

ST GEORGE'S

NEWSBOARD

*Sunday 26th
January 2025*



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

When I was a kid I really loved wrestling. I mean the brash, loud and big American Wrestling. WWE it's now called (it will always be WWF in my heart!). I loved it. I had a lot of action figures, a ring they could fight in with sounds (1,2....3!) I collected the sticker sets and in a completely unique childhood experience my Dad even took me to Wembley to watch Summerslam 1992. The old Wembley was filled with adoring fans and wrestlers with outlandish names and outfits. The Legion of Doom actually rode their motorbikes into the stadium; the Ultimate Warrior ran around a lot and the Undertaker seemed to balance on the top rope for a very long time for reasons I can barely discern. The saddest thing was that my obsession was largely out of reach as it was all on Sky TV. Probably made me more interested!

Like most childhood fascinations I grew out of it. Part of this was the realisation that Wrestling is fake. Everyone who hates WWE likes to tell you this is true...but it can only be so true. A human being somersaulting 8ft over a rope and hitting another human being...still happens and will still hurt them both...it's kind of like stunt men. So when someone says 'fake' they don't mean 'nothing is happening but what they actually mean is 'they aren't really fighting; the result is preplanned and the moves are rehearsed'. So now it's called 'Wrestling entertainment'. A lot of people think of Christianity a bit like wrestling. Obviously there are fewer fireworks, I thankfully don't jump around in my underwear – and although some clerical outfits are outlandish (google the 'cappa

mantle') it's not quite as dramatic as the WWE. What I mean is that some people think we do something in church but it's kind of faking it, like a big game.

But it's not fake. It's real. Really real. We've just had Christmas which is a celebration of God coming to our real world in Jesus. And amid all the fripperies of Christmas it's worth remembering that it's our real world Jesus came to, where he really did walk the shores of galilee, really did teach and annoy, really did eat and drink, bleed and die, really did come back anew again. Those 12 men that followed him did not make money or get famous from telling their stories. The writers of the bible were not paid by wealthy publishers. They believed it was true because they saw the stuff happen with their actual eyes. They mostly died telling those stories. You don't tend to die for a story you've made up.

Here at St Georges, we're not playing at this faith thing. We believe it's true. Really true and that by accepting that truth, your whole life can be changed. So what about you? What do you believe? Have you ever asked yourself? Is this life really just about working hard to get a good education; get a job; have a kid and then a race to buy the biggest house/car/boat/whatever else? Or is there more? Why not come to Alpha from Tuesday 28th and explore?

See you there,

Nick

St George's **News**



STILL TIME TO BOOK ON...

ALPHA -

Tuesday 28th January 7pm

Who Will You Invite? Try Alpha Together!

Do you know someone with big questions about life, faith, or purpose? Maybe a friend, colleague, or family member who's curious but unsure where to start? Alpha is the perfect place to explore those questions—no pressure, no judgment.

Why not come along with them? Each session includes food, a short film, and plenty of space to chat—or just listen. It's relaxed, friendly, and could be the start of something amazing.

Who's on your heart to invite? Bring them with you and give it a go!

For more details or to sign up, contact Rob Cromwell (rob@stgchurch.co.uk or visit stgchurch.co.uk/alpha).

IT MAY BE FREE BUT WHAT YOU CAN GET FROM IT IS PRICELESS!



**Unpack the
Christian faith
together.**



Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. It's for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure.

**A chance to explore the big
QUESTIONS OF LIFE**

SIGN UP HERE



If you would like to find out more about what Alpha is about and what the evening would be like, speak to Rob or email him on rob@stgchurch.co.uk.

**STARTS
TUES 28th
January
7pm**

PCC MEETING UPDATE

On Tuesday our PCC gathered together, so we thought that we would highlight some of the key messages from the meeting.



- New Safeguarding Officer has been appointed (see Nick article)
- PCC Away Day - we will be booking a PCC

IN THE FORTNIGHT AHEAD

Sunday 26th January

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service with Communion

Monday 27th January

9.15am Morning Prayer

10.00am BUGGY BUDDIES

Tuesday 28th January

12.00pm SOUP

7.30pm Bellringers

Wednesday 29th January

9.30am Stay and Play

**ROB ON HOLIDAY FROM FRI 31ST
JANUARY UNTIL MONDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY**

Sunday 2nd February

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service

7.00pm PRAY

Monday 3rd February

9.15am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Mens Shed

7.30pm Women In The Pub

Tuesday 4th February

12.00pm SOUP

7.30pm Bellringers

Wednesday 5th February

9.30am Stay and Play

Thursday 6th February

9.15am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Mens Pub Club

Sunday 9th February

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service

3.00pm Graham Aylett Talk in Dunning Room

Away Day to discuss governance and vision for St George's moving forward as our last one was back in 2022.

