

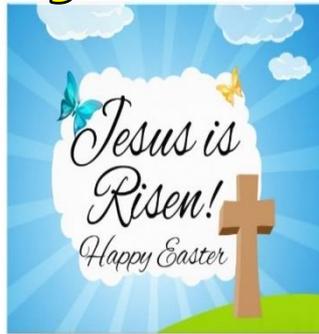
# CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



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

## ST MARGARET'S

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Family Praise at 10.30am and</b>
	<b>Evensong at 5.00pm</b>
	<b>(with prayers for healing)</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Parish Communion at 9.00am</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Evensong at 5.00pm</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	<b>Parish Communion at 9.00am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Parish Communion at 10.30am</b>

WEBSITE

[www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

FACEBOOK

St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

REFRESH

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30pm (Venue varies)

APRIL 2020

50p

**ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY  
WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON**

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## OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

So, once again, Britain's at war.

Is this the third World War?

Only two differences:

1: We're all on the same side, and

2: The enemy's invisible.



Yes, we're all needed in the war effort. Our part?

To join the action!

- hide from the enemy (we call it self-isolation)
- keep up morale (we call it, keep in touch - phone, email, social media)
- keep fit (this is especially about hygiene – wash hands often and long)
- love your neighbour (by buying only what we need, and offering to help others in need)

So, let's Tool up, and Train for war!

Ah yes, but how?

We know our true war is against all the powers that hold us back from living life to the full and free. SO, it's worth sharpening up now our true weapons:

*"Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armour of God's righteousness that protects your heart. For shoes, put on the Good News so you're always ready to share the blessings of peace. Hold up your shield of faith and wrap it right round you to stop the blazing arrows from the evil one. Embrace the power of salvation's full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God." (Ephesians 6)*



Our victory is assured. Maybe not before the VE Day anniversary. But soon. By that time, may we be different people, marked no longer by selfish greed and thoughtlessness but by selfless love and care for others.

God bless us all with faithful perseverance in 'doing our bit', with love, understanding and compassion for all, through the war effort.

Then when we've come out the other side, won't we just celebrate!

BRUCE

### **OUR VICAR WRITES again...**

Dear friends

**An exciting future!**

Vicars come, vicars go... and the show goes on!

Rosie and I are still enjoying an amazing time with such an amazing bunch of people that make up Tuffley: thank you!

But yes, in a few months it will be time for us to move on. I hesitate to say 'retire' because in God's kingdom no-one is retired, everyone has an active role. For us that role will just be different.

The purpose is the same of course, as it is for us all – to enjoy life to the full, God's life! And in doing this, we bring God's kingdom in.

It's that simple.

And yet so profoundly difficult too. Our antennae seem to be trained far more easily to our very human vision of the deceptively - called 'good' life, than to the wonder and awe of the God-life, the way Jesus modelled and opened up for us through the cross and the empty tomb.

This glorious Easter season let us lay aside all that holds us back, and grab hold of all that lifts us up to the truly good life, the way of Jesus, the life of God's Kingdom.

Then everyone enjoys the show.

Jesus said: *"I have come to give you life in all its fullness, till you overflow!"*

Bring it on, Lord, for the whole of Tuffley. Amen

BRUCE

PS... We're here till the end of July...

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:  
Roger Aylward RIP

**"MEANING" AS WE GROW OLDER**

A *burden* of these years is that we might allow ourselves to believe that not being as fast or as busy as we used to be is some kind of human deficiency.

A *blessing* of these years is that we can come to understand that is the quality of what we think and say that makes us valuable members of society, not how fast or busy we are.

Wisdom from *"The gift of years"* by Joan Chittister

## **APRIL RIDDLE-ME-REE**

1 What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?

2 A word I know has six letters, remove one letter and 12 remains. What is it?

## **DINAH AND THE TE DEUM WINDOW**

On Sunday 23 February we marked the first anniversary of Dinah Freke's death. As many of you will know, she was a worshipper at St George's for over half a century, and a Christian woman of great character.

