



SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021

A Note From **Your Vicar**

I spent Bank Holiday Monday at the top of a 4 metre ladder painting the walls. I'm not normally frightened of heights but somehow my head brushing the ceiling at the top of my staircase brought on a case of mild terror.

Fear is a bit like cake. A bit keeps you alive and too much will put you on your back. At the top of the ladder I could feel my fear level rising. What to do in that moment? Nobody else was going to paint this thing. But if the ladder slipped, I would break something...and then and then....

I sat with my fear. Acknowledged to myself, then admitted to my wife, that I was faintly terrified and...carried on with painting. We're all just hopefully emerging from the nightmare of covid. It has been traumatic and there is a whole lot of fear to manage. As the scenes in India remind us, this

fear has been rational and appropriate and we'll likely need to continue with measures for some time. In the scriptures, faith is not a forcefield that insulates the faithful from danger or a smug crystal ball to predict all the future; but a life lived in trust of God. So that when we feel afraid, we sit, wait and say 'what next Lord?', for truly we never know what the future holds, but God does.

After all, in the end, we all hated the paint colour.

God bless,

Nick



ST GEORGE'S

Charity Information

If we are able, we need to make a special effort to help this year as, like all the charities, it has been so difficult for them to raise the funds they need as no events can be held. If you saw on the TV News the map of the world showing the areas where vaccines have been given - and NOT given - you will know just how blessed WE are.

Imagine trying to live and work a socially distanced life in some of the countries where CHRISTIAN AID is working. They need our support to continue their work.

If you are coming to Church, you can donate through the retiring collection.

If you are worshiping on-line at home, you can support with on-line donations or by sending a cheque by post to: Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

**christian
aid
week
10-16 MAY**

Christian Aid Week starts on Monday. Christian Aid suggests people who are happy online might like to set up a "Just Giving" page and do their 300,000 steps challenge or any other challenge more suitable for themselves. I do hope some of you will be able to do this or to support Christian Aid in some other way.

The Christian Aid Plant and Vegetable Stall starts on Sunday 9th May Rhubarb is usually popular. Please support this stall for those in greater need than ourselves. Thank you,

Helen

St George's **Small Groups**

In services and learning in lockdown, we've been talking a lot about 'small groups' at St Georges. But what do we mean and what are they for? Simply put:

'All of our small groups are devoted to helping people grow in their faith.'

Praying, talking, studying scripture and spending time with other Christians is one of the very best ways to grow your own relationship with God. But when God creates his people, he doesn't use a cookie cutter - people grow in different ways, and we want to help you grow through being part of our small groups. Some groups will meet in a traditional 'home group' format, online or in a home to study scripture, pray, share, and drink buckets of tea; others will join in a specific activity, like walking, crafting, baking or sport, whilst praying and talking together.

Groups will differ in how often, when and where they meet but all the St Georges' groups will focus on growing together and supporting each other in our faith. Keeping this 'growth factor' is important because it's what makes the focus of small groups distinct from the parties, cake sales and all night danceathons that St Georges' is famed for!

To help me establish these groups, I've asked Geoff Treasure to help with the more traditional home groups and Clare Steel to focus on the activity groups. Geoff and Clare will help group leaders with finding material, thinking through the life of the groups and be a first port of call in challenging times. Their roles will help our leaders lead.

Our activity groups are an opportunity to combine your passion and hobby with sharing your faith with others. This is a pioneering work at St Georges, so if you have an idea for a home group or activity group you'd like to lead then get in touch so Geoff and Clare can help you get started.

I want everyone at St Georges to grow in their faith so I really encourage you to be part of a small group. One of the barriers to joining a small group can be that people feel they are signing up for life and are put off by the prospect! At this pioneering time, we're encouraging people to 'taste and see' whether a small group works but if not then let's try something else! If you would like to be involved in a group, **get in touch** and the team will try and find the right group for you. You don't even have to be a regular at St Georges' to be involved – **all are welcome**.

So be bold, step out and join the new adventure!

God bless, *Nick*

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020

The Annual Accounts for 2020 are now available for those who would like to see them from the back of the Church or by contacting the Church Office or the Treasurer.

Please email office@stgchurch.co.uk and we will arrange for you to be able to view them

If wishing to read them in church, please ensure that you use hand sanitiser before and after viewing the Accounts folder. Thank You!

