



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

Last Thursday, I was feeling gung-ho. Christmas fayres were being cancelled everywhere by organisations with much bigger resources than us. Good! I told the team – we will persist and adjust to make it safe.

But then things seemed to get worse. The wind blew hard and cold and the south west was blanketed with a red wind warning with a national alert saying 'stay indoors'. Somehow 'keep calm and carry on' didn't seem quite so appropriate anymore. I didn't want to cancel. Foremost in my mind was that I don't organise the fayre. There is a brilliant team that does and the idea of undermining all of their work seemed too awful to even think about. I spoke to them and they agreed we couldn't proceed as planned. With the potential for flying roof tiles and tree branches, I wasn't sure that 'the team would be disappointed' would hold much legal water.

So we cancelled last Saturday's fayre. But then something awesome happened that made me well up with emotion. Instead of frustration, anger and complaints, the team rallied. There were about 8 people stuffed into the church office; cancelling, rearranging and reshuffling. Plans were made; food was frozen; cakes were shifted back to a cake sale on Sunday (which people went bananas for!) and performers re-organised. The team agreed. We can't do it tomorrow but we can do it next week. I was frightened of saying, 'we can't' and the team responded, 'yes but we can...'

There is a principle in improv comedy where you never say no. You only ever say 'yes, and'. In improv, 'no' shatters the illusion. If somebody says 'I've got a gun' and points a finger at you, if you say 'that's not a gun but a finger' then the game is up; if you say 'yes and the gun only shoots potatoes', you've got a sketch. 'Yes, and' allows things to build forwards.

This principle has to be applied sparingly. Clearly there are times when you have to say 'no' in life. But where I said, 'we can't' the team responded 'yes we can't and we can instead...'

This Saturday is our Christmas fayre. Come along. It's going to be fun and we're going to share joy and community fellowship. You're going to win a bottle of fizz, have a hotdog and a hot chocolate, see Father Christmas, climb the tower, do games and other community things. Why? Because a group of volunteers said 'yes' and worked incredibly hard to make it happen. Why? Because they love God and love their neighbour, which for us, is this community. I love this area. St George's church loves this area. We're not interested in being just a suburb. We want it to be joyful place, where you don't have to be alone, you can belong whether young or old, rich or poor, mixed up or certain about everything.

Building community takes really hard work from organisers and now all it needs is you. Yes you, reading these words to show up and belong.

I'll see you Saturday.

Nick

St George's **News**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Well who'd have thought a little bit of wind could cause so much trouble!! But it wasn't just a little bit of wind - Storm D arrived and we postponed months worth of work in one day! And now, I am writing this in the real hope that our Fayre DID go ahead and we had the best time. We'll have been up against some of the BIG Christmas markets in town so hoping we had lots of lovely people come along and they had a wonderful time!!

TUKTUK CAROLS

It'll be our last TukTuk carols this Tuesday so if you have not come along already, please do join us this last time. We've had such a good time and it's just been great to go out and meet our community, showing them His love and that we are a community here that is full of love and light.

TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER 6.30PM

TUNES AND TEA WITH A TREASURE

By popular demand, Geoff Treasure has been asked to do a Piano, Carols, Readings and Pie before Christmas so if you would like to join in, Geoff will be holding an afternoon in support of Myeloma UK on **Friday 20th at 2.30** at 31 Manor Road. Donations of at least £5 and as there is limited seating, if you want to go then please do notify Geoff in person or telephone him 01823 288504

OUR CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Our community project this Christmas is to provide some treats for the residents of St George's Care Home. Gifts of sweets/ chocolate and toiletries for men and women will be most welcome. There will be a gift bag in church for the next two Sundays for you to put any donations. Let's bring some Christmas Cheer to our local Care Home! Thank you so much!

