



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

'Applying for a new job then?' beeped my phone. 'No, Dad,' my solitary response. I nearly just wrote 'we're sorry' for this newsboard and left it there. I am embarrassed and ashamed for the mess of the Church of England. This week the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has resigned after concerted press and internal pressures.

You can read all of the details online but it's a mess; it's a mess where humming and hawing has eventually led to a pressured resignation that felt more like a politician than clergy, it's a mess because leaders who have other axes to grind against the Archbishop seemed to find special cause on this issue and foremost it's a mess because of what happened to those kids who still carry the physical and other scars of the activities of John Smyth. Mr Smyth was a violent man who hurt many under his care with weapons. By contrast Bishops carry a crook, a pastoral symbol that comes from sheep herding and with this instrument shepherds sometimes need to defend the sheep from wolves. When they don't they are held accountable by the community and by God.

Every major UK institution has had problems with looking after it's most vulnerable members – what we now call 'safeguarding.' Politics of all colours, sports of all types, media, education, scouting, health even the royal family have had their issues. But the impact is greater with the church because I am and we are held to a higher standard. This is as it should be. We who preach the good news of Christ are called to live that out. Jesus says that it would be better for those who lead little ones astray to have a millstone tied to them and chucked into the ocean than to face the judgement of God that is forthcoming. Churches are vulnerable to safeguarding problems because we work with vulnerable people. We

support children and the elderly, the disabled and prisoners, refugees and addicts and those who are simply lost. The call of Christ is to love and care for the most vulnerable in society. This is a noble aim which carries the risk that those who are predatory will seek out our weak points to do harm. Churches need to proactively protect against predatory characters. So what do we do?

At St Georges our full policy can be found on the website but here it is in brief: if you have a concern on safeguarding you can speak with me or if it is a problem with me, then you can speak with Hilary McKegney. Our volunteers are 'safer recruited' for roles which necessitate it, which means they will have had police checks, an interview, references and signed a statement declaring their history. Volunteers and leaders undergo training and refresher training on the topic. The PCC have safeguarding as an agenda item each meeting to keep tabs on progress of recruitment, cases and policies. I work with the diocese and the police on a regular basis. We want to keep improving standards as part of our mission to love our neighbours and love God. Safeguarding is a major part of my job and one I take seriously.

I am ashamed and sorry for this mess and if I'm really honest it makes me want to walk away from these grubby things altogether. The reason I do not walk out, is that I still believe in the Church. I see week by week what the church can do, the way that people gathered together in the name of Jesus, brings glory to God and makes a real difference in the community as individual lives are turned around, the lonely set in friendship that hope is found from despair.

Nick

St George's **News**

CONFIRMATION SERVICE - THIS WEDNESDAY!!

We're delighted to be holding a Baptism and Confirmation Service with Bishop Michael Langrish.

We really want to show him what a supportive Church family we have here at St George's so please do come along to this special service on **WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 7pm** to welcome Kenneth and Mercy's new bundle of joy being baptised as well as 11 others from our Church family being Confirmed.

We'd love you to join us!

90TH BIRTHDAY SURPRISES ...and what a surprise it was!

I had no idea how many secrets were being kept by so many wonderful people. I'm still taking it all in, surrounded by flowers, gifts and so many cards of good wishes. I am so thankful to you all. You are such special people who are filled with love and kindness and who have shown me so much support for so many years. I am so privileged to be a part of the St George's family. Along with Tim, Angela, Nick and Claire, my wonderful boys and partners, we thank you very much indeed.

With love Rosa x

...it was a great celebration

Here are some snaps from Rosa's celebration. It really was wonderful to see the surprise on Rosa's face - what a picture and what a celebration! You are so loved Rosa!



WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 17th November

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service with Communion

Monday 18th November

10.30am Buggy Buddies

7.30pm Mens Shed

Tuesday 19th November

10.00am Mini Mossy Church Event

12.00pm SOUP

7.00pm Alpha in Winston Room

7.30pm Bellingring Practice

7.30pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 20th November

9.30am Stay and Play

7.00pm Baptism & Confirmation Service

Thursday 21st November

12.00pm Women Not In the Pub But Having Lunch but at La Bonne Vie

Friday 22nd November

10.30am Stroll For The Soul - see article

Sunday 24th November

9.30am Worship With Holy Communion

11.00am Worship Service

UPCOMING DATES AT A GLANCE

TUK TUK CAROLS

Tuesdays in December at 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 7th December 2pm-5pm

CHRISTMAS BUGGY SERVICE

Wednesday 18th December 10.00am

STROLL FOR THE SOUL

Our Stroll on **Friday next, 22 November**, will be starting at Ilminster. We will be seeing part of the old Taunton-Chard Canal, the railway line and some of the Stop Line WW2 defences. All are welcome to join this gentle walk, meeting at **10.15 for a 10.30 start**.

