

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

29 December 2024



Dear friends,

The collect for this Sunday is a treasure of the ancient Church. It offers a pithy statement of our faith: 'Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity....' The very destiny of our nature is to share in the fullness of God's own life! A life of joyful, creative, self-giving, loving communion! Such a destiny leads us to sing, dance, seek justice, celebrate beauty, defend love, make art, work for peace, foster life-giving culture, pursue all that makes for a more humane world full of depth, awe, and wonder. The American avant-garde poet, e e cummings, captures something of all this in his "Christmas Poem":

from spiralling ecstatically this

proud nowhere of earth's most prodigious night
blossoms a newborn babe: around him, eyes
— gifted with ever keener appetite
than mere unmiracle can quite appease —
humbly in their imagined bodies kneel
(over time space doom dream while floats the whole

perhapsless mystery of paradise)

mind without soul may blast some universe
to might have been, and stop ten thousand stars
but not one heartbeat of this child; nor shall
even prevail a million questionings
against the silence of his mother's smile

— whose only secret all creation sings

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.

PARISH OFFICE

01243 782885

stgeorges@whyke.info

RECTOR

Fr Angus Reid

01243 533112

frangusreid@outlook.com

Rest day on Friday

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Susan Howell Evans

she1549@yahoo.co.uk

YOUTH WORKER

Zara Cross

zaracross2011@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDEN

Sam Kelly

drsamkelly@gmail.com

DEPUTY WARDENS

Mark Arnold

mmarnold@btinternet.com

Jill Merry

merryjill@btinternet.com

Mike Mower

mikemower@outlook.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Ginnie Wyllie

safeguarding@whyke.info

TREASURER

Alison Davis

acd_123@live.co.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Mary Howick

mary.howick@sky.com

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.

PARISH NOTICES

Fr Angus On Leave

Fr Angus is on leave from Thursday 26 December until 4 January. For any pastoral emergencies during this period, please contact the Rural Dean, Fr Paul Doick, rector@stpaulschichester.org or Archdeacon Luke (archchichester@chichester.anglican.org). Fr Luke will be taking the Sunday service today.

No Services During the Week

There will be no Meditation, Morning Prayer or Mid-Week Masses during the Christmas weeks up to the Feast of Epiphany on 5 January. Weekday services will resume as normal from 6 January.

No J Team or Tots

The J-Team are now on a well-deserved Christmas break and will return on 5 January. St George's Tots is always on a break and will be back on 6 January.

Car Park Closed 9-11 January

We are having the large potholes in the car park filled in the new year. The contractors will be working Friday 10 – Saturday 11 January and we will keep the car park clear and closed from the afternoon of Thursday 9 January.

UK Harvest Back 17 January

UK Harvest who run the community food hub at St George's will be taking a break over Christmas. The next one to be held will be on Friday 17 January 10-11am. The hubs seek to battle both food waste and food poverty. Bring along a carrier bag and fill it with the food on offer. There is a suggested £5 donation, no referral is needed.

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 to 4.30pm. Please email music@whyke.info if your child wishes 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 about how to get involved, 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

1st Sunday of Christmas 29 December

10:00am Sung Mass (no J-team)

Feast of the Epiphany 5 January

10:00am Choral Mass (J-team)

EVENTS

No Events