

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



COMMUNION AT HOME VIDEO

We can all enjoy taking part in our own church family Eucharist, available via video on our website and on YouTube:

for St M at <https://youtu.be/iJjojVT7dDo>, and

for St G at <https://youtu.be/mcT6Hgria5w>

You are invited to 'pause' the video at the appropriate time, then use the Sunday Readings sheet to follow Prayer for the Day, the readings and the sermon. Do also pray your own intercessions; please see our newsletter for prayer points, then just 'resume' for the Peace and the Eucharistic prayer.

WEBSITE

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

FACEBOOK

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

REFRESH

Suspended for the foreseeable future

MAY 2020

50p

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

WHO'S WHO

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| VICAR: | Revd Bruce Clifford Email: vicar-bruce@outlook.com | Tel: 520851 |
| READER: | Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis Email: Jonathanmj@virginmedia.com | Tel: 502174 |
| PIONEER: | Helen McGeoch Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com | Tel: 07729615993 |
| PASTORAL ASSISTANT: | Susan Scothern Email: susan.scothern@hotmail.com | |
| CARING CO-ORDINATOR: | Linda Medwell Email: linda47medwell@virginmedia.com | |
| ADMINISTRATOR: | Glenda Stevens Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com | Tel: 307456 |
| SECRETARY TO JOINT PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE | Rosie Clifford | Tel: 520851 |
| MAGAZINE EDITORS | Darrell & Glenda Stevens Email: ds52604@gmail.com | Tel: 410507 |
| WEBSITE | Hans Rackham Email: H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net | Tel: 528939 |

ST GEORGE'S

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| CHURCHWARDENS: | Mike Brammer Sylvia Evans | Tel: 412204 Tel: 416184 |
| TREASURER: | David Westcott | Tel: 302353 |
| ELECTORAL ROLL | Margaret Barber | Tel: 730182 |
| MUSIC LEADER | Paula Rix | Tel: 01453 860903 |

ST MARGARET'S

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| CHURCHWARDENS: | Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis Hans Rackham | Tel: 502174 Tel: 528939 |
| TREASURER: | Hans Rackham | Tel: 528939 |
| ELECTORAL ROLL | Jill Ponter | Tel: 417648 |

OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

“Lord give me patience – but hurry”.

Some of us are keeping busy working at home; others are extra busy as key workers, with all the added risks and tensions – thank you!

But many of us feel imprisoned in our homes, needing all the patience we can muster. For we are lonely, disconnected, robbed of our familiar structure to the day, losing track of the days of the week for they're all the same...

How to turn our challenge into an opportunity? Time is a precious gift, not to be wasted but invested. How so?

During our 'Pilgrim Way' reflections in Lent we were reminded of the Ten Commandments. I wonder if you can recite all ten? Try!

The fourth: 'Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy'. Ever since early days, the Christians have been keeping Sabbath as Sunday – the Day of Resurrection.

Though we currently can't meet each other physically, yet we are able to 'worship together at home' and so stay connected by following the Sunday readings, reflecting on the 'sermon-thought', sharing in the prayers, and joining a 'spiritual' Communion service, all with the help of photocopiers and DVDs, USB sticks and the internet.

What's more, we can explore many wider worship opportunities available on the internet and TV and radio.

As we all make the most of these opportunities to worship together, alongside the chance to 'linger longer' with God in prayer each day, I believe we'll also discover ways to express our appreciation for our carers and keyworkers, and to show our love for our neighbours near and far.

And then, amazingly, we discover that God has answered our pleas for patience – and restored our sense of Purpose.

May God fulfil His loving Purposes for us all throughout this month.

BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:
Marion Lane



Seeing the rainbow is always a wonderful thing. The rainbow is a symbol of hope, inspiration, promise, good fortune, and wishes coming true.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP RACHEL: LIVING IN A DIFFERENT RHYTHM

In these days of 'staying at home', Bishop Robert and I have been inspired by the way people have lived church with such creativity and love, discovering different ways of sharing in prayer and worship at home (and can we remind you again that not everyone needs to feel the pressure of using streaming); and discovering more deeply what it means to be Christ's people Sunday through to Saturday. Christ's love is being shared as people of all ages are living out their faith whether at home, school or other vital places of work, not least our hospitals, prisons and emergency services.

And again and again we are hearing of the ways people are providing pastoral support and the ways Christ's light is being shone in communities through acts of kindness and practical support. Please can I draw your attention to the Feeding of the 5,000 initiative which is happening across large parts of the diocese in conjunction with The Long Table.

