

# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

*Serving God and the community in Chichester*

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF TRINITY

1 September 2024



### **Dear friends,**

We tend to have a negative association with the idea of religious commandments and laws. There is no doubt something to this. Laws have often been used as instruments of oppression. But then they are no longer laws serving truth, justice, and wisdom. In the bible, law is fundamentally about directing us to our true fulfilment as made in God's image. Whatever builds up our relationship to God, others, and crucially, the most vulnerable, is a law serving God's just purposes. This can never simply be about blindly following precepts. Law must be applied with discernment, diligence, and care. It must be written on our hearts and minds – indeed, it must express and enable the true purposes of our hearts and minds. Jesus addresses this head on in today's Gospel when the Pharisees challenge him and his disciples for not following the rules about washing their hands before eating. Jesus responds robustly, accusing these religious leaders of hypocrisy. They pretend to follow God's law, applying its strict letter, yet without any compassion or authenticity, failing to attend to the state of their own hearts and those in need. Jesus here relentlessly exposes the human tendency to make compliance with rules a measure of truth. This makes a mockery not just of God but of humanity as made in God's image. It reduces the truth about human life to a game of control of the strong over the weak, to ticking arbitrary boxes, rather than that of living beyond ourselves in the generous self-giving love that is the foundation of justice. God's law is radically counter-intuitive to our modern sensibility. It is not about suffocating restriction but freeing our hearts and minds from self-regard; to open them to beauty, goodness and truth; and to empower them for life-giving action, transformative thanksgiving, compassionate wisdom, and serving the common good. As today's epistle puts it, this is the law of liberty which demands not simply to be codified and enforced but enacted wholeheartedly in the flesh and bone of our lives to the benefit of all and the glory of God.

*With my prayers and blessings,*

**Fr Angus**

### **DONATE TO ST GEORGE'S**

The life and mission of St George's depend on your support. There are many ways to donate:

**Gift Aid:** Gift Aid envelopes are available in church that enable us to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers, increasing the donation by 25%.

**Regular Giving:** Setting up a standing order, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme. Forms are available at the back of church.

**Contactless Giving:** A card reader is available in church for card donations. Card donations are also accepted via our website.

**[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk):** Use this when you buy online. For each purchase, a donation will be made to your nominated charities.

**QR code:** Scan this image to donate via your smartphone:



**Thank you for your generosity.**

### **PARISH OFFICE**

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### **RECTOR**

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*Rest day on Friday*

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

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### **PCC SECRETARY**

Mary Howick

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### **NEW TO ST GEORGE'S?**

Welcome! If you have any questions, please ask a Warden or Fr Angus, we are happy to help.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

There are many ways to engage at St George's. Please ask the Rector or Wardens.

### **COME AND SING!**

Our choir sings at the main services and practises once a week. You are welcome to come along. Contact Susan Howell Evans.

ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER: [newsletterwhyke@outlook.com](mailto:newsletterwhyke@outlook.com)

*Please submit by Thursday*

# PARISH NOTICES

## Fred Corbin's Funeral

As many of you will have heard at last Sunday's service, sadly last week Fred Corbin died at home with his family in Gloucester. Fred's funeral will be held at St George's on Friday 20 September at 1pm. There will be a reception following the service in the Centenary Centre. Fred's family are keen to extend the invitation to attend the service to everyone at St George's. Please do keep them and Fred in your prayers.

## Bill Sharp's Funeral

The funeral for William Giles Sharp, Bill, will be held in St George's on Thursday 19 September at 1.30 pm. The reception will be held in the Centenary Centre after the service. You are all warmly invited to attend the Thanksgiving and Farewell service and reception. Please let Sarah Sharp know on 07789 843556 or [sarah.ccc13@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ccc13@gmail.com) if you would like to come.

## Harvest Fair And Produce Show

This year's Harvest Show will take place on 14 September, 12:30pm-2:30pm. There will be a produce and craft competition, great food, face painting, stalls, games, and much more. If you would like to make a submission to the produce show, please take one of the flyers in church for more details. There are several different categories including vegetables, fruit, flowers, preserves, cakes & bakes, young gardeners & artists, and crafts. Exhibit items can be displayed from 9:30am on 14 September with judging beginning at 11am. The show opens at 12:30am for everyone.

## St George's Tots

Our toddler group will be begin again on Monday 9 September 10:30am-12noon.

## J-Team Term Begins

Now that the summer holidays are over, the J-team children's church will begin again on Sunday 8 September.

## Meditation Starts Again on 9 September

Our meditation sessions will begin again in the week beginning 9 September. All are welcome.

## Independent Safeguarding Audit

Please do complete the INEQE survey regarding safeguarding practice. Everyone's view is important. The survey can be found here: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/chichester/>

## Celebrating Our Diocese And Our Faith

2025 will mark the 950th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Chichester and Chichester Cathedral and 1700 years since the Nicene Creed. Find about events here: <https://celebratingfaith.co.uk/>. Bishop Martin has also invited everyone to respond to [four questions](#) about their faith. There is also an invitation to send in photographs. Details about that can be located [here](#).

## Special Services

15 Sep	All-Age Eucharist
06 Oct	Healing Mass
13 Oct	Harvest Festival

## Upcoming Events

14 Sep	Autumn Produce Show
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## Friends Of St Mary's Churchyard

The Friends are a group of volunteers who care for, celebrate, and enhance our churchyard as a sacred space and haven for wildlife. For info, scan here the QR code. You can also email [friendswhyke@gmail.com](mailto:friendswhyke@gmail.com).



## Prayer List

If you want to add someone to the parish prayer list, please contact the parish office or Fr Angus.

## Pastoral Ministry

Please contact Fr Angus for pastoral matters like visits, baptism, confirmation, first communion, weddings, funerals, house blessings, etc.

## Sacrament Of Reconciliation (Confession)

Available by appointment with the Rector.

# THIS WEEK

## SERVICES

### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity 1 September

10:00am Mass (No J-Team)

### Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Monday-Thursday

### Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Said Mass (followed by refreshments)

9:30am Thursday

### Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

No Meditation This Week.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Trinity 8 September

10:00am Mass (with J-Team)

## EVENTS