

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Cf. Is 30:19,30

**O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.**

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God,  
may no earthly undertaking hinder those  
who set out in haste to meet your Son,  
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom  
gain us admittance to his company.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the prophet Baruch

5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,

'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights

and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east

at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has

remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,

with enemies for an escort,

now God brings them back to you

like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening

of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,

the filling of the valleys to make the ground level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade

for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Ps. 125. R.v 3

**R) What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage

it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,

on our lips there were songs. **(R)**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels

the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad. **(R)**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage

as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears

will sing when they reap. **(R)**

They go out, they go out, full of tears

carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song,

carrying their sheaves. **(R)**

**SECOND READING**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how  
you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first  
heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One  
who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when  
the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss  
you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that  
your love for each other may increase more and more and never  
stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception  
so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you  
to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of  
Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus  
Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**

Alleluia!

Lk 3:4-6

**GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius  
Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his  
brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis,  
Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and  
Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the  
wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,  
as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

winding ways will be straightened

and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings,

and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,

come, we pray, to our rescue

with the protection of your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Bar 5:5;4:36

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment,

we humbly beseech you, O Lord,

that, through our partaking in this mystery,

you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth

and hold firm to the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

**OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY****GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Very firmly St Luke introduces  
St John the Baptist into the  
contemporary political and  
historical scene; for John is a  
prophet in the line and  
tradition of the great

prophets of Israel's past. The  
Bible is history in a double  
sense: it relates historical  
events; but it also IS history,  
recording, through thousands  
of years of the empires of the  
Middle East, every stage of  
the development of the Jews  
as God's messengers. Now  
John appears as a mere  
incident in the story of  
Rome's occupation of  
Palestine. But it is a moment  
of challenge in the Jewish  
story. That is why Our Lord  
can later berate the Jewish

leaders, for their deliberate  
blindness. "You hypocrites!" he  
cries, you say "We would never  
have joined in shedding the  
blood of the prophets, had we  
lived in our ancestors day. So!...  
You are the children of those  
who murdered the prophets!"  
And again, "John came to you in  
the way of righteousness and you  
did not believe him..." No, in  
spite of their Scriptures, they  
did not believe and, like their  
ancestors, murdered the  
prophet!

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM  
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)****Monsignor Bruce Harbert –  
Thoughts on today's Mass****II. PASTORAL ACTIVITY AND CONVERSION**

*An ecclesial renewal which cannot be deferred*

27. I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a  
missionary impulse capable of transforming  
everything, so that the Church's customs, ways  
of doing things, times and schedules, language  
and structures can be suitably channelled for the  
evangelization of today's world rather than for  
her self-preservation. The renewal of structures  
demanded by pastoral conversion can only be  
understood in this light: as part of an effort to  
make them more mission-oriented, to make  
ordinary pastoral activity on every level more  
inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers  
a constant desire to go forth and in this way to  
elicit a positive response from all those whom  
Jesus summons to friendship with himself. As  
John Paul II once said to the Bishops of Oceania:  
"All renewal in the Church must have mission as  
its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of  
ecclesial introversion".<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> JOHN PAUL II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Oceania*  
(22 November 2001), 19: AAS 94 (2002), 390.

In today's Prayer over the Offerings we ask  
God to 'come to our rescue with the  
protection of your mercy' because 'we have  
no merits to plead our cause', reminding us  
that God will be our judge, and also that, in  
order to know God's mercy, we must know  
our need of it. Any good that we can do is  
God's gift, so that later in Advent we shall  
be speaking of ourselves as the 'handiwork'  
of God's mercy. The liturgy sees Christmas  
as an outpouring of God's mercy, praying in  
the words of a Psalm, as the feast draws  
near 'may we receive your mercy in the  
midst of your temple, O Lord', and that  
mercy may flow to us from God's Word, who  
'chose to become flesh of the Virgin Mary'.  
However generous the Christmas presents  
we give, none can be more generous than  
the mercy of God.



# PARISH COMMUNITIES OF

## ST GEORGE

Eastbourne Road  
Polegate



Parish Priest: Fr. Rory Kelly

South Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JG

Tel: (01323) 841504

(Answerphone service available)

Email: [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk](http://www.saintsgeorgeandwilfrid.co.uk)

## ST WILFRID

South Road  
Hailsham



The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

### WEEKLY SERVICES

Sat	5th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Sun	6th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Mr Matew RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - Perry Cleary RIP
Mon	7th	2.30pm	St George's - 2.30pm Rosary Group, every Monday except Bank Holidays
Tue	8th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - John Forde's Intention
Wed	9th	<b>11.30am</b>	St George's - Mrs Millicent Mary Spencer RIP
Thur	10th	10.00am	St Wilfrid's - Joanne Kelly RIP
Fri	11th	9.30am	St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation
Fri	11th	10.00am	St George's - Cathy Smith - In Thanksgiving
Sat	12th	6.00pm	St Wilfrid's - Parish Communities' Intention
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Sun	13th	<b>9.00am</b>	St George's - Mrs Elsie Brown RIP
		10.30am	St Wilfrid's - James Lesley Westcar RIP

1st Friday of the month: 9.30am St George's - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation

**IMPORTANT:** Going into hospital? Would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplaincy? Ring 417400, ext 4145 and leave a message for the Catholic Chaplain. Please also let Fr Rory know. Catholic Mass in the hospital Chapel every Friday at 3pm.