Kate

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 15th December

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service

6.00pm CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE

Monday 16th December

7.30pm Mens Shed

Tuesday 17th December

6.30pm Tuk Tuk Carols

7.30pm Bellringing Practice

Wednesday 18th December

10.00am Childrens Christmas Buggy Service

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service with Communion

6.00pm TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 22nd December 6.00pm

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

Tuesday 24th December -
4.00pm and 5.30pm

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Wednesday 25th December 10.00am



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS

ST GEORGE'S

**Contemporary
Carol Service
By Candlelight**

With Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Sunday 15th December 6pm

WOMEN NOT IN THE PUB

Women not in the Pub were pleased to make Christmas table decorations under the careful guidance of Sue Stenhouse and her friend, Shiree.

The evening started with hot drinks and mince pies while Sue demonstrated how to make a decoration and the rest of the evening each making their own. A great time was had by all.

We'll be meeting back again in the New Year so do think about coming along and joining in with all the fun!

Kate and Jenny



SOUP'S CHRISTMAS BREAK

Just a reminder that SOUP is on its festive break now but will be back being served to you all again on **TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 12pm - 2pm**

Thank you so much to all who have been coming along to support SOUP, enjoy a heartwarming bowl and a chat - we've loved seeing you all.

Do make a note of the next date in your diaries and we'll look forward to serving you again in the New Year!



CHRISTMAS BUGGY CRIB SERVICE

On Wednesday it is our Christmas Crib Buggy Service in the Church for all our Stay&Play, Mossy Church, Buggy Buddies and Sunday Club children to come together for some festive fun with Christmas songs, crafts, and play.

Refreshments will be on offer afterwards - so bring your grandchildren, your little ones and lets get ready for Christmas together!

Christmas Buggy Crib Service

Wed 18th Dec 2024 @10am

St G's Families invites all Parents / Carers and their little ones age 0-5 to an short informal Crib service.

Exploring the Nativity story through crafts, sensory activities, storytelling and Christmas songs
Festive refreshments in the church hall afterwards!

Run by Mossy Church
Stay & Play
Buggy Buddies
Tots@11 & Kids@11

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL CONCERT Get ready for a night of joy and celebration!

Following hearing Chris and Bethan's testimony on their Gospel visit to Exeter Prison, if you would like to hear that Choir for yourselves plus an amazing band and even more singers (including at least 5 of our St Georges family and directed by the one and only Chris!) why dont you join us for a Christmas Gospel Concert on **December 20th**.

It was amazing last year and sold out so book your tickets now and let's spread the holiday cheer together!

Get your tickets via the link below.
tinyurl.com/blgospel

A GOSPEL CHRISTMAS 2024

BOOK TICKETS

FRIDAY 20TH DEC.

TICKET PRICES		
£10	£5	FREE
Adults	Children (-16Y)	0-2Y (on laps)

6.30 pm - Wellsprings Leisure Centre, Taunton, TA2 7QP

SOLD OUT SHOW LAST YEAR

Bishop's letter – 'Jesus, the Light of the World'

'All is calm, all is bright' may not be the words that many of us would use to describe our experience of either the run up to Christmas or the feast itself. Presents to buy and wrap, food to order and cook, events and church services to be part of. And that's before we've negotiated the big day itself. I saw one website recently that claimed that Christmas is considered as one of the six most stressful life events, along with divorce, moving house and changing jobs!

In the midst of such chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time – of stillness, quiet and the opportunity to stand back from all the pressures that the season contains. This year, the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas is Follow the Star: Calm and Bright. The theme draws on some of the lyrics of the famous carol, Silent Night: "Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright..."

To be calm and bright is to be invited into the still centre of the Christmas story. It's to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World. It's to open ourselves to the joy of the angels as they tell the shepherds "Do not be afraid - Fear not!" It's to encounter the wonder of the wise men as they discover that the gift of this child is for the whole world.

May your Christmas 2024 be 'Calm and Bright'!

Bishop Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath and Wells

OUR CHRISTMAS 2024 POSTCARD

Ok, so we need your help church....

We need you all to take a great big bundle of these Christmas Postcards and pop them through people's doors in the Parish to tell them all about our wonderful Christmas services this year.

