

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

HARVEST FESTIVAL

13 October 2024



Dear friends,

The yearly Harvest Festival is not simply a nod to bygone traditions of our agricultural past. Harvest recalls us to how the food which sustains life is fruit of the earth and the work of human hands. For Christians, who affirm God as the creator and sustainer of all things that exist, who calls everything into being out of nothing by giving a share of his being, the harvest festival rests on the conviction that the things that sustain life are the loving gift of God. And as gift, they should be shared with thanksgiving for the common good of all to the glory of God who is the ultimate giver of gifts. This is more than just a moral injunction. It requires seeing and treating the earth's fruits not as raw material for our utilitarian exploitation and commercialisation, nor as mere produces of chance or the impersonal forces of physics and evolution, but as a matter of loving, life-giving gift. Human beings too, our very existence, nature, and freedom, are made by and for gift. We live out this truth of our humanity, however, only when we share the goods of the earth, labour, and culture as gifts for the sake of building up communities that foster sustainable development for all, especially the most vulnerable. The 17th Century Anglican poet, Thomas Traherne, captures this sense of harvest in his poetry: *You never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars: and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world, and more than so, because men are in it who are every one sole heirs as well as you. Till you can sing and rejoice and delight in God, as misers do in gold, and Kings in sceptres, you never enjoy the world. Till your spirit filleth the whole world, and the stars are your jewels; till you are as familiar with the ways of God in all Ages as with your walk and table: till you are intimately acquainted with that shady nothing out of which the world was made: till you love men so as to desire their happiness, with a thirst equal to the zeal of your own: till you delight in God for being good to all: you never enjoy the world.*

With my prayers and blessings,

Fr Angus

DONATE TO ST GEORGE'S

The life and mission of St George's are entirely dependent 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: Set up a standing order, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>). Contact the treasurer for details.

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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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 at St George's. Please ask the Rector or Wardens.

COME AND SING!

Our choir sings at the main services and practises once a week. You are welcome to come along. Contact Susan Howell Evans.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER: newsletterwhyke@outlook.com

Please submit by Thursday

PARISH NOTICES

Harvest Food Donations For Food Bank

For our Harvest Festival today, we are asking for donations for the Foodbank, particularly tinned and dried food, nappies and toiletries. Donations will be blessed during the service and picked up by the Foodbank on Monday. Thank you for your generosity.

Chichester Combined Church Recording Group

It is with immense gratitude that we welcome today the Recording Group to our Harvest Festival. The Recording Group, co-ordinated by Jennifer Woolfrey, have been visiting St George's since before the Covid lockdowns. The Group will formally present the fruits of their labour in a bound volume which includes photographs, detailed descriptions and the history of the fittings and furnishings of the interior of the church. This be an invaluable record.

Blessing Churchyard Lawnmower At Harvest

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously towards the new lawnmower for the churchyard. The full cost of the mower was met by your donations. As part of our harvest festival celebration, Fr Angus will bless the lawn mower during the service.

Happy Café Breakfast

A huge thank you to Louise Gibbon for organising last week's breakfast. Also thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who came. The food was well received, and people were asking for the date of the next breakfast! The sum of £206.90 was raised towards church funds.

All-Souls Service

Our All-Souls Choral Mass, in which we commemorate our loved ones who have died, will be held on 2 November at 6:30pm. There is a list in church for anyone to add names to be read out during the service. If you prefer, you can contact the parish office on 01243 782885 or stgeorges@whyke.info.

Halloween Party For Families

On Sunday 3 November 2pm-3:30pm, there will be a Halloween Party for families at St George's. The event will look at the Christian roots of Halloween in the feasts of All Souls and All Saints. It will include activities and crafts in the centre and a time of prayer in the church to remember loved ones who have died. Do also come dressed up in your best Halloween costume. There will be a prize for the best fancy dress. Refreshments are provided. There is a suggested donation of £3.50 per family. If you would like to read more about Halloween from a Christian perspective, you can read Fr Angus' reflection [here](#) or go to the Church of England [website](#). Copies are available in the church too.

West Sussex Council Council Recycling News

WSCC is running a Recycle Week between 14 and 20 October. To find out more about the initiatives being

run please do to the council [website](#) or sign up to their [newsletter](#).

Invitation To Afternoon Tea At Lakeview Grange
Lakeview care home on Whyke Road has invited parishioners at St George's to a complimentary Afternoon Tea on 22 October at 3pm. If you would like to come, please sign up on the sheet in church.

Secondary School Admissions

If you require a Church Support Form to be filled in to support a school application, do contact Fr Angus. For Bishop Luffa this will need to be completed in a face-to-face meeting with Fr Angus. Please email him [to book a time to meet any day after 13 October](#).

Special Services

2 Nov All Souls Service, 6:30pm

Upcoming Events

3 Nov Halloween Party, 2pm.

Rumboldswyke Children's Choir (RCC)

RCC is based at St George's church and open to all children from year 1 upwards. The runs every Tuesday during term time from 4.30pm. Please email music@whyke.info if your child wish to join.

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. You can also 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.

THIS WEEK

SERVICES

Harvest Festival 13 October

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

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Monday-Thursday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

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

9:30am Thursday

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

21st Sunday after Trinity 20 October

10:00am All-Age Eucharist

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 14 October 10:30-12 noon