In the deepening of our discovery of what it means to be the Church and participate in the work of the Kingdom of God with compassion, there is the treasure of our own becoming. These days will undoubtedly have places of

both pain and joy, as well as sadness and laughter, and in it all we need to pay attention to who we are and what we are passionate about as we find a different and life-giving rhythm to our work, rest, prayer and play.

Passionate is a word that has become rather overused as shorthand for saying we feel strongly about something but in this Passiontide Week it's good to pause to remember that the word 'passion' is about suffering for what you love, most supremely shown in Christ's love for us on the cross.

The headline of 'Stay at home; protect the NHS, save lives' is indeed one we should follow with passion and compassion, and is poignant for us as we walk through Passiontide.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Messy Church

Our year has been eventful and surprising, with themes ranging from confidence in God, forgiveness, being cheerful givers and praising God in tough situations to having fun with the idea of power at Pentecost with rockets on the lawn.

We held our first joint Messy Church session with Grange Baptist at Easter and built on the success of that event by joining with English Martyrs for a full Messy Church in Tuffley event at the start of Advent.

I am thrilled with the way our team is developing and working with our families. We are enjoying meeting regularly and studying the relevant scripture together before putting any plans in place for the session. We are also becoming more confident in our own areas of skill and daring to try new ones. We had another story-teller debut last month – so good. We have a number of ideas still in our bag just waiting for the right moment to be introduced and put into practice.

There is a real community feel to our sessions and our families are getting more involved with the activities and tidying up afterwards.

One of the mums has taken on organising and running our Messy Swap Shop which has already been a great success.

With friendly nudges from some real warriors in our congregation and Messy Church family, we are endeavouring to be environmentally aware and keep our activities within strict guidelines.

Open the Book

Hans writes regarding Grange Open the Book: this 'continues with full support of the school and very much appreciated by the children. My team and I have a great time with the pupils, who love being picked to dress-up/take part and to receive the OTB sticker to proudly wear all day.'

Lorraine writes regarding Open the Book at Harewood Juniors: 'This recommenced in September at a new time with a change of team personnel. Helen initially took over from Sylvia Chamberlain as Team Leader before I felt able to step into this role at half term. Once again, I am very grateful for the support of the team Roger, Sylvia, Jennie, Dianne, Helen and Kim (for the wonderful props). We appreciate our time with the six classes (years 3&4) and have fun presenting the stories.'

JAM (Jesus And Me)

Lorraine writes: 'Since September, JAM (Jesus and Me) has been offered weekly (apart from Remembrance Sunday). Some weeks no children have come, and other weeks Matthew has been the only one there. Since September we have looked at various stories from the life of King David and in December, we reminded ourselves of the true story of Christmas. I am very grateful for the support of Helen, Linda, David, Dianne and Pete, and thoroughly enjoy both the preparation and presentation of these sessions.'

Youth Group

Our Church in Tuffley young people are keen to become strong in their faith and enjoy studying the Bible and having fun together. They are few in number but are constantly inviting friends from school to come along. A group of them attended the final Soul Survivor event in August and hope to go to a new, similar young people's event this July.

HELEN

ANXIETY

Many of us, at this unprecedented time, are feeling distracted, anxious, frustrated, angry and scared and maybe even poleaxed or just doing whatever we can to manage a full plate of immediate worries. During this time we should spare a moment to acknowledge that what we are all experiencing is enormous loss and grief, whether that will be the loss of a loved one through death, loss of income, loss of control or freedom of movement and isolation. Within this comes a whole gamut of feelings, anger, profound sadness, a sense of bewilderment, loss of sleep and even manifestations of physical symptoms, nausea, introspection, withdrawal and restlessness. What we need to acknowledge is that all these feelings are absolutely valid and normal for us all and that, in common parlance, means we are not 'losing the plot'.

Here are a few bullet points which I do hope will help.

- **Firstly;** Be kind to yourself and your neighbour, it is not selfish to take something for yourself. If you are struggling to concentrate, think COMFORT? When I feel sad or anxious I abandon my more taxing books and resort to Heidi and join her on the mountainside or Laurie Lee's Cider with Rosie, albeit a little flowery, but his descriptions of the customs and festivals as you move through the seasons are great. This is not prescriptive of course; you will all have your own favourites. If you want a rollicking adventure 'Swallows and Amazons' even has a bit of piracy.!!
- **Laughter;** Share a joke or an anecdote and laugh. End your phone conversations on a lighter note if possible.
- **Breathe;** If you feel quite anxious, find a quiet space breathe in through the nose and out, slowly, through the mouth. Make the out breath longer than the in breath, imagine there is a candle in front of you, which must not go out. Breathe from the tummy, not the chest and really make your tummy go out on breathing in. This can even be done over the phone to help a distressed friend.
- **Don't suffer in silence;** Just call a mate. Someone who will listen and allow you to rant or cry and will just sympathise. Remember you may need to do the same for them.

