



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

This last week I've been watching Thomas the Tank Engine. Or actually re-watching now that I have a toddler again. As a child, Thomas was a total obsession of mine with the adventures of Henry, Gordon and James seared onto my cerebrum. Originally written by the Rev. W. Awdry they seemed to have been written as a way of teaching moral lessons about character through story. I had to hunt for the old versions (thank you, Youtube) because the modern ones have retained the brand but changed everything with the opening credits accompanied with squealing guitars, literal tank engines jumping off the rails and a world tour. Somehow I felt all wrong in my stomach and I had to switch off.

Rewatching the old episodes is like a time-warp in so many ways. The animation is comparatively basic with static models, moving along fixed tracks and only the eyes of the engines giving expression to the story. Camera angles are fixed in one position. If you watch 5 minutes of contemporary kids programs they try to fit as many different perspective points in as possible and 'shots' will jump every few moments.

Lastly, the big difference is the tone. The engines clearly need to learn. One example has stuck; 'Henry' the green engine refuses to travel in the rain lest he damage his paint. As a punishment, he is bricked into the tunnel with his eyes able to see his other engines going past....he is only able to come out when he is needed and apologizes. If any of you have watched Peppa Pig or

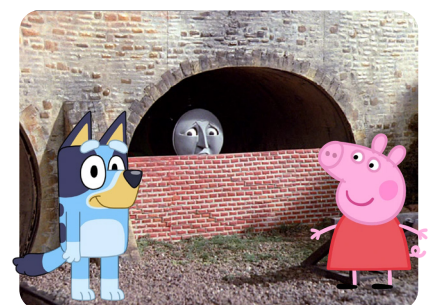
Bluey, then this is quite different where the emphasis is on the child and the fulfilment of their wishes. Peppa regularly calls her father fat and silly, whilst Bluey's parents will embarrass themselves no end, in order to make the children happy.

Is one or the other better? I've wondered about this very article sounding like a whingy call to nostalgia or 'better in my day' when really what I'm wondering about is the way that we tell stories. Old Thomas the Tank used to use both positive and negative examples whereas modern kids TV tends to avoid negative examples at all. It's not that we should return to a negative and punishing era but if we lose a way to tell stories about things, then we lose the way to talk about things too.

When we read through the scriptures, Jesus uses parables with positive examples (the lost sheep) but also negative examples too (unmerciful servant). This makes him a master communicator to get his point across because he can use the whole spectrum of life to speak. Life is full of good and bad things; positive and negative experiences. The person who can only ever speak in gloomy mode is similar to those who can never switch off their fixed grin; it's not real. This is why I love the bible because all of human life is shown and explored (especially the Psalms). It's real.

God bless

Nick



St George's **News**

All change!

Your prayers have been answered dear St Georges. Those of you who have been praying for the return of the children to our services have had their prayers heard and bountifully! In fact, so bountifully that we've had to make some changes.

Both the kids@11 and Tots@11 were getting uncomfortably and slightly dangerously full, so we've had to change venues. Most of the time the children's groups start after a couple of songs in the 11.00 – normally around 11.15.

Now:

- Kids@11 (3-10) meet in the hall.
- Tots@11 (under 3s) meet in the Dunning Room.

Our coffee starts from 10.30 which is also in the hall. That gives you about 45 minutes for a cuppa and a biscuit and we'll then need to make space for the kids and the workers to do their important ministry. So if you're here for coffee then the toys aren't for you. If you're a parent then it's good to know where your kids are!

Nick

Ordinations

St Georges we have a bumper summer of ordinations this year! This summer our beloved curate **Rob will be ordained Priest** and our lovely Lucy Davies will be ordained Deacon ahead of her new curacy in Weston Super-Mare.

Saturday 29th at 3.00 for Rob and **Sunday 30th at 10.00 for Lucy.**

Here at St Georges Rob will lead his first ever communion on Sunday morning and afterwards we'll have a celebration **(Sunday 30th June)**

Next year, it'll be Carmen (!) and I have a sneaky feeling this will become an annual event with more in the pipeline that I'm not allowed to publish just yet.

So what do all of these terms mean? In the Church of England, you can be ordained 3 times.