At the request of her family we now have a painted plaque to record Dinah's gift, in 1983, of our fine Te Deum window. Bruce referred to this in his sermon, and we used part of the Te Deum in place of the psalm that morning. With the decline of Mattins as a Sunday service, the Te Deum is not much used these days. I hope that one day this superb hymn of praise, dating from the 4th century, will come into its own once more.

As a last-minute thought, Bruce asked me to say a word about the window, and I hope I managed to give a general idea. But what a lot I had forgotten – hence this article.

The window was designed and made by Roy Coomber from Bristol. About ten years later, he also made the engraved panel of the Virgin Mary, on the Lady Chapel screen. He died a few years ago.

The Te Deum window is abstract in style, and you will notice that facial detail is omitted. The colour scheme is strong and vibrant. The central figure is Our Lord enthroned in glory. He wears a crown and holds an orb in his left hand. Around him are the saints and martyrs of the Church, who are recalled in the first part of the Te Deum. Above are the towers of the Heavenly City. Below you can see the Alpha and Omega – God, the beginning and end of all creation.

That much I was able to tell you, but there is a lot more in the window. Not all of it is drawn from the Te Deum. It's all explained in a laminated sheet which you will find near the window. For example, below Our Lord, can you see the blue (and very abstract) form of the Pelican? In pre-Christian legend, the pelican sacrifices herself to feed her young. This is definitely not Biblical stuff; but was adopted in early Christianity as a symbol of Jesus's self-giving. I'm conscious of the editor's word count, so will leave you to look up the other detail, like the stars across the lower part of the window. Dinah's passing has made me look afresh at the window. It is really a very good work of art, and something we can be proud of.

Just a word about the plaque. It was made and painted by Graham Rolfe of Hucclecote, one of the last traditional signwriters. The brick red of the lettering echoes the Coleford brick found in the sanctuary and the Lady Chapel. Until recently, Graham lettered all the Cullimore gravel lorry fleet, which kept him very busy, but he is gradually winding down. He has looked after the St Margaret's noticeboard for many years, and his work can also be found in the Cathedral.

JONATHAN

### **TIME TO MOVE UP A GEAR?**



Change up at around 3,000 RPMs, change down at around 1,000 RPMs; that's the theory, apparently. Personally, I prefer to respond to the feel or the sound of the engine.

As we prepare for the future, maybe now's the time for some of us to shift up a gear, by engaging more actively in the life of the church and community.

And maybe now's the time for some of us to shift down a gear, by doing a little less and passing our responsibility on.

Annual meetings (around now!) provide the chance for us all to reflect on the past and shape up for the future, by reviewing our roles and maybe changing gear.

As we gear towards the Summer, and as we gear towards the Autumn and the period of 'vacancy' without a vicar, opportunities abound for those with eyes that see and hearts that are willing!

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Annual meeting of St George's Parochial Church Council will be held on Sunday 19 April 2020 at 12.00noon. Anyone whose name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll will not be eligible to vote or be elected to the PCC. The Electoral Roll will be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 15 March until the Sunday 12 April. If you wish your name to be added to our Electoral Roll, please complete a form which is available from me or from the table at the back of St George's. Completed forms must be handed to me, Glenda or a Churchwarden by no later than Sunday 12 April 2020.

MARGARET BARBER, ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

## **YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP NEEDS YOU!**

Our Annual meetings are coming up in March and April. This is the time we elect our Parish Church Councils and our Churchwardens. Please be on the look-out for people you may like to nominate for the privilege and responsibility of sharing the leadership of our churches in this way. And consider humbly and honestly whether you yourself might be willing to step up to the plate! And most of all, please keep the matter in your prayers.

Thank you

*"Enjoy today; it won't come back"*

*"Live each short hour with God and the long years will take care of themselves"*



Questions based on the Gospel readings for February

1 As part of the purification ceremony they offered 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Who made this offering?

2 Luke 2 tells us 'there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was \_\_\_\_\_; this man was righteous and devout. Who was he?

3 When they had finished everything required by the law \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord they returned to \_\_\_\_\_. What region of Israel did they return to?

