

CROSSROADS

The magazine for
St George's Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon
Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering

Growing God's Kingdom



A blue NHS poster with the HM Government logo in the top left and the NHS logo in the top right. The main text reads 'CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO STAY SAFE' in yellow and white. Below this, it says 'Go to gov.uk/coronavirus'. At the bottom, a yellow banner with black and green diagonal stripes contains the text 'STAY ALERT > CONTROL THE VIRUS > SAVE LIVES'.

PLEASE KEEP TO THE COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

ST GEORGE'S

Sundays

Parish Communion at 10.30am

Tuesdays

Parish Communion at 10.00am

Wednesdays

Morning Prayer at 8.15am on Zoom

ST MARGARET'S

1st Sunday

Family Praise at 10.30am and

Evensong at 5.00pm

2nd Sunday

Parish Communion at 9.00am

3rd Sunday

Evensong at 5.00pm

4th Sunday

Parish Communion at 9.00am

5th Sunday

Parish Communion at 9.00am

Thursday

Parish Communion at 10.30am

FEBRUARY 2022

50p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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Instagram: @TuffleyStG

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

Twitter: @TuffleyStG

REV RACHEL WRITES...

Happy New Year!

First, I would like to say a huge thank you to all who made Christmas at St George's and St Margaret's so special this year, despite the shadow of Covid once again. The Candlelit Carol services at St Margaret's were fantastic, with so much candlelight; reminding us that no shadow or darkness can put out the light brought by Jesus. The Carol service 'with a difference' at St George's put a smile on many of our faces and reminded us of the joy and hope we have through Jesus. We were delighted too to have 38 Christmas Messy Church bags requested, and many thanks to the Messy Church Team for making that possible. Thanks too for your generosity of donations for the Christmas Hampers, and for the Food Bank donations through 2021 – which totalled 3 tonnes of food! Of course, there is so much more that I could mention, including how lovely it was to see everyone who came along to the churches this Christmas. We kept those in prayer who couldn't be physically present, and we remembered dear friends and family who sadly died this year.

Now we look to this new year with hope and prayer. I've seen so many comments on social media saying things like, 'let's hope 2022 is a better, brighter year for us all!' That probably resonates for most of us, as in many ways the last two years have been collectively difficult and unpredictable. A lighter, brighter year is what many yearn for – I write this on a very bright January day, with blue sky and the sun shining down; the sort of day that lifts our spirits.

Early in the pandemic, there were a few times when many of us lit a candle in the window, to symbolise hope and prayer. Indeed, a lit candle has become a universal sign of hope. It's not difficult to see why if we think of a completely dark space, and the difference just one lit candle can make. As Christians, we believe that Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is the light of hope shining through any darkness and difficulty we experience.

Whatever 2022 brings for you, I hope and pray that you will experience God's light and love every day and be uplifted in the knowledge that the darkness can never overcome the light of Christ.

RACHEL

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Our sympathies to the family and friends of: -

Beryl O'Brien: Jeanne Audrey Wilson:

Muriel Jean Mayo: Graham Hall:

May they rest in peace

Linda Medwell writes...

A few months ago, I unfortunately had the occasion to use the emergency services. I spent 16 hours in Casualty and finally was admitted to the Assessment Unit to be treated. At this point I would like to emphasise this is in no way a gripe about our wonderful NHS. What I witnessed I found really distressing. I arrived to see 15 ambulances piled up outside Casualty with many sick patients waiting to get access to the unit due to the lack of beds. Later, on speaking to a delightful Staff Nurse, I was told that in the space of a couple of hours they had seen 101 patients and still they kept coming.

During the night I witnessed people begging for help for their loved ones with mental health issues, an older lady who slept in her invalid chair for 26 hours awaiting a vacant bed and being looked after by a very distressed loving daughter, and the usual Friday night problems associated with alcohol. I could go on.

During this time what I witnessed was staff who never deviated from responding with the greatest care and compassion for all who passed through their doors that night. Once I was processed, I too received the most excellent of care with courtesy, compassion and dignity. I know that I am probably preaching to the converted, but we must re-evaluate how we use our emergency services. We cannot expect our NHS to support this kind of workload indefinitely, especially in the light of this pandemic.

I would ask for your prayers and ongoing support for all our NHS especially as they continue to face yet another surge in the cases of Covid.