We'll have hopefully covered some on our TukTuk Carol routes but if you live in the parish, can you take some for your road please?

If you don't live in the parish, can you take some and use them as an invitation for people to come? It's such an easy way to evangelise without evangelising!!



Every child
should have
someone

The
Children's
Society

ST GEORGE'S CHARITY COLLECTION - DECEMBER

"We are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. We support them through their most serious life challenges and we campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. We've been doing this for 140 years and we won't stop until we've built a society where hope is alive in every child.

We walk towards the young people that society crosses the road to avoid. We see something in these children, that something is:

Hope

Hope for a happier home life, hope of getting a job, of getting away from the people who exploit and hurt them.

Hope of overcoming the obstacles modern life puts in front of them and hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

It's right there in the centre of every young person in Britain. Even those who have it toughest of all, those who are exploited, neglected, unsafe.

We see it.

And we fight for it.

Sometimes hope takes a battering. Sometimes it's hidden by doubt, aggression or mistrust. Sometimes it's hanging by a thread. But we know it's there.

And that's why we do everything in our power to restore it, protect it and strengthen it.

We're building hope in the young people

who need it most, through campaigning and support.

And we won't rest until we've created a society built for all children.

Where hope is alive in every child.

Because no young person should be left without it.

We fight for hope by deeply understanding the needs of young people and by supporting them through their most serious life challenges. We work with young people who have suffered years of abuse, who have run away from home or are struggling with mental health issues. We look out for young carers and those who are at risk of being groomed by criminal groups. We help refugees who have no one else to turn to in this country.

The young people we meet have complicated lives. Their experiences are always different, but young people all have one thing in common. It's a thing called hope.

Hope for a happier home life. Hope of getting a job, of getting away from the people who exploit or hurt them. So we find their hope and start there, working with them little by little, giving them whatever they need and empowering them to make decisions for the future they want.

We work with young people for as long as it takes and across all different aspects of their life as it's rarely simple for them. There might be aggression, mistrust, anger or disappointment, but even when hope is hanging by a thread we help them find it again.

In Loving Memory

We remember

**Jenny Norman and
William German**

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.



Help us to grow in Spirit and Number

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@stgchurch.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!

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY FRIDGE

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



OPENING HOURS

SUNDAYS, TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS

9.30am to 4.00pm Autumn/Winter

9.30am to 5.00pm Spring/Summer

HELPING TO TACKLE FOOD WASTE AND FOOD
POVERTY IN TAUNTON

IF DONATING...

If you wish to donate to the Community Fridge, please put them in the crate to your right of the door.

If it requires refrigeration please pop it in the basket on the top shelf in the fridge. Check our facebook page to see what can/can't be donated first.

IF COLLECTING...

Bring your own bag and help yourself to whatever food is in there up to a maximum of 5 items and follow the instructions in the Fridge Shed.

The food will vary in quantity and description from day to day. We never know what will be donated!

IF WANTING TO HELP...

If you wish to help us to keep this Fridge open and serving the Community - we'd love you to join the team!

email: fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL

ST GEORGE'S

Carols By Candlelight Service

With favourite Christmas Carols
and Readings

Sunday 22nd December 6pm

ST GEORGE'S WILTON,
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

SING CAROLS AND MAKE YOUR OWN
CHRISTINGLE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

ST GEORGE'S

Christingle Services

**CHRISTMAS EVE
4.00PM AND 5.30PM**

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
FONS GEORGE,
TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

A TRADITIONAL COMMUNION SERVICE

ST GEORGE'S

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve
11.30pm

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
FONS GEORGE, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL DAY WITH US

ST GEORGE'S

Christmas Day Service

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER 10am

Join us for a short family service
followed by Holy Communion

ST GEORGE'S WILTON
FONS GEORGE, WILTON, TAUNTON, TA1 3JT

WHO'S WHO

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Rob Cromwell

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