

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering

Growing God's Kingdom



**At the heart
of Christmas**



PLEASE KEEP TO THE COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

ST GEORGE'S

**Sundays
Tuesdays
Wednesdays**

**Parish Communion at 10.30am
Parish Communion at 10.00am
Morning Prayer at 8.15am
on Zoom**

ST MARGARET'S

**1st Sunday
2nd Sunday
3rd Sunday
4th Sunday
5th Sunday
Thursday**

**Family Praise at 10.30am and
Evensong at 5.00pm
Parish Communion at 9.00am
Evensong at 5.00pm
Parish Communion at 9.00am
Parish Communion at 9.00am
Parish Communion at 10.30am**

DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

50p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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REV RACHEL WRITES...

The light and hope of Christmas



At Thursday Day Centre, I was part of a conversation about when to put up the Christmas lights and decorations. Most people were saying, as soon as possible... 1st December! But surely that's too early for Christmas?

I used to be a bit of a purist and would have said, not until Christmas Eve, and then take them down 12 days later for Epiphany. The Church Christmas season running from late Christmas Eve, through till 6th January (Epiphany). In fact, in my first year of curacy, I didn't put the Christmas tree up until Boxing Day – as I was a bit busy till then!

After the last 18 months/nearly 2 years we've all lived through though, I think we need to celebrate light and hope as soon as possible! Why not put the Christmas lights and decorations up on 1st December?

The Church argument against would be that we don't want to miss out on Advent – the time of waiting in the darkness, anticipating the light. The joy of experiencing the light and hope Christmas brings – the light and hope brought by God coming to live alongside us as a human being; born as a tiny baby. Look out for the church Christmas posters this year, they say, 'God with us', summing up what we celebrate and give thanks for at Christmas.

Will we miss out if we put our Christmas lights up early this year? I don't think so, as we probably know all too well the darkness of waiting; through various personal circumstances perhaps, but especially collectively since March 2020. We believe God is always with us. Jesus is the light of the world always. Why not celebrate this earlier, and for longer this year – reminding ourselves and all around us that the light shining in the darkness is Jesus, bringing hope and joy.

You are, of course, welcome to disagree with me and to refrain from putting up your Christmas lights and decorations till Christmas Eve. Keep an eye on

the Vicarage fence though – we may go against tradition this year, along with the ladies at the Day Centre, and put our lights up early!

Whatever you do, I wish you have much joy and peace, this Christmas, and may you know the hope brought by Jesus in your lives.

With every blessing,
Rachel

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Kyrie James Thomas Gardner
Lainey-Janes Margaret Thomas

FUNERALS

Our sympathies to the family and friends of: -
Frederick John Maysey RIP

Editor: *The following was received too late to include last month, but we can and should remember the fallen and the sacrifices that were made for us at any time, all the year round...*

REMEMBER by Tony Jones

As I stand here, a military vet
Along with others, I can't forget
Of those brave souls, who went to war
From different backgrounds, rich and poor
Wearing uniforms, all with pride
Protecting us, is why they died
So please remember, those today
Of the terrible price, they had to pay
To sacrifice lives, the ultimate cost
Today we salute, all those we lost.



On Sunday 7th November I was privileged to be part of a most inspiring and meaningful act of remembering All the Souls whom we have known and loved from our own families and friends who have died. It was held at St Barnabas Church, as part of Church in Tuffley, so we came together from St George's, St Margaret's, St Barnabas, English Martyrs Church and Grange Baptist Church.

There must have been over fifty members in the congregations present. In spite of the need to protect each other with mask wearing, everyone sang hymns heartily. Two young women, Alice Todd and Maisie Matthews from St Barnabas Church sang a duet, then Alice sang a solo. Both young singers beautifully reflected the heart felt mood of loving remembrance that many of us present were feeling.

The readings, reflections, and prayers were led by the Priests and Ministers sitting on the Altar platform, but the highlight for me came when the names of those being remembered were listed on the large screen in the Church. This solemn time was accompanied by the very able organist, William Morris.

My thanks go to all who took part in this lovely service, to those who organised the event, and to our Church Ministers. It was a very worthy start to our November month of remembering!

