



St George's **NewsBoard**

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Sunday 12th November 2023

A Note From **Your Vicar**

On the 11th hour of 11th day on the 11th month, we celebrate Armistice Day, the end of the First World War. At the time it was a moment of celebration. The grainy and misty pictures from that day display ecstasy, excitement and huge gatherings around the great cities of the world. Googling the pictures will show you Buckingham Palace and New York City thronged with people hanging off buses, fountains and the statue of liberty.

It's now just about 105 years since the end of that 'War to end all wars' and services started to actively remember those who've died. The national mood has changed many times on the act; who is it for? In the 1920s, some of those injured and disabled in combat disrupted the commemorations at the Cenotaph, protesting for greater recompense for the living than the dead. Only ten years later newspaper from the 1930s reports that 'gigglers' were harshly ejected. I remember my first remembrance service here at St Georges. I expected relatively few people given the amount of Covid doing the rounds and indeed the close proximity of the big gatherings at Vivary

ST GEORGE'S

Park. I was completely shocked as I left the West Door to find barely any room at all in the Churchyard, the area packed with people everywhere. It was massive.

Clearly, Remembrance has evolved, so what is it for? Respect for the sacrifice of the dead? Support for those who remain? A warning to the next generations? Probably a bit of all three. What is interesting about this is that Remembrance bucks other trends in our time. Britain is becoming less formal, many people are opting for 'direct-cremation' and the most common advice to children is less 'remember the past' but 'be who you are'. I'm not sure about this version of 'progress'.

In the scriptures, to remember is to recall what God has done in our own and corporate lives. It is never an act of deathly stillness but always movement. As we revisit the past, the present is changed by our visit and so the future transformed too. In these confused times, with many wars and rumours of wars, remembering well together helps us to see sacrifice overcoming and dethroning power against overwhelming odds.

God Bless

Nick



St George's News

PARISH OFFICE UPDATE

Slowly but surely we are getting there with the progress on our Parish Office. We are still having to work "flexibly" and not know when we'll be in properly but we hope the internal painting will have been completed by the end of this week and will await the flooring and furniture.

In the meantime, we're so grateful for your patience!

So....soon and very soon my friends!!...

Bethan

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 12th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

11.10am Worship Service in Hall

11.10am Uniformed Remembrance Service in Church

Monday 13th November 10.00am Buggy Buddies

For more information contact:
families@stgchurch.co.uk

Tuesday 14th November 7.00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 15th November

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

6.30pm Alpha Course in the Dunning Room

Thursday 16th November

12.00pm SOUP-our new Cafe to come, have a bowl of soup and a natter. For more information email rob@stgchurch.co.uk

7.30pm Womens Christmas Craft Night - come and have some Christmas craft fun and tasty treats.

FUTURE DATES TO POP IN YOUR DIARIES....

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER Christmas Wreath Workshop

COMMUNITY FRIDGE OPENING TIMES

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays
Autumn/Winter: 9.30am - 4pm

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
10.00pm - 1.00pm



Saturday 2nd December 2023
Stalls from 2pm - 4.30pm
Prize Raffle and Carols by Candlelight 4.30pm-5.00pm

Admission:
Adults £2 Children (Under 12) FREE

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

Christmas Fayre

Lots of Magical Stalls
Live Music
Fun For All The Family
Food & Drink including Mulled Wine & Mince pies
Carols By candlelight
Church Tower Tours

Book to see Santa in his fabulous Grotto!!

St George's Church Wilton, Fons George, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3JT
Tel: 01823 284253 Email: office@stgchurch.co.uk Web: www.stgchurch.co.uk

www.stgchurch.co.uk [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgieswilton) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/stgeorgieswilton) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

CHRISTMAS FAYRE HELP REQUIRED

You have hopefully seen some of our Sign Up Sheets either in the Church Porch or on the Welcome Table at the 11am asking for help to make our Christmas Fayre another roaring success, but we thought we would list all the things we would love your help with....

Baking ... mince pies for the teas/coffees, cakes and traybakes for our Cake Stall
Face Painters - we'd love another couple of Face Painters which the children all loved having done before their visit to Santas Grotto!
Raffle Stall - help to man and sell the raffle tickets

Tombola - lots of bottles and chocolate for the stall (please start collecting but we'll let you know when you can deliver!)

As Good As New Stall - any good quality donations for our stall run so brilliantly by Marlene would be welcomed. **Do contact Marlene on thorntonbradshaws@yahoo.co.uk or 01823 275051** if you have anything. She can arrange to come and collect if need be or to be put under the Church Tower on a Sunday labelled for the Stall.

