



Sunday 19th March 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / MOTHERING SUNDAY



A Note From

Your Vicar

The Law of Bicycle Sheds.

It's easier to get a nuclear reactor approved than a bike shed. I have no idea how a nuclear reactor works – something to do with rods in water producing steam and turbines and then afterwards clearing up is a bit tricky – but beyond that I haven't got the foggiest idea. And nor do most people, including those who often have some kind of approval or responsibility for these things. Whereas a bike shed... well the REAL question is what colour should it be!

This argument is taken from Parkinson's law of triviality which states that argument that people within an organization commonly or typically give disproportionate weight to trivial issues that are minor but easily graspable, whereas complex but important topics get little weight and therefore time. If you've ever worked in an office and had to deal with the guardians of a stationery cupboard or a mess officer in the military or dare I say it, BT, then I think you know what I'm talking about.

The church is not immune to this problem. I vividly remember Norman telling me of a PCC meeting which sailed through important questions of mission and worship and spent 2 hours discussing the grass cutting!

In the gospels, Jesus always cuts through the nonsense.

Whenever someone tries to give him a rubbish excuse or blag then he cuts through.

Take the woman at the well in John 4 who tries to talk about the proper location for the Temple, nope says Jesus – let's talk about God not geography. Or the disciple terrified of running out of food for the gathered, nope says Jesus, you find them something to eat.

Sometimes I wonder if as a vicar I spoke more like Jesus, I'd get kicked out of the Church of England... Steve Jobs said that the key to achievement is focus. And focus is achieved not by saying 'yes' but by staying 'no'. Keeping the main thing, the main thing.

The vision for St Georges is to grow in spirit. That means our main focus as a community is to get to know God better through worship, through prayer, study and time together. The second is to grow in number and this means we want to reach out and keep on reaching out and this is where our multitude of different outreach projects come in. We want to be more and more of a blessing to this community.

As this growing broadsheet testifies we are doing more. Annnnnnnnd more is on the way. But the question for any of these initiatives is how do they help us i) grow in spirit ii) grow in number.

God bless,
Nick

St George's **News**

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

ST GEORGE'S COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT

Our Community Fridge project is slowly but surely starting to move forward. It was great to have an opportunity to visit our nearest Community Fridge recently over in Monkton Heathfield. They were really helpful and gave us some really good advice on running a Community Fridge.

If you attended the last Community Fridge meeting, please can you email Bethan in the Church Office to let her know and if you are someone who would be interested in helping us to make this project come to life whether helping with the running of it, collecting food supplies, talking to potential suppliers, promotion, helping with maintenance.

It would be great to have a good team supporting this project and all help will be much appreciated.

Email office@stgchurch.co.uk



Are you a First Aider with an upto date certificate? We are trying to get organised with our paperwork and training and wondered whether any of our Church family already hold a certificate before we book some First Aid training, . If you do, could you let the Church Office know and whether you would be happy for us to keep this information on file - *Thank You!*



LENT SOUP LUNCH IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

Do come along and support our Soup lunch this lent in aid of Christian Aid on **Thursday 30th March at 12.30pm**

We'll set up in the Dunning Room and serve some delicious homemade soup so come and get a bowl in return for donation no matter how big or small to Christian Aid. As our Helen Price says: *"The needs of the people Christian Aid supports are so great. We are so lucky in this country and cannot easily envisage what it is like to live as the people Christian Aid serves. Thank you for your help."* So pop the date in your diary and bring a friend!

Easter Lillies

The notice is up in the church porch should you wish to have an Easter Lily in loving memory of a loved one this Easter time in church for a donation of £4.00

Payment should be made to us via BACS using the following information and putting 'Easter Lillies' as the reference

In Loving Memory this Easter





ST GEORGE'S

ST GEORGE'S WILTON BUILDING PROJECTS

PHASE
ONE

Target
£30k

The Parish Office

BUILDING PROJECTS - PHASE ONE - THE PARISH OFFICE

Last Sunday, Paul Cole introduced the first phase of our building project that will enable us to grow in spirit and in number.

