

# CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



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We can all enjoy taking part in our own church family Communion  
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Please check our website or weekly newsletter for details

WEBSITE

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REFRESH

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JULY 2020

50p

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

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## OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

### Taking sin seriously

I remember thinking in the early days of Covid19 'why are we making such a fuss?' Then I realized how clever it is at worming its way inside us; and I've seen how savage it can be in its effect. So virulent, and so devastating.

To protect us from the disease, we've rightly closed down swathes of our public activity, restricting our freedom and joys in life.

And now we're tentatively starting to open up again, hoping it's beaten, yet knowing that's unlikely till a vaccine's available.



Yes, I think we've all now learnt to take the virus seriously.

I wonder, do we treat sin just as seriously?

For sin too has that nasty habit of embedding itself in us, and with such tragic effect. As Christians we know we're all infected, and we know there's only one way to beat it. So

how well are we protecting ourselves from this most devastating of all human diseases?

Take a moment and consider:

what of your thoughts or actions or words recently have offended God?

And what may have failed to show love for someone else – anyone else?



Yes, we're all infected. The remedy? Turn back to Jesus every day and receive his vaccine of loving forgiveness; stay alert to resist those ever-present temptations; and then enjoy the freedom of life lived to the full!

*Lord give us the courage to stay alert to the Covid19 virus,  
and even more alert to the virus of sin,  
to live more fully in the joy of life with you now and forever. Amen*

God bless you all, Bruce

## BRUCE AND ROSIE



As I write, we are still in lockdown, and the practicalities and timing for a proper farewell to Bruce and Rosie are still very much in the air. So here, to be going on with, is a word from your Reader, but on behalf of my fellow wardens too.

Now, one thing you will have noticed about Bruce: nothing starts without a prayer. I have been trying, not always successfully, to follow his lead. So, let me pray on behalf of us all:

"Dear Father, thank you for sending Bruce and Rosie to us, and thank you for all they have done, with your help, for the area and the people we are privileged to serve. We pray that you will bless them and their family in their future together, and please bless us, Lord, as we continue all the work they have done here. Amen"

Bruce has shown us what incredible things can be done if we have the vision and the faith, and if all is rooted in prayer. It's hard to know where to begin, but perhaps above all his achievement has been one of partnership: The Church in Tuffley. But wait, I can almost hear Bruce stopping me there: "it wasn't just me, it was all the others too: Fr Gerry and Tony and David and Stella, and above all God's Holy Spirit making it possible". Yes, that is true, Bruce, but it has happened in your time with us in a way that hasn't happened before, and you have taken a leading role. I'm sure, too, that it was at your gentle insistence that we speak not of "Churches Together in Tuffley" but of "The Church in Tuffley". Neither more nor less.

And then there is the great outreach we call the Pioneer project. A bold vision, a great number of bridges to cross, funding to find, and above all the right

person to appoint. Bruce drove us pretty hard to achieve this during his five and a half years as our parish priest, but with God's help, it happened, and it is achieving great things.

A parish priest must be focussed on God, but he or she must also be a people person, and Bruce is that par excellence. We have a good tradition of pastoral care in our two parishes and many people have always been involved. Bruce and Rosie have undertaken a great deal of that themselves, but they also have brought together a pastoral team and a structure to ensure that, as never before, there is coordination and sharing of knowledge. And of course, prayer once again is the touchstone.

Who will ever forget the pastoral situation that Bruce found in his very first weekend with us? Zac's tragic and violent death rocked our church and our community, and we didn't know where to start. Bruce's gentle but decisive leadership then, and in the days and months that followed was a true inspiration. We knew that his initial role with us was a temporary one: how lucky we were that everything dropped into place and that he became our Vicar, with Rosie supporting him all the way.

Bruce's skills have been put to great use: he is a brilliant organiser, a clear thinker, and a skilful chairman. Meetings finish on time, and things get done. He is a superb and imaginative preacher. He is an excellent pianist. He has the enthusiasm and the resilience to keep going and to keep his cool when the setbacks occur.

It is all based on Bruce's love of our Lord, and his instinct for prayer. "To God be the Glory! Great things he has done!!"

Bruce and Rosie – thank you for all you have done, with God's help. You have served us so well. We know you will keep us all in your prayers – we will need them, as we continue along our road of pilgrimage.

Jonathan, but on behalf of his fellow wardens, Hans, Mike and Sylvia

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:

Paul Anthony Mayne

Olga May Ralphs

John Harrison

John David Wilkinson

Reverend Peter Minall



Whatever you think of the politics of recent events, they've reminded us of the lingering prejudices that many of us hold and that we might prefer to ignore.

In response to the protests, the Bishop of Durham spoke of our need to own up to and 'repent' of white privilege.

He acknowledged himself that: "I've never been able to eradicate entirely those thoughts and feelings of a gentle superiority".

And he called us all to recognise what's in our hearts, own up, and commit ourselves to change.