And a prayer for our NHS...

Gracious God, like never before, we thank you for our NHS and those enlightened politicians who set it up after the war. May we never take it for granted, may we never begrudge the taxes we pay and may we always be thankful. Bless our nurses and doctors, chaplains, those who work in our laboratories, those who drive our ambulances and other vehicles. Thank you for their sacrificial love that gives a glimpse of your love and grant us all relief from this pandemic and the grace to be bear our suffering through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

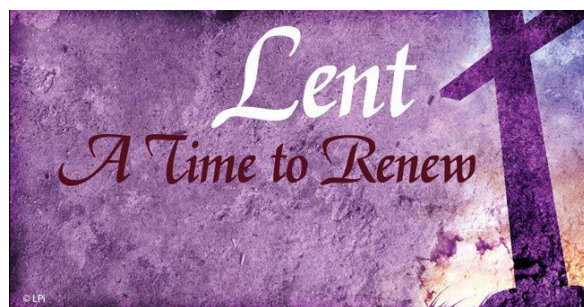


LENT 2022

Ash Wednesday is 2nd March

1st Sunday of Lent is 6th March

Keep your eyes peeled and keep your ears open to find out just what is happening in the Benefice 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.



Get involved with a Lent Group in 2022

[Speak to Rachel](#)

“Lent is a journey which moves us all towards the cross”

“THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS ... ”

On 6th February it will be exactly seventy years since our Queen acceded to the throne. Much will be said this year about her incredible era of service and about the colossal degree of change that her reign has witnessed.

I'm sure many of you will have noticed that she finished her Christmas broadcast with the familiar words from 'O little town of Bethlehem': "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight". Although we are now a little late for Christmas, I thought that a few words about 'O little town' might be of interest.

The words were written in 1868 by Phillips Brooks, a young American priest, later to become Bishop of Massachusetts. He had visited Bethlehem three years earlier. It seems clear that this had affected him deeply: no doubt it was a much quieter and more peaceful place in those days.

Brooks wrote the carol for the Sunday School of his church in Philadelphia. 'O little town' is a very skilful piece of writing which has inspired countless Christians. Some might say it is a bit demanding for young children. But Brooks' skill was to produce words which paint an evocative picture of the sleeping Bethlehem, but which also take us to the very heart of the Incarnation. It is poetry of a high order. Brooks heightens the effect in several ways. Note how he uses an internal rhyme in lines three and seven of each verse. Thus, we have "the hopes and fears of all the years" which Her Majesty quoted, "and praises sing to God the King", "while mortals sleep, the angels keep..." and so on. This I think is appealing to a child's ear, breaking up the long lines, and making them easier to remember. To an adult the effect is not lessened with familiarity: it gives the verses a sense of onward movement.

But let's not get too stuck on the technicalities of metre and rhyme. To me the outstanding quality of these words is their ability to move us on from the vision of the silent streets of Bethlehem to the infinite scale of God's love at work in our needy world. If we seek to grasp the meaning of Christmas, it is all here. The wonder of God's gift: "the blessings of his heaven". And if we seek his forgiveness ("cast out our sin") then ours is also the prayer "O come to us, abide with us..."

It is very sad, in my view, that Brooks' fourth verse is omitted by most of the hymn books. I cannot believe that this is any reflection of its quality but must simply be an ill-judged desire to keep the hymn short. Let me quote the verse for you:

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

What is Brooks doing here? Firstly, he is bringing children into the picture: perhaps he was thinking of the "pure and happy" young souls of the Sunday School class for whom he was writing. But next, human pain, charity and faith are each personified in a remarkable way. The cry of poor, the witness of Christian love, and the power of faith "holds wide the door". Wow, this is powerful imagery, but we are not yet finished: "the long night breaks, the glory wakes, and Christmas comes once more". A new chance, in other words, to accept the free gift of God's love and to use it to serve a world in need. What a tragedy that this powerful verse has been very largely lost to our congregations.

Well, if you come to the candlelit carol service at St Margaret's you will probably sing "O Little Town", and if you do, you will DEFINITELY sing this verse as long as I have any influence in the matter. Yes, it makes the service 45 seconds longer, but I hope you will agree it's worth it!

