

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

5 January 2025



Dear friends,

Following on from last week's poem, I would like to share with you the last two verses from George Mackay Brown's poem 'Epiphany Poem':

The three kings / Met under a dry star. / There, at midnight, / The star began its singing.

The three kings / Suffering salt, snow, skulls. / They suffered the silence / Before the first word.

The poem starts with three verses, each focused on one of the traditionally-numbered three kings. Each king is portrayed as being on a journey and coming up against an insurmountable obstacle that makes them all but give up their endeavours – the endless salty waters of the ocean, the inhospitable freezing snow, the bony finality of death. As Rowan Williams comments on this poem, the final two verses echo those spiritual writings that talk of the darkness which cannot get any darker but when things start to change, or of the deep silence that is necessary for God's word to be born in us. 'The image,' says Williams, 'is of grace appearing when we have come to the end of the resources we know, understand, and in some degree control. Coming to the point of ultimate frustration with the human search for meaning...is what frees us, under the dry, cold and distant presence of the star, to hear what we had not imagined.' The ending of this search 'in a despair about going further is bound up with the necessity of a letting go of our fantasies of ever-expanding dominance over our environment.' The seemingly intractable obstacles must, rather, become lodestars that lead us into a greater perspective which is the death of all our narrow aspirations. 'What the Epiphany discovery is,' continues Williams, 'has something to do with the Nativity or Incarnation as the start of a new creation. It is a passage between worlds, but ultimately a passage between chaos – the chaos of human achievement and power – and the new condition of openness in which God can be heard, and so life can be sustained.'

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.paritygiving.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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LAKEVIEW GRANGE CARE HOME

COMMUNITY EVENTS

93-94 Whyke Road, Chichester

15 Jan 2-3pm **Talk on Macular Degeneration**

By Stella Black from The Macular Society. An opportunity to understand the illness and to ask questions.

17 Jan 11:30-12:30pm **'The Day In The Life Of A Victorian Mudlark'**

A talk delivered by author, Kate Wiseman.

22 Jan 2:30-3:30pm **The Cat And Rabbit Rescue Centre**

There will be the opportunity to talk about the excellent work they do in the community. Pet food donations would be gratefully received.

28 Jan 2-3:30pm **Dementia Carers Support Group**

Providing a safe environment to talk about Dementia comfortably with others in similar circumstances.

To book a place call Jackie Cridlin on 01243 212 429 or email lakeview.haa@cinnamoncc.com

PARISH NOTICES

J Team and Tots Are Back

The J-Team children's church is back this Sunday and St George's Tots starts again 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, have been 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.

Year Of Faith – Deanery Celebration

Services celebrating the history and Christian faith in each deanery will be held throughout the Diocese during January and February 2025. The Chichester Deanery service will take place on Thursday 27 February at 7:30pm at St Paul's Church, Chichester, and will be led by Bishop Martin and Bishop Ruth. Please do come along and show support for the Year of Faith. More information about other events can be found here: <https://celebratingfaith.co.uk/>

Preparation Of A New Electoral Roll

As most of you will know, the Church Electoral Roll is the register of all those who live in the parish and/or regularly attend St George's and have applied to join the Roll. Being on the Roll is a way of actively helping to shape the future of the church. It allows you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It also means you can stand for election to the PCC (Parochial Church Council comprised of the trustees of the church), to be a Churchwarden, and a member of Deanery Synod. Most years the existing Roll is revised, but every six years every parish church is legally required to create an entirely new Roll must be created. 2025 is one of these years. This means

that everyone will need to fill in an application form to be included on the Roll. Notices and forms will be made available in church in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please talk to Lesley Valerio, our Electoral Roll Officer.

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

Feast of the Epiphany 5 January

10:00am Choral Parish 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

Baptism of Christ 12 January

10:00am Choral Parish Mass (with J Team)

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 6 January 10:30am-12pm