

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 FEBRUARY 2024



Dear friends,

Lent is a journey. As with any journey that involves a sense of genuine exploration, Lent provides us with a chance to take stock; to stop and think about what needs to be put in order in our lives; what we might require for the road ahead; why we are going on the journey at all. In our everyday lives, it can be difficult for us to find the space and time to do these, often draining, tasks of self-examination. It can be even more daunting in times such as ours when so much threatens to overwhelm us. But going on a journey can give us new sense of energy. It can renew our sense of personal agency in the face of the suffocating forces of our inner and outer worlds. It can help free us of the anxieties that dictate our lives to us. We gain perspective on ourselves. We become more attentive to the those around us and to the simple things that bring us joy – not least, good company, hospitality, time to rest, time to play. This might sound self-indulgent. Surely the journey of Lent is about how we open our hearts and lives to God and others in prayer, self-denial, and works of service? Yes, but Lent also reminds us that concern for ourselves and for others is inseparable. Our readings today link this to baptism. And how fitting that we will celebrate a baptism today! For we are all, young and old, plunged into the life of Christ in whom we are connected to others and every living creature in God. Through this living bond, it is impossible for us truly to love others entirely at our own expense. To do so is an attempt to prevent the water of God's love from flowing freely. It is to preclude any life-giving exchange that requires us, not to impose love on others, but to learn with them how to love in a way that opens us to God and builds human community. This is to live out St Augustine's prayer: 'let me know myself, let me know you.' It is to journey further into discovering what it means to love others as oneself.

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

Baptism Today

During today's service, Ivy will be baptised and welcomed into the life of the church. Please pray for her and family on this joyous occasion.

The Lenten Liturgy

During Lent, the usual changes to our liturgy will occur to make it simpler and more austere. There are no flowers. We sing the Kyrie instead of the Gloria. A certain word beginning with "A", normally sung before the Gospel, is omitted. We say rather than sing the Lord's Prayer. A psalm is sung instead of a gradual hymn. In addition, and to encourage congregational singing, this Lent the communion hymn will be unaccompanied by the organ. Also, at the start of the service, the choir will sing from the back to lift all our voices. Finally, as an optional discipline, anyone who wishes is invited not to read the service booklet, but to listen, speak from memory, and encounter afresh our worship and the presence of others.

Happy Café – Tickets On Sale Today

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.

Many Thanks For The Pancake Party

Last Saturday week, we welcomed 50 children and their families for a pancake party at St George's. It was lovely to see faces familiar and new from the wider community. The afternoon was full of energy, fun, craft, story and song and, of course, many pancakes. Thank you to everyone who helped.

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.

Christian Aid Lent Lunches

Soup lunches to raise awareness and funds for Christian Aid will be held each Wednesday during lent at Christ Church, Old Market Avenue, Chichester 12pm to 1.30pm on February 21 and 28, and March 6, 13 and 20. Please support this event and make a donation for delicious homemade soup, bread and a chat with others from different Chichester Churches.

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.

Easter Vigil Feast And Sleepover

We want to encourage more people to discover the beauty of the Easter Vigil (30 March) 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 are interested, speak to Fr Angus or Zara Cross.

Thursday Lent Group: Being Stewards of Creation

Our Lent Group begins on 22 Feb at 7pm in the Centre. For those attending, could you please read the introduction and chapter 1 in the *Saying Yes To Life* book we are reading for the group. If you have not yet signed up, please do so at the back of church.

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 the QR code. Copies of the winter edition of the newsletter are now available at the back of church and on the 'Friends' Noticeboard in the Centre. If you would like an electronic copy, please have a word with Sam Kelly, Geraldine Burrows or email friendswhyke@gmail.com.



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

1st Sunday of Lent 18 Feb

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

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

Stations of the Cross with Adoration (Lent only)

2:00pm: Tuesday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Said Mass (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 Lent 25 Feb

10:00am Choral Mass (J-team)

EVENTS

St George's Tot 19 Feb 10:30am-12pm

Lent Group 22 Feb 7pm