

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



COMMUNION AT HOME VIDEO

You can all still enjoy taking part in our own church family Communion available via video on our website or on YouTube but they will be phased out in the very near future as our churches are now open for worship so please check our website or weekly newsletter for details

WEBSITE

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

FACEBOOK

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

REFRESH

Check website or newsletter for latest information

AUGUST 2020

50p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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Anyone who requires prayers to go on our Intercessions list for themselves or others could you please ring Linda Medwell on 01452 302590.

OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear readers

Welcome back!

Jesus once told the story of a king who planned a fantastic feast and went to great lengths making preparations. When everything was ready, he called all his friends, 'Please come'. But each one made an excuse and didn't turn up.

We've now made everything ready by putting proper precautions in place, to re-open church for public worship week by week. So, 'Please come back'.

For sure, our worship isn't the same as before. We celebrate differently our Communion, our music too, and we greet each other from a distance.

But you know what will be the same? The most important thing of all: God will be there. He'll be there in the 'Word' and the 'Sacrament'; there for us. So, what's not to long for?



"Come on, everyone! Let's sing for joy to the Lord!

Everyone come meet him with a thankful heart.

For the Lord is the greatest of all

*In one hand he holds the mysteries of the earth
and in the other he holds the highest peaks.*

He's the owner of every ocean,

the engineer and sculptor of earth itself!

Come and kneel before this Creator-God;

come and bow before the mighty God, our majestic maker!"

[from Psalm 95, TPT]

Don't miss out.

God bless you

BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:
Kathleen (Kath) Senior
Janice Mary Davies
John White

PLINTHS AND PEDESTALS

With lots of publicity about statues these days, we thought we'd run a competition to see who we in Tuffley would put on a pedestal.



Might you vote for Lord Nelson as in Trafalgar Square? Or Churchill as in Parliament Square?



Or what about one of those Old Testament heroes like Elijah and Elisha?

Maybe a local Tuffley hero?

Truth is, all the 'greats' of yesterday and today – and all the 'greats' who will appear tomorrow – are flawed.

Admired as they are for their courage, their outstanding achievements, their noble qualities perhaps, but look more closely and we discover they're also flawed individuals living in a flawed culture just like all of us.

So, who will you pick? Perhaps no-one.

Who will I pick? No one except all you dear readers, and my wife of course (her outstanding achievement: living with me and still patient, longsuffering and loving after 45 years – or is it 46?)

Who might God pick? I think everyone!

Why's that? Because Jesus, the only perfect person, has redeemed and 'covered' us with his love so, when God sees us, he sees not us but Jesus.

Good news to shout about!

Who's on your plinth? Answers to the editor.

A special prize for the most ingenious contribution.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH AND CENTRE



More work has been taking place recently, thanks to painter, Darren, once again. The cross on the Church wall looks pristine and can be seen quite clearly from Grange Road. The façade of our Centre has had the wood stained afresh with the St George's shield repainted.

Your Centre Management Committee have also been discussing the reopening of our Centre to users; although many of whom may not return until September, or possibly October. There is a multitude of guidance on the subject of re-opening, unfortunately it's not always with clarity though; so the committee have been deciding what applies to the Centre and what doesn't. However, we will come up with a response which will be put to the Standing Committee for approval. So, watch this space for further developments...

AUGUST RIDDLE-ME-REE

- 1 What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
- 2 A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, "If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me £50.00 but if I can't, I'll pay you £50.00." The boy looked around and couldn't see a set of scales so he agrees, thinking no matter what the carny writes he'll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man £50.00. How did the man win the bet?
- 3 What can point in every direction but can't reach the destination by itself.
- 4 Re-arrange the letters, O O U S W T D N E J R, to spell just one word. What is it?
- 5 What is more useful when it is broken?

CLIFFORDS' FAREWELL

Thank you for giving us the privilege of sharing life's journey with you all here in Tuffley over the last 5½ years.

By the time you read this...



Rosie and I will be sailing to the Bahamas, to luxuriate among the golden beaches sipping cool cocktails while we admire the palm trees swaying in the warm gentle breeze...

Or, maybe instead, we'll be packing up ready to move house – a short journey of around four miles, to the Estcourt Road area in Gloucester.

I wonder, which of these visions is more like heaven?

More important what is your vision of heaven? Mine is simple – heaven is where God is. Where he is Lord. Fully. Completely. Where his love and mercy and justice rules.

Where God rules OK.

Won't that be wonderful?

Though we better watch out – for there'll be no room for anything less than perfection. No room for those hurts and grievances and those angry sour thoughts we hold on to for dear life ('life' - really?). No room for those possessions we've held on to so tightly that they've begun to possess us. And no room for those self-centred habits that have grown to become part of our identity. No room for any of these. It'll be uncomfortable, disorientating, painful to let go.

