

# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

*Serving God and the community in Chichester*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

25 FEBRUARY 2024



### **Dear friends,**

Yesterday marked the second anniversary of the war in Ukraine. This comes at a time when war looms ever larger and the resultant suffering grows seemingly unabated not just in Ukraine, but Gaza, Yemen, Sudan and hundreds of other places. One may well wonder how a God of love can allow such bloodshed. Is there any overall divine plan, any final God-given harmony, that can justify all this suffering? As the Russian author Dostoevsky said, through one of his characters, the atheist Ivan Karamazov, if this is the cost of God's harmonious plan, "I don't want harmony. From love for humanity, I don't want it. I would rather be left with the unavenged suffering." Ivan rebukes any attempt to explain away the suffering of others by reference to God's plan. Such explanation, however well meant, risks being inhumane and insensitive. Here Ivan ironically echoes Jesus' rebuke of Peter in today's Gospel. Peter has just rebuked Jesus for saying that Jesus must suffer, die and rise again. Peter cannot countenance how the divine must suffer. But Jesus responds, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake...will save it." To follow God in a world of suffering requires not forced pious explanations, but trust in Christ, crucified and risen. Christ calls us to respond to suffering by opening ourselves yet further to it out of love; a costly love that alone transforms suffering without denying it; a love that hungers for peace. In this very love, let us join our prayers with those of the Anglican Church in Kyiv: "We pray for the victory of truth, right-ness, justice, mercy and peace. Confirm [Lord Jesus] what is founded on truth, and establish your love in our hearts: that justice may abound on the Earth, and all peoples rejoice in your peace. Amen."

*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](http://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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*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

## 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.

## WRAP-CHAT Wednesday

6 March @ 3pm in the Centre This month we welcome Michael Turner, Chairman of the Chichester Boys Club to be found within the heart of the city. The club, formed in 1923 provides a safe and welcoming environment for young people, both boys and girls as well as adults enabling them to participate in interesting activities, the club has always been known for boxing. One of the Founding Fathers was the grandfather of the present Duke of Richmond and Gordon who is the current Patron. Michael's wife, Mary, will also be present to tell us about when the club opened also for girls. All are welcome! Please bring a friend, or two. Light refreshments available.

## Women's Institute (WI) New Meeting

The WI would like to invite you to a complimentary visit to a new exploratory meeting at 7.30-9.30pm on March 6th at St George's Centenary Centre. The WI provides women with fun and friendship, plus the chance to learn new skills, get involved within the community and take part in a wide range of activities. For more info, email us at [jackybarugh@wsfw.co.uk](mailto:jackybarugh@wsfw.co.uk) or phone 07833252302 or just turn up at to the meeting. You're always welcome and we'd be delighted to see 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.

## Thursday Lent Group: Being Stewards of Creation

Our Lent Group continues on 29 Feb at 7pm in the Centre. For those attending, could you please read chapter 2 in the *Saying Yes To Life* book we are reading for the group

## Forthcoming Special Services

17 March All-Age Eucharist

## 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](mailto: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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 25 Feb

10:00am Choral Mass (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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 3 March

10:00am Choral Mass (J-team)

## EVENTS

**St George's Tot 26 Feb 10:30am-12pm**

**Lent Group 29 Feb 7pm**

**Happy Café 2 Mar**