

CROSSROADS

The magazine for
St George's Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



ST GEORGE'S	Sunday	Parish Communion at 10.30am
	4th Sunday	(with prayers for healing)
	Tuesday	Parish Communion at 9.30am
	Thursday	Morning Prayer at 8.15am
	1st Saturday	Messy Church at 10.00am

ST MARGARET'S	1st Sunday	Family Praise at 10.30am and
		Evensong at 5.00pm
		(with prayers for healing)
	2nd Sunday	Parish Communion at 9.00am
	3rd Sunday	Evensong at 5.00pm
	4th Sunday	Parish Communion at 9.00am
	Thursday	Parish Communion at 10.30am

WEBSITE www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

FACEBOOK: **St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon**

CHURCH IN TUFFLEY

3rd Wednesday Refresh at 7.30pm (Venue varies)

NOVEMBER 2019

50p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY
WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON
Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

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OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

“Don’t talk about the war”

OK so we have a new challenge many of us are scared to talk about. But here’s some helpful advice from the bishops in Oxford. I commend it for us all, individually and together, this month and beyond:

What can we do?

Twelve ways to love your neighbour as yourself, a Brexit checklist:

1. Give extra support to the food banks. There may be temporary shortages of some foods. Prices may rise. Foodbank usage may also rise.
2. Watch out for the lonely, the anxious and the vulnerable. Levels of fear are rising and may rise further. Knock on your neighbours’ doors and check if they are OK. Speak to people on the bus and at work. Build networks and friendships.
3. Reach out to EU nationals in your neighbourhood and workplace. This is a moment for friendship and hospitality and love for the stranger. As we leave the European Union, or as the uncertainty continues, people are likely to feel less welcome.
4. Make sure people have access to good advice on migration and travel, and qualified advice on debt and financial support. Point people to relevant websites.
5. Remember the needs of children and young people. Our schools and churches can be a place of balance and sanctuary for our children, who may be feeling upset and anxious.
6. Support the statutory services. A lot of good, solid planning has been done by local authorities. Familiarise yourself with your local authority plans and point people to them. Meet with your local councillors and neighbourhood police officers.
7. Think about the needs of particular groups in your area. What are the local challenges where you live?
8. Work together with other churches, faith communities and charities. There are some excellent examples of collaboration in foodbanks, debt counselling and night shelters. How else could we work in partnership?
9. Invite the community together. Encouraging discussion about the rights and wrongs of Brexit is unlikely to be helpful. Gather people to listen to

each other about what concerns them looking forward and how communities can be brought together despite acknowledged differences. Gatherings over a meal can be helpful as can skilled facilitation.

10. Watch over other faith and minority ethnic communities. Hate crimes and crimes against other faiths increased after the 2016 referendum. Reconnect with the mosques, synagogues and gudwaras in your area.

11. Encourage truthful and honest debate. The renewal of our politics will need to be local as well as national. Plan now to host hustings during the General Election campaign. Don't be afraid of the political space but step into it with a message of faith, hope and love.

12. Pray in public worship and private prayer for the healing of our political life, for wisdom for those who lead us, for reconciliation between communities and for stability in our government.

Lord, we ask for the peace, prosperity and wellbeing of all who live and work in the UK and the EU. Show us how to be part of the answer. Amen

God bless you all
Bruce

PS If you're concerned about ongoing supplies of your regular medicines, contact your regular health professional.

HOW TO TALK WITH CHILDREN ABOUT SCARY WORLD NEWS 10 HOT TIPS

1. A news blackout is rarely helpful
2. Let them know the facts
3. Discourage overexposure
4. Let your children know they are safe
5. Let them know that it is normal to be concerned
6. Tailor the conversation to their age
7. Find the right time to talk about it
8. Leave lots of space for questions
9. Allow for repetition
10. Be as truthful as possible

Source:

The Mental Health Foundation – who also provide more detailed advice

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We welcome Isaac James Ferris, Esther Claudia Szabo, Yasmine Lily Szabo and Zoe Panni Koszegi who were all baptised at St George's in September

Our sympathies to the families and friends of: -
Maxwell Nash RIP
Ronald Peart RIP

STANDING ON THE WATCHTOWER



Back in the day (Old Testament day in fact) watchmen were posted on the city watchtower 24/7 to alert the people of any warriors coming.

Back in the day (New Testament day in fact) watchmen were intercessors.

And still today God is looking for people to 'watch and pray' – to look out for signs of God's coming and to long for and pray for that coming - night and day.

*Lord teach me to pray continually and expectantly "Thy Kingdom Come".
Amen*



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

During our special 10.30am service at St George's with our Uniformed Organisations, we'll be gathering by the cross outside at 11.00am for a special Remembrance ceremony.

Please share this with us, as an act of community solidarity.

ST GEORGE'S DAY CENTRE

Every Thursday
10.30am until 2.30pm



If you are lonely and would like to meet new friends
then come along and join us!