A good start is to pray. And a good prayer to start is from Martin Luther King Jnr, used recently in our Sunday service intercessions:

*"We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you.*

*Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity.*

*Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace.*

*Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children — Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow — will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen."*

## ST GEORGE'S CENTRE



Some of our readers will have noticed that we have had some decorating done around St George's Centre as part of our ongoing project work. I have to say that black and white photographs do not do the change justice. So, when you can, just pop along and have a look yourselves you will be amazed with the difference a lick of paint can do. Many thanks to Darren Hawkes for his hard work in blistering heat. We do have another job lined up for Darren and that is to repaint the covered way arches which may well be done before this issue of Crossroads is published.

## UNDERSTANDING THE CORONAVIRUS

Stuart Mitchell understands viruses very well: he was senior technician in a team that created the first British vaccine against the Measles. Stuart has kindly recorded a short video message to help us understand the current virus better. It's still on our website <http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk/>, under 'worship during lockdown'; or ask Hans for a copy.

## HOW ARE YOU 'INFECTING' THE WORLD?



At Archbishop Justin's request, Pope Francis has kindly recorded a special message for 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

The Pope's message contrasted God "infecting" the world with life at Pentecost, with the "deadly virus" that has ravaged the world amid the coronavirus pandemic.

He notes that on the day of Pentecost, people who spoke different languages assembled and encountered each other. But in these past months, we have been required to keep our distance from one another. Still, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, assures us of God's closeness and gives us the consolation that brings strength even amid suffering.

The Pope also expressed the desire that Christians may be more deeply united as "witnesses of mercy" for the human family in a world experiencing a "famine of hope." He prayed that, through the Holy Spirit who bestows wisdom and good counsel, those charged with making decisions may be inspired to "defend human life and the dignity of work."

Pope Francis warns that we have been "isolated and anaesthetized before the cry of the poor and the devastation of our planet." He prays that, like the people who repented after Peter, prompted by the Spirit, spoke to them on the day of Pentecost, we too may see the need to "turn back to God and our neighbour".



"We need to be united in facing all these pandemics that are spreading," said the Pope. "Not only that of the virus, but also those of hunger, war, contempt for life, and indifference to others."

Refresh

... does what it says on the tin.

Next gathering is on Wednesday 15 July  
from 7.30pm until 8.30pm.

By internet or telephone. Details from Bruce or Helen.

## PAULA RIX

After some soul searching, Paula our music leader has decided to return to the church in the village of Uley where she lives.

Paula writes: "As you way from Tuffley. I've come to belong to a church and be church is doing if one Therefore, I've decided that I to my home church since really be.



probably know I live a long to realize that it's very hard fully involved in all the doesn't live nearby. should leave you and return that is where I feel I should

It's been a very hard decision everyone has been so towards me during my time in Tuffley. In particular the singing group has been very patient with me. ... I have gained so much by being at St George's and although I know leaving is the right thing to do, I will miss you all very much.

to make, especially since welcoming and generous

I wish you all the very best for the future. With my Love, Paula"

*During the two and a half years Paula has been with us, not only our music has flourished and the choir expanded but also our music has developed significantly beyond Sunday morning at St George's, particularly in our monthly Refresh gatherings and our recent experimental Soul Space on Sunday afternoons. Thank you, Paula.*

## **JULY RIDDLE-ME-REE**

- 1 What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?
- 2 The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
- 3 Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?
- 4 What has many keys, but can't even open a single door?
- 5 You live in a bungalow made entirely of redwood. What colour would the stairs be?

## **EXCITING NEWS!**

Tuffley Festival is coming to you in your lounge!

There will be events online on the days leading up to it and a final video stream on Saturday, 4th July.



Yes, we are putting our festival online this year. But we need you to be part of it.

There will be several short videos of

- local people performing and 'doing their thing'
- photographs of some of the beautiful gardens we have been tending
- windows we have decorated

You can take part by sending us

- A video of your performance (do you write poems / dance / sing / tell stories / play an instrument?)
- A photograph of your lovely garden
- A photograph of your decorated window

Please send your photos and videos *as soon as possible* by direct message on the Tuffley Festival Facebook page or to Hans by email to [H\\_M\\_Rackham@talktalk.net](mailto:H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net)

Look out for us on the Tuffley Festival Facebook page – you may see some familiar faces there already.

## JOINED UP?

Have you joined the army of people praying for Tuffley and Covid19? For help, see the Tuffley Prayer booklet, available on our church website under 'worship during the coronavirus', or pick up a copy from the vicarage porch.

Some folks find it helpful to pledge an hour a week.

To book your hour, ring Linda Medwell on 01452 302590, or follow instructions in the booklet.



## THE MEDWELL'S DURING LOCKDOWN

I suspect that during Lockdown like many of you we have been through the whole Gamut of emotions, sadness frustration at being separated from all

whom we love dearly some degree of anxiety and fears for the future and of what the future may look like.