Paul





A REMINDER

Since Advent is a time of preparation and a time of looking afresh at our faith, it is also a traditional time to take part in a study or prayer group. In our benefice this Advent, we are offering two such opportunities. Starting at 10.45am on the morning of Tuesday 7 December in the Softley Lounge for three weeks, Susan will lead an informal gathering, looking at some of the glorious stories we have in Luke surrounding the coming of our Saviour, Jesus. Starting at 7.00pm on Thursday 2 December in the Vicarage for four weeks, there will be the opportunity to reflect on the theme of Advent hope, by reflecting on clips from the classic film, 'A Christmas Carol' and using a book called, 'Humbug and Happiness' written by Sheila Jacobs. Please do come along to one or both (!) of these if you can, as we share in the time of Advent together.



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

To have your FEBRUARY 2022 CROSSROADS ready for publication on Sunday 30 January

ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY BY EMAIL BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN...

...THURSDAY 13 JANUARY

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES!

At the heart of Christmas



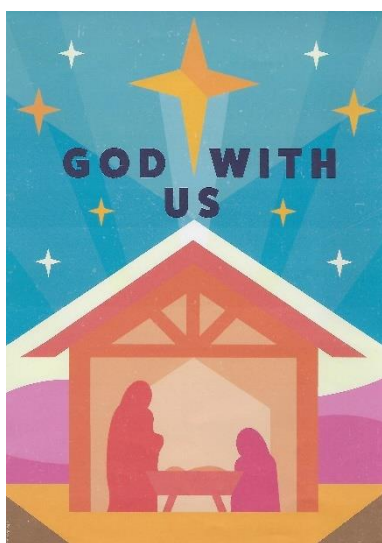
Of course, there is still the need to be careful and cautious, but we are hopeful that the following services will be able to go ahead, with congregational singing and refreshments.

Dates for your diary...

Saturday 11 December	10.00am	Christmas Messy Church
Thursday 16 December	7.00pm	Candlelight Carols at St Margaret's
Sunday 19 December	4.00pm	Carol service at St George's
Tuesday 21 December	7.00pm	Candlelight Carols at St Margaret's
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Family worship at St George's
	11.30pm	Christmas Communion at St George's
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Family Praise with Communion at St Margaret's
Sunday 26 December	10.30am	Said Parish Communion at St George's

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS AT ST MARGARET'S

**Thursday 16 December at 7.00pm
and Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 7.00pm**



Barring any restrictions due to Covid there will be two 'Candlelight Carols' at St Margaret's this year. A maximum of 60 people will be accommodated at each service, so we ask you book in advance.

Please contact Hans Rackham either by email; h_m_rackham@talktalk.net or telephone him on 01452 528939, letting him know how many places you are reserving and for which date. It is likely that one service date will be more popular than the other, so please indicate if the other date would be acceptable to you, if your preferred date is already full.

FROM THE MESSENGER, DECEMBER 2021...

published by the Diocese of Gloucester

AT THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

At the heart
of Christmas



During Advent, getting some time to reflect, rest and be restored is so vital to enjoying the holiday period. Churches across the diocese will be offering a range of different services and events including:

- Christingle, a service where you decorate an orange with sweets and ribbons to think about Christian themes
- 9 Lessons and Carols (a church service made up of singing and reading from the Bible)
- Crib services with a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story
- Christmas tree and crib festivals
- Midnight mass, a late-night church service, starting around 11.30 pm.

From Christmas Eve through to the Epiphany on 6 January, the national Church will be sharing **At the heart of Christmas: 12 days of stories and mediations for Christmas**. On each of the 12 days, a different person will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder. You can download the **At the heart of Christmas** app via the Church of England website from late November.

On each Sunday of Advent there will be an online service broadcast on the Church of England's YouTube channel [youtube.com/thechurchofengland](https://www.youtube.com/thechurchofengland)



Could St George's and St Margaret's achieve a bronze Eco-Church award? What else could we be doing to care for God's earth? If you are interested in this, please let Rachel know, as we are looking for a few people to look through the Eco-Church survey to assess where we already are and to see where there is

further potential. We will then continue to consider this as a wider church community.



We are hoping to get a group together to go carol singing in and around Tuffley, if you are interested and would like to be a part; keep your throat warm, your voice in tune and keep your eyes peeled for more information in future issues of our weekly newsletter, Signpost.