DIARY NOTE:

THE APCM IS
COMING
SUNDAY 23RD
MAY
AFTER THE
10AM IN
CHURCH

As the APCM will be in person, in church, if you are still shielding or not at ease yet to come into the building whilst there are Covid restrictions, if there is anything that you wish to be brought to our attention for the APCM, then do please email us so that we can consider it for inclusion!

Bethan x

The PCC met on Tuesday 27th April and wish to share with you the key messages from that meeting:

- **WiFi and Associated Equipment Appeal**

A huge thank you to the congregation for a wonderful response to the appeal we launched last December to establish a WiFi connection to the Internet in Church and to improve the Audio-Visual system and provide other modern IT equipment (including cameras, directional lighting and additional loud-speakers). This will enable us to 'broadcast' recorded and live-streamed services and other events in future. Through this outreach we are confident that this will help to grow the Church. We set an initial target to raise £4,000, but such is the amazing generosity of the St George's congregation that over £9000 has been donated so far, which with Gift Aid has taken the total to nearly £12,000. We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to this Appeal. After taking expert advice we plan to begin work modernising the IT infrastructure shortly, including improving the sound system, and then begin live-streaming services later this year. We also intend to explore options for improving the general lighting in the Church.

- **Annual Accounts, 2020**

The Annual Accounts for 2020 have been signed and approved by the PCC. As expected, the financial position by the end of 2020 was very much affected by an impact of Covid-19, with no income from Hall Hire or Fundraising. However, following an instruction from the Diocese, the Church has retained three months of unrestricted reserve funds, which whilst strengthening our local financial position, meant that we were not able to pay our Parish Share in full in 2020. The PCC hopes that the income from hiring the Hall will increase as the Covid-19 restrictions are eased by June, and also that some fundraising events will be possible. The PCC thanked John Page, our Treasurer for all his hard work in preparing these Accounts and liaising with the

Accountants to complete them in time for our APCM on 23rd May.

- **Services**

The PCC agreed with plans to continue with the 10am Holy Communion Service each Sunday for the time being, subject to ensuring a Covid-safe environment in Church.

Attendances are being monitored and if the numbers increase much more, a booking system will be implemented.

The recorded online service will continue until live-streaming of services is possible. We know from feedback received that it has been really appreciated by a growing number of people (for some it has proved to be a lifeline), and attracted new members.

Should you wish to view the Minutes of the previous PCC Meeting (9th March 2021) they will be available shortly on our website.

St George's
Churchyard 

COME AND GET YOUR GARDENING GLOVES ON AND JOIN US!!

On Saturday 15th May from 9.30am—12.30pm it is our Churchyard Gardening morning! If you would like to come along and help us to care for our Churchyard, bring your trowel or your fork and come to join us, you would be most welcome.

We have a few churchyard tools, but many helpers like to bring their own, not forgetting garden gloves, as there are quite a few brambles! It's also very helpful if anyone can bring along a garden sack or is able occasionally to take a carload to the tip.

So, if any of you would like to join in for the whole time or just an hour on Saturday, just turn up and dig in :) We all really enjoy being there and we know that you would too!



EXPLORE WITH CREATION
ENGAGE WITH CREATION
CONNECT WITH CREATOR

We are continuing to look at the gift of our senses. This week, we are thinking about our sense of HEARING.

What is your favourite sound? What sounds bring you joy? Music, bird song, the voice of a loved one, a buzzing bee or the sound of waves crashing on a beach? Last year, during the first lockdown, many people remarked upon being able to hear the bird singing for the first time in towns and cities throughout the country. In the busyness of daily lives, the natural sounds around us can often be drowned out and this had happened without us noticing.

The famous old hymn, "How great Thou Art" was originally written by a Swedish poet, Carl Boberg, and was inspired by the sounds he heard whilst on his walk home from church...

**"O LORD my God!
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed...
When through the woods
and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook,
and feel the gentle breeze...
Then sings my soul...How Great Thou art"**

The Mossy challenge to you today and this week is to pause. To stop and notice the subtle natural sounds around you. Take a wander and wonder about God.

Try going on a sound hunt. Write a list of sounds you would like to collect and listen out for them.

Be creative - have you ever heard the feet of ducks padding through a puddle? It is a delight.

If hearing sounds is difficult, why not go on a movement search - the way the trees swish in the breeze, the vibration of a bridge as you go over it, the movement of grass blades or insects, etc.

Dear God,

Thank You for our amazing bodies
and our sense of hearing.