**A hot meal is available and transport can be
arranged, subject to a waiting list**



Contact Hans Rackham on 528939



ADVENT GROUPS

On Monday 2nd, 9th and 16th December
in the Softley Lounge from 3.15pm until 4.15pm

On Tuesday 3rd, 10th and 17th December
in the Vicarage from 7.30pm until 8.30pm

QUOTABLE QUOTES 1

"Trouble is a blessing when it makes us stronger; prosperity is a curse when it entices us away from God" (Anon)

"The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of...
We know the truth not only by reason, but by the heart"
(Blaise Pascal, French mathematician and theologian, c.1650)

BLESSING FOR NOVEMBER

Christ, be with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie,
Christ where I sit,
Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.



From St Patrick's Breastplate

NOVEMBER RIDDLE-ME-REE

1 Paul's height is six feet, he's an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh?

2 A man is pushing his car along a road when he comes to a hotel. He shouts, "I'm bankrupt!" Why?

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU THIS CHRISTMAS

I think that I have enough acts now to keep us all entertained from 7.30pm onwards on 14 December in the Main Hall; just remember to buy your tickets from Glenda or me as soon as you can. They are priced at £5.00 each and includes a light supper. The theme is the essence of Christmas so expect to be entertained in a Christmas fashion. Wear something Christmassy you won't be out of place. But please bring your own drinks and have a good time.

DARRELL



EVER HEARD OF BLACK-HEADED TERNS TAKING OVER A CANAL BOAT?



In early June I got attacked by a pair of terns whilst trying to get on to my 57ft canal boat which I keep at Saul Junction Marina. The birds had taken up residence in one of the flower troughs on the cabin roof. They subsequently laid eggs and hatched three chicks. Checking with RSPB, I was told on no account should I move the trough or the boat as terns are high on the endangered protection list! I would be fined heavily (many thousands of pounds evidently) if I did. It effectively meant I was unable to use my boat for nearly eight weeks. Once the birds had flown, it took me two days to scrub all the bird mess they had deposited all over the cabin roof. Needless to say, I wasn't very popular with my fellow boaters as the parents kept dive bombing them.

HANS RACKHAM

PIONEER PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who's generously supporting the Pioneer Project with regular gifts. Since we began in 2016, a few who made pledges at that time have now died or moved away or have no longer been able to continue. So we're now looking for an extra £100 a month to cover the remaining period till summer 2021. If you might be able to help, just ask David Westcott (302353; dj.ww@btinternet.com) for more details.



Meanwhile, as many of us know there's much to celebrate! If you want to find out more, do talk with Helen or read her latest reports on the St George's church porch noticeboard.

RUTHI ("ROOTI") RIP

For a brief period this summer we were blessed with the presence of Ruthi from the Netherlands. She arrived without notice, and she left without notice. But while here, she took full part in all the activities in the life and witness of the Church in Tuffley and Whaddon. To Ruthi, we were all 'dear sister' or 'dear brother'. Her angelic smile, her ever-thankful heart, and her insightful thoughts were inspirational.

When wondering about our response to Ruthi's presence, I often thought of the encouragement in the letter to the Hebrews (chapter 13): "Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!"

However, Ruthi's presence could be challenging and disturbing at times. And, try as we might, we weren't able to provide all she was looking for. She also kept hidden a good deal of mystery about her life. Even the circumstances of her death are surrounded by sadness and mystery.



Yet two things we do know and celebrate: we're all the better and richer from knowing Ruthi; and she's now (in the wonderful phrase celebrated by the Salvation Army) been 'Promoted to Glory'.

Thanks be to God!



The Pastoral Group is looking at compiling a list of reputable and reliable tradespeople that would be useful to both members of our Churches and communities.

We have especially in mind those who are particularly vulnerable and are anxious about approaching tradespeople.

If anyone has personal experience of suitable tradespeople please let me know or indeed anyone on the Pastoral team.

Contact; Linda Medwell on 01452 302590

TWO LEFT FEET

One thing I learnt as a student is that I can't dance.
But one thing I've learnt in the years since then is that God can. And does.
Continually.

For our picture of God is as the Holy Trinity, the Father Son and Holy Spirit: three Persons in One. Not a hierarchy or even a fixed role for each Person, but an ordered way of living through movement as a community of love 'dancing around'.

God's 'dance' has been likened to the 'Dance' painting by Matisse where the figures are lightly formed and their movements seem unrestrained, effortless, bringing pure joy. Look carefully and you might see two hands towards the centre foreground are reaching out but not quite touching, inviting us to join in...



Are you joining in the dance?



Our speaker in September was Arlene Howard who told us about the work of the charity Love Without Boundaries [LWB]. It began in 2003 to help save the life of one tiny boy in China who needed heart surgery. Until 2016 LWB worked exclusively in China supporting vulnerable children.

Following a change in Chinese law making this more difficult LWB expanded into Cambodia, India and Uganda. Through programmes of education, medical care, foster care, healing homes and nutrition LWB helps impoverished children who are often orphans or abandoned.