We need to be aware of the news now, however, stick to reliable sources such as BBC, NHS and the Government and avoid over exposure if you are finding it too much.

Continue to take that daily exercise if you are able and enjoy this glorious sunshine we are experiencing now. If you are able to come out of your front door and engage with the passing public, it is amazing how many who previously would not engage are hungry for conversation even if it is just to rant or express their concerns. Do what our mums and grand mums did on their terraced doorsteps, at a safe distance of course, and engage minus the turbans and the cross over pinnies!!

Earlier this week I was having a conversation with my son about music and he reminded me of a piece from a Bach Cantata: -

*A stronghold sure is our God,
A shield that never fails us.
Protection does his love afford,
When evil hap (circumstances) assail us.*
A paraphrase of Psalm 46

One of the best-known hymns from Martin Luther a 15th century Church reformer.

God bless you all dear friends and as the Dear Queen said, until we meet again.

Stay safe and be kind to yourselves and all you love and are missing.

LINDA MEDWELL

A RIDDLE FOR MAY

A Christian should never be in debt; yet always be in debt. How's that?
(Answer on page 17)

SELF ISOLATION...

Being of a certain age Mike and I went into Self Isolation as requested by the Government. Not being able to have our swims 3 or 4 times a week we have been using an exercise bike. Mike has used one for 16 years doing 20 minutes every day me, none. I started with 2 minutes (thought I was going to have a heart attack) but persevered and now up to 6 minutes 3 times a day. We also go for about an hour's walk every morning around Tuffley. We do a different route each day and have met friends who we haven't seen for ages and have been able to catch up with the news (2 metres apart). These walks have been an inspiration, complete strangers smiling and passing the time of day with friendly conversation. This situation has brought people together perhaps we can Hope and Pray that when this pandemic is over it will be a lesson, we have all learnt to Love and Respect each other.

GERALDINE NORRINGTON



"Rainbows introduce us to reflections of different beautiful possibilities, so we never forget that pain and grief are not the final options in life."

Aberjhani

ANNUAL REPORTS' PACK

A pack of reports covering most of the 2019's activities has been produced. These include reports from the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurers and the Pioneer. If you haven't been emailed a copy or been able to get hold of a copy yet please let Bruce or me know and we'll get one to you.

Editor: If you have an email address, I can email one to you almost by return.

MAY RIDDLE-ME-REE

- 1 A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman, an attractive girl named Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Sarah seven apples. Why?
- 2 I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost everybody. What am I?
- 3 If two snakes marry, what will their towels say?
- 4 If eleven plus two equals one, what does nine plus five equal?
- 5 You can touch me, you can break me, you should win me if you want to be mine. What am I?

“And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.”

G K. Chesterton



Questions based on the Gospel readings for March

- 1 In Matthew Ch 4 Satan tempted Jesus 3 times. On two occasions he started by saying _____. There are 7 words to this well-known phrase. What are they?
- 2 The first temptation Jesus answered, “One does not live by bread alone, but by _____ that comes from the mouth of God.” What 2 words are missing?
- 3 Once the temptation was over and the devil had left Him, who waited on Jesus?

4 Now there was a _____ named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. In what way was Nicodemus a leader of the Jews?

5 Nicodemus came to Jesus _____ and said to Him, "Rabbi we know you are a teacher." What 2 words are missing?

6 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that _____ gave to his son Joseph. Who gave the plot of ground?

7 Jesus met a Samaritan woman by the well in this town. Jesus asked her to give Him something. What was it?

8 Jesus said to her, "You have had _____ husbands." What is the missing number?

9 While on the cross Jesus turned to His mother and Said, "Woman here is your son." Who was the son Jesus spoke of?

10 Standing near the cross were 'His mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary _____. Who was this 3rd Mary?

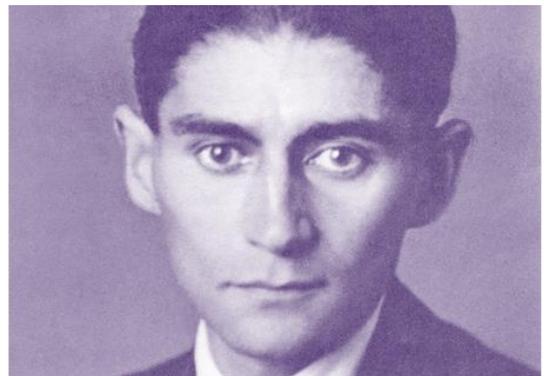
*The answers to this month's Bible Quiz
can be found later in this issue of Crossroads*



"In life, you either choose to sing a rainbow, or you don't.
Keep singing."
Kathleen Long

ALAN DREWETT WRITES...

