

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

29 September 2024



Dear friends,

Today is the feast of the angels. In the biblical world of the psalms, angels are spiritual beings who, like us, are created by God. They are pure spirits possessed of freedom, dignity, and purpose who, in faithfulness to God, reveal something of the true character of the spiritual reality that animates our lives. The life of the spirit, angels remind us, is where true strength, wisdom, joy, and freedom reside, but only insofar as we listen to and obey God's word of love and offer praise and thanksgiving to God on behalf of all creation. For spirits, angels and humans alike, are made to serve truth, celebrate justice, rejoice in worship, and reverence God in the beauty, goodness and truth of every creature. In an age and social context that often sees no value in the worship of God, it is little wonder that angels, like the spiritual meaning of being human, are dismissed as make-believe, albeit as sometimes a compelling form of escapism. Yet the mysterious and elusive nature of angels should surprise and recall us to the depth of the mystery of creation, of each person, and of the intimations that whisper to our imaginations and inspire us to reshape our material and historical world to purposes beyond narrow self-interest. To be serious about angel voices is to be serious about the dignity and value of the human vocation to discern what is good in all our works of creativity, exchanges, and encounters. For God calls humankind to consecrate time and place, history and culture, to God for the sake of the good of all. Such a fully human life of spiritual service is revealed in Christ, whom the angels serve; is guided and enabled by the Holy Spirit; and is shared by all the angels and saints whose song echoes in today's psalm (103.19-22): *The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom has dominion over all. Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding and hearken to the voice of his word. Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will. Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.*

With my prayers and blessings,

Fr Angus

DONATE TO ST GEORGE'S

The life and mission of St George's are entirely dependent 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: Set up a standing order, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>). Contact the treasurer for details.

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

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.

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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

Please submit by Thursday

PARISH NOTICES

New St George's Flag

The rather tattered flag of St George's flying outside the church was replaced last week with a new flag that includes the coat of arms of the Diocese of Chichester. Strictly speaking, as a matter of protocol, this should always be included on St George's flags flown by any Church of England church. This aligns with a warrant of the Earl Marshal dated 1938, which was requested by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. Having the coat of arms is not simply about being compliant, however. It makes a statement that the St George's flag is not being flown simply as a national symbol, one that has, for some, an ambiguous association given its use by the far-right. The coat of arms more directly connects the flag to the Christian heritage of the nation, and the Christian message of God's love as revealed on the cross. You can read the history of the coat of arms here: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/shield/>.

Harvest Food Donations For Food Bank

Ahead of our Harvest Festival Eucharist on Sunday 13 October, we are asking for donations for the foodbank, particularly tinned and dried food, nappies and toiletries. Donations can be placed in the container at the back of the church. Thank you.

Invitation To Afternoon Tea At Lakeview Grange

Lakeview care home on Whyke Road has invited parishioners at St George's to a complimentary Afternoon Tea on 22 October at 3pm. If you would like to come, please sign up on the sheet in church.

WRAP CHAT: Wed 2 October @ 3pm in the Centre.

This month we welcome The Revd Canon Bruce Ruddock, his talk is titled Roman Reflections. Ordained in 1983 he served his title in the parish of Felpham & Middleton-on-Sea followed by curacy at St Mary's, Portsmouth, then Vicar at St Michael's Barnes, Southwest London. In 1995 the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed Canon Bruce as his representative at the Vatican and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. In 1999, he became Canon Precentor at Worcester cathedral and then at Peterborough Cathedral. Until his retirement last year, Bruce was Chaplain at Chichester Cathedral.

Secondary School Admissions

If you require a Church Support Form to be filled in to support a school application, do contact Fr Angus. For Bishop Luffa this will need to be completed in a face-to-face meeting with Fr Angus. Please email him to book a time to meet any day after 13 October.

Pet Blessing Service - 12 October @2pm

Do join us for a family-friendly Pet Blessing Service on Saturday 12 October at 2pm where there will also be a chance to remember pets who have died. Pets must be accompanied by their owners, dogs kept on leads and other pets in suitable containers.

Sister Act

All are welcome to come along and help with crafting items for the Christmas Fair on Wednesday 8 October, 7:30pm-9:00pm, Centenary Centre

Happy Café Breakfast - Not To Be Missed

Saturday 5 October 10am-12noon a delicious, cooked breakfast with lots of extras will be served in the church centre. Veggie options available. Tickets available from Jill Merry adults £10 and children £5. Under 5's free.

Special Services

12 Oct Pet Blessing Service, 2pm
13 Oct Harvest Festival

Upcoming Events

8 Oct Christmas Crafting, 7:30pm

Rumboldswyke Children's Choir (RCC)

RCC is based at St George's church and open to all children from year 1 upwards. The runs every Tuesday during term time from 10am to 4.30pm. Please email music@whyke.info if your child wishes to join.

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.



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

Michael and All Angels 29 September

10:00am Parish Choral Mass (with J-team)

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Monday-Thursday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

11:30am Wednesday Said Mass (followed by refreshments)

9:30am Thursday Said Mass

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

Dedication Festival 6 October

10:00am Parish Choral Mass with healing ministry (with J-team)

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 30 September 10:30-12 noon

WRAP-CHAT, 2 October, 3pm

Happy Café Breakfast, 5 October, 10-12noon