



# Sunday 13th March 2022

A Note From

## **Your Vicar**

Over the half-term holidays I planted 50 trees in an hour.

When I say it aloud, 50 trees sounds impressive. Either an image of me planting giant conifers with some kind of pickaxe held aloft or an advert for smoothies with a ukulele soundtrack comes to mind. This was less glamorous.

At Killerton, National Trust they aim to plant 160,000 trees and needed volunteers. I've removed and planted trees before but the guides very helpfully demonstrated a quick way to plant. You make two 'cuts' in the ground in the shape of 'T'. Pull back the spade and insert the fledgling whip of a tree. We planted Oak, Alder, Blackthorn, Elm and Rowan.

With the kids, we started to race to see how many we could plant. We turned it into a system: I would make the cut, my son would plant the tree and my daughter would race to collect more. We planted more trees than any other volunteers that day (not that I'm competitive) but I was left with two clear reflections on the process.

Firstly, I needed to learn. I've planted trees before but tended to dig a massive hole in the process. This approach is laborious, exhausting and slow. Normally, I don't have a lot of time to volunteer – my evenings and weekends are spent leading volunteers – so this time I actually had to be quiet and learn. By quieting my own mind, I grew.

Secondly, that if we have a clear plan with enough volunteers, we can do quite

spectacular things. 160,000 trees is a lot, but it's possible. Our 50 trees is a mere blip in the total project plan, but I reckon we could have doubled it, if some kind of clearer process had been organised. We were enthusiastic volunteers but our efforts were blunted by the lack of organisation.

Whenever I walk the dogs around the area, I'm always praying for our community. I look at the empty green spaces with no shops, cafes or anything, the density of small and single-occupant housing, the sadness of alcohol being busily consumed on park benches in Vivary Park. When I think of the scale of need, sometimes I can get a bit overwhelmed with the quiet weight of the need here. Yet, God has called St Georges to be the church in this place that will serve the people of this place. And the work is possible but it might take a bit of organising. We must be hopeful, for if an aging vicar and two kids

God Bless

*Nick*

## **Pray for Ukraine**

Lord of all people and all nations,  
We lift before you the people of Ukraine  
and the people of Russia,  
Each girl and boy, each woman and man  
living in fear of what tomorrow might bring,  
We long for a time you spoke of through  
your prophet Isaiah,  
When weapons of war would be beaten  
into ploughshares,  
When nation will no longer lift up sword  
against nation,  
We cry out to you for peace.

## A letter from our friend up North

My very dear Friends, this week in New Daylight I am reading *1 Thessalonians 3: 6-7* where Paul is being persecuted, but is so encouraged by the faith of his fellow Christians in Thessalonica.

This is such an apt reading for me at this moment. Thankfully I'm not being persecuted but being in a new place and reading about the deeply distressing news in persecuted Ukraine, I find it such a help to draw on the strength of your faith with all the exciting new developments at St G's!

Well, we're settling into our new home and so grateful for how it is working out. Also, after a lot of uncertainty, Michael moved into a very good care home last Tuesday which was recommended by one of my neighbours! (God is good!). We pray that he settles well. Erica and I went to our first service in our local church where we were given a great welcome and people were very friendly. So we'll see if the Lord wants us to worship there.

I want to thank you for that most beautiful gift you gave me, made so skilfully by Terry and Peter J, which has pride of place on our windowsill with the light shining through it to remind me of you all and the memorable 20 years I spent at St G's.

We go our separate paths but never separated from God's love and guidance that we can always draw on. Thank you again with all my heart and may God bless you.

With love, Rachel. x



St George's

## Churchyard



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with churchyard gardening last year, whether at the Saturday sessions (3rd Saturday morning of the month, March – November), or by caring for an area of the churchyard in your own spare time, as part of St George's ADOPT-A-PLOT scheme.

MARCH IS HERE! Spring flowers are blooming, trees will soon be in leaf, the grass is growing, but .... so are the weeds and brambles!

In case anyone is wondering what goes on at the Saturday sessions: on average between 6 or 7 adults and 2 or 3 children come along to help. It's rewarding to see the fruits of our labours: perhaps freshly raked-up grass cuttings or leaves, a pruned bush, a weeded or planted border, or a wall cleared of ivy. It's a peaceful place to work, but there's also good company between times – it's encouraging to work together over a task, or to chat generally when we break to gather at about 11am round one of the benches for a drink and snack. If we're working at the front of the church,

many people walk through the churchyard on their way to or from town, and they nearly always greet us or return our greeting or stop and talk for a few minutes. At other times people may come to visit the grave of family or friends, and it can be very uplifting for them to know that the churchyard is valued and cared for by us; and if we have spoken with them, it can help us to feel familiar with the names on grave stones of people we haven't personally known, or whose relatives we haven't met before.

