

ST GEORGE'S

NEWSBOARD

Christmas & New Year
Edition



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

Merry Christmas!

As I write these words I know some of you want to say that it's actually 'advent' and that the season of Christmas does not really start until Christmas Day when it runs for 40 more days. That is how the church calendar runs. Now it has sort of been flipped around so that Advent has become a 25 day lead up to the 'big day' and people find January really long, difficult and cold. Who still wants Hark the Herald and mince pies by the end of boxing day?

In my head I'm mixed about this un-recent change. On the one hand, ecclesiastical pedants are annoying when they say 'ackshally' and give some arcane historical justification that should be saved for pub quizzes. I really really don't like giving in to such pickiness. This means that on a practical level I'm happy to work with the prevailing culture of celebration rather than sackcloth and ashes for Advent.

But on the other hand I see that the traditional frame of seasons has real wisdom in it. A lot of people find Christmas really difficult. Some are just a bit grumpy and wish the world would 'shush' but for others the sound and sight of merriment just seems 'off' when your own life is difficult and life for much of the world is difficult. John Lennon may sing 'war is over' every Christmas but we know it is jolly well not over, so that all of the tinsel and silly hats just seem frivolous. Advent is meant to be a time of waiting and watching for signs of hope; signs of the work

of God; a time which is designed to make space to acknowledge difficulties.

I was talking with someone just last week who is having a difficult time. 'I am afraid to hope' they said. The fear of disappointment dare not let the light of hope peek through. Every year at Midnight Mass* we have this pivot point. The move from dark to light. It is impossible for humans to make that leap and for those who prefer the waiting of advent, it is possible to stay there forever. Despair seems very wise to those in her clutches. But...

The Christian story is not 'always winter, never Christmas'. The Christian story is that Christmas comes in the wintertime. The light does shine in the darkness and the darkness has not even understood it. At Christmas, we can acknowledge the cold, the dark and the difficult things of the world but we have hope because God sent his Son to us. We're not naïve but we believe. We celebrate on purpose when it's most difficult to do so.

Celebration is a discipline and disciplines require you to be purposeful about them. So Merry Christmas, my readers! Go and give thanks by doing happy things and being merry on purpose. Do something good.

May God bless you this Christmas time, even if it feels like a very long advent!

Nick

*(it's not mass but it alliterates so...)

St George's **News**

OFFICE CLOSED AND CLERGY/ STAFF HIBERNATION STARTS...

The Clergy team and the office will be taking a VERY much needed break over Christmas and New Year to recover from all the brilliant Church festivities this last month and to recharge ready for the year to come.

So the Office is closed from Christmas Eve and the Clergy will begin to hibernate the minute after the Christmas Day Service and will resurface on Sunday 5th January.

In the meantime, if you have any pastoral emergencies, you can get in touch with Martin Kirkbride and for any practical issues, please contact our wonderful Churchwardens.

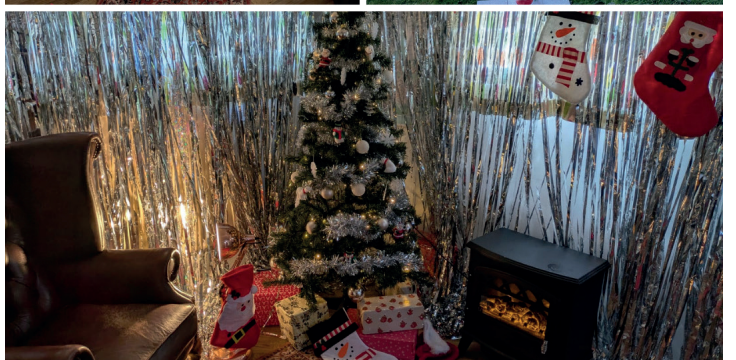
Thanks for being such a supportive Church family again this year - what will 2025 bring us we wonder!!



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

WE DID IT!!!! Praise the Lord!!! Our Christmas Fayre finally went ahead and what a wonderful time we all had!

We were certainly exhausted but in a great way as it was such a great community event that seeing so many buzzing around the Church site, you could not fail to smile! An enormous THANK YOU to all of you who helped to make this another success.



Final tallies are still being worked out but we think we have raised after all expenses, £1891. Considering we were up against some really big Christmas Fayre's, we're thrilled to have made that amount - and you cannot put a price on the community engagement! Well done everyone involved. Now to start planning next years....