At the age of forty, playwright Franz Kafka, who had no children, was walking through the park in Berlin when he met a girl who was crying because she had lost her favourite doll. She and Kafka searched for the doll unsuccessfully. Kafka told her to meet him there the next day and they would come back to look for her.



The next day, when they had not yet found the doll, Kafka gave the girl a letter 'written' by the doll saying, "Please don't cry. I took a trip to see the world. I will write to you about my adventures."

Thus, began a story which continued until the end of Kafka's life. During their meetings, Kafka read the letters of the doll carefully written with adventures and conversations that the girl found adorable.

Finally, Kafka brought back the doll (he bought one) that had returned to Berlin. "It doesn't look like my doll at all," said the girl. Kafka handed her another letter in which the doll wrote: "My travels have changed me." The little girl hugged the new doll and took her home, happy. A year later Kafka died.

Many years later, the now-adult girl found a letter inside the doll. In the tiny letter, signed by Kafka, it said, "Everything you love will probably be lost, but in the end, love will return in another way."

All the best
ALAN

If you're in the middle of a storm in your life waiting for the rainbow, remember that anything magnificent often requires a battle, struggle and patience.



PETER'S MAY

posers

- 1 Complete the proverb: Beauty is in...?
- 2 What type of metal has the lowest melting point?
- 3 Which American politician was nicknamed 'The Great Compromiser'?
- 4 In which event is Yelena Isinbayeva a 3 times World Champion and a 2 times Olympic Gold Medallist?
- 5 What is the most western country belonging to Europe?
- 6 What type of animal is a flying fox?
- 7 Which Shakespearean play is based on a Scottish king?

- 8 Has the Eiffel Tower ever held the record for being the tallest structure in the world?
- 9 What part of the human body contains the metacarpal bones?
- 10 Who were the three original founding members of the Jackson Five?
- 11 Which country has the most borders/neighbouring countries in the world?
- 12 Who directed the horror film Alien?
- 13 What type of angle has between 180 and 360 degrees?
- 14 Which famous band's lead guitarist is known by the stage name 'The Edge'?
- 15 The Battle of the Boyne occurred between which two crowned kings?
- 16 What does the abbreviation REM stand for?
- 17 In the Men's Olympic Hammer Throw event, how much does the hammer weigh: 13 pounds (5.89kg), 16 pounds (7.25kg), 19 pounds (8.61kg)?
- 18 What is the collective name for a group of geese on the ground?
- 19 What is the name of the fictional city in the imaginary land of Narnia?
- 20 By what name is the longest side of a triangle known as?

Extra questions to help you through until our next issue

ANSWERS TO PETER'S EASTER POSERS

1 Goddess - She was called Eostre: 2 Lent - Traditionally associated with fasting: 3 True - It's the day that commemorates the 'Last Supper': 4 False - It can fall in March, April or May depending on lunar cycle or religion: 5 1875 - They contained sugar coated chocolate drops called 'Dragees': 6 4,000 kg - It was made in Argentina and was over 8 metres tall: 7 Hop - E.B's Character was voiced by Russel Brand: 8 Germany - First mentioned in writings of the 1600s (as a hare, not a rabbit)

JUST ANOTHER DAY

I wake up in the morning another day of bliss
First job of the day is give the wife a kiss
Plenty to be grateful for within our self-imposed walls
From neighbours and nearby strangers making friendly calls

Jobs around the house appearing on lists from you know whom
Just another day going from room to room
The garden becomes a sanctuary to get a dose of air
The problem is of course - who gets the only chair!

We switch on the Tele to find the news is bad
Another day of increasing deaths which makes it all so sad
Yet so many good Samaritans from every walk of life
Bringing so much hope to those where difficulties are rife

As we go to bed each evening don't forget to pray
That tomorrow you will awake to yet another day
Thankful for our health and the food on our plate
The one thing we are sure of is that GOD IS REALLY GREAT

TONY JONES

THIS MONTH WE PRAY FOR:

- the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
- our vulnerable populations: Lord, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, those who've lost their job or their business.
- the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire us all to help.
- our local and central governments: Lord, give them wisdom to lead well, by providing all needed carers and facilities and equipment, and tests, and steering our economy to avoid meltdown.