COFFEE POT

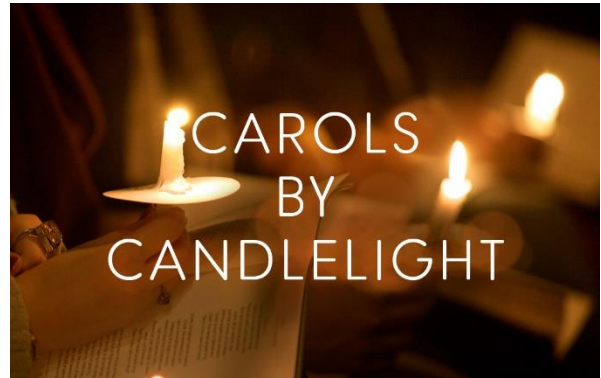
Coffee Pot users are growing in number; so, why not come along and join in the conversation and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits or toast. Coffee Pot opens at 10.00am every Tuesday morning and closes at 12.00noon.

All readers of Crossroads are welcome, so please do come and join us in St George's Centre, hope to see you soon. Why not bring a friend along too.

PLANNING THE CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

As I write, we are gearing up for this year's Carol services.

Elsewhere in this issue you find some notes by Pete Best for those who plan to join us at the St Margaret's services. You'll see that we will be doing the service on two evenings, with the intention of restricting numbers to sixty on each occasion, as a Covid precaution. This will mean extra work of course, but it should be more comfortable and will make it easier for people to have a chat before or after the service.



The St Margaret's candlelit service has been going on for at least thirty years. The first order of service I have is 1996. By 1998 it had settled into more or less its present format, with seven readings (more recently increased to eight), and generally a very traditional style.

As the church is lit almost entirely by candles, overall length is crucial: about 55 minutes is the aim. Fire safety is paramount, with extinguishers and fire blankets to hand, and an alternative exit via the tower door if needed. In recent years Dave Triggs has acted as fire marshal, ready to swing into action if need be.

This year's music will be mostly congregational carols, but we hope to have one solo item, from Sylvia and Darrell, who will sing Harold Darke's setting of 'In the bleak mid-winter'. I hope we can do this at St George's too. The words perhaps seem rather at odds with the increasingly mild winters we now have, but the carol ends with the all-important line ... "yet what I can I give Him: give my heart".

Different things have happened over the years: we have had guest trumpeters, and one year John Scothern played Bruce's xylophone. And of course, the Singing Group have featured. Way back in 1996 there was small nativity playlet, but more recently that has been more conveniently done on Christmas morning at the family service.

The service must not be set in stone, as it were. We try to change a few carols each year. The scope for that can be limited however, as it seems right that the carols should go with the readings as far as possible. To me it doesn't make a lot of sense to jump straight from Isaiah to Good King Wenceslas, for example. This year Lorraine Best has kindly taken over the task of sorting out the readers. This is not such a simple task as it may seem: a mix of male and female, experienced readers and new people, last minute substitutes, questions about reading lights... it doesn't just happen!

As you can imagine, many other people are involved in planning and preparation. And one of the most important jobs needs to happen soon after the service ends. You've guessed it, writing up notes for next year.

JONATHAN

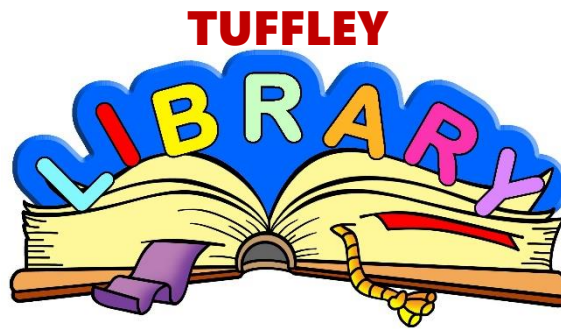
Almighty God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



Our Christmas Messy Church will take place on Saturday 11 December from 10.00am until 11.30am. Everyone is welcome. Messy church is not just for children; it is for everyone.

Come and meet your friends and make new ones. We are really looking forward to seeing you all again.

THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM



Hello again from Tuffley Library and sincere apologies if you have visited us recently only to find us closed. Libraries across the county have been challenged by staff shortages due to covid and we have been working hard to keep a skeleton service available across all libraries. Thankfully things have now settled and we are welcoming back our weekly groups as follows.