4 No one \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ puts it under a bushel basket. What 3 words are missing?

5 Jesus said to His followers, "unless your righteousness exceeds that of \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_". What are the missing words?

6 Jesus said, "I tell you, even \_\_\_\_\_ in all his glory was not clothed like one of these." Who is Jesus referring to?

7 Jesus then went on to say, "Strive first for the kingdom of God and \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, and all these will be given to you. What 2 words are missing?

8 Jesus took with Him \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and his brother \_\_\_\_\_ up a high mountain. Who did Jesus take up the mountain?

9 Suddenly there appeared to them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ talking with Jesus. Who was talking with Jesus?

10 A bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with Him I am well pleased; \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_." Can you fill in the missing 3 words?

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

*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](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

## **ALAN DREWETT WRITES...**

The second chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke begins: *"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered..."*

While theologians have argued about the logistics and veracity of this event, I have begun a census of all the model aircraft at the Jet Age Museum. Rather than lining them up in the aviation equivalent of Bethlehem however, I am going through the cabinets with a clipboard. And in doing this I came across a Hawker Sea Fury with a remarkable history.

WJ 232, modelled with folded wings, was the piston engined fighter bomber of Lieutenant Peter "Hoagy" Carmichael, a flight leader with 802 Naval Air Squadron aboard the aircraft carrier HMS Ocean in 1952. On 9 August that year, Carmichael's flight of four Sea Furies had been tasked with a reconnaissance mission over North Korea. United Nations aircraft had previously bombed 19 bridges on the railway line from Chinnampo to the capital Pyongyang and intelligence was needed about the state of repairs by the communists, who had invaded South Korea in 1950.

The last bridge having been recorded, Carmichael's wingman, Sub Lieutenant Carl Haines called out "Migs, four o'clock high!" There were eight of the Russian built jet fighters, engineered by the Mikoyan Gurevich design bureau with captured German aerodynamics and back engineered Rolls Royce Nene engines. On paper the Sea Furies - developed from Sydney Camm's Hawker Typhoon and Tempest of the Second World War - should have been no match for the swept wing MiGs. But the communists had lost more MiG 15 pilots in training accidents than in combat and the survivors seemed to have a poor grasp of how to fight with their near - supersonic mounts.

Rather than picking off the Sea Furies at a distance, at least one tried to close in from behind and - having overshot the slower UN aircraft - popped open his dive brakes to slow down. Losing his momentum, the MiG sank into a gyro gunsight of the Royal Navy. For this action, Lieutenant Carmichael was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. But research in the second decade of the 21st Century revealed that it was not the flight leader, nor Carl Haines to his left or Lieutenant Peter "Toby" Davis to his right that had made the MiG fall away trailing smoke.

It was the youngest of the four pilots, 21-year-old Sub Lieutenant Brian "Smoo" Ellis. But in the heat of battle, and following military convention, either all four pilots were awarded a quarter of a probable kill or the honour went to the flight leader. In fact, "Smoo" was only persuaded to confirm his side of the story in 2017, still proud of his service but modest in his achievements. Which reminded me of Phillippians 2 verse 3 "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.*"

In the end, the selfless sacrifice of the United Nations overcame the godless aggression of communism. But the war in Korea only ended with an armistice, not a peace.

All the best  
ALAN

### **CHURCH CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS**

With better weather promised we might be able to get around to the painting of the grey walls white this month. An application has been lodged with Sylvanus Lysons Charity for a grant towards our toilet refurbishment project; so we hope to hear in due course if they will support us. We would like to put the work in hand as soon after Easter as we can, but this will be subject to the funding being in place or almost in place. I am looking into other charities and options for funding which I hope will look kindly on us. I will continue to keep you informed on progress. Should you have any questions (or ideas for donation applications) please do not hesitate to speak me.