There are so many wonderful sounds
in nature around us.

Please help us to stop, listen and wonder
at the world around us,
and hear Your voice through the creation
You have made.

Amen

The Mossy Church Team

For all of our Mossy Makes, Bakes, Moments, Prayers & Events, visit our Facebook page @mossychurchstgswilton Please give the page a 'like' and a 'share' with anyone who you think might be interested. If you have a picture, craft idea or activity you think might work well in Mossy Church, do email families@stgchurch.co.uk

A list is now up in our Church Porch for you to put your name down should you wish to have flowers in memoriam of a loved one on a special date. If you would like more info, please email Bethan who will be happy to help and put you in touch with either of us!

Sue & Sheena x

In Loving Memory

Our Altar Flowers in church have been very kindly donated by Jennifer Smith and all the family in loving memory of

Peter

as they remember his Birthday.



ST GEORGE'S DIARY DATES

SUN 9th	From 9.45am Online Sunday Service 10am CW Holy Communion 11.30am Zoom Coffee Catch
MON 10th	9pm Compline Service on Zoom
THURS 13th	10-12pm Open Church for Prayer
SAT 15th	9.30am-12.30pm Churchyard Gardening

FUTURE DATES TO NOTE:

Sun 23rd May 11.00am APCM

ST GEORGE'S **Contact Info**

Nick

Vicar

Tel: 01823 774128

Email: nick@stgchurch.co.uk

Day Off: Fridays

Bethan

Church Office from Home

Tel: 01823 284253

Email: office@stgchurch.co.uk

Office Hours Mon—Thurs 10-1pm

Peter

Churchwarden

Tel: 01823 257094 or 07761 407 433

Hilary

Churchwarden

Tel: 01823 976694 or 07460 471 514

Website: www.stgchurch.co.uk

Facebook: St Georges Wilton

Twitter: @StGeorgesWilton

Instagram: @StGeorgesWilton

YouTube: St George's Church Wilton



YouTube

ONLINE **SUNDAY SERVICE**

Sunday 9th May 2021
ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE
9.45AM
SERMON SERIES-
THE MISSION OF GOD—
TELL



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



ST GEORGE'S



YouTube

ST GEORGE'S
Prayer Space



It is with a very heavy heart that we must bring you the news that dear Brian Underwood passed away last Sunday.

We are pleased to say that it was peaceful and he was at home and at the time in no pain. Let us hold on to the knowledge that Brian is now in his true home and let us give thanks for all the wonderful memories we can hold onto until we meet him again. Rest in peace dear Brian. You will be very missed. God Bless you.

Lord give to him the perfect joy of your eternal love and to all his family and friends bereaved by his passing the consolation of Your perfect love.
Amen.

In Loving Memory

Merciful God, your love reaches beyond the grave.

At the end of our days on earth be with us and with those we love and with those whom we love and have gone before us.

We pray for
Dora Allen

whose anniversary falls this week Lord be with Dora's family as they remember her life and be by their side to comfort them at this time.

God of all comfort, hear our prayer
Amen

Prayers for This Sunday

Faithful God, your Son Jesus Christ gave us a new commandment, of love for each other and so we ask you to teach us to love you in our neighbours that by serving them we might also serve you.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Mighty God, we pray for your church which day by day gathers to praise you and to hear your holy word. We pray for our Christian sisters and brothers worshipping around the world in small rural churches, great city cathedrals and on the internet. Give us here at St George's a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go. Bless our ministry team here whose preaching and teaching inspire us with the message of your salvation.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, the world so often seems to be a violent and fearful place. Give us the strength to love our enemies and to pray for those who by violence and acts terrorism distort and demonise your wonderful creation.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, help us all to be a part of the healing ministry of your church. Encourage us to constantly pray for those we know who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and from the Coronavirus. Deepen our love for our neighbours especially those who are weak, help us to console the sorrowful and give hope to the dying.
Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Holy God, send us out into the world today mindful that as witnesses and servants, we should make you known in every place we visit and bear witness to the Gospel with acts of faith and hope and love.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

Daily Prayer

Time to Pray: *Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer from the Church of England provides a pattern of prayer and daily Bible reading that is simple yet profound. It will help you to create and enjoy a regular time with God during your day – whatever your lifestyle.*

During the Day, a short, simple service of prayers, psalms and readings that can be done at any time of day. The app presents everything you need to carry out Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year.

Go to your App Store or Google Play to download it.