FORTNIGHT AHEAD

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ALL NEXT WEEK
RE-OPENS TUESDAY 18TH JUNE**

Sunday 9th June

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Contemporary Worship Service

2.30pm MOSSY CHURCH EVENT - Marvellous MiniBeasts

Monday 10th June

9.15am Morning Prayer

10.00am Buggy Buddies For more info contact: families@stgchurch.co.uk

Tuesday 11th June

7.30pm Bellringing Practice

Wednesday 12th June

9.30am Stay and Play - our Baby and Toddler group in Church Hall. £2 per family

Thursday 13th June

9.15am Morning Prayer

11.15am Funeral of Brian Carson

2.30pm Hymns We Love IN CHURCH

7.30pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday 15th June

9.30am Churchyard Gardening

12.30pm Wedding of Ben and Chloe

Sunday 16th June

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Contemporary Worship Service

Monday 17th June

9.15am Morning Prayer

10.00am Buggy Buddies

7.30pm Mens Shed

NO CLERGY AVAILABLE & OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 18th June

10.00am MOSSY CHURCH EVENT - Light & Colour

7.30pm Bellringing Practice

Wednesday 19th June

9.30am Stay and Play

Thursday 20th June

9.15am Morning Prayer

2.30pm Hymns We Love

Friday 21st June

10.15am Stroll For The Soul - The Grand Western Canal - see article!

Saturday 22nd June

10.30am Welcome Tea

Firstly, as a Deacon, secondly, as a Priest, thirdly as a Bishop. Obviously not everyone becomes a Bishop and not everyone becomes a Priest, but if you make it to Bishop then you'll already be a priest and deacon! The different terms are ancient and derived from the 'Threefold Order of Ministry' that has its roots in the scriptures. Deacons are focused more on the community and engaging outside of the church, can baptise and marry people; Priests are more focused on the care of the church itself and are also authorised to lead communion. Bishops can confirm, ordain people and have enormous headwear which helps their 'oversight responsibilities'.

Where it all gets a bit confusing is that in the CofE, you are ordained to roles but then have different jobs. A good example is here at St George's, Nick is ordained Priest but his job is as the Vicar of Wilton, whilst Richard is a Priest but works as a Chaplain, whilst Rob is currently a deacon but his job is as an 'Assistant Curate'. Different terms are thrown around for leaders including 'Father', 'Pastor', 'Padre' and much ruder terms but that's another story. I hope this simplified version helps you figure out what all these different terms mean!

Nick

You are all most welcome to come along to Rob's Ordination as Priest. It is in Wells Cathedral at 3.00pm! It would be great to see you there!

YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHURCH NEED YOU!

Our Sunday groups for children and young people are following our church vision of 'growing in spirit and growing in number' quite literally!

We are so thankful to God for bringing so many families to join the St George's church family, it's a real answer to prayer. Our groups have had to relocate to bigger rooms in the past couple of weeks due to increasing numbers.

However, we are **URGENTLY** in need of more **leaders** and **helpers** for both the **Tots@11** and **Kids@11** groups. We need more volunteers in order to continue offering the groups as they currently are as some of the team have had to stop due to health and changes of circumstances and our remaining volunteers cannot do it all the time.

In addition, we need more volunteers to help us to split the Kids@11 group into a 3-5's and a 6-10's group. **Please prayerfully consider joining the team.** Even once per term (that's once per 10/11 weeks or three times per year!), or better yet, once per half term or month.

All training and resources provided as well as a being a part of a friendly and supportive team. Email **families@stgchurch.co.uk** to find out more, or to volunteer. Thank you so much!

Bryony

(Families, Children & Youth Co-ordinator).

MARVELLOUS MEN SHED MAKERS

Look what the clever chaps at Men's shed made for us to use for Mossy Church! It's a bamboo run for rolling natural objects down (pine cones, conkers, etc) as well as water and sand!

Thank you so much Mens Shed - our little ones will have so much fun with this - maybe just as much fun as the bigger kids in this picture :)

We LOVE it - THANK YOU!!



VOLUNTEERS AREA

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We'd love to enlarge our group of volunteers who open / clean / close the St. George's Community Fridge. Why not volunteer by contacting me (Mervyn) at **fridge@stgchurch.co.uk** to find out more? We'd also like to be able to offer to have the Fridge open much more as the word is spreading across the town so if we can serve our community in this way it would be great to have more of you onboard!!

