



## Sunday 3rd December 2023

### A Note From **Your Vicar**

Week by week I find myself gobsmacked (or a more polite term) at the amazing work at this place. Although I am the leader when I see the contributions that people make and bring, I often have a moment of quiet amazement, where I just stop and admire. This last week it was the quality of the music in the 11.00 that left me stunned. People serve God and neighbour using their gifts and skills.

One of my highlights from last year was seeing the Christmas Fayre going full throttle. It's often the little moments that get me. The surgeon helping to erect gazebos, the surreptitious passing me of another glass of mulled wine (everybody seems to want me to have more drink!), the joy of the bellringers welcoming people to the tower to chime bells that have been in use since Henry VIII, the wonder of the children in the grotto and the little girl dancing in delight at the Frozen anthem, 'Let it Go' right at the end.

This Saturday is our Christmas Fayre. It will be an extravaganza. Music, food, stalls and Father Christmas; all in one afternoon and it will be filled with those 'little moments' of joy, kindness and service. We are doing more and more events here at St Georges but this is easily the biggest of the year. Last year over 400 people attended and we raised over £2000. The goal of this event is twofold. Firstly, we raise funds that go back into improving things for next year – last year's funds have paid for some

### ST GEORGE'S

shiny gazebos this year! When people give to St Georges it goes back into improving the life of the community. Secondly, to build this community up. It's wonderful when people from all the congregations and community groups pitch in to help. The men's shed put stuff up or hang things down, the scouts set fire to things, the musicians and technicians make it so we can hear and sing. The community comes together. The world situation might be difficult in lots of ways but we can only control what we can control and here in this corner of Taunton, we can get together and make things wonderful; to bless and serve this place for this time.

I want to express my public thanks to those who've been getting things ready since before June – especially Hilary McK, Bryony, Bethan and Carmen. Here's to Saturday!  
God Bless

*Nick*



# St George's **News**

## **PARISH OFFICE UPDATE**

And WE'RE IN!!! Yes, we can barely believe it ourselves but we are indeed now back in the office and trying to get all organised and sorted (just a Christmas Fayre to get through first!!).

There is also still some work to be completed outside - handrails, rendering, doorbells etc but the end really and truly is in sight and we are beyond thrilled with the results. It really feels like a professional office and now means that all the staff team can fit in and work together easily in the space - it really has been transformed!

Huge thanks to Paul Cole again for all his hard work, dedication and patience and of course, to those of you who so kindly and generously donated to the project. I know it was not what you would call a "sexy" project to give money to but please know that the new set up will really change things and the Parish office will be a hub for the Community to come to and feel welcomed. It shows the community we are outward facing and that is so important!

We are truly thankful to you.

*Bethan*

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING....**

Now at the time of writing, the Christmas Fayre is still a couple of days away and we are praying that it will have gone smoothly and we will all have had a super time.

I am assuming that we will all be exhausted but happy with what we've achieved.

One thing I do know that we will definitely be feeling is truly thankful to all who came along and helped us. We can not do these things without people willing to step forward and help - and the more our community can see how we work as a team the more chance we may have to show people what Church is about - not the building, but the people! So THANK YOU all our wonderful Volunteers!

Now it means our focus can shift onto....more Christmas!!

Hopefully you may have spotted that our Christmas Postcards are here and with grateful thanks to the Scouts, they have been delivered across the Parish so hopefully we will be joined by more from the Community for the services and events we have coming up. (Also see the Poster at the end of this NewsBoard!)

Do pick up some Christmas postcards for yourself and why not hand one to a friend!

## **THE WEEK** AHEAD

### **Sunday 3rd December**

**9.30am** Holy Communion in Church

**11.00am** Worship Service in Hall

### **Monday 4th November**

**10.00am Buggy Buddies**

For more information contact:

**families@stgchurch.co.uk**

**7.30pm Ladies Meal at Vivary** - if you have booked on - we'll see you there! Any queries please contact Jenny Norman or Kate Taylor

**7.30pm Mens Shed** - they're back in their shed this Monday!

### **Tuesday 5th December**

**2.30pm Christmas Crafts - Angels**

For further details contact Kate Taylor

### **Wednesday 6th December**

**9.30am Stay and Play** - our Baby and Toddler group in Church Hall. £2 per family

**12.30pm Wednesday Prayer** in our Prayer Shed. For more information contact the Parish Office

**6.30pm Community Carols** Come and join us on a walk around Wilton as we make stops and sing Carols in the community!

### **Thursday 7th December**

**12.00pm SOUP** - our new Cafe to come, have a bowl of soup and a natter. For more information email [rob@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:rob@stgchurch.co.uk)

---

## **FUTURE DATES TO POP IN YOUR DIARIES....**

### **WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER**

Christmas Buggy Crib Service

### **THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER**

Valley Cafe

### **SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER**

Christmas Carol Services

### **MONDAY 18th DECEMBER**

Gingerbread Houses - a daytime Christmas family event



**WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 6.30PM**

**THE TUK TUK WILL BE STOPPING AT:**

St George's Church  
Elizabeth House  
The Fairway's  
Churchill Way  
Blagdon Village  
Vivary Arms

Scan the QR Code for  
Tuk Tuk Route Map



## TUK TUK CAROLING AROUND THE PARISH

We're back this year with not one but TWO Tuk Tuk Christmas Carols On The Move this year. We'll be dashing around the Parish with some mulled wine and hot chocolate and singing a carol wherever we stop.