The sessions are between 9.30 – 12.00/12.30, but sometimes people come for just an hour. That's absolutely fine of course; although they might just miss the tea break!

So, if any of you would like to come along and help this year, please do; or come and have a word if you'd like to care for a specific small area of the churchyard in your own spare time.

And THANK YOU AGAIN to all of you who do already help.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ON SATURDAY 19TH MARCH!**

Jane Joyce

## PRAYER & Worship Service

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2022

ST GEORGE'S WILTON

## PRAYER & Worship

WEDNESDAYS @1PM

Join us at St George's Wilton on a Wednesday for a short time of prayer, reflection and worship.

*'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'* Matthew 18:20

ST GEORGE'S WILTON • FONS GEORGE • TAUNTON

Come and spend some time with us in a time of prayer and worship. It will be a very relaxed and give space for prayer collectively and individually. It will be very informal with no order of service, just a place and time for those with a heart for prayer and worship to come along. Our dear friend Marion, from Pursuit will be helping to lead us with worship and encourage us in prayer, so do join us **Wednesday 16th March @1pm**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. - Ephesians 6:18*



Save the Children

ST GEORGE'S

**Charity Information**

Our charity collection for this week will be for Save The Children. Our collections for the next 2 weeks will be donated to help the children and families of Ukraine, through Save the Children. We know that many millions of families have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety for themselves and their children, travelling to neighbouring countries or to other regions of Ukraine and Save the Children are already providing very basic necessities so they can keep warm, clean and healthy. Teams in neighbouring Poland, Rumania and Lithuania are also preparing to provide urgent and lifesaving help, and safe spaces for the children as they are arriving or passing through. Save the Children began in 1919 working with children suffering the effects of displacement following the First World War and have over a century of experience of the very particular needs of children in these emergency situations - and of continuing to care after, as children deal with the trauma they suffer.

### IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ONLINE ...

please visit their page <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/where-we-work/europe/ukraine>

Alternatively, please send a cheque to **Save the Children, 1 St John's Lane, London, EC1M 4AR**

## EASTER LILLIES

The notice is now up in the church porch should you wish to have an Easter Lily in loving memory of a loved one this Easter time in church for a donation of £3.00

If you are unable to get to church to add your name and the name of those whose name you would like the lilly dedicated to, email [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)



*We remember*

**John Kinahan, Phyllis Lloyd  
and Inger Russell**

*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.*

## The Readings

Sunday 13th March '22

The Lectionary readings for Sunday 16th January are:

**Philippians 3: 17- 4: 1**

**Luke 13: 31 - end**

Our readings in church and online for this Sunday are:

**Acts 12: 1-10**

**Luke 13: 31- end**

**Do get in touch if you would like to join our team to read either in church, online or both!**

**We are always looking for people to join our prayer team for our services too so get in touch if you'd like to join us and serve in this wonderful way!**

## The Collect

Sunday 13th March '22

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,  
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

## OUR CONTACTS

### Rev'd Dr Nick Griffin

Tel: 01823 774128

Email: [nick@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:nick@stgchurch.co.uk)

Day Off: Fridays

### Bethan Baigent

Parish Administrator

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: [office@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@stgchurch.co.uk)

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 10-1pm

### Churchwardens

**Peter Joyce** - 07761 407433

**Hilary McKegey** - 07460 471514

### Prayer Circle

To be in contact for confidential prayer amongst our Prayer Circle, please email:

[prayer@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:prayer@stgchurch.co.uk)

### Pastoral Care

If you or you know of someone who you are concerned about or think would benefit from some TLC, get in touch with our Pastoral Team on

[pastoralcare@stgchurch.co.uk](mailto:pastoralcare@stgchurch.co.uk)