**St. Thomas a Becket Infant School:** Tel 01323 726004 **St. Thomas a Becket Junior School:** Tel 01323 737221  
**St Richard's Catholic College, Bexhill:** Tel 01424 731070

**New to the Parish or would like to get back in touch but not sure how?** Please complete the welcome form available in the porch and/or make yourself known to Fr. Rory. *It would be great to get to know you and offer any help.*

### USEFUL PARISH INFORMATION

St Wilfrid's Planned Giving Contact (01323) 847014  
St George's Planned Giving Contact (01323) 870990  
St George's & St. Wilfrid's Finance Committee Treasurers Charles Piegrome & Brian Winter  
Chairperson of the Finance Committee Peter Dromgoole  
**ALL CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE ABOVE VIA THE PRIEST'S HOUSE PLEASE**  
Polegate Hall Hire.....Tel: (01323) 509047  
Prayer Line .....Jean Barham Tel: (01323) 842824

**CROSSLINK CHURCHES TOGETHER, HAILSHAM**  
Contact: Ann Fielder 01323 843361

**POLEGATE CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
Contact: Margaret Piegrome 01323 870990

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** those who are unwell: Lily May, Maureen Barnard, Jennifer Duder-Rumsey, Edna Andrews, Juliette Lusted, Jennifer Piskac, Agnes Galt, Margaret Gearing, Joshua Hardy, Betty O'Hora, Peter & Teresa Zurenkas, Anne & Harry Holt, David Thomas, Michael Bradley, Josephine Coleman, Elizabeth Osbourne, John Dodson, Irene Boulstridge, Mary Scales, Margaret, Tom and Elizabeth Woodrow-Spencer, Enza Riddiford and Vera Almeida.

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THOSE NAMED IN THE BOOKS IN OUR CHURCHES**

**Newsletter items:** Please send to Jackie at [ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com](mailto:ssgeorge.wilfrid@btinternet.com), tel.841504 or by hand marked **NEWSLETTER**, to Fr. Rory's House by **9am Wednesday.**

**St Wilfrid's Hospice Writes:**

You are warmly invited to join us at a Lights of Love event where we will come together to remember the wonderful times spent with those we have loved and lost. We have held Lights of Love events every year for over 30 years. The services are open to everybody, whether or not you have a personal link to our hospice. There is always a very special atmosphere; we hope that you will take comfort in the sharing of thoughts and emotions with others who have also experienced the pain and grief of loss. Details of the services are given elsewhere in this newsletter. Lights of Love is the time of year when we ask our whole community to reflect on the work of our hospice, and if possible, make a financial contribution towards the continued care of our patients and their families. We would be grateful for any support you could offer. The service will be led by Tom Duncanson, Chaplain to the Hospice.

Two daughters who lost their mother write: "It will be so strange without Mum this Christmas. Family Christmases revolved around food, films and Pictionary! Our mum was generous, brave, loving and utterly beautiful. It will be lovely to come together to remember Mum and to join others who will be thinking of their loved ones, their lives and their legacies."

A Lights of Love Service for St Wilfrid's Hospice will be held at St George's Church, Polegate, on Monday 14th December at 7pm. We look forward to welcoming you. St Wilfrid's Hospice.