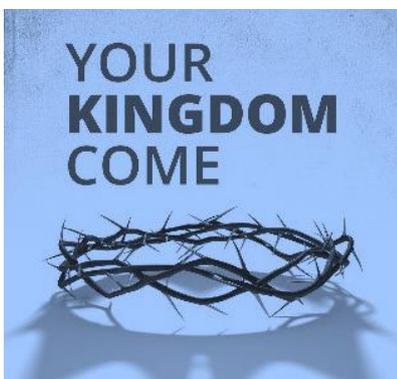
Yet in place of all our old dross, will come new wonders of unimaginable joy!

Yes, this is heaven to come. The heaven we work and pray for every day as we say, "Thy Kingdom Come".

A life of everlasting love and joy and peace. A life wholly with Jesus.

The most important journey of all, is the journey we allow God to take, deep into our hearts, bringing us his heavenly kingdom of love and joy and peace everlasting. What better news to proclaim? We'll all be continuing this journey with God till heaven comes.

As Rosie and I move to the next stage of our journey, we leave Tuffley, but our love for you will stay, always, because it's grown so deep in our hearts.



We'll be praying that God will steer and lead you all through the next stages of your exciting journey, for wisdom as you look for a new vicar, and for you to flourish through the period of vacancy meanwhile.

In all that happens we'll continue to be praying with Jesus to God our Father: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, in Tuffley as it is in heaven". Amen.

Our deep love and appreciation of you, every one.

BRUCE AND ROSIE

Hope you and your readers enjoy this poem Darrell.

A COTTAGE GARDEN

A cottage garden filled with flowers
where you can sit and dream for hours
nasturtiums tumbling old stone walls
in weathered tubs lobelia falls.

Rustic archways where roses climb
patches of golden celandine
a winding path edged up with bricks
an old wishing well with roof of sticks.

Delphiniums of azure blue
sweet peas and big, white daisies too
love - lies-bleeding and hollyhocks
red geraniums and scented stocks.

Wagon wheels, terracotta pots
watering cans amongst the crocks
an old sun-bleached wooden barrow
filled with marigolds and sweet yarrow.

A tabby cat just ambling through
beside the fragrant fever-few
where butterflies are on the wing
and all day long the birds sweetly sing.

On summer days for friends to greet
the smell of honeysuckle sweet
cornflowers stand in blue array
and mingle with herbs of sage and bay.

A dog lies under apple trees
contented in the warm, soft breeze
big dragonflies are sailing by
above the daisies of old ox-eye.

The purple heather in full bloom
grows under vibrant orange broom
fresh grass is growing green and lush
around a pink hydrangea bush.

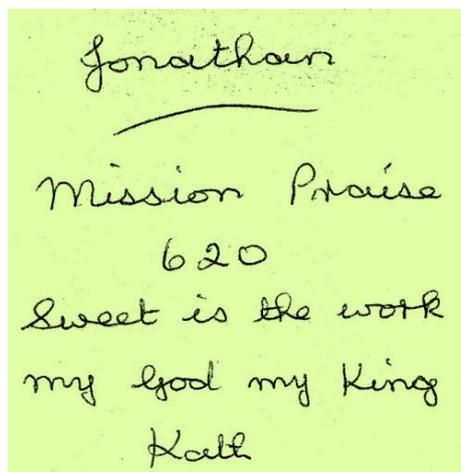
Small antirrhinums bloom so bold
along with lupins white and gold
red poppies holding heads on high
all this great beauty beneath blue sky.

Horseshoes nailed on the old shed door
to bring good luck for evermore
so good it is to dream for hours
in a cottage garden filled with flowers.

HELEN WHILE

THESE ARE A FEW OF KATH'S FAVOURITE HYMNS

As I write, I have in front of me a Post-It note, in Kath Senior's handwriting. It reads:



Jonathan
Mission Praise
620
Sweet is the work
my God my King
Kath

It was handed to me by Kath's son (another Jonathan, as you may know), who had found it among her papers.

I am pretty sure what was in her mind. She had come across this hymn and wanted me to include it at St Margaret's. I don't remember her ever mentioning it, so perhaps she found it during the lockdown.

So, out came my Mission Praise. It turns out to be quite a good hymn by Isaac Watts (and I wonder why it isn't better known?) "It's Long Metre, Kath, so we can sing it to 'Angel's Song'." Kath would have looked a bit quizzical. "Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go". Her face clears. "Oh, that's all right, we know that!" "OK, we'll do it soon, but keep reminding me!" And she would!