- our scientific community, to understand the disease and find ways to tackle it swiftly.
- the media, to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
- us all to be well-informed: God, equip us to be good neighbours. Keep us from anxiety and panic and enable us to hold firm however long we must stay isolated, even at cost to ourselves.
- restoration of 'normal' life: Lord help us adapt to find a new 'normal' that sustains the environment and shows compassion for our neighbours across the world and for the generations to come.

[Prayers adapted from Christianity Today, March 2020]

GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH MAY



ALAN DREWETT WRITES...

I do miss going to Coffee Pot with Susan, eating a very reasonably priced cooked breakfast and listening to the banter round the table. The last time I was there, the conversation centred round the possibility of a new Swedish vicar, which reminded me of this image from my Gloucestershire Transport History web article Ming Ing: Powered by Volvo.



The Saab JAS39 Gripen is vaulting over the trucks, cars and even the York and Ainsty Hunt courtesy of a Volvo RM 12 gas turbine. First flown in 1988, the Gripen (Swedish for Griffon) can reach Mach 2 and has been exported to South Africa, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The canard configured delta winged fighter

features relaxed stability aerodynamics controlled by fly-by-wire systems.

It was also designed to replace some of Sweden's most remarkable and iconic jets. Never invaded by Nazi Germany, the land of ABBA, meatballs and flat packed furniture remained neutral during the Cold War too, never joining NATO despite its proximity to the USSR.

Added to that, Sweden's armed forces had to rely on conscripts with limited technical qualifications and airfields improvised from roads among forests. In turn, this led to engineers thinking outside the box.

Although British built Mosquitos, Vampires and Hunters flew with triple crowns on their wings, 1 September 1948 saw the Saab J29 Tunnan take to the air as Europe's first post War production swept wing jet fighter. Like the MiG 15, this combined British engine know how with German aerodynamics and was the only jet fighter available to the United Nations during the Congo crisis of 1961.



Ten years earlier, Saab had produced the Supermarine Swift like Lansens (later to lend its name to a Gloucester nightclub) as a light jet bomber while in 1955 the Saab 35 Draken became Europe's first supersonic fighter.



Like the contemporary English Electric Lighting, the Draken was instantly recognisable: the Swedish interceptor featuring delta wings with two angles of sweep that blended into the fuselage - rather like the Avro Vulcan. By the same token, the Draken was a highly manoeuvrable aircraft :the first capable of doing a "snakebite" stall to evade pursuing enemies.

Still my favourite Swedish fighter though was the Saab 37 Viggen, first flown in 1967. It was the first mass produced jet with canard wings and as well as Mach 2 capability at altitude could land with a low angle of attack on airstrips only 800 metres long. To put this into context, the paved runways at Staverton are between 799 and 1 431 metres long.

Although officially non-aligned, Sweden was given technical assistance in building the Viggen by the USA and the Volvo RM8 turbofan was based on a Pratt and Whitney design. Possibly for this reason, the Viggen was never exported but served Sweden in a variety of roles until replaced by the Gripen with its greater computing power.

Standing alone in the World can be a difficult and expensive decision but with determination and the right technology a nation can stand tall, the master of its destiny.

All the best
ALAN

"Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true."
E.Y. Harburg



Answer to a Riddle for May is found in Paul's letter to the Romans: "Don't owe anything to anyone, except your outstanding debt to continually love one another" (ch.13 v. 8, The Passion Translation)



In order to have your **JUNE CROSSROADS** ready for publication on Sunday 31 May 2020

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

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY

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

LOCKDOWN

Supplied by Linda Medwell

Everything is not locked down.
Sunrise is not locked down.
Love and kindness are not locked down
Creativity, reading and learning is not locked down.
Conversation is not locked down.
Relationships are not locked down.
Imagining is not locked down
Praying is not locked down.
Hope is not locked down.
cherish all the things that you have.

This spoke to me and it is my prayer for today.

HOW HAS CORONAVIRUS AFFECTED US?

How have we spent these last weeks in lockdown?

A few people have put pen to paper so we can gain a glimpse of what life has been like for them....

Dawn Dolphin lives close to St George's with her two boys. She runs Gloucestershire Bundles, a charity which provides emergency packs of toiletries, clothing and equipment to pregnant women and families who find themselves in difficult situations.

I just asked Oakley how the virus has affected us. His answer... 'It hasn't!' I'm quite glad that he sees it this way. It is three weeks ago today that he was last at school, that he last saw his teachers, and most of his friends. Next week he gets to celebrate his 8th birthday with no extended family or friends, no barbecue or party. He is happy as long as he gets to play football, watch TV and play a new card game that we have discovered.

