

ST GEORGE'S

NEWSBOARD

Sunday 12th
January 2025



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

Happy New Year Everyone!

How was your Christmas? Ours was wonderful but...our washing machine began a slow death cycle. 'DE' went the sign. Oh dear. 'Water supply' said google. Hmmm...but it wasn't that. Then cycles stopped working and then washes would complete but be mysteriously dry. Water would find itself onto the floor more than on the clothes. It was time.

9 years is not bad for a device that is used this regularly in our big household. It was time. And so I began the search for a new one. Apparently all new washing machines are supposed to be connected to the internet. I don't know why and now an 'Ai' will tell what clothes you've put in, and automatically choose the right cycle and indeed amount of detergent. It is a confusing process. On choosing the hallowed item I bought one on the best deal available.

Mark's Electrical, based in Leicester.

That's right. Named it. Prepare for the shamed it. 'We will text you the night before with a 2 hour timeslot'.

Phone call. 'Sorry, you'll be text tonight and it'll be with you tomorrow'.

No text. No washing machine.

'I want a refund'....and so we'll see in 7-10 days whether this company will do what it says it will.

It got me thinking about resolutions which we're all making right now. Why are they so hard to keep?

First because they're often hopeless vague; 'get fit'; 'stop eating chocolate'. Second, because we don't often mean them, it just feels like a thing one ought to do in January. So here is a New Years Resolution challenge for you that is difficult but doable.

Do what you say you're going to do.

The biblical word for this is faithfulness. In Jesus phrase, 'Let your yes be yes and your no be no'. It requires us not to over-promise and so resist the urge to 'people please' but does mean that we do things we can do. We can't always control what happens but we can often control what we commit to. I am convinced that getting these basics right would make a massive difference to most companies performance, your personal relationships and the outflow to your community is significant.

So what about you? What will you commit to do? We've got all sort of faithful heroes here. Carole who gave a life not to being a missionary but supporting them from home; Matt who is always ready, always prepared, never complains; Terry tinkering away; Sue and Sheena making artworks everyweek for public display. You don't have to be one of these people. But in my mind one of the best things I can say about all of them is that they do what they said they will do. I trust them and in my experience, they're generally a bit happier than others. They're not stressed out trying to find excuses for why they couldn't deliver a washing machine... they don't sell it, or they just do it.

God bless,

Nick

St George's **News**

WE'RE BACK...

Phew! What a Christmas time that was folks! It was truly wonderful to see our lovely Church full to the brim with church family, the local community and friends and families filling not just the pews but the bell tower and even at points the chancel with people. There really was "no more room at the inn" - and for our Traditional Carol Service, we had an overflow of people joining us from the Hall (first in the queue for the mulled wine...)

We reckon, from all our Christmas Services, we'll have had over approx 880 people join us this Christmas time - many non Christians, hearing the Good News - and those numbers are not even including our Christmas Fayre, Tuk Tuk Carols and our regular Sunday Services.

It was truly joyous...and exhausting...so the break after Christmas was well and truly enjoyed by the whole team and also our fabulous gang of Volunteers who stepped forward to help us in so many ways. THANK YOU St George's. You helped us to shine the Light here and show God's love and hope to all.

And now the decorations are down, they have been put away ready for later this year and we look ahead to what 2025 has in store for us. And to quote someone who emailed me today, they said our strapline should be "St George's - Never Dull" We wouldn't want it any other way folks would we!!



...and I must say an additional thanks to the speediest Christingle team ever! It was a fine example of St George's turning up in my hour of need!! They put together 200 packs in the speedy time of 45 minutes. A real example where more hands make light work - team work makes the dream work!



And just like that, we're back with all our usual busy activities.....

STAY AND PLAY CALL FOR ONE-OFF HELP!

Stay and Play need a couple of people to help as a **one off on Wednesday 15 January...**

preparing the children's fruit, serving coffee and homemade cake to the adults and washing up... 9.30 - 10.30. We'd be so grateful to you if you can help us out, as would the little ones getting their snacks and the parents/carers enjoying an excellent cup of coffee!