Setting Up Team and Closing Down Team

- this one is where we are really needing your help. Last year there were so few of us it was exhausting and we want to make sure that the Fayre is super fun for all - many hands make light work so help with setting up tables, gazebos, a list of whats required will be out soon but please, we would be so grateful for all hands on deck from as many of you as possible !!

If you can help us in ANY of these ways, do use the sign up sheets or email us at events@stgchurch.co.uk
Ho! Ho! Ho!

NICK TAYLOR'S FUNERAL

For those of you who are wishing to attend Rev'd Nick Taylor's Funeral Service at The Minster, Ilminster on Tuesday 21st November at 11.30am please can you let the office know so that they can be aware of numbers wishing to attend the service.
Thank you very much.

Reminder!

A reminder to book for the Womens Christmas Crafts Evening happening on **THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 7.30PM**

Only £7.50 (which pays for the crafts, mulled wine and mice pies.

Bring a friend along and have a lovely evening together!

DON'T MISS OUT!

Contact Di for more details
divickery9@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS AREA

Everyone wants to belong.

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!

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We are always looking for Volunteers to come onboard and help us to fill the fridge by collecting from the local supermarkets - big and small. Do get in touch if you could help. Email **fridge@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**

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!

WELCOME

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 **office@stgchurch.co.uk**

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



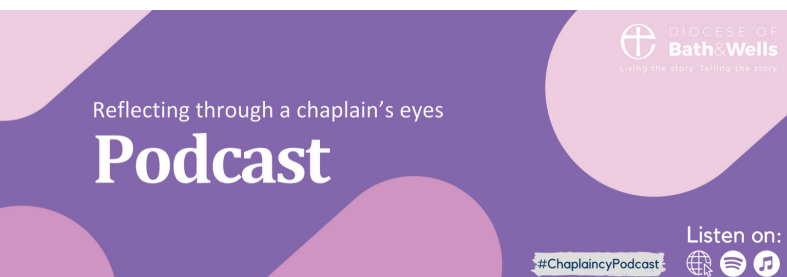
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

We have a limited number of tickets for this very special Workshop that is being run by our talented Sue Stenhouse and friends, helping you to make a very special Wreath this Christmas.

Tickets are £45 which includes all the materials (you can also bring along your own if there's something in particular you would like to incorporate!) as well as a soup lunch and tea/coffee.

Please email office@stgchurch.co.uk for a ticket by no later than 26th November.

Hurry though as only a few spaces are available.



Reflecting through a chaplain's eyes

Hosted by our Associate Minister, Rev'd Richard Kelley, this series of podcasts offer a space to explore and reflect on some of the key issues for chaplaincy.

This month Richard discusses chaplaincy, crisis and trauma with Ann Fulton, the Spiritual Care Co-ordinator, at St Margaret's Hospicecare.

Listen now and join the online conversation

on Monday, 13 November, 4-5.30pm, to reflect on the theme and the connections with our own context.

You can also find previous Podcasts available on the Diocese Website including one with another of our Church Family Charlotte Kelley - Chaplain at Wellington School.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/chaplaincy/chaplaincy-podcasts/chaplaincy-podcasts>

BESOM CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Each year The Besom in Taunton delivers donated furniture and kitchen equipment to those in need. We praise God for the way He provides and answers prayer for the items that are required.

The recipients may be individuals or families, and at Christmas time we like to bless those we have assisted during the year with Christmas food hampers.

Another charity kindly donates toys that are included for the children. We know that the hampers will make Christmas brighter for them.

All churches who support The Besom in Taunton are invited to take part and if you would like to donate food, please see the information in the poster. Thank you so much.

Jane Hamilton

There will be a donation box at the back of the Church for you to place your donations in and for the 11 o'clockers, there will be a donation box under the Welcome Table in the Hall. Thank you!

THE BESOM in Taunton

Besom Christmas Hampers

Besom will be making up our Christmas Hampers again soon and delivering them to individuals and families we have assisted over the past year.

If you would like to contribute, we would be pleased to receive:

- Christmas cakes and puddings
- sweets
- chocolate logs
- tins of biscuits
- savoury treats
- chocolate tree novelties
- hot chocolate
- crackers
- selection boxes etc

The deadline for donations is Sunday 3 December. Please ask your own church about arrangements for collecting donated food.

Besom is a Christian charity working to show the love of Jesus to all

To contact The Besom in Taunton please telephone on 07432 629444 or use the contact form on our website

www.tauntonbesom.org.uk

The Besom in Taunton is a registered charity no 1152511




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

**ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH HALL**
www.stachurch.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!