At our October meeting we had a Bible Sale; not a sale of Bibles as a few of us had supposed! The idea was for each of us to bring an item that related to a verse or story in the Bible. These could then be sold to raise some money for the MU AFIA [Away From It All] fund which gives holiday breaks to families under stress. There was a bottle of water paired with a bottle of wine for the wedding at Cana, some salt for Lot being turned into a pillar of salt and some cooking oil for the story of the wise and foolish virgins and

their lamps. A tin of Golden Syrup and its trade mark of the lion and bees and the verse "out of the strong came forth sweetness" reminded us of the story of Samson in Judges 14. We discovered that honey is mentioned several times in the Bible because although 3 members had taken jars of honey they had all found different verses about it. There was also, rather surprisingly, some cheese which is mentioned in 2 Samuel 17:29 amongst other food which was given to David.

Do come and join us for our meeting on Tuesday November 12th at 2.30 in the small hall when we will learn about Mike Mumby's trip to India.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

ST GEORGE'S COFFEE POT

EVERY Tuesday morning from 9.00am until 11.00am
St George's Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley

Hot drinks and food available until 10.30am

If good company, conversation and refreshments
are just the ticket for you, then come along
and bring a friend!

We are desperate for help to lay tables
and to put things away after Coffee Pot if you can spare some time
please speak to Mike Brammer or our Vicar ASAP





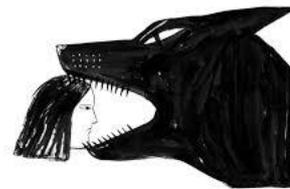
Questions based on the Gospel readings for September

- 1 Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honour. Which religious group of Jews was Jesus referring to?
- 2 Jesus said, "For all who e_____ themselves will be h_____ and all who h_____ will be e_____." What words are missing from this scripture?
- 3 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord said, "Come, go down to the P_____ house." What word is missing?
- 4 Paul wrote to Philemon about an escaped slave. O_____ was the slave. What is his name?
- 5 The woman who lost a coin. How many coins did she have before one was lost?
- 6 Once the coin was found she called upon certain people to 'Rejoice with her'. Who were these people?
- 7 Jesus told the story of the rich man whose manager was charged with squandering the rich man's property. Jesus concluded by saying, "No slave can _____. What three words are missing?"
- 8 The steward asked a man, "How much do you owe my master?" The man replied, "A hundred containers of wheat". The steward then advised, "Take your bill and make it ____." How many containers of wheat did the steward advise the man to change his bill to?
- 9 Jesus went to Galilee. He found Philip and said, "Follow me." Philip was from the same city as Andrew and Peter. The city was called B_____?
- 10 "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Who spoke these words?

*The answers to this month's Bible Quiz
can be found later in this issue of Crossroads*

The 'black dog' of depression is no respecter of persons.

Archbishop Justin Welby has recently acknowledged publicly that he received medical help for depression last year, after learning from his daughter that seeking help wasn't something to be ashamed of because this is part of life.



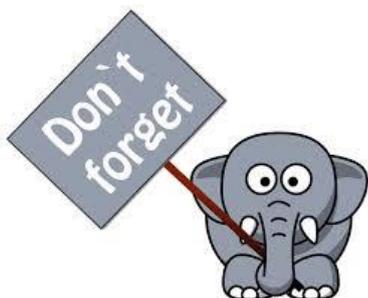
The Archbishop is quoted as saying:

"Seeking help isn't always easy, but for me it made a huge difference. Anyone who feels they're walking in darkness, don't walk alone.

" The Psalmist who wrote Psalm 88 must have been severely depressed. But increasingly, thank God, people draw alongside you and know that mental illness is no different to physical illness except it's invisible and has a stigma. We need to get rid of that stigma. "

If you need help, just ask.

Your GP can advise. We're also here to listen: do contact Linda Medwell at the church.



In order to get your
DECEMBER/JANUARY CROSSROADS
ready for publication on Sunday 24 November

**ARTICLES NEED TO BE IN THE EDITORS HANDS
OR IN OUR EMAIL INBOX BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN**

WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER

**The earlier you can get your articles to the Editors
the greater chance of getting it published**

Thank you for your help in this matter

PETER'S NOVEMBER

POSERS



- 1 What is a Kippah? a) a fish b) a cap c) a small boat
- 2 Arthur's Seat is in which city?
- 3 Which character has Barbara Knox played for over 45 years?
- 4 Pb is the chemical symbol for what?
- 5 Between which two cities does the West Coast Mainline run?
- 6 How many feet make up a fathom?
- 7 In paper quantities how many sheets make up a Quire? a) 25 b) 50 c) 100
- 8 Whose country residence is Gatcombe Park?
- 9 Both Matthew Boulton and James Watt have featured on which British banknote?
- 10 Adam Hoolioake was a professional cricketer who captained England in One Day Internationals in the 1990s. To which sport did he turn professional for a short time in 2011?

Answers next issue

SOUL-FRIENDS

Friendship is a gift that's all too rare today. There's a gap – indeed a gaping hole – in the market for true friends, who share our pure joys, and who stay by us when the going gets tough.

Soul-friends are even more scarce. With soul-friends we know we're safe to get things off our chest without fear or shame or guilt, because they're unshockable. We can be accountable to each other as soul-friends, where there's no judgement. Soul-friends are medicine to the soul. They can help us attend to the spirit inside us, to recognise God's presence and prompting, to grow more 'whole', more like Jesus.

