

ST GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

12 January 2025



Dear friends,

With the signs of Christmas having disappeared, life seems to have returned to its humdrum normality and the festivities of last month nothing but a faint lingering memory. However, you may notice that at St George's, the cathedral, and a few other places, the signs of Christmas are still present – the crib, the tree, the decorations. This is no new invention, but an older medieval tradition that saw the period of Christmas last 40 days until the feast of Candlemas on 2 February when Christ is presented at the Temple as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel.' The Church of England draws on this tradition in marking the season of Epiphany, explaining: *'In the Western churches, the Epiphany ("manifestation") became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.... In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately.'* This fuller picture of Christmas/Epiphany is, in fact, captured well by the Anglican hymn 'Songs of Thankfulness and Praise' by Christopher Wordsworth: *'1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, / Jesus, Lord, to you we raise, / manifested by the star / to the Magi from afar, / branch of royal David's stem, / in your birth at Bethlehem. / Anthems be to you addressed, / God in man made manifest. 2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, / Prophet, Priest, and King supreme, / and at Cana, wedding guest, / in your Godhead manifest;....* The final verse says what this extension of Christmastide means for us: *'Grant us grace to see you, Lord, / mirrored in your holy Word. / May our lives and all we do / imitate and honour you / that we all like you may be / at your great epiphany.'*

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.paritygiving.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

15 Jan 2-3pm **Talk on Macular Degeneration**

By Stella Black from The Macular Society. An opportunity to understand the illness and to ask questions.

17 Jan 11:30-12:30pm **'The Day In The Life Of A Victorian Mudlark'**

A talk delivered by author, Kate Wiseman.

22 Jan 2:30-3:30pm **The Cat And Rabbit Rescue Centre**

There will be the opportunity to talk about the excellent work they do in the community. Pet food donations would be gratefully received.

28 Jan 2-3:30pm **Dementia Carers Support Group**

Providing a safe environment to talk about Dementia comfortably with others in similar circumstances.

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

PARISH NOTICES

UK Harvest Back 17 January

UK Harvest, who run the community food hub at St George's, have been taking a break over Christmas. The next one to be held will be on Friday 17 January 10-11am. The hubs seek to battle both food waste and food poverty. Bring along a carrier bag and fill it with the food on offer. There is a suggested £5 donation, no referral is needed.

Year Of Faith – Deanery Celebration

Services celebrating the history and Christian faith in each deanery will be held throughout the Diocese during January and February 2025. The Chichester Deanery service will take place on Thursday 27 February at 7:30pm at St Paul's Church, Chichester, and will be led by Bishop Martin and Bishop Ruth. Please do come along and show support for the Year of Faith. More information about other events can be found here: <https://celebratingfaith.co.uk/>

Cathedral Events In The Year of Faith

To celebrate 950 years of religious, cultural and civic life across the diocese the Cathedral have curated a diverse programme of events taking place in 2025. To find out more see [here](#).

Youth Pilgrimages

Bishop Ruth will be leading three pilgrimages for young people during 2025 as part of the Year of Faith celebrations. The three pilgrimages will be in different places and for different groups of people:

Saturday 28th – Sunday 29th June: Weekend pilgrimage walk, on the South Downs, in the Amberley – Steyning area, with overnight stay near Storrington. For secondary school age young people

Saturday 12th July: Day pilgrimage walk, ending at the Cathedral, with supper at the Bishop's Palace, plus optional overnight stay at the Palace. For young adults aged 18-30. **Saturday 11th October:** Day pilgrimage walk near Alfriston. For secondary school age young people

The costs for all the pilgrimages will be kept to an absolute minimum, and bursaries will be available for any young person/young adult for whom the ticket price is prohibitive. To register or find out more click here: <https://celebratingfaith.co.uk/youth-pilgrimages-new-copy/>

Preparation Of A New Electoral Roll

As most of you will know, the Church Electoral Roll is the register of all those who live in the parish and/or regularly attend St George's and have applied to join the Roll. Being on the Roll is a way of actively helping to shape the future of the church. It allows you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church

Meeting. It also means you can stand for election to the PCC (Parochial Church Council comprised of the trustees of the church), to be a Churchwarden, and a member of Deanery Synod. Most years the existing Roll is revised, but every six years every parish church is legally required to create an entirely new Roll must be created. 2025 is one of these years. This means that everyone will need to fill in an application form to be included on the Roll. Notices and forms will be made available in church in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please talk to Lesley Valerio, our Electoral Roll Officer.

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 3:30pm 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 about how to get involved, 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

Baptism of Christ 12 January

10:00am Choral Parish 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

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

Second Sunday of Epiphany 19 January

10:00am All Age Eucharist with baptism

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 13 January 10:30am-12pm

Youth Group, 13 January 7-8:30pm

Community Food Hub, 17 January 10-11am