## OUR WEEK Ahead

### Sunday 13th

9.30am Holy Communion

9.45am Online Service

10.00am Coffee Zoom

11.00am the eleven Service

### Monday 14th

10.00am Buggy Buddies

9.00pm Compline on Zoom

### Tuesday 15th

10.00 Holy Communion

### Wednesday 16th

9.30am Stay and Play

1.00pm Prayer and Worship

7.30pm Knit and Natter

### Thurs 17th

7.30pm Learning in Lent

### Sat 19th

9.30am Churchyard Gardening



St George's

## Sunday Services

<b>SUN 13TH MAR</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Service <i>with Choir and sung liturgy</i> 9.45am Online Service 11.00am Worship Service
<b>SUN 20TH MAR</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Service 9.45am Online Service 11.00am Worship Service with Communion
<b>SUN 27TH MAR</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Service <i>with Choir and sung liturgy</i> 9.45am Online Service 11.00am Worship Service
<b>SUN 3RD APR</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Service 9.45am Online Service 11.00am Worship Service
<b>SUN 10TH APR</b>	9.30am Holy Communion Service <i>with Choir and sung liturgy</i> 9.45am Online Service 11.00am Worship Service

## GIVE-A-LITTLE HELP-A-LOT

If you would like to donate to the work of St George's, we now have more ways to donate. We now have a Give A Little page which you can access either on our website or simply by hovering your phone camera on the QR code below which will take you directly to our giving page.





## Ways to **PRAY FOR UKRAINE**

Tearfund have given us some ideas on different ways to be thinking and praying for the people of Ukraine. Listed below are different ways of praying that you can use as you pray for Ukraine. These are fasting; using a written prayer; praying with a map; baking Ukrainian bread; and lighting a candle. These can be done on your own or as part of a group.

### **Pray using scripture**

The Bible can help guide us in prayer – especially in tough situations when it can be difficult to find the right words.

Choose one of the following passages of scripture to read through, or pick your own: Matthew 6:6-13; Isaiah 61:1-4; or Luke 6:20-26.

Slowly read the passage through and familiarise yourself with it.

Read it for a second time. You may want to speak it out loud. Think about the specific needs of the people in Ukraine, those who have fled and the role of the church in this region.

Before reading it for a third time, pause and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or line to you. Ask God why this was highlighted for you.

Continue to listen to God and to the Holy Spirit. This may be through pictures, words or more scripture. If praying as a group, share with each other how God is speaking.

End by thanking God for working in and through you.

### **Pray with a map**

Use an internet search engine, globe or an atlas to find a map of Ukraine. Google Maps can be a useful tool for this.

As you look at the map, invite the Holy Spirit to reveal a particular location to you. This could be a particular town, area, or border.

Once you have chosen somewhere, lay your hand above it on the map. Pray for that location and the people there. Ask God to reveal specific things you can pray for, or use the first part of this guide to help.

If doing this activity as a group, you could take it in turns to choose a location to pray over. If you're using a physical map, you could keep it up as a reminder to pray and add Post-it notes throughout the week.

### **Pray by lighting a candle**

Jesus is the light of the world. Amid the darkness of conflict in Ukraine and around the world, lighting a candle can become a powerful symbol of an eternal truth: love is stronger than hate.

Find a quiet place where you can relax and light a candle safely. If you can, turn off all other lights. Part of prayer is listening out for how

God is already at work – the following activity can help with this. You can do this alone, or have someone lead a group through the practice.

- Welcome God's presence. This could be by saying 'God, you are here' as you breathe in, 'and I am here with you,' as you breathe out.
- Spend time in thanksgiving for who you know God to be. You may want to play a worship song during this time, or read passages from the Bible about God's goodness and mercy.
- Ask God to reveal to you how he is already at work in Ukraine. Be open to hearing God through pictures, scripture or words. You may want to write these down or paint a response. Commit what God is saying to prayer.
- If you're with other people, set a time limit for the above and create space to feedback and encourage one another, before returning to pray.
- End with another time of thanksgiving for what God has shared. Commit to continuing to join in with God to bring his Kingdom.

### **Pray by baking bread**

Bread is often regarded as sacred in Ukrainian culture. Ukraine is an incredibly fertile nation – producing nearly 10 per cent of the world's wheat. Bread and salt placed on an embroidered towel is a symbol of welcome there.

Bread is an important part of Christian celebrations in the country. At Easter, for example, families bake a Paska loaf, then take it to church to be blessed before going home to eat it.

As a prayerful act of solidarity with Ukraine, you could bake a loaf of bread. You could use a traditional Ukrainian recipe, or your own. Once you have baked the bread, place it on a tea towel. Lay your hands over it and say a prayer for Ukrainian families.

Break the bread with your hands (in many Eastern European and Central Asian cultures bread is too sacred to be cut with a knife), then say another prayer for peace in the region.