



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

Last night I attended one of the B1 Prayer services. I wasn't involved in the leadership of the service, it's organisation or planning. This is unusual for me these days so I found an inconspicuous place near the door. But my friend, Matt Bradley came in and found a chair next to me. I've know Matt since year 8 in Bishop Foxes School. He was and is the funniest person I've ever met in my life. We ended up praying together. 'Why Lord have you sent two Bishop Foxes boys out into ministry and found ourselves together in the same town?' he prayed. 'Because God sends no-one alone', I responded.

Abraham had Lot, Moses had Aaron, David had Jonathan, Elijah had Elisha, Jesus had 12 (greedy!), Paul had Silas....God sends no-one alone because it is not good for humans to be alone. Friendship is one of the most undervalued elements in modern society and the need for friends, companions to walk alongside is so important and must be a strong cause of the epidemic of loneliness which causes so many issues in our society. The Covid lockdowns accelerated the existing trend that people simply do not speak to other people and whilst this might seem fine from the outside, it is ruinous to both our physical and mental health.

So I'm proud to invite another one of my friends to come and speak to us on the 19th October for the second of our Mental Health Days. His name is Rob Merchant. I got to know him as part of the staff team at St Mellitus College where we trained people to be Vicars. Initially, we bonded over

a mutual love/ability to tolerate abuse from Dachshunds, a shared sense of irony and ability to eyebrow raise at the crazier parts of ministry/higher education but really because he's a decent bloke. Someone who will talk and listen; to and fro. He became my friend. I don't really miss working in the academic world, I just miss the genius people I worked with and Rob M is very high on that list.

Rob will tell his own story but he has suffered through terrible mental health problems himself and is able to walk down the street today – let alone stand up and talk with people – because of what he describes as 'very expensive therapy'. These experiences were a spring board for his own research into the field of mental health and how it works with everyday faith and theology. Often in mixed-mode studies, you get someone who is an expert in one 'playing' at another; Rob's unique gift is how he is able to bring the psychology and theology together in a beautiful manner.

So you dear reader, fish your diary out of your bag or load up your app and book your ticket. Do it now. It cost £10 which includes lunch. This basically just covers our costs – but if it's a problem then we don't care about the money – we just want people to come and be blessed – so let me know! Come along.
God bless,

Nick

St George's **News**

OCTOBER COUNT

Thanks to those of you who attended the 9.30am on Sunday and completed a Census form for us - we really appreciate it. The Census forms will need to be completed each Sunday, so thank you for your help with this.

Please make sure that you also tick the relevant age box if you have your children with you.

There are some additional questions on the form this year on the front and the back of the sheet so we'd be really grateful if you could ensure you complete it as best as you can for us.

Thank you all so much!

Bethan



ST GEORGE'S WILTON

**faith
hope & mental health**

22:37

**SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER
10.00AM - 3.30PM
AT ST GEORGE'S WILTON**

Talking about mental health and how it relates to our faith. Talks from our special guest

Rev Rob Merchant
- Author of "Broken by Fear, Anchored in Hope: Faithfulness in an Age of Anxiety"

With lunch and a Q&A panel
For more information email events@stgchurch.co.uk
TO BOOK YOUR TICKET, SCAN THE QR CODE

SCAN THIS



£10 a ticket

FAITH HOPE AND MENTAL HEALTH

On Saturday 19th October, we're going to talk about mental health together in church with the church. Our first Faith Hope and Mental Health Day was a great success with many

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 13th October

9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**
11.00am **Worship Service**

Monday 14th October

10.00am **Buggy Buddies**

Tuesday 15th October

12pm **SOUP**
7pm **Alpha Course**
7.30pm **Bellringing Practice**

Wednesday 16th October

9.30am **Stay and Play**

Thursday 17th October

2.30pm **I Dreamed A Dream Course**
BISHOP HENDERSON OPEN DAY

Saturday 19th October

10.00am **Faith Hope Mental Health Day**

Sunday 20th October

9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**
11.00am **Worship Service with Communion**

UPCOMING DATES AT A GLANCE

STROLL FOR THE SOUL

Thursday 24th October

WORSHIP TEAM GATHERING

Monday 28th October

MOSSY CHURCH STARGAZING EVENT

Saturday 9th November

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

JOINT SERVICE

Sunday 10th November 10.00am



TUESDAYS
In Term Time

12.00PM-2.00PM

**ST GEORGE'S WILTON
CHURCH HALL**

www.stgchurch.co.uk

It does what it says...we serve SOUP...and teas/coffees and maybe cake.
Come for a bowl and a chat. It would be great to see you!

saying things like: "Thank you very much for organising this day. It was a very helpful and thought provoking".