However, on the positive side for me it has been a time for reflection helped enormously by a daily devotional which I was alerted to by Bruce and Helen. Barry and I due to the nature of our respective professions have always had a degree of separation due to him working away a fair bit when the boys were small plus our different hobbies and interests however always enjoying the coming back together so this time has felt like courting again! We have walked more together. Ba respects that I am a fan of lone walks sometimes.

We have laughed so much. played Pooh sticks I have taught Ba to bake with one or two excellent results he applies his engineers mind and follows recipes to the letter, and it works!! We have both read, listened to music, my little oasis of garden is looking splendid except for the final death toll of our beautiful Ceanothus tree for which I am in mourning!!

I have taken up my neglected art and have had commissions from my grandchildren!! We have both enjoyed Theatre online and recently visited the Royal Opera House to see one of our favourite Opera's The Pearl Fishers.

Barry has been instrumental in increasing my computer skills and is getting used to the wail from the study. Ba I have done something wrong again, but he remains patient!! I think I am suffering with Zoom fatigue!

Could I end with this adapted prayer which spoke to me this morning.  
This day Lord may we dream your dreams;  
This day Lord may we reflect your dreams;  
This day Lord may we do your work;  
This day Lord may we taste your peace.

God bless you all dear friends, Linda Medwell

**And how have others found living through the months of lockdown?**

*Jeanette Hockley, a close neighbour of St George's, writes.* First of all, Fear, then a need to distract. Keeping busy works for me. Smile at everyone and stopping

for a chat helped too. It's definitely inspired a community spirit amidst the chaos. "Love thy neighbour" is a need shared during these events.

I kept busy by buying old bikes and polishing them up, bringing them back to their former glory and usefulness. Took my mind off what was happening. The fear is now subsiding, and a sense of normality is resuming. Peace once again.

*From **Padova**, the local care home for people with learning disability.* We have been spending a lot of time in the garden. We are lucky to have a big garden because it has been proven that spending time outside reduces stress and anxiety levels and helps us remain happy and positive. Being outside ensures we are getting enough vitamin D to help reduce pain in muscles/bones and to boost our white blood cells, helping to fight infections! The residents have done some gardening, arts and crafts, played games, and "Sit and be fit" online with Tanya, and enjoyed lots of milky drinks and cake.

*From **Susan Scothern**, our pastoral assistant.* For me, it's the reminder that while we so often define ourselves by what we do, God loves us for who we are - His child. Jesus said, 'I am the true vine' and we are the branches, and the primary role of the branch is to remain firmly within the stem so that we obtain all we need to produce good fruit. What that fruit will be will differ from person to person, because God created each one of us to be unique and He has given us the abilities to do the task He has chosen for us.

***Rose Hood**, from St George's adds.* What lockdown means to me is time to recharge my batteries, no pressure to go out because of restrictions, it's safer to stay in.

I got time to catch up on jobs around the house and garden, using my favourite method of do a bit, have a tea break, do a bit more, then another tea break, get comfortable on the sofa, I wake up to find my tea has gone cold, so I make another pot, now I do my knitting.

My dog Jarvis is good company, always by my side, he likes to share my packet of crisps while I watch Tele. I take him for a walk but not as often as I should because sometimes there are a lot of people about, that makes me a bit worried as I have watched programs about coronavirus. There have been some tragic deaths, it's very scary, I think it is with us for a lot longer yet, so it's a case of being sensible and keeping safe.

We Will Get Through This.

*And a poem from **Lorraine Campbell** who, with her husband Ross, runs Footlights at St Barnabas.*

Lockdown Life in 17 lines (47 Words)

Enforced rest...  
Put to the test...

Air is purer...  
Faith is surer...

Birds abound...  
A glorious sound...

Nature's powerful...  
Plants are flower full...

Blooms abundant...  
Cars redundant...

Shops are 'rice less'...  
Friendship's priceless...

Hair's too long...  
Family bonds, strong...

Priorities, clearer...  
Loved ones dearer...  
God is nearer...

## EMERGING HOPE FOR OUR WORLD



The aid agency Tearfund is inviting us to be involved in **"Reboot"**, a campaign to help reshape our life together as we emerge from the pandemic.

**"We cannot be content to go back to what was before... There needs to be a resurrection of our common life."**  
Archbishop Justin Welby

Churches have adapted quickly to serve their communities. With online worship, food distribution networks, phone banks for the isolated and much more, we have been finding new ways to be a light in the darkness, to love our neighbours and care for the most vulnerable.

How can we embody the values of Christ's kingdom and point people to a better way of living, in the midst of a hurt and broken world?

### **Where we are: Crisis and lament**

Coronavirus has held up a mirror to our society and revealed brokenness that was often previously ignored. As many are currently saying: 'We're all in the same storm, but we're not all in the same boat.'

