

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 December 2024



Dear friends,

As at every Advent, this Sunday and next, the Gospel texts focus on John the Baptist that prophet of God who prepares the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. John's most iconic words serve as powerful refrains for Advent: "Repent, the Kingdom of God is near", "Behold, the Lamb of God!", "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire", "He must increase; I must decrease." John's words cut across how our culture normally relates to Advent. They should give us pause and lead us to ask, do we ever think of Advent, and Christmas, as being about what it means to be human? John famously spent time in the wilderness of the desert where he came face-to-face with his own vulnerabilities, temptations, and frailty while entrusting himself ever more fully to God – God must increase, I must decrease, yet the happy paradox is that the more God increases, the more I become who I am in my humanity. During his time in the desert, John plumbed the mystery of what it means to be human in openness to deepest reality. This gave him a fearlessness in facing the powers of this world and an unquenchable thirst for justice. In fact, John's harshest words ("You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee before the coming wrath?") are aimed at any who seek to abuse power and faith and turn them into a matter of superficial appearance and self-serving manipulation. John reminds us, jarringly, that the coming of Jesus challenges all the power dynamics in our lives that thwart God's purposes for humanity. But John's words are not principally meant to condemn but give cause for celebration and transformation. He beckons us towards the One who comes with the refining fire of love, to burn away all pretence, overthrow the mighty, set the captive free, forgive sins, and guide our feet into the way of peace – all so that we may discover afresh that being fully alive human beings is a gift we share with others. To wait eagerly, with John, for Jesus is to desire earnestly, and already work for, that time when the valleys and mountains that divide people will be overcome and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

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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LAKEVIEW GRANGE CARE HOME

COMMUNITY EVENTS

93-94 Whyke Road, Chichester

- 18 Nov 11-11:30am** **Arm Chair Yoga**
Free session of Arm Chair Yoga. Coffee, tea and cake afterwards.
- 20 Nov 2:30-3:30pm** **"Living with Parkinson's"**
Ann Wallis Branch Chair of Chichester & Bognor Regis, Parkinson's UK will deliver a talk on living with Parkinson's.
- 27 Nov 10am-4:30pm** **Virtual Tour Dementia Bus**
The tour will give you a short experience of what Dementia might be like. Booking essential.
- 10 Dec 6pm-8pm** **Wreath Making**
Penny the owner of Hellebore & Rose florists will help to make your own Christmas Wreath. Call Penny on 07938061041 to book & pay for your space (£40 per person).

To book a place call Jackie Cridlin on 01243 212 429 or email lakeview.haa@cinnamoncc.com

PARISH NOTICES

Healing Ministry Today

After receiving communion, anyone who wishes is welcome to proceed to the Lady Chapel for the Laying on of Hands by lay ministers and Anointing with Oil by a priest. These are offered as a part of the church's sacramental ministry of healing, extending the grace given in Christ's presence in the Eucharist.

Nativity Play At Next All-Age Service

Next Sunday at the All-Age Service, in place of the sermon, the J-Team will perform their annual nativity play. Our worship will also be enriched by the presence of the Rumboldswyke Children's Choir.

Christmas Concert Saturday 14 December, 3:30pm

Do come to our Christmas Concert with performers drawn from the local community. There will be performances by the Rumboldswyke Children's Choir, familiar carols for everyone to join in with, classical instrumental pieces and other music played by various adult and young soloists. There will also be a short play by our Youth Group based on the Good King Wenceslas carol. All are welcome. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation: £2 per adult.

Children and Families During Christmas

Children and families are most welcome to all our services during Advent and Christmas. The Carols at the Crib service on 24 December at 3pm is particularly suited for families with younger children as we use story, song, and crib figures to construct the Christmas Crib together. We are also hoping that families will come to church for the Christmas Day service. We will provide special activities in the Centre for any children who come along including time for prayer, song, Christmas snacks, and the chance to watch a short Christmas film together.

Christian Aid Bread And Soup Lunches

Christian Aid lunches are running on Wednesday 11 and 18 December at Christ Church, Old Market Avenue. The lunches are arranged by members of Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and the Quakers. Please support this event. Your donations will be used by Christian Aid to relieve poverty and work for justice around the world.

WRAP CHAT Thanks

Thank you to all who attended the final WRAP-CHAT of 2024, making it such a joyous afternoon full of carol singing. Sue Howell Evans talked us through the long history of how carols came into being. Thank you Sue from all of us! This was followed by a lovely festive tea, finishing with suitable readings for the time of year. There will be no meeting in January. We return on **4 February** when we welcome **Carol McCluny, Community Warden for Chichester South, including Whyke**. All are welcome, We start at 3pm, doors open at 2.30pm, we just request a donation of £2 to help meet overhead expenses.

Carolling In The Parish

If you would like take part in singing carols in the parish, please do sign up on the sheets at the back of church. There are two opportunities: 1) Carolling in the parish, Thursday 19 December meeting at 5:15pm at Eastgate Square by the Keat's statue and finishing at Royal Close. 2) Carols at Lakeview Care home on Whyke Road during Holy Communion, Thursday 19 December at 11:30am, meeting there.

Additional Advent and Christmas Services

10, 17 Dec	Compline, 7:30pm
14 Dec	Christmas Concert, 3:30pm
19 Dec	Lakeview Carol Communion, 11:30am
19 Dec	Carolling around the parish, 5:15pm
21 Dec	Parish Carol Service, 3:30pm
24 Dec	Carols At The Crib, 3pm
24 Dec	Midnight Mass, 11pm
25 Dec	Christmas Day, 10am

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 about how to get involved, scan here the QR code. You can also email friendswhyke@gmail.com. Copies of the Autumn newsletter are available at the back of church as well as copies of the recently completed research on the beetles found at St Mary's, produced by Kitty Grove.



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

2nd Sunday of Advent 8 December

10:00am Choral Parish Mass with healing (J Team)

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Monday-Thursday

Compline in Lady Chapel

7:30pm Tuesday

Mid-Week Masses in Lady Chapel

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

9:30am Thursday

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

3rd Sunday of Advent 15 December

10:00am All-Age Service with Nativity Play

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 9 December 10:30am-12pm

Christmas Concert, 14 December 3:30pm