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is such an important part of our church life here at St George's and we want more of it!! We'd love to be able to offer more during both the 9.30am and the 11am services so if you think that being part of our Prayer Ministry Team is something that you would like to be a part of and help us to grow our prayer life here, do get in touch with Nick, Rob or the Parish Office.

Email **office@stgchurch.co.uk**

MOSSY CHURCH TEAM

We have 'mini' sessions which take place during weekdays, two to three times per term as well as occasional Saturday or school holiday sessions for older children normally once a term. Joining the team wouldn't involve helping at all of the sessions, even once per term would be brilliant. This might be helping to prepare a craft or activity, or if you're not crafty, welcoming or making refreshments, or reading a story on the day. Email **families@stgchurch.co.uk** if you would like to find out more!

STAY AND PLAY TEAM

Come and join our wonderful team at Stay & Play. We'd love some helpers to join us, even just once a month, to help set up, to help put away and for refreshments - do get in touch if you would like to join us and help with this outreach!

office@stgchurch.co.uk

STROLL FOR THE SOUL FRIDAY 21 JUNE

Carole is taking us to pastures-new for our June stroll. We shall be exploring a section of the Grand Western Canal.

Here are the details of how to get to the rendezvous - but, as usual, we shall arrange to take as few cars as possible. Get in touch with us if you need, or can offer, a lift. (Janet: 01823 337183 - Rachel: 07818 003297).

Hope to see you there!

"Take the A38 towards Wellington and, at Chelston roundabout (interchange for junction 26 for M5) take 2nd left to continue along the A38 around Wellington.. At the Penhill roundabout take the 1st left to continue along the A38 (towards Exeter). Pass the Beam Bridge Hotel on your left.

When you see the sign "Dual carriageway ahead ", indicate and move into right hand lane and turn right - signposted to ' Westleigh, Appley, Holcombe Rogus and Greenham ' also a ' Westleigh Quarry ' sign. Continue for approximately half a mile then turn left - signposted ' Westleigh and Holcombe Rogus and Westleigh Quarry '. Continue for approximately another half a mile, following the road around to the left - with another 'Westleigh Quarry' sign.

Watch out for potholes from here - drive slowly ! In about a mile, on a bend, turn right into ' Beech Car Park ' - brown tourist sign ' Grand Western Canal '



Stro!!
FOR THE
Soul

JESUS YOU WALK WITH ME
ST GEORGE'S WILTON
HELP ME TO WALK WITH YOU

A MONTHLY WALK WITH FRIENDS

Conversation Fellowship Contemplation

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
OFFICE@STGCHURCH.CO.UK

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

£10
a ticket

faith hope & mental health

22:37

**SATURDAY 20TH JULY
10.00AM - 3.30PM
AT ST GEORGE'S WILTON**

Talking about mental health and how it relates to our faith.
Talks from our special guests kintsugi 金継ぎ HOPE.
With lunch and a special Q&A panel

For more information email events@stgchurch.co.uk
TO BOOK YOUR TICKET, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



Discovering
treasure
in life's scars



SCAN HERE



FAITH, HOPE & MENTAL HEALTH (22:37)

Those of you in church on Sunday would have heard Nick mentioning a new event, which we hope will be the first of a few of them looking at mental health and faith.

We have Kintsugi HOPE coming to join us for the day - a charity based in the UK striving to make a difference to people's mental wellbeing.

Patrick Regan, one of the founders, said:
"Following a series of life-changing events including loss, illness and lots of surgery, life became increasingly overwhelming. This had a major impact on my emotional and mental health. My 'man up' self talk didn't work, and I ended up suffering with anxiety and depression. I felt broken and filled with shame. However, when I opened up to share my brokenness, I found I wasn't alone."

"I learnt that being honest about my struggles not only helped me, but also helped open the door for many others to be honest too. It is so much easier facing difficult situations with others than on our own."

"I then discovered Kintsugi – the Japanese art of mending broken pots with golden glue. The gold makes a feature of the cracks instead of hiding them. All of us have broken pieces, but instead of hiding them, we can learn from them. We can discover treasure in our scars."

