

# St George's Newsletter

No.152

Sunday 26th February 2023

Lent 1

10.00am

## Parish Mass

Next Wednesday is St David's Day, to mark the day Welsh people around the world wear one of Wales's national emblems, a daffodil or a leek. St David is reputed to have lived on a diet of leeks and cold water - he lived to be 100.

Dear Friends,

Last Friday, 24 February, marked the tragic one year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. This last year has been one of untold brutality and suffering whose impact has reverberated around the world. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us make prayers for peace a key focus. Let us do all we can to bring peace into our world. Let us, as Pope Francis said on Ash Wednesday, ask ourselves: has everything possible been done to stop the war?

This question rings with a terrible poignancy as we read today's Gospel. We must take care in how we seek to bring about peace. Placing escalation of violence over an effort to exhaust every possible avenue for peaceful negotiations is a dangerous temptation for all sides. In the Gospel, Jesus has been cast out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit for 40 days after his baptism. He confronts there the fragility of his and our human nature, relying on nothing but trust in God; in his own identity as the One sent from God, as God incarnate. And in this state of vulnerability, Christ is tempted by the devil. Stripped of all the usual comforts, Jesus meets head on all the forces within our hunger for life that pull us unawares towards violence. Jesus is tempted to forego his reliance on God which looks and feels like nothing but failure. Instead, the tempter's voice resounds within him, bidding Jesus to exercise his divine right to take back control. The devil's justifications, like those of any tyrant, are dangerously magical and self-aggrandizing. Indeed, the devil distorts the words of scripture, trying to compel Jesus with demonic propaganda to be a servant of destruction in the name of God, by seizing all power, possessions, and worldly greatness for himself. Rather than living out a path of salvation that eschews violence and seeks to bring God's peace through loving self-sacrifice and dependence on God and others in vulnerability, Jesus is offered an alternative salvation based on domination and control. But there can never be a true peace here, only an insatiable need for more destruction of all that stands in one's way. Jesus' response is startlingly simple. He plunges his humanity and ours deeper into trusting God. Jesus embodies the meaning of peace in himself. A peace that is won by being peaceful; by being at peace with our vulnerabilities before God and others; by seeking fearlessly to make peace with our enemies and our desires for control. In doing this, Jesus reclaims the language of scripture from the devil, he wins back the path of salvation.

In Jesus's battle with temptation, we hear an echo of the poetry that has flowed out of Ukraine as ordinary people fight tyranny with words and actions of peace. The poet Patricia McCarthy has paid tribute to this with the following poem. I commend it to you this Lent:

*Four Seasons Gone (for the outpouring of poems by many who have never written poems before in Ukraine during the war)*

There can be no canticles, matins, evensong  
no waiting for blue irises, cherries to come along  
in their own season, with four seasons gone.  
How bravely you bear witness, testify tight-lipped,  
with scribbles on wings, inscribing verses

Fr Angus

Friday is my day of rest unless the matter is very urgent.

**The Rite of Reconciliation** (also known as the Sacrament of Confession) is available to anyone by appointment with Fr Angus.5

## This Week's Diary - February

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - St George's Tots in the Centre – 10:30am to 12:00pm

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – St George's Church Choir rehearsal in the Centre @ 6pm

WRAP Community Choir meet in the Centre @ 7.30pm

Wednesday **March** 1<sup>st</sup> - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 11.30am

Wrap-Chat in the Centre 3.00pm

Deanery Synod meet at St George's 7.30pm

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 9.30am

Stations of the Cross with Adoration – 2.00pm

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Fed and Nourished event, formerly the Pop up Pantry in Centre – 10.00am

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Lent 2 Parish Mass - 10.00am

It is now possible to donate to St George's using your smartphone by scanning the QR Code

shown on the right. If you are unsure on how to use it, please seek advice from our Treasurer, Alison Davis, or Fr Angus.



