



# Sunday 20th March 2022

A Note From

## **Your Vicar**

My Nan was evacuated. Packed with a small suitcase and dressed smartly she was 8 years old when she took the train with her brother to Wadebridge. She was eight and he was three years old. Their mother volunteered to shepherd the children on the long journey and so got to stand with her kids in a community hall whilst all of the other kids were picked first.

My great grandmother got to tuck her children in and told my grandmother, 'look after your brother', wiped her eyes and left to return to London.

This was a happy placement with the family of a banker. Yet, it left an indelible marks upon her life in so many ways. From the sheer trauma of parental separation and weight of responsibility to the interruption to her education, she never forgot those days. 'I never went to school' she would say, 'my education came from the radio'.

In my mind, these stories play out in picture form with a type of sepia filter, possibly with some kind of gentle big band music playing alongside. It's probably been merged with scenes from 'The Railway Children' and so become rather romanticised. But if you've got kids or grandkids – can you imagine leaving a three year old boy alone with his eight year old sister in the house of total strangers? An extraordinary experience that feels like it belongs in another age. This feeling is both right and wrong. This experience does belong in a different age; but it's actually a reality now for millions of people fleeing from Ukraine.

2.5 million people have fled from Ukraine. Taunton's population is 65k: 38 times our population have been forced to leave. Some have lost loved ones, health but it's the smaller things too. The schooling cut short, music exams, the job prospects that have vanished, photographs and pets left behind. Unlike sepia shaded railway children, this isn't romantic imagery but they are stories which stir the heart to action.

Refugees are not new. Jesus himself was a refugee and in the bible, how you treat the 'stranger and widow' it is an acid test of a moral character of a nation and grounds for its judgement. How will we respond this time? This is a question for us individually, what will you do? Corporately, what will we do? To be honest, we're still pondering the wisest course of action and seeking advice. So far, we've arranged financial collections and pointed towards the collection efforts of other local charities.

My Nan had a good experience as a refugee. Amid this horrible situation, how can we make things better rather than worse?

God Bless

*Nick*



## STROLL FOR THE SOUL

We thought we would share with you a photo of our brave SFTS members who decided to continue with the planned walk this morning despite the weather!

We prayed for the situation in, and people of, Ukraine; for the Taunton street and school pastors; and we learned some interesting background to the hymn "How Great Thou Art" which was particularly appropriate to our walk today and even has a connection with Ukraine.

The photo illustrates our focus on Ukraine - Janet had printed out "flags" for us all!



Next Stroll for the Soul is on **THURSDAY 31 MARCH (10.15 FOR 10.30)**. Meet at Silk Mills Park and Ride for another fascinating stroll with Carole in Longrun Meadow.

## Our New Lectionary

Last Sunday in our 9.30 Holy Communion service, Rev'd Martin Kirkbride presented St George's with a new Lectionary.

This Lectionary has been dedicated in honour of the men from both nations, the United Kingdom and Argentina, who lost their lives in the 1982 South Atlantic Conflict.

There is also an inscription of an extract from the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation:

*"Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you".*

Thanks to Martin for donating this special Lectionary to us and to David Lewis, who shared and read the first reading from this Lectionary



### An Additional Note of Thanks

It was very remiss of me that I forgot to put in a very important 'thank you'. I had so many wonderful cards and notes sent to me with lovely, generous comments written inside, which warmed my heart. It was so very kind and sent me on my way knowing that I shall always have great friends at St G's.

Rachel Neal x

## St George's Events

A huge 'Thank You' to all those who supported our Church's Lent Lunch for Christian Aid last Saturday. It was a very happy occasion and very busy! But there was a lovely, happy sound of people chatting and getting to know one another, which was good to hear. Also, a massive thanks to those who made the soups - all of which were delicious, apparently - without whom there could be no soup lunch.

We have been able to send a donation of £270-70 to Christian Aid to help with their work across the world. Thank you all for your support - Bless you.

The Christian Aid Team

We currently have 2 choirs who rehearse here at St George's on a Thursday night.

One of them, Voce, are a newly formed Choir who are inviting people to come and hear them sing a range of songs for you.

Although there are no tickets, there is a suggested voluntary contribution of £10 on the door.  
**Saturday 26th March 7.00pm**



St George's Church  
26<sup>th</sup> March 7:00pm



## Date For Your Diary

Pop the date - Saturday 30th April for an evening of entertainment with the wonderful Taunton Military Wives Choir. Tickets will be available shortly but will include a Ploughmans Supper and a glass of fizz.....



## Mother's UNION Christian care for families

Our collections for the next two weeks, and covering Mothering Sunday, will be donated to Mothers' Union Worldwide - a global Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by the founder, Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish church in Hampshire, it has grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries.

As a Christian membership charity their members demonstrate their faith in action working to strengthen families, develop communities and support the work of local churches, with projects as diverse as Literacy and Agricultural Training programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and being involved with a 'Grub Club' to combat 'holiday hunger' in Northern Ireland. In many developing countries MU provides a cooked midday meal for children in school, as well as supporting the pastoral work of local clergy who often cover a much larger area than our parishes.

