

# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

*Serving God and the community in Chichester*

## PALM SUNDAY

24 MARCH 2024



### **Dear friends,**

Today is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, the most sacred time in the Christian calendar. Christians turn resolutely to the life-giving source not just of their faith, but reality itself. We are led into the darkness of violence, suffering and despair, but only to be led decisively out of their shadows into the light of true life. We mark our entry into Holy Week in a tangible way: we gather outdoors and march to church, holding palm crosses and singing hymns. Upon arriving at St George's, we enter further into the mystery of salvation by a dramatic reading of the passion narrative and finish with the Eucharist, waiting for Easter. Palm Sunday embodies the unstoppable momentum of God's love. In the Palm Gospel's account of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, God's humble and gentle love is revealed in how Jesus subverts all expectations of power and majesty by riding into the city on a donkey. But a tension mounts between the momentum of God's love and human violence and the reality of suffering. Though the crowds offer Jesus gifts of branches and shouts of praise, later the crowds turn on Jesus when they shout crucify him. In the Northern Hemisphere, the clash of these forces seems to echo in the natural world. All around us creation is coming to life in the colour and sounds of spring. At the same time, we are aware of swathes of people whose lives are devastated by war, tyranny, poverty, ecological destruction. This collision should make our hearts cry out. Surely this calls for what God achieves in Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. And, indeed, our lament is met by love's drumbeat at Easter and in all those who respond to suffering not with denial or despair but with hope, solidarity, generosity, and compassion. In face of the shifting sands of suffering, let our feet too touch solid holy ground as we march together under the banner of God's love for all.

*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

### Palm Sunday Starting At The Amphitheatre

For all who wish, the service today starts at the Amphitheatre at 10am for the procession to church. You are most welcome to go straight to church should you prefer to wait for the procession there.

### Maundy Thursday – Foot-washing and the Watch

For Maundy Thursday on 28 March, we need volunteers willing to have their feet washed. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church. There is also a sign-up sheet for those who are able to pray before the Blessed Sacrament after the service until midnight. Please consider putting your name down for one of the 30 minutes slots. Ideally, it would be good to have at least two people watching together.

### Chance To Win A Giant Easter Egg With Champagne

We have generously been donated a large Easter Egg and a bottle of champagne to raise funds for the church. To enter into the competition, a chart of 100 squares has been made up. You can buy one square for £2. Each square gives you a chance of winning. Please speak to Mary Acland to buy a square.

### Helpers Need On Holy Saturday 30 March

Can you help clean and replace the various items which were removed from church on Maundy Thursday? If you are free anytime between 10am – 12noon please come as more help the merrier. Also please bring old cloths, brasso and silver polish if available. Refreshments provided. For any further information please speak to Jill Merry. Thank you.

### No Week Masses Or Meditation During Holy Week

Due to the other services offered during Holy Week, there will be no Meditation sessions or 11:30am Wednesday or 9:30am Thursday Masses this week.

### Are You On The Electoral Roll?

If you are a regular worshipper at St George's and/or live in the parish, you are invited to join our Electoral Roll. This enables you to vote at the APCM (19 May). It also helps us to accurately report the number of people in our church. Forms are available at the back of church. Do speak to Lesley Valerio, our Electoral Roll Officer, or the parish office for more details

### WRAP-CHAT - 3 April @ 3pm in The Centenary Centre

With our January meeting still being fondly spoken of we have decided to hold a similar event for April. It will be an open meeting where attendees are invited to share a favourite poem, an extract from a favourite book, a special event, tell a story, a joke or just come along and enjoy being entertained over refreshments. If January was anything to go by, we can assure you of a warm and relaxing afternoon with lots of humour. We request £2 for expenses.

### Easter Flowers

To donate towards lilies for Easter, please sign up on the list in church or speak to Sue Bainbridge.

### Chrim Eucharists

On Tuesday 26 March, the Bishop of Horsham will preside at the Eucharist and bless the oils at St Mary's, Horsham at 12.00 noon. On Wednesday 27 March, the Bishop of Lewes will preside at the Eucharist and bless the oils at St John the Evangelist, Preston, Brighton at 12.00 noon. Bishop Martin will be at both locations to preach and receive the renewal of commitment to ordained ministry.

### Forthcoming Special Services

14 April Mass with Healing Ministry  
21 April All-Age Eucharist Patronal Festival

### 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. If you would like an electronic copy, please 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

#### **Palm Sunday 24 March**

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

#### **Morning Prayer**

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

#### **Monday – Wednesday 25-27 March**

6pm Said Mass in Lady Chapel

#### **Maundy Thursday 28 March**

7:30pm Choral Mass with foot-washing followed by the watch till midnight.

#### **Good Friday 29 March**

2pm Solemn Liturgy of the Cross

#### **Holy Saturday 30 March**

6:30pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter followed by barbeque and children activities

#### **Easter Sunday 31 March**

10:00am Choral Mass (with Easter Egg Hunt)

### EVENTS

#### **St George's Tots 25 Mar 10:30am-12pm**

#### **School End of Term Service 25 Mar 2pm**

#### **Community Food Hub 29 Mar 10-11am**

#### **Good Friday Activities for children 29 Mar 10am**