



Sunday 26th February 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

A Note From **Your Vicar**

I feel like bananas have been stuffed into my ears.

I mimed this action across a busy pool to my wife on the other side (try miming it to yourself... it's kind of fun) for it seems that swimming seems to equate to temporary (I hope!) deafness these days. Water gets stuck in my ear and I can't hear very much at all. Sometimes there is slight relief and then I do something crazy like go to sleep and I start again. Remedies for this are not very effective. Amongst the tips recommended are: tilt your head on one side, close your mouth and breathe out your nose whilst trapping and releasing air and at the same time not bursting your own eardrums... well figure that out!

This Lent I am giving up social media but I did not intend to give up a whole bodily sense. Deafness is not just a physical aspect but a social one too. Mrs Griffin now tells me that she's not sure if I am simply ignoring her or genuinely can't hear her....to which I simply respond, 'What?'

One of the things that strikes me about a loss of hearing is that it is not simply a physical lack. It is a social isolation where I am unable to communicate effectively with others. Sometimes when I want to switch off this is mildly pleasant, sometimes when I want to have a good conversation it is simply frustrating and reduces confidence because indeed I feel I have bananas in my ears.

I was talking with someone who has hearing problems and works in deaf communities alongside hearing communities and I was fascinated to hear her speak of the 'deaf world'

and the 'hearing world' each having their own community cultures and norms. Amongst those who primarily use their bodies not voices to communicate, sign language can become fluent and beautiful expression of their identity in a similar manner to the way tone and even accents can be used by those with hearing and speech.

One of my favourite stories in the gospel is when Jesus encounters a blind man and asks him simply, 'what do you want me to do for you?' Jesus doesn't presume anything in the question but respects the profound changes that healing will mean for him, a change not only of physical ability but social connection and personal identity. And so back to Lent. We think of it as a time of giving up but what if we rephrase it as Jesus question to us; what do you want me to do for you? Who knows what we will lose or gain in the journey?

Hopefully I'll lose these bananas from my ears.
God bless,

Nick

LENT

St George's **News**

CHANGES TO OUR COSY CAFE

It has been an utter joy to share a cuppa over at the cosy café. Although started using the government's warm space hub initiative, it soon became clear that it was much more a case of having somewhere to meet and have a cuppa than it was "come and keep warm". It really was so much more about warming the heart than it was warming the feet. From the tv showing an open log fire making you straight away feel cosy, to the warm hospitality from Ian and the team – we really did create a warm space for people to gather.

So as Spring arrives, the times are changing. The warmer months mean that there is less need for a warm space hub but still a need for places to meet and chat. So from this week Cosy Café we will be switching to once per week on a volunteer basis on Tuesday afternoons. We've been so grateful for Ian's leadership and the building of a team of wonderful volunteers Alex, Julia, Anne, Mervyn and June helping to keep this café of ours feeling a warm special place. If you would like to be involved in the cosy café project do let us know and that will mean we can keep offering this lovely service more often.

As we approach the warmer months, our Tuk Tuk will be out offering hospitality across the community. The fire has been lit by the cosy café, soon to launch out the smallest café in town across Wilton and Sherford as the Tuk-Tuk opens it's wings out and blesses this community.



BAPTSIM / CONFIRMATION OPPORTUNITY

This May there is an opportunity to get baptised and/or confirmed with the Bishop of Bath and Wells in St Georges Church.

We'll be hiring a baptismal pool for full immersion baptism and the Bishop and I will be baptising people at the front. Baptism is one of the two sacraments that Protestants recognise and it is a biblical command to 'repent and be baptised', so if you haven't been baptised, please get in touch. You're only supposed to get baptised once! As Ephesians says '*there is one Lord, one Faith and one Baptism*', so whether you were baptised as a child in a font or dunked in a pool there is no difference. If you haven't been baptised and you are following the Lord, get in touch and we can get this organised. Lastly on baptism, sometimes people 'reaffirm' their baptismal vows but this is a bit like reaffirming a marriage – it's not new just affirming what's already happened! Talk to me if you're interested or intrigued.

