

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

28 JANUARY 2023



Dear friends,

With the current turmoil in our world, with the darkness of wars and political crises looming large, it can be difficult to think about light and hope. Today on the Feast of the Presentation, we are reminded of how the true Light of the World is silently and obscurely encountered not as a blinding light but in a dark corner of the temple, as a fragile child held in the arms of his mother. This child embodies the fullness of God's purpose for the world but is greeted first by an elderly woman, Anna, and a frail old man, Simeon. Although their old eyes are growing dim, their hearts are full of the light of faith. Though fragile, they are poised to reflect and extend the light of Christ, sharing it with others and illuminating the temple. Our service today calls us too, in our own fragility, to welcome and reflect the light of Christ in our church and world, a light whose source lies beyond us yet which shines in our humanity. Our liturgy today ushers into this light. It begins with the lighting and blessing of candles, the singing of the words of Simeon, a joyful procession around the church where we encounter each other differently, before bringing us to the light of Christ given almost imperceptibly in word and sacrament. As we worship let us be rekindled by God's presence and recommit ourselves, as living temples of the Holy Spirit, as children of light, to carry the light of faith and hope in our world, to take that light back to our homes and families, speaking words of courage and compassion to others, especially any who are lost in darkness. We are all, individually and as a community, called to be beacons of hope as we pray for others, offer gentle words of love and consolation, and perform small acts of generosity and kindness. Like Simeon and Anna, we can be living lights witnessing to God's love as Jesus, a sign of light and hope in an often dark and dangerous world.

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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Rest day on Friday

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ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER

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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

Ash Wednesday Services

There will be a Choral Mass with the Imposition of Ashes at 7pm on Wednesday 14 February. The 11:30am Mass will also include the Imposition of Ashes.

Palm Crosses

From today a basket will be placed on the table at the back of the church for last year's Palm crosses. The crosses are usually returned so ash can be made from them ready for Ash Wednesday. Thank You.

WRAP-CHAT

Wednesday 7 February @ 3 pm in the Centre. This month we welcome Richard Plowman, former Mayor of Chichester and currently the city's Town Crier. Richard will be telling us about the Rotary Club, locally and internationally, how they are working to eradicate Polio, that terrible disease, protecting more than three billion children in 122 countries. Did you know it was the Rotary Club who had thousands of crocuses planted in New Park Road as a symbol of the campaign, purple being the colour that matches the dye painted on a finger of each immunised child?

Pancake Party For Families

Pancake party with crafts, a story and singing in church, a pancake race and pancakes in the church centre. Begins at 3pm on 10 February. Suggested donation of £3 per family at the door. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register on Eventbrite (pancake-party-whyke.eventbrite.com).

Stations of the Cross with Adoration During Lent

At 2pm each Tuesday during Lent, 20 Feb to 19 Mar, there will be a service of the Stations of the Cross with a short period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Lady Chapel. Everyone is welcome to this meditative service in which we follow Christ on the way of suffering, restorative love.

Thursday Lent Group: Being Stewards of Creation

Our Lent Group will focus on ecological concerns through the eyes of faith. We will read the book *Saying Yes To Life* (the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book in 2020) written by local author Ruth Valerio. We will also consider how ecology links to the Easter liturgy and have local experts guide us on how to act as faithful stewards of creation. There will be five sessions. 7:00pm on Thursdays from 22 Feb to 21 March, meeting in the Centenary Centre or the Church. The book is available at a reasonable price on Amazon. Copies to borrow are also available from Fr Angus. Sign-up sheets at the back of church. For more information about the book, you can go to <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-resources>.

Parenting Children Course

A parenting children course will be running at St George's centenary centre for parents and carers of children up to 10 years old. The course consists five

sessions with refreshments, a talk with practical advice, group discussions and a course booklet. It will run on between 12:45-14:45 and starts Wednesday 21 Feb. For more information or to register, please go to Eventbrite (parenting-course-whyke.eventbrite.com) or www.whyke.info/parenting-course/.

Happy Café

On Saturday 2 March the Happy Café will be open in the church centre serving a cooked breakfast together with many extras. Everyone is welcome. Tickets will be available soon. In the meantime if anyone has any food warmers please could you let Louise Gibbon know by email louisejames34@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01243 537646.

Forthcoming Special Services

11 February	All-Age and Healing Eucharist
14 February	Choral Mass of Ash Wednesday, 7pm
17 March	All-Age Eucharist

Upcoming Events

10 February	Pancake Party, 3pm
2 March	Happy Café

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 Presentation (Candlemas) 28 Jan

10:00am Choral Mass (with 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 before Lent 4 Feb

10:00am Choral Mass (with J-team)

EVENTS

St George's Tot's 29 Jan 10:30am-12pm

Community Food Hub 2 Feb 10-11am