The priest and author Henri Nouwen once wrote "We all have our secrets: thoughts, memories, feelings that we keep to ourselves. Often we think, 'if

people knew what I feel or think, they wouldn't love me'. Yet these carefully kept secrets can do us much harm. They can make us guilty or ashamed and may lead to self-rejection, depression and even suicidal thoughts and actions... Bringing our secrets into the light creates community and inner healing"*

Confessing to someone is a gift we neglect too often. Through confession our damaging pent-up feelings of shame and guilt can be released, and we can find the healing of reconciliation with God. Smith and Gatta wrote that "It is a profound human need to express our vulnerability and articulate it, yet we shy away from it".* How can this be?



I long for us to become a community of soul-friends. If you want to be part of this journey, please talk with me (Bruce).

**(see Henri Nouwen, 'Bread for the Journey' 1997; and J Gatta ad M Smith: 'Go in Peace' 2013; quoted by Andrew Scholes, 'the Celtic Soul-friend' 2019)*

ANSWERS TO PETER'S SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER POSERS

1 Melon: 2 Oldest pub in Britain: 3 Lake Superior: 4 National Union of Students: 5 South Africa: 6 Ethiopia: 7 Tottenham Hotspur: 8 Billy Elliott: 9 Antonio Gaudi: 10 Anish Kapoor.



Summer has drawn to a close; we've rhymed through National Poetry Day, been celebrated in Libraries Week and opened up the digital world in Get Online Week. Now it's getting dark earlier and there's less to do in the garden, why not think about anyone who could make use of our Housebound delivery service, or any Mums-to-be who would like to know about our Born To Read programme.

We're also showcasing books to help with a crafty homemade Christmas, and we've got hand knitted poppies from our Knit'n'Natter group for Remembrance Day. All this as well as our usual Bounce and Rhyme sessions and Library Club on the first Monday morning of every month.

Wow, just pop in if you want to know more about anything, or even if you just want to chat.

STEVE AND MARGARET

FROM THE LAST JOINT PCCS MEETING.....

At their meeting on 16th September 2019 the joint Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) of St George's and St Margaret's discussed and agreed the following:

For St George's Church

- a commemorative wall plaque by the Te Deum window in memory of Dinah Freke
- to investigate the purchasing of a defibrillator
- to replace the solar panel inverter if required, the cost being added to the Diocese's existing loan.

For St George's Centre

- to replace the windows and doors and to paint the outside.
- to improve access by making provision for swift exit for wheelchair users

- to work around existing bookings should Messy Church choose to use the main hall

For St Margaret's

- to continue to pursue costings for the possible underpinning of the porch
- to produce a revised edition of the carol booklet for use at this year's carol service

Bishop Robert and a team of curates will be coming for a weekend in April as '**partners in mission**'. Members were invited to join the planning group.

Care and Discipleship

The pastoral team are keen to hear of those who would value a visit, or from those who would like to join the team. Linda Medwell, as coordinator, is arranging for someone to come and talk about mental health. PCC members who have yet to attend safeguarding training were encouraged to book onto a Diocesan course.

Sub-committees. Bruce encouraged each sub-committee to identify one key priority and to choose achievable goals for the year ahead

Finances and funding

- St George's. We thank God and all involved in regular giving that has risen, now covering 70% of the shortfall required to meet the outgoings.
- St Margaret's. Finances look healthy, though the cost to underpin the porch is unknown.
- Parish share. Members were unanimous in their support for the Treasurers to negotiate a change in this year's parish share rising to a maximum increase in line with inflation.

Both parishes are pleased to contribute to a gift of £150 for Paula Rix's first year of training to be a Reader.

Full draft minutes are available at the back of each church. They are subject to approval at the next meeting.

QUOTABLE QUOTES 2

"A man prayed; at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until he realised that prayer is listening."

(Soren Kierkegaard)



BOOKSHELF

It is now the time of year when new books are published; which are intended to be read during Advent.

This year's Advent book from BRF is "Image of the Invisible" by Amy Scott Robinson. When you hear the name 'God', does an image come into your head? Do you think of him as a shining light, or with a human shape, or as an anchor in the storm, a rock, a fortress? As we look towards celebrating the incarnation at Christmas, we consider how God chose to express himself, in a moment in history, as a tiny baby. But what other images describe God in the Bible, and what can we learn about his character through them? How does an invisible God reveal himself to us in scripture and in Jesus? Amy Scott Robinson, a poet and storyteller, answers this question with imagination and a close reading of the text.

"Wake Up to Advent!" by John Sentamu is the Archbishop of York's Advent book 2019. 'It is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.' St Paul's words of encouragement to the Christians in Rome are the springboard for this Advent book. Basing his reflections on the readings and prayers in the Book of Common Prayer, Archbishop Sentamu offers fresh spiritual food for the Advent journey pressed down, shaken together and running over.