This Wednesday, we'll meet at the church at 6.30pm and then we plan to stop at the places listed on the above poster.

Do come and join us as it was such good fun last year as we warbled away with our wine. Even if it's to just marvel at our Tuk Tuk "bombing" along the streets of Wilton!

And if you live in any of those streets, do let your neighbours know to come out and join in!

## A 5\* TUKTUK AT YOUR SERVICE

Well would you believe it but our little TukTuk has only gone and passed its Food Hygiene certificate with a flying 5 Stars!!

Huge thanks to Rob for working hard on this and making it sparkle ready for inspection (even with a bird pooping on it 5 minutes before!!)

# VOLUNTEERS AREA

## COME AND JOIN US!!!

By serving on team, you don't just perform a task, you build life together and fulfilling the call of Jesus to love one another. Here are some teams you can join or may be looking for some additional hands on deck!

## COMMUNION ASSISTANT TEAM

Have you been a Communion Assistant in a previous Church? Would you like to serve in this team, especially at our 9.30am service? We would love for more to be a part of this really special ministry - one that feels a real privilege to be a part of. If you have done this before or would like to help serve in this way, please email us to let us know!

**office@stgchurch.co.uk**

## COFFEE TEAM

Come and join our Coffee team to provide the wake up, the calm or the energy by helping on the coffee team serving the church family with refreshments in between our services. Get in touch via email to

**rob@stgchurch.co.uk**

## SET UP TEAM

Join the 11am Hall Set up team - a very easy way to help give to church! Putting out tables and chairs before the service and helping to put away once the service has finished. It only takes half an hour, so do get in touch to join the team

**office@stgchurch.co.uk**

## WELCOME TEAM

We want everyone who comes along to St G's to feel welcome, to see what a great church family we are and to want to come back again! If you think you could be that welcoming face for either of our services, get in touch with either Peter Joyce (for the 9.30am) or Michael Hayes (for the 11am)

**joyce07@btinternet.com**

**mhhayes@outlook.com**

*\*All volunteers must complete St George's Safeguarding training and be DBS checked by our Safeguarding Officer prior to helping.*

And we also had an unexpected inspection of our Hall Kitchen (much to the despair of us all at the time!!). However, we are delighted to say that you will hopefully see the 5 STAR RATING for the Hall on Sunday....yep, we're a 5\* venue - from the Fridge, to the TukTuk and now the Hall kitchen - WooHoo!!

## PCC KEY MESSAGES

A fulsome PCC meeting last month included the following highlights;

- Chris Sampson presented his work as Worship Director so far and his vision for the year ahead. There was universal support and appreciation for the great achievements of the past year. Chris noted that he has aimed to ground worship in the life of community and prayer.
- Hilary Hayes presented a few options for a church weekend away and the PCC agreed to work towards a Lee Abbey visit in late 2024.
- The PCC agreed to improve the Scout Hut in order to make it suitable for serving refreshments in a cafe style environment. Plans include clearance, cleaning and painting and some work on the floor. The next stage is for a proposal to be worked on by the Standing Committee to get clear and budgeted proposals for the PCC's approval.
- Ian Pinder presented a financial update which indicated that the rates of Christian Giving are up 20% compared with Q3 2022.

## ORCHARD HOUSE

Orchard House will be delighted to accept gifts for parents and children who will be resident with them at Christmas.

We aim to donate eight bags containing the following: parent and child toiletries, baby essentials (not food), picture books, bibs, adult treats, flavoured tea bags, deodorants and feminine hygiene products.

If you would like to help us with these gift bags, please pop the items into the collection boxes or speak to Kate Taylor and Jenny Norman.

*Kate and Jenny*

The Besom Boxes deadline to donate is THIS SUNDAY. Do give if you can and pop them in the boxes at the back of church or under the Welcome Table at the 11. *Thank you!*

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL WORKSHOP

Come and make a Christmas Angel - a great Christmas decoration made from a book! A great gift or lovely to keep for yourself. It's on Tuesday 5th December in the Dunning Room at 2.30pm so do make a note of the date and pop it in your diary!