Alas, that conversation never took place. And how we miss our dear Kath. I miss her, among many reasons, for her love of hymns. She always enjoyed a Songs of Praise service, and she was happy to do the leg work. She was the one who badgered people for their choices ("but only if you're actually coming to the service!") And at the bottom of the list would be at least four of her favourites, just in case we were short.

I still have a few of the service sheets and I see that in 2015 she persuaded me to include "By cool Siloam's shady rill". She must have sung it at her Sunday School, and my guess was that it hadn't been much used since about 1950! I may have been wrong there: more of that in a moment.

Characteristically she made detailed notes about things that should be done after her death, though she could never have predicted that we wouldn't be allowed to sing the hymns she had chosen. Her list is interesting. It includes several that I recall were her favourites, but she evidently realised she couldn't have them all at one service.

Heading the list is "By cool Siloam's shady rill", which, contrary to my expectation, is actually still quite popular in Scotland, and there are several renditions on YouTube! Then "Jesu, lover of my soul", and "Take my life and let it be" for which she has specified the tune "St Bees". It wouldn't have been the tune I would have used, but for you, Kath, at your thanksgiving service, anything! She has crossed out two, namely "Father, hear the prayer we offer" (which was definitely one of her top favourite hymns) and "When morning gilds the skies". An odd choice, that: it's a fine hymn, but the metre is not a common one and neither of the two tunes to which it fits are well known. I don't think we have ever used it at St Margaret's.

Last on her list is "The strife is o'er". This was her favourite Easter hymn, and it will be a perfect end to her memorial service. She loved that stately tune by Palestrina and didn't seem to mind how slow I played it. Wow – what a hymn.

So, thank you, Kath, for your love of good hymns. Thank you sharing for your favourites with us. It is a shame we will not be able to sing them out loud, but we will find some way of playing your hymns and we will sing them in our hearts.

JONATHAN

Kath Senior's Thanksgiving service has been arranged for 2.00pm on Wednesday 29 July at St Margaret's Church. All welcome. As space inside is limited, there will also be amplification and chairs outside. If wet, bring a brolly.



Questions based on the Gospel readings for June

- 1 After His resurrection Jesus met His disciples in Galilee and said, "All _____ in heaven and earth has been given to me". What was Jesus given?
- 2 Jesus then told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptise them, and then he said, "And remember I am ____ _ ____." What 3 words are missing?
- 3 In speaking to His disciples Jesus said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out _____ into the harvest". What word is missing?
- 4 In this passage of scripture the names of the 12 disciples is given. There are 2 named James. James and John were the children of Zebedee, but the other James is the son of _____. Who is this father?
- 5 When sending the disciples out Jesus said, "Go nowhere among the _____, and enter no town of the _____". Where were the disciples forbidden to go?
- 6 Jesus said, "If they have called the master of the house _____, how much more will they malign those of his household." The missing word is another name for Satan, but what is the Word?
- 7 According to Jesus which creature are Humans worth more than?
- 8 Jesus stated He did not come to bring peace to the earth. He then added one's foes will be members ____ _ _____. What are the missing words?
- 9 According to scripture if we lose our life for His sake what will we find?

10 As a Christian if you welcome another Christian into your home, who did Jesus say you also welcomed at the same moment?

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

RUNNING THE RELAY RACE – MY BATON

Forty-five years ago, I was made a Church of England deacon in Birmingham Cathedral, wearing one of those large white 'rap-round' collars that I felt would glow in the dark. I nervously stood before the bishop with eleven other nervous young men – sadly, no women – to receive his blessing. Four years of struggle in two colleges with many tears and much laughter had led me to this point. A year later in 1976 on the same great festival of Petertide, I knelt again on the same spot to be ordained as a priest with numerous priests as well as the bishop's laid their hands on me, including those of my past scripture teacher. It all felt like a great prophetic weight of the Gospel.

Five years in two curacies followed before I was entrusted with my own branch, sandwiched between Birmingham and Smethwick, in 1980. Then in 1989 complete with my wife Melva and three children, we arrived in Tuffley to work for seven years with you in St George's and St Margaret's. We have many treasured memories, including the evening of my induction where at the party in the hall afterwards I was supplied copious quantities of liquid from the Wine Circle. What a welcome. My first night and it took me ages to find the vicarage side gate! We both recall the wonderful worship and enthusiasm in the modern church, easily adapted for the fun we had with all those children in the Dragon Club! The kindness of everyone including the congregation at St Margaret's in Whaddon, has helped form me into the sort of priest I am today.