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ONLINE ...

please visit their page <https://www.mothersunion.org/donate>  
Alternatively, please send a cheque to **Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB**

## Introducing ... Voce

# Easter Lilies

The sign up sheet is now 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 £3.00. Please can you make sure you pay either Sue Stenhouse or Bethan in the Church office. If you are unable to get to church to add your name and the name of those whose name you would like the lilly dedicated to, email [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)



## The Readings

Sunday 20th March '22

The Lectionary readings for Sunday 16th January are:

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

**Luke 13: 1-9**

Our readings in church and online for this Sunday are:

**Acts 14:8-20**

**Luke 14: 25-34**

**Do get in touch if you would like to join our team to read either in church, online or both!**

**We are always looking for people to join our prayer team for our services too so get in touch if you'd like to join us and serve in this wonderful way!**

We remember

Jim Muggridge 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.  
May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love.  
Through Jesus Christ, our lord.  
Amen.

## The Collect Sunday 20th March '22

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

## OUR CONTACTS

### Rev'd Dr Nick Griffin

Tel: 01823 774128  
Email: [nick@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:nick@stgchurch.co.uk)  
Day Off: Fridays

### Bethan Baigent

Parish Administrator  
Tel: 01823 284253  
Email: [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)  
Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 10-1pm

### Churchwardens

Peter Joyce - 07761 407433  
Hilary McKegney - 07460 471514

### Prayer Circle

To be in contact for confidential prayer amongst our Prayer Circle, please email: [prayer@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:prayer@stgchurch.co.uk)

### Pastoral Care

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

## OUR WEEK Ahead

### Sunday 20th

9.30am Holy Communion

9.45am Online Service

10.00am Coffee Zoom

11.00am the eleven Service with Communion

### Monday 21st

10.00am Buggy Buddies

9.00pm Compline on Zoom

### Wednesday 23rd

9.30am Stay and Play

1.00pm Prayer and Worship

### Thurs 24th

7.30pm Learning in Lent

### Saturday 26th

7.30pm Voce Choir Concert in church



## St George's Sunday Services

SUN  
**20TH  
MAR**

9.30am Holy Communion Service  
9.45am Online Service  
11.00am Worship Service with Communion

SUN  
**27TH  
MAR**

9.30am Holy Communion Service  
with Choir and sung liturgy  
9.45am Online Service  
11.00am Worship Service

SUN  
**3RD  
APR**

9.30am Holy Communion Service  
9.45am Online Service  
11.00am Worship Service

SUN  
**10TH  
APR**

9.30am Holy Communion Service  
with Choir and sung liturgy  
9.45am Online Service  
11.00am Worship Service



## GIVE-A-LITTLE HELP-A-LOT

If you would like to donate to the work of St George's, we now have more ways to donate. We now have a Give A Little page which you can access either on our website or simply by hovering your phone camera on the QR code below which will take you directly to our giving page.



## EASTER at St George's with MOSSY CHURCH

One of the ways we are celebrating the hope of the Easter message at St George's this year is by inviting the church, schools and wider community to take part in a visual display of hope. Last year, the churchyard was filled with beautiful and unique butterflies to compliment the brilliant artwork by Norman Steel.

Following on from the popularity of the project, this year we invite you to take part in sharing the Easter message, of hope as well as solidarity with the people of the Ukraine, by decorating a Sunflower to be displayed throughout the churchyard from the Easter weekend.

There will be three sunflower templates to choose one from, or you could do all three! All sunflowers MUST be cut out and returned to the church office by **Friday 8th April** in order that they can be laminated and prepared for going into the churchyard. You could colour, paint or decoupage your sunflower – all we ask is that it is flat enough to be able to be laminated. You may also wish to put your initials or first name on to the back of the sunflower so that you can find it once it is in the display.

We look forward to seeing all of your different creations as we share the hope of Easter together with whoever visits the churchyard!



**Families at St G's**

**Buggy Buddies**

**Stay & Play**

**ST GEORGES WILTON**

**FIND US ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK TO SEE WHAT WE OFFER FROM BUMPS TO BABIES TO SCHOOL AGE!**

ST GEORGE'S MOSSY CHURCH

Waiting...

LENT IS A TIME OF WAITING &  
GETTING READY. EASTER IS COMING...

TAKE A MOSSY MOMENT AND TRY TO NOTICE WHAT  
IN NATURE HAS BEEN WAITING TO ARRIVE? WHAT  
CHANGES HAVE YOU SEEN, HEARD OR SMELT?  
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR ESPECIALLY TODAY?

Mossy Moment - what are YOU waiting for? In nature, there is always something waiting for its turn to arrive...Have you spotted the amazing Magnolia trees everywhere which have burst into life over the past few days? The one outside St G's is especially lovely. In amongst the busy, why not take a mossy wander and wonder at all of the new Springy things which have waited their turn and think about what you are waiting for. There is hope to be found.

