



Sunday 4th February 2024

A Note From **Your Vicar**

This week Elon Musk lost around 18 billion dollars in stock value and his spot at the top of the world's richest men. Ouch. I'm sure we can do a fundraiser...

He has conceded, at least temporarily, to a man you've probably never heard of: Bernard Arnault, a man who owns LVMH – or Louis Vuitton, Moët and Hennessy. Champagne and Louis Vuitton are luxury items, so whilst some of us are struggling to pay the gas bill many many more have been buying enough champagne to propel this company to ever greater heights. Arnault himself says that luxury is really to do with quality which is only achieved by a refusal to compromise.

For many compromise is a dirty word. It means giving up something of what you want for the good of others or to get something done. Politicians hate the language of compromise feeling that it projects weakness, business leaders like Arnault refuse compromise fearing that their brand will be diminished...but this is where we make the mistake of idea transference – applying an idea across contexts without thinking it through is dangerous. In human relationships, if you don't compromise, the psychological term is sociopathy – because you don't care about other's experiences or feelings. For Christians, we are a people that are to be characterised by love – deeply caring about the others around us, their welfare and life and especially within the life of the church itself. Love means looking after one another.

This week we begin a three month trial of changing our services around, so that the 11.00 moves to the hall. I want it to work because the hall is not big enough for the people we've got coming to the church regularly which is a bit tricky. Overall, this change is going to be really positive because it will mean we can be more comfortable in a bigger space and be able to hear one another talking but...some will have to compromise a bit. We don't have toilets, breakout rooms or café facilities in the church (yet), the pews are inflexible for our youngest ones and those in wheelchairs. The biggest challenge is that our musicians don't have a lot of time to setup. These challenges mean that things won't be perfect straight away and so we'll have to compromise. That's alright because we aren't Louis Vuitton or Dom Perignon (there are plenty of churches that want to pretend to be and I can recommend them to you) but here at St Georges we aren't interested in supreme excellence; we're interested in loving God and loving our neighbour.

So love your church and if you find yourself compromising a bit then some bits we'll be able to change now, some bits we can refine in a longer time scale. By working together you're joining in with trying to love God and love your neighbour.

God bless and see you Sunday.
God Bless

Nick

St George's News

“SEE I AM DOING A NEW THING”

So if you've been hiding under a rock, away on an adventure or tucked up poorly in bed, you may have missed that we're starting a new chapter this Sunday. It's a trial. We need to see if it's a chapter to continue or whether the journey of St George's will take another turn, but we are excited to see where He is taking us once more.

We hope you have had a chance to see the video that we've made giving a brief explanation of how things are going to work, but in a nutshell - 9.30 service should not be affected, though when the band starts to sound check the space will get a little loud! For the 11 o'clockers, there is real change, but our hope is that you're onboard and ready to take on this next journey and be able to feel closer to God by worshipping in a building that has had prayer and worship for over a thousand years. Prayer has been seeped into those bricks....and we're going to join in with that history by filling it with more. Come along at 11 (after grabbing a coffee from the Hall), the children's group Leaders will take the Kids@11 and Youth@11 out at the right point of the service and then bring them back to you before the end. The really little ones will still have their space in the room at the Hall or can utilise the welcome space under the tower.

We want this to be great, to grow and we hope you're behind us. Please be patient as I am sure we'll get things wrong and it's going to be far from perfect but our hearts are all there to worship, so let's keep Jesus at the centre. Thank you all so much!

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.*

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE LINK TO WATCH THE VIDEO, PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR THE LINK

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 4th February

9.30am Holy Communion in Church

11.00am Worship Service IN OUR NEW HOME - THE CHURCH!!!

Monday 5th February

10.00am Buggy Buddies

For more information contact:

families@stgchurch.co.uk

7.30pm Mens Shed

7.30pm Women In The Pub

Tuesday 6th February

7.30pm Bellringing Practice- for more info on joining the Bellringing Team, contact Brenda Arscott via Parish Office.