Our day will have worship, prayer and a Q&A panel and lunch will be provided. Do let those who you think may be interested to come along and join us. You can book your ticket by scanning the QR code below or visiting our Events page on our website.

WELCOME TEA

If you are new to St Georges or have been coming to us for a while now and haven't been to one of our Welcome Teas, we are having one on **Saturday 22nd June from 10.30am - 12.30pm.**

It's just a great way for us to welcome you and hopefully if we can, get a chance to catch up with you.

It's been wonderful to welcome you at the St G's services but we're aware that it can get a bit busy sometimes! If you would like to come along then please do email the office (office@stgchurch.co.uk) to make sure we have enough cake to go around and if you have any dietary requirements or accessibility needs we can help to accommodate.

Nick & Bryony

*New to St George's?
We'd love to welcome you with
Tea and Cake!*

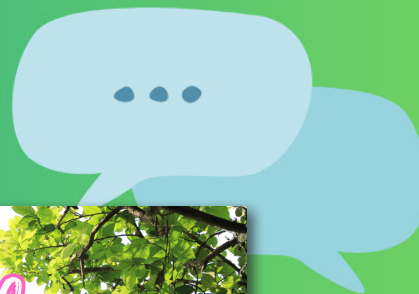
ST GEORGES WILTON

Welcome Tea

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE
10.30am - 12.30pm

**SAVE
• THE •
DATE**

ST GEORGE'S Children & Young People News



MOSSY CHURCH EVENTS EXPLORE~ENGAGE~CONNECT

Mini Mossy Church: Light & Colour – Tuesday 18th June 10-11.30am – for those with children aged 0-5

Join the Mossy Church team and other local families on Tuesday 18th June for a FREE 'Mini Mossy' session as we explore the theme of light and colour in our wonderful world!

In this session, designed especially for 0-5's, we'll engage with nature through activities, nature themed crafts, a scavenger hunt, stories, songs and sensory play. So pop on your welly boots and join us outdoors as we explore and connect with creation together.

Book your FREE place now at <https://minimossychurchlightandcolour.eventbrite.co.uk>

IN THE JUNGLE THE MIGHTY JUNGLE...

Well actually, it's our Church Hall...We are really looking forward to this Holiday Club which we will be running in the Summer Holidays with Pulse Ministries.

It's for those of you with young people still at primary school, we are running a three day Jungle themed holiday club **at St George's from 24-26th July for ages 4-11.**

It's £5 per day from 9.30am-3.30pm. It's going to be lots of fun with crafts, games, music and bible teaching.

Do get in touch if you have any questions. Book your child's space now at <https://form.jotform.com/241073081263044> or you can pick up a leaflet from Church, fill in the form in and send it with payment to the Parish Office. **If you have any questions, please email events@stgchurch.co.uk**



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!

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

 **COME & JOIN US! NO NEED TO HAVE BEEN TO SESSION 1!**


HYMNS
WE LOVE

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
THURSDAYS 2.30PM

With Rev'd Geoff Treasure

EXPLORING HYMNS

that take us to the heart of the Christian faith

*"Thou shalt be like a watered garden,
and like a spring of water, whose
waters fail not."*

SAT
15TH
JUNE

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
CHURCHYARD

gardening

Help us to care
for our Churchyard

3rd Saturdays
9.30am - 12.30pm
March - November

For more information,
please email
office@stgchurch.co.uk

Weeding

Trimming

Raking

Bring some gloves and any tools and let's dig in!

Brian Carson

It is with much sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Brian Carson who sadly passed away last week. Although Brian had not been with us at St George's for as long as many of you, he certainly had made an impact to those who had met him with his big smile, great humour and wonderful Irish accent. A man who loved to talk and really did have a life well lived. He certainly has left his mark with his missionary work and his devoted heart to Jesus.

Brian's funeral will be on **Thursday at 11.15am** and you're all very welcome.

*"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand."*

May you Rest In Peace Brian and Rise in Glory.

If you would like to make a donation in Brian's memory it is for **Cana Girls Rescue Charity in Kenya**, that would be appreciated. Brian was involved with this project from the start & was instrumental in setting it up with Rev Christopher Chochoi. <https://canarescuecentre.or.ke/>

In Loving Memory

We remember

**Joan Hartland, Reg Moyles,
Shirley Gibbs**

*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.*

CHARITY COLLECTION SCHOOLS MONTH



June is our month to support School work here locally in Taunton and internationally with our friends over in Kawama, Zambia. We are supporting....