Please do get in touch if you think you can help.

With grateful thanks

Judith Pickles.



ALPHA - Starting Tuesday 28th January at 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).



Unpack the Christian faith together.



STARTS TUES 28th January 7pm

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.

IN THE FORTNIGHT AHEAD

Sunday 12th January
9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**
11.00am **Worship Service**

Monday 13th January
10.15am **Morning Prayer**
10.00am **BUGGY BUDDIES RETURNS**

Tuesday 14th January
12.00pm **SOUP**
7.30pm **Bellringers**

Wednesday 15th January
9.30am **Stay and Play**

Thursday 16th January
10.15am **Morning Prayer**

Sunday 19th January
9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**
11.00am **Worship Service with Communion**

Monday 20th January
10.00am **BUGGY BUDDIES**
7.30pm **Mens Shed**

Tuesday 21st January
12.00pm **SOUP**
7.30pm **Bellringers**
7.30pm **PCC Meeting**

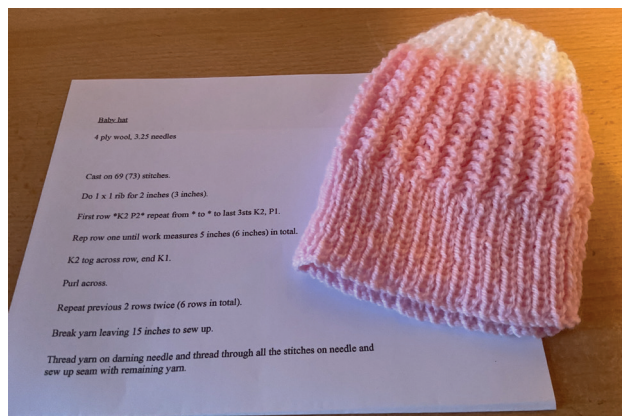
Wednesday 22nd January
9.30am **Stay and Play**

Friday 24th January
10.15am **Stroll For The Soul**

CALLING ALL KNITTERS!!

As a new Community project, Kate is asking for as many of you as possible to help knit some baby hats for the little ones in Musgrove Maternity Unit.

Do speak to Kate or pick up a copy of the knitting pattern from Church on Sunday!



Stroll for the Soul

Don't miss our first Stroll of 2025 - **on Friday 24 January.**

We'll meet up outside the **Brewhouse Theatre at 10.15 am.**

We are delighted and privileged that Paul Cole has kindly agreed to lead us on a very interesting walk, incorporating some significant features in the centre of Taunton. These will include a visit to the Somerset County Cricket Ground where we will learn a little of the history of the club - established 150 years ago, together with details of the club's present and future plans, bearing in mind the evolving global developments within the game.

From here we will continue to Priory Bridge Road to view the vacant Firepool site, and learn of the Council's master plan for the future of the site, and its relevance to the prosperity of our town, the region - and the cricket club. We will then return along the river path - and share refreshments in the Brewhouse Cafe.

This is an opportunity not to be missed - make a note in the your diary now!

Car sharing will be arranged where needed. Contact Rachel (07818 003297) or Janet (337183)

*Jesus You Walk with Me
- Help me to Walk With You*



ST GEORGE'S CHARITY COLLECTION

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>

NEXT STROLL FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

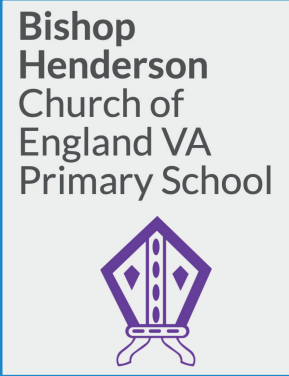
Stroll for the Soul

A MONTHLY WALK WITH FRIENDS

Conversation Fellowship Contemplation

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: OFFICE@STGCHURCH.CO.UK

“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/>



In Loving Memory

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

**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.*



**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**

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

Thank you so much!

WHO'S WHO

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Day Off: Fridays

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Deanery Synod Rep

Hilary McKegey

PCC Members

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Laura Willetts

Bethan Baigent

Rob Cromwell

Hilary McKegey