

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



**All services at St George's and St Margaret's have been suspended
in accordance with the latest Government Covid regulations
St George's Centre is also closed to all users**

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

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

CHURCH IN TUFFLEY: 3rd Wednesday Refresh at 7.30pm on Zoom

FEBRUARY 2021

50p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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In response to the Government's Covid restrictions St George's Church, St Margaret's Church and St George's Centre are all closed until further notice. The Joint Standing Committee will discuss, in due course, the reopening and reintroduction of worship for the parishes once the restrictions change.

The Church Office is closed currently but, Glenda is working from home during this latest lockdown please use the contact information at the front of Crossroads should you need to get in touch.

*Doing nothing is hard,
you never know when you're done*

PLEASE NOTE

That there will not be an increase in the cost of Crossroads for 2021; issues will remain at 50p each or £4.00 for the year if you pay in full by the end of January.

Remember that if you have access to the internet you can read Crossroads for free and in full colour by visiting the St George's and St Margaret's website. But please let the Editors know if you decide to view Crossroads via our website so we do not print or deliver copies needlessly.

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

LORRAINE WRITES...

Dear Friends,

Is it my imagination or are there some indications that Spring is on the way? Being born and raised in South Wales I watch for daffodils to emerge, although snowdrops are usually the first to show themselves.

By the time this edition of Crossroads comes to publication, the mass vaccination programme in response to the Covid 19 pandemic should be in full swing and we will greet the lighter, warmer days with renewed hope and confidence.

February is a good month to think about the nature of God's love for us, not just because the shops are starting to promote Valentine's Day on the 14th, but Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent falls on the February 17th this year.

John 4:19 says quite simply "We love him, because he first loved us." (It's worth finding the time to sit down quietly and read the whole chapter.)

The first minutes of 1983 are memorable for me. Pete and I were at a New Year Eve party and as the chimes of Big Ben ended, I turned to him and said, "I hope 1983 will be a really good year for you". His reply was "I hope 1983 will be a really good year for us". It was, for that was the year we were married.

To love someone who does not return our love is one of life's greatest setbacks. Any good relationship needs nurturing. The start of January is often the time we make new resolutions but by February they have evaporated! We are full of good intentions, but little willpower.

The more we appreciate the constant, unconditional, transformational love of God, the more we will love Him who first loved us and find that His love will overflow out of us to others.

Blessings to you and all those whom you love, Lorraine.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the family and friends of: -
Susan Jane Mitchell RIP Marjorie Cotterill RIP
Brian Woodruff RIP Kyle Howell RIP
Margaret Dee RIP Joy Mellor RIP
William Tweed RIP

Jonathan offers this article, it is a little bit late for the February Crossroads, but worth including. It was in a letter forwarded to all Readers which was sent round too late for inclusion in our December/January issue. Here it is...

1 Corinthians 13; A Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkly lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking mince pies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully decorated table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband/wife. Love is kind though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home, no matter how finely decorated.

Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. X-box games may break, necklaces be lost and golf clubs rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Thanks Jonathan



LENT 2021

Keep your eyes peeled and keep your ears open to find out just what is happening in these parishes during Lent this year, planning is in hand, so please check Signpost, our weekly newsletter, and our website for the latest information on how to be involved.

HANGING ON TO LOVE AT VALENTINE'S DAY

With lockdown in full swing, putting festivals and celebrations on our calendars has never been so important: Little islands of normality and opportunities for fun that we can hang on to while everything changes around us.

Traditionally, St Valentine's Day has been seen as a day for couples, but there's so much more to it. It can also be a chance for self-care, and love for your neighbours. It can be a focus for our hearts, our minds and our hope and for recognising God's love.

This Valentine's Day, whether you are single or part of a couple, choose love. We're challenging you to do one thing to show love to yourself, one thing to show love to your neighbour and one thing to show love to your community as a whole.