Then we were invited to consider moving to Cornwall by the then Archdeacon of Bodmin. So, it was as a stranger that I was inducted into St Martin Looe in 1996, with another sense of trepidation as I faced the ramifications of a new diocese. Looe was very different, with two churches each a thousand-year-old with more formal worship. Both eventually required re-roofing and improving so much that we had to raise over a half a million pounds for repairs. I became chaplain to the Town Mayor and the local R.N.L.I. forming links between town and church. All this was to come but during my first year everything was strange and very different. But I was soon made to feel at home by my clerical friend in

management who went round introducing me as 'the funniest man in the diocese'. Such an accolade of 'clown' can have the dubious benefit of no one taking my view seriously. I confess that I have often found it difficult to conform to the norm of clerical behaviour. So, this gift of humour from my father I exploit at every opportunity, knowing sometimes it might not go down too well. But then part of humour can be to shock.

I am comforted by the Gospels which, to me at least, reveal Jesus as often shocking religious people by the way he behaved. He did not conform and was ready to break the most fundamental rules if it interfered with the work of love and compassion. It is not surprising that the message of Jesus has acted throughout history as a source of criticism of the old order as well as inspiration for the new. There is a revolutionary element in the Gospel story, which cannot be escaped if faced honestly. But we also know that religion is generally a conservative force in society. At many times in its history the Church has seemed to stand for what is about fifty years out of date. It is obvious that this is totally different from the teachings of Jesus, much of which includes humour and lightness of touch, but with penetrating insight into the human condition.

Upon retirement in 2011 Melva and I moved to the village of Grampond assisting in the local group of four parishes with Melva helping in the new community shop. In 2019 we were called to care for the people in Gorran Churchtown and Gorran Haven with another small church within Caerhays Castle Estate. Initially we worked from our nearby retirement bungalow but eventually moved into the vicarage at the end of January this year. We had just 'arranged the table-cloth' when we both found ourselves in Corona-virus lockdown! This has meant a whole new way of ministry for my tired ancient brain to accommodate but facing the challenge has brought a lot of fun! I only hope all this experience has brought a little wisdom.

Wisdom is like over eighty Mrs Trepnopol who was called in by her new young doctor to review her medications. He said "Mrs Trepnopol, I see you are taking the birth control pill. Now why is that?" The old dear replied "Well, doctor, they helps me sleep at night." "Mrs Trepnopol", the young doctor said. "I can assure you there is nothing in the birth control pill that will help you sleep at night." The wise old lady placed her hand on the young doctor's knee and replied. "Well doctor, tis like this see. I places one o'they little pills in my granddaughter's drink each morning, and believe me, that helps me sleep at night!"

Throughout all the years I have been supported by Melva, who while balancing a responsible position in the voluntary sector, has been a saint as we raised our family complete with arguments and hugs. We have also both been blessed in learning from visiting parishes in the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as well as Cornwall, the last vestige of the old British Empire! A short time in the Falklands also added to the fun.

Now in this so-called 'retirement' my priority as a priest is to do what I can in caring for the people in my care who like me, sometimes feel overstretched, having to face challenges of change from every quarter as well as too much criticism. The present demanding situation in which we find ourselves is introducing more dynamic change, at the moment not known nor understood. In over forty-five years as a priest in parochial ministry so much has changed but this wonderful experience of sharing the Gospel with the People of God has brought us both much pleasure, including humour. Each year now more wrinkles and grey hairs visually reveal this experience. Both Melva and I have done our best given the limitations of time, energy and brainpower, and hopefully we still do. Often, given the demands of the gospel, I have felt a hypocrite more often preaching to myself and confessing what appear to be numerous failures. Yet we both feel called to continue this shared ministry and have enjoyed the many astounding benefits from kind tolerant people.

A previous Bishop of Truro often spoke of 'a God who makes do' – certainly true in my case - and we all naturally do our best with what tools of our trade we have. And if a silly story laced sometimes with a little sauce helps me spread the Good News, even at the risk of offence, then I hope that the kingdom of God has come near.



BRIAN MCQUILLEN

reflection. August sessions will all be online and accessed via zoom. Please let Helen know you are interested so she can send you the zoom invitation link. We shall wait and see how things change for September before confirming how we will host the meetings.

The Bible Society have an accompanying booklet available to help you with your learning. Please let Helen know in advance if you would like a copy.

Course dates for August are 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.
Contact Helen: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

MOBILE TEA PARTY

Our gardens have become most precious in that they are now a place where we can safely meet up with others. Sadly, we are still unable to host more than six in that space and some of our gardens are not big enough to squeeze six people in and safely distance from each other.



But there's nothing to say that we can't meet up on our lovely Tuffley green spaces outside of our gardens.

I have an abundance of garden chairs and a couple of flasks. Have chairs and flasks – will travel to your green space. Linda Medwell and I would love to come and meet up with you over the summer holiday.

If you would like us to bring our mobile tea party your way, please get in touch with either Helen or Linda. We will organise small groups (of no more than six) willing to gather together.

We understand that not everyone is ready to meet up with others, so we won't be offended if you prefer to stay home.

Contact Helen: 07729615993 Linda: 01452 302590

PETER'S AUGUST posers



- 1 Which British newspaper took on its current title in January 1788 and has since lent its name to newspapers around the world include India and New York?
- 2 Sandie Shaw won which European music event in 1967 with 'Puppet on a String'?
- 3 In which century did Charlotte Brontë write 'Jane Eyre'?
- 4 'S. O. S.' is a common example of which electrical telegraph communication system?
- 5 Which Conservative MP became 'Leader of the House' in July 2019?
- 6 'The Chronicles of Narnia' is a children's book series written by which author?
- 7 Which first name is shared by Cricketer Flintoff and Tennis player Murray?
- 8 Which BBC children's show gardens were famously vandalised in 1983?
- 9 Who reigned as the UK monarch between June 1837 and January 1901?
- 10 'Anna', 'Civic' and 'Kayak' are all examples of what type of word which reads the same forwards as backward?
- 11 'Ahh Bisto' is a phrase best associated with which type of British food sauce?
- 12 Which epic fantasy novel is set on the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos?
- 13 Joe Biden served as Vice President of the United States under which President?
- 14 If one side of a square is ten centimetres long, what is the circumference?
- 15 The common phrase 'down and out' meaning beaten is taken from which sport?
- 16 'Heart of Darkness' is an 1899 novel by which British author?
- 17 'Hypersonic Missiles' was a 2019 UK number one album from which solo artist?
- 18 In ballet, which 'A' is a move where the body is supported on one leg with the other leg extended directly behind the body?
- 19 How many runs does a batsman score in Cricket when the ball crosses the boundary rope without touching the floor?
- 20 Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus became the head of which United Nations agency in 2017?

Extra questions again to help you through until our next issue

ANSWERS TO PETER'S JULY POSERS

1 Mount Rushmore National Memorial: 2 7: 3 1970's: 4 48: 5 Imperial War Museum, London: 6 Go: 7 Joey: 8 Manchester United: 9 Astronomer Royal: 10 b) 500: 11 Estuary: 12 Jane Austen: 13 Sri Lanka: 14 Stephen Graham: 15 Jamie Foxx: 16 H&M: 17 A Bear: 18 eBay: 19 Justin Timberlake: 20 Salman Rushdie:

A FINAL WORD, FROM PSALM 92



I went to Iceland, by Toys r Us, at the Peel Centre to get a bonus card for my son, so I get a trolley as I thought that I may as well do some shopping while I'm there, so joined the queue. Eventually I go in, I get a loaf of bread, not as much choice as Iceland in town where I usually shop, so I carry on around the store thinking, they got a lot of garden stuff and things for the house here, got some biscuits for Jarvis and a bottle of milk, but not much else, gets to the till, pays for the shopping and asked the lad for a bonus card, he looked at me a bit odd and said we don't do bonus cards. I said you are to do with Iceland aren't you? No he said Iceland is next door, we're Home Bargains !!

I went next door to Iceland and got a card, explained what I'd done, it gave them a laugh

ROSE HOOD

Getting to Know You

ROSIE CLIFFORD

Bruce turns the tables...

Rosie, what have been some of the major milestones in your life so far?

- Finding a living faith at the age of 13 through the Crusader movement
- Spending three years in Birmingham, where I moved away from home for the first time, met and fell in love with Bruce, studied Maths, and grew to love the city
- Marrying Bruce
- Living in a mixed neighbourhood in inner London, joined a large church where there was great love and commitment to serve the local community.
- Becoming mum to Naomi and David, being there for them as they grew and found faith for themselves, seeing them grow into the people they are today
- Moving west to Gloucester, a huge culture change from radical inner-city borough to beautiful shire county; missing London friends and opportunities. loving living so close to such beautiful countryside.
- Working for 20+ years locally in the NHS, with GPs, with community services on the quality of care, working with some very special, dedicated people, learning skills that I value tremendously
- Failing parents' health, discovering what it is to support those living with disability, accompanying them on their last journey.
- Becoming a Granny

What stands out? Life with Bruce, never dull, he's always thoughtful and caring, and extremely long suffering! (OK so the long-suffering bit's mutual)

Any significant challenges? Times of illness. My mother's breast cancer when I was a teenager; our son's surgery as a baby; his illness more recently. Learning to place the lives of those I love back into God's hands, and to trust God for their welfare and future

If someone asked, 'who are you?' how would you describe yourself?

- Naturally quiet and reserved, happy to observe rather than speak up or on a platform; planned and organised; not good at spontaneity and last-minute changes of plan, too often anxious and unconfident. Like to do things well. Have learned so much from Bruce who, as you will know, is none of the above, though he does plan...!
- Loved by God, redeemed by Christ, wanting to be better at responding to the Spirit's nudges. More and more aware that everything I have is a gift from God. Looking for the gift of wisdom.

What have you valued most from your time in Tuffley?

- Being surrounded by generous, warm-hearted, hard-working people; living in a stable community, where people know each other well. People who have opened their hearts to us
- Living in a large vicarage which has made it easy to be hospitable
- Living in a neighbourhood with so much green space, with interconnecting paths, always a new circuit to jog...

What's one thing you're looking forward to as you move on?

- Spending more time with our family,
- Discovering what God has for us in the next chapter of life...
- Seeing Bruce enjoy making music and singing more

What message would you like to leave for the church and the people in Tuffley?

- Thank you for sharing your lives with me. It has been such a privilege. God has made us all different, each uniquely gifted. We need each other, we are stronger together, and we all have a part to play. There are folk all around us who long to know God's love and peace, especially in these troubled times. ***"What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God."*** (Mother Theresa)



RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1 The letter "m": 2 The man did exactly as he said he would and wrote "your exact weight" on the paper: 3 Your finger: 4 'Just one word': 5 An egg:

JILL'S JOTTINGS

from St Margaret's

It is with great sorrow that I have to announce the death of my partner in crime, Kathy Senior. We had been cleaning together at St Margaret's for over twenty years. Me on the brass and Kath on the floors and doors. She was a lovely, funny and caring person. I had been keeping in touch by 'phone as you do and had only spoken to her the weekend before she died. She died on the 15 June, just six days before my Mum's anniversary. I know that I will miss her so much. We always put the world to rights as we did our cleaning. We managed to get Marilyn Mowatt to come down and help us and we know what jobs we had to do. So, it will be me, Marilyn and when she can, Dianne Baker will be with us. We will be there as usual on Monday mornings as soon as it is possible to do so.

St Margaret's has been open on Thursday mornings from 10.00am until 11.00am for just quiet prayer time since 18 June. It was lovely to just sit and contemplate for an hour, we pray each day, but to be in our little church again, is just magic.

That's all for now, a rather sad time for me and for Jonathan, Kath's son, we send him all our love and the very best for the future.

JILL PONTER

Editor's note: *St Margaret's church has been open for worship on a Sunday since 12 July.*

THE HOLIDAY

Will it be Italy, Greece or Spain
Or perhaps to Blackpool, in the rain
There is even Bournemouth - oh not again
Perhaps after all I will refrain

There is always a coach as a choice
Where you join new friends Frank and Joyce
Or explore the world and take a cruise
What else have you got to lose?

I've decided this year not to take a plane
And because of the cost, can't afford a train
So, I'll now sit back whilst others fill their belly
Giving me the space I need, to watch the Tele

Tony Jones

POSTCARDS FROM PETER

Most of you will have heard about my son-in-law - Peter the fisherman - a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. He's away at the moment, having some amazing adventures. And fortunately for me, he's been sending postcards to keep me up to date. Over the next few weeks, I hope to be sharing them with you.

And in case you think you've heard of me - I was really sick, with a bad fever, and Jesus healed me too. And not just healed in that I started to get better, but it took a few days to build up my strength again (and don't we all know how frustrating that is, to start doing something and have to sit down in the middle because you're already feeling tired). No, Jesus' healing meant I was well enough to cook and serve a meal at once.

I look forward to sharing with you all soon.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, what you doing. I'm on the machine talking to JoJo. Hiya, JoJo. Trixie here. She heard you Trix! How you doing Jo, you alright? Oh dear. I'm here Jo, Trixie has gone off to chase a butterfly, or a wasp or something. So, what happened, my Mum chased you around the bedroom trying to catch you so that she could take you to that place. Is that the one where you see the doctor person, Jo? Oh, no Jo, then what happened? She tried to grab you, but you managed to out manoeuvre her, but your Mum chased you under the bed and my Mum tried to grab you as well. But you got passed her again and jumped on the windowsill, but my Mum managed to catch you and put you head first into the basket. Then put you in that motor vehicle thing. I know just how you feel JoJo, our Mum does that to us, does she put the basket thing right up against the vehicle door. She does, and you can't see a flippin' thing can you! She does that to Trixie and me. Then what happened?

