general books, and soft toys for the children's tombola. We can also have a stall selling unwanted gifts if enough are donated. There will be some boxes at the back of the Church for donations. 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

St George's is subscribed to **easyfundraising** a site that raises donations for charities whenever you shop online. Our Treasurer, Alison, informs us that we have now raised £90.67 from people just doing their normal online shopping. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-georges-church-whyke-chichester/> Over 7,000 brands will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-georges-church-whyke-chichester/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-n2

The Events sub Committee are hoping to stage a Burns Night on Friday 27th January. Proposed is a traditional ceremonial three course supper with a welcome glass of bubbles, this will be an evening of feasting, music and merriment, accompanied by a magnificent piper, readings and songs. We need a jolly crowd to make this evening a success, the cost will be £25 per head, please let us know on the sheet at the rear of church if you would like to come.



A Prayer for Ukraine

Lord of all the earth,
be present with the people of Ukraine at this time
of danger, fear and conflict.
Grant that wise and peaceable counsels may yet
prevail,
and give to all suffering nations the freedom they
desire and deserve.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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