## MENS SHED

Those Men Sheds men left the Shed and headed down to what looked like another Shed....for a game of Skittles. A great evening was had by all! If you'd like to join the Mens Shed, do get in touch with the Office and we can pass your details onto Terry who coordinates all the fun of the Shed!





## GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

Yep, another date for your Christmas diary folks....more details and booking link will follow but to express an interest or find out more do contact **families@stgchurch.co.uk**. Sounds like a yummy good time!!

## AROUND TOWN in Taunton



### A Gospel Christmas 2023

Wellsprings Leisure Centre, Taunton, TA2 7QP  
Fri 22nd December 2023

A wonderful Christmas celebration features a 50-voice choir from across Taunton's churches. The entire evening is filled with gospel-style Christmas carols and is guaranteed to be a joyful family event.

With some of our St George's Church Family and led by the one and only Chris Sampson & Team! You really **DO NOT** want to miss this!

Individual ticket: £4 per person

Group Ticket: £15 per Family Ticket of 4, 5 and 6 persons (up to 2 adults and 4 children)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/taunton/wellsprings-leisure-centre/a-gospel-christmas-2023/eravgjq?fbclid=IwAR2MmXHwlcVRLeVIXiPQWPdp4xY1QHRxNf3Koha3uWUagA4o4YJC56TK9As>

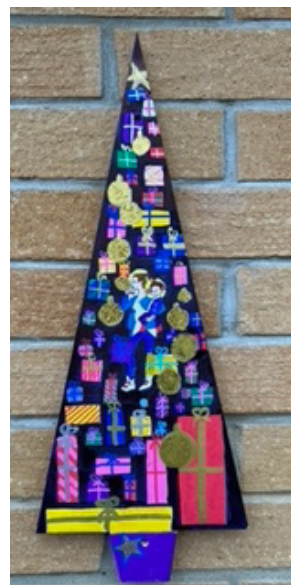


**Taunton Trails** launches TODAY (Fri 1st Dec) at the Visit Taunton centre.

Download and follow the fabulous map, discover over 50 painted trees by local artists, and Arts Hub Taunton Art Groups - children, young people & adults...

Use the QR code on the tree tags to find out who has painted each tree...

You may even find a tree painted by one of our Church family...can you find it and who is it?



# ST GEORGE'S GIVING

- If you have started coming to St George's regularly, or have been coming for some time but haven't yet done so, may I encourage you to **join our committed Christian Giving scheme** by completing a pledge form and possibly a standing order form. Just email Robin on [giving@stchurch.co.uk](mailto:giving@stchurch.co.uk) to find out how you can begin to give to the work of St George's
- If you pay income tax, and have not already done so, please consider **Gift Aiding your giving**
- If you are putting your affairs in order and are considering making a will or revising an existing one, would you like to remember **St George's in your will?** It can make a huge difference to us.
- Another way to donate to the work of St George's, is via our **Give A Little page** which you can access on our website, Alternatively you can donate directly into our bank account using the following information and putting 'Donation' reference:  
Account Name: **St George's Wilton Stewardship**  
Account No: **59935227**  
Sort Code: **60-80-06**

*Thank you so much!*

## Church Weekend Away

Lee Abbey is a community-run Christian Centre where we can go as a church for a weekend of fun, relaxation and spiritual renewal.

Set on the beautiful North Devon coast, it is a lovely house and setting to share a weekend with others from St. George's. Comfortable rooms and wonderful food help to guarantee a special weekend together.

We have booked to go **from teatime on Friday 25th to after lunch on Sunday 27th October 2024.**

Initially we have been allocated 41 places so **early booking is needed.**

If you are interested please **pick up a form either from in church or in the Church Hall.**

Hilary McKegney and Hilary Hayes are the points of contact for any further information. There is a deadline to return your forms to them by **21st January 2024.**

*Hilary Hayes and Hilary McKegney*

## *In Loving Memory*

*We remember*

**Hilary Dodman, George Pye,  
John Wilkinson, Rosemary  
Williams, Dennis Bowler  
and Pete McKegney**

*and pray that you would bless  
those who mourn with the  
comfort of your love that they  
may face each new day with  
hope and the certainty that  
nothing can destroy the good  
that has been given.*

*May their memories become  
joyful, their days enriched  
with friendship, and their lives  
encircled by your love.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*



## THURSDAYS

*In Term Time*

---

### 12.00PM-2.00PM

---

**ST GEORGE'S  
CHURCH HALL**

[www.stgchurch.co.uk](http://www.stgchurch.co.uk)

# CHARITY COLLECTION at St G's

The Church Mission Society is a British Anglican Mission Society working with Christians around the world. Founded in 1799 by William Wilberforce, Henry Thornton and Thomas Babington, CMS has attracted over nine thousand men and women to serve as mission partners during its 200+ year history.