In the UK, along with risk factors such as age, it is the poorest and ethnic minorities who are most likely to die during this pandemic. Globally, the lockdown has meant cramped living conditions, increasing debt, no access to school lessons, and days without food.

There are millions of poor people who do not have the means to protect themselves, or "work from home" or wash their hands or receive a salary. Coronavirus has put our current environmental crisis back in the spotlight. With climate change intensifying droughts, floods and storms, those already struggling to provide for their families are now in an even more precarious position.

## Emerging hope and renewal

Many are rediscovering the importance of our connection with God, and with those around us. We are also glimpsing the benefits of living in harmony with God's creation and with thousands of lives saved through reduced air pollution. People are hearing birdsong louder than before; they're breathing cleaner air and realising just how important getting outdoors can be for our well-being.

We are starting to spot the potential of a better life on the other side of this, to see shifts emerging towards ideals much more aligned with God's kingdom:

- ❖ **from 'I, alone' to 'We, together'** local volunteering, celebrations of our vital 'key workers'...
- ❖ **from valuing productivity above all else to valuing life.** Finding and supporting those who are lonely and isolated, giving up time and resources to help
- ❖ **from small tweaks to a new way of being.** Seeing we can reshape culture and society to focus on the dignity of human life, the centrality of community and the flourishing of all people and all creation

Will our current feelings of common purpose continue to shape society after the crisis? As we look for economic recovery, will we fast-track action against the climate emergency? Will we protect the vulnerable? Will we create greater global solidarity? Will we tackle racial and the other inequalities that hold us all back?

How will we re-boot society?

## What shall we do?

- Pray for those around the world who are struggling, and for global leaders.
- Invite others to share the vision for re-shaping society: involve our community and political leaders, involve the media...
- Play our part in building a better society as we pray 'your kingdom come'.

For more information see:

[www.tearfund.org/about\\_you/action/the\\_world\\_rebooted/](http://www.tearfund.org/about_you/action/the_world_rebooted/)



## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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



Questions based on the Gospel readings for May

- 1 Jesus said, "They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him." Of which animal was Jesus speaking?
- 2 Who, according to scripture, comes only to steal and kill and destroy?
- 3 John 14 starts, "Do not let your \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_". What 3 words complete the statement?
- 4 Which disciple said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied"?
- 5 Speaking to His disciples Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my \_\_\_\_\_". What word is missing?
- 6 Jesus also said, "I will ask the Father and He will give you another \_\_\_\_\_". What is the missing word?
- 7 After speaking with His disciples Jesus looked up to heaven and \_\_\_\_\_. What did Jesus do?
- 8 Jesus stated, "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and \_\_\_\_\_ whom you have sent". What words complete the statement?

9 John 20 tells us, "the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of \_\_\_ \_\_\_". Of whom were the disciples fearful?

10 Jesus said to His disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit". How did Jesus administer the Holy Spirit to them?

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

## **ANNUAL REPORTS' PACK**

Still unsure as to when St George's and St Margaret's APCMs will take place but the pack of reports covering most of 2019's activities has been produced. These include a review of 2019 by our Vicar, reports from Churchwardens, Treasurers and the Pioneer amongst others. If you haven't looked at these documents on our website or 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. Elections of officers can only take place at an APCM so all those elected to office at the APCM in 2019 still hold those positions.

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



Some of our readers may recall the poem "The Lanes of God's Highway" which was printed in our September/October 2009 issue of Crossroads. The poet, Helen While, rang me recently asking if I would like another of her poems for a future issue; of course, I said "Yes please!" So, with the permission of its author Helen E While here it is...

## FRONT LINE HEROES

Where would we all as human mortals be  
without help from selfless front-line heroes.  
They are the true backbone of our country  
risking their lives for as long as who knows.

It's good to offer heartfelt thanks to them  
for all the hours of day and night they serve.  
In these times exceeded by no other  
we all must now hold on and keep our nerve.

But it is sad some ignorant people  
shout abuse and behave in shameful ways.  
They too might also need the selfless help  
from front line heroes in the coming days.

The rainbow has become a sign for hope  
in these odd times of great worry and pain.  
Love and goodwill and compassion is there  
warm, golden sunshine will follow the rain.

In our days when such trouble surrounds us  
hope and kindness and friendship never ends.  
And when at last Corona is beaten  
we will have owed so much to front line friends.

HELEN WHILE

"Reflections Under a Rainbow" is a collection of poems by Helen.

To have your **AUGUST CROSSROADS**  
ready for publication on Sunday 26 July 2020



**ARTICLES NEED TO BE IN THE EDITORS' HANDS  
PREFERABLY BY EMAIL BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN...  
...MONDAY 13 JULY**

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**

## **HELLO TO YOU ALL!**

My name is Sarah Todd and I am the new vicar of St Barnabas on the Stroud Road and Priest in Charge of St Katharine's Matson. Thank you to Bruce for giving me this opportunity to write a few words to introduce myself. It has been lovely to "meet" a few of you on Zoom and I look forward to getting to know you better over the months and years ahead.