DARRELL

*"A faith worth having is a faith worth sharing"*

## PETER'S EASTER

# posers



1. The word 'Easter' comes from the name of an Anglo Saxon, WHAT? a. Goddess b. Food c. Saint
2. Easter Sunday is preceded by a 40day period known as WHAT? a. Advent b. Whitsun c. Lent
3. The Thursday immediately before Easter Sunday is known as 'Maundy Thursday'? a. True b. False
4. All over the world, Easter Sunday is always celebrated in April? a. True b. False
5. The Cadbury chocolate company made their first chocolate Easter egg WHEN? a. 1875 b. 1925 c. 1965
6. In April 2012, a record-breaking chocolate egg was made which weighed? a. 2,000 kg b. 4,000 kg c. 6,000 kg
7. What is the name of the 2011 animated movie all about a young rabbit who does not want to become the Easter Bunny? a. Hip b. Hop c. The Easter Bunny
8. The origins of the Easter Bunny can be traced back WHERE? a. Germany b. England c. America

### **ANSWERS TO PETER'S MARCH POSERS**

1 David Niven: 2 Peter Sellers: 3 Ursula Andress: 4 Orson Welles: 5 Deborah Kerr: 6 William Holden: 7 Jean Paul Belmondo: 8 Charles Boyer: 9 Ronnie Corbett: 10 Bernard Cribbins: 11 Peter O'Toole: 12 Woody Allen:

*"Be faithful, and leave the results to God"*

*"Faith is the bridge over which we can cross all the unknown rivers of tomorrow"*

## **WHY I LIKE TUFFLEY**

By Tony Jones (retired poet)

Moving here about '73  
Was our first home in Tuffley  
No children but a pregnant wife  
About to embark on a serious life

My neighbours welcomed a uniformed man  
And provided support during the pregnancy span  
We were all so friendly and closely knit  
Helping with groceries and milk during the snowy bit

We moved abroad in '77 and '84  
Returning to our Tuffley base which we always adore  
The children's friends and schooling were here  
As was everything else that we hold so dear

Our church and spiritual home so near  
A community spirit that alleviates fear  
A friendly chat available each day  
Even councillors that do what they say

From those early days the family has grown  
So much to appreciate from seeds that were sown  
From travelling the world where else should we be  
But here in the embrace of our home in Tuffley

*Editor's note: Tony is a regular at Coffee Pot; is part of Grange Baptist Church community; and was in the RAF!*

*"It may be difficult to wait on the Lord, but it is worse to wish you had"*

*"God speaks to those who are quiet before him"*

## **THIS MONTH WE PRAY FOR:**



- *The people in Yemen, where malnutrition and cholera is rife because of war; that there may be lasting peace and justice for all*
- *All across the world who are affected or threatened by the coronavirus, all who are trying to manage the situation, and all the media and public; that there may be sensible precautions without fear*
- *All Christians in Tuffley; that we may share freely the blessings of 'new' life we know*

## **GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH APRIL**



### **FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

*Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



A third of the way through the year, and big things are afoot at the Library. As April starts we get a new system to work with, a new customer interface and a new method of issuing and returning (if you use the Library app you should have had an e-mail about this) but we'll still be here, still our usual cheerful selves and still happy to talk to all our customers about books. We will be closed for four days from Good Friday, so make sure you've stocked up on books in case the weather isn't all we hope it could be.

In the Easter school holidays we've got card making, a Beast Quest Egg hunt, a Peter Rabbit crafting event and a Birdwatching Storywalk with Bill Church – ask in the library for details of these activities and how to book places for the latter two. We'll also be holding extra sessions of our popular Lego club on Tuesday afternoons in the holidays and we are making a collage based around travelling the world so do feel free to drop in and add something to it.

All this, and now summer is just around the corner and we'll have to start looking into some big books to read on the beach!

All the best, and Happy Reading

MARGARET AND STEVE

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



In order to have your **MAY CROSSROADS** ready for publication on Sunday 26 April 2020

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

**MONDAY 13 APRIL**

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**

# Getting to Know You

**Carol Tarbox...**



*Born and growing up in Nottingham, with a spell in the Far East as an RAF bride, Carol Tarbox moved to Tuffley over 50 years ago. A member of St Margaret's congregation, Carol is very active in the community, chairing two local groups, including the Gloucester Amateur Gardening Society, which meets*

*monthly at St George's Centre.*

## **Early years**

Born at Christmas just after the outbreak of World War II, one of Carol's earliest memories is as a three-year-old singing her own words to hymns at the Baptist church. An adult's untoward comment left her self-conscious – and her singing stopped. Her mother, a trained singer who sang in the church choir, would attend both morning and evening services. Carol went to the afternoon Sunday school, which she loved. The church regularly mounted shows and pantomimes. Carol got her first taste of performance

when she appeared as a chicken at the tender age of three or four. She loved the experience, the costumes and the smell of the grease paint...

