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Sun 7th Jan 2024
Epiphany Sunday

A Note From **Your Vicar**

Happy New Year!

Christmas ended the year with a bit of a bang! No I'm not referring to the electrical fault that added (even more) 'atmospheric' lighting to our service. We saw so so many people over December from all parts of our community. From the Christmas Fayre to the Tuk-Tuk Carols, the Gingerbread Housemaking to the Carol Services, Christingles and more. We think we saw well over 600 people on Christmas Eve/Day. It's fair to say I was a bit tired by Boxing Day and I spent most of the twilight zone week between Christmas and New Year in my sick bed.

It's the time of year when we make resolutions. A resolution is defined as a 'firm decision', from the same sort of semantic root as 'resolve'. Both 'solve' and 'solutions' have some sense that there is a problem to deal with and so most of our resolutions end up being losing weight or improving fitness. New Years Resolutions are not particularly a Christian tradition; the Babylonians seemed to make them at this time of year and the Romans would offer vows and sacrifices to Janus (the two-faced beast that gave January it's name) to mark the New Year. I'm blaming that old idol for how long January lasts.

I've given up making resolutions. I always tended to forget until New Years Eve, when someone would ask, then I would make something up. On good years these might last 3 weeks, but more frequently they're forgotten sooner than that!

A resolution is an intention to make a change and that's actually quite difficult to achieve. It often takes some kind of planning, will require time and then you actually have to want the result. The more common time of Christian self-examination is Lent when one takes 5 weeks to really allow change to filter in through prayer, reading and sheer time.

God Bless

Nick



St George's News

WHAT A CELEBRATION!

Just a quick note to say another THANK YOU to you all for sharing your Christmas with us.

We hope you managed to come to some, if not all, our services whether in person or online - wow, wasn't it special!

The church was sparkling, the pews were full, the smiling faces at the Christingle were priceless and the singing especially on Christmas morning was wonderful (who were you hidden descants??).

Over 500 people on Christmas Day and another packed church Christmas morning.

It certainly was filled with joy, hope and love.

Thanks to all who made everything possible.

Only 354 days to go until the next one....

St George's Team



church weekend away

**FRIDAY 25th OCTOBER
TO SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER
LEE ABBEY, DEVON**

FOR INFO EMAIL HILHAYES7@GMAIL.COM OR HILARYMCKEGS@GMAIL.COM

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY

It's 2024 so what do I need to think about?

Lee Abbey is a wonderful place to go to so I must think about Lee Abbey and going for the church weekend away.

Order of thoughts and action:

- 1) Find the information sheet or pick one up at church
- 2) Read the information sheet
- 3) Decide to go!
- 4) Fill in the form and give to Hilary McKegey or Hilary Hayes

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 7th January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

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

Monday 8th January

10.00am **Buggy Buddies**

For more information contact:

families@stgchurch.co.uk

Tuesday 9th January

12.15pm **MONTHLY LUNCH AT THE VIVARY ARMS**

Contact Judith Pickles

Wednesday 10th 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 contact the

Parish Office

Thursday 11th January

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

2.30pm **The Valley Cafe** our bereavement support group meeting in the Dunning Room. Contact Geoff Treasure

geoff.treasure@googlemail.com

Sunday 14th January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

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

Need a chat with the Vicar?

1st Monday
of the month
1.30pm-3pm

3rd Thursday
of the month
7.30pm-9pm



To ensure there is more availability to have a chat with the Vicar, we have a regular daytime and evening slot. To book a slot, please email office@stgchurch.co.uk

No money changes hands yet but we need to know who is thinking of coming.

It's 2024 so what do I need to think about?
St George's weekend away at Lee Abbey - right I will think about it NOW!

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

GIFT BOX THANKS

We were able to put together eight bags and a box of extras to deliver to Orchard House and we're gratefully received by the ladies there. Many thanks to the Church family for their contributions and to our Baby and Toddler group Stay and Play for their generosity.



We were thrilled and so were they to receive these lovely gift bags!! THANK YOU and Happy New Year!!

Kate and Jenny x

WOMEN IN THE PUB

Like SOUP, our Women In The Pub title means exactly what it says!! After a great time for drinks the first meet up, followed by gathering for a Christmas meal together, our first meeting for 2024 is **Monday 15th January at 7.30pm in the Vivary Arms**. There will be a chocolate quiz, please bring your surplus chocolate to share.

Kate and Jenny x

DEADLINE FOR NEWSBOARD ARTICLES

Please can you make sure you send any articles for future NewsBoards by no later than **Tuesday 12pm**.

Anything received after this will be entered into the following week's edition.

Thank You!

VOLUNTEERS AREA

HAPPY NEW YEAR - NEW YEAR NEW TEAM??

Well it's a New Year and just maybe you're thinking of a great New Year's Resolution to join a church team??? Well look no further... we have some grrrrreat teams to be a part of!

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!

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**

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! Even great if you are one of our 11am family and would like to serve and help in this way...do get in touch! **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

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!



WE'RE BACK!

wednesday prayer

A short time of worship and prayer at 12.30pm each week in the Prayer Shed. All are welcome!

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

In Loving Memory

We remember

Carol Jones, Bill Morris, Len Biddiscombe, Stella Whately

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.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me*



The Valley Cafe

A Bereavement Support Group

St George's Church Hall
Fons George, Taunton, TA1 3JT

Thursday 11th January

Thursday 8th February

Thursday 14th March

at 2.30pm

An opportunity to share experiences of bereavement and grief

Email office@stgchurch.co.uk for more information

BISHOPS NEW YEAR MESSAGE

+Bishop Michael

I'd love to be writing a sunny New Year's article reflecting a boundless global optimism about the future. Yet the reality is very different. War in Ukraine drags on and tensions in the Middle East remain dangerous. The cost-of-living crisis continues and many are finding things tough. Pessimism rather than optimism is the order of our day.

In such circumstances, where can hope be found? For Christians, confidence and assurance rest in the promise of the future that God has in store for us. In the Bible God says: 'See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end' (Revelation 21: 5-6). Christian hope is that whatever may be happening to us now, God has a very different and favourable future in store for us.

Critically, the point of such hope is not just to enable us to say 'Well don't worry about present circumstances. It's all going to be all right eventually.' Hope's purpose is to shape how we live and what we do now. It's to enable us to live out the words of the old Christian Aid poster that said, 'We believe in life before death'.

Towards the end of last year, I had the privilege of visiting a number of the deaneries of our diocese. On those visits I heard at first-hand how through the work of our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, Christian hope translates into practical action for good amongst the everyday lives of local communities. We are offering debt counselling and food banks, support for families and care of the lonely and isolated. All these and many more were amazing examples of how we can join with God to 'make all things new' right here, right now.

So, as we start a new year, please can I encourage us all not to stare into our glasses, lamenting their being half full? Rather, through how we live and what we do, let us fill them with the new wine of God's kingdom – overflowing to the brim. For that is hope in deed.

+ *Bishop Michael*

OUR JANUARY 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>



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