So, a bit about me. I am a Gloucester girl through and through, my dad played rugby for Tredworth and played a few games for Gloucester. My mum moved to Gloucester from South Wales at a very young age and grew up in Coney Hill and Longlevens. I grew up in Churchdown which isn't too far from Gloucester but had and still have many family members in the City. I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home, and from my earliest years was encouraged to serve and share the good news of Jesus through acts of loving service. When I was 16, I began my first lay ministry role as an organist and director of music. After secondary school, I studied music in Cardiff and then began my career as a

professional musician, teaching, accompanying, performing and worked as a Director of Music at a number of churches in Gloucester.

I am married to Ian and we have four children aged between 14 and 25 and a spaniel called Vinnie.

My journey to ordination was a long one – there isn't room for it here, but I spent a long time discerning what God was calling me to. I began "Vicar School" in 2013 and spent 6 very happy years at the Queens Foundation for Ecumenical Education in Birmingham studying with Methodists and Pentecostals. I am especially interested in the way God calls all ages and sorts of people to live life, worship God and share the good news of Jesus together. I am also interested in listening to the "fringe" voices in the bible who are on the edges of the scripture that we hear. I served my curacy at St Barnabas and again after much discernment felt that God was calling me to stay which was surprising and exciting. I was licensed as Vicar on the 27<sup>th</sup> April on Zoom. I am also Priest in Charge of Matson, a "light touch" role supporting the team of PTOs and the Church Army Evangelist.

My days off (when not in lockdown) could see me walking with the dog and Ian in the beautiful countryside that is all around, spending time with family, meeting good friends, practising the piano, doing a bit of family history or going for a swim.

God bless and stay safe, SARAH

## PRAYER SPACE

*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.*

## WHAT DO I SEE?

by Tony Jones

A world in turmoil far and wide  
Surgeons are healing but politicians divide  
A virus unseen destroying life in its wake  
Which has to be contained for humanity sake

Jobs being lost, careers destroyed  
Holidays cancelled - no longer enjoyed  
A queue for everything, fast food or plants  
Even online for Government Grants

The absence of children in school or the park  
Seek a reason and you're kept in the dark  
The lockdown has gone we've done all our chores  
The crowds have assembled, creating havoc outdoors

No longer it seems is history secure  
The past has disappeared and not seen as before  
But spare a thought that we still have those that we love  
And can still give praise to the Lord up above

## ALAN DREWETT WRITES...

Coronavirus lockdown has placed physical restrictions on everyone yet blessed us with time to explore new possibilities. One of these has been the production of home movies.

Decades ago, when "Roobarb and Custard" and "The Magic Roundabout" were TV favourites, home movies meant short but expensive reels of Super 8 celluloid which then had to be sent off for processing. Watching this raw footage meant a projector, a screen and a darkened room and editing meant razor blades and cementing clamped frames together. As a result, home movies were relatively rare and confined to the more affluent enthusiasts.

Nowadays most mobile telephones have cameras which can record stills as well as video. These still and moving images can be viewed immediately after being captured on the same device and, not being physical objects, can be instantly deleted if there is a problem with them: clearing memory space for other attempts.

Once acceptable images have been captured, they can be digitally filtered, captioned, and manipulated before being instantly shared on websites and social media. A far cry from carrying a photo album round to friends and relatives!

Put simply, digital photography has changed the way we take, use, and think about pictures. As such, I was not surprised when a video appeared on YouTube of some children recreating a cancelled Air show. A cardboard runway was laid on a lawn. Diecast cars and coaches were parked on either side and Airfix type Red Arrows and a Fairey Swordfish pirouetted above with metal rods and fingers rather spoiling the illusion of reality.

When challenged to recreate this, I decided to go one better and downloaded the Stop Motion Studio app to my phone. Other similar software is available, but this was free for the basic version. However, the in app investment to allow the import of other images was well worth £4.99. I could write my own captions using the phone's notepad function and enhance stories with stills.

In Stop Motion Studio, the phone is used in landscape format and, as I found out the hard way, needs to be kept as still as possible. Once that has been achieved, then a whole world of possibilities opens up.

Some years ago, an exhibition visitor suggested that I could produce animations of the vehicles on my dioramas and now I realised that I could. Unlike plasticine figures, they were ready formed and could roll along, or at least move in straight lines, just a few millimetres at a time.

Most real life motion pictures refresh at a rate of 25 frames per second but I find that 12 frames per second gives a fairly smooth flow of action - but cuts down on digital editing when you realise that the camera has filmed beyond the edge of the background!

Just as the whiteness of a page defines black lettering, so pauses where vehicles go off-screen are important to let the audience catch up with the action. And at 12 frames per second, a two second pause means pressing the shutter 24 times! Between pauses though, vehicles can move towards and away from the camera, go left and right through the shot and have the camera track with them. Then there are point of view shots, and mechanisms such as level crossing gates opening, vehicles rolling off other vehicles on ramps, tank turrets and cranes turning.