Phase one focusses on improving the functions of the office by making it more physically accessible and shifting the entrance to make a lobby area. Our exciting journey of growth in the last year has revealed how important communication is to the life of the church. The office is a central part of that work and keeps the whole ministry of St George's working. Our staff team has grown with a worship director alongside our administrator and the arrival of our new curate Rob Cromwell (only 3 months away!) means that we need to make this space work efficiently.

The current layout is dangerous to access, impossible for anything with wheels and means that Bethan is frequently interrupted throughout the day.

This project is called phase one because we anticipate renewing sections of our hall and church buildings to help them reflect our growing and active community of faith latterly. But this initial project helps us build for growth, as we increase staffing capacity to facilitate and care for the anticipated growth.

As Chris said to us last week, we've doubled in a year...who knows where we'll be in another year!

This week our socks were knocked off as we've already received generous donations taking us to a quarter of the way to our target of 30k! Praise God and hallelujah! Thank you!

If you would like to contribute to this project, please make cheques to St George's Wilton or pay direct online with a reference of Building Project using Name: St George's Wilton A/C: 29750970 Sort Code: 60-80-06.

Lastly if you can gift-aid it helps enormously! of **Building Project** using the following information :
A/C Name: **St George's Wilton** A/C No: **29750970**
Sort Code **60-80-06**

Thank you!

Happy
Birthday
Ian

Happy Birthday to Ian Carson who has celebrated a BIG Birthday this week...we won't divulge his age....but it begins with an 8....

