

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY

7 JANUARY 2023



Dear friends,

For Epiphany, let me share a reflection by the Anglican writer Evelyn Underhill: 'You know how sometimes on a pitch-black night in the country, you see far off one glimmer of light and you follow it and it turns out to be just a candle in a cottage window – but it was enough to assure you of life ahead, to give you the lead you wanted in the dark. In the same way, when the Magi turned from their abstruse calculations in search of heaven and followed a star, they did not arrive at a great mathematical result or revelation of the cosmic mind. They found a poor little family party and were brought to their knees – because, like the truly wise, they were really humble-minded – before a baby born under most unfortunate circumstances, a mystery of human life, a little living growing thing. What a paradox! The apparently rich Magi coming to the apparently poor child. There they laid down their intellectual treasures – all pure gold to them – and, better than that, offered the spirit of adoration, the incense which alone consecrates the intellectual life and quest of truth, and that reverent acceptance of pain, mental suffering and sacrifice, that death to self which, like myrrh, hallows the dedicated life in all its forms....' Underhill identifies two key aspects to Epiphany. Firstly, it involves a transformative encounter with God to which all are called, welcomed and accepted. Our own adoration of God must not undermine our solidarity with others who take different paths, led by another star. Secondly beholding Christ's glory is only half the task. As Underhill says, Christians are 'part of the dust-laden air which shall radiate the glowing Epiphany of God, catch and reflect his golden light. *Ye are the light of the world* – but only because you are enkindled, made radiant by the One Light of the world.' Do we let this light radiate from us to others, back again, all around, and beyond?

With my prayers and blessings,

Fr Angus

DONATE TO ST GEORGE'S

The life and mission of St George's depend on your support. There are many ways to donate:

Gift Aid: Gift Aid envelopes are available in church that enable us to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers, increasing the donation by 25%.

Regular Giving: Setting up a standing order, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme. Forms are available at the back of church.

Contactless Giving: A card reader is available in church for card donations. Card donations are also accepted via our website.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk: Use this when you buy online. For each purchase, a donation will be made to your nominated charities.

QR code: Scan this image to donate via your smartphone:



Thank you for your generosity.

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ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

newsletterwhyke@outlook.com

Please submit by Thursday

NEW TO ST GEORGE'S?

Welcome! If you have any questions, please ask a Warden or Fr Angus, we are happy to help.

VOLUNTEERING

There are many ways to engage in our life, mission and worship. Ask the Rector or Wardens. There is something for everyone.

COME AND SING!

Music is central to our worship. Our choir sings at the main services and practises once a week. You are welcome to come along. Contact Susan Howell Evans.

PARISH NOTICES

Epiphany Chalk Blessing

As part of today's service, Fr Angus will bless some chalk which can be taken with you to bless your own homes at the beginning of this new year. This is done by writing the following inscription: 20 + C + M + B + 24. This signifies the current year of 2024 and includes the initials of the three Magi traditionally known by the names of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Some people also like to draw little crowns above the letters. The initials also double up as an acronym for the words of the prayer of blessing in Latin: *Christus, mansionem benedicat!* Christ, bless this home! The chalk together with a sheet including the inscription and words of blessing will be handed out after the service.

J Team Back From Holiday

The J Team are back from the Christmas break today. We hope all our families and children have had a joyful Christmas!

St George's Tots

Our toddler group begins again on Monday 8 January, 10:30am-12pm. All are welcome.

Meditation Group

The meditation group has restarted again after the Christmas break. The next session is on Monday 8 January, 5:30pm.

Youth Group

Our new youth group for teenagers has been running for a term now, meeting once a month. It is a relatively informal group with time for snacks, games, making friends, discussions, activities and learning about Christian faith and practice. Our next session will be held on Monday 8th January at 7pm till 8.30pm. We will be reflecting on 2023, the year just gone, and discussing the things we may like to achieve in 2024. We shall be linking these discussions to prayer. Looking at the many different ways we can

pray and what can prayer do for us. If you are interested in finding out more about the group or if your teenage child would like to come along, please contact Zara Cross, our Youth Worker.

Friends Of St Mary's Churchyard

The Friends are a group of volunteers who care for, celebrate, and enhance our churchyard as a sacred space and haven for wildlife. For info, scan here:



Prayer List

If you want to add someone to the parish prayer list, please contact the parish office or Fr Angus.

Pastoral Ministry

Please contact Fr Angus for pastoral matters like visits, baptism, confirmation, first communion, weddings, funerals, house blessings, etc.

Sacrament Of Reconciliation (Confession)

Available by appointment with the Rector.

Lost Property

A lost property box is located in the sacristy. Please contact the wardens or church office for more info.

THIS WEEK

SERVICES

Feast of the Epiphany 7 Jan

10:00am Choral Mass (J-Team)

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Wednesday (followed by refreshments)

9:30am Thursday

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

10:15-10:45am Thursday

2nd Sunday of Epiphany 14 Jan

10:00am Choral Mass (J-Team)

EVENTS

St George's Tots 8 Jan 10:30am-12pm

Youth Group 8 Jan 7pm-8:30pm