

# St George's Newsletter

No.155

Lent 4

Sunday 19th March 2023

10.00am Parish Mass

Mothering Sunday is a day honouring mother churches, the church where one is baptised, celebrated since the Middle Ages on the fourth Sunday in Lent. Nowadays, Mothering Sunday is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.

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Dear Friends,

On Mothering Sunday we give thanks for our mothers. This sense of thanksgiving can, of course, be extended to other carers, family members and communities that offer nurture and support to children. The day also serves as a call to prayer, sensitivity and compassion for those for whom motherhood, family life and children evoke complex and painful emotions, and personal tragedy. Whether in joy or sorrow, or a mix of both, this day marks how the mother-child relationship is both incredibly delicate yet full of vital potency, life-giving promise, and peril. Each of us was knitted together in our mother's womb. Every person has been shaped by their relationship to their mother and other adult carers. We each find this echoing in our adult hearts in how we respond to others' needs. In our Gospel today, Jesus tells us just how important these relationships are. From the light of the self-giving love he shows on the cross, the one born of Mary takes care to affirm that we are each borne by the loving care of others. He does this most tangibly from the cross by giving Mary and his disciple John to each other as mother and son.

The significance of Mothering Sunday in the UK owes its revival to the efforts of one Constance Smith in 1920's. She sought to emulate the distinct celebration of Mother's Day in the USA (held in May). Constance was keen, however, to give Mothering Sunday deeper and more medieval roots. Hence, its celebration in church coincides with the fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday from the Latin 'rejoice'. On this day, the Church would take a break from the Lent fast, marked, for instance, by the local tradition of eating simnel cake. People would also return to their homes and family churches to then go on to their local cathedral – the mother church – to present offerings and give thanks. Flowers picked along the way were presented to mothers and used to decorate the church.

Today at St George's, together with churches throughout the land and further afield, we offer flowers as we celebrate those who have cared for us and loved us in being and give thanks for the God who hallows all relationships of loving nurture offered in the church and beyond.

With my prayers and blessings,  
Fr Angus

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

## The week ahead

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - Lent 4 Mothering Sunday Parish Mass at 10am.  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - St George's Tots in the Centre – 10:30am to 12:00pm  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – St George's Church Choir rehearsal in the Centre @ 6pm  
WRAP Community Choir meet in the Centre @ 7.30pm  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 11.30am  
Lent Group in Centre 7.30pm  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Said Mass in the Lady Chapel - 9.30am  
Stations of the Cross with Adoration – 2.00pm  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent 5 Parish Mass at 10am and Molly's cake sale after Mass

## Holy Week and Easter Services:

**Palm Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 10am Mass with procession starting at the Amphitheatre and dramatized reading of the Passion Gospel

**Monday-Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April of Holy Week:** 7:30pm Mass in Lady Chapel

**Maundy Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> :** 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with foot washing followed by the watch until midnight

**Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> :** family activities: 10am with Stations of the Cross for children

**Good Friday Solemn Liturgy of the Cross:** 2:00pm with dramatized reading of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross

**Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> :** Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter: 7pm

**Easter Sunday: April 9<sup>th</sup> :** 10:00am with an Easter Egg hunt for children

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**Easter Flowers** - At St George's we have a tradition of donating lilies for Easter in memory of a loved one or to help make the Church beautiful for Easter. Prices vary, a Longi Lily costs in the region of £5 and Arum Lilies are usually more expensive. Please speak to Sue Bainbridge or sign the list at the back of the Church

**Foodbank.** Well done St George's in the last year we have donated 683 kilos of food equivalent of 2,732 meals - wonderful thank you very much ."

**Coffee Morning** - We are having a coffee morning **Saturday 1st April 10am-12noon** combined with a book and bric-a-brac sale. We will be serving fresh coffee and cream, hot cross buns and cakes and biscuits. Entry will be £5 children free. If you could make some cakes, we would be very grateful. Please let Sue Bainbridge know.

**A message from Molly Howick about fundraising for her trip to Tanzania:**

I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to visit Tanzania in July 2023 with Bishop Luffa's sixth form and the charity Grassroots! Whilst there I will be supporting the local community, projects such as building work, feeding programmes, school visits, activities with local churches and much more. I am really excited for this experience and the adventures it will bring, which will no doubt stay with me for the rest of my life and look forward to sharing my stories with you all when I return. As part of my fundraising for this I will be holding a **cake sale in the Centre after the morning service next Sunday, 26th of March**. I have also set up a go fund me page if any one feels they would like to contribute (<https://gofund.me/bb2711b>). Any support would be massively appreciated and help me on my journey! **Thank you, so much and best wishes, Molly.**

**WRAP-CHAT** We look forward to Edward Gray's presentation on life in the world of hospitality on **Wednesday, 5th April, in The Centre @ 3pm**. Please do mark this occasion in your diary.

**Ride & Stride – Saturday 9th September.** Here, at St George's we are looking for someone to take on the role of co-ordinator, liaising with the local representative of the Sussex Historical Churches Trust. The individual can just deal with the administration or also organise a walk or cycle ride between churches. Sponsorship is encouraged with 50% going to the Trust and the rest to St George's. Could this be you? Please do have a word with Geraldine. For many years St George's has been open, with refreshments for anyone taking part and visiting on their route and this we would like to continue.

**PICTURES OF THE WEEK**



Father Bill celebrates St Patricks Day and Bishop Martin confirms Sam, Emma, and Ginnie

**Note:**

Starting on Palm Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Father* Angus is to send out a weekly message which will keep us all informed of services and events. We will pass your e-addresses to him and will remove them from our records, should you not wish this to happen please inform us before March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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)

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## FIVE MONTHS IN 2020

As the co-editors stand down after three years of producing the newsletter, we have been looking over the early editions and recalling those difficult times. We thought you might like to recall those memories also:

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020** The Covid-10 regulations require that public worship must stop, accordingly Sunday and weekday services are on hold. However, the church continues to be open during daylight hours.

We are gathering pictures of events taken during Father Tim's time with us and a collection has been started for a gift as he prepares to leave us on 19<sup>th</sup> April. It is with regret that we report that the licensing and induction of Fr Toby at Swindon Newtown has had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. Citizens Advice have suspended their Face-to-Face Service until further notice. Fr Tim addressed a letter to us all concerning the very difficult time we are all facing.

**29<sup>th</sup> March 2020** We were delighted to report that Level 1 of *CofE Safe Quality Protects* for safeguarding of our young ones and vulnerable adults had passed with flying colours. Fr Tim, Mary Howick and Geraldine Burrows met with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers to be congratulated on this. During this past week we were advised that all church buildings should be kept closed. Items for the Foodbank to be placed in collection points in local supermarkets. Lyndwyke Stores have volunteered to deliver basic food to residents homes. With the suspension of our own Friday Lunch Club, HEART and the Four Street project are serving takeaway breakfasts from the front of St Pancras Church. The district council have provided accommodation for 15 homeless people at The Travelodge.

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2020** The Church of England have agreed that the deadline for APCMs should be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> October. Wardens elected during 2019 to remain in post until January 2021. Many are joining in with Jo Wicks each morning for workouts on our screens.

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2020** A young member of J-Team, George Cross produced two amazing, coloured pictures to celebrate Easter. Bishop Martin has started leading Mass from his chapel at the Palace which we are able to follow on the Diocesan website.

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2020** Fr Tim writes a moving letter as he reaches his final Sunday with us. He has spent five and half years with us at St George's and celebrated being ordained 30 years ago this year. He expressed his sadness to be leaving so many kind and helpful friends. He is proud that under his careful stewardship the church's arrears, which were precarious when he arrived, have been paid off and the church has become solvent again. Fr Tim served as Liturgical Chaplain to Bishop Martin on many occasions, including at the annual Chrism Mass held in the Cathedral. He was installed as a Cathedral Canon, the first rector of St George's to be so honoured. Pat Sparkes wrote about the strange Easter we had all experienced, praying that next year there will be a return to normality.

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2020** After following her progress for several weeks, we report that at last Geraldine has completed knitting her fingerless gloves! A picture was attached.

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020** – Fr Tim is still residing in the rectory as removal companies are not working. He is carrying out light duties only. He has sent a big thank you to everyone at St George's for the very kind leaving gift He plans on buying something for his new vicarage in Worthing with the money received. Bishop Martin sent out a letter, *Alleluia! Christ in risen*. No. 10 Downing Street announced that The Revd Ruth Bushyager and The Revd William Hazlewood are to serve as suffragan bishops of Horsham and Lewes respectively.