Baby Bounce and Rhyme: Thursdays from 10.30am until 11.00am

Computer Club: Thursdays 11.00am

Life Changes: Thursdays 2.00pm

To find out more about any of these events and/or to book a place please call in, email or phone.

HOT NEWS!! **Santa** will be visiting Tuffley Library on the afternoon of Tuesday 21 December at 2.00pm to delight us all with Wintry Tales. Spaces are limited so phone or call in to reserve yours now.

Looking ahead to the New Year we are pleased to announce the return of **Lego Club** on Saturday morning, starting on 8th January. (Spaces limited and must be pre booked by email or phone).

Also for children towards Spring 2022.... Look out for '**Go Wild in your Garden**' (a workshop to support the wildlife in our yards and gardens) Watch this space! As ever we have books, audio books, a home delivery service, on line services and venue hire for your club or meeting. It is here for you all. We hope to see you soon

MARGARET AND STEVE

01452 522160

Tuffleylibrary@gloucestershire.gov.uk

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/>

ST GEORGE'S 100 CLUB

The December 100 Club Draw will take place before the 10.30am Service at St George's on Sunday 12 December; so, if you are intending to join get your skates on and see me. Prizes for our December draw will be £100, £50 and £25 so well worth taking part...

Members have to be over 16 years of age

Each share in St George's 100 Club will cost £1.00 per month

Payments must be up to date on or before the first Sunday of each month

Maximum holding per member is 5 shares

Draws will be made in March, June, September and December

A full set of rules is available upon request.

Please talk to the promoter Darrell



St George's will be trialling live-streaming of services over Christmas.

Keep an eye on the Benefice Facebook Page for upto date information.

The Benefice YouTube page address is:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNvupGQDQNwzvc_qXo6pQig

A shorter link is: shorturl.at/ctFI1

...which should also take you to the Benefice YouTube page.

PETER'S CHRISTMAS



1. What day of the year was Christmas Day in 2020?
2. Which animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
3. Which world leader celebrates his birthday on Christmas Day?
4. When do the 12 Days of Christmas start?
5. Which country annually sends a Christmas tree to be erected in London's Trafalgar Square?
6. Which monarch delivered the first Royal Christmas Day Message?
7. Which country is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition?
8. What happened in the 1914 Christmas Day truce during the First World War?
9. In which year was the first Christmas card sent?
10. What indispensable item for the Christmas table did Tom Smith, a confectioner, invent?
11. In which Ocean can Christmas Island be found?
12. In what type of building was the baby Jesus born in?
13. What is your star sign if you are born on Christmas Day?
14. What time is the Queen's speech traditionally broadcast?
15. What gifts did The Three Wise Men give Jesus on his birthday?
16. Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day in 1066?
17. Which country traditionally plays the Boxing Day Test Match every year?
18. Which plant-based Christmas tradition was started by servants in Victorian Britain?
19. Which plant has bright red and green leaves and is sometimes known as the Christmas Flower?
20. How many ghosts appear in A Christmas Carol?

ANSWERS TO PETER'S NOVEMBER QUIZ TIME!

1. Mediterranean: 2. Australia, Africa: 3. Dime: 4. Dutch: 5. Orange: 6. Graffiti:
7. South Pacific: 8. Apollo XI: 9. Nigel Benn: 10. Donna



A lorry driver with bad sight
Is driving hours through the night
He reaches Dover
And crosses over
Not knowing if its left or right

I pulled a cracker got a paper hat
With a joke and some tat
Then to my surprise
There's a box of nice mince pies
Nicely squashed where Grandad sat

The collection plate doing its rounds
Generosity knows no bounds
In went a twenty
Which is certainly plenty
Until change was taken without any sounds

Thanks Tony J, the Tuffley Poet, for these.

Christmas by Charles Silliman

By a star, the three wise men were led.
But they found, as they stood at His bed,
That the one brightest light
On that first Christmas night
Was the glow from the Son of God's head.

Afoot by Chris Doyle

"Ho, Watson! The game is afoot!"
Shouted Holmes as he noticed the soot.
Then he walked 'cross the floor
From the hearth through the door
To a tree where the toys had been put.

If you think that you can do better than these get your limericks to me by 13 January and we'll see!