That's more than enough from me this month, dear friends, but next time I hope to write at rather less length about what Jilly loves to call the TOONS. Watch this space

JONATHAN

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift
The purpose of life is to give that gift away"*



To have your **MARCH 2022 CROSSROADS** ready for publication on **SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY**

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

...SUNDAY 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



Messy Church meetings are currently under review; please keep an eye on Signpost for updates on when we shall meet again.

THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM



Bishop Rachel will be preaching at St George's on Mothering Sunday, 27th March; a Benefice Parish Communion is being arranged for that day, everyone is encouraged to join the two Rachel's so we can all celebrate together.

Also, we are looking to plan an event at St George's (inside and outside) on St George's Day, Saturday 23rd April so we can celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. We will also celebrate 80 years of St George's Church buildings being on its current site in Grange Road, Tuffley. We can also confirm that it is 80 years since the Lower Tuffley branch of the Mothers' Union was formed.

We're not 100% sure what the event will look like yet, but we're open to suggestions...

You might see a suggestion box at the back of St George's soon, so please let us know what you think.

As a start... if you have any photos taken in previous years at or around St George's please look them out as they may help us to show how the parish has developed over the past 80 years

NEWS FROM GLOUCESTER CITY DEANERY

As from January 2022, Jo Pestell (St Catherine's) is our new Area Dean. Rob Crofton (St Lawrence's, Barnwood) and Sarah Todd (St Barnabas) are our new Assistant Area Dean's. These appointments follow Ruth Fitter's move to Oxford to take up a Chaplaincy post and Michael Garland's delayed retirement. A new assistant lay chair is being sought with a view to shadowing and subsequently succeeding Les Reilly, the current lay chair.

An extract from Bishop Rachel's letter to members of the Gloucester City Deanery...

I am very pleased to inform you that Jo Pestell has agreed to take on the role of Area Dean from 13th January 2022. Jo will build a team with two Assistant Area Deans, and I am delighted to let you know that Rob Crofton (St Lawrence) and Sarah Todd (St Barnabas, Tuffley and St. Katharine's, Matson) have kindly agreed to be Assistant Area Deans as you continue to live and develop your collaborative ministry across the deanery. I know that you will all want to offer your support to Jo, Rob and Sarah - please do hold them in your prayers.

Furthermore, as part of this collaborative and new team approach I encourage the deanery to think and pray about identifying an Assistant Lay Chair to work alongside Les Reilly and to whom he can then pass on the baton. As I express my gratitude to Jo, echoed by Bishop Robert and Archdeacon Hilary, we once again want to underline our thanks to Ruth Fitter and Michael Garland for all they have both given as Area Dean and Assistant Area Dean. This comes with my continued thanks and prayers for the deanery, and our shared partnership in the gospel.



Our 'annual meetings' will take place on **Sunday 15th May 2022**. After the morning parish communion at St George's and after Evensong at St Margaret's. This is the time when we elect our Parish Church Council members, Churchwardens, and other officers for the ensuing year. Please think about whom you might like to nominate for the privilege and responsibility of sharing the leadership of our two churches in this way and to consider whether you, yourself, might be willing to step up forward. But most of all, please keep the matter in your prayers.

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...
1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2021 only**

The deadline for the receipt of ALL reports is **Sunday 3rd April 2022**; your report will not appear in the reports pack if it is received after the set deadline date.

ELECTORAL ROLL: If your name does not appear on the current Electoral Rolls, you will not be eligible to vote at APCMs or be elected on to either St George's or St Margaret's PCCs.

The current Electoral Roll for St George's and St Margaret's will be displayed on the church notice boards but from when, has not yet been decided. If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms are at the back of church or 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).

More information will be published in subsequent issues of Signpost and Crossroads.

"Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living"



QUIET PRAYER GROUP
will meet again on
Friday 25th February 2022 at 2.30pm
in the Lady Chapel of St George's Church

Let Us Entertain You on Saturday 5th March, where we can share with each other in song, word, humour etc. So come on, sort out that poem or monologue you've been 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, in St George's Centre from 7.30pm onwards, so get ready to step into the spotlight and perform to your heart's content in the way only you know best.

*Let us
Entertain you!*

I've got some volunteers already so, if you are interested in taking part too, please contact Darrell (contact details on page 2).