- Christian Giving has not increased at the same rate as the growth in our Church Community and in order for the Church to break even, we need to encourage more people to join the Giving Scheme. For 2023, it was estimated that St George's pays approximately £550 PER PERSON to come to Church and so we need to look at ways to increase our Giving.

If you would like to read the Minutes of the previous meeting, then do visit our website under the About Us section or follow the link here https://www.stgchurch.co.uk/_files/

Our next PCC Meeting is on Tuesday 18th March.

NEW SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

I am really pleased to say that Hilary McKegney has agreed to become our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). This is an important role for each church to have but needs a little explanation. The PSO role has 3 main functions. Firstly, there is a reporting role so that if you have a safeguarding concern especially relating to the church then you can approach Hilary or myself to discuss. If appropriate, we may make a referral to the diocese and/or police. Secondly, all of our volunteers need to go through the safer recruitment processes and the PSO oversees this process. Finally, the policies of the church need to be set and developed and in conjunction with the Vicar, PCC and the diocese; the PSO helps to steer how these develop.

Hilary is already familiar with many of the processes of safeguarding, as she has been assisting me with our safer recruitment for the past year. Now this new role means that she will be able to access more of the support and training made available by the diocese. As the Vicar, I'm super confident in Hilary's character, dedication and practical wisdom in this role. She has been a wonderful support to me so far and I'm incredibly grateful for



her willingness to take on this important role. But, this important role would be better if it was more widely shared and if you would like to join the team that would be very gratefully received.

Thank you Hilary!

Nick

A CURATE FROM THE PAST

In the early 1990's, Graham & Nicola Aylett, were mission partners with an agency called Interserve, and had been curates in what was then the combined parish of St George's & St Michael's.

They have been in touch with us as they are going to be spending some time back in the UK amongst all their travels with Interserve and they will be visiting us on **Sunday 9th February**.

"Individuals from St George's, and people we knew when they were at St Michael's are still supporting us - and we're tremendously grateful! We have not visited in person since 2017 so we're delighted to come back to St George's as there is so much to report back on, and we hope there would be much to encourage."

They now work for the Increase Association whose vision is to see churches equipping all Christ's followers in their contexts so that many millions are disciplined and empowered for mission, ministry and leadership. In Malaysia, we helped set up an office for the Increase Association, and travelled extensively visiting and encouraging member organisations.

Do join us on Sunday 9th February at 3pm in the Dunning Room where it would be good to see you all again and we can let you know all about the missions we were called to. We'd love to meet you."



LAURA ARCHIBALD IS FUNDRAISING ...CAN YOU HELP HER?

Jack Constable is a local 18-year-old who was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma cancer. Jack (who is related to Laura's husband) has been told that the traditional cancer treatments are no longer working and his cancer is now terminal so they are fundraising to raise money for "alternative" treatments to extend his life. (GOFUND ME:<https://gofund.me/f581c583> .Search - For young Jack's "alternative" medical support)

Laura says: "We will be holding a 'Bingo for Jack' evening on Saturday 1st March 2025 at St Luke's Centre, Cotford St Luke TA4 1HX. During this event we will be holding a raffle, if you are able to offer your support in way of a donation, voucher/gift card, or gift/item, it is all appreciated and will help enable us to support Jack. We are also looking for donations towards the hampers which will be prizes for the bingo winners (for example wine, soft drinks, biscuits, Easter eggs, tubs of sweets and toiletry sets). Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you so much, Laura"

As this is not connected to Church, please do get in touch with Laura, not the Parish Office, with your donations - thank you!



The Besom in Taunton was formed in 2005 by Nesta Long. Nesta remained the leader of the organisation until her death in 2016.

Nesta was struck by the number of needy people in the Taunton area and as a Christian felt challenged to put her faith into action by making a positive impact on their lives.

"The Besom in Taunton is a Christian organisation that provides 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 all we do. Everything we provide is free of charge to clients referred to Besom. We receive donations from individuals and a wide range of organisations - furniture, kitchen equipment, bedlinen, money and more. What goes out is quickly replaced by more donations, as our prayers are answered - very often just what is needed for that moment."