We aim to use as few cars as possible. If you plan to join us, please contact Janet (07891 507391) or Rachel (07818003297) as soon as possible letting us know if you require a lift, or can offer one. We will make sure all drivers are given a map to direct them to the rendezvous.

TAUNTON WELCOMES REFUGEES



TAUNTON
WELCOMES
REFUGEES

Taunton Welcomes Refugees" charity have put out an appeal for board games (scrabble, monopoly that sort of thing) Also trainers in good condition, sports clothes and men's toiletries. If you can help in anyway please contact Lin Wood 278241 or 07989832996 Thank you so much everyone!

Lin

CHRISTMAS FAYRE HELP

if you can help us. It's such a great event and we can help to raise lots of money to help with the work of the church so please do get in touch **events@stgchurch.co.uk** to let us know.

This Sunday there will be sign up sheets for you to pop your name on for how you would like to help - COME AND HELP MAKE THIS THE BEST ONE YET!!!!

You can sign up for set up/clear down/making mince pies/cakes for the cake stall/help on a stall/help on the entrance for an hour... PLEASE do sign up for something. Thank you so much!!

And those spots for our Santa's Grotto are going so do make sure that you secure your spot for your little ones and help to give them some Christmas Magic.

You can book in on this link here <https://stgchurch.churchsuite.com/events/pvk2ongc> visit our website or our Facebook Page.

To donate anything for the Nearly New Stall, Hilary McKegney has kindly said we can store things in her garage so do get in touch to arrange to drop anything off - contact 07460 471 514 or email hilary@stgchurch.co.uk

THANK YOU ALL SOOOOOO MUCH!!



FAYRE CHECKLIST

DONATE

- ✓ Chocolate for Tombola
- ✓ Bottle for Tombola
- ✓ Nearly New Gift

BAKE

- ✓ Mince Pies
- ✓ Cake/Traybake

HELP

- ✓ Setting up/Clear Down
- ✓ Helper on Stall (Maze, Pizza, Tree Festival)
- ✓ Entrances (Need 12 people in total!!)

PLEASE HELP WHEREVER YOU CAN AND SIGN UP ON THE SHEETS IN CHURCH

GETTING THE CHURCH READY FOR CHRISTMAS!!

As you know we have a wonderfully talented but VERY small team who look after and display our beautiful flowers in church each week. We are so thankful for them but as we approach the busy season we really would like some help to make our church look Christmas ready.

We need people to help us to decorate the church for the Christmas Fayre and for our Christmas Services.

If you think you could help in any way, please do speak to either Sue Stenhouse or Sheena Page asap to let them know you can give a helping hand.





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year, we are offering local organisations, businesses, and community groups the opportunity to participate by entering a decorated Christmas tree into the festival.

Here's how it works:

- You provide and decorate a Christmas tree (real or artificial, and 4ft in height).
- Entry fee is £10, which will go into the prize fund for the winning tree.
- During the festival, visitors will vote for their favourite tree, and the tree with the most votes will win the total of all the £10 entry fees!

Additionally, we encourage you to include a small information leaflet about your organisation next to your tree, along with donation pots or donation QR codes if you'd like to raise funds for your cause during the festival.

Key Details:

- Dates: The Christmas Tree Festival will take place on 7th December 2-5pm.
- Setup Date: Trees should be set up by 2nd December and will remain on display throughout the festival to be taken down on the 14th December.
- Voting: Visitors will vote for their favourite tree during the festival, and the winner will be announced 14th December.

Rules:

- o Tree needs to be no taller than 4ft
- o Real or artificial trees can be used
- o Tree needs to be weather proof – make sure decorations are attached well as to avoid the wind or rain destroying your design
- o All lights need to be battery powered and waterproof

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your creativity, raise awareness for your group, and engage with the local community during the festive season. If you would like to participate, please let us know by 24th November to reserve your spot.