Wednesday 7th February

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

** PRE-ORDERS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY VIVARY LUNCH TO JUDITH PICKLES

Thursday 8th February

10.00am BESOM OPEN MORNING- See the NB article for more information

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

2.00pm The Valley Cafe - NEW TIME



We would love for you to find a group to call home. Joining a group is a good way to be more included in the church community and get to know a smaller group of people and grow in faith together

church weekend away



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

FOR INFO EMAIL [HILHAYES7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:hilhayes7@gmail.com) OR [HILARYMCKEAGS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:hilarymckeags@gmail.com)

PARISH WEEKEND AWAY IN OCTOBER

Please be thinking now about whether you would like to come. After the end of February we might still be able to add you in but there won't be so much wiggle room. So try and let us know soon. No money need change hands yet. Looking forward to hearing from you.

If you have any questions about it then Hilary McKegney will be in the church after the 9.30 service and Hilary Hayes will be in the Hall from 10.30 at coffee this Sunday.

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

Monthly Lunchtime Meals Returns

Enjoy some food and some company at The Vivary Arms together

**NEXT LUNCHTIME DATE
TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
12.15PM FOR 12.30PM**

PRE-ORDERS NEED TO BE IN BEFORE WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY. PLEASE CONTACT JUDITH PICKLES
judithpickles@hotmail.com / 07798 834495



VIVARY MEAL

We had such a lovely time when we last met at The Vivary for the return of our lunchtime meet ups and we're back again in February. Remember to pre-order with Judith **by no later than Wednesday 7th February!**

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!

MOSSY CHURCH TEAM

Mossy Church is a nature themed community outreach group that meets every term to get together to provide sessions as outreach to the community. The sessions are either 'Mini Mossy' sessions for families with children aged 0-5 which take place during the weekdays, or 'Mossy' sessions for families with children aged 0-14 which take place on weekends and during school holidays. Each session is based on a nature theme (such as 'minibeasts', autumn, the seaside, stargazing and many more) and involve lots of nature crafts, activities, songs, stories and sensory play.

We need a team to help us with this great outreach - whether it's just helping prepare crafts, or being a helper on the day. Its such fun to see the enjoyment the families have, so come and join us to help us show God's amazing creation. And the best thing? It is just helping out twice a term max - not a weekly rota - woohoo! So please get in touch - email families@stgchurch.co.uk if you would like to find out more!

COMMUNITY FRIDGE TEAM

We would like to open for another day, but that requires more folk to help with both collecting / delivering from supermarkets and also more openers/ cleaners / closers. Just once a fortnight's help for an hour or so would be brilliant! Get in touch with Mervyn via email to fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

BUGGY BUDDIES TEAM

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!

WOMEN IN THE PUB

The next meeting for Women In The Pub is on **Monday 5th February at 7.30pm.**



Do come and join us for a drink, chat and this time there'll a crafty hedgehog on offer to keep us entertained! Hope to see you there!

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

Women IN THE PUB

MEETS EVERY
1st MONDAY at 7.30pm
THE VIVARY ARMS, TAUNTON

Come and join us on the 1st Monday of the month. We'll often bring something "to do" - a quiz, a craft or even share a meal but it's more about having time together to catch up!

OPEN TO ALL
you don't have to attend St George's to come along!
For more information email office@stgchurch.co.uk

PASTORAL CARE

We take looking after our Church family very seriously here at St George's. We want to love and care for one another - to give support where and when we can.

So if any of you feel that you would like some pastoral care - someone to visit and chat with, or if you are concerned about another in our church family or know of someone that would appreciate a phone call or visit, do let us know. We have a lovely Pastoral Care team led by our Pastoral Care Coordinator, Hilary McKegney, so do get in touch and let us know.

Email Hilary on pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk

BESOM OPEN MORNING

On **Thursday 8th February between 10-12**, Besom are having an open morning for you to drop in and find out a bit more about what the charity does.