Isaiah rings with proclamations and prophecies that find their fulfilment in the Gospels and are still being fulfilled by followers of Jesus. In "Freedom is Coming: From Advent to Epiphany with the prophet Isaiah" Nick Baines invites you to think about what it meant for people in Isaiah's day to be living in exile, and how the prophet encouraged them to keep their faith alive despite the apparent hopelessness of their situation. At the same time, this book helps you to see the connections between Isaiah's time and ours, and how his vision of God's truth and justice spreading throughout the world can comfort, challenge and inspire God's people now, just as it did back then. Read this book and find out how you too can become a 'light to

the nations' as, once again, we approach the celebration of Christ's birth and the new world that God has promised to bring into being.

“Rejoice! Advent in All the Scriptures” provides 25 Bible meditations based on Scripture verses and teaching nuggets from John Stott, with commentary and prayers from Christopher Wright. Accessible and bite-sized, fresh and exciting, each meditation deepens our appreciation of the timeless spiritual truths of Advent and Christmas.

The last book is “Repeat the Sounding Joy”. In this Advent journey through Luke 1 - 2, Christopher Ash brings these familiar passages to life with fresh insight, colour and depth. As you soak up the Scriptures, you'll experience the joy of Christmas through the eyes of those who witnessed it first hand, from Mary and Elizabeth to the Shepherds and Simeon. This devotional will help you to celebrate afresh the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah in history, and learn what it means to wait for him with joyful expectation today. Each day's reading includes a short reflection, a prayer, a carol, and space to journal, helping you to treasure the Lord Jesus in your heart in the hectic run-up to Christmas.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Pharisees; 2 exalt, humbled, humble, exalted; 3 Potter's; 4 Onesimus; 5 Ten; 6 friends and neighbours; 7 serve two masters; 8 eighty; 9 Bethsaida; 10 Nathanael:

CLEANING OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

I wonder if anyone can help to give St George's a good clean before Christmas. There are a few of us who do our best on a rota; but our numbers are not great and we can't clean often enough therefore we can only do what we can do. There's plenty of cleaning materials and equipment but just not enough time. If you can spare say a hour a week please have a word with a St George's warden, they will be pleased to talk with you.

Getting to Know You

Joe and Marlene Thomas



Moving south to Gloucester in 2007 to be near their grandchildren, Joe and Marlene have become members of the St Margaret's worshipping community. Part of the team who run the weekly Day Centre at St George's for the last five years, they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in October.

Early days in Yorkshire

Born just before the war into a close-knit family based in Scarborough, Joe moved to the pub in nearby Falsgrave to live with his grandmother when the war began, and his father joined the army. It was good for the family to be living together under the same roof during the conflict. Back in Scarborough after the war, Joe passed the 11+ exam to go to Scarborough High School for boys where geography was his favourite subject; he had a special interest in geology. As Joe was leaving school the family left the seaside to move to Holmfirth, west of Huddersfield, "Last of the Summer Wine" country. Joe took up a five-year apprenticeship with David Brown tractors. It wasn't long before he spotted a girl with a ponytail who worked in the office.....

Marlene had joined the company from school at fifteen. She had been born in Meltham, just before the outbreak of hostilities. The family were soon on the move to live with her grandmother in her Blackpool boarding house while her father was away in the Army. Once back in Meltham, she attended the local C of E primary school and the local church, where from the age of seven, she joined the Girls Friendly Society (GFS), enjoying crafts, drama in the form of pantomime, competitive singing and country dancing. Her parents worked at the local Co-op, enabling them to get to know most of those who lived locally. Marlene was a keen reader and loved embroidery. Like Joe, Marlene passed the 11+. However, she didn't enjoy her days at the grammar school and was only too keen to leave.

Love and marriage

As a boy Joe had joined the cubs, moving on to be a scout, and a venture scout, eventually becoming a leader. Keen to give something back to the community, he joined the local mountain rescue team. Meanwhile Marlene had become a leader with the GFS and with the youth fellowship. She persuaded Joe to become a leader too. Joe and Marlene would take groups of young people away on walking holidays in north Wales and the Lakes. It gave them experience of remote places, a taste of what was to come.....

1959 saw Joe and Marlene married – and Joe joining the Army to do his national service. Once completed he returned to work with David Brown tractors, who were the major local employer in Meltham, with a workforce of 3,500.

Their son David was born in 1962. It was a difficult birth during which Marlene almost lost her life. It was two weeks before she saw her son. Born with mild spina bifida, and one leg shorter than the other, David had leg lengthening surgery in his teens. Keen to have a larger family, Joe and Marlene adopted Emma in 1968, and Vicky four years later. When the children were all at school Marlene became a dinner lady at the local school.

Heading further north

Meanwhile Joe had left David Brown's to work for a Huddersfield company, with better pay and more responsibility. After a few years he became uncomfortable with the firm's management style following a takeover, and decided to leave. Not only leave, but change direction completely, requiring the family to move 150 miles north to Northumberland. Emma and Vicky had to move schools; David having started an apprenticeship stayed in Yorkshire. Joe was to be assistant manager of a new International Scout camp site, which could host 1,200 children and accommodate 450 doing water sports on Kielder Water. A new venture, exciting but not plain sailing, with tricky relationships to navigate with his boss - and the resident army of midges!

Learning to cater....