QUIET PRAYER GROUP
will meet again on
Friday 28 January 2022 at 2.30pm
in the Lady Chapel of St George's Church



CLEANING OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Our Churchwardens at St George's are to my knowledge still trying to put together a rota for the cleaning of our Church on a regular basis. 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're asked to clean once a month or possibly once every two months; a couple of hours each time is all you're being asked to do on a rota basis. Make that New Year's Resolution NOW!

Remember; the best things in life are free, just like volunteers.



GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ

Questions based on the Gospel readings for October

- 1 In His sermon on the mount Jesus talked about 'worry' and the 3 areas of our lives which can be of concern to us. He started each concern with the words 'what you will'. What are the 3 areas?
- 2 A man ran up to Jesus and asked about 'inheriting eternal life' Jesus gave a list from the 10 commandments; you shall not ...murder ...commit adultery ...steal ...bear false witness ...defraud. Then Jesus said, 'Honour_____'. Who or what was Jesus saying should be honoured?
- 3 Jesus looked at His disciples and said, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to...". To do what?
- 4 Sometime after sending out the 10 Jesus sent out others, in pairs. How many pairs were sent out?
- 5 Jesus said to those he was sending out, "Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals and greet_____" Can you finish the sentence?
- 6 When the Pharisees challenged Jesus saying his testimony was invalid because there was no one else to testify for him, Jesus replied, "You search the _____ because in them you think you have eternal life." What were the Pharisees searching?
- 7 Jesus then went on to add, "Do think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is_____". Who is Jesus referring to?
- 8 The Bible tells us 'Jesus wept'. But which Gospel, chapter and verse tell us of this situation?
- 9 When Jesus instructed, 'take away the stone', which of the sisters commented 'Lord there is already a stench!'
- 10 When Lazarus came out of the tomb what instruction did Jesus give the onlookers in regard to Lazarus?

Answers to this month's Gospel Truth Bible Quiz are printed later in this issue

JILL'S JOTTINGS

from St Margaret's

Well, hello folks! It's me again that really annoying person who does at St Margaret's Church. Well, my mates Marilyn, Dianne and me did a clean on Monday, 8 November there I was looking everywhere for the poppies to sort out so they could be put in the greenery which was already out. I was frantically looking for them when Dianne said, 'Jilly look! The poppies are already done, and they look wonderful'. So a big thank you to Gloria as I know that you have had a few health problems recently.

We always put the world to rights before we get stuck into the cleaning and just as we had done justice to that the door opened and a couple of young men asked if they could look around the church and churchyard. Of course, they were welcome to, if they didn't mind three ladies carrying on working in the church. So, they had a quick look round and left, I saw them a little while later looking around the churchyard. I do hope they found what they were looking for in our churchyard.

We will have our remembrance service on the following Thursday morning with Jonathan taking the lead. I'm afraid that I shan't be there this year as I have to take my sister, Margaret, to the hospital. Her appointment is at 9.00am, so I'll be picking her up around 8.00am so we can be there on time. I hate being late for Doctors at any time! So Malcolm will be sorting the alter out for me and his wife Dot would take over the serving for me. I did tell Jonathan; I just hope that he remembered.

We were all talking about how we feel about our little church, I said to the girls that when we leave after our cleaning session our church smells of furniture polish, Brasso and lots of love; it always feels full of love when we enter and when we leave. I hope that everyone who comes into St Margaret's has that same feeling of joy when they enter. We were reminiscing about how many people we had lost over the years, there are quite a few: I wonder if we will ever get new members of the congregation to replace them? Hopefully we will but for now I must close, so look after yourselves and keep staying safe

JILL PONTER

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 eat, drink, wear: 2 your father and mother: 3 Enter the kingdom of God:
4 35 pairs: 5 no one on the road: 6 scriptures: 7 Moses: 8 John 11:35:
9 Martha: 10 Unbind him and let him go:



English Martyrs, Tuffley Lane
Saturday 18 December at 7.30pm

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

with Love2Sing Community Choir

Tickets: adults £5.00, children £3.00

Family ticket (2 adults and upto 3 children) £15.00

Put the date in your diaries now!

Tickets can be ordered through Darrell

PLEASE NOTE

That there will not be an increase in the cost of Crossroads for 2022 issues will remain at 50p per issue 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 www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

But please let us know if you decide to view Crossroads via our website so we don't print or deliver copies needlessly.

