

# St. George The Martyr Brentwood



January 2022



50p

[www.stgeorgeschurchbrentwood.org](http://www.stgeorgeschurchbrentwood.org)

# PARISH CHURCH of St GEORGE THE MARTYR

Priest in Charge. Revd : **Jane Bradbury**

Tel : **01277 212054**

Web Site:

***www.stgeorgeschurchbrentwood.org***

Names of the Sick To be given to Lesley Tanner as early as possible on 01277 215619

Confessions

by appointment, see Jane Bradbury

Enquiries

For Baptism, Banns of Marriage etc. see website for Details.

Funerals contact : Jane Bradbury on 02177 212054

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Churchwardens    Beverley Smith    56 Hutton Drive    Brentwood    Tel No **223054**  
                         Clive Tanner        60 Warescot Rd    Brentwood    Tel No **215619**

P.C.C.Officers

Secretary        Mrs P Wood        12 Warescot Close,    Brentwood    Tel No **214340**  
Treasurer        Mrs L Tanner       60 Warescot Road    Brentwood    Tel No **215619**  
Organist         Mr J Bell            408 Ongar Road,     Brentwood    Tel No **374228**

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**PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

Contact: Brownies        3rd Brentwood, Thursday        5.30-7.00 pm.  
Brown Owl                Nicola Parry                            Tel No 215179

Hall Secretary    Mrs Pam Wood, 12 Warescot Close, Brentwood    Tel No 214340

For bookings please telephone between 6.00 and 10.00 pm.  
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Organisations within the Parish but not attached to St George's

Kind Hearts Pre School    - Megan Desmond

Tel. 07852413334

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Magazine Editors : Lesley and Clive Tanner 60 Warescot Road    Tel No 215619  
**leclictanner@gmail.com**

Dear Friends,

I was visiting a local institution a couple of weeks before Christmas and I noticed that they had a crib scene on display. And present at the stable were not only the baby Jesus, but also the shepherds and the Magi. Being something of a stickler for 'correctness' in these matters, I bristled at that: given that they are undoubtedly closed over Christmas, I could forgive them the presence of the baby Jesus and even the shepherds, but the Magi?

Here we are at the beginning of January and we are only now approaching the season of Epiphany, when we traditionally celebrate the coming of the Magi. Those wise men had a long way to go, navigating only by means of the star, and modern thinking is clear that by the time they arrived, Jesus was already at least toddling. So: not at the stable at all then!

Only Matthew's gospel even mentions the Magi, and we have no idea how many of them there were, although we are told that three gifts were brought: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Indeed the eastern Syriac church often depicts twelve Magi. So, historically, we really have no real clue about the nature of these people who came to worship the new King.

And that all set me thinking: Does it matter? Obviously, the fact of the birth of Jesus, the incarnation, matters. But of the rest, then whens and the hows and the whys, what matters surely is that they came. And so, what should matter to all of

us is not whether a crib scene depicts what I think I might know to be an accurate picture – however shaky – but that people came to see Jesus for themselves. Not who they were or what they did for a living, or when they might have arrived, but that they came.

And what matters in our own lives is that we too come. Those people who come to church but once a year are every bit as welcome as those who worship at St George's Sunday by Sunday. Because they come. They come to meet with God and to wonder at the birth of God in human form.

As we enter yet another new year, I for one resolve to be kinder, more generous, more flexible in my thinking. May all those who enter through our church doors this year in search of God or comfort, or peace, or just a quiet space to think find a welcome there simply because they came.

In the love of Christ,

*Jane*



# Dates for Your Diary

**Next Tea Afternoon:** The next tea afternoon will be on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Come along for tea and cake and chat. Book exchange. £1 donation for tea and cake.

**Next Jumble Sale:-**The next Jumble Sale will take place on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11 a.m..**

If you have jumble, this can be brought to Church on Sunday or at other times by contacting 02177 215619. If you would like to help please let Pam know. Help will be needed the evening before to set up tables and sort jumble and on the day to run stalls. We will welcome clothes, shoes , bags, children's toys and games, bric-a-brac, curtains and linen, books and good quality household goods. We cannot take furniture and large items- these can be donated to the lighthouse furniture project. Ladies Bras are donated to Essex Wildlife Trust who pass them to a charity for African Women. Unwanted baby items are passed on to Moses Basket, a charity who help underprivileged new mothers. Any jumble left over is sold to a dealer who clears all remaining jumble and rubbish is taken to the tip. Each time we start with fresh jumble.



## **Manna Meals Pop-Up Café**

Following the success of our first manna Meals café in November, Manna Meals will be coming to St George's on **Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Come along for a free, coffee, cake and a chat to others. Just drop in between **10am -12 noon**.

