

ST GEORGE'S

NEWSBOARD

Sunday 19th
January 2025



A Note From **YOUR VICAR**

2025....wow! That's a way to start! From New Orleans, to those ferocious fires in the US, another collapse in the pound to those horrid stories of gangs of men...Its only been 13 days (as I write)!

The imagery from Los Angeles is particularly striking because we're used to seeing it all quite differently; muscle-bound body builders on Venice beach, palm trees in the distance, celebrities on the boulevard and people roller-skating around for no particular reason. LA It is one of the wealthiest and showiest areas of earth. Whatever your level of financial heft, seeing a home destroyed by such a primal force as fire is totally devastating and terrifying. They have my prayers.

Twitter is full of people calling it 'apocalyptic'. That word is kind of over-used nowadays and is part of our cultural lingo when something seems really quite bad. It's a biblical word. If you're French then the last book of the bible is not called Revelation but 'L' Apocalypse' and it doesn't mean 'end of the world' but that something is revealed. When Jesus talks about this stuff one of the things he emphasises is 'being ready'.

There is a whole culture of 'preppers' in the Western world getting ready for bad stuff going really really bad. They've always been there but now the internet has supercharged them and there are corners of the internet where appropriate canning/pickling advice is freely given, advice on water purification and storage is common place alongside weapons/hunting training. It all gets quite intense quite quickly. Somehow it seems to provide a sense

of safety in what feels like an increasingly uncertain world; as though one can really control what will happen if you just have enough water and anti-radiation tablets to control things. There would definitely have been preppers in LA but when the proverbial really hits the proverbial fan, I wonder what difference it would make to have enough baked beans to last for 2 years. So I wonder what being 'ready' really means.

In a less intense context, we ask this question of young people when they're choosing their career. Being 'career ready' can go down a specialist route but the standard advice now is 'be ready'. We don't know what the future will bring and even established 'safe' careers like medicine and law are threatened by technological developments like AI. What will the future hold? We don't know. We've never known and although sometimes we're able to pretend more confidently, when something as simple as a fire can devastate one of the wealthiest cities on earth, we're reminded of our fragility.

My 2 cents is that 'being ready' is neither the anxiety-ridden stress of the prepper nor the overly confident in so called 'secure' places. It is the acceptance that you can't actually control what happens and willingness to deal with whatever comes, it is the faith that on the mountaintops and desert plains of life, God is good. That's how I read 'L'Apocalypse'....that whatever comes (and a lot is described!) in the end, God will have his way and he is good.

God bless,

Nick

St George's **News**



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



early bird offer

only available until February 2025



adult £100
(Supported)
adult £80
(Standard)
adult £60
(Supported)

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

monthly
payment
available
with £20
deposit

THURS
24TH -
SUN
27TH
JULY '25

ST GEORGE'S BIG WEEKEND

Join us for our Big Weekend – 24-27 July 2025

Come and be part of our Church Weekend Away from Thursday, 24th July to Sunday, 27th July 2025, at the beautiful Wick Farm in Lympsham (BS24 0HD). This is a time to strengthen our relationships with one another and grow deeper in our walk with God.

There's something for everyone—whether you're coming as a family, an individual, or with friends. We've got engaging children's and youth sessions, alongside meaningful teaching and worship for all ages. It's a chance to explore faith together, share stories, and support one another as a community.

Over the weekend, we'll enjoy meals together, laugh over activities, and create memories that will last long after we head home. The relaxed setting of Wick Farm gives us space to connect in ways that don't always happen in our busy day-to-day lives.

This isn't just a break—it's an opportunity to deepen friendships, build new ones, and grow closer to God as we journey together.

We want everyone to feel welcome, so we've kept costs flexible with supported, standard, and supporter ticket options, we also have a bursary fund, so finances really need not be an issue. Why not come along and be part of it?

To book your place, visit stgchurch.co.uk/bigweekend or contact Rob at rob@stgchurch.co.uk.

IN THE FORTNIGHT AHEAD

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

Monday 20th January
9.15am **Morning Prayer**
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**

Thursday 23rd January
9.15am **Morning Prayer**

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

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**

Sunday 2nd February
9.30am **Worship With Holy Communion**
11.00am **Worship Service**
7.00pm **PRAY**

visit our website: stgchurch.co.uk/bigweekend
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THURS
24TH -
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27TH
JULY '25

**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.**



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

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.