The Besom in Taunton is a Christian organisation providing a bridge between those who want to give and those who are in need in the Taunton and Wellington area.

Giving is at the heart of their mission providing everything free of charge to clients referred to Besom. They receive donations from individuals and a wide range of organisations - furniture, kitchen equipment, bedlinen, money and more.

Do pop along to find out more about how this charity is working across the town!



What is Besom?

You are warmly invited to visit our warehouse to see what we do.

Open morning, Thursday 8 February

Drop in any time between 10-12md



Coffee and cake provided

Follow signs for Toolstation and continue to the end of the cul-de-sac.

Wear warm clothes!

More information from Hilary Hayes, Helen Clegg, or Jane Hamilton

Unit 8
Crown Industrial
Estate
TA2 8RX

pastoral care

Pastoral visitors are good listeners who care for others based on an understanding that God's love is for all people.

If you think that either you or anyone you know would benefit from having regular visits as they can't get out much, please do get in touch!

Hilary McKegney

Pastoral Care Coordinator



Email
pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

News

We are always looking for new volunteers for the St. George's Community Fridge. All it would involve is you doing an online Food Saety course which does not take long and a short 'in shed' training session.

We would like to open for another day, but that requires more folk to help with both collecting / delivering from supermarkets and also more openers/ cleaners / closers. Just once a fortnight's help for an hour or so would be brilliant! We also need more offers from supermarkets but we're working on that one though we can't start that process until we get more offers of help

Also if you're wanting to donate your food waste to the Community Shed that's always welcome (as long as it fits in with our criteria, shown inside the Fridge shed - a more detailed list can be obtained by emailing fridge@stgchurch.co.uk)



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
COMMUNITY FRIDGE

OPENING HOURS
**SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS
& FRIDAYS**
9.30am to 4.00pm
St George's Church Hall
Fons George
Taunton
TA1 3JT
mail: fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

- Bring Your Own Bag
- Help yourself to whatever food is there with a max of up to 5 items
- Food available will vary in quantity and description
- If you're bringing food to date, pop them in the basket
- Helping to tackle Food Waste and Food Poverty
- Please sign out by clicking the clicker

We would REALLY appreciate your offers of help. This is OUR Community Fridge and will only work well with your help. if this is something you think you can help with, please do email fridge@stgchurch.co.uk.

Thank You so much!

Mervyn

CHARITY COLLECTION

ST GEORGE'S BURSARY FUND

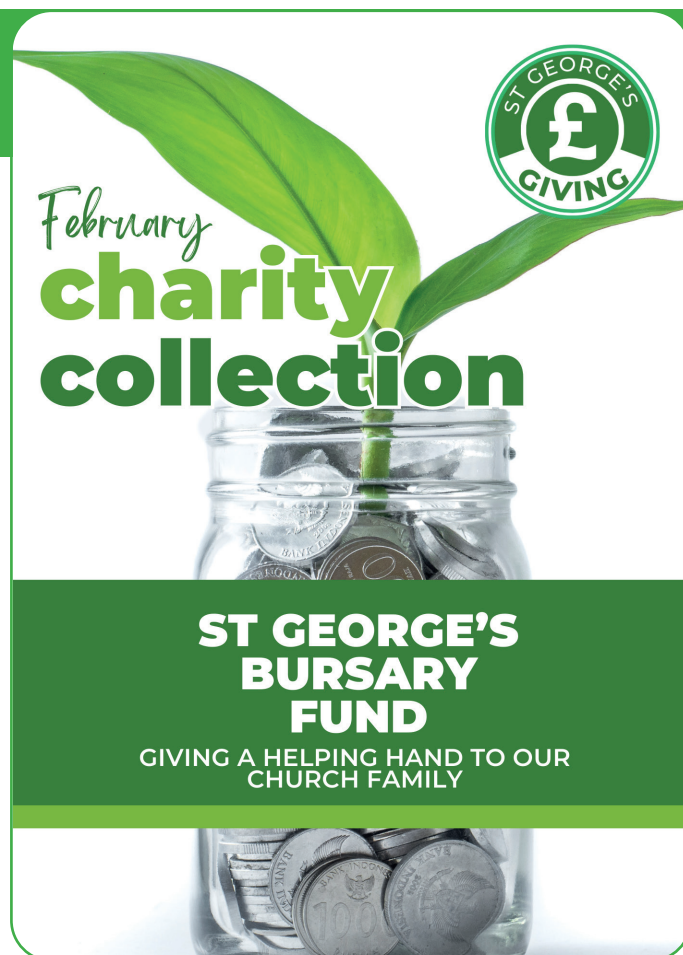
For the month of February we have set up a Fund so that we can support any of our Church Family who needs a helping hand.