**Quiz Night**:- Our popular quiz nights will return on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Details will be e-mailed out nearer the time.**

### **FUNDRAISING REPORT HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Our Christmas bazaar was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. We raised in the region of £2000. Once again thank you to all who helped put it on and all who came and supported us on the day.

Our **Christmas Quiz sheets** have been on sale throughout December and completed sheets need to be returned to me, Pam Wood or the church letterbox by 9th January. If you haven't yet got your quiz sheet please let me know and I'll get one to you. The winner will receive a **Berts Butchers voucher**. We are very grateful to Colin at Berts Butcher, Hatch Road for his support!

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**5th FEB Quiz night**

**12th FEB Jumble sale**

## FOOD HUB REPORT

During December, as well as supplying our customers with the normal food, we prepared 30 Christmas hampers which were delivered during the weekend before Christmas. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with this and also to everyone who donated biscuits, chocolates and gifts to add to the hampers. These were gratefully received by everyone. We also put on a children's party for children within our church community.

We now have a good number of egg boxes so have stopped collecting them for the time being but are always in need of carrier bags so please leave your donations by the freezers in the porch. If you would like to get involved by helping with the food hub please do let me know. **We have a few jobs that need to be done once a month at a time to suit you and also have vacancies on a Saturday morning for 2 hours or 4 hours once or twice a month. If you'd like to know more please contact me or Lesley Tanner.** Finally if you belong to a group - would you be willing to have a one off collection for the food hub? We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in doing this.

**Come and join us on 15th January, 10-12noon for our Manna Meals coffee morning. Pop by if you can and enjoy some lovely home made cake!**

Thank you  
Nicola Parry

[nicolaparry51@hotmail.com](mailto:nicolaparry51@hotmail.com)

01277215179

07769646544



## Parish Share

Our Parish Share is paid to the Diocese to cover the cost of salaries to priests, training and housing of priests and the pensions and insurance of priests and staff. The costs and on-costs of a full time priest amount to about £86, 000 a year. As Jane works part-time for St George's, this is halved. The Priest does not receive all of this amount as salary- in fact they receive less than half as the rest pays for pension and housing costs. Last year our Parish share was calculated at £46,000 plus and we struggled to pay this. In the end we paid about £20.000 towards our costs. Thankyou to all those who contributed in any way, standing orders, collection gifts and support at events- we couldn't have paid it without you.

The share is a voluntary contribution; the intention is that each Church makes a voluntary contribution and those that can pay more, do so. We have been supported by voluntary contributions from more wealthy Churches and are being supported next year by nearly £14,000.

Our new Parish Share assessment for 2022 has been received and this year we are asked to pay £29,654 by the end of next December.

For us this is much more affordable and I feel encouraged that with a little effort we can manage to pay a good proportion of this.

Bearing this in mind we can do this in 3 ways.

- By increasing the number and amount of Standing Orders that members pay
- By putting more in the collection each week or contactless on SUM UP

- By fundraising events throughout the year.

As it is New Year and we are considering making New Year resolutions, I am asking if you could help.

If you have a standing order set up already, could you consider increasing your payments? If everyone increases by a little – it adds up.

If you have not paid by standing order before, could you consider setting up a regular standing order payment? Forms are at the back of the Church, see Lesley or the Churchwardens for details.

Money put in the carboy or on SUM UP is gift aided and we get back 25% tax on this, the more you give, the more comes back. Could you give a little more?

Lastly, St George's people regularly support our events. Can we encourage more people to come to Church and join us, to increase the spread of our fund-raising.

Our Church is active in the wider community, and is well regarded by local people. Can we publicise what we are doing, how good our services are, how friendly our community is and encourage more people to come along?

We are coming out of the uncertain times of vacancy and moving forward. We can all spread the word.

Lesley

## Counting Blessings

As you look forward to the year ahead, look back too and say thank you to God for all the blessings he gave you last year. These very simple ideas help you do that with young children.

### Blessing stars

Write on the back of star-shaped gift tags to remind you of some of the blessings of last year – family, friends, health, time together – then hang them somewhere visible; perhaps even create a mini 'tree' to hang them on by collecting twigs and standing them up in a plant pot.

### Thank you for food

Even if you don't normally 'say grace' before a meal, why not try this simple prayer at a mealtime:

*For this food, and for each other,  
and for every gift and blessing,  
we thank you, God. Amen.*

### Make a blessings table mat:

- Decorate a piece of A4 card or paper with things that remind you of the good things in your family's life. This is a great activity to do with a small child while they wait for the meal to start.
- If you want to keep it for more than one meal, you'll need to laminate it.
- Your child can use it as a table mat for the special meal – a reminder to everyone of all the things to be thankful for.

