

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

HARVEST FESTIVAL

12 October 2025



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

WHYKE, CHICHESTER

Serving God and the community in Chichester

Dear friends,

Last week the English version of Pope Leo's first apostolic exhortation was released (originally published on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). This is a teaching document that encourages a specific activity and is offered to 'all Christians'. Its title *Dilexi Te*, means 'I have loved you', and is taken from Revelation 3:9. These words are spoken by Jesus to a Christian community that had little influence or resources, and was treated with violence and contempt. This sets the tone for the document which highlights the central importance to the Gospel of the treatment of the poor. In this Leo takes up the work and call of his predecessor Pope Francis. The document's central message is stated thus: 'Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor.... This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history. In the poor, he continues to speak to us.... I am convinced that the preferential choice for the poor is a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society, if we can only set ourselves free of our self-centeredness and open our ears to their cry.' This brings challenges. Sacred Scripture is clear about the poor, yet still many of us think we can 'safely disregard the poor.' Leo warns of 'a grave deficiency in our societies and also in our Christian communities.' He criticises wealthy elites 'who live in a bubble of very comfortable and luxurious conditions, almost in another world from the common people.' He asks, 'are the less gifted not human beings? Do not the weak have the same dignity as us? Are those born with fewer possibilities less valuable as human beings, and must they simply survive? The value of our societies depends on the answer we give to these questions, and our future also depends on it. Either we regain our moral and spiritual dignity, or we fall as if into a pit of filth.' We should respond by making Leo's final words our own: 'Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and reconciles enemies... A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today.'

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%.0

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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For current members of the PCC, see here:

<https://www.stgeorgeschichester.org/pcc>

LAKEVIEW GRANGE CARE HOME COMMUNITY EVENTS – OPEN TO ALL

93-94 Whyke Road, Chichester

- 13 Oct** You are invited to a wonderful art workshop with local artist, David Shannon, who will be leading the session to paint plants and trees from around the world.
11:30AM – 12:30PM
- 28 Oct** Care Fees Planning Talk: Join us for an informative webinar with Nicky Cave, CEO of ElderCare Solutions who will help you navigate the complexities of care fees planning for elderly loved ones.
11:30AM – 12:30PM
- 29 Oct** Dementia Support Group: A relaxed and friendly session to help support each other by sharing information, advice and any concerns in full confidence. Light refreshments will be available to enjoy.
3PM – 4:30PM

All are welcome! To book contact Jackie Cridlin on 01243 212 429 or lakeview.haa@cinnamoncc.com

PARISH NOTICES

Baptism Today

During today's service Jesse will be baptised and become part of the household of faith at St George's. Please pray for him, his parents, godparents, family and friends on this joyous occasion.

Harvest Festival Today

If you wish to make donations for our Harvest Festival today, please do bring them along to the service so that can be blessed and passed on to the Chichester Foodbank. They are in urgent need of: Baby Food and Baby Toiletries; Instant Coffee and Regular Tea Bags; Kitchen Roll and Toilet Roll; Deodorant and Shampoo; Tinned Meat or Vegetarian Meals; Treats (eg kit kat, snack bars, etc); Washing Up Liquid; Jam, Honey Spreads etc; Size 5,6,7, Nappies; Tinned Vegetables; Tinned Fish; Long Life Milk and Fruit Juice. Thank you.

Parish Office Update

Rosemary Lay, our parish administrator, is taking extended leave until the end of this year. To help in the office and work alongside Rosemary when she comes back, Ginnie Wyllie has agreed to take on the role of assistant parish administrator. We are so very grateful for all that Rosemary does behind the scenes to keep St George's running smoothly with such professionalism and kindness.

Planting Crocus With Rotary

Rotary Novum Beacon are planting 12,000 crocus corms in the Whyke Estate on 17 October from 10am. All are invited to join them. Crocus is the flower that Rotary use to show the significant impact they have had on the worldwide eradication of polio, something they have been engaged with over the last 20 years. The Mayor, CDC, Rumboldswyke School, and others are joining in so please do come along to the Whyke Oval. Bring a trowel if you have one!

Colette Gray – Rest In Peace

Collete, a much loved and longstanding member of our congregation, sadly died at the beginning of last week. We shall miss the joy she brought into our lives. Her funeral and reception will be held at St George's and all are invited to attend. Details to be confirmed.

Concert Series – Saturday 25 October

Founded in 1900, join us to celebrate 125 years of Horsham Borough Band with an unforgettable evening of thrilling performances! A celebration of tradition, talent and the joy of live music. Doors open at 7pm, concert starts 7.30pm. Advance adult tickets £12 online, or £15 on the door. Under 18s are free, but must still book a ticket. Tickets include canapes in the interval, when the bar will also be open. Tickets at: tinyurl.com/stgeorgeschurchevents.

Halloween Party For Families – Saturday 1 November

On Saturday 1 November 2pm-3:30pm, there will be a Halloween Party for families at St George's. The event will look at the Christian roots of Halloween in the feasts of All Souls and All Saints. It will include

activities and crafts in the centre and a time of prayer in the church to remember loved ones who have died. Please bring pictures or items of loved ones to be remembered, if you wish. And do come dressed up in your best Halloween costume. There will be prizes for best fancy dress. Refreshments are provided. Suggested donation of £4 per family. If you want to read more about Halloween from a Christian perspective, read Fr Angus' reflection [here](#) or go to the Church of England [website](#).

All-Souls Choral Mass – Monday 3 November, 7pm

Our All-Souls Mass, in which we commemorate our loved ones who have died, will be held on Monday 3 November at 7pm. There is a list in church for anyone to add names to be read out during the service. You can also send the details to the parish office.

Memorial Concert on Saturday 8 November

Lest we forget: 1945 – 2025. To commemorate 80 years since the end of World War Two, we are holding a memorial concert with stories of war and hope in words and music to touch every human heart. The concert is in support of Combat Stress and St George's Church. Tickets include free canapes in the interval. Doors open at 7pm, concert starts at 7.30pm. Drinks available. Tickets: £12 online; £15 at the door (U18s free but must book a ticket). Tickets at: tinyurl.com/stgeorgeschurchevents.

Secondary School Admissions

If you require a Church Support Form to be filled in by Fr Angus in support of a school application, do contact him by email.

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

Harvest Festival 12 October

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

Meditation in Lady Chapel (term time only)

5:30-6pm Monday

Morning Prayer

8:45-9:15am Tuesday-Thursday

Mid-Week Mass in Lady Chapel

11:30am Wednesday Said Mass (refreshments)

9:30am Thursday

18th Sunday after Trinity 19 October

10:00am All-Age Eucharist

EVENTS

St George's Tots, 13 Oct 10:30am-12noon

Children's Choir, 14 Oct 5:15-6pm