How has it affected Isaac (soon to be 17)? Again, it has been three weeks since college closed. He still has assignments to do, he still stays up until the early hours of the morning, and still likes a lie in. He doesn't go out a lot anyway so staying in isn't difficult for him. The biggest change in his life is that he has got himself a job for 12 weeks working at Tesco. So, he is a key worker! And I'm proud of that.

Now me! It has, and is, affecting me immensely! I love my boys but find it very difficult to not have a break. It's hard not just to be able to pop out to see friends and neighbours, to sit on the bench at the park, or even just to pop out to the shops. My other baby, Gloucestershire Bundles, is suffering too. Our fundraising events have been cancelled and donations of pre-loved items have stopped, but the referrals keep coming. Luckily, we have managed to keep on top of them now. I go to the unit as often as I can, but nowhere near as often as I would like. I hope this is all over soon. For everyone.

Jeanne Wilson, is spending time at home, supported by her family. What an odd time we are living through! Thankfully we have phones, TVs and computers to keep in touch with the outside world. At least I have "discovered" YouTube - what a mine of information etc. It was lovely to see

the Virtual services from St. Georges and St. Margaret's. Thank you, Bruce and Hans. I have even seen my grandson at a service from my daughter's church in Windsor. YouTube is a change from books, crosswords etc; I seem to spend a lot of time on that wonder of technology.

I first went to St. Georges Easter Sunday Service on 4th April 1947, so this year I spent time on the 4th, thinking back 73 years and thanking the Lord for "leading" me from St. George's in Yorkshire to St. George's in Gloucester, where many new friends awaited and a long and very happy family life was to come.

Yes, this isolation has been a chance to stop and think - especially as it has fallen at Eastertime - a very different Easter, of course, but at least through modern technology I have been in touch with family and friends and even had all my favourite hymns on YouTube! I hope all the church family have found this isolation to be a chance to stop and think and realise how fortunate we are normally. We will appreciate "human contact" a lot more when we can get together again, I am sure!! At least we will get some sensible answers instead of "talking to oneself".

Dianne Baker, is also at home and, like many of us, has been making the most of the time by doing jobs round the house...

I have spent my extra time at home re-organising my kitchen, cleaning my under stairs cupboard, which was full of half tins of paint and general muddles. I have also caught up on my reading that I don't usually have time to do and have shredded lots of paperwork that has waiting to be done for a couple of years.

Steve Morgan, City Councillor for Grange Ward, has had, like many, to adapt, but is continuing to work on behalf of residents.

"I wander lonely under the cloud (and a cloud)" with apologies to Wordsworth! Under the cloud - because by choice I am allowing the frenzy of social media to pass me by. If anyone wishes to talk to me then I can be reached by email, phone, text and even snail mail - I keep my thoughts to myself unless asked. However, I am now using Skype to conduct meetings with fellow councillors and Council officers because some of our meetings still need to carry on.

I wander lonely under a cloud - as I reflect with sadness on how this pandemic is damaging and ending the lives of so many people around the world. This situation brings home to me how fortunate I am and also how we as a society in this country have so much to be thankful for – maybe now we will no longer take each other for granted, and realise the value of our family and friends. This crisis should make us put our petty problems into perspective against the unfolding tragedy.

I salute all those who are fighting on our behalf both in caring for others and providing the services which we have come to rely on. Along with so many others I am limiting leaving my home to the absolute minimum – which makes it impossible for me to respond in person to matters where I would normally visit the resident to look at the issue. Otherwise I will respond as well as I can when contacted by residents.

I hope you all stay safe and well – we are in this together and WE WILL COME THROUGH THIS.

Editors' note...

I'm sure many of us can relate to Dawn's words above and I'm sure that we have all helped in making donations to Bundles in the past but remember whatever we are going through donations will be welcomed by Bundles to keep helping those who are struggling more that we are so please contact Dawn on 07769 355219 and see what you can offer.

CROSSROADS ARTICLES

Glenda and I are happy to accept and consider articles for Crossroads at any time from contributors, if you feel that you have an article or poem that you would like to write, what better time is there than to do it now? We would prefer articles to be emailed to us at ds52604@gmail.com or they can be emailed to the church office at stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com our deadline each month is the 13th but, of course, you can send an article in as early as you like. If you are sending something that you have seen or read, please make sure that you have permission for it to be reproduced. Cheers!

GLEND A AND DARRELL

Getting to Know You

Carol Tarbox... PART 2



The story of Carol's early years was published in the April magazine. Here we pick up the story as, newly married, she makes a move to the far east.

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.