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2020** 'Gentle Humour' from Father Tim continued to make us smile each Sunday i.e. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you. Why did the banana go to the Doctor? Because it was not peeling well! We did miss our little smiles after Fr Tim moved on. A few of our older church members contributed their recollections of V.E. Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, a day of great national rejoicing, when the war in Europe had been won. Recollections of that day were produced by Fred Corbin, serving in the Royal Navy, Doreen Jenner, living in Surrey, Ken Green and Garry Long, both at school in Chichester, Lois Brown, living in Canada and Colette Gray, living in France as a child.

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2020**, Ken and Geraldine as the elected parish representatives produced a list telling what happens during an interregnum, when a church is without a resident priest. The fight to keep Rumboldswyke School gained momentum. A meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner is to take place next week to decide whether a request to have the closure decision be looked at by the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator. We wait and pray, whilst fundraising to pay our legal fees. An offer from Bishop Luffa has been made to take the school under its wing.

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**24<sup>th</sup> May 2020** Fr Tim moves on Wednesday with his licensing as Vicar of St John's West Worthing and Priest in charge of St Andrew's Worthing taking place on the following day in the Bishop's private chapel. We are still isolating with the Chichester Food Bank overwhelmed by the unprecedented level of support and help received, including a grant of £10,000 from The Ferry Farm Community Solar as well as £20,000 from the PP Lottery for Kids Holiday lunch pack scheme.

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2020** Hooray! Turners Pies, M&S in East Street, Fenwick's in Priory Park, The Friday Market, Harry's Fish & Chips as well as La Fish, have all reopened. Thank you, cards have been delivered to Lyndwyke Stores and the Co-op in Bognor Road for remaining open during the pandemic shutdown.

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2020** The government has taken the decision for churches to open their doors for private prayer as of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Wardens & PCC have agreed that the church must receive a thorough clean, soft and hard toys will be cleaned and then removed for safe keeping. Notices will be produced informing of opening hours with instructions on keeping acceptable distance from others and using provided hand sanitiser. Hymn books to be covered over, not to be used. All seat cushions to be removed, the South Porch doors to remain closed. Tea lights to be available for those who would like to light a candle. More outlets open – Kingsham Fish & Chips, Muchas Nachos, Dunelm, Home Sense and Wed. & Sat. markets. News from the cathedral was that the café is not to be reopened, the shop not to reopen until able to accept a significant volume of visitors, when the time is right the shop will be relocated in the cathedral.

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2020** The Government & Church of England have agreed that Sunday services may resume on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July on condition that risk assessments have been completed and subject to finding a priest who is willing to conduct the service. Our first coffee morning took place on Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> July. Social distance was kept and weather permitted us to sit outside. Update on Rumboldswyke School – there is collaborative working between the school and Bishop Luffa School. With lockdown being lifted a good spring-clean is to take place, white lines refreshed in the carpark, the South Porch to be reoiled inside and out, the handrail to the west doors painted and lots of weeding to be carried out.

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2020** We wished Prince William, Duke of Cambridge a very happy 38<sup>th</sup> birthday. Fr John Hall sent us a contribution for our letter, hoping to take worship with us on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Councillor Sarah Sharp announced that on Wednesday evening the Bishop Luffa directors had met and agreed to take on Rumboldswyke within the multi-academy Trust. Muchos Nachos has been saved. a proposal to turn the site into three dwellings will not now take place, the tenants having successfully completed the purchase of the property.

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2020** We announced the return of 10am Mass on this morning. Father John Hall has joined us as a sequestrator whilst we are without a resident priest.

Seating has been arranged allowing 2-metres between each seat, it is now optional to wear a face mask and requests that you sanitise your hands continue, on arrival and on leaving. NHS Track & Trace is introduced, requiring your name and contact number as you enter. We are asked not to attempt to hold a conversation with others. Hymn singing is not permitted but Susan will be playing the organ. On receiving the Host (without wine) we are not to speak. There are to be no toilet facilities, no cushions, kneelers, books, toys etc. For the Peace, do not communicate with anyone. But at least we were back, this was the final newsletter to be produced in this format.

Ken and Geraldine  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023