This will be with a financial donation to help people to be able to join in with any of our church led events/activities that they may wish to join in but feel that it would maybe be difficult financially.

The St George's Bursary may be used to help with payment for things like a Church Weekend Away, attending a Christian Festival or even for smaller events that we will run through the year.

We don't want funds to be the barrier for our church family to be able to join in or access these things so we felt that if we had a fund that people could access to help make things feel a little easier on the pocket it could really make a difference and give people opportunities that may have otherwise missed out on.

Do give what you can, if you can! Our Sum Up card machines now accept card donations



February
charity collection

ST GEORGE'S BURSARY FUND
GIVING A HELPING HAND TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

and there will be the usual cash boxes available in church for those bringing cash.

ACROSS THE TOWN

// Worship School 2024 //

MISSION: TO GATHER THE CHURCHES TOGETHER TO DEVELOP WORSHIP IN THE TAUNTON AREA THROUGH BIBLICAL TEACHING, PRACTICAL MUSIC TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY

Worship School - Mondays 7.30-9.15pm @Living Light Church, Gipsy Lane, TA1 5LQ

5th Feb

4th Mar

(no meeting in April)

6th May

3rd Jun

1st July

(no meeting in August)

2nd Sep

7th Oct

4th Nov

(no meeting in December)

- Worship
- Teaching
- Practical training
- Band skills
- Communication
- Learning songs

Who is it aimed at?

- Those who are already involved in worship in some capacity or who are keen to be involved and with a bit of training would be ready to join
- Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Keys, Bass, Vocals, Cajon, Drums, Worship Leaders

Last year I ran a cross-church worship school that met once a month as a place for anyone from any church in the Taunton area to come and learn new songs, develop practical musicianship skills, and connect to the wider community of worship musicians in the Taunton area. It is running it again this year!

It happens on Monday nights at the Living Light Church building (TA1 5LQ) from 7.30-9.15pm and **it starts again this Monday**. Can I highly recommend trying it out. No pressure to come every time although that will enable you to get the most out of it.

I help run it in partnership with some of the musicians from Living Light so if you have any questions do ask.

It can obviously be a bit intimidating playing with people you don't know but you're always in a group learning alongside each other and challenging ourselves is the best way to learn and develop our skills. Open to Guitar, Bass, Drums/Cajon, Vocals and Keys!

Chris



TUESDAY & SUNDAY NIGHTS

PURSUIT

'One thing I ask...'

Psalms 27:4

@ North Street Church, Taunton

After having the month of January off, Pursuit will be starting back up this coming Sunday (4th Feb). We can't wait to be back worshipping together! **We meet every Tuesday and Sunday nights 7.30-9pm at North St Church and anyone is welcome to join us.**

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to seeing what God is going to do in this new season.

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

**Les Street, Norman D'Cruz,
Pauline Mumford, Ray Colwill
and Anne Hickox**

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.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me*

The
**Valley
Cafe**

A Bereavement Support Group

St George's Church Hall
Fons George, Taunton, TA1 3JT

Thursday 8th February

Thursday 14th March

at 2.00pm

An opportunity to share experiences of bereavement and grief

Email office@stgchurch.co.uk for more information



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

**ST GEORGE'S
CHURCH HALL**

www.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

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