



Sunday 21st January 2024

A Note From **Your Vicar**

These last three years have been an extraordinary journey of faith here at St Georges. I arrived in the pandemic. We had to wait in the shed for the movers to put all of our stuff in the house, there was frost on the grass all through the day whilst we huddled around some kind of heater. It was quite a busy day and we watched on our phones as the second lockdown was started including the closure of schools. We've come a long way since then!

In January 2022 we started our new service at 11.00. We started with no regular band musicians, no children's workers or the infrastructure to support it. But God has blessed us in ways we hadn't really expected and more quickly than we expected. If you haven't been along, the 11.00 has swelled with fantastical musicians and some of the best kids work around the area. I am quite often taken aback when I look around and see the sheer quality of my colleagues and friends. God has blessed us richly.

Yet this blessing has brought a challenge because the 11.00 has outgrown it's home. The hall is not big enough to consistently house the congregation safely. Last Sunday there were 110ish people attending the service and this is beginning to veer on the unsafe. Worse it has actually put some people off attending church because they're worried that they can't get a seat, our prayer teams can't hear one another and some just find it too stressful.

Staying in the hall means that we're going to struggle to fulfil our vision of 'growing in spirit and growing in number'.

So after prayer and discussion, we're going to try something out; from 4th February we're moving the 11.00 location to the church building. This is our biggest space, will mean that our tech team have reduced setup times, we'll aim to stream the 9.30 and there is more space made available for coffee and kids work. This is a trial for 3 months to see whether it works. The reasons that we originally chose the hall instead of the church remain pressing challenges – we have no toilets, servery, or breakout spaces in the church itself, the pews are inflexible and some find traditional church buildings a little intimidating. Yet, the PCC agree that we need to make space to continue and not inhibit the good work that has been flourishing here at St Georges.

This is a trial and that means we're going to tweak things along the way which won't be perfect and it means that we're going to compromise a little bit in places to fit everyone in. Compromise is not a dirty word, it's a way of loving our church family and those yet to join it. This is your church, so if there are problems, find a way to communicate constructively and directly to the leadership, don't grumble, that's like kicking yourself in the shin, instead pull together to help this whole community to grow deeper in God and grow in greater number.

There are exciting times ahead.
God Bless

Nick

St George's **News**

FLOWERS FOR ALL SEASONS

One of the many wonderful things we have here at St George's that we are always proud to show off is how beautiful our church flowers are.

They always seem to really highlight the beauty of our church and creates a warm, calming, uplifting and colourful presence.

We are blessed to have a really talented and faithful Flower Team who miraculously seem to make these beautiful displays appear.

Did you know that this clever team are able to create a display to mark ANY occasion for you - whether it is a loved ones Birthday, an anniversary or remembering a loved one that has passed.

They can do pedestals or a display on the High Altar for a small donation. Although the cost of flowers have gone up, our team will still create a marvellous display for you for £30.

It is such a lovely thing to do (you get a special mention in NewsBoard too!) and you will also be helping our church to not only look, but to smell beautiful!

This year, we will not be doing Easter Lillies so if instead you would like to mark an occasion, please get in touch with the office, or speak to Sue Stenhouse or Sheena Page.

In order to plan out when people would like their flowers, do get in touch as soon as you can with the Sunday that you would like flowers for and we can book it in for you.



Say it
with flowers

**To mark a special occasion
with flowers in church,
contact Sue & Sheena
or The Parish Office**

*"Flowers are the sweetest things God ever
made and forgot to put a soul into."*
- Henry Ward Beecher

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 21st January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

11.00am Worship Service in Hall and
livestreamed for Church At Home with Holy
Communion

Monday 22nd January

10.00am Buggy Buddies

For more information contact:

families@stgchurch.co.uk

Tuesday 23rd January

Parish Office Closed

7.30pm Bellringing Practice- for more info
on joining the Bellringing Team, contact
Brenda Arscott via Parish Office.

Wednesday 24th January

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 see the article in
this week's NewsBoard

Thursday 25th January

12.00pm SOUP- Come and bring a friend for
a bowl of soup. Do get in touch with Rob at
rob@stgchurch.co.uk

Sunday 28th January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

11.00am Worship Service in Hall

**OUR CURATE ROB WILL NOT BE
AVAILABLE FROM SUNDAY 21st TO
MONDAY 29th JANUARY**

FUTURE DATES COMING UP:

Monday 29th January

- Worship Team Gathering in Church

Thursday 1st February

- Stroll for the Soul

Sunday 4th February

- 11am Trial In Church Begins

- Church Weekend Away - Hilarys available for
queries

Wednesday 14th February

- Ash Wednesday

PARISH WEEKEND AWAY IN OCTOBER

Parish weekend away in October. Are you wondering what this is all about? On **Sunday February 4th** the two Hilarys will be available for question and answer chats and giving any info you need. Hilary McKegney will be in the church after the 9.30 service and Hilary Hayes will be in the hall at coffee. Please come and chat.

Would you like to come but are worried about the cost? We have a bursary fund so if a contribution to the cost would make the difference between coming and not coming then please have a private word with either Hilary. Confidentiality fully respected.

Families please chat to one another so you can know there will be other families there. Children are very much encouraged and catered for.