### Decorate a blessings jar:

- Take an old jam jar or other container, and make sure it's nice and clean.
- Decorate the outside with pictures, photos, handprints, stickers – everything that reminds you of the good things in your family's life.
- If you use PVA glue you can add an extra layer of glue at the end to act as a varnish.
- Put the decorated jar somewhere you'll see it throughout the year, and keep some sticky notes and a pen close by.
- Whenever something good happens, jot it down and put the sticky note in the jar.
- If you're having a tough day, or feeling down, get the papers out of the jar and read through them to remind you of the good things.

	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>11.15am</b>	Epiphany	Baptism of Christ	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6 Mr Bell	Isaiah 43 :1-7 Miss Smith	Isaiah 62:1-5 Mr Bell	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Mrs Hill	Malachi 3: 1-5 Mr Bell
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	Ephesians 3:1-12 Mrs Harris	Acts 8 :14-17 Mrs Tanner	1 Corinthians 12 :1-11 Mr Sitch	1Corinthians 12 : 12-31a Mrs Wood	Hebrews 2: 14-end Mrs Harris
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bob & Pam	Bob & Pam	Bob & Pam	Bob & Pam	Bob & Pam
<b>Prayer of faithful</b>	Clive & Lesley	Grahame	Beverley	Carolyn	Clive & Lesley
<b>Collection Counters</b>	Clive & Angela	Angela & Kath	Clive & Kath	Angela & Kath	Clive & Angela
<b>6.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	To be decided on day	No Service	To be decided on day	No Service	No Service
<b>6.30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	“ ”				

# Services

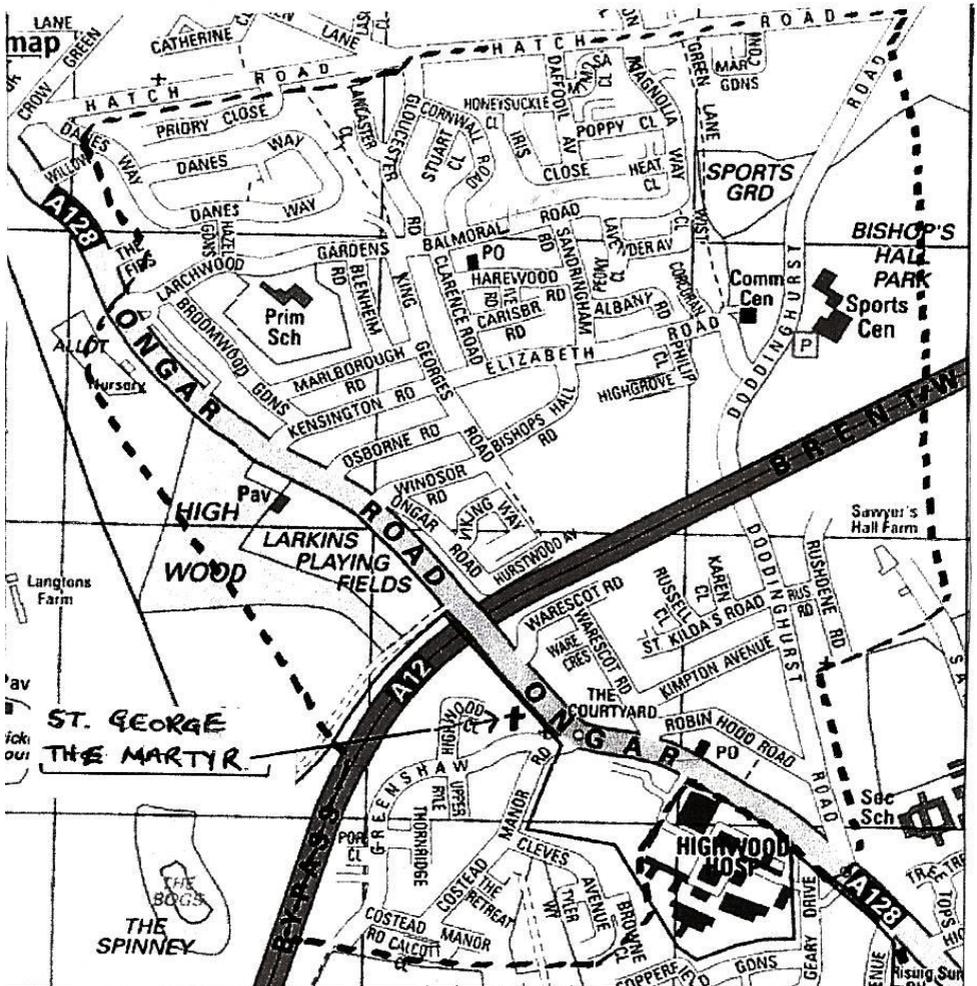
- these are generally celebrated on:-

Sunday ... Morning 11.15am - Parish

Eucharist

Evening 6.30pm - on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Check Porch Notice Board in case of changes



Marks Parish Boundary