For more information or to confirm your participation, please contact us at events@stgchurch.co.uk

JOIN A TEAM AND SERVE

PRAYER MINISTRY AT TIAM

Come and join our Prayer Ministry team! At present there are only a handful of us and we would love for more to be involved to pray with others at the end of the service. It is a real privilege to pray with each other, so do email the office if you feel that you would like to join this wonderful Ministry

office@stgchurch.co.uk

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

We'd love to enlarge our group of volunteers who open / clean / close the St. George's Community Fridge. Why not volunteer by contacting me (Mervyn) at fridge@stgchurch.co.uk to find out more? We'd also like to be able to offer to have the Fridge open much more as the word is spreading across the town so if we can serve our community in this way it would be great to have more of you onboard!!

BUGGY BUDDIES

We walk alongside everyone at such a precious and often challenging time of life and to demonstrate the Christian faith in a gentle, practical way whether that's a sympathetic listening ear, pushing a buggy for a Mum while she walks with her active toddler, or providing a flask of free hot coffee for the grown ups!

We urgently need more volunteers to keep Buggy Buddies running and allow it to thrive. If you can help out for just 2-3 sessions each term, please reach out to us at

Email families@stgchurch.co.uk

MOSSY CHURCH TEAM

We have 'mini' sessions which take place during weekdays, two to three times per term as well as occasional Saturday or school holiday sessions for older children normally once a term. Joining the team wouldn't involve helping at all of the sessions, even once per term would be brilliant. This might be helping to prepare a craft or activity, or if you're not crafty, welcoming or making refreshments, or reading a story on the day. Email families@stgchurch.co.uk if you would like to find out more!

ST GEORGE'S Children & Young People News



AUTUMN ADVENTURE

For 0-5's

Tuesday 19th November 10-11.30am
at St George's Wilton Churchyard

Join us for another fun outdoor* session with your little one
as we explore nature with the theme of Autumn
NATURE CRAFTS THEMED ACTIVITIES
SENSORY PLAY STORIES SONGS

SCAN ME



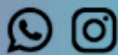
Don't Forget...
FREE
Limited Spaces
BOOK NOW



taunton youth gathering

Bringing Church youth
together in Taunton

School yrs 7-13



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



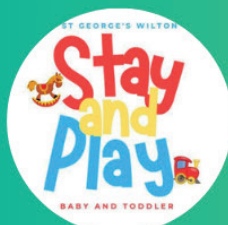
please bring £1
contribution and
a member of your
youth/children's team
who has safeguarding
checks



HEADS UP YOUTH!

The next Youth Gathering will be on Saturday
7th December 7-9pm for a Christmas Party.
It will be at Taunton Baptist Church and
should be great fun!

We'll give you more details nearer the time but
pop the date in your diary!!



ST GEORGE'S CHARITY COLLECTION

We're now half way through the campaign.

So far, the DEC appeal has raised more than £15m. We're overwhelmed by the generosity of the UK public, and it means we can scale up our response and reach more children in need. These funds have never been more urgent. In Lebanon, more than a million people have had to leave their homes in recent weeks. Shelters are overwhelmed, and hospitals are struggling to treat the thousands of people injured.

Our teams are working in incredibly difficult circumstances to deliver services with local partners including cash assistance, setting up learning spaces, child protection and providing essential items such as mattresses, heaters and solar lights.

Money raised from the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal will help us continue our response and reach more children and their families in Gaza and Lebanon, and other areas affected including West Bank and Syria.

So far, our response to the current crisis has included:

- Reaching over 688,000 people with lifesaving and life-sustaining services in Gaza.
- Distributing cash to more than 128,000 people so they could purchase food, medicines or whatever they needed most for their families.
- Setting up an Emergency Health Unit in Gaza working in a partner field hospital to provide maternal and newborn care in the maternity unit and pediatric inpatient and outpatient services.
- Since 23rd of September 2024 our teams have reached over 45,000 people, including 19,600 children in Lebanon.
- Setting up child-friendly spaces and recreational activities: including the distribution of recreational materials and referrals to case management.
- We know that so many of you have already supported the previous appeal for Gaza and we're incredibly grateful for that.

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



**DEC MIDDLE EAST
HUMANITARIAN APPEAL**

DONATE NOW

Children are living through a nightmare in Gaza. And now – as conflict spreads to Lebanon – things are getting even worse. Help us reach children facing extreme hunger, violence and trauma, with the food, medical care and psychological support they so urgently need.

