



Sunday 14th January 2024

A Note From **Your Vicar**

On Tuesday I was invited to attend Hilfield Friary to deliver a talk to a group of ministers. The Friary is Franciscan and located around 20 minutes from Yeovil. The setting is on the hills with those spectacular South Western views that we are all rather accustomed to. It is rustic and in line with the Brother's vow of poverty, the place is very simple and so rather peaceful. Tractors buzz around doing important tractor-y type things, a few pigs snort and sheep can be heard some distance away. I found myself staring out at the leafless trees for long stretches of time. A bell sounds at 12.00 calling the people to prayer and the community welcomes any and all into its life and rhythm. It was delightful and I commend it to you.

I was invited to speak to the 'Brightfield Community', a group of ministers which takes its name from RS Thomas' poem:

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that
had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying*

*on to a receding future, nor hankering
after
an imagined past. It is the turning*

*aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*

I'm going to resist the urge to explain the poem and let it speak for itself. This group of Vicars were nearly all devoted to the rural church but were simultaneously aware that the work they are called to is impossible, for example, some had 14 churches to look after. So what to do when the work is impossible and yet you're being called to serve there? Their choice was to do what you can and hold that before God, trusting that some 'pearl of great price' will arise from the sheer complexity of their work.

Yet perhaps the most impressive thing about this group was that they were lovely. They did not glumly roll their eyes or laugh bitterly at our much larger and single church but were genuinely interested in the life of us here in St Georges, indeed even praying for us that we might discover 'the pearls' in our community and life together.

God Bless

Nick



St George's News

Be Still

I love the start of a new year and I usually feel optimistic and hopeful. This year I have had those same feelings but somehow felt a bit distant from God. When I feel dry I often find that God brings a book to my attention that will help. This time it is Be Still, by Brian Heasley. It is about having a personal prayer time, how to overcome difficulties and distractions and more. It is not a dry read! It is imaginative, thought-provoking and really practical too.

I'd like to share just a few things that the Holy Spirit has highlighted to me from the book to get me back on track:

- a renewed focus on the Word of God - I love the Word, but had lost focus.
- be more intentional - not just about when I spend time with God, but how I pray and read the Word.
- day and night - Ps 1:1-2 says "Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on it day and night." Maybe read at night too, not just in the morning, instead of catching up on Facebook or the news (again!).
- write down what God says - I do this already, but not by hand. This I would find difficult as my handwriting is bad and I often dictate my notes. However it would help get me away from screens!
- record specific prayers - I do this too, but often forget. Then I can see when God answers.

There is a lot more in this book. Pete Greig (24/7 prayer movement) says, "I believe that this could be one of the most important books you will read this year." (From the foreword.) But to read a book is easier than putting it into practice! That is my challenge for 2024.

Wednesday prayer in the Prayer Shed has recommenced. We meet every week at 12.30pm.

The Prayer Shed can be used at any time for personal prayer. There is a heater! (But please remember to switch it off when you leave!)

Jane

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 14th January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

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

Monday 15th January

10.00am Buggy Buddies

For more information contact:

families@stgchurch.co.uk

7.30pm Mens Shed - the first meeting this year over in the Scout Hut

7.30pm Women In The Pub - a New Year's Chocolate quiz and catch up

Tuesday 16th January

7.30pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 17th 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 see the article in this week's NewsBoard

Thursday 18th January

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

Sunday 21st January

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

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



A graphic for Wednesday Prayer. It features a megaphone icon with a red banner that says "WE'RE BACK!". Below this, the words "wednesday prayer" are written in a large, white, lowercase font. The background is a blurred image of people's hands raised in prayer. At the bottom, there is an orange speech bubble containing the text: "A short time of worship and prayer at 12.30pm each week in the Prayer Shed. All are welcome!". Below the speech bubble, the text "ST GEORGE'S WILTON" is written in white capital letters.

church weekend away



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

FOR INFO EMAIL HILHAYES7@GMAIL.COM OR HILARYMCKEGES@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 McKegney or Hilary Hayes

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** hilarymckeges@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING AT ST G'S

Just to keep you updated, Jenny Norman is taking a break from the role of Safeguarding Officer so in the meantime if you have any Safeguarding concerns or are currently going through the DBS process to Volunteer with the childrens work for us, please contact either Nick or Hilary McKegney (who will be supporting Nick)

Thanks ever so much!

VOLUNTEERS AREA

DON'T MISS OUT - JOIN A TEAM TODAY!

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!

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!

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

KIDS@11 TEAM

I am wondering if any of you out there are wondering what it would be like to help at Kids@11. You don't have to prepare anything it is just occasional pairs of helping hands that we need. It can be anything from once a month to once a term, every little helps. You are welcome to come and look before committing to anything. Please chat to me and I can tell you all about our lovely Kids@11.

If you do decide to help we do have to ask you to have a DBS check and to complete some online safeguarding training - it's not hard I promise you!

Please think and pray about it and speak to me, Hilary Hayes, or email families@stgchurch.co.uk

- Hilary Hayes.

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!



TOP GUN 3

Here's a photo of the latest men shed jolly to the fleet air museum at Yeovilton.

Tom had better watch out, there are new kids on the block. It's the new intake of "Top Gun" recruits...

Mr Cruise had better watch out - look at these new kids on the block ;)

Come and join the fun chaps!

In Loving Memory

We remember

Mike Wood, Fred Hickox, Phylis Bown, Michael Gibbs and Jane Stokes

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.

BACK THIS MONDAY!

Mens
ST GEORGE'S WILTON
SHED

MEETS EVERY 1st & 3rd MONDAYS at 7.30pm

SCOUT HUT, ST GEORGE'S WILTON

Come and join us every 1st & 3rd Mondays to make, build and mend on different projects together. Open to all to come along - you don't have to attend St George's to come along - we'd love to see you there! For more information email office@stgchurch.co.uk

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>

If you are attending in person then we are trialling having card payments to the charity as we are aware that many no longer carry cash these days (though we know many of you are good crusaders to keep cash going!) There are donation amount options but you can choose the amount and give as little or as much as you wish.

Not matter what you feel about technology we think it seems easy to use so we do hope that you will find it ok to donate this way!

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!

WOMEN IN THE PUB

Chocolate Quiz

Monday 15th January
7.30pm
The Vivary Arms
Bring any excess Christmas chocolate

Come and join the...

stories
snacks
songs
friends
crafts
toys

£2 PER FAMILY

WEDS 9.30-11.00 TERM TIME

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
CHURCH HALL
FONS GEORGE
TAUNTON
TA1 3JT

COME AND JOIN OUR POPULAR, FRIENDLY PLAYGROUP FOR BABIES & TODDLERS. FRESH SNACKS FOR THEM AND AN EXCELLENT COFFEE AND CAKE FOR YOU!

Stay and Play
BABY AND TODDLER

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