BISHOP HENDERSON SCHOOL

Each year we like to make sure that each child who leaves our Church School - Bishop Henderson - has a Bible to take with them as they move on to Secondary School. So, for the first two Sundays of July, we shall donate our collections to BHS Bible Fund for School Leavers, to fulfill our mission to those children and to ensure that they can maximise the benefit of the Christian experience they have enjoyed whilst at Bishop Henderson School. Our contribution needed this year will be just over £200.

SCHOOL PASTORS

The School Pastors in Taunton are drawn from local Churches and are volunteers who have committed to supporting a School community. School Pastors are there to listen to and care for young people and be a reassuring presence at lunch/break times and before and after school.

ST PAULS KAWAMA, ZAMBIA

We would like to continue to support St Pauls Kawama where we have helped them to build a school, provide desks and school books.

**PLEASE DO GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO
HELP THESE AMAZING PROJECTS**

Would You Consider A Gift In Your Will To St George's?



In the scriptures, financial giving is part of our worship and as many people have supported this church throughout their lives and giving a gift in your will enables you to make one last significant gift to the whole community.

Your legacy will help us to continue to give glory to God and serve our community for many years to come.

**Pick up a leaflet or speak to one
of the team to find out more**



General election 2024: Invitation to pray for the nation

The bishops of the Church of England have issued a call to put prayer and participation at the heart of the General Election campaign as the UK prepares to go to the polls.

Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell are asking people to set aside time amid the heat of the coming campaign to reflect and pray for our nation and our world. The Church of England is launching a campaign known as #PrayYourPart – to promote prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

A series of daily thematic reflections written by bishops, drawn from the Bible, and exploring major themes will be published shortly, covering the final three weeks up to polling day. They will be available as a booklet, in audio form for smart speakers, as free opt-in emails, and through social media.

Bishop Michael and other senior church leaders in the County of Somerset have urged all candidates and political parties to, "conduct their campaigns with integrity, honesty and fairness and to seek the common good, with a spirit of listening."

As senior church leaders in the County of Somerset, we celebrate the life, beauty and variety of this vibrant County. Our churches are actively involved in the life of Somerset's villages, towns and cities through our church communities and buildings, chaplaincies, schools, food banks, and community networks.

With a General Election having been called for 4 July, we acknowledge the enormous challenges we share in our County, and the deep responsibilities that any elected politician will face:

- The deep financial crisis currently

experienced by Somerset Council

- The lack of affordable housing
- The reality of poverty for many families and the high cost of living
- The pressures on our farming community and the rural economy
- The changes in our climate that affect our flood levels and weather
- The increasing pressures on our NHS and Social Care provisions
- The needs of refugees including our guests from Ukraine

We call on our churches and church members to:

- encourage people to register as Voters (by 18 June deadline)
- engage actively in the election by asking challenging questions of all candidates
- take part in hustings meetings with local candidates, and make use of churches to host such meetings
- remind people to take personal ID to the polling station
- encourage people to vote
- pray for all those who seek to serve as our political leaders

We urge all candidates and political parties to:

- conduct their campaigns with integrity, honesty and fairness, avoiding smears and personal attacks
- seek the common good, with a spirit of listening

A prayer:

Loving God, now that an election has been called, hear our prayers for our country and the campaign ahead.

We pray

for those who are standing for election, for their safety, and for their willingness to listen and to speak.

We pray

for truthfulness and kindness to prevail as the issues are debated.

We pray

that each of us will be inspired to use our voice and our vote for your goodness and glory.

Inspire us, God, to Love, to Pray and to Vote.

Amen.

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

Lisa Westlake 01823 284253

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 Secretary

Lucy Norris

Email: **pccsecretary@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 Lesley on:

prayer@stgchurch.co.uk

Treasurer

Ian Pinder

Tel: **07747 496842**

Christian Giving

Robin Stamp

Email: **giving@stgchurch.co.uk**

Electoral Roll Officer

Laurie Jeffery

Email: **laurie.jeffery@sky.com**

Deanery Synod Rep

Hilary McKegney