So let's keep the conversation going....

This time our special guest is Rev Rob Merchant who is the Author of a book called "Broken By Fear, Anchored In Hope - Broken by Fear, Anchored in Hope - Faithfulness in an age of anxiety" It's a personal and open account by a senior church leader of living with mental health issues, and how he has found a way to deal with them. Drawing on his own experience, Rob shows how healing starts when we acknowledge and accept our vulnerability. Knowing our place before God and surrendering wholly to Christ, we can discover forgiveness and always find hope. The book has been described as '*Has the power to plant seeds of hope in your heart that when the storms come, it's possible not to be afraid.*'

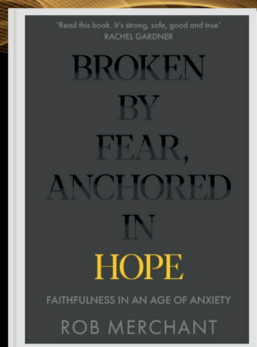
Rob is a Tutor and Director of St Mellitus College, Chelmsford. Upon leaving school Rob worked as a care worker supporting people with learning disabilities. Since ordination he has served in a number of different ministerial contexts and has worked in academic research. Rob's academic interests include ageing, mental health, and trauma. He has spoken at many Christian events including Spring Harvest, New Wine and Keswick.

It's not to be missed.

So join us for a day of worship, teaching, lunch and prayer. Tickets are only £10 to include lunch. Book here or on our website <https://stgchurch.churchsuite.com/events/xdg6hpgc> or scan the QR code here



Rev Rob Merchant



"Broken By Fear, Anchored In Hope"

Bishop's letter - A light which shines in the darkness

The custodial sentences imposed on many of those involved in the recent riots in communities across our country have highlighted, yet again, the issue of criminal justice and the pressures and strains within the prison system. The seemingly ever-increasing size of the prison population; the appalling conditions within many of our older prisons, especially those in our inner cities; the almost total lack of provision for education and rehabilitation and an apparent unwillingness by those elected to Parliament to consider whether the whole of our justice system needs a radical overhaul have all resulted in much media comment.

But one part of the prison system which has not been mentioned is the invaluable role played by those who serve as Chaplains. Prison and restorative justice have been a constant thread almost throughout the whole of my life beginning with my first visit while still in my teens to what was then called a Borstal.

Since then, I've had the privilege of working with chaplaincy teams across the whole of the prison estate. I've witnessed at first hand the extraordinary work done those teams, lay and ordained, of all faiths, working together to witness to God's love in Christ and caring for all those in the prison system, both staff and prisoners. I've often said to those on the outside, if you want to know what true collaborative ministry looks like in practice, look no further than a chaplaincy team. While each member remains true to his or her particular faith, the barriers which often divide people of faith have no part in that shared work of witness and service.

Sadly, all too often, the work of Chaplaincies not just in prison but in all aspects of our human life, in education, hospital, mental health, care homes and many other places, is barely known – that is, until we need their care. But Chaplaincies are the yeast which leaven our society. The light which shines in the darkness. Society, as we long and pray for it to be, would be the poorer without them.

Bishop Trevor Willmott

Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Bath and Wells

ST GEORGE'S **CHARITY COLLECTION**

TAUNTON TEAM CHAPLAINCY

The aim of the Chaplaincy is to serve Taunton's workforce and the community in general by offering a friendly, listening ear, and impartial and confidential support through the ups and downs of life.



Chaplains are drawn from local churches and linked with a workplace or area to visit (usually) weekly with the purpose of offering friendly and supportive care to all. A chaplain's main aim is to listen and take an interest in the people they meet and provide comfort and compassion as appropriate.

Over a period a chaplain will get to know and to be known and accepted as a caring friend.