It is also possible to use depth of focus to move between items of interest and even to make objects magically appear and disappear. Another useful technique is to film the back of an advertising hoarding while a model figure looks at the front. The advertisement can then be edited in as a still image for long enough for the audience to read.

As well as some imagination, as Warner Brothers used to say, "That's All, Folks!"

All the best  
ALAN



The draw for June's 100 Club was made on Sunday 14 and the prize winners were: -

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Ann Humphris
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Sarah Kingscote
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Glenda Stevens

Congratulations to the above winners and commiserations to those whose ball wasn't draw out of the bag, but better luck on 13 September, our next 100 Club draw day.



## GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Sheep: 2 The thief: 3 Hearts be troubled: 4 Philip: 5 Commandments:  
6 Advocate: 7 Prayed: 8 Jesus Christ: 9 The Jews: 10 He breathed on them:

## PETER'S JULY

# posers



- 1 Gutzon Borglum was the sculptor responsible for one of the most iconic sculptures in the United States but died before completion, what is it called?
- 2 The United Arab Emirates is a federation of how many Emirates?
- 3 Fidel Castro became the President of Cuba in which decade?
- 4 How many States were there in the United States before Alaska joined in 1959?
- 5 Where is the largest collection of Victoria Crosses held?
- 6 Which 2 player board game was invented in China over 2500 years ago and is believed to be the oldest to be continually played to modern day?
- 7 What is the term for a baby Koala?
- 8 Players from which team were killed in the Munich air disaster in 1958?
- 9 John Flamsteed and Edmond Halley were the first two holders of which scientific post?
- 10 How many sheets of paper make a Ream? a) 100 b) 500 c) 1000
- 11 Which 'E' is the area where a large river meets tidal waters?
- 12 Elizabeth Bennet is a character created by which author?
- 13 Which South Asian country was known as Ceylon until 1972?
- 14 Which British actor played D.S. John Corbett in Line of Duty?
- 15 Which actor, born Eric Marlon Bishop, changed his name to sound more feminine because he believed females were more likely to be called up first in comedy clubs?
- 16 How are the Swedish clothing company Hennes & Mauritz better known in the UK?

17 What type of animal keeps Masha from disaster in the popular YouTube and Netflix animated children's series?

18 Pierre Morad Omidyar was a founder and served as Chairman of which internet auction site until 2015?

19 Which musician played Napster co-founder Sean Parker in the 2010 film The Social Network?

20 Who wrote the 1981 novel 'Midnight's Children'?

Extra questions again to help you through until our next issue

## ANSWERS TO PETER'S JUNE POSERS

1 Absolute Zero: 2 Ladybirds (Ladybugs): 3 Perfect: 4 The Sea of Galilee: 5 Darkside: 6 Sheep: 7 2: 8 Ski jumping and cross country skiing: 9 Jane Taylor: 10 Shanghai Tower: 11 Sir Martin Frobisher: 12 12.5cm: 13 The Seven Year Itch (1952): 14 Chinook: 15 Laika: 16 Paul Anka: 17 Human stupidity: 18 3: 19 Sydney Harbour Bridge: 20 William Shakespeare

## GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH JULY



*"Where there's no vision,  
the people perish;  
Happy are those who walk  
the Way of the Lord"  
(Proverbs 29:18)*

You can't  
**CALM THE STORM,**  
so stop trying.

What you can do is  
**CALM YOURSELF.**  
The storm will pass.

Timber Hawkeye

[tinybuddha.com](http://tinybuddha.com)

# Getting *to Know You*

## **Rev Bruce Clifford part 2**

(Or what you wished you had known five years ago!)

*...we left Bruce and Rosie living in the top two floors of a terraced early Victorian house in South Lambeth, ten minutes' walk from the Oval cricket ground.*



After three years working in Romford, Bruce was keen to work locally. He transferred to Lambeth, again researching local social needs; there was much innovative work in the council, though tensions between staff, unions and politicians often surfaced. It was not the easiest of working environments. Naomi and David were born during this time, a blessing not only to their Mum and Dad, but also

to a series of friends, who came and lodged when they had, for one reason or another, to move out of their accommodation.

Looking for a new work challenge Bruce applied for a job in Gloucester, working with the County Council, again in Social Services research. So, in early 1985, in a cold winter, the family moved west, leaving the metropolis, moving to a house with a garden. What a joy! A move of just 100 miles, but it seemed like the other side of the world - a huge shift of culture – at work, and in the community where they lived. Active at St Lawrence's Barnwood, Bruce was asked to consider the possibility of ordination, eventually being advised to consider it again at a later time.