### Family

Carols' mother had a wonderful voice and trained for a while under Sir Malcom Sargent. She performed with the Nottingham Operatic Society and the City's Philharmonic Choir, practising beforehand in the family's bathroom. Carol's father was a medical herbalist, as was his father before him. He had a shop in nearby Basford, with a consulting room and a room where he made the herbal remedies. He would treat a variety of conditions including gall stones. The annual Goose Fair and the circus would bring regular customers back year after year. It hadn't been her father's first choice of career. He had wanted to be a motor mechanic, and was known to bring the car engine inside the house to work on it at times. However, the family business won.

### Health and education

As a child Carol did not enjoy the best of health. With the first port of call when ill being her father she didn't see a doctor until she was twelve. She suffered from acidosis and speaks of being confined to bed on a diet of digestive biscuits and Lucozade until she was better.

She missed school as a result. Already placed in the wrong year group due to late registration when she was young, she then missed a whole year's schooling to be with her peers as she transferred to secondary school. Despite reassurance from the school she never caught up. Scathing about the quality of the maths teaching, Carol preferred art, music and science. Diagnosed subsequently with anaemia she missed more school. She was sociable but wasn't allowed to mix widely by her mother.

Born with a short tongue, Carol found some words difficult to pronounce. She went to elocution lessons, learning to have confidence to recite poetry. Carol auditioned for the church choir and was told she had a sweet voice but didn't sing loud enough.

### Work calls

Carol's school days came to an end when she was 14. Always creative, she was keen to go to art school. All her ideas as to what she might do next were quashed by her mother. Instead her mother arranged for Carol to be taken on by an upmarket shop selling ballgowns and wedding dresses, as well as

suits. Thinking she would be a window dresser, Carol found herself draping dresses in the showroom, and ironing. But things were about to change for the better.... After a year, Carol was taken on as an apprentice hairdresser by one of the ladies her mother knew through the Operatic Society. She loved it!

Meanwhile, home life had its ups and downs. Carol's parents had little in common and didn't always see eye to eye. Carol also found she had little in common with her sister who was six years older than her. Her mother had spells of mental ill-health, sometimes requiring hospital admission.

### **Love and marriage**

Life had some good times too. Carol would meet her friends at one of their houses where they would do each other's hair and make-up before heading out for the evening. One night at the Nottingham Palais, John, home from leave from the RAF, asked her to dance. John and Carol danced all evening and arranged to meet the next day.

Aware he could be posted abroad at any time he proposed four months later, with a view to marriage in two and a half years. As the year unfolded, a posting abroad became very likely. Ceylon, as it was then, was a likely destination. This was no time for delay, and they decided to marry in the Baptist church, arranging the ceremony for 4th December 1958, just three weeks ahead! Carol had no doubts, she knew it was the right course of action. After a week's honeymoon in Bournemouth they returned to live with her parents-in-law, to be greeted with the news that John had to leave before Christmas for Malaya. It was to be three months before Carol would fly out to be with John... (to be continued next month)

### **RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS**

1 An Envelope: 2 Dozens

*"Walk softly, speak tenderly, and pray fervently"*

*"Bibles that are coming apart, usually belong to people who are not"*

## **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS**

1 Mary & Joseph: 2 Simeon: 3 Galilee: 4 lighting a lamp: 5 the scribes and Pharisees: 6 Solomon: 7 His righteousness: 8 Peter, James and John: 9 Moses and Elijah: 10 listen to Him

## **FOR HOSPITAL STAFF AND MEDICAL RESEARCHERS**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## **THROUGH THE WINDOW**