Besom provides practical help enabling recipients to improve their home and garden when they could not achieve this by themselves. They will decorate one or two rooms or the hall, stairs and landing in a house or flat for a recipient who is unable to do this themselves. Besom time-givers are able to clear or tidy gardens that have been unmanaged for a period of time. Garden waste such as grass clippings, brambles etc are removed and disposed of by the project team. One of the major requirements is for furniture and household items for those who lack what is needed to make a home.

Do give what you can on a Sunday but if you cannot attend in person and would like to donate, visit their website on <https://www.tauntonbesom.org.uk/giving-financially>



early bird offer

only available until
February 2025

THURS
24th -
SUN 27th
JULY '25

adult £120
(Supporter)
adult £100
(Standard)
adult £80
(Supported)

youth £40
(11-17)
child £20
(4-10)
child FREE
(0-3)

monthly
payment
available
with £20
deposit

visit our website:
stgchurch.co.uk/bigweekend
or scan this QR code
to take you to the booking page



ST GEORGE'S Children & Young People News



Our Sunday Clubs are on again this week and we'd love for your young ones and young adults to join us.

If you've not been before, just pop down to the Hall with them to register them in (usually after the first couple of songs in Church) and then if your child is in Kids@11, head back to Church or if your's is a little one, come and join us in Tots@11 for circle time, songs and play.

ST GEORGE'S
Tots@11
For 0-3's and their grownUps

**song
circle time
craft
play**

A space for babies, toddlers and their grown up to use during the 11am service. Stay with your little one as they play. The service is livestreamed for you to join in with. Find us downstairs in the Church Hall's Family Room!

KIDS @11

KIDS@11 FOR 3-10

We have great fun in our Kids@11 Club. We have songs, short creative prayer activities, Bible stories, crafts, games and activities. Starting off in the Church, we then head to the Hall for our session and come back to church to end with worship together!

YOUTH @11

**YOUTH@11
SCHOOL
YEARS
6-10**

We start off in the Church for the worship at the 11 service and then head over to our own space to hang out for drinks, games, snacks, chat, videos.

In Loving Memory

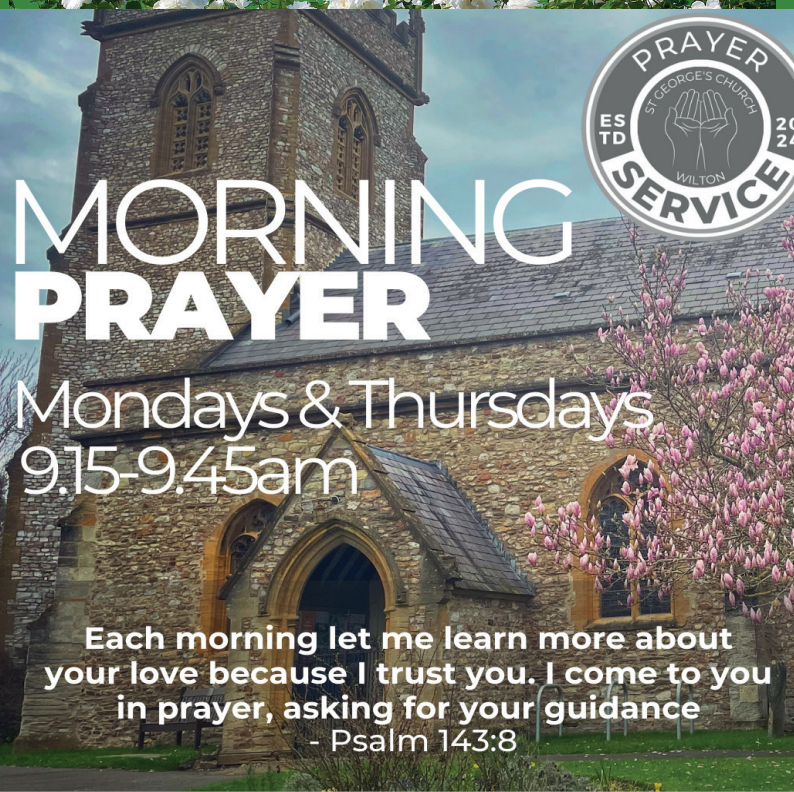
Lord Jesus we think of those we've loved who we want to remember in the days ahead