With the reorganisation of services for children in the 1990s in the County Council, Bruce took on the leadership of a team regulating childcare for those aged under eight. In the course of his duties he visited many playgroups and nurseries throughout the county. In 2001 central government decided there should be a more consistent approach across the country in the care of young children and appointed Ofsted to oversee inspection and regulation going forwards. All staff had to apply for roles in the new organisation and Bruce was appointed Area Manager, no longer working in Gloucester but in Bristol. From 2005 he was based in London as Early Years Surveys manager. He was to work for Ofsted for eight years until another reorganisation saw him take early retirement in 2009.

Meanwhile, with the death of his father in 1997, Bruce made frequent trips to visit his mother, living alone in the house in Scotland. She had always dreamt of living north of the border and was adamant that she would not move back south, despite failing health. She eventually moved to the local care home and died in 2010 at the grand age of 96.

Woken by a vivid dream in 2007, Bruce felt challenged again to offer himself for ordination. This time he had the green light, and two weeks after he left his job with Ofsted he started a two year Diploma in Theology course at Trinity College in Bristol, staying at the college from Monday to Friday, and returning home at weekends. He relished the opportunity to study and to learn alongside other ordinands. He also valued spending a month in Uganda, learning what it is to be an ordained minister in rural Africa, praying with the sick who had very little access to health care. Ordained in Gloucester Cathedral in 2011, he was a curate at St Catharine's church, Wotton Pitch until early 2015. He came

to Tuffley and Whaddon in January 2015 as interim minister, before being appointed vicar later in the year.

In all his roles Bruce has sought to serve God and other people and tried not to seek success. He loves to worship, to draw aside, to spend time alone with God in places hallowed by years of prayer, and to discover new insights from the Bible. He is excited by moments of serendipity, times when God surprises him, in unexpected encounters and events, by dramatic seas and sunsets. He's grateful for the gift of friends, and those who have challenged, loved and inspired him. He is also grateful that he has always had work, always had enough to live on. And achievements? He was particularly pleased to pass Grade VIII piano with distinction at the age of sixteen.

Bruce loves to read, preferably with a cup of coffee in front of a roaring fire – and he likes an action-packed film to watch of an evening. Scotland has always held a special place in Bruce's heart – but he and Rosie have come to love Greece and have spent many happy holidays there over the years, most recently in the Cyclades. They also love to be with their family and have had some super holidays together in France and the UK.

And his pearl of wisdom for living well? Aim to have your heart and mind in tune with God, every moment.



## RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

- 1 The word is starting! starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I.
- 2 Footsteps.
- 3 Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.
- 4 A piano.
- 5 What stairs? You live in a bungalow.



From our August issue of Crossroads onwards we shall be one distributor down with Bruce and Rosie moving on; so, would someone **please** take on the delivery of the magazines that Rosie so kindly delivered for the parish. There are 9 houses to deliver to covering: Tuffley Lane, Nympsfield Road, Grange Road, Epney Road and Millin Avenue. Crossroads is available from the last Sunday of each month and need to be delivered as soon as possible after that day. Also, once a year, because all the houses involved pay annually you will need to collect the annual fee.

Please contact Darrell on 01452 410507 or email [ds52604@gmail.com](mailto:ds52604@gmail.com) if you are willing to take this on. Many thanks

**DARRELL**



## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, Maya, you there, Maya? Trix what do you want now! Oh nothing, I was just wondering where you were. Well, Trix I'm just too tired to play right now. Why's that Maya? Trix have you seen everyone today? They are all flagging. It's so hot! I just wish I could take off my fur coat. What do you mean Maya? You haven't got a fur coat on! Oh yes you have, same as me. But it's not too hot is it? I don't think so, but then our Mum is lying on the floor in the living room with her feet on the settee. What is she doing that for, Maya? Maybe because it's too hot Trix!

What are you doing now, Trixie? I'm just looking to see if Harry is about. I know that Yasmin has been around, but she's not very happy! Why's that? Well Maya you know that she keeps going off with her Mum. Yes Trix, I do. Well Maya, she was supposed to have gone somewhere with her Mum but all at once she couldn't go. Her Mum wasn't half mad, but she left the kitchen window open, so she escaped today. She was hoping that Harry was here, but he's not! So, she's going to try and find him. But where is everyone today? There's Ging and little Ging. I'll ask them where everyone has gone. Hiya, boys, how you been, haven't seen you in quite a while and where has Harry gone? Hiya, girls, how are you? We are doing alright, but our Mum is lying on the floor with her feet on the settee. Funny person, our Mum. You can say that again, now about Harry, he was bitten by something the other day; I don't know by what, but he swelled up like a balloon. So, he had to go to the doctors. I haven't seen him since, but we will let you know how he is when we've seen him. Oh look, girls it's Yasmin! How you doing, Yaz? My name is Yasmin, to you boys, if you must know. Ok, Ok, what have you found out about Harry, Yasmin? Well you know that he was bitten by something and he had to stay in. His Mum won't let him go anywhere; he's confined to the house! His face is as big as a balloon, but he's alright. He can't talk too much but he's doing fine. He must take his time

when eating but it's OK by him. He always lets me have a taste, just to make sure it's up to standard. But his dinner was a bit sloppy for me... so I let him enjoy his dinner on his own.