Hello everyone,

Doesn't time fly? It doesn't seem that long ago when I last wrote. Not a lot has happened, all it's done is rain and more rain. It's been very windy, nearly blew me off my feet and it blows my fur about and I don't like it. When I go outside I try to stay dry and out of the wind, sometimes I hide in the shrubs especially if my mum is out but as soon as she's home I'm in like a shot and go to sleep on my mum's bed. Usually once a week my mum has some friends in and I don't know what they get up to but I do jump onto the table just to make sure everything is in order because I like to know what is going on. I'm not being nosy just curious and I get told off if there is food on the table, it's

not allowed. It has been known for me to pinch food. Auntie Jill foolishly left some food on a plate in a carrier bag and left it in the hall. Well it's too much of a temptation so I got into it and stole the chicken off the plate. Boy, did I get told off and left a mess in my wake. I scattered the vegetables good and proper all over the floor. You should have heard Auntie Jill and my mum carry on. Well they shouldn't have left it where I could get at it. It was good while it lasted. Auntie Jill doesn't leave anything to chance now. She's learnt her lesson, I think. I've had a little chat to Maya and Trixie, and I can only speak to them when my mum and Auntie Jill are out of the way. Trix likes her home comforts, she likes to play outside but as soon as it starts getting cold or raining, she likes to be indoors. Maya on the other hand would prefer to be outside. Once she comes in, that's it, she's not allowed out again because she doesn't know when to come in. Boy, does she whinge just like her mum. Mind you when she sees my mum, she scarpers up the stairs just like I do with Auntie Jill. I'm always scared that she will grab me and take me to that horrible place where they do horrible things to you. I don't have to go for a while, but Maya and Trixie do, I think it's to have a pin and toenails cut, then I can have a little snigger at them because they do the same to me. This is all now until the next time.

JO JO WHITTLE



**OVER THE GARDEN FENCE**

Maya, Maya, are you there Maya? Trixie what on earth is the matter now? Why are you in such a state? Maya our mum just stood on my tail, it didn't half hurt, she ain't half heavy. Trixie you do tend to put yourself in our mum's way at times., especially when you drop down on the floor for a tummy rub. I know that Maya, but she still could have missed my tail.

Trixie have you seen Harry lately? I have just seen Yasmin on the fence, she's quite miffed because Harry hasn't been to see her. I think he's still poorly; you know that he went on holiday to his gran's, well he came back with something and his mum wouldn't let him go out. What did he come back

with then Trix? I don't know Maya, but he does tend to throw himself into everything he does. Maybe he threw himself too far into whatever it was. Trixie you do come up with the weirdest things sometimes. Well Maya, I don't really know why he hasn't been round, He could be in a mood or something. Maybe he's got the hump, he can be a bit grumpy you know. Oh well, here's hoping he's feeling better soon.

Maya our mum has gone off again and I don't know when she is going to come back home. Trixie it's not raining yet so we may as well make the best of it while we can. I have lots of places to check out today so come on we may as well make the best of it. Maya have you seen that tabby cat from down the alley? She doesn't half kick up a fuss when I go out into our back garden. I know Trix, I've had more than one run in with her, mind you, I did manage to fight her off when she went for me. Our mum yelled at her and she ran away, I was more than glad to see our mum that day. I came in, had something to eat and a little snooze then I went back out again. Maya, she frightens me to death, I always manage to get out of her way before she can get to me. I bet our mum has gone to that St Margaret's place again, you know that she takes her friend Kath with her, you can tell that she's going to do something because she takes something called Brasso with her. What do you think she uses that for Maya? Trix I haven't a clue, but I expect you will find out without a doubt. Well Maya, she did say that she was going to use the machine to talk to Marilyn. Trix, who is Marilyn? Maya, I don't know but she used the machine thing and she kept saying that name and to be at St Margaret's at some time on Monday. Trix, how did you manage to find all that out? Maya, I was under the table and I heard it all from our mum. Auntie Marg isn't going because she only goes on Sundays, but Kath goes, she has to leave her feline behind as well. By the way Kath's feline is called Dusty. I already knew that Trix. Well I thought I would just remind you. So where are we going today Maya? Well Trix, I thought we could take a look at the back gardens in the cul de sac. What's that Maya? It's a road that is open at one end and closed at the other end. Oh, that's a funny name for a road. I know Trix but that's what they call it. Oh well, as long as it's alright by you but Maya I'm getting really hungry now and our mum still isn't home.