**Wednesday Lent Group: Psalms of Lament and Praise** – Our Lent Group this year will be exploring the Book of Psalms. The psalms transform every human experience into an expression of profound prayer. During each session, we will be delving into the rich and challenging language of psalms and connecting it to our own experiences. Participants will need to bring a copy of the bible (copies also available in church). **There will be four sessions held at 7:30pm each Wednesday from 8th March to 29th March, meeting in the Centenary Centre.** Fr Angus will lead the sessions, but group participation will be essential! Sign-up sheets are available at the back of church.

**Stations of the Cross with Adoration** - At 2pm on each Thursday during Lent, 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30th March, there will be a service of the Stations of the Cross followed by a short period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Lady Chapel. Everyone is welcome to this meditative service in which we follow the way Christ walked through suffering into the fullness of the life of the resurrection.

**Friends of St Mary's Churchyard:** This newly formed group has the aim of maintaining the churchyard and managing it for wildlife as well as raising its profile as a treasure house of local and family history. It will seek to draw in members and volunteers both from the church congregation and wider community. **The group will have its official launch on Saturday 11 March at 2 p.m. in the Centenary Centre.**

**WRAP-CHAT meeting – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 3pm in The Centre (£2)** - Ken Green, will be giving a talk on Tales of Chichester Cathedral, covering a brief history of the building, its monuments, and some personalities from the past who have made their mark there.

Christian Aid are holding **Bread and Soup Lunches** at Christ Church, Old Market Avenue, PO19 1SW on Wednesdays in March from 12.00 to 1.30pm **Eat, chat and give what you can**

Arranged by members of the following churches: 1st March - St. Wilfrid's, 8th March - St. George's, 15th March - St. Paul's, 22nd March - The Cathedral and 29th March Christ Church  
For further details contact Judy Emmett on 01243- All lunches are at Christ Church.

In order to be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to take part in its proceedings you must be enrolled on the **Parish Electoral Roll**. The Annual revision of the roll takes place from March 5<sup>th</sup> until April 23<sup>rd</sup> and the new roll is published for at least 15 days before the APCM which this year is on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>. If your name is not on it and you wish it to be please speak to Rosemary Lay, or Lesley Valerio who is to take over the post of Electoral Roll Officer following the APCM

**Come and Sing!** We are looking for new people to join the church choir at St George's. Whether you are a confident singer or not, we invite anyone who is interested to come along to choir rehearsal every Tuesday evening at 6pm. You and your voice will be warmly welcomed. For more information, please speak to Sue Howell-Evans, our Director of Music.

**Events Committee** – A meeting of the Events Committee will be taking place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March after Mass, in the Lady Chapel. The committee are looking for more members and helpers to provide support when holding events for the church. If interested please have a word with Sue Bainbridge 01243 784424. A lovely way of meeting and getting to know other members of the church family.

**Another Appeal** – We are looking for new faces to step forward and join our happy group of hospitality folk who provide support in the kitchen, whether on Sundays after mass or at church social functions, including the soon to return Last Friday in the Month concerts. Usually the role is to provide refreshments from the kitchen hatch, clearing away and restoring the kitchen to how it was found. We are also looking for an individual prepared to be the 'Go To' in co-ordinating the small teams, per event. Interested? Please do have a word with Fr Angus, Geraldine or Jenny.

**A new defibrillator is to be installed at Muchos Nachos in Whyke Road,** The heritage statement said: "The works are proposed because there is currently no publicly available defibrillator in the Whyke District "Locating a defibrillator in the district is of public benefit due to its potential as a lifesaving tool. It will be highly visible from Whyke Road being one of the main thoroughfares from the A27 to central Chichester".

**Collection for the Turkey & Syria Disaster Fund** – We are delighted to report donations received at St George's for this fund totalled £468. Funds received will be forwarded to the DEC Disaster Fund. Thank you to everyone. Further donations may be sent direct via <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

**Contact details:**

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

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

**Updated Web site:** <https://www.whyke.info/>

**Newsletter Editors:** Ken Green – [kaagreen@talktalk.net](mailto:kaagreen@talktalk.net) – 01243 789869

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