



Sunday 17th December 2023

A Note From **Your Vicar**

This week it's our Carol Services. Care homes, toddlers, Harmony, Tuk-Tuk Carols, Contemporary and Traditional... there are six this week.

Everyone loves a good sing. Even my Dad who never goes to church loves a carol service – clears the pipes out he says. Why do we sing? Feels good, it's beautiful. It can make you feel things. The right song in the right place. But they also bring us together. Following a tragedy certain songs seem to catch the mood right – I've mentioned Oasis' hit 'Don't look back in Anger' following the Manchester Bombings as a good example. But actually Christmas is the biggest example. Mid-November Michael Buble comes out of his cave in the ground, Mariah Carey is defrosted and all the radio stations play different songs for about 25 days. If you play Wham's 'Last Christmas' in March... people become like vampires – eeech – away! These are our songs – now and for this time.

Last week I was at a Castle School Christmas Concert and we all sang Carols. Now Castle has no Christian foundation, it provides no Christian assemblies, it is cautious in its relationships with Churches around. Christmas time though, 300 people invited to stand and sing:

*Veiled in Flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the Incarnate Deity!
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.*

This is the Christian gospel. If I said these words aloud in an assembly, that Jesus Christ is God in flesh, born so that us sinners do not have to taste eternal death but receive the healing power, the salvation of Jesus – that you can know that yourself here tonight... they probably wouldn't ask me back. But put it in a song. Everyone belts it out.

This Christmas I would love to see you at as many Carol Services as you can possibly gobble with as much mulled wine as you can walk home with but what I'd love you to do more is notice the truth behind the lyrics, take a moment and think about the words you're singing. Some of them are nonsense (I'm thinking of you Ding Dong Merrily) but some of them will change your life if you let them go beyond the 25 days per year when they're played on a loop. What's your favourite and why?

God Bless
Nick

St George's

News

CHRISTMAS COMINGS AND GOINGS

Ok, so there's lots going on and some things taking a break this Christmas...make sure you're awake to take in the info below

Christmas is fast approaching and we do hope that you will all be able to enjoy and be with us for as many of the events and services that we have happening here at St George's. We hope some of them that you would be able to bring friends and family along to, to celebrate the real reason for the season with us. So some things to take note of:

SUNDAY 17th

Our **9.30am will be as normal**, with coffee served straight after in the Hall
Our **11am will be IN THE CHURCH** so please do head down to the Hall for a coffee before hand and mingle with the church family before heading over to the Church for 11am. Childrens groups are still meeting and will follow the leaders out after the first Carol.
Do come and enjoy **our 6pm Carol Service**. Chris S has put together some great music with the Come and Sing Choir, there will be readings - a perfect way to start to Christmas preparations. Mulled Wine and mince pies will be ready in the Hall afterwards

SUNDAY 24th

There will be no 9.30am or 11am - instead there will be a spoken **Holy Communion Service at 10am in Church** for those wishing to attend. **There will be no refreshments Sunday morning**

SUNDAY 31st

Almost normal service is resumed (9.30am in church) although the **11am will be in church** for tech reasons and it also sadly means **no livestream that Sunday** but the Refreshments Team will be back.

Thanks for your patience and understanding. We need these changes so that we can make sure that all the teams that are involved in services can have a break and enjoy this Christmas too!

DO REFER TO THE FORTNIGHT AHEAD DIARY COLUMN FOR REMINDERS!



THE FORTNIGHT AHEAD

Sunday 17th December

9.30am Holy Communion in Church
11.00am Contemporary Carol Service IN CHURCH
6.00pm Traditional Carols By Candlelight Service followed by refreshments

Monday 18th November

10.30am Family Gingerbread Houses Event Session One For more information contact: families@stgchurch.co.uk
1.30pm Family Gingerbread Houses Event Session Two

Friday 22nd December

6.30pm Gospel Christmas Concert at Wellsprings Leisure Centre £4 in advance <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/taunton/wellsprings-leisure-centre/a-gospel-christmas-2023/2023-12-22/18:30/t-xmrrrjy>

Saturday 23rd December

1.30pm Christingle Working Party - come and help put together the Christingle Packs in Dunning room

Sunday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

10.00am A short SAID Holy Communion Service - no music, just a spoken Communion Service
2.30pm Christingle Service
4.00pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service in Church

Monday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 JOINT CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE IN CHURCH - Come and celebrate this special day together with our short, informal Communion Service

Tuesday 26th December

PARISH OFF AND CLERGY OFF AND ALL USUAL WEEKLY EVENTS CLOSED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK

Sunday 31st December

9.30am Holy Communion in Church
11.00am Worship Service IN CHURCH

Taking A Break



There will be no refreshments on **Sunday 24th December**, but we will be serving again on **Sunday 31st December**.