HOW TUFFLEY HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST 75 YEARS

My early memories of Tuffley go way back to a young boy of aged seven somewhere around 1946 when Epney Road ended where Longney Road now starts. There was no connection between Podsmead Road and Epney Road at that time; Cole Avenue was yet to be built as it was on hold due to the war years.

Sometime between 1949 and the early 1950s the two roads, Epney and Podsmead were linked in a straight line thus allowing a bus service to come up Tuffley Avenue and terminate at Slimbridge Road. You can still see to this very day where room had to be made for a bus to turn round and park ready for its return trip. On one occasion a double decker bus failed to straighten up as it turned into Tuffley Lane so it ended up the driveway of 182 and ended up inside the house.

There wasn't a roundabout at the end of Epney Road/Tuffley Lane in those early days just a very large triangle with a huge water butt in the middle of it, obviously left over from the 1939/45 was years almost certainly in case of fires.

On the left of Tuffley Lane above the railway line there were just a few houses but nothing on the other side until you got to the police station. The prefab estate had not yet been built, neither had Campden Road or Firwood Drive. Coming back to Grange Road on the righthand side were houses 2 to 18 then a big gap before you got to Whitcombe Farm. Then it was only farm buildings and grazing land right up to where the alleyway now takes you through to the shops.

Glencoe was the first house after that, then again nothing until just before where Tesco Express now stands which was built on the site of a disused petrol station. There were two houses just before that and the three Woodbine Cottages. Years later 1 Woodbine Cottage was chopped off to allow road widening.

On the other side of Grange Road from the garden of rest there were houses built for the RAF numbered 1 to 33; one of which was eventually sold off and demolished to make way for St David's Close and then it was cottages all the way up to Tom Robbins' Dairy. The only other building on that side of the road

was a big house standing in its own grounds with very ornate metal gates which were roughly opposite where, Windsor Drive joins Grange Road. All the land on the left hand side was Lovell's Orchard which stretched right up to the railway line with a brook running through it, which passed under Grange Road next to the shop.

The tarmac road upto the railway bridge and beyond was very narrow no more than 8 feet wide. The only other building before you got to Whaddon Junior School was Tony Goscombe's farm which was eventually levelled to make way for a Persimmon Homes site.

Tuffley Lane ran from Bristol Road through to Stroud Road where the New Inn stood which is now a car park having been replaced by the Fox and Elm pub. The lower half of Tuffley Lane itself was very narrow with an evil smelling ditch down one side of it. With only two dwellings, Davies' Farm and Palmer's Bakery where Corolin Road is now. The lane itself still remains narrow from Bristol Road through to Epney Road but is much wider on up to the railway bridge.

MALCOLM MARTIN



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya! Maya! Where are you, Maya? Trixie, what are you whinging about now? I'm not whinging Maya, I just didn't know where you were, that's all. I'm here Trixie, now what do you want? Well, it's like this Maya, you know you said that you would not go to that place again. Yes, Trixie, I said that, but then what happened, Maya, our mum got us both into that cat box again! I know Trixie but, it wasn't my fault. One minute I was running around the living room waiting for my dinner and our mum gave it to me and when I had finished, she had her own dinner. I knew there was something up when she kept the door shut, Trix. I know, Maya, she always shuts the door when she wants to do something to us. Oh, and then she grabbed me and shoved me head first into the box, She shut me in first, then caught you. But I managed to slip past her didn't I Maya!

She still caught me though and shoved me back into the box, what a liberty! I know Trixie, and that box is not as big as the other one she has, don't know what happened to that one but never mind that; it was still a flammin' liberty.

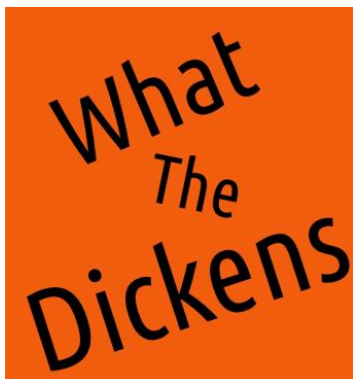
We were in that motor vehicle for ages before our mum came to us. I don't know what she was doing but I wasn't half fed up. Then once we got to that horrible place we had to sit in the box and all those puppy dogs didn't half make us jump! I know our mum almost had a heart attack when that puppy dog barked so loudly, she nearly fell off her seat. What a noise! That little dog had such a big voice that she set my teeth on edge.