"Laughter and enjoyment, is the key to entertainment"

"Entertainment is about taking people away from the regular order of things, when there is chaos, pain and stress in their lives"



GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ

Questions based on the Gospel readings for December

- 1 Which area of Israel was Pontius Pilate governor of?
- 2 When John the Baptist began to preach in the wilderness there were two high priests. Can you name either?
- 3 Who was John the Baptist's father?
- 4 When the Pharisees came to observe John baptising, he referred to them as a type of snake. What species of snake did he call them?
- 5 The people were wondering if John was the Messiah. He answered them saying, 'I baptise with water, but one who is more powerful is coming. He will baptise with the ____ ____ ____'. Can you fill in the missing words?
- 6 John went on to say, 'His _____ fork is in his hand'. What type of fork was it?
- 7 Who was John the Baptist's mother?
- 8 When Mary visited her Elizabeth lived in the hill country of ____?
- 9 Jesus warned his disciples they would face persecutions. He said, 'I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of _____. Into the midst of what?'
- 10 He advised them to be as Wise as _____ and, innocent as _____. What are the two missing words?

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

MORE

BREAKING NEWS

St George's Entertainers are planning their own Celebration of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 2nd April; so, put the date in your diaries now. More information will be available in Signpost and the next issue of Crossroads.

IN YOUR STRIDE by Tony J

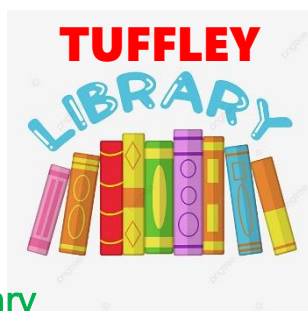
As we enter, yet another year
Is there anything, we should fear
Life will change, just as the tide
Time to take it, in your stride

Embrace the change, that comes your way
Confront the challenges, come what may
See the world, that opens wide
All is possible, when in your stride

Each day may bring, a brand new task
If unsure, find a friend to ask
Never be afraid, to seek a guide
To complete your quest, when in your stride

Whether in sickness, or in health
Matters not if poor, or in wealth
There is no need, for you to hide
You can overcome and achieve, when in your stride

So forward now, with a sense of pride
Knowing the Lord is with you, by your side
He's your rod and staff, and will abide
To help you through - when in your stride



Hello again from Tuffley Library

Brand New this month is our Green and Eco collection of books. These cover a wide variety of topics to encourage us to each make small steps to help preserve our planet. Every little helps!

Our current regular groups are:

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

Computer Club: Thursdays at 11.00am

Hurray! Our Saturday morning **Lego Club** has restarted from 10.30am until 12.30pm. We can cater for all ages as we have Duplo too so make it an outing for the whole family. Just turn up to discover this week's theme and let your imagination run wild!

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

For any childminders out there, library staff are happy to put on a special story time for your children when you visit us. Just give us a call to arrange.

As ever we have books, audio books and a home delivery service. If you know of anyone who can't get out and would appreciate a book or spoken word delivery do, please let us know.

Take a New Year plunge and look at our online services at

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

You will find eBooks, eMagazines and a comprehensive virtual reference library. Remember too that the library space is available as venue hire for your club or meeting when we are closed. 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/>

Tuffley Library would like to host a plant swop on Saturday 7th May.

**It is an opportunity to showcase the library
and to generate a nice community event in the process,
with coffee and cake etc. of course.**

**Whether you are gardener or not and are interested, please contact
Margaret on the telephone number above.**



The December 100 Club Draw took place on Sunday 12th December and the lucky winners have received their prizes.

Did you miss out?

If you did, but you would like to be a part of this fundraising opportunity for 2022 see me as soon as possible so I can sort out your membership in time for you to be a part of our March 2022 draw, it is 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 as soon as possible

PLEASE NOTE...

That there will not be an increase in the cost of Crossroads for 2022; issues will remain at 50p per copy or £4.00 for the year if you pay in full by the end of February. Please make sure that you pay your magazine deliverer or, call me, and I'll pop round or, of course, you can drop it into the church office on a Wednesday or Friday before 11.00am.

Remember that if you have access to the internet, you can read Crossroads for free and in 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.

PETER'S FEBRUARY

Quiz

- 1 What is the world's largest land mammal?
- 2 Rio de Janeiro is a city in which South American country?
- 3 Which Middle Eastern city is also the name of a type of artichoke?
- 4 With which sport is Silverstone most associated?
- 5 Nostradamus was famous for making what?
- 6 In mythology, