

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

11 FEBRUARY 2024



Dear friends,

Lent begins this coming Wednesday. Lent is often associated with the desert. Just as the dust of the desert brings us to the basics of survival, so Lent calls us back to the basics of our faith. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday captures this with great simplicity. We are marked with ash. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. And yet by this ritual, we bear witness to how we are so much more than dust. We are bodies, yes, but living bodies full of heart, soul, imagination, spirit, and mind. We are persons made in the image of God, made to love without end. Lent recalls us to rediscover this by following Jesus by living more fully in openness to God, others, and creation, especially in the face of suffering. This lies at the heart of the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Instead of using these practices to show how spiritually accomplished we are, Jesus encourages us to use them self-forgetfully to discover who we are in relation to God and others. In prayer, let us make time to be with God in simple trust and openness, and, even if we feel we cannot pray, let us find that we are held by a creative reality greater than ourselves. In fasting, let us confront the destructive ways we consume things and others. Not so as to relish our self-control, but to reclaim how we are deeply connected to others and the world. By almsgiving and acts of service, concrete acts of generosity, let us overcome our ulterior motives and the ways we use 'charity' to distance ourselves from others to live more honestly in deeper solidarity with others. Following Christ during Lent is for us to seek to be true to who we are in God's eyes only together with others. With them, let us blaze a trail to Easter by setting the dust of suffering alight with the glory of God who shines in the faces of human persons made more fully alive in love, though we suffer.

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

Healing Ministry Today

At the service today, after communion, anyone who wishes is welcome to go to the Lady Chapel for the Laying on of Hands by lay ministers and Anointing with Oil by a priest. You may ask for Laying on of Hands for yourself or on someone else's behalf or both. Anointing can be repeated even if you have received it recently. Lay ministers will guide you at the Lady Chapel. You can choose to have either both the Laying on of Hands and Anointing or simply one of them. Children are also very welcome to receive this ministry, accompanied by a parent or carer.

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 have the Imposition of Ashes.

Palm Crosses

There is a basket at the back of the church for any old Palm crosses. These will be used to make ash for Ash Wednesday. Thank You.

Service For World Day Of Prayer

We are delighted to host the service for the World Day of Prayer this year at St George's on Friday 1 March. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. The theme is "I beg you, bear with one another in love." It begins at 12.30pm with a soup lunch. Then a service from 2-3pm with refreshments after. Everyone is welcome.

Friends of St Mary's Churchyard

Copies of the winter edition of the newsletter are now available at the back of church and on the 'Friends' Noticeboard in the Centre. Please do take a copy. If you would like an electronic copy, please have a word with Sam Kelly, Geraldine Burrows or email friendswhyke@gmail.com. If you feel the urge to get involved, particularly with spring around the corner, do let Sam know via this email.

Easter Vigil Feast And Sleepover

Celebration of the Easter Vigil, which falls on 30 March this year, lies at the core of what we are and do as Christians. We want to encourage more people to discover the Vigil and the fellowship of Easter. To this end, we plan to hold a barbeque after the service along with games, a film and sleepover for children. If you can help, speak to Fr Angus or Zara Cross. There is also a sheet in church to indicate if you can attend to help with planning.

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 period of Adoration of the Sacrament.

Thursday Lent Group: Being Stewards of Creation

Our Lent Group focuses on ecological concerns through the eyes of faith and worship. We will read

the book *Saying Yes To Life* (the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book in 2020) written by local author Ruth Valerio. There are 5 sessions. 7pm on Thursdays from 22 Feb to 21 March in the Centre or church. The book is available from St Olav Christian Bookshop or on Amazon. Copies can be borrowed from Fr Angus. Sign-up sheets at the back of church.

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

17 March All-Age Eucharist

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday Next before Lent 11 Feb

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

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Ash Wednesday Said Mass (followed by refreshments)

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Choral Mass

9:30am Thursday

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

10:15-10:45am Thursday

1st Sunday of Lent 18 Feb

10:00am Choral Mass with Baptism (no J-team)

EVENTS

No St George's Tot - Half Term

Community Food Hub 16 Feb 10-11am