Kay Burton, Bert Reed, Joy Tyrrell and Tim Blackwood

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.*



MORNING PRAYER

**Mondays & Thursdays
9.15-9.45am**

Each morning let me learn more about your love because I trust you. I come to you in prayer, asking for your guidance
- Psalm 143:8



Help us to grow in Spirit and Number

ST GEORGE'S GIVING

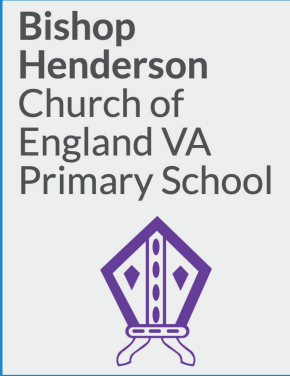


If you have started coming to St George's regularly, or have been coming for some time but haven't yet done so, may we encourage you to **join our committed Christian Giving scheme** by completing a pledge form and possibly a standing order form. Just email Robin on **giving@stgchurch.co.uk** to find 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 or click here <https://givealittle.co/c/87f1f0f9-d531-42a3-bb0d-14691d850cf6> 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!

“Rooted in love we flourish and grow” (From Ephesians 3 v17-19)



FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St George's Church led the foundation of Bishop Henderson Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School in Galmington in 1974. This is now very popular and successful, with 14 classes and over 420 pupils.

St George's has maintained strong links with the School by supplying a long line of Foundation Governors, and also through Rev. Jenny Jeffery's role of School Chaplain. The School is proud of its distinctive Christian status as a CEVA school within the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The School's Board of Governors, which normally meets 6 times a year, now has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor, to be nominated by St George's Church. It would be wonderful if a member of our congregation (possibly a parent of children already at, or soon to be at the School) felt called to fill this role, further strengthening the School's core value: "the Christian belief in a loving God who values each individual".

The key responsibility of each of the six Foundation Governors is to preserve and develop the Christian character of the School. However, the role of any Governor is essentially strategic - to work with the Headteacher to:

- Help to develop a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction for the School
- Hold the Headteacher and other leaders to account for their performance in ensuring that every pupil has the best possible education
- Oversee the financial performance of the School and ensure its money is well spent
- Ensure that the views of parents, staff and community representatives are heard and taken into account
- Ensure that the School complies with its legal and statutory obligations.

Whilst you might offer your experience, skills and knowledge, the new experience and skills you would gain will undoubtedly be of long-term personal benefit.

To find out more:

- Have an informal chat with Rev Jenny Jeffery, or Peter Joyce, (a former Chair of Governors).
- Mrs Rachel White, Headteacher would be delighted to speak with you : phone 01823 274770, or email : office@bishophendersonsantaunton.co.uk to arrange an appointment.
- Visit these websites:
 - <https://www.bishophendersonschool.co.uk>
 - <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/schools/school-trust-governance/come-on-board/>
 - <https://www.nga.org.uk/about/become-a-governor-trustee/>



WHO'S WHO

Rev'd Dr Nick Griffin - Vicar

Tel: 01823 774128

Email: nick@stgchurch.co.uk

Day Off: Fridays

Rev'd Rob Cromwell - Curate

Tel: 07889 452524

Email: rob@stgchurch.co.uk

Day Off: Fridays

Rev'd Richard Kelley - Associate

Email: richard@stgchurch.co.uk

Churchwardens

Peter Joyce 07761 407433

Lisa Westlake 01823 284253

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

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Hilary McKegney

Email: safeguarding@stgchurch.co.uk

PCC Secretary

Lucy Norris

Email: pccsecretary@stgchurch.co.uk

Treasurer

Ian Pinder

Tel: 07747 496842

Christian Giving Officer

Robin Stamp

Email: giving@stgchurch.co.uk

Families Coordinator

Email families@stgchurch.co.uk

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Hilary McKegney

Email pastoral-care@stgchurch.co.uk

Digital & 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

Health & Safety Coordinator

Paul Cole

Email: paulcoleassoc@btconnect.com

Prayer Circle

Email: prayer@stgchurch.co.uk

Electoral Roll Officer

Laurie Jeffery

Email: laurie.jeffery@sky.com

Support Meals

Email: supportmeals@stgchurch.co.uk

Deanery Synod Rep

Hilary McKegney

PCC Members

Matt Norman

Paul Cole

Pete Underwood

Katie Lanchbury

Nick Griffin

Peter Joyce

Richard Kelley

Lisa Westlake

Mary Carson

Laura Willetts

Bethan Baigent

Rob Cromwell

Hilary McKegney