SIGN UP HERE



**STARTS
TUES 28th
January
7pm**

CHRISTMAS GIFT THANKS

Apologies to Kate as this was supposed to have gone into last week's NewsBoard to thank everyone on behalf of St George's Care Home for their very kind donations of gift bags to their residents. We delivered 17 gift bags!

Huge thanks to Stay & Play and to our church - it really made their day and a lovely Christmas surprise!



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

**NEXT
STROLL
FRIDAY
24TH
JANUARY**



A MONTHLY WALK WITH FRIENDS

Conversation Fellowship Contemplation

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

ST Georges Community Fridge

As people for various personal reasons have had to step back from our Community Fridge team, we would be really grateful if any of you could spare 1 or 2 hours a fortnight to collect surplus food from Supermarkets or to clean the fridge or help to open and close the fridge. The more people we can have, the more we can open and offer this service to our community.

We would have loved to have opened over the Christmas period but without the help we couldnt and people were messaging wishing to use the fridge so we really would be grateful for any help you could offer to give us.

If you would like to find out more about what any of these tasks involve, please do get in touch with our Fridge Coordinator, Mervyn Roberst and he would be delighted to chat to you.

Thank you so much.

**FRIDGE OPENING TIMES:
SUNDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND
FRIDAY 9.30am TO 4.00pm**



Can You Spare An Hour?

COLLECTING, CLEANING, OPEN & CLOSE

Could you spare an hour or two
once a fortnight?

We need help with collecting surplus food waste from shops, giving the Fridge a quick clean or helping to open or close the Fridge

If you can help or would like to find out more, contact **Mervyn, St George's Fridge Coordinator** on fridge@stgchurch.co.uk

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



Besom

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.

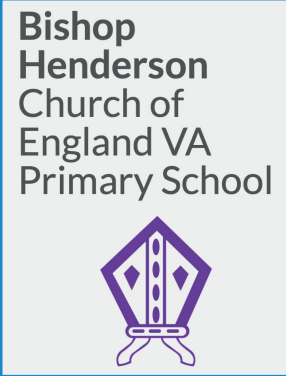
"The Besom in Taunton is a Christian organisation that provides a bridge between those who want to give and those who are in need in the Taunton and Wellington area.

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>

“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

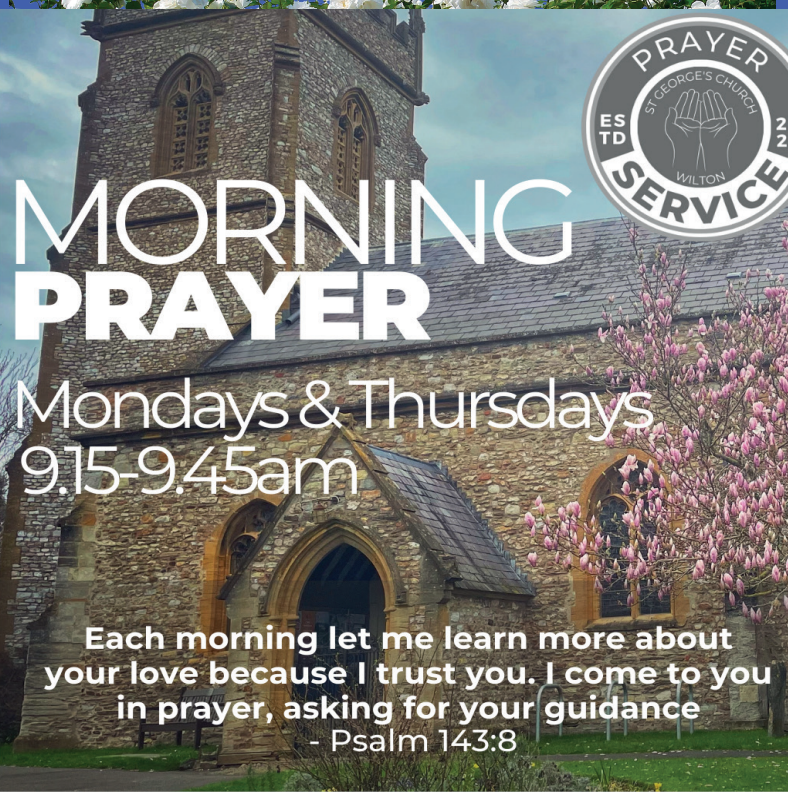
Lord Jesus we think of those we've loved who we want to remember in the days ahead

**Michael Gibbs, Jane Stokes
Doris Smith, Jean Bennett
Philip Billingham, Elizabeth
Mortimer White, Richard Fairfax
and Marjorie Read**

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 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!

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

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 & 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