FAMILIES at St G's

OUR FAMILY TEAMS NEED HELP

- Buggy Buddies
- Kids@11/Youth@11
- Mossy Church
- Stay and Play

*Being on our teams is fun and fulfilling and is **not forever** just for now*

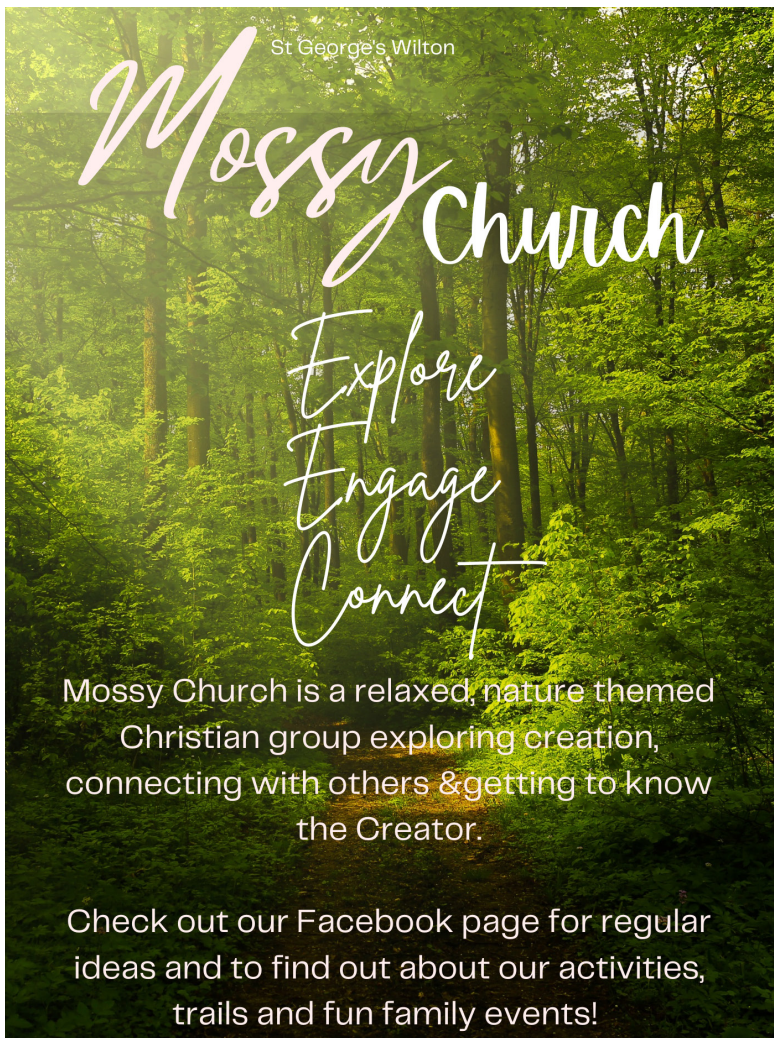


Stay & Play Buggy Buddies Mossy Church together bring you...

EASTER BUGGY SERVICE

Wed 29th March at 10am
St George's Wilton

St G's Families invites all Parents / Carers and their little ones age 0-5 to a short informal service in St George's Church. Exploring the Easter story through crafts, sensory activities, storytelling and songs followed by refreshments in the church hall afterwards!
For more information email office@stgchurch.co.uk



St George's Wilton

Mossy Church

Explore
Engage
Connect

Mossy Church is a relaxed, nature themed Christian group exploring creation, connecting with others & getting to know the Creator.

Check out our Facebook page for regular ideas and to find out about our activities, trails and fun family events!

There are so many wonderful groups for families from bump and now right the way up to bringing you our Youth@11 for our teens starting soon.

Our Families Teams are joining together to put together an Easter Buggy Service...and that's Buggy not bunny! It will be a super relaxed, short service designed especially with 0-5's in mind making lots of different toddler friendly crafts, sensory play, songs, storytime and an egg hunt too! Free refreshments & toy time in the church hall afterwards. No need to book, just turn up at 10!



ST GEORGE'S WILTON

buggy buddies

A relaxed walking group

fresh air
fitness
friendship
...and free!

RUN BY A FRIENDLY TEAM FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF BUMPS, BABIES AND TODDLERS

walk
natter
songs
stories
coffee

To find out more email FAMILIES@STGCHURCH.CO.UK

Term Time Mondays at 10am
MEET IN ST GEORGE'S CHURCHYARD

Buggy Buddies is our relaxed buggy walking group for parents/carers with little ones giving Mums a chance to meet new friends and to have someone to chat with whilst being out and about in the fresh air. We meet outside St G's church on Mondays @ 10am during term time.

It's such a lovely group and if you think you may enjoy coming along as a helper to take a walk in the fresh air and chat with the Mums, then do get in touch with families@stgchurch.co.uk as we'd love to have you onboard.

At **Mossy Church**, we put on events frequently throughout the year for children of all ages. Each event is themed and has a different focus, all connecting and reflecting on God's creation.

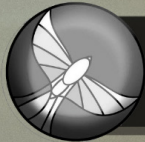
We need people to step forward to help us on this team in order to keep offering this terrific ministry, so to find out more please get in touch!

WORSHIP at St G's

REHEARSE TOGETHER Thurs 30th March 7.30pm
SING TOGETHER Maundy Thursday 6.30pm

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

COME SING



Email chris@stgchurch.co.uk
for more information

A town-wide Prayer & Worship
gathering every Tuesday &
Sunday nights in Taunton

Every Sunday 7.30pm

Sunday evening is Pursuits weekly worship and prayer gathering. The evenings are led by different teams of musicians and singers and prayer leaders each week. They often have 5-10 different churches represented on the worship and prayer teams on any particular Sunday. Pursuit supports and believes that God has called us to express a dimension of life and community together as the wider church.

Do come along for and join us for a time together.

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

Baptism and CONFIRMATION



COME AND SING

We are having our next **'Come and Sing Sunday'** on **Maundy Thursday** and we would love you to be a part of it.