[savethechildren.org.uk/middle-east-appeal](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/middle-east-appeal)

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Save the Children Fund is a charity registered in England & Wales (213890), Scotland (SC039570) and Isle of Man (199).

DEC MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

SAVE THE CHILDREN DEC MEMBER

Save the Children

SCAN TO DONATE



MORNING PRAYER

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
9.15-9.45am

PRAYER SERVICE
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
WILTON
ESTD 2024

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

In Loving Memory

We remember

**David Frost and
Peter Hawkins**

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.

We also remember **Peter Westcott** and his family as they mourn the loss of his passing. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare his funeral in the days ahead.

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

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

7th November

- Rehearsal for

Joint Remembrance Service

21st November

- 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!

10th November

- Joint Remembrance Service at 9.45am

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

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

11th November

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

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



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!

**SOLD OUT SHOW
LAST YEAR**

A GOSPEL Christmas

**FRIDAY 20TH
DECEMBER
6.30PM**

Wellsprings
Leisure Centre,
Taunton, TA2 7QP

Doors open at 6pm

DON'T MISS OUT - BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Last year sold out so quickly and following the success of this wonderful Gospel night, it's sure to sell out quickly again so get your early bird tickets now by scanning the QR code or by visiting the ticket website only - <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/gospel-christmas-2024/a-gospel-christmas-2024/e-dejkr1>

DO NOT
buy your tickets from
any other source.

Our Chris leads the Pursuit of Gospel Choir, so you know you're in for a Christmas treat!!



BOOK TICKETS

EARLY BIRD			FROM 1ST DEC		
£8	£4	FREE	£10	£5	FREE
Adults	Children (-16Y)	0-2 years (on laps)	Adults	Children (-16Y)	0-2 years (on laps)

Come and celebrate Christmas with a live **Gospel Choir and Band** for an evening of Christmas Carols, Gospel Classics and more.

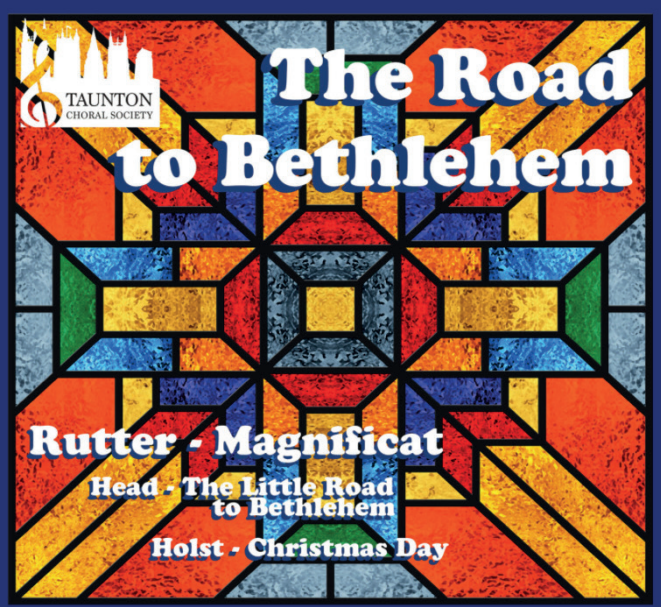
Hosted by the Pursuit of Gospel Choir & Band, Living Light Christian Church, Oakwood Church, Taunton Vineyard Church, St George's Church Wilton, TYFC, New Creation Church, Riverside Church, Wellsprings Community Church, St. James' Church, Taunton Baptist Church, Good Shepherd Church, North Street Church, Creech Baptist Church, All Saints Trull

Taunton Choral Society is the largest and oldest choir in Taunton with a membership of around eighty singers, coming from all walks of life and with a range of musical abilities. It features professional, student and amateur musicians who all work together towards achieving our vision of presenting "inspiring music, without boundaries".

This December they are performing at St James Church and the evening includes:

- Rutter – Magnificat
- McDowall – Christus Natus Est
- Head – The Little Road to Bethlehem
- G Holst – Christmas Day
- Audience Carols

Tickets can be bought by scanning the QR code.



Friday 6th Dec - 7:30pm
St James' Church,
Taunton
(next to the County Ground)

For tickets, information and much more, search **Taunton Choral Society**



Registered Charity Number 900173

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

Lisa Westlake

Mary Carson

Laura Willetts

Bethan Baigent

Rob Cromwell

Hilary McKegney