Then, when that lady doctor took us into her room Maya, I nearly fell over. Trixie, you did fall over!! All over me so much so that I was nearly pushed out of the door of the box. I was first one out, you made sure of that. I didn't know that she would strong arm you Maya, Trixie, between the doctor and our Mum my fate was sealed! First there was the pin in the neck and then it was the gobstopper down my throat and then the total indignity of having my toenails cut! I know it doesn't sound much, but our mum was hanging on to me like a limpet. She wouldn't let me go until I had to go on those scales. I hadn't put on any weight, in fact I had lost two ounces and when they had finished with me I had to wait until I could get back in the box. But they had to lever you out first, didn't they Trix. Well Maya, I just didn't fancy all that fuss, but I must admit that the doctor was vert soft hearted. She was very gentle with me and managed to give me a pin, but that one didn't half hurt! She had to give me a second pin, but she said that I was very brave! I had a gobstopper too, just like you, Maya. I had my toes chopped, it was very hair raising I couldn't wait to get back in the box with you and go home.

I know just how you feel Maya, I was never so glad to be out of a place in my life. When we got home, I was able to go out into our own garden, the feeling was just heaven. We bumped into the two gingers, it was great to see them as we had lots of things to tell them and lots of gossip to catch up on.

Trixie you need to say Cheerio to everyone now. Oh yes, Cheerio everyone, all the best and it's tata from me, Maya, too. So, until the next time take care.

Best wishes
MAYA AND TRIXIE PONTER



**Come along and watch
St George's Entertainers
re-tell a Classic Christmas tale**

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER

**7.00pm SHERRY or FRUIT JUICE
and MINCE PIE RECEPTION**

PERFORMANCE START TIME 7.30pm

**TICKETS £5.00 each
from Glenda and Darrell**

of course, there will be a RAFFLE

ANY PROFIT WILL GO TO ST GEORGE'S CENTRE

The wearing of a mask is up to the individual

Let Us Entertain You in 2022 so we can share with each other in song, word, humour etc. So come on sort out that poem or monologue you've be wanting to do for ages, or that song you've been wanting to sing to us, or that instrument that you've been practising during lockdown and you can have that opportunity, *not sure when...* yet, but I do know where it will be; St George's Centre, and *eventually I know that we'll meet up again* and be ready to stand in the spot light and perform to your heart's content in the way only you know best.



Interested in taking part? Contact Darrell (contact details on page 2)

TO ALL OUR READERS, DISTRIBUTORS, ARTICLE PROVIDERS
WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



CAN YOU HELP?

A Family of 5; 2 adults and 3 children are looking for a 3 bedroomed house to rent in Tuffley, Quedgeley or Kingsway. If you can help or know of such an available property, please ring 01452 504749. Thank you

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas flowers, in memory of loved ones, can be given to either Gloria or to Jill at St Margaret's.

If you would like to make a donation towards St George's Flower Fund in memory of a loved one this Christmas, please use the envelopes that are at the back of the church and then give it to either Mike or Sylvia.

Thank you



**This raffle will be drawn on Sunday 5 December
after St George's Parish Communion**

So, there are not many opportunities now to get your raffle tickets for St George's Christmas Raffle; Glenda and Darrell will be in the small hall of St George's Centre selling tickets on 28 November and 5 December after the Parish Communion. They will also be at Coffee Pot on 30 November and Glenda will be selling tickets in the Church Office on 1st and 3rd December.

So, get your tickets to make sure that you are in the draw for a Christmas themed prize.



NOVEMBER

Sun 28		December/January Crossroads available	
		ADVENT SUNDAY	
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
Mon 29	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 30	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	St G's
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH

DECEMBER

Wed 1	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 2	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	7.00pm	Advent Group 1	V
Fri 3	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B's
	7.30pm	Gardening Club Christmas Party	MH
	7.30pm	Entertainers	SH
Sat 4	7.00pm	WHAT THE DICKENS! Christmas Show	MH
Sun 5		ADVENT 2	
	10.30am	Family Praise	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by Christmas Draw	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong: Darkness to Light a special service for Advent	St M's
Mon 6	10.00am	Speakability	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH

	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 7	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.45am	Advent Group 1	SL
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 8	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 9	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	7.00pm	Advent Group 2	V
Fri 10	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 11	10.00am	Messy Church	St G's
Sun 12		ADVENT 3	
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by 100 Club Draw	St G's
Mon 13	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 14	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.45am	Advent Group 2	SL
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
	6.30pm	Cubs / Beavers	MH
Wed 15	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	7.30pm	Refresh Carol Service everyone is welcome	St B's
Thu 16	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Advent Group 3	Vicarage
	7.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	St M's
Fri 17	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B's
	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 18	11.00am	CiT Environmental Litter Pick	St B's
Sun 19		ADVENT 4	
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	12.30pm	Child's Party	MH
	4.00pm	Carol Service	St G's

Tue 21	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.45am	Advent Group 3	SL
	7.00pm	Candlelight Carol Service	St M's
Wed 22	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 23	10.30am	Parish Communion	10.30am
	7.00pm	Advent Group 4	Vicarage
Fri 24		CHRISTMAS EVE	
	4.00pm	Family Worship	St G's
	11.30pm	Christmas Communion	St G's
Sat 25		CHRISTMAS DAY	
	10.00am	Christmas Family Praise with Communion	St M's
Sun 26		BOXING DAY/CHRISTMAS 1	
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
	10.30am	Said Communion	St G's
Tue 28	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
Wed 29	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 30	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's

JANUARY 2022

Sun 2		EPIPHANY	
	10.30am	Family Praise	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Tue 4	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
Wed 5	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 6	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 7	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 8	9.30am	Private let	SH
	10.00am	Messy Church	St G's
Sun 9		BAPTISM OF CHRIST	

	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
Mon 10	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 11	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union AGM	SH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.00pm	Benefice Standing Committee	SH
Wed 12	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 13		Crossroads article deadline	
	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 14	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sun 16		EPIPHANY 2	
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	11.30am	Private let of Centre for Baptism & Birthday Party	MH
	12.30pm	Baptisms of Kaci-Rose Elizabeth Chappell & Jasper James Andrew Sweet	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 17	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 18	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 19	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee	SH
	7.30pm	Refresh	EM
Thu 20	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's

Fri 21	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
	11.00am	CiT Environmental Litter Pick	EM
Sun 23		EPIPHANY 3	
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
Mon 24	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 25	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 26	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 27	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 28	2.30pm	Quiet Prayer Group meet at Christ Church, Abbeydale	
	7.30pm	Entertainers	SH
	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
Sun 30		PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE/CANDLEMASS	
		February Crossroads available	
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
Mon 31	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH

FEBRUARY

Tue 1	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 2	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 3	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL

	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 4	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sun 6		4th Sunday Before Lent	
	10.30am	Family Praise	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's

St G's = St George's Church, St M's = St Margaret's Church
EM = English Martyrs Catholic Church, St B's = St Barnabas' Church
GB = Grange Baptist Church
MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge,
MR = Meeting Room, V = Vicarage, O = Office

There are occasionally changes to the weekly timetable so please refer to our weekly newsletter, Signpost for details of any changes. Crossroads and our weekly newsletter are now available for free on our website.

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk



Our Gloucester Foodbank are in need of the following, if you can help by donating anything from the following list do. There is a crate at the back of St George's Church for donations there is also a collecting point in St George's Centre entrance hall.

**LONG LIFE MILK (not chilled), PACKET PASTA'N'SAUCE,
PACKET SAVOURY RICE, TINNED SPAGHETTI
FESTIVAL SPONGE PUDDING (no alcohol), SAVOURY SNACKS,
CHRISTMAS BISCUITS, SHOWER GEL, SHOWER GEL AND SHAMPOO**

Ben, from the Foodbank, usual collects donations around 10.30am on a Friday morning.

A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Snowflakes.

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

What type of Christmas dessert shouldn't you trust? Mince spies.

What kind of fish do they have at the North Pole? Jollyfish.

Which of Santa's reindeer needs to mind his manners the most? Rude Olph.

What did the English teacher call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? Claustrophobic.

What do you call a chicken at the North Pole? Lost.

What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

What do you get when you cross vampires and snowmen? Frostbite.

What do you call an elf that can sing? A wrapper.

How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer.

What do you call a reindeer ghost? Cari-boo!

What would you get if you ate all the Christmas tree decorations? Tinselitis.

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.

What do Santa's little helpers like to eat on a cold day at the North Pole?
Elf-abet soup!