The far east

John and Carol were married in early December 1958. After a week's honeymoon they were greeted with the news that John, serving with the RAF, had to leave before Christmas for Malaya. It was to be three months before Carol would join him. She flew out with three other girls who were also joining their partners, and the couple were allocated a bungalow with someone to help do the housework and the washing. After six months they moved to Singapore where they lived alongside Army, Navy and RAF neighbours. Carol speaks of a very happy time, with many parties. John was a co-pilot, often flying at night, skilled with radio. Two more years in the Far East and John was back in the UK, based in Calne.

Returning home

Never particularly ambitious John took a desk job, eventually moving to Cole Avenue, Gloucester, in charge of wages. In 1964 John and Carol moved into a bungalow in Tuffley. Carol's relatives alerted John to an opening in Lloyd's Bank. Following a successful interview, he started work in Eastgate Street. Sociable, he was popular with customers. The work suited him well and he stayed with the bank until the 1980s, moving to the Bristol Road, finishing as first cashier at the Brockworth branch, overseeing the daily accounting. However, he was uncomfortable with the new requirement for staff to sell insurance to customers and left when early retirement was offered.

With time on his hands John took a job at Tesco's developing photographs in their dark room. Meanwhile he had become treasurer of the King's Theatre, and of Ribston Hall PTA, a governor at Harewood School, as well as looking after the books for Ladies' Clubs. John and Carol joined the Crown Players, acting and making props. For one production he even made a stage piano.

On her return from Singapore Carol had taken a job at a Swindon company, where she reorganised their filing. A spell at night school learning copy typing opened up new work opportunities, which Carol really enjoyed. Their daughter, Nicola, was born in 1965.

Carol was instrumental in starting the local branch of the Townswomen's Guild, with Millie Fox and others. She began buying greetings cards for sale to members. This was to stand her in good stead when she applied for a Christmas sales job selling cards at WH Smith. The temporary job lasted for years, with Carol becoming a buyer and working on the special products counter selling calculators, watches, typewrites and computers. The job eventually became too demanding and Carol resigned. It wasn't long before she found a role in Special Occasions, Northgate Street, again selling cards, where she remained until she turned 60.

Retirement

Carol and John would take their touring caravan away most months. Carol was keen to make the most of her retirement and learned glass painting and papier maché at Hobbycraft, and joined Gloucester and Amateur Gardening Society (GAGS). John showed less interest in going out and about and began to find it difficult to walk at times. It took a time to find a doctor who understood Carol's concern for her husband. Eventually vascular dementia was diagnosed. Devastating news...

Offered a course for carers, Carol attended the first session. She found some of the material very distressing and decided not to pursue the course and to see his illness through stage by stage. Never one to anticipate, always ready to take life as it comes, Carol managed with support to care for John on her own for three years. He went daily to the Manor Day home, except for weekends. Following a spell in hospital, he was admitted to a care home in Gloucester where he was looked after during the last few months of his life. Despite his illness John was able to recognise Carol until the end. He died in

January 2014, after 55 years of marriage. Carol found the year following her loss “awful”, gradually finding the pain easing.

Reconnecting with faith

Her parents had left Nottingham for the seaside in the 1980s, moving to Locking near Weston to be near the sea. When a bungalow became available nearby in Tuffley John and Carol suggested her parents move closer to them. Her mother, keen to find a church in which to worship, went to the Baptist church, but didn't find the drums and guitars to her liking. She tried St George's and stayed. She invited Carol to join her.

Carol was unsure, preferring traditional church buildings and traditional services. She had met Joan King through the Ladies' Club and asked if she could go to St Margaret's with her. Sung Matins was her first service there. She felt at home and valued Rev. John Paddock's ministry, responding to his call to baptism and confirmation. She was glad to have reconnected, finding it a great source of strength during John's illness.

Looking back...

Carol recalls with pleasure the fun she has had entertaining people, hearing their laughter, belonging to the Crown Players, taking part in pantomimes, singing in a choir..... These days she is a member of the Age UK choir, under the baton of Peter Gould, as well as being the chair of Brookthorpe CAMEO Ladies group and the GAGS.

Carol also paints and knits and has a first laptop to explore. She's thankful for her good health. Her daughter's family live nearby; Nicola and Chris, her husband, have three sons. 2019 saw Carol become a great grandmother. She would choose to spend a day as she pleases with her close family.

Carol cites God's hand in her life, particularly in her avoiding two road traffic accidents. She believes we have an angel looking after us. She thanks God each day as it draws to a close.



“Don't turn around. Don't look back. Keep moving forward. Keep pushing. The pot of gold is at the end of the rainbow, not the beginning.”