So, what are you lot going to do for the rest of the day? Well Yasmin, I think that we girls are going to find somewhere cool to lie down, but Yasmin, when you see Harry, tell him we were worried about him and hope to see him around again soon. Ok girls enjoy yourselves!

Now Trix, where do you think we should go to get out of this heat? I don't know, Maya! I think that I might go over to Helen and Bob's place, they have a lovely place by the path over there. Trix, you and me are on the same wavelength, that's just where I was thinking of going, so come on. Maya, don't we have to say tata to everyone now? Oh yes Trix, go on then say it and we can get out of this heat. So, it's tata from Trixie and me, Maya, so until the next time bye for now.

TRIXIE AND MAYA PONTER







## THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello Everyone,

It's me again bringing you up to date with everything that's going on in my world. Well, my Mum is at home a lot! Doesn't go very far! So, what's going on...

...I've heard from my cousins that their Mum isn't going out either, we don't have a lot of time to chat on that machine that makes a lot of noise when it goes off. If I'm asleep on my Mum's lap, it makes me jump. It's enough to make me frightened; I don't even see my Mum's friends who come once a week and I miss being made a fuss of. My Mum make a fuss of me, but she also shouts at me. She tells me I whinge just like Aunty Jill, but she loves me really. I was told off very firmly the other day, just because I stayed out all night, well it was very warm! So, what! I was called. I just ignored it; I suppose she went to bed but was up early to let me in. Boy, did I get told off and was told in no uncertain terms that it's not going to happen again. It doesn't matter how much I cry after a certain time the door will be locked when I at long last return home. Bang goes my freedom!

I must confess, though, that I am well looked after and get all my creature comforts; I can't fault my Mum for that. I just wish she'd let me go out when I want to, even when it's dark. I don't think that's going to happen any time soon though.

I am dreading the next few weeks because I know I will have to go to that place again and have a pin, a pill and my nails cut, and I don't like it. Hey Ho! It must be done to keep me safe; I suppose. This is all for now...

Your feline friend, JOJO WHITTLE

## DIARY

Saturday 4 July	Tuffley Festival at Home
Sunday 5 July	12.00noon St George's APCM TBC
Tuesday 7 July	5.00pm St Margaret's APCM TBC
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

**ALL OTHER DATES FROM JULY ONWARDS  
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



Post pandemic **Let Us Entertain You** so we can share 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, *still don't know when ...yet*, but I do know where it will be; and *eventually I know that we'll meet up again* and be ready to celebrate post isolation in the way we know best.

Interested in taking part? Contact Darrell

## WHAT ARE WE MISSING OUT ON IN JULY?

Well, in previous years we would have been looking forward to...

A break from Open the Book but the break this year has been several month's long and Open the Book may well not start again until later this year or even early next year!

Quiet Prayer Group meetings, weekly Morning Prayer and Parish Communions

Margaret and Jill's Ploughman's Lunch in aid of St Margaret's Church, this always took place on the Saturday nearest to their late mother, Vi's birthday.

Well our weekly Coffee Pot in the Main hall of St George's Centre.

Tuffley Festival on the Tuffley Rovers' field; although this year's Festival is still going ahead it will be a virtual Festival, *see earlier in this issue for details*

Gardening Club would have met in the Main hall

Messy Church on the first Saturday of the July

Mothers' Union summer social...

Probably a show by St George's Entertainers

*So quite a lot really, I'm not dismissing events in April, May and June I just thought about taking stock of things in our Parishes that we are missing out on and I suppose will continue to miss out on for some time yet. But we must all keep positive and realise that things will get back to normal at some point, what that normal might be is open to conjecture. I suspect that we all have our own thoughts on what the new normal may look like, so continue to be positive, stay alert; stay safe and protect our NHS.*



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

Justice is a dish best served cold if it were served warm it would be just water.

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday? AYE MATEY

What do you call a dog that can perform magic? A Labracadabrador.

Why couldn't the bike stand up by itself? It was two tired.

What's Forrest Gump's password? 1forrest1

I used to have a job at a calendar factory, but I got the sack because I took a couple of days off.

A termite walks into a bar and asks, "Is the bar tender here?"

Two guys walk into a bar, the third one ducks.

What did the buffalo say to his son when he dropped him off at school? Bison.

Two peanuts were walking down the street. One was a salted.

What did the horse say after it tripped? "Help! I've fallen and I can't giddy up!"

You know what the loudest pet you can get is? A trumpet.

What do sprinters eat before a race? Nothing, they fast.

Why do melons have weddings? Because they cantaloupe.

How does a penguin build its house? Igloos it together.

During an entrance exam a young police recruit was asked, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own Mother?" He wrote, "Call for backup!"