Try not to miss this opportunity for physical and spiritual refreshment in one of the most beautiful places in the country.

We need to finalise applications by the end of February. No money need change hands yet. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Further information from **Hilary Hayes** hilhayes7@gmail.com. or **Hilary McKegney** hilarymckeys@gmail.com



SAFEGUARDING AT ST G'S

Just to keep you updated, Jenny Norman is taking a break from the role of Safeguarding Officer so in the meantime if you have any Safeguarding concerns or are currently going through the DBS process to Volunteer with the childrens work for us, please contact either Nick or Hilary McKegney (who will be supporting Nick)
Thanks ever so much!

VOLUNTEERS AREA

DON'T MISS OUT - JOIN A TEAM TODAY!

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!

BUGGY BUDDIES

Another wonderful group for bumps to babies to toddlers and we'd love you to join our team where we walk and talk with the Mums/Carers and just be there to chat and provide coffee and a listening ear. If you can help once a month on a Monday morning that would be wonderful. Email **families@stgchurch.co.uk** if you would like to find out more!

COFFEE COFFEE COFFEE TEAM

Come and join our lovely 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. It's a great team to be a part of - just "serving" maybe once a month.... a great way to meet the church family! Run by our Rob, get in touch via email to **rob@stgchurch.co.uk**

KIDS@11 TEAM

I am wondering if any of you out there are wondering what it would be like to help at Kids@11. You don't have to prepare anything it is just occasional pairs of helping hands that we need. It can be anything from once a month to once a term, every little helps. You are welcome to come and look before committing to anything. Please chat to me and I can tell you all about our lovely Kids@11.

If you do decide to help we do have to ask you to have a DBS check and to complete some online safeguarding training - it's not hard I promise you!

Please think and pray about it and speak to me, Hilary Hayes, or email **families@stgchurch.co.uk**

- Hilary Hayes.

STROLL FOR THE SOUL UPDATE

Our first Stroll for 2024 will be on **THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY**. We will again gather at the Church porch at 10.30 to begin our local stroll in Wilton.

And our next scheduled walk will be on **FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY** when we will return, with Rachel, for a walk in the woodland at Staple Hill on the Blackdown Hills. A reminder will be sent closer to the date.

Do make a note of these days and we will look forward to sharing time and reflection together.

Jesus You Walk With Me - Help Me to Walk With You.



Our Next Stroll is
THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

Conversation Fellowship Contemplation

A monthly walk with friends.
For more information email: office@stgchurch.co.uk

CHARITY COLLECTION OPEN DOOR ROOF APPEAL

The Open Door day centre for Taunton's homeless community is housed in a grade 2 listed building that dates back to the 1880s, and the Charity is responsible for the good repair of the building.

A recent building survey has revealed that they need to make major repairs to the roof of the building and need to raise £50,000 to complete the major structural work including structural timbers, chimney repairs and replacement roof membrane.

By the end of November, the total raised for this important campaign has reached £10,000.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped so far but they need more help to reach that target, so for January, we are putting our charity collections on a Sunday to help them with this appeal.

Please do give what you can and let's help to give them a good donation towards their goal.

If you cannot attend in person then please do donate via their website directly to their



roof appeal here <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/24100#!/DonationDetails>

If you are attending in person then we are trialling having card payments to the charity as we are aware that many no longer carry cash these days (though we know many of you are good crusaders to keep cash going!) There are donation amount options but you can choose the amount and give as little or as much as you wish.

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 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!

In Loving Memory

We remember

**Doris Smith, Jean Bennett,
Philip Billingham, Elizabeth
Mortimer White, Richard Fairfax,
Marjorie Read, Kay Burton
and Bert Reed**

*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.



THURSDAYS | **12.00PM-2.00PM**
In Term Time

**ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH HALL**

www.stgchurch.co.uk



worship gathering

MONDAY 29TH JAN 7.30PM

A CHANCE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO PLAY / SING AT THE 11AM
TO GATHER FOR SOME TIME OF COMMUNITY TOGETHER
FOR MORE INFO EMAIL CHRIS@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

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

Day Off: Fridays

Associate Minister

Rev'd Richard Kelley

Email: richard@stgchurch.co.uk

Worship Director

Chris Sampson

Email: chris@stgchurch.co.uk

Reader

Kate Taylor

Email: kate21taylor@icloud.com

Parish Administrator

Bethan Baigent

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: office@stgchurch.co.uk

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 10-1pm

Safeguarding

Nick Griffin

Email: 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

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Hilary McKegney

Email pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk

Digital and Technology Coordinator

Matt Norman

Email: matt@stgchurch.co.uk

Small Groups Coordinator

Carmen Cromwell

Email: carmen@stgchurch.co.uk

Community Fridge Coordinator

Mervyn Roberts

Email: fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

Hospitality Coordinator

Rob Cromwell

Email: rob@stgchurch.co.uk

Prayer Circle

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

prayer@stgchurch.co.uk

Christian Giving

Robin Stamp

Email: giving@stgchurch.co.uk

Electoral Roll Officer

Laurie Jeffery

Email: laurie.jeffery@sky.com

Deanery Synod Reps

Hilary Hayes

Hilary McKegney