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We have had a wonderful time so far this Christmas with our TukTuk Carols, our Contemporary Carol Service and the Crib Service. We have had lots of engagement from the Community so we're thrilled that people are joining in with us and hopefully wanting to come back again and again. TukTuk Carols actually encouraged people to come along to the Contemporary Service which was wonderful to see them there.

It was also great to have Di back helping not only with our Christmas Fayre but also for this service as she's now on her Christmas break from ordination training and our Churchwarden Lisa was in action welcoming and greeting those joining us.



Our Crib Service on Wednesday with all our childrens groups was lovely! It is always so special to see little ones in the church and with this service, they did crafts, sang carols and heard the nativity story. So lovely to have all our young groups joining together!

Our Contemporary Carol Service was enjoyed by many. With a big worship band and upbeat Carols, people seemed to really enjoy the style of the Carols, with some even getting applause at the end...Ding Dong Merrily on High was definitely a favourite (even on TukTuk Carols) . The mulled wine and mince pies went down a treat but there was so many there it was hard to be able to chat to everyone!



OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

FROM 22ND DEC - 5TH DEC

A heads up that the following 3 Sundays, there is no Sunday Club provision so for the 11am service, all toddlers, children and youth will be in the church. There will be some "crafty" things for the young ones to do during the service but our Sunday Groups will be back on **Sunday 12th January.**

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.

Lets bring some Christmas Cheer to our local Care Home!

Thank you so much!

Kate

WOMEN ARE BACK IN THE PUB

Womens Not In The Pub are delighted to announce that they will be BACK IN THE PUB now

thanks to The Vivary Arms now re-opening. We're due now to next meet on Monday 6th January at 7.30pm and we'll bring in the New Year by having a Chocolate Quiz and sharing any leftover chocolate.

So pop the date in - set a reminder as there will not be another NewsBoard and come join us in the Pub!

CALL FOR HELP WITH READING IN SCHOOL

Although not in our Parish, one of our Church family has asked for help with listening to Key Stage 1 children read for a morning or an afternoon a week (approx 2 hours) at St Andrews Primary School or if that even feels too much, they would be appreciative of whatever you could offer. So if this is something you think you could help with, do get in touch with office@stgchurch.co.uk. You'd need to complete a form and have a couple of references, but please do not let that put you off! It's such a lovely thing to be able to do!



DATES AHEAD

FROM DEC 22ND TO JAN 13TH

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**

11.00am **Worship Service**

6.00pm **TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**

Monday 23rd December

1.30pm **Christingle Making Team for Services**

Christmas Eve

4.00pm **Christingle Service**

5.30pm **Christingle Service**

11.30pm **Midnight Communion (Midnight Mass)**

Christmas Day

10.00am **Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion**



BOXING DAY UNTIL SUNDAY 5TH JAN - CLERGY AND STAFF ON CHRISTMAS HIBERNATION

Sunday 29th December

9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**

11.00am **Worship Service**

Sunday 5th January

9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**

11.00am **Worship Service**

7.00pm **PRAY**

Monday 6th January

10.00am **Buggy Buddies**

7.30pm **Mens Shed**

7.30pm **Women BACK in The Pub**

Tuesday 7th January

12.00pm **SOUP**

7.30pm **Bellringers**

Wednesday 8th January

9.30am **Stay and Play**

Thursday 9th January

7.30pm **Mens Pub Club**

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday Dec 22nd is the last day of the St. George's Community Fridge being open.

It will then be closed over Christmas and the New Year, opening again on Sunday 5th January - Thank You!

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



Over this Christmas and New Year period, we have many of those we've loved who we want to remember...

Janet Illing, Alma & Ernest Coleman, Alan Pendlebury, Bert Nunn, Roy Bradshaw, Jim Lee, Geoffrey Lloyd, Amelia Bruce, Stella Russell, Janet Ball, Carol Jones, Bill Morris, Len Biddiscombe, Stella Whatley

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.



Our beautiful pedestal flowers last week and this week have been kindly donated by Johnny Bowden in loving memory of his dear friend Traci.

Thinking of great memories and a great friendship together, with love Johnny (aka Squirrel)



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!

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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Day Off: Fridays

Rev'd Richard Kelley - Associate

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Laura Willetts

Bethan Baigent

Rob Cromwell

Hilary McKegey