JoJo what do you mean, you had to stay in the car park until you were called in. What do you mean, everyone had to wait in the carpark, dogs, bunnies and us felines, then we went into the building and we had to wait around for ages and ages? Why was that JoJo? I don't know Maya, but I wasn't half fed up shut in that box. Then we went into see the doctor, she felt you all over Jo and then she looked at your bum. Why was that Jo? Was your bum sore? Oh, I see not your bum but your tail. It was red raw where you had been licking it. What did the doctor say it was? She said I was 'lergic or something. What on earth is that JoJo? Maya, I haven't a clue, but my tail wasn't half sore, so she said I was 'lergic and I had to have some cream on it and take an antibiotic pill. I hope I don't have to have many of those, and I had to have a pin! It was as big as a knitting needle and another pill shoved down my neck. I tell you Maya that back of my neck isn't half sore 'cause the pill nearly choked me. When they'd finished proddin' and pokin' me my Mum let me get back in the box. I tell you Maya I have never been so glad to get back in that box.

Well, Maya how are things doing your end these days? What's the goss. Well JoJo not a lot's been happening. It's been so hot our Mum kept lying on the floor and putting her feet on the settee. She said it was too hot to do anything, I kept out of the way and found myself a nice cool place to hang out. Where's that then Maya? Well I go over to the railway embankment, there's a place that's just right, underneath a big tree. It's been lovely, our Trixie finds

somewhere else she normally goes into Ian and Karen's for a snooze, but I hope that it will be a little bit cooler as the days go on. Oh JoJo, Harry has just come into the garden. Harry, JoJo's on the machine, do you want to have a word? Oh yes, Maya. How are you, I've been to the doctors and you! A pin and a pill! Oh me, I went and chased summat I shouldn't have, and it bit me. JoJo my face was as big as a football; not allowed to go out for weeks and weeks, but I'm so much better. Oh, Hi Trix, how are you, you behavin' yourself Trix? Don't I always Harry? You know me, yes Trix I do, well girls, just thought I'd let you know that I'm out and about and rarin' to go. I'll see you girls around, tata. Come on Trix, say cheerio to everyone. Oh, tata you lovely people until the next time and its cheerio from me Maya, so take care...

TRIXIE AND MAYA PONTER

TALKING PICTURES TV

I wonder if, like me, you get pretty fed up with most of what's on TV?

My brother suggested we might enjoy Talking Pictures TV, which you can find on Freeview Channel 81. It broadcasts round the clock with a vast range of vintage films and short documentaries from the 1930s onwards. Every week, I look through the schedules, selecting material to record on the DVD. The stuff piles up faster than we can watch it! Some examples may be of interest – well, they were to me, though your taste may be completely different. Here goes.... 'Pool of London' (1951 black & white, 1hr 44mins). As a child I was fascinated by London's river traffic and I saw many large cargo ships pass through Tower Bridge. So, this film was a must. Fabulous shots of shipping and post war London, complete with trams. One of the lead actors was a Caribbean, Earl Cameron, who died aged 102 just a few weeks ago. It's all about seamen getting involved with crime and it's quite harrowing in places.

London again, with 'Every Day except Christmas' (1957 black & white, 50 mins). A documentary about the work of Covent Garden (the fruit, veg and flowers place, not the Opera House) in the small hours. Very well planned and very good photography. Ten years later it was all history, as the market moved to a modern site at Nine Elms. One of those common sense decisions which unfortunately left Central London a duller place.

'Dawn Guard' (1941 black & white, 10 mins). This is one of scores of short wartime information films. It's all about the Home Guard, out on night patrol in the countryside. Two men talk about what we are fighting for. The one who does most of the talking is a youngish Bernard Miles. And why did he have such a mastery of rural dialect? His father was a farm labourer, and he clearly spent his youth listening to the voices around him.

'The Bargee' (1964 Colour, 1hr 40 mins). Harry H Corbett (best known as Steptoe's son) works on the Grand Union and this is all about his complicated love life with various ladies along the canal. It's all fairly hilarious, but the real fascination of the film is that a few years later nearly all the commercial work of the canal had finished for ever. It was another world.

'The Telephone at Work' (1972 Colour, 15 mins). This is the sort of film you either find totally priceless or totally pointless. I love it. Everything has changed in fifty years – the fashions, the attitudes, the cars, the office furniture. It's a Rank Film Library job aimed at getting you to use the phone properly and without exasperating the person on the other end of the call. Actually, some of the advice is not so daft even today.

That's probably enough to give you an idea. Happy viewing!

Jonathan

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello Everyone,

I don't know what's going on, it's all a mystery to me. I still see my Aunty Jill everyday but nobody else. Whether my Mum and Aunty Jill have had a row with all their friends, I really don't know. I haven't seen Aunty Lynne either, so I don't get any treats and I miss them. I know my Mum buys some for me, but Aunty Lynne's always taste nicer.