This will be a **Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on Thursday 6th April.**

We shall rehearse together on **Thursday 30th March** upstairs in the church hall and then we will sing together at the Maundy Thursday service.

It's not necessary to read music or to wear a robe, just a heart for worship.

There will be audio files available to help learn the music. Have a chat with Chris Sampson (or email chris@stgchurch.co.uk) for more info or just come along!

If you're usually part of the 11am service or you just want to join a choir you are so very welcome to come and join us!

SUNDAY NIGHTS 7.30pm

PURSUIT

One thing I ask... Ps27:4

@ North Street Church, Taunton

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

This May there is an opportunity to get baptised and/or confirmed with the Bishop of Bath and Wells in St Georges Church on **Thursday 11th May at 7.00pm**

We'll be hiring a baptismal pool for full immersion baptism so if you haven't been baptised and you are following the Lord, get in touch!

Confirmations are a way of affirming the faith that you hold. If you're thinking about ordination then you'll need to get confirmed but it is primarily a way of saying publicly that you belong to this church

There will be a couple of classes together before the service. The classes will be at 7.30pm on **Thurs 20th April** and **Thurs 4th May** Email nick@stgchurch.co.uk to talk more about it or office@stgchurch.co.uk to sign up.

CHARITY COLLECTION at St G's

Our Charity Collection is for **AWAY FROM IT ALL - MOTHERS' UNION**

Many people think of Mothers' Union as being a group of 'old ladies' of the church having tea ! Nothing could be further from the truth. For well over 100 years this oldest mission society of the Anglican Church has shown " Christian care for families " both overseas and at home.

The "Away from it all " project provides an opportunity for a family, referred by a local church, "whose lives have met with Adversity" and are suffering stress to have a break away together. These opportunities have produced some amazing results.

We read recently, in the Bath and Wells Diocesan Newsletter, of one family who had benefited from this scheme. The father had left the army with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and this was effecting the family badly. Whilst on the holiday, he went to the evening reflection where he heard a passage from Matthew's Gospel: "Come all who are heavily laden and I will give you rest ". It was then that he first felt God's presence and, with help, he began to change.



He went back home and started going to Church regularly. This led to him becoming a committed Christian and his whole family have felt the benefit.

Another family have been on an A.F.I.A. break over this last half-term. This is our opportunity to contribute to this work in our Diocese and, maybe, to help some more families to turn their lives around.

Instead of having a collection plate for the Church, we chose charities each week that we collect for and donate to. We try to donate to local charities, Christian charities at home and abroad and any Emergency Appeal that is brought to our attention. If you would like to donate to these charities, do bring your money to the Sunday Service and pop into the donations basket. Thank you!

GIVE-A-LITTLE HELP-A-LOT

- 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 office@stchurch.co.uk for Bethan to send you the form to complete.
- If you pay income tax, and have not already done so, please consider **Gift Aiding your giving**.
- If after praying about it, you would like to change the amount you are already giving to St George's, you will need to fill out a **new pledgeform** and, if appropriate a new standing order form.

- 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**
Account No: **29750970**
Sort Code **60-80-06**

If you have any questions about your Giving or would like some help, please do not hesitate to either contact the Church office or to our Christian Giving Officer, Michael Small on hortoncross@gmail.com

Thank you so much!

Prayer Ministry

AT THE ELEVEN

Prayer Ministry is available after the eleven service if you would like prayer for yourself or another with one of our Prayer Ministry Team

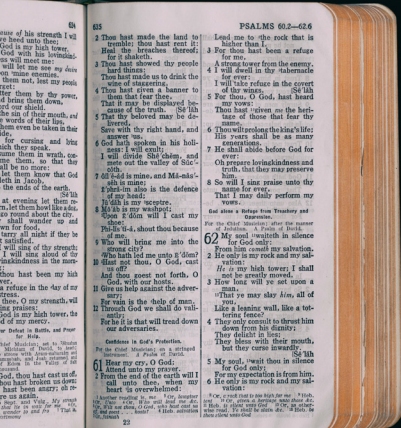
We remember
Jim Muggeridge and
Bishop Will Stewart

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.
Through Jesus Christ,
our lord.
Amen.