While the Chaplaincy is unashamedly Christian there is no intention to 'preach' and support is offered to all, those of any faith or none. Anyone can turn to their chaplain for support and, whilst chaplains are impartial and non-judgmental, caring for people rather than counselling them, they are able to signpost to organisations that can offer focused help. All conversations are treated as confidential within the Chaplaincy (subject to UK laws and safeguarding good practice).

As well as retail stores and offices, TTC also run Rail Responders at our Taunton Railway Station and visit Care Homes as well as now being at Taunton Magistrates Courts where they offer support to anyone who is involved in the activities of the day including staff, witnesses, victims, defendants, and their friends and family members.

If you are unable to donate in person at a Church Service, you can always donate online.

Visit their website <https://www.tauntontc.co.uk/support-us>

Chaplaincy, a gift to communities: Listen, care, pray and bless

In moments of sorrow, struggle, or uncertainty chaplains walk alongside those in need. Through their ministry they bring hope and healing to places where it is needed most, from hospitals and schools to workplaces and courts, care for the elderly and those at the end of life, as reflected by some of those who have experienced their care first hand.

Arriving at Hinkley Point C with the chaplains, the first questions Mike Haslam, Chaplaincy Development Adviser heard were about how, when and where staff could gather to pray and how you cope amidst personal grief. He added "Surrounding these questions was the hum of good-humoured banter, which you only hear when people trust each other."

During Covid-19, a nurse at the Royal United Hospital, Bath shared, "I wouldn't have got through the last few months without the chaplains. They've got this knack of finding you, this inner sense of where you

are and when you need them to visit." While a Consultant Clinical Psychologist spoke of chaplaincy as the "gift of time and listening, as important as sterile conditions in a hospital operating theatre." Pupil chaplaincy is a growing chaplaincy, one which has been appreciated by pupils and teachers alike. Mike said, "In one school, an 11-year-old, who had never before encountered church, or chaplaincy, told me that a chaplain was there 'to listen, care, pray for and bless the school' while in a university setting a student said chaplaincy gave them hope, saying 'That Christianity could be for me and gave me a vision of the church family, before I'd met the church.'"

Mike concluded, "It's been amazing to witness chaplaincy grow, with around ten new chaplaincies formed each year over the past seven years. I pray that chaplaincy continues to be a blessing to our communities."

Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/chaplaincy

In Loving Memory

We remember
**Keith Venables, Kath Paul and
Michael Jones**

*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.*

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled
and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

Would You Consider A Gift In Your Will To St George's?



In the scriptures, financial giving is part of our worship and as many people have supported this church throughout their lives and giving a gift in your will enables you to make one last significant gift to the whole community.

Your legacy will help us to continue to give glory to God and serve our community for many years to come.

**Pick up a leaflet or speak to one
of the team to find out more**



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 DATES DATES AND MORE DATES



A MONTHLY WALK WITH FRIENDS



Join our walking group, **Stroll for the Soul**, where we meet monthly for a gentle walk together. We go to a different location each time, talk as we walk and stop for reflection and prayer.

STROLL THE SOUL DATES

THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2025

THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2025

For more informations email office@stgchurch.co.uk, chat to Janet or Rachel or check Newsboard!

Jesus you walk with me, help me to walk with you.

ST GEORGE'S Worship News

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Psalm 100:1-2

With so much going on with worship, we thought we'd give you all the dates you'll need right up to Christmas so you can jot them down in your diaries.

ST GEORGE'S 9.30AM CHOIR THURSDAY REHEARSALS 7.30pm

Join us in the Choir Room upstairs in Church Hall

5th September
19th September

- Rehearsal for Harvest Service

10th October
24th October
7th November

- Rehearsal for Joint Remembrance Service

21st November
5th December

- Rehearsal for Christmas Carol Service

12th December

- Rehearsal for Christmas Carol Service

ST GEORGE'S 9.30AM CHOIR SUNDAY SERVICES 9.30am

Join us in the Choir Room upstairs in Church Hall at 9am for Warm Up!