A green sign for the 'COMMUNITY FRIDGE' at St George's Church. It features a circular logo with 'COMMUNITY FRIDGE' and 'ST GEORGE'S CHURCH' around a central image of a fridge. The sign also mentions 'ESTD 2023' and 'WILTON'. Below the sign is a basket of fresh vegetables including carrots, corn, and squash.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
COMMUNITY FRIDGE
St George's Church Hall
Fons George
Taunton
TA1 1JX

**CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
FROM 21ST DECEMBER
TO 4TH JANUARY**

JANUARY HOURS
SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
9.30am to 4.00pm
email: fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

wednesday prayer

Wednesday Prayer will take a
break on 27th Dec and 3rd Jan.
BACK ON 10th JAN

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

VOLUNTEERS AREA

COME AND JOIN US!!!

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!

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!

office@stgchurch.co.uk

COFFEE TEAM

Come and join our 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. Get in touch via email to

rob@stgchurch.co.uk

SET UP TEAM

Join the 11am Hall Set up team - a very easy way to help give to church! Putting out tables and chairs before the service and helping to put away once the service has finished. It only takes half an hour, so do get in touch to join the team

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

**All volunteers must complete St George's Safeguarding training and be DBS checked by our Safeguarding Officer prior to helping.*



GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY

There are a few remaining spaces left for our Gingerbread House Party, especially for the morning 10.30am session. You can now book online by visiting <https://stgchurch.sumupstore.com/> It should be lots of fun, with yummy refreshments but if you do want to find out more do contact **families@stgchurch.co.uk**.

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY

Do you want to have a change from thinking about Christmas?

Why not think about Lee Abbey?

No, not an Abbey but a large house in a stunning location.

Why not think about a lovely group of people looking after you?

No, not nuns and monks but a mixed group of people, many of them young people from all over the world, giving a year or two to learn about Christian giving and serving.

Why not join with church friends for a weekend away where you can meet with God in a special way?

Pick up an information sheet, and consider filling in the application form. Check out their website <https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/>

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



ORCHARD HOUSE

LAST SUNDAY TO DONATE

Orchard House will be delighted to accept gifts for parents and children who will be resident with them at Christmas.

We aim to donate eight bags containing the following: parent and child toiletries, baby essentials (not food), picture books, bibs, adult treats, flavoured tea bags, deodorants and feminine hygiene products.

If you would like to help us with these gift bags, please pop the items into the collection boxes in Church or speak to Kate Taylor and Jenny Norman.

Kate and Jenny



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

**Jenny Norman,
William German, Janet Illing,
Alma & Ernest Coleman**

*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.*



*Merry Christmas
from the Soup Team!*

**SOUP WILL BE
SERVED AGAIN ON
4TH JANUARY '24**

Monthly Lunchtime Meals Returns

We're going back to The Vivary Arms for a lunch together once a month on a Tuesday lunchtime!

**FIRST LUNCHTIME DATE
TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY
12.15PM**

**PRE-ORDERS NEED TO BE IN
BEFORE WEDNESDAY 3RD
JANUARY. PLEASE
CONTACT JUDITH PICKLES**



Judith Pickles has spoken to The Vivary Arms and they would be happy to offer meals on a Tuesday lunchtime for us, for a minimum of 10. **Menus will hopefully be available on Sunday 24 and 31 December so do let us know if you are interested!**

BISHOPS MESSAGE Bishop Michael

When I speak to my Mum on my birthday, she often recalls to me the events that surrounded my arrival in the world. These include nearly being born in the hospital lift, my older brother being smuggled in to see me under my dad's overcoat and of various aunts sneaking onto the maternity ward out of visiting hours by wearing their WRVS uniforms.

Each of us has a unique story about our birth. At Christmas we'll be recounting once again the story that we share about another birth - the birth of Jesus. Across the world we'll be re-telling and re-enacting what happened in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We'll recall the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth in the stable, the arrival of the shepherds, the song of the angels, the visit of the Magi.

Our own birth stories are unique to each of us. Jesus's is common to us all. And not just because we all know about it. For in our recollection of Jesus' birth, we'll also be remembering that in him, God came to be at one with us. In Jesus God arrived to share fully in our humanity, experiencing complete solidarity with every aspect of our

human condition. Jesus is 'God with us' – in trenches in Ukraine, bomb shelters in Israel and Gaza, in hospital wards where loved ones die, in relationships where there is conflict and distress.

Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: 'He became what we are so that we might become what he is.' The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God's life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him.

This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

+ Bishop Michael

A Christmas Message from Sanctuary Foundation c/o CHARIS

There is a very short animation that is launching on Sunday 17th of December at 6pm on social media channels. It connects a story of asylum and refuge with the Christmas season and is called Far from Home

The events of this week with the vote on the Rwanda deal, the changes in immigration laws and the tragic death of an asylum seeker on the Bibby Stockholm means that many new arrivals to the UK are feeling less welcome than ever. This Christmas we have the opportunity to tell a different story.

You'll be able to access it on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmi5xQcB9zA> and if you are on social media, it's an easy one to share to spread love and welcome to Refugees searching to feel safe and find a home.

For reposting the video, please use the following

<https://www.facebook.com/SanctuaryFnd>
<https://www.instagram.com/sanctuaryfnd/>
<https://twitter.com/SanctuaryFd>



CHARITY COLLECTION at St G's

The Church Mission Society is a British Anglican Mission Society working with Christians around the world. Founded in 1799 by William Wilberforce, Henry Thornton and Thomas Babington, CMS has attracted over nine thousand men and women to serve as mission partners during its 200+ year history.



CMS are a community on a journey of rediscovering God's mission together. They are called to make disciples of Jesus where you might not expect to find them, and to see those disciples make more disciples until communities of people committed to following the way of Jesus are formed.

CMS works in different ways in different contexts, sending and supporting mission partners to areas of this country and all over the world where their particular gifts can best develop the mission of that community. Some are medical mission partners, some are engaged in teaching future leaders of Churches and all are working, with others, to bring God's word to that community. The members of St George's are pleased to join with them in their work.

JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL

ST GEORGE'S
Carols By Candlelight Service

With favourite Christmas Carols and Readings
Sunday 17th December 6pm

ST GEORGE'S WILTON,
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA13JT

A poster for a 'Carols By Candlelight Service' at St George's Wilton. The background is dark with warm, out-of-focus bokeh lights. A single lit candle is visible in the bottom right corner.

SING CAROLS AND MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTINGLE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

ST GEORGE'S
Christingle Services

**CHRISTMAS EVE
2.30PM AND 4PM**

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

A poster for 'Christingle Services' at St George's Wilton. The background shows a hand holding a traditional Christingle (an orange with a candle, tinsel, and sweets). The text is in a mix of white and gold fonts.

A TRADITIONAL COMMUNION SERVICE

ST GEORGE'S
Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve
11.30pm

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

A poster for 'Midnight Communion' at St George's Wilton. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a subtle horizon line.

CELEBRATE ON THIS SPECIAL DAY WITH US

ST GEORGE'S
Christmas Day Service

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER 10am

Join us for a short family service followed by Holy Communion

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

A poster for a 'Christmas Day Service' at St George's Wilton. The background is a warm, orange-red gradient with a decorated Christmas tree visible on the right side.

A GOSPEL Christmas

COME AND HEAR THE STORY
THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER

6.30-8PM

doors open
at 6pm

£4

book
online

£15

family

£5

on door

Wellsprings Leisure Centre, Taunton, TA2 7QP

Come and celebrate Christmas with a live Gospel Choir and Band for an evening of Christmas Carols, Gospel Classics and more.



BOOK TICKETS HERE

or buy on the door

*Hosted by the Pursuit of Gospel Choir & Band, Living Light Christian Church,
Oakwood Church, Taunton Vineyard Church, St George's Church Wilton, TYFC,
New Creation Church, Riverside Church, Wellsprings Community Church,
St. James' Church, Taunton Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Church*

A Warm Welcome This Christmas!

COMMUNITY CAROLS & TUKTUK ON THE MOVE
WEDNESDAY 6th AND 13th DECEMBER 6.30pm
Sing Christmas Carols around Wilton & Sherford together

CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 11am

Join us for our Sunday worship with contemporary Carols in our Church Hall

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 6pm

Traditional Christmas Carols and Readings

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES
CHRISTMAS EVE 2.30pm and 4.00pm

Come and make your own Christingle and sing some carols this Christmas Eve

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm
Traditional Christmas Carols and Readings

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
CHRISTMAS DAY 10am
A short family service followed by Holy Communion



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WILTON, FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT
www.stgchurch.co.uk Tel: 01823 284253 office@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 Officer

Jenny Norman

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