After four years were up, it was time to move on. A brief spell as a temporary postman, driving 40 odd miles each day down narrow country

roads and farm tracks, was followed by a role as a warden of Holiday Cottages with Northumbrian Water. Ellie became his business partner, while Marlene became a cook at the Calvert Trust Centre, which offered outdoor holidays for the disabled. Eventually Joe was appointed manager of the 100-seater restaurant and gift shop, providing breakfast, lunch and tea each day, and requiring much learning on the job. Marlene joined Joe after being made redundant from her role at the Calvert Trust Centre. It was a full life, sometimes working 60-70 hours a week, a long way from civilisation. Hexham, their nearest town, was 25 miles away – and Marlene didn't drive. Whilst there, they both helped in starting up a bowling club, whist club, and a home-brewed wine circle. Working weekends there was no chance to join others in worship at church.

Embracing life in a caravan

Then, out of the blue, during a time of staff cutbacks, they found themselves redundant. Another chapter was about to begin. They applied for work with the Caravan Club, were accepted and took on the role of Caravan Club Wardens. This was to turn out to be the best move of all for Joe and Marlene, as they embraced life in a caravan, and moved to different caravan sites – to Killin in Scotland, then to Woodstock, and to Southport, before being appointed as managers of the Carlisle site. Enjoying the role so much, they elected to stay on past normal retirement age, providing cover for other site managers, finally finishing when Joe was 75.

Coming to Gloucester

After a fairly itinerant life, where then to settle in retirement? Vicky had married in 1994 and had come to live in Gloucestershire. In 2007 Joe and Marlene decided to come here to live near their family and their grandchildren, Tristan and Aimee, buying a bungalow in Tuffley. Emma who works locally at Elmore Court, stays with them some of the time. The two girls have very different temperaments. Emma has chosen to track down her birth parents; Vicky has not. David has remained in Yorkshire. Joe and Marlene notched up 60 years of marriage in October, celebrating with family and friends in Meltham where they married.

Looking back

Marlene and Joe are thankful for each other, their long marriage and their opportunity to work together. From an early age Joe has believed in

honesty, coming to appreciate the phrase, "Manners maketh man", translating it to "man up".

And a day to spend as they might choose? Having ordered sunshine (and banned midges!) they might choose to visit a horticultural/agricultural show. When he was young Joe had dreamed of growing roses commercially and had considered going into partnership with Marlene's younger brother. They needed land, and with the arrival of David, it was a step too far. With the huge growth in popularity of garden centres over the intervening years, they wonder where they might be now if they had invested. Their own roses, hostas, and other plants in their garden look as lovely and healthy as any. Evidence of some very green fingers....

Nevertheless, they can look back on a life of adventure, of embracing new opportunities, in isolated and hostile environments, of turning their hands to learn new skills. They will have enabled scouts, families and the disabled to discover and appreciate more of God's great creation. Many, many will be thankful they rose to the challenge.

NOVEMBER RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1 Meat

2 He's playing Monopoly

There are occasionally changes to the weekly timetable so please refer to our weekly newsletter for details of any changes. Crossroads and our weekly newsletter are now available for free on our website: -

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

QUOTABLE QUOTES 3

"People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive"

(Blaise Pascal)



I was so pleased to receive a lovely picture of a wedding couple, Claire and Rich, married at St Margaret's back in June. It was a Thank You for the most beautiful flower arrangements (Claire's words), this was a very unexpected surprise, most unusual and was very much appreciated. I expect many of you will have noticed that a Thank You does not come very often these days. Thank you Claire; you made my day.

I also would like to thank Mr Bick for his continual hard work in keeping St Margaret's Churchyard up together and also everyone that helps in anyway.

GLORIA WIGGALL



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello everyone, it's your favourite feline chatting again. It's been all go here what with one thing and another. I had to go to see the animal doctor again as I had to have another pin and toe nails clipped. I don't know why because I can chew them down myself. I don't think my mum believes me really.

I've had a chat to my cuz Maya and she's not happy. She is still in prison (well that's what she calls it) but Auntie Jill has told her it's not for much longer. She says she going stir crazy being shut up all the time. She hates it because Trixie can go out and she can't. She will be able to run around the house when Auntie Jill is there, otherwise it will back in the cage. My mum says she can hear Maya when she talks to Auntie Jill, honestly you would think she was being murdered to hear the racket she makes, whinge, whinge, whinge is all you hear, but never mind I'm sure she will get there in the end.

I had quite a shock the other weekend, I was shut in my mum's bedroom and wasn't allowed out again for ages because my mum's son and his wife came for the weekend and brought their dog with them. My mum said she only wanted to play because she was used to a cat but I'm not dog friendly and wasn't going to play ball. My mum and Auntie Jill go gaga over her as they do with all sorts. I did have an encounter with her one morning and I was not best pleased. Mum grabbed me but I was so frightened I did manage to scratch her. Eventually I managed to get into the bedroom and there I stayed as I was shaking all over. My mum said that my tail looked like a toilet brush! I don't like dogs even if they only want to play.

I think I will have a word with Maya or Trix to see how they are. Apparently I heard Auntie Jill talking to my mum saying that Trixie stayed out until midnight on a couple of occasions, it worries Auntie Jill. I don't know why because once I'm in after a certain time I'm not allowed out even though I would go. I am told NO.