Ziad K. Abdelnour

RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

- 1 An apple a day keeps the doctor away!
- 2 Pencil lead
- 3 Hiss and Hers
- 4 11 o'clock plus 2 hours = 1 o'clock: 9 o'clock plus 5 hours = 2 o'clock
- 5 A heart



GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 If you are the Son of God: 2 every word: 3 angels: 4 He was a Pharisee:
5 by night: 6 Jacob: 7 a drink: 8 five: 9 The disciple whom Jesus loved
(John): 10 Magdalene:

DIARY

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday 26 April | EASTER 3 |
| Sunday 3 May | EASTER 4 |
| Wednesday 13 May | 5.00pm Standing Committee |
| Sunday 10 May | EASTER 5 |
| Sunday 17 May | EASTER 6 |
| Thursday 21 May | Ascension Day |
| Sunday 24 May | EASTER 7 |
| Sunday 31 May | Pentecost |
| Thursday 7 June | Trinity |
| Tuesday 23 June | 7.00pm PCC meeting |
| Sunday 5 July | 12.00noon St George's APCM |
| Tuesday 7 July | 5.00pm St Margaret's APCM |
| Wednesday 29 July | 4.00pm Standing Committee |
| Saturday 8 August | Tea party in Helen's garden |
| Saturday 5 September | Messy church party |
| Tuesday 8 September | 7.00pm PCC meeting |
| Tuesday 20 October | 4.00pm Standing Committee |
| Tuesday 1 December | 7.00pm PCC meeting |

THESE ARE PROVISIONAL APCM, PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE DATES

Any or all these dates and times maybe subject to change owing to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic

HANDLING ADVERSITY

Wisdom from the Amish Christian community

"God will deliver us, not from adversity but in adversity"

"When bad things happen, we don't question God's ways (this is prideful) but focus on God's character and the hope for eternity. "

"God is there to give us strength for every hill we have to climb."

"Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light."

As this issue of Crossroads way to the print ready think 'Why have I deleted *Entertain You*'? Surely this evening for us all to share



is slowly meandering its version, I've begun to *all the references to Let Us* could be a post pandemic and celebrate with each

other in song, word, humour etc. So come on sort out that celebratory poem or monologue you've be wanting to do for ages, or that song you've been wanting to sing to us and we'll have that celebration, *don't know when*, just yet, but I do know where it will be; and *I know we'll meet up again* and be ready to celebrate post isolation in the way we know best.

Interested in taking part? Contact Darrell

"It's when a rainbow smiles that sadness is banished from the land." Anthony T. Hincks



**Covid 19:
Community
help hub**

We all need to support each other to cope with the lifestyle changes we have to make to delay the spread of Covid-19.

Gloucestershire's councils, police and health services have created a community help hub to connect local people who need help, with others who can provide the support they need.

- ✓ If you or someone you know needs help, use the hub to tell us.
- ✓ Or if you or your business can offer help, let us know what you can do.

Visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/helpub
Or call 01452 583519
#GlosCommunity

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

A family of mice were surprised by a big cat. Father Mouse jumped and shouted, "Bow-wow!" and the cat ran away. "What was that, Father?" asked Baby Mouse. "Well, son, that's why it's important to learn a second language."

Patient: "Doctor, I have a pain in my eye whenever I drink tea."

Doctor: "Take the spoon out of the mug before you drink."

Two boys were arguing when the teacher entered the room. The teacher says, "Why are you arguing?" One boy answers, "We found a ten pound note and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie." "You should be ashamed of yourselves," said the teacher, "When I was your age, I didn't even know what a lie was." The boys gave the ten pound note to the teacher.

"Why are you crying?" I asked a man I met in the street. "The elephant is dead." He replied. "Was he your pet?" I asked. "No, but I'm the one who must dig his grave."

Two goldfish in a bowl talking: One said, "Do you believe in God?" The other goldfish said "Of course, I do! Who do you think changes the water?"

Once there were three turtles. One day they decided to go on a picnic. When they got there, they realized they had forgotten the lemonade. The youngest turtle said he would go home and get it provided they didn't eat the sandwiches until he got back. A week went by, then a month, finally a year, when the one of the turtles who stayed behind said to the other "Oh, come on, let's eat the sandwiches." Suddenly the little turtle popped up from behind a rock and said, "If you do, I won't go!"

A nervous old lady on a bus was made even more nervous by the fact that the driver periodically stuck his arm out of the window. When she couldn't stand it any longer, she tapped him on the shoulder and whispered on his ear: "Young man; you keep both hands on the wheel, I'll tell you when it's raining!".