8th September
22nd September

- Traditional Harvest Service

13th October
10th November
10th November

- Joint Remembrance Service * 10am

24th November

22nd December
REHEARSAL 4PM IN CHURCH
SERVICE 6PM

ST GEORGE'S WORSHIP TEAM GATHERING MONDAYS AT 7.30pm

Join us in the Church for a time of teaching worship songs, praying together and rehearsing

23rd September
28th October
25th November

ST GEORGE'S WORSHIP JAM MONDAYS AT 7.30pm

Bring your instrument, your voice and join us just getting together for a time of worship

9th September
11th November

For any more information email chris@stgchurch.co.uk



Bringing Church youth together in Taunton

2024-2025



games and craft and snacks and teaching and worship and prayer

28th Sep/
Taunton Baptist Church 7-9pm

7th Dec/
Taunton Baptist Church/Christmas party 7-9pm

25th Jan/
Taunton Baptist Church/
Movement Worship Night/ time TBC

21st-23rd Mar/
Weekend away/Dartmoor

17th May/
Taunton Baptist Church 7-9pm

27th-29th Jun/
SPREE

12th Jul/
Creech/Paddle sports and BBQ



@tauntonyouthgathering



please bring £1 contribution and a member of your youth/children's team who has safeguarding checks



2024-2025

06/10

SUNDAY

B1 United Service

We will join to worship together with other churches across the town at Wellsprings Leisure Centre.

10/11

SUNDAY

Joint Remembrance Service

A joint service at 10.00am followed by the laying of the wreath and Act of Remembrance at 11.00am

03,10,17/12

TUESDAYS

Tuk Tuk Carols

We will be touring the Parish on 3 Carolling journeys with our sturdy Tuk Tuk, mulled wine & hot chocolate

07/12

SATURDAY

St George's Christmas Fair

Our very success Christmas Fayre will be back with Santa, stalls and lots more fun for all the family

15/12

SUNDAY

Contemporary Carol Service

Our Contemporary Carol Service will be led by our worship band, with responses and prayer

22/12

SUNDAY

Traditional Carol Service

Our popular traditional candlelit Christmas Carol Service with readings, a talk, and with popular Carols

24/12

TUESDAY

Christingle Services

There will be 2 Christingle Services at 2.30pm and 4.00pm making Christingles and singing carols

24/12

TUESDAY

Midnight Christmas Eve Service

A traditional candlelit Holy Communion Service at 11.30pm will bring in Christmas morning

25/12

WEDNESDAY

Joint Christmas Day Celebration

We will join to worship together and celebrate this special day at 10.00am followed by Holy Communion

For any information on any of the above events/services email office@stgchurch.co.uk
More events will be added but we hope this gives you a flavour!

50

Special Birthday Celebrations

Bishop Henderson School is 50.

"Rooted and grounded in love, we flourish and grow"

We give thanks for the vision given to Rev Roland Clarke, the vicar and the PCC in the early seventies, to establish a church school in the then Parish of Wilton.

Visits were made to the local residents and there was overwhelming support, as well as from the Diocese of Bath and Wells.
The Bishop at the time giving his name to the school.

Hedley King was appointed as the first head teacher and he became a prominent member of St Georges Church for many years.

The school opened with 120 pupils and 4 teachers including Rosa Parsloe. Barbara Reeves and the late Janet Ball were appointed for the second year. Many of the staff that followed were members of St G's including Gerald Dunning who was also the organist.

Over the years the school has been extended with several major extensions with a current number of 430 pupils and upwards of 50 staff.

The Lord has richly blessed the school and it has always been grateful for the support of St George's Church both financially and prayerfully.

The school will be holding a celebratory Service on **Thursday 17th October.**

Unfortunately there is only room for school pupils staff and invited guests.

The good news is that the school will be open from early evening for anyone to come and look round the school and to view an exhibition of old photographs, newspaper articles and other memorabilia.

There will be an opportunity to share memories and meet with old friends or to simply discover more of the life of Bishop Henderson School.

Book the date now!

Do you, I wonder have any photos etc that you could share?

Do speak to Jenny Jeffery, the School chaplain.

You can contact her for further details at revjen@sky.com



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 Minister

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

Safeguarding

Nick Griffin

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 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

For confidential prayer

Email: **prayer@stgchurch.co.uk**

Electoral Roll Officer

Laurie Jeffery

Email: **laurie.jeffery@sky.com**

Support Meals

Providing meals to support one another

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

Mary Carson

Laura Willetts

Bethan Baigent

Rob Cromwell

Hilary McKegney