

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

14 APRIL 2024



Dear friends,

It has been a delight to hear how many people have valued Holy Week this year, particularly the Easter Vigil. I have to say it was moving to have many of our children at the heart of the Vigil service, not only experiencing for the first time the living flame of its rich symbolism as dusk fell, but also contributing by their presence, wonder, craft-offering, serving at the altar and reading during the Vigil. The choreography of the children coming into and out of the service was expertly handled by Zara, Chris, Emily, Mae, and other volunteers. Invisible to the eye was the communal preparation and fellowship that went on behind the scenes with the choir, servers, the sacristan team, the flower team, the cleaning and hospitality team, and many others. When the children processed to the altar at the offering, some dressed in white surplices custom-made by congregation member, it was as if all our hearts were spontaneously lifted-up to the Lord. It was also quite something that the age of the those present ranged from 3 to 99 years old and that all were united in the candlelight, fanfare, and joy of Easter. And, indeed, what a joyful occasion it was, after the service, when everyone went into the centre for prosecco, Easter cakes, and a delicious feast lovingly cooked on the barbeque during the service or brought from home. It was quite a selection too with the food reflecting the diversity of our congregation with delicious vegetarian and Filipino dishes among the many choices. It was so heartening to see the spirit of Easter, and the peace Christ brings, embodied amongst us as several generations talked and celebrated together over a shared meal, before some of the children carried on the Vigil into the night with a sleepover in the centre where there was, I gather, a few hours of sleep before Easter Sunday!

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.

St George's Plant Fair

Our Plant Fair takes place on 20 April and we need your help. We're looking for donations for the raffle & book stall, for plants (including houseplants of all sizes, fruit, veg and flowers), unwanted garden paraphernalia and cakes for the cake stall. Cakes & plants should only be dropped off on the 19 or 20 April, but all other items please bring to church on the upcoming Sundays.

Patronal Festival

Our Patronal Festival for St George's will this year be celebrated on Sunday 21 April. The service will be an All-Age service with the children enacting the story of St George and the Dragon. As part of the celebration, we hope to host a patronal lunch in the centre. Those who would like to stay for lunch are asked to bring their own picnic to eat. Tea and coffee provided.

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) and be nominated to the PCC and other roles within the church. 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 details.

Candidates For The PCC

At the APCM on Sunday 19 May, we hope to elect new members to the PCC and Deanery Synod to join existing members. PCC members and Deanery Synod Representatives are trustees of church and work together with Fr Angus to promote the life and mission of St George's. If anyone feels called to join the PCC, please speak to Fr Angus, the Deputy Wardens, or a current member of the PCC.

Website: Those Buried At Whyke

As a mark of respect for the people buried in our churchyard, a website has been set up containing information about their lives: <https://www.whykeburials.com/>. You are invited to visit the site and enjoy it. The research is an ongoing project of the Friends of St Mary's Churchyard. It is very much a collaborative effort. If you have knowledge, photos, reminiscences etc. about anyone

buried here, you are warmly encouraged to share them through the contact form on the website.

Help Needed

Church cleaning: Does anyone have a spare hour once a month to help clean the church? The cleaning can usually be done on a day and at a time to suit you, together with 1 or 2 other people. It is mostly hoovering, dusting and sweeping. All materials are supplied. **Hospitality:** Also we are looking for more people to join the tea and coffee rota serving refreshments after the Sunday service. A great time to meet and talk to people. If you can help with either of these roles please speak to Jill Merry.

Confirmation For Adults and Older Children

The Deanery Confirmation service this year will be held at the Cathedral on 24 July at 7pm. There will be two sets of confirmation classes at St George's, one for adults and one for children who are 13 years old or older. These are open to anyone who wants to be confirmed and, indeed, baptised. For the children's confirmation classes, there is a plan also to have a day out. Do speak to Fr Angus if you are interested.

First Communion Classes

First Communion Classes this year will run in June and July. They are open to any child who is baptised and between 7 and 12 years old. Any child who is not baptised is also welcome to join the classes. The children would be admitted to communion and baptised, if necessary, at the All-Age Eucharist on 21 July. Please ask Fr Angus or Zara for more details.

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.

THIS WEEK

SERVICES

Third Sunday of Easter 14 April

10:00am Choral Mass with Healing Ministry (J-Team)

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

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

Patronal Festival 21 April

10:00am All-Age Eucharist

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 15 April 10:30-12pm