

# ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

*Serving God and the community in Chichester*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15 December 2024



### **Dear friends,**

As Christmas approaches, with all the festive traditions and images of the season filling our schedules, we would do well to pause and consider how unlike the actual Christmas story much of this. Jesus, the word of God made flesh, is born into a poor family during a time of military occupation and religious tension in their homeland. Mary and Joseph, Jesus' family, are humble, faithful people yet deeply vulnerable. Their future uncertain. Indeed, soon after Jesus' birth they become refugees to escape persecution and death at the hands of a tyrant. What is striking, and beyond all sentimentality, is just how profoundly these simple and poignant details of the Christmas story speak to the lives of so many people in our country and in our world. And how it is to ones such as these that God shows a special concern. In this spirit, I would like to commend to you this year's Christian Aid Christmas appeal which is seeking to raise funds to support people in South Sudan where over one-third of the population are displaced. By many measures, South Sudan is the poorest country in the world with high infant mortality and low levels of education. For most people, simply meeting their basic daily needs is a challenge, something further impacted by the devastating effects of climate change. All this has been made critically worse, moreover, by the outbreak of war in neighbouring Sudan and the additional wave of refugees and returnees. Christian Aid works in the Wedweil Refugee Settlement in South Sudan, with their partner, Smile Again Africa Development Organisation (SAADO), to offer life-saving support to thousands of displaced and vulnerable people. Though the UN World food programme provides basic rations, Christian Aid's financial assistance means people can buy nutritious food for themselves and their families to protect them from malnutrition and ill health as well as vital medicine, blankets, and other essential supplies. To find out more or to donate, please go to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal>.

*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](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.**

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*Rest day on Friday*

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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.

## PARISH NOTICES

### Nativity Play Today During All-Age Service

In place of the sermon today, the J-Team will perform their annual nativity play. Our worship will also be enriched by the presence of the Rumboldswyke Children's Choir alongside the St George's choir.

### Christmas Concert

Thank you to everyone who organised and performed in yesterday's Christmas concert – all the performances were brilliant with the children's choir, the young soloists, the adult musicians, and the actors from our Youth Group bringing joy to all who came. It was wonderful too to see so many children and people from the wider community attend.

### Christmas Fair

Thank you again to all who helped with the Christmas Fair this year and to everyone who came along to support the event and make it such a memorial occasion. In total, £2,074 was raised. A fantastic achievement!

### Stewardship Campaign – Planned Giving

A thank you too to everyone who responded positively to this year's Stewardship Campaign and reflected on giving both 'time and talents', and financial support. Alison Davies, our PCC Treasurer, has confirmed that we are forecast to receive an additional £5,600 from planned giving for next year. This represents approximately an 11% increase in planned giving. This is such encouraging news. The extra funds will give a vital boost to our finances, especially given that several key donors died or moved away last year, the rises in costs, and the extra maintenance work to the church building. The increase will help us to invest more in crucial mission and ministry, and, importantly, allow us to contribute more to Parish Share, the amount the Diocese asks each parish to pay to cover the cost of having a priest, training new priests, and central diocesan and Church of England costs. The PCC will be meeting after the service today to agree next year's annual budget and decide our pledge towards Parish Share.

### Stewardship Campaign – Time And Talents

Sam Kelly and Fr Angus are currently in the process of reviewing everyone's responses to the Time and Talent questionnaire that formed part of the Stewardship Campaign. After Christmas, they will be in touch with those who expressed an interest in volunteering in the different areas of church life. They will also reflect on the helpful comments that we made. Thank you again to everyone who contributes to making St George's a flourishing community.

### Congratulations to Fr Luke Irvine-Capel

Many congratulations to Fr Luke Irvine-Capel, the Archdeacon of Chichester, and also parishioner of St George's, in his appointment as the next Bishop of

Richborough. It has been wonderful to have Fr Luke and his family worship at St George's and we are grateful for all the support and kindness he has given to St George's over the years. Please pray for Fr Luke and his family. We wish them all many blessings and Fr Luke much joy his future episcopal ministry.

### Christian Aid Bread And Soup Lunches

Christian Aid lunches are running on Wednesday 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.

### 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

17 Dec	Compline, 7:30pm
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

## THIS WEEK

### SERVICES

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 15 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

#### Parish Carol Service

3:30pm Saturday

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 22 December

10:00am Choral Mass (no J-team)

### EVENTS

#### PCC Meeting, 15 Dec After Service

#### St George's Tots, 16 Dec 10:30am-12pm

#### Lakeview Carol Communion, 19 Dec 11:30am

#### Carolling Around The Parish, 19 Dec 5:15pm