Trixie, Trixie, I see our mum's car coming down the road, come on let's meet her. Ok Maya, I'm right behind you. I hope she's got something nice for tea. Oh, look Maya, lots of lovely grub, our mum has done us proud. Well Trixie, you had better say goodbye to the folks before you fill your face. Ok I'll say

tat ta for now everyone until the next time and its goodbye from me Maya until next time.

## MAYA & TRIXIE



Hello everyone, it's me again, that certain person who does the cleaning with her mate Kath, as I told you last time, we have roped our friend Marilyn into helping us out. Mind you we do tend to put the world to rights as we work. Kath has been trying different types of polish on the furniture, we have spray polish and wax polish and some other type of polish we do not know the origin of, but it is very hard and very dark. Kath said she would keep that polish for use on the doors of the pews so we will be very busy for the next few Monday mornings.

Marilyn and I will be the Brasso Queens, we have enough cloths but the Brasso will have to be checked. Like me, Marilyn loves to do the brass, I remember when we first took up the challenge of the cleaning of St Margaret's; Anne Western was Churchwarden with Malcolm Martin. My mum asked me if I could be available to do a spot of cleaning at St Margaret's church, of course I said yes, I could. You didn't say no to our mum and off we went, me, mum and Beryl Chiswell in my car and Anne and Marilyn in their cars. We all got allocated our jobs by our mum of course, but we took a kettle, milk, tea and coffee so that we could have a drink or two. Anne also brought the something to eat, Kath joined us a little while later, but it was all of us joining in together. Anne, Marilyn and I were on the brass cleaning, it was such fun and we all joined in the camaraderie, we always had a few moans about who should do what and when and who was to blame when things went wrong. I always blamed Malcolm or Mike Mumby because it was never anything to do with us ladies, I still blame them today. Mike doesn't come to St Margaret's much these days as he has been rather poorly, but I still say that's his fault, or Malcolm, they both say they have broad shoulders and can take it. They are still our best friends though.

Our services are such a joy to all of us, we have a new lady, Georgina who is now

one of our lesson readers and I hope will join us on our Electoral Roll.

Well my friends, that's about all for now so from Marilyn, Kath and myself it's goodbye for now.

J.R. Ponter

## DIARY

<b>MARCH</b>	
Sunday 29	<b>LENT 5</b> British Summer time begins
<b>APRIL</b>	
Sunday 5	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
Thursday 9	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
Friday 10	<b>Good Friday</b>
Saturday 11	<b>Easter Eve</b>
Sunday 12	<b>Easter Day</b>
Monday 13	May Crossroads deadline
Sunday 19	<b>Easter 2</b>
Thursday 23	<b>St George's Day</b>
Sunday 26	<b>Easter 3</b>
<b>MAY</b>	
Sunday 3	<b>Easter 4</b>

## FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.*

*We are not people who protect our own safety:*

*we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.*

*We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.*

*We are your people God, giving and loving,*

*wherever we are, whatever it costs*

*For as long as it takes wherever you call us.*

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

### **LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...**

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are flies good to eat?" "That's disgusting; don't talk about things like that over dinner," the Dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a fly in your soup, but now it's gone."

A bus full of ugly people had a head on collision with a lorry. They all died, when they all got to heaven God granted all of them one wish. The first passenger said, "I want to be gorgeous." God snapped his fingers and it happened. The second person said the same thing and God did the same thing. This went on and on throughout the group. God noticed the last man in line was laughing hysterically. By the time God got to the last ten people, the last man was laughing and rolling on the ground. When the man's turn came, he laughed and said, "I wish they were all ugly again."

In a school cafeteria, a member of the catering staff placed a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down, so they don't forget. They went home and the wife told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream." Then his wife said she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top." So, he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. His wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"