In Loving Memory

We remember
**Muriel Morris, Ted Thorn,
Rosemary McKee**

*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.*

A Symbol of Reconciliation

The Revd Martin Kirkbride, who served in the Royal Navy for 16 years, has received a special stole from the Falkland Islands, where he served in the 1982 conflict.

Can you tell us what is special about your new stole?

The stole was made for me by the charity Scarves for Falklands Veterans in recognition of my service both in the conflict and my work since then with veterans. Like the scarves, it is made from 100% Falklands wool and is the exact colour and pattern of the South Atlantic medal.

What support do you offer veterans?

I became a Christian after leaving the navy, I then became Chaplain to HMS Coventry – sunk in 1982 with the loss of 20 lives and coincidentally was also a minister at Coventry Cathedral. I am proud to wear the Coventry Cross of Nails, which was also carried by HMS Coventry.

You've also made connections with Argentinian veterans, how did that come about?

That started in 2013, when a representative of the pilot responsible for the sinking of HMS Coventry came over to meet me at Coventry Cathedral to present a letter from him, as he couldn't attend for political reasons. They specifically wanted it presented in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

Have you had any other involvement in peace and reconciliation between the two countries?

From 2013 onwards I started to develop more contacts in Argentina and that came to a wonderful focus in December 2020 when the University of Buenos Aires ran a half-day conference on the Falklands/Malvinas Conflict. I was asked to be a speaker and a chaplain for it.

How did you find that as a former veteran?

It was gut-wrenchingly honest, it was probably more painful emotionally than the conflict itself for me. It was such an incredible privilege to witness two very honest men, one a good colleague of mine who was severely injured in the attack and saw crew mates killed instantly, and the Argentine pilot. They talked to each other at length about their feelings and what had happened. And it was just incredible time to listen to that.

What was your involvement?

I was asked to close the whole conference with the Coventry Prayer of Reconciliation, in both languages, which was incredible. But what I found most moving was the reading that preceded that, which was the poem by Argentine Jorge Luis Borges, Juan Lopez and John Ward, which he wrote following the conflict.

They lived in a strange age.

The planet had been partitioned into different countries, each armed with loyalties, cherished memories, and an unquestionably heroic past;



Revd Martin Kirkbride

with laws, grievances, and their own peculiar mythologies; with bronze busts of great men, anniversaries, demagogues, and symbols. This division, the labor of cartographers, was good for starting wars.

Lopez was born in the city by the motionless river; Ward, in the outskirts of the city once walked by Father Brown. He had studied Spanish in order to read Don Quixote.

The other professed a love of Conrad, who had been revealed to him in a classroom on Viamonte Avenue.

They might have been friends, but they only saw each other once, face-to-face, somewhere down in those too-famous islands, and each of them was Cain, each Abel.

They were buried together, decayed in the snow. These events took place in an age we cannot understand.

The line, each of them was Cain, each was Abel, I find profoundly moving. It takes all the triumphalism away.

Is there anything we can learn from this conflict?

In my talks on peace and reconciliation I talk about the practicalities, what is needed, and what reconciliation means. In all of them, no matter whether they are to church or military audiences, I do refer to the fact that God was, in Christ, reconciling the world to himself and that He has given us this message in reconciliation. It is my absolute privilege to work with Falklands Veterans and we as church have a lot to learn from them about reconciliation. We are good at forgiveness, but reconciliation is different. It is about truth and justice and there is a price to pay and of course that is difficult, especially as that price is often paid for by the innocent.

For the rest of the Interview with Martin, visit the Diocese website

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/symbol-reconciliation.php>

CHARITY COLLECTION at St G's

Our collections this week will go to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

The poppy remains a symbol of both **REMEMBRANCE** and **HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE**.



For 100+ years The Royal British Legion has been raising vital funds to help serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces community and their families, from those who served in the First World War to the men and women of our Armed Forces today. In 2020 The Royal British Legion awarded 7,668 grants to members of the Armed Forces community, totalling £11.7 million.

As they reflect on their achievements over the last 100+ years, The Royal British Legion stands ready to support the next generation when they need them.

Please donate if you can. There will be a retiring collection by the church door for those of you who come along to our in church services at the 9.30am and on the Welcome Table for those at the 11am and for those joining in with Church At Home, you can still donate by visiting their website.



If you would like any information on this event raising funds for Cancer Research then please do get in touch with our Chris Knapman on 01823 335303

The Big Breakfast will take place on Friday 24th November at Temple Methodist.

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!

