



Parish of Christchurch

We welcome you to St George's Church
this Sunday 22nd April 2018,
as we celebrate our Patronal Festival.

We welcome our President for today's service,
Rev Richard Partridge

A COLLECT FOR THE FESTIVAL OF ST GEORGE:

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

READINGS FOR THE FESTIVAL OF ST GEORGE:

First reading: Revelation 12; 7-12
Second reading: 2 Timothy 2; 3-13
Gospel: John 15; 18-21

TODAY'S HYMNS:

425	Praise the Lord, ye heav'ns adore him
472	The church of God a kingdom is
564	Ye holy angels bright
	CHOIR PIECE
60	Bind us together
567	Ye watchers and ye holy ones

At the back of the church there are a few copies of the Annual Report (50 pages long), compiled for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is to be held at the Priory Church this coming Thursday, 26th April. All those on the electoral roll are entitled to vote at this meeting and there are forms at the back of the church for the positions of Churchwardens and for Parochial Church Council members. The Deputy Wardens here at St George's sit on the PCC ex-officio, so please don't nominate them. If anybody would like to stand as Deputy Warden they may do so as the post is only an annual one and deputies can be changed every year. Pat Richards has served six years as Churchwarden and will be standing down at the APCM. If you want a copy of the report and existing supplies run out, please see Bob and he will get one for you.

Also at the back of the church are some forms which have been prepared by Roger Haxby who, as well as being the Parish Stewardship and Freewill Offering mogul, has been involved following the change of Data Protection Laws. I won't go into detail here, but I would urge you to read the forms through carefully and respond in any way you think fit FOR YOURSELF, not for others. It says that the form, once completed, should be handed or posted to the Data Protection Officer, but as I am at the Priory Church every Friday, I would be happy to hand yours in if you would like to put it in a sealed envelope and hand it to me (envelopes also at the back of the church). Please do NOT leave completed forms lying around.

There will be some forms ready soon for everybody who appears on a rota at St George's to fill in as we now need your permission to put your name on a rota. (Has the world gone mad?). We will also need your written permission to be included in the new edition of the St George's Contact List and, again, forms will follow soon.

As a result of last week's appeal for a new wheelchair following the collapse of our present one, Virginia Boakes has very kindly agreed to let us have the one used by her late mother. We are very grateful to Virginia for this. Our old one (kindly donated by Roger Mason) has been used several times and it is good to know that one will still be available.

Tomorrow the Church celebrates the life of St George. He was probably a soldier living in Palestine at the beginning of the fourth century. He was martyred at Lydda in about the year 304, the beginning of the Diocletian persecution, and became known throughout the Eastern world as 'The Great Martyr'. There were churches in England dedicated to St George before the Norman conquest. The story of his slaying the dragon is probably due to his being mistaken in iconography for St Michael, himself usually depicted wearing armour; or it may again be mistaken identity representing Perseus's slaying of the sea monster, a myth also associated with the area of Lydda. So, in fact, the act for which George is best known probably never happened! George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron Saint of England following the Crusades, when returning soldiers brought back with them a renewed cult of St George. Edward III made St George patron of the Order of the Garter, which seems finally to have confirmed his position.

THANKS TO 'EXCITING HOLINESS' FOR MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION.



St George is also a Patron Saint in Italy, Georgia, Belgium, Brazil, Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Egypt (where there is a Metro station named after him), Ethiopia, India, Germany, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, Montenegro, Palestine, Portugal, Russia, Serbia,

Spain and Syria. He is also Patron Saint of Scouting, sufferers of skin diseases, syphilitic people and Romany gypsies. I certainly wouldn't like his workload!!

More from "I believe":

I believe . . .
that you can do something in an instant
that will give you heartache for life.

I believe . . .
that it's taking me a long time
to become the person I want to be.

A SUNDAY SMILE (not a religious one this week, but topical)



Just a reminder that Ken Catton's funeral is on Friday at Bournemouth Crematorium at 11.15am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving here at St George's at 12.30pm.

Please note that, as a mark of respect, there will be NO games afternoon next Friday, but we will resume on Friday 4th May, all are welcome!

**Any articles for inclusion in next week's St George's News must be in by Friday evening please to Bob Savage at: Breezy Corner,
1 Hampshire Close, Fairmile, Christchurch, BH23 2TH.
Telephone 01202 255431 or 07902 469745
Email: StGeorgesNews@christchurchpriory.org**