<p><b>Christmas Mass Times:</b>  <b>Christmas Eve:</b>  Vigil Mass (Family Mass), St Wilfrid's Church, 6pm  <b>Christmas Morning Mass:</b>  St George's Church, 9.15am  St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am</p>	<p><b>Rehearsal for Christmas Mimes:</b> There will be a short rehearsal on Saturday 19th December at 10.30am for the mime at the carol service on Sunday 20th, all children are asked to come and take part in this happy and welcoming event.  There will also be a rehearsal on Tuesday 22nd December at 10.30am for all the children who would like to take part in the Christmas nativity mime performed on Christmas Eve at the Mass at 6pm. All ages are very welcome to join in celebrating the wonderful birth of Jesus.</p>																					
<p>A <b>Lights of Love</b> Service for St Wilfrid's Hospice will be held at <b>St George's Church, Polegate</b>, on Monday December 14th at 7pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall. Do come and remember your loved ones who have died and support your friends who have lost loved ones. Everyone is welcome. There will also be services at the Hospice at 5pm on Sunday 6th December 2015, on <b>Wednesday 9th December at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Hailsham</b>, on Thursday 10th December at 7pm at Holy Cross Church, Uckfield and Thursday 17th December at 7pm at All Saints Church, Waldron.</p>	<p><b>St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Meeting:</b> Tuesday 8th December at 7.15pm in St Wilfrid's Cabin.</p>																					
<p><b>Lourdes Pilgrimage:</b> 28th July to 5th August 2016, applications open from January 2016. For more information please contact: Lourdes Pilgrimage Office, Horsham, Tel: 01403 740110</p>	<p>The <b>Knights of St Columba</b> will meet at Christ the King Parish Rooms on Monday 14th December at 3.30pm. All Catholic men are welcome to come and see what we do. Further details from David on 423323 or Bob on 847014.</p>																					
<p><b>South Downs Singers</b> will be performing a carol concert at St John's Church, Polegate, on Saturday 12th Dec at 3.00pm. The charity benefiting from the concert is "REACH", which assists children and adults with limb disabilities. Several members of both our communities are members of the choir and would love to have your support. Tickets @ £8 each are available from Clodagh at St Wilfrid's and Shirley at St George's.</p>	<p><b>St Wilfrid's Christmas Flower Collection.</b> There will be a collection after both Masses on the 5th and 6th December for the flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas. Thank you.</p>																					
<p><b>The Eastbourne Catenian Association</b> are holding their annual Carol Service on Friday 18th December at St George's at 7pm, led by Deacon John. The service is followed by mulled wine and festive food in the hall. Both communities are invited to join. There will be an opportunity for people to donate towards the retiring collection for the President's charity, "Mary's Meals" during the evening.</p>	<p><b>Special Carol Concert - St Wilfrid's:</b> Come and join us for our special concert on 20th Dec at 3pm in St Wilfrid's New Church. All welcome, especially children. Mince pies, mulled wine, refreshments in the Hall (Old Church) after the Concert.</p>																					
<p><b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:</b>  <b>Mon 7th Dec</b> St Wilfrid's Fundraising Meeting, St W's Cabin, 7.30pm  <b>Tue 8th Dec</b> St Wilfrid's Leaven Group Mtg, St W's Cabin, 7.15pm  <b>Wed 9th Dec</b> Mother Teresa Group Mtg, St George's Hall, 2.30pm  <b>Wed 9th Dec</b> St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  <b>Mon 14th Dec</b> Lights of Love Service, St George's Church, 7pm  <b>Wed 16th Dec</b> St Wilfrid's Choir Practice, St Wilfrid's Church, 7pm  <b>Fri 18th Dec</b> Eastbourne Catenian Carol Service, St G's Church, 7pm  <b>Sat 19th Dec</b> Rehearsal Christmas Mime, St Wilfrid's Church, 10.30am  <b>Sun 20th Dec</b> Special Carol Concert, St Wilfrid's Church, 3pm  <b>Tue 22nd Dec</b> Rehearsal Xmas Nativity Mime, St W's Church, 10.30am</p>	<p><b>Silent Prayer Time:</b> at St Wilfrid's Church, from 5pm to 7pm every Wednesday in Advent. Quiet reflection, just pop in for 5 minutes or as long as you are able. All welcome.</p> <p><b>St Wilfrid's Christmas Raffle.</b> Tickets will be on sale after Masses, £5 per book or £1 each. Please take a book or two to sell to family and friends. The prizes for the raffle have been kindly donated by Highcroft Veterinary Practice and three anonymous donors. Proceeds will be going to refurbish and convert the old church into a hall for the use of our whole community.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="790 1803 1260 2179"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>COLLECTIONS: (28th/29th Nov)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>St George's</b></td> <td>£179.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cathedral Maintenance Fund</td> <td>£83.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly ave./Monthly D/D</td> <td>£176.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>St Wilfrid's</b></td> <td>£221.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cathedral Maintenance Fund</td> <td>£87.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly aver. of DD</td> <td>£204.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendances: St W's 136 St G's 103</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Thank you for your continued generosity</b> If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="1260 1803 1519 2179"> <tr> <td><b>Bonus Ball:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Sat 28th November</b> No 18 Jean Barham</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Wed 25th November</b> No: No Winner</td> </tr> </table>	<b>COLLECTIONS: (28th/29th Nov)</b>		<b>St George's</b>	£179.08	Cathedral Maintenance Fund	£83.33	Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50	<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£221.16	Cathedral Maintenance Fund	£87.31	Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60	Attendances: St W's 136 St G's 103		<b>Thank you for your continued generosity</b> If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.		<b>Bonus Ball:</b>	<b>Sat 28th November</b> No 18 Jean Barham	<b>Wed 25th November</b> No: No Winner
<b>COLLECTIONS: (28th/29th Nov)</b>																						
<b>St George's</b>	£179.08																					
Cathedral Maintenance Fund	£83.33																					
Weekly ave./Monthly D/D	£176.50																					
<b>St Wilfrid's</b>	£221.16																					
Cathedral Maintenance Fund	£87.31																					
Weekly aver. of DD	£204.60																					
Attendances: St W's 136 St G's 103																						
<b>Thank you for your continued generosity</b> If you pay tax please use gift aid envelopes.																						
<b>Bonus Ball:</b>																						
<b>Sat 28th November</b> No 18 Jean Barham																						
<b>Wed 25th November</b> No: No Winner																						