I'll sign off now, until the next time, your friend, JO JO.



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, Maya, where have you been Maya? Maya, what are you doing, what are you doing in that thing? I don't know what happened Trix but I was just crossing the road and something hit me. I managed to get home and when our Mum came home and opened the back door I managed to get myself inside and lay down by the settee. Our mum went to stroke me but I really hurt my hip, Mum phoned the doctor people and told them that I was proper poorly and could she bring me to see them. They said that I had to go to a place at Quedgeley wherever that is. Well Trix, the next thing I know Mum is putting me in the box and off we went. I had to wait a bit and the doctor lady told Mum that I had been hit by something, I could have told her that and she felt me all over and she took my leg and I didn't half

shout. Trixie it was very painful, she looked at my toenails and had to cut a couple of them off as they were at funny angles but I was still sore then I had to go in the box again and off to that other place, then I had to say tata to our mum and then I went round to the back of the place, it was really scary and then I had a needle and don't remember anything else until our Mum came to fetch me. Mum said I had to have an Xray done, whatever that is, and they told Mum I had fractured my pelvis, now that is something I know absolutely nothing about, but, it's a great big hurtie Trix, are you coming to keep me company? Okay Maya, but it looks like a prison. I know Trix but Mum says I've got to stay in it for a long time so I thought you might like to keep me company. I'll try for a bit but if I don't like it I'll tell Mum. Ok Trix but please mind my hurtie. You're doing all right Maya. Yes Trix I'm fine. Maya, I don't like being in here, do you mind if I tell our Mum to let me out? Ok Trix, you call her, she will let you out. Maya I don't know how you do it but where did our Mum get your prison from? I don't know Trix but it was here when I came back from the hospital place. I've got to stay in here for ever Trix. Not for ever Maya, our Mum won't keep you in there for ever. I don't know but it feels like it at the moment, my leg don't half hurt when I walk on it, our Mum has told me we have to go back to see the doctor in a few weeks but I don't know what for. Mum says it's for a check up, ok Maya, when I see Harry and Yasmin I'll tell them that you have a great big hurtie. Ok Trix, tell them that I don't know when my Mum will let me go out but not to forget me. Ok Maya, I'll make sure nobody forgets you.

Trix, I've got to go to that place again to see the doctor. I hope she says that I can come out of my prison, see you soon. Ok Maya see you soon. Well Maya, what did the doctor say? She said that I had to stay in my prison for at least another four whole weeks. How long is that then Maya? I don't know Trix but my Mum had to go and see the picture they took, she said there was no way she was going to let me out of the prison until I was well and truly mended. My Mum said that I may have a bit of a limp but it would be ok. Trix, I'm so fed up with all of this but Mum says I won't be in here for any longer than necessary. I just have to mend properly. Well Trix I suppose I'll have to say goodbye for now, and me Maya and me. If you say so, so carry on. Ok folks, tata for now from me Trix and tata from a poorly Maya, until the next time, 'bye for now.

MAYA & TRIXIE PONTER



Well hello folks it's me again, she who with her friend Kath does the cleaning at our little church every Monday morning for weeks now and I may be the no 1 brass cleaner around but my mate Kath is the no 1 furniture polisher.

We had a couple of people come into the church, one person came in because his car was being serviced at the garage in Stroud road, another was just visiting the area and wanted to come in and see what the church looked like from inside! She said our church was very nice and well looked after, we told her we did our best and hoped that everyone else enjoyed the church as much as we did.

On the 1 September we had a talk from Margaret Edwards, a member of the Mothers' Union in Brockworth. They were a party of about 4 or 5 who went to Tanzania and what a journey they had; fifteen hours to the capital and then 3 hour internal flight to their destination. They were all welcomed by the villagers and church leaders and they were all impressed by their welcome; although extremely tired from the journey they sat through a welcoming concert of local choristers in the church, all very good they said. There would have been pictures to go with the talk only the machinery would not work so it was just Margaret but she did apologise for things not going too well but she said all these things are sent to try us. She also said that each person had a set criteria, hers was to find out how families interacted with each other. Mothers' Union is all over Africa but each region implements things differently as each church they went into had little gifts left for the community to share and all in all they all came away with lots of love for the people. They are so poor and appreciated everything they heard and was given by their visitors. They were there for just over two weeks and left with so many lovely memories.

Bruce and Rosie had their annual holiday, they went to Greece and we had the pleasure of the Revd Martin Riley on the 1 September, he has been with us on a couple of occasions and on the 8 September we had the Revd

Gordon Ripley, he is a lovely man and I hope we have the pleasure of his company again in the not too distant future. Well my friends, that's about it for the time being as I am about to lie down in darkened room, so love and God Bless until the next time.

JILL PONTER

OUR FIRST CHURCHYARD SERVICE

On 29th September we held a service aimed specially at those who visit St Margaret's churchyard to tend a grave – and there are a remarkable number of people who do just that. It was short and simple, and outdoors: 'bring a brolly if wet, but there will be spares in the porch if you forget' was the advice. It was in fact a pretty wet day for the most part, but the rain held off for our service - just - and the sun even put in a brief appearance.