You could take a bubble bath, pick some cheerful daffodils for someone who finds themselves alone at the moment, and pick up an extra few items in the

supermarket for the foodbank. Or put on some beautiful music and sip a hot cup of tea, send up a quick prayer for someone having a tough time, and smile broadly at everyone you meet. Try to use February to make a difference.

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

27 February from 10.00am until 12.30pm

How do you share your faith with the children in your life? Jennifer Fellows will help us demystify sharing faith. Encouraging us to use everyday language and examples of what our faith means to us she will show how this can enable our children to grow in their own relationship with God.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y53cdsb> to book your place.

Editors' note: these two articles appear in the February issue of the Messenger which is produced monthly by the diocesan Communications Office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. It is available on www.gloucester.anglican.org and emailed to all parish and church representatives who request it.

Countdown To:



17th February 2021

Get involved with a Lent Group in 2021
Speak to Jonathan or Helen

*If you can't see the bright side of life,
try polishing the dull side.*

“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”

David Russell



Greetings to you all from the deep south (South Gloucestershire, to be exact, Wickwar to be even more precise!). It's where we went in 1998 after a really happy curacy at St George's Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon, following my ordination in 1994 and our wedding at St George's in 1996. And we are still here!

Darrell's prompt for this article was the working idea 'This is what I'm doing now'. The honest answer to that at the moment, given what we are all experiencing, is making lots of phone calls and coffee, becoming a 'Zoom' expert, watching the emails come in quicker than I can answer them. And ensuring all our folk take lots of care in how we 'do' church and 'be' church.

But in those twenty-two years a lot has occurred. What was a two-parish benefice when I arrived has now evolved into five parishes. In that time, I have been able to appoint assistant clergy, train a curate and develop a Benefice ministry team. We have two church schools in which I am foundation governor. I was also asked to be the Area Dean for Wotton Deanery which I have really enjoyed; working with other clergy, parishes in vacancy and with new Bishops and Archdeacons, especially in Bishop Rachel's regime. It is very odd attempting to maintain all that diversity and activity in the current restrictions, and I am in complete admiration of all those who are continuing their professions, work and responsibilities at this heightened time.

As I write this Susanne is teaching secondary school pupils, on-line, from her study at the back of the Rectory. She teaches German at Castle School Thornbury and is also studying to be a freelance translator which she will take up in due course. Our eldest daughter, Johanna, who was born a few months after we left Tuffley, is now a 4th year medical student at Manchester University, and about to help with the vaccination programme. Eleanor, our millennium baby, is studying in London, doing theatrical costume construction, and looking forward to the day when theatre and performance is revived, as she will need a job!!

Earlier I recalled my curacy with you as a happy time, and it really was! The experience of working with the Reverends Brian McQuillen and Hugh Broad, and alongside fellow curate Jan Taylor and reader Maureen Smith, and amongst many of you, left me with much to reflect on and take with me into my future ministry. The spirit of St Georges that has remained with me is that subtle mix of informality and humour alongside the reverence that betrays an honest and everyday faith in a God that walks beside us in the sacramental and the ordinary, in our joys and the sorrows and in our challenges and aspirations.

We are about to find our way into the season of Lent once more. And I am reminded of one Ash Wednesday at St George's. As Brian and I processed into the sombre penitential ashing service that begins Lent, I noticed that the blood donation unit were in the large hall and a Slimming World group were in the small hall, and I commented to Brian, under my breath, 'Its blood, sweat and tears in here tonight isn't it!'. We both needed the length of the procession to control our chuckles as we approached the sobering opening words to our service, 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, ... be faithful to God'!

That night always reminds me how our church should be immersed in the reality of our communities, nudging up against our everyday needs and the twists and turns of life, and being there in the same way that God is there. As we scan the faces on our Zoom service screens, we see people in their own contexts with those they love. We have seen families and friends be re-united on our screens. The church is finding new ways of living out that message of incarnation and inclusion.

You may have deduced, reading this, that unlike some clergy I haven't moved around a lot. But in being here we have gathered a broad and complex experience of ministry and life. We haven't needed removal vans to take us to new and different aspects of ministry, and new and different expressions of God, We have had that happen around us. And in less than a handful of years I will be considering my retirement, having just celebrated a birthday that the Beatles once wrote a song about. It would be really good to come and make a visit to see you all before we do finally move on.

For now,
Every blessing, and keep safe,
David, Susanne, Johanna and Eleanor



- 1 If two's company, and three's a crowd, what are four and five?
- 2 A boy and his father get into a car accident. When they arrive at the hospital, the doctor sees the boy and exclaims "that's my son!" How can this be?
- 3 If a brother, his sister, and their dog weren't under an umbrella, why didn't they get wet?
- 4 What goes up but never comes back down?
- 5 Mr. Blue lives in the Blue house. Mrs. Yellow lives in the Yellow House. Mr. Orange lives in the orange house. Who lives in the White House?

*I'd like to help you out today.
Which way did you come in?*

If you do a job too well, you'll get stuck with it.

**Just a
reminder...**



To have your **MARCH 2021 CROSSROADS** ready for publication on **Sunday 28 FEBRUARY 2021**

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

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**



Questions based on the Gospel readings for December

1 Mark's gospel opens with a quote from one of the prophets.

Which Prophet?

2 That quote states, 'I am sending my _____ ahead of you'.

What word is missing?

3 The quote goes on to say, 'the _____ of one crying out in the _____'.

What are the missing words?

4 John the Baptist encouraged people to, '_____ for the forgiveness of sins'.

What word is missing?

5 Pharisees came to question John.

What three word question did they ask him?

6 Having stated that he was not the Messiah the Pharisees then asked John, 'Why then are you _____?'. What word is missing?

7 In which town did this meeting with the Pharisees take place?

8 Which angel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth?

9 The angel said, "_____ , for you have found favour with God".

What four words complete the sentence?

10) In response to the angel Mary said, "_____ , the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' What three words are missing?

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

I am on a seafood diet. I see food, and I eat it

When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic

*Dedicated to my beautiful wife Jenny to celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary 1st Jan 2021 - who said romance was dead.
Happy New Year Everyone*

JUST ANOTHER YEAR

The Good, Bad and Ugly, seen throughout the year
Covid at its centre - that pretty much is clear
For most generations, it's the worst year to date
Many waking each morning, not knowing their fate
Still continuing to travel, exacting its wrath
Destroying the weak, that stands in its path
But a vaccine has been found, to be embraced by us all
Enabling civilisation, to break free through the wall

Trump loses an election, he viewed it as phoney
Not wishing to be seen, as a one trick pony
Sat watching demonstrations, the nation in decline
Ignoring Black Lives Matter, including yours and mine
Now he is going - four more years down the pan
Hopefully to be replaced - by a more pragmatic man

The scammers have continued, the vulnerable exposed
When they ring you at home, they're very composed
Using every trick, they have in the book
You are afraid of an email, or taking a look
People traffickers, still plying their trade
Those accepting their offers, should be very afraid

Notwithstanding, all the doom and the gloom
Communication has improved, with the invention of zoom
We've seen Captain Tom, on his charity walk
Inspiring many others, how to walk the talk
Foodbanks galore, a footballer leading the way
Each individual rewarded, and having their day

We finish 2020, with Brexit being done
Nigel can retire now - he's had a good run
The Chancellor may need, a new Monopoly Set
How much harder for him, can it really get
Challenges always go, but others will appear
As we about to enter - Just Another Year

TONY J



Although no dates for our APCMs can be confirmed just yet, preparations still need to be put in hand. As you are aware everyone is welcome, to come hear about the past year and take part in discussions on directions for the next year.

If you are on the church's register of electors, you can also vote for whom you would like your representatives for the ensuing year.

*If you normally write a report for St George's APCM, would you please prepare it **NOW** and send it to Glenda as soon as possible. Emailed documents are preferred; but if your report must be handwritten please let Glenda have it immediately, in order that she can process it in time for the Annual Report and Accounts pack.*

Remember your report covers the period...
1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020 only

The deadline for ALL reports is **SUNDAY 6 MARCH**; your report will not appear in the report pack if it is received after this date.

Many thanks
DARRELL

YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP NEEDS YOU!

Our 'annual meetings' usually come up in April. This is the time when we elect our Parish Church Councils, Churchwardens, and other officers. Please think about who you may like to nominate for the privilege and responsibility of sharing the leadership of our two churches in this way. And consider humbly and honestly whether you yourself might be willing to step up to the plate! But most of all, please keep the matter in your prayers.

Thank you

ELECTORAL ROLL

ELECTORAL ROLL: The 2021 Annual meetings of St George's and St Margaret's will be held at some point in 2021. If your name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll you will not be eligible to vote at the APCMs or be elected on to either PCC.

The Electoral Roll for St George's and St Margaret's would normally be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 6 March 2021 until the 27 March 2021 but neither church may be open during that period.

If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from Margaret Barber, for St George's or Jill Ponter, for St Margaret's (see contact details at the front of Crossroads).

Completed forms should be returned by no later than Sunday 27 March 2021.

Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that people who have the most live the longest

Alcohol! Because no great story started with someone eating a salad



A PIECE-FUL PASTIME

Dotted around our home may be seen signs of a new addiction. Don't worry, it's quite innocent: it's just that we have got quite keen on jigsaw puzzles.

It started with three very good wooden puzzles which belonged to my late mother. Rather than give them to a charity shop, I thought that Carol might like to have a go during the long days of lockdown. Result, two people working away at the pieces by the hour together.

Some people think that jigsaws are a shocking waste of time. I would say a few things in their defence. They certainly encourage observation and deduction. I suppose you could get there by endless trial and error, but it really needs a disciplined approach to avoid going round in unproductive circles.

They encourage teamwork: two people can work together, bringing different skills. Carol and I each have an entirely different approach, but we manage to get the pieces where they should be.

And they can be educational, depending on the subject matter. Above all, there is the lovely feeling of bringing order out of chaos, as the picture takes shape, and the remaining pieces dwindle.

Quite often I think a puzzle will be fairly straightforward, but find I change my mind quite early on. One which came from a charity shop just after Christmas was a case in point. It was a familiar scene at Highley on the Severn Valley Railway, a fine painting of 'City of Truro' pulling out of the station.

The railway part came together quite easily, but the sky almost made us give up in despair. Progress was very slow, until at last we reached that lovely stage where there are only a couple of dozen pieces left. Imagine the howl which went up when we found the last three pieces would not fit! In fact, Waddington cardboard puzzles often allow you to make a misplacing, which looks and feels at least 95% right. After relocating several slightly dubious pieces, alleluia, the

last ones slid in perfectly. The fit has to be perfect every time. There is probably a sermon there for the none-too-patient puzzler.

Needless to say, the best puzzles are not cheap. Wentworths' laser-cut wooden puzzles are in a class of their own and are made just over the county boundary in Malmesbury. They fetch surprisingly good money on eBay: no doubt there are serious collectors of the discontinued puzzles. And for a quite modest premium, you can have your own pictures made up into custom puzzles.

We have a big stack from the charity shops ready to work through. One looks especially tough – a couple of zebras standing side by side. It gives me a headache just to look at it! But right now, I would sooner lose myself in a jigsaw for a while than to listen to the News, and I am sure I'm not alone in that.

JONATHAN



Artlift are offering another free, online, arts course starting 22 February 2021 for those:

- ...recently diagnosed with cancer
- ...in treatment for cancer
- ...post cancer treatment

...and also, for those with a terminal diagnosis but not in palliative care.

As a way to reduce barriers to participation people can now self-refer and we then seek endorsement from their GP's/ Health Workers. It's a 10-week online course, 22 February to 3 May 2021, no interest or experience in art is necessary. It's proven to have significant positive impacts of participants well- being.

Contact Helen Crocker, Project Manager
on 07779 332709: at www.artlift.org: We're on Facebook too!

PETER'S FEBRUARY posers



- 1 Which city in what is now the United States, can trace its origins back to 1626 when it was a trading post known as New Amsterdam?
- 2 Which band was formed by the members of Joy Division after the suicide of their lead singer?
- 3 What Name is shared by an English town, a racecourse, and a card game?
- 4 Which US State has Concord as its capital and Manchester as its largest city, and is bordered by Massachusetts to the south?
- 5 What was the name of the group who found worldwide success with the song "I'd like to teach the world to sing"?
- 6 Once a royal hunting ground for William the Conqueror the New Forest is in which county?
- 7 New Mexico is situated in the southwestern region of the USA. What is the name of its capital city which translated to English would be Holy Faith?
- 8 Chelsea and England goalkeeper known as 'The Cat'?
- 9 Which City grew from the Roman settlement of Pons Aelius and takes its name from the fortress built by William the Conqueror's son in 1080. It was known for coal mining and later for shipbuilding?
- 10 Where in India is the seat of all three branches of the Indian government, and the city in which it sits is a hub for international trade?

ANSWERS TO PETER'S CHRISTMAS POSERS

- 1 Jodie Whittaker: Blitzen (Blitzer): 3 Clement C. Moore: 4 a) 0.1%: 5 Peach:
6 'not necessarily in the right order.' 7 A fox: 8 Cinnamon: 9 Natalie Wood:
10 Bob Geldof and Midge Ure: 11 Indian Ocean: 12 Germany: 13 Jacob Marley:
14 Middlesbrough: 15 They've been 'turned down low': 16 Carol Kane:
17 Mary's Boy Child: 18 Douro Valley: 19 Sir Isaac Newton: 20 The Snowman:

JILL'S JOTTINGS

from St Margaret's

Well hello folks, it's me again, that person who does the cleaning at St Margaret's with her mates, Dianne and Marilyn. We had asked Jonathan when we were going to get our Christmas tree, or if we were going to have Christmas services at all! Jonathan said that yes, we were having our services and hopefully a Christmas tree.

So, on Monday 7 December the girls and I turned up at St Margaret's to find a Christmas tree in the porch, so we took it in and started to take the lower branches off so we could get it into the tree stand.

Jonathan had started to bring in the baubles for us, we were still trying to get the tree to stand up straight in its stand!! But we managed it in the end. We strung the lights on the tree and a few baubles then we needed to get the tree and stand onto the tree plinth. It was quite a job, but we got there. On went all the other baubles and St Margaret's began to look all dressed up for the season.

Jonathan's stepdaughter did her bit decorating the three coronas in the nave, when finished they looked superb. St Margaret's always looks good, Christmas is always something special. We do try and pull out all the stops ready to welcome our visitors. We decided to get to church a little early on Thursday 10 December to finish off the decorating, greenery in the Sanctuary windows and round the pulpit only then were we ready for our first Carol by Candlelight services. Marg, Dianne, and I went to the service on 13 December. It was truly magical; even though we are going through tough restrictions, that time, for us was wonderful.

Well, my friends, we are now in 2021 and our Thursday services are still happening; they give much needed comfort, knowing that we can still meet a few friends. Here's hoping that any future restrictions do not stop us meeting in church and praising God and giving us strength to do our best over the coming months.

So, it's goodbye for now until next time.

Best wishes,
JILL PONTER

Editor's note: *You will have guessed that Jill wrote her article before the latest Government restrictions were known. Neither of our Churches are open for worship currently.*

RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1 Nine: 2 The doctor is the boy's mother: 3 It wasn't raining: 4 Your age:
5 The President of the United States:



Maya, Maya, where are you, Maya? You gone out? Trixie what on earth is the matter with you? I have been over the fence to see if Ian and Karen were about because I haven't seen them for a couple of days. What is it with you lately? I can't go anywhere without you harping on! Maya, it's like this, I was looking out of the window and I saw animals going past and who do you think was following behind them. Trixie, I haven't a clue! Maya, it was the two Gingers! The two Gingers, Trix? What were they doing following some animals? I don't know, Maya? That's what I want you to find out for me. Trixie, if you want to know what the Gingers are up to, you go and find out. You don't need me to hold your paw!