I do go out into the garden but sometimes it is so hot I have to go find somewhere cool and hide. I like it in the evening when it is nice and cool and I don't want to go back into the house so, I stay out as long as possible. I know

that if my Mum calls me, she wants me inside so I pretend I can't hear. That annoys her! If it's blowing a hooley or raining, then I'm happy to stay in.

I've heard a rumour that I will soon be going to see the animal doctor to have a pin, a horse pill shoved down my throat and my nails cut. I shout a lot, but it doesn't get me anywhere. I will probably go in a mood and sulk. I know that Maya and Trixie have had to go and they had a pin and a horse pill each. Their Mum couldn't go inside so they had to wait for someone to take them inside. I wouldn't mind betting that they weren't happy at all. They spoke to me on that machine and told me all about it. I wouldn't mind betting that when I tell them about me they will laugh at me and tell me that I'm a wuss. I think that's mean of them. My Mum tells me the same; but I've got a broad back, I can take it.

This is all for now 'til the next time; I hope I will have some more news by then

Your feline friend
JOJO WHITTLE

DIARY

Sunday 2 August	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's
	10.30am	Family Praise at St Margaret's
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's with prayers for healing
Tuesday 4 August	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online
Thursday 6 August	8.15 am	Morning Prayer by Zoom
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
Sunday 9 August	9.00am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's
Tuesday 11 August	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online
Thursday 13 August	September/October Crossroads' article deadline	
	8.15 am	Morning Prayer by Zoom
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
Sunday 16 August	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's
Tuesday 18 August	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online
	7.30pm	St George's Centre Management Committee meet
Wednesday 19 August	7.30pm	Refresh meet by Zoom
Thursday 20 August	8.15 am	Morning Prayer by Zoom

Sunday 23 August	10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
	9.00am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's with Prayers for Healing
Monday 24 August		Crossroads printing week
Tuesday 25 August	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online
Thursday 27 August	8.15 am	Morning Prayer by Zoom
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
Sunday 30 August		September/October Crossroads available
	9.00am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's
Monday 31 August		Summer Bank Holiday
Tuesday 1 September		Most schools go back for new term
	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online TBC
Wednesday 2 September	7.00pm	PCC meeting
Thursday 3 September	8.15 am	Morning Prayer by Zoom
	10.30am	Parish Communion at St Margaret's
Saturday 5 September		Messy Church Party TBC
	10.00am	<i>Messy Church at St George's???</i>
Sunday 6 September	10.30am	Parish Communion at St George's
	10.30am	Family Praise at St Margaret's
	5.00pm	Evensong with prayers for healing at St Margaret's
Tuesday 8 September	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online TBC
Tuesday 15 September	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online TBC
Tuesday 22 September	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online TBC
Tuesday 20 October	4.00pm	Standing Committee TBC
Tuesday 1 December	7.00pm	PCC meeting TBC

THESE ARE PROVISIONAL PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE DATES
**Other events may be moved, added or cancelled, any changes will be
printed in the newsletter**

**"God is in heaven,
And you are on earth,
So let your words be few"**

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH...

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a bulldog, and I'm as jittery as a cat." "Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie. "I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

A nun walks into a bar; she bought everyone drinks all night. She told hilarious jokes and even did a one-armed handstand while chugging a beer. She was the best... bar nun.

I went to a bookstore the other day; After wandering around for a while, an employee in a coloured apron approached me. "Can I help you find anything, sir?" "Oh, yes. Sure. I'm looking for a book about turtles." "Hardback?" she inquired. "Yep, and little heads."

At a costume party: "What have you come as?" "I'm a harp" "That looks a little big to be a harp!" "Are you calling me a lyre?"

Two cowboys got lost in the desert. Tex says to Jim Bob "Look, Jim Bob, it's a bacon tree!" "Don't be silly Tex it's a mirage, don't waste your energy!" "Jim Bob, I'm so thirsty and hungry I must go and investigate". As Tex approaches two men jump out and shoot him. "Tex, it is not a bacon tree... It is a ham-bush."

While filling my car up the other day I noticed a woman smoking whilst filling her car up with petrol, a silly thing to do, but I know better than to confront strangers about their stupidity. I saw two policemen across the road, they are watching her, but they aren't doing anything about it! As I am going to pay, I hear this screaming behind me, I look around and see that this woman's arm is on fire! She is literally running around the petrol station waving her arm in the air! The two policemen jump into action and put the fire out, then arrest and handcuff her! I think this is a bit harsh and that the woman should be going to the hospital, and not be in custody so I ask one of the police why are they arresting her. The policeman replied, "For waving a firearm in public."

Why was the iPhone wearing glasses? Because it had lost all its contacts.