The response was very encouraging: 57 people attended, of whom probably two-thirds were not regular churchgoers. The service started outside the porch and worked round anticlockwise, stopping near to recent graves and at the main area for cremation burials. There were three well known hymns (supported ably by Hans's music technology) and suitable prayers and readings. Most people stayed for refreshments in the church, and many pastoral contacts were made or renewed. Pat Mitchell even discovered some people to whom she was related but had not previously met: Gloucester is indeed a small world.

Will we do it again? Most definitely. This is about reaching out to folk who want to understand more about God's Kingdom, but who for whatever reason don't at the moment relate to what we do in church Sunday by Sunday.

This sort of service is quite a lot of work: planning, advertising, catering, clearing up and so on ... but tremendously worthwhile. Many thanks to all of you who helped. I won't attempt to name you all. In any case you don't do these things to get an honourable mention, but you'll agree with me when I say once again ... this was really worth doing.

JONATHAN

Dates to Remember

OCTOBER

Sun 27			LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY White Box week
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing & coffee
	4.00pm		Time to Remember at St George's
Mon 28			Half Term week
			Coffee Pot set-up
Tue 29	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Strength to Strength at English Martyrs
Wed 30	4.00pm	V	Standing Committee
Thu 31	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion

NOVEMBER

Fri 1			ALL SAINTS' DAY
	9.30am	SL	Pete & Lorraine's Bible Discussion Group
	7.30pm	MH	Gloucester Amateur Gardening Club
Sat 2			ALL SOULS' DAY
	10.00am		Messy church in St George's Centre
	10.00am		Councillor Steve Morgan Grange Ward Surgery
Sun 3			4 before ADVENT
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	12.30pm		Autumn Lunch in aid of St Margaret's
	5.00pm	*	Evensong followed by prayers for healing
Mon 4	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set-up
	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange
Tue 5	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion

Wed 6	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group
Thu 7	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Fri 8	9.30am		Pete & Lorraine's Bible Discussion Group
Sun 10		M	REMEMBRANCE and PARADE SUNDAY
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee and CAKE SALE
Mon 11	9.30pm		Coffee Pot set-up
	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange
Tue 12	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	2.30pm	SH	Mothers' Union – Mike's trip to India
Wed 13			December / January Crossroads deadline
	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group
Thu 14	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	11.00am		Open the Book at Harewood
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Sat 16			St Margaret of Scotland's Patronal Day
Sun 17			2 before ADVENT
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 18	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange
Tue 19	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 20	7.00pm	SL	Gardening Club Committee
	7.30pm		Refresh at St George's
Thu 21	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Sun 24			CHRIST THE KING / White Box week December / January Crossroads available
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing & coffee
	12.30pm		St George's Baptism of Ella Ann Rimmer
	4.00pm		Church in Tuffley Christingle Service

Mon 25	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange
Tue 26	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Church Centre Management Committee – SL
Thu 28	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	11.00am		Open the Book at Harewood
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 29	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group at English Martyrs
Sat 30	3.00pm		Messy Advent at English Martyrs

DECEMBER

Sun 1			ADVENT 1
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Evensong followed by prayers for healing

M = Read more information in magazine
 * = Service or event at St Margaret's Church
 MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge
 V = Vicarage, O = Office

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life; your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life; and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”
(Romans 12:1-2, The Message)

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

On a deserted island two Englishmen, two Scotsmen, two Welshmen and two Irishmen were marooned. The two Scotsmen got together and started a bank; the two Welshmen got together and started a choir; the two Irishmen got together and started a fight; the two Englishmen never spoke to each other as they hadn't been introduced!

Two penguins walk into a bar... which is stupid really because the second one should have seen it.

President Trump was talking to Queen Elizabeth and he asked her how she runs her country so well. The Queen replied quite simply that she chose the best people to run it. President Trump considers this for a moment and then asks her, "How do you ensure that they are the best people for the job?" The Queen answered that she quizzed them, and as an example she calls in Boris Johnson and she asked him, "Your parents have a child; it's not your brother and it's not your sister, who is it?" Boris replies "Well of course, it's me your Majesty". President Trump thinks this is smart so when he gets back to Washington he repeats the question to his Commander in Chief. Who runs around Washington all day trying to find an answer but no one can figure it out. Finally he comes to the Attorney General and asks him, "your parents have a child; it's not your brother and it's not your sister, who is it?" The Attorney General replies "It's me, of course". So the CinC goes back to President Trump and says "It's the Attorney General", President Trump, "No you idiot, it's Boris Johnson"

Why should the number 288 never be mentioned? Because it's two gross.

Mauricio Pochettino manager of Spurs was wheeling his shopping trolley across a supermarket car park when he noticed an old lady struggling with her bags of shopping. He stopped and asked "Can you manage dear?" To which the old lady replied, "No way. You got yourself into this mess; don't ask me to sort it out for you".

I needed a computer password eight characters long, so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

St George's Church and Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0PE
St Margaret's Church, 2 Church Lane, Whaddon, Gloucester GL4 0UE