## the eleven Service

For the last couple of weeks in NewsBoard, we have mentioned some new Ministries which we would really love people to get onboard with and help out.

For those of you who have come along to these services, we hope you have seen the clipboards where you can sign up for these ministries and play your part.

The ministries we have identified are:

- Families
- Practical
- Coffee
- Tech
- Welcome
- Cake

So far we have mentioned Families, Practical, Coffee and Welcome and this week our focus was to be Cake and Tech..... Now would you believe without much prompting, some wonderful ladies have already popped their names down onto our Cake Ministry team - bless you and thank you all. So this week, we'll just briefly mention the Tech Ministry one and encourage you to pray about what God may be calling you to help with.

It doesn't matter if you have been with us for just one week or been with us for years, we really want to encourage you to come forward and help in any way that you can.



Have you been to our Stay and Play? It's our term time baby and toddler group on a Wednesday morning in our Church Hall and we have to say, it is a **FABULOUS** group! It has been a **HUGE** success since we relaunched it pre-Covid and although we were worried that all those lovely little nippers may not return once restrictions were lifted, we certainly didn't need to! Parents/Carers/Grandparents are all so appreciative to have this space and time to Stay and Play with the little ones. With great coffee for the grown ups and fresh snacks for the littlies, crafts, toys, songs and more , it is such a treat to see the smiling faces. The difficulty with it being such a popular group though is....yep! Help is needed!! Can you spare a couple of hours a month to come along and just simply welcome and chat to the Mums/Dads? Some of whom are most grateful for adult company for an hour! There are other ways to help but this is such an easy way to be a real help and you may soon realise what a joy it will be for you in return! So please do get in touch. It's another great way of giving to the Church! Email: [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)

The more that help, the fewer times people are committed to and you will be warmly welcomed into any of these Ministries! So please can we shine a light again on our Coffee Ministry and our Families Ministry as they could really do with more help on their teams on a Sunday morning.

### Tech Ministry

Come and join our sound and visual team to either help preparing the screens, operating the visuals on a Sunday or helping to make sure the sound works ok for all during the service. **Training will be offered** and help is always at hand! We need help with setting up the projector and sound equipment before each service and helping to clear away as well. We emphasise on this being a TEAM so you would not be expected to be alone and together you will really help us create a great sound and atmosphere in our Sunday services. Please email [tech@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:tech@stgchurch.co.uk)





The image shows an invitation card for the commissioning of Courts Chaplaincy. At the top left is the logo for 'Taunton team Chaplaincy' with the tagline 'serving & supporting our town'. The main text reads: 'You are invited to join us as we commission and celebrate our Courts Chaplaincy'. Below this is a stylized graphic of orange and blue brushstrokes. The event details are: 'Monday 28th March @ 6pm' and 'St John's Church, Park St, Taunton TA1 4DG'. Social media links for tauntontc.co.uk and icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are at the bottom.

A new chaplaincy team has begun in Taunton serving staff and users at the magistrates' court. The team have started on a fortnightly basis with plans to move soon to weekly on Thursdays. There are a team of five plus two reserves. Two chaplains are on the duty rota for morning and afternoon sessions.

Michael Hayes, the Courts Team Convenor, said, "With covid necessitating various restrictions, it has been a long waiting

period but God's timing is right, and this delay has given space for further training and the necessary DBS checking.

"Team members have been pleased to be given a warm welcome by helpful court staff and have already had several significant encounters. Both the staff and the court users – whether defendants, witnesses, and supporting families and friends – have been appreciative of our initial efforts, and we have felt God's guidance as we try hard to listen and to be sensitive as to when prayer should be offered. A lot of waiting happens at the courthouse and people can be anxious and bewildered; friendly reassurance is valued.

"A review meeting has been arranged when we shall learn soon how court staff feel about our beginnings. We must always be learners, and in offering themselves to God chaplains trust in what he can do in us and through us. The magistrates' court here is open six days a week so our one day is but a small start, yet who knows what might develop?"



The image is an advertisement for 'Buggy Buddies' walking group. It features a woman pushing a pram along a path in a green, leafy environment. Four circular callouts provide information: 'ST GEORGES WILTON Buggy Buddies' (top left), 'Every Monday @10am Term Time Starting from St G's Wilton' (top right), 'Fresh Air Friendship and FREE!' (bottom left), and 'FREE COFFEE Just bring your own travel mug!' (bottom right). A purple banner at the bottom contains the text: 'A relaxed walking group run by a team of friendly Mums for Parents/Carers of Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Email: families@stgchurch.co.uk for info!'



I am taking on the challenge for **Cancer Research UK's Walk All Over Cancer** month in March .

The challenge is to be sponsored to do ten thousand steps a day, every day, for the month of March. All the money raised will go to support the cancer trials being carried out by Cancer Research UK into prostate and ovarian cancers at Musgrove Park Hospital.

If anyone feels able to donate they can ring me on 01823 335303 or email dknnapman@onetel.com and I can send you the link to the Just Giving page.

*Chris Knapman X*