Confirmations are a way of affirming the faith that you hold and maybe if you were baptised as a child, others spoke on your behalf, you now can claim that faith for your own. 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. When the Bishop comes to see us, he will place his hands on your head and pray that the Holy Spirit will give you strength and commitment. I was confirmed prior to my ordination and I thought – 'oh it's just a box ticking exercise' – but I was totally blown away by the experience and felt the presence of God most powerfully. Of course, not everyone has that same feeling but it is a public affirmation by the most senior leader in our area of the faith you hold. Talk to me if you want to know more.

There will be a couple of classes together before the service. The classes will be at 7.30 on 27/4 and 4/5 and the confirmation service will take place on 11/5/23 at 7.00pm. Email nick@stgchurch.co.uk to talk or office@stgchurch.co.uk to sign up.

Mens SHED

MEETS FORTNIGHTLY
ON A MONDAY
SCOUT HUT
ST GEORGE'S WILTON

For more information email
office@stgchurch.co.uk

MENS SHED - MON 27TH FEBRUARY 7.30PM

We thought that we would share some pics from the last Mens Shed to show you them all hard at work making those bird boxes we mentioned the other week that would be making.

It really is a lovely group and a very easy thing to invite friends along to or those men that you know would enjoy joining us and having some company!

It's a very relaxed environment in which they meet, which tends to be every fortnight on a Monday in our Scout Hut. So do either come along and join us or help us to spread the word.

They are also looking for donations for any tools (hand or power) that may be lying around in peoples sheds gathering dust and rust. Either email office@stgchurch.co.uk or have a chat with Terry Ware to find out a bit more or to order one of the Bird Boxes!



*Busy in the Shed
making the Bird Boxes*

Easter Lillies

The notice will be 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

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

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

Account Name: St George's Wilton
Account No: 29750970
Sort Code 60-80-06

In Loving Memory this Easter



EVENTS ACROSS THE TOWN....

A LENTEN PILGRIMAGE will be held in conjunction with Taunton URC and St John's on **Saturday 25th February**. The event will begin at 10am at Taunton URC, Paul Street, (parking available there) where there will be a 15 minute period of devotion. They will then proceed to Temple for 10.45 and a short period of worship and reflection; then on to St John's to arrive around 11.30 before proceeding to the Minster via the Friends Meeting House. The pilgrimage will end at the Minster at around 1pm. Please join us at any point and feel free to leave at any time. A Wayfarers Dole (a simple drink and some bread) will be available and lunch can always be bought at the Minster.

FAMILIES at St G's

BUGGY BUDDIES NEEDS BUDDIES!

St George's Buggy Buddies was started 18 months ago by a small team of St G's volunteers. We have walked in all weathers and all seasons and seek to be an open and relaxed group for parents / carers and their little ones which is free to attend. We offer the opportunity to get out and about with others in a similar life stage for a change of scene, some exercise and making friends!

Each week, we meet, we walk and we chat! During the colder months we go to the church building or the church hall for our snack / feeding and coffee time after which we sing songs, read stories and have space for the little ones to play. In the warmer months, we do this outside on picnic rugs, midway during our walk.

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new families to the St G's church family through their coming to Buggy Buddies where they may have had otherwise no link to the church. The group has attracted outside interest too and is being advertised through health visiting teams and the SASP 'In It Together Somerset' project recently. We look forward to welcoming more families as a result!

In order to keep running and growing, we need some more friendly volunteers to join our team. We always make sure there are at least two volunteers walking and talking so you'd not be on your own and as with everything, the more people who step forward to help means the less often the volunteers are needed but we have to say it is such a lovely group that we'd hope you'd enjoy spending the time with us all too!

If you feel that this is something you might like to be involved in, please email families@stgchurch.co.uk as soon as possible and join us as we walk alongside families at this precious time of life. Thanks.