LECTIONARY READINGS

As we are going
through our Sermon
Series on Ephesians,
here are the
Lectionary Readings
for the 4th Sunday
of Lent
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9



The **Collect** Sun 19th March Fourth Sunday of **Lent**

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains
of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord
and Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Mothering Sunday **Collect**

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human
family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your
presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open on
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
between 10am - 1pm
Outside those hours please email
office@stgchurch.co.uk

Thank You!



AWAKEN Saturday Nights

DOUBT

MAR | 7 PM
25 | 10 PM

GUEST SPEAKER: NICK GRIFFIN

CANON ST CHURCH, TAUNTON

Awaken is a group from 15+ churches, passionate about gathering & encouraging young adults (18-30s) through worship & community. On AWAKEN worship nights they provide opportunities to meet God through worshipping Jesus and praying for each other along with drinking coffee, eating cookies and much more.

Join The Team!

YOUTH
@11

KIDS
@11

We'd love you to come and join our teams to help us with the St G families

Come and join the fun!

stories
snacks
songs
friends
crafts
toys

£2 PER FAMILY

WEDS
9.30-11.00
TERM TIME

ST GEORGE'S
WILTON
CHURCH HALL
FONS GEORGE
TAUNTON
TA1 3JT

COME AND JOIN OUR POPULAR, FRIENDLY
PLAYGROUP FOR BABIES & TODDLERS.
FRESH SNACKS FOR THEM AND AN EXCELLENT
COFFEE AND CAKE FOR YOU!

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
**Stay
and
Play**
BABY AND TODDLER



Coronation Concert

Mozart - Coronation Mass
Handel - Coronation Anthems
Stanford - Te Deum

Sat 1st April - 7:30pm
St James Church, Taunton
(next to the County Ground)



Tickets, information and much more at
www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 190175

Who's **WHO**

Rev'd Dr Nick Griffin

Tel: 01823 774128

Email: nick@stgchurch.co.uk

Day Off: Fridays

Churchwardens

Peter Joyce - 07761 407433

Hilary McKegney - 07460 471514

Worship Director

Chris Sampson - chris@stgchurch.co.uk

Parish Administrator

Bethan Baigent

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: office@stgchurch.co.uk

Office Hours: **Tues - Thurs 10-1pm**

Prayer Circle

Prayer Circle Coordinator - Lesley Ware

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

prayer@stgchurch.co.uk

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Coordinator - Hilary McKegney

If you or you know of someone who you are concerned about or think would benefit from some TLC, get in touch with our Pastoral Team on

pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk

Families

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

Small Groups Coordinator

Geoff Treasure

Tel: 01823 288504

Email: geoff.treasure@googlemail.com

Safeguarding Officer

Jenny Norman

Tel: 07841 903586

Email: safeguarding@stgchurch.co.uk

Christian Giving Officer

Michael Small

Tel: 01823 350722

Email: hortoncross@gmail.com

Electoral Roll Officer

Laurie Jeffery

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: laurie.jeffery@sky.com

Care Homes/Communion

Kate Taylor

Tel: 01823 619739

Email: kate21taylor@icloud.com

Readers

Peter Ball

Tel: 01823 331761

Email: p.g.ball@icloud.com

Kate Taylor

Tel: 01823 619739

Email: kate21taylor@icloud.com

OUR WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 19th March

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

11.00am Worship at 11

Monday 20th March

10.00am Buggy Buddies

12.15pm Mums Bible Study Group

Tuesday 21st March

10.00am Holy Communion

1.30pm Cosy Cafe

Wednesday 22nd March

VICAR'S DAY OFF

9.30am Stay and Play

1.00pm Wednesday Prayer and Worship

FUTURE DATES FOR DIARIES

Wed 29th March -

Easter Buggy Service

Thurs 30th March -

Lent Lunch for Christian Aid

Mon 3rd April -

Mossy Church Easter Event

Thurs 6th April

Maundy Thursday Service

Fri 7th April

Good Friday Service 10.30am followed by service at Market House at 12pm

An SCC Update from Cllr Dawn Johnson

Dear residents,

□ The budget for the new Somerset Council has been approved. Councillor Liz Leyshon, Deputy Leader and Executive Lead Member for Finance and Human Resources, said: "This has been the most difficult budget setting that any of us can remember. Inflation has been a huge pressure on the cost of providing council services and post-Covid we have seen rises in demand from Somerset residents for very complex support from both Adult Social Care and Children's Services."

The budget confirms an overall rise of 4.99% in the council's share of council tax, made up of a basic rise of 2.99 per cent in council tax and the 2 per cent adult social care levy. The increase is in line with Government policy and councils across the UK that have responsibility for Adult Social Care and Children's Services.



Cllr Dawn Johnson

□ Councillors have published the priorities for the new Council. The new Council Plan was approved unanimously at a meeting of the outgoing Somerset County Council, whose councillors will form the new Somerset Council on the 1st April 2023. The Somerset Council Plan highlights four key priorities. A further Business Plan, outlining how the Council will deliver services in support of these priorities, will be developed in the coming months. The key priorities for the new Council are:

- A Greener, More Sustainable Somerset
- A Healthy and Caring Somerset
- A Fairer, Ambitious Somerset, and
- A Flourishing and Resilient Somerset

The text of the Council Plan is available here: <http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s25969/Paper%20B%20-%20Appendix%20B%20-%20Council%20Plan%20Final%20Text.pdf>

□ Figures show that 4,785 secondary school applications were received this year compared to 4,866 in 2022. In total, 92.8% of children received a place at their first preference school, with 98.12% offered one of their top three choices. Parents and carers of children not offered one of their three secondary school preferences have various options available to them. To find out more visit: <https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/applying-for-a-school/refused-a-place-at-your-preferred-school/>

□ Gold-hearted community heroes from across Somerset have been recognised at the latest Somerset County Council Chair's Award for Service to the Community. The awards-giving has been an annual event for many years and this year's ceremony at Taunton Rugby Club was attended by 140 people, including 43 nominees from areas right across Somerset. The award recipients were nominated by their parish and town councils for recognition of their outstanding contribution to their communities, and were presented with a signed certificate and gift by the Chair of Somerset County Council, Cllr Mike Best, followed by a buffet reception to celebrate their achievements.

□ A one-stop travel information website has been launched by Somerset County Council to support more local people to access public and community transport. If you don't own a car - or want to leave it at home and travel more sustainably, Think Travel can help you with your transport options. The new travel planner shows you what's available. It covers public transport, community transport, the Slinky demand responsive transport service and car sharing. As well as information on train and bus services, there's also a dedicated car sharing notice board you can sign up to, where offers or requests for car sharing journeys can be posted. The aim is to grow this facility and encourage local car sharing networks to evolve. You can check out "Think Travel" here: <https://somerset.thinktravel.info>.

□ Following the successful Museum of the Moon exhibition in March 2022, it is exciting to hear that Luke Jerram's sister sculpture, "Gaia", will be coming to Taunton Minster in April 2023. The exhibition will be free to see at Taunton Minster between 14 April and 1 May, which encompasses Earth Day on 22 April. A specially made surround sound composition by BAFTA award winning Composer, Dan Jones, will be played alongside the sculpture, as well as a series of Earth and environmental inspired events hosted by the Minster.

Please continue to seek support from myself and Habib with any local issues.

Dawn Johnson

Dawn.Johnson@somerset.gov.uk

07803 925944

Habib Farbahi

Habib.Farbahi@somerset.gov.uk

07968 069192