CMS are a community on a journey of rediscovering God's mission together. They are called to make disciples of Jesus where you might not expect to find them, and to see those disciples make more disciples until communities of people committed to following the way of Jesus are formed.

CMS works in different ways in different contexts, sending and supporting mission partners to areas of this country and all over the world where their particular gifts can best develop the mission of that community. Some are medical mission partners, some are engaged in teaching future leaders of Churches and all are working, with others, to bring God's word to that community. The members of St George's are pleased to join with them in their work.

**Christmas Buggy Crib Service**  
Wed 13th Dec 2023 @10am

St G's Families invites all Parents / Carers and their little ones age 0-5 to an short informal Crib service. Exploring the Nativity story through crafts, sensory activities, storytelling and Christmas songs. Festive refreshments in the church hall afterwards!

Run by Mossy Church Stay & Play, Buggy Buddies and Kidson!

The poster features a central illustration of a nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and three wise men, surrounded by stars and a blue night sky. The text is in a mix of blue and black fonts, with the title in a large, elegant script.

JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL

ST GEORGE'S  
**Carols By Candlelight Service**

With favourite Christmas Carols and Readings  
**Sunday 17th December 6pm**

ST GEORGE'S WILTON,  
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

The poster has a dark background with warm, glowing bokeh lights. A single lit candle is visible on the right side. The text is in white and yellow, with the title in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

SING CAROLS AND MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTINGLE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

ST GEORGE'S  
**Christingle Services**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**2.30PM AND 4PM**

ST GEORGE'S WILTON  
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

The poster features a close-up of a hand holding a lit Christingle, which is an orange with various items attached to it. The background is dark and blurry. The text is in white and yellow, with the title in a large, elegant script.

A TRADITIONAL COMMUNION SERVICE

ST GEORGE'S  
**Midnight Communion**

Christmas Eve  
11.30pm

ST GEORGE'S WILTON  
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

The poster has a dark, starry background with a subtle image of a church silhouette. The text is in white, with the title in a large, elegant script.

# A Warm Welcome This Christmas!

**COMMUNITY CAROLS & TUKTUK ON THE MOVE**  
**WEDNESDAY 6th AND 13th DECEMBER 6.30pm**  
Sing Christmas Carols around Wilton & Sherford together

**CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 11am**

Join us for our Sunday worship with contemporary Carols in our Church Hall

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**  
**SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 6pm**

Traditional Christmas Carols and Readings

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICES**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE 2.30pm and 4.00pm**

Come and make your own Christingle and sing some carols this Christmas Eve

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm**  
Traditional Christmas Carols and Readings

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY 10am**  
A short family service followed by Holy Communion



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WILTON, FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT  
[www.stgchurch.co.uk](http://www.stgchurch.co.uk) Tel: 01823 284253 [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)

# Who's **WHO**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ANY OF OUR TEAM, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE OR GET IN TOUCH VIA EMAIL

## **Rev'd Dr Nick Griffin**

Tel: 01823 774128

Email: [nick@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:nick@stgchurch.co.uk)

Day Off: Fridays

## **Churchwardens**

Peter Joyce 07761 407433

Di Vickery 07598 319163

## **Curate**

Rev'd Rob Cromwell

Tel: 07889 452524

Email: [rob@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:rob@stgchurch.co.uk)

Day Off: Fridays

## **Associate Minister**

Rev'd Richard Kelley

Email: [richard@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:richard@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Worship Director**

Chris Sampson

Email: [chris@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:chris@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Reader**

Kate Taylor

Email: [kate21taylor@icloud.com](mailto:kate21taylor@icloud.com)

## **Parish Administrator**

Bethan Baigent

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 10-1pm

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Jenny Norman

Email: [safeguarding@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **PCC Reps**

Matt Norman

Paul Cole

Mary Carson

Pete Underwood

Laura Willetts

Katie Lanchbury

## **Families Coordinator**

If you would like to find out more about what we have on for families here at St G's

Email [families@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:families@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Pastoral Care Coordinator**

Hilary McKegney

Email [pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Digital and Technology Coordinator**

Matt Norman

Email: [matt@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:matt@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Small Groups Coordinator**

Carmen Cromwell

Email: [carmen@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:carmen@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Community Fridge Coordinator**

Mervyn Roberts

Email: [fridge@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:fridge@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Hospitality Coordinator**

Rob Cromwell

Email: [rob@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:rob@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Prayer Circle**

To be in contact for confidential prayer amongst our Prayer Circle email:

[prayer@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:prayer@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Christian Giving**

Robin Stamp

Email: [giving@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:giving@stgchurch.co.uk)

## **Electoral Roll Officer**

Laurie Jeffery

Email: [laurie.jeffery@sky.com](mailto:laurie.jeffery@sky.com)

## **Deanery Synod Reps**

Hilary Hayes

Hilary McKegney