ST GEORGE'S WILTON

buggy buddies

A relaxed walking group

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

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

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

YOUTH@11 AND KIDS@11

On **Sunday 26th Feb at 7pm** in the Dunning Room there will be a team meeting for reviewing, planning and prayer for Kids@11 and Youth@11 teams.

If you have been praying about stepping forward to come and help us guide our youth and the younger ones on their faith journey then do please come along and join us. We are in need of helpers and leaders for these groups and we would be grateful even if you can only help once or twice a month. The youth and the young ones here are really lovely and we want to make these times together with them fun and fruitful.

As it says in Proverbs - Proverbs 22:6
"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it."

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 26th February

9.30am Holy Communion in Church - with the Come and Sing Choir

11.00am Worship at 11

7.00pm Kids@11 Meeting in Dunning Room

Monday 27th February

10.00am Buggy Buddies

7.30pm Mens Shed

7.30pm Worship Gathering (11am band practice)

Tuesday 28th February

1.30pm Cosy Cafe

Wednesday 1st March

9.30am Stay and Play

1.00pm Wednesday Prayer and Worship

7.30pm Knit and Natter

Friday 3rd March

10.30am Womens World Day of Prayer - see poster at the end of this NewsBoard

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

Thank you for the prayers

Michael Small has been in touch and would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the kind words, cards and prayers that he has received since his fall.

Michael has since been undergoing tests and being monitored and once they have received the results they will look to see if any further treatment/medication is needed.

Michael and Christine thank you for all your love and support during this time and are very grateful to you all.

Thank you

The **Collect** Sun 26th Feb

First Sunday of **Lent**

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without
sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in
obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of
darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in
wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We remember
Helen Russell, Christine Harris
and Barbara Colwill

*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.



CHARITY COLLECTION at St G's

Our Charity Collection is for **TAUNTON TEAM CHAPLAINCY**

The purpose of the Taunton Team Chaplaincy is to advance the Christian faith in the town by providing care, witness and prayer in a wide range of community and workplace locations.

Chaplains are drawn from local churches and linked with a workplace or area to visit (usually weekly) with the purpose of offering friendly and supportive care to all. A chaplain's main aim is to listen and take an interest in the people they meet and give comfort and compassion where needed. Time spent with each person varies which may be enough to catch up but, if a longer conversation is needed, arrangements can be made for a chat at a convenient time.

While the Chaplaincy is unashamedly Christian, there is no intention to 'preach' and support is offered to all, those of faith or none. This is an opportunity for us to join with and support the work of the Taunton Team Chaplaincy and help to enable them to continue to show and share the love of God in our town.



Taunton Team Chaplaincy have a great video which explains what the Chaplaincy does, with an introduction from Bishop Ruth. Do head over to their website and check it out for yourself! Or go to Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEVTyCDij10>

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!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I have heard
about your faith



You are invited to join with this ecumenical celebration
which is taking place all around the world on this day

to be held at

**Temple Methodist Church,
Upper High Street
Taunton TA1 3PY
starting at 10.30am**

or for a shortened Service in the lunch hour also at

**Temple Methodist Church
from 1.15pm – 1.45pm**

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

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INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

www.wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

QUIZ NIGHT *fundraiser*



7:30PM
**Saturday
11th March**

**Oakwood Centre,
Taunton, TA2 7PU**

Minimum Suggested donation £5



**Taunton
YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

*Book your place
taunton.yfc.co.uk*

Charity no.1081565

*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
get in touch!

Knit & Natter



Meets on Zoom
Every 1st
Wednesday of the
month
7.30pm – 9.00pm

Not much Knitting but lots of nattering! Come join us!



**charis
REFUGEES**

There is an increasing need for sponsors for Ukrainian guests in Taunton.

Many have been here for 6 months and are unable to continue with their sponsors.

Ukrainians are in a desperate situation.

If anyone would like to find out more about being a sponsor, please contact:

Dave Mann Communications and External Affairs Director

DaveMann@charisrefugees.org