Oh, come on, Maya, if you come with me, they won't think that I'm being a nosey parker. Trixie, they already know that you're nosey, me being with you won't make a bit of difference. Aw, come on Maya, just for me? Oh, alright, where do you think the Gingers will be? Well, Maya, I think that they will be

with Harry, he was going to meet Star up the cul-de-sac. Blimey, Trix, how many more felines are you going to drag up? Oh, come on Maya, we get on really well with Star and Harry is still in love with Yasmin. Oh, alright, come on then let's go, don't forget our Mum is still going around like a Whirling Dervish. She's got that cleaner thing going, it gives me a headache! But our Mum sings along as she's doing the cleaning. If you get too close to that thing, it may suck you up the pipe. Trixie, you have the greatest imagination of anyone. I know, so let's go and find our friends and see what they're up to.

Boys, Trixie wants to know what you were up to following three animals up the road the other day. Did you see us then, Trix? I didn't see you? Where were you? I was sitting in the window, what were you following them for? Well, Trix, we always meet them at the bottom of the road and have a chat as we walk up the road. Mind you their Mum usually tries to send us home, but we stick together. They are such lovely dogs, ever so friendly and they don't try to take our heads off. We've made real friends with them.

One of them is old, you know, I think that her father's name is Methuselah; she's been with her Mum for ever. Oh, Ginger, don't be so mean, she may be a bit long in the tooth, but she looked as if she was enjoying her walk with the other dogs. If you say so, Maya, we'll continue to walk with them for as long as we can. Oh, hello, Harry, you OK? Yes, Trixie, I'm fine. I've been to try and see Yasmin, but her Mum won't let her out, so I thought that I would come and see how you all were. What have you all been up to? Hello, Star, how are you these days? Blimey, I don't know where that wind is coming from, but I do know where it's going!! Can't we get somewhere a little warmer? Yes Star, there is a place next to us that we can use. It's in Ian and Karen's garden. Come on then let's go! Blimey that wind is really getting up and it looks like it has that white stuff in it! Come on Trix, I think we ought to get out of this weather and get home. Say cheerio to the lads and to Star. Cheerio Harry, Gingers and Star maybe we can all meet up again soon as this weather calms down. Say cheerio to the rest of the folks, Trix. Oh yes, Cheerio folks for now and it's cheerio from me, Maya, until the next time.

TRIXIE AND MAYA PONTER

I don't need a hairdresser, my pillow gives me a new hairstyle every morning

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Isaiah: 2 messenger: 3 voice, wilderness: 4 Repent: 5 Who are you?:
6 baptising: 7 Bethany: 8 Gabriel: 9 Do not be afraid: 10 Here am I:



CLEANING OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Our Churchwardens at St George's are still, to my knowledge trying to put together a rota for the cleaning of our Church. So, if you can help speak to either Mike or Sylvia as soon as you can. The number of people who come forward will decide whether you are asked to clean once a month or possibly once every two months; a couple of hours each time is all you are being asked to do on a rota basis.



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello everyone,

It's your feline friend again. Not a lot to report really, but boy! Hasn't it been cold. Would you believe it my Mum made me go outside into the garden; I didn't go very far because it was wet and cold, and the wind nearly blew me over. I couldn't wait to be back in the warm. I haven't seen anyone except Auntie Jill, I do hear voices when my Mum's talking on that machine. Sometimes it

sounds like Auntie Lynne, otherwise it's a deep man's voice, I hear. It could be it's the man who brings another four-legged animal, who goes by the name of Holly. My Mum and Auntie Jill go all gooey over her. I can sometimes hear her, sniffing under my bedroom door, but she can't get at me. My Mum tells me she wouldn't hurt me, but I don't care, better to be safe than sorry! I have heard rumours that there's going to be another one coming into the house, but when that will be, I just don't know. I will be shut in the bedroom until they're gone.

The other day I got up and my Mum let me out, well I couldn't believe it; there was white stuff all over the ground and it was cold! My paws were frozen I had to warm them up by sitting on my Mum's lap. When it's cold and wet, I don't like it; even my Mum complains. She still makes me go outside though, then she leaves me out there, she tells me to go and play. I ask very nicely to come in, she opens the door and I just look at her in disgust! She still lets me sleep on her bed, so I'm all snug and warm.

I do have a few words now and again on that machine, just to find out what my cousins are up to. Trixie is definitely a home body and Maya is very outgoing. The other day she brought Auntie Jill a present, well it was half a body, so I understand, Auntie Jill put it in the bin!! That wasn't very nice, was it. Maya brought her little mouse, but she didn't appreciate the effort that was put in to catch it. I get told off when I catch small birds. It's my nature but, I still get told off (well, shouted at) leave the birds alone. When the weather is warmer, I'll be back on patrol!!

Bye, for now; JoJo (Miss)

Life is short, smile while you still have teeth

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way; so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness

*Don't tell me the sky is the limit
when there are footprints on the moon*



FEBRUARY

Tue 2		CANDLEMAS	
Wed 3	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Sun 7		2 nd Sunday before Lent	
Wed 10	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Sat 13		March Crossroads deadline	
Sun 14		Sunday before Lent	
Mon 15	7.00pm	Joint PCC meeting	Zoom
Tue 16		Shrove Tuesday	
	7.00pm	Refresh FUN NIGHT	Zoom
Wed 17		ASH WEDNESDAY	
	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Fri 19	9.30am	Lent Group (tbc)	Zoom
Sun 21		LENT 1	
Mon 22		March Crossroads printing	
Tue 23	3.00pm	Lent Group (tbc)	Zoom
	4.00pm	Vacancy Steering Group	Zoom
	7.00pm	St George's Centre AGM followed by business meeting	Zoom
Wed 24	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
Fri 26	9.30am	Lent Group (tbc)	Zoom
Sat 27		Revised date Tree planting in Randwick Park	
Sun 28		LENT 2	
		March Crossroads available	

MARCH

Tue 2	3.00pm	Lent Group (tbc)	Zoom
	4.00pm	Vacancy Steering Group	Zoom
Wed 3	8.15am	Morning prayer	Zoom
Fri 5		World Day of Prayer (tbc)	
Sun 7		LENT 3	

THE ABOVE DATES REMAIN PROVISIONAL ONLY

Editors' note: Please note that events may be moved, added to, or cancelled, any changes will be noted in our Signpost our weekly newsletter.

Should you know of anything missing from the above listing of dates please let us know so we can update our information for the future. Many thanks

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

Where does the General keep his armies? In his sleeve.

What's the best thing about Switzerland? I don't know, but their flag is a huge plus.

Where do you find a cow with no legs? Right where you left it.

A bear walks into a restaurant. He tells his waiter, "I want a grilled cheese." The waiter says, "What's with the pause?" "What do you mean?" the bear replies. "I'm a *bear!*"

What's E.T. short for? Because he's only got little legs.

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes. That way when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other, "I need you to help me get to the other side!" The other guy replies, "You're *on* the other side!"

What's the difference between a hippo and a zippo? One is really heavy, and the other is a little lighter.

What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between you and me, something smells.

A guy goes to a pet store to buy a goldfish. The salesman asks him, "Do you want an aquarium?" The guy responds, "I don't care what star sign it is!"

Two cows are grazing in a field. One cow says to the other, "You ever worry about that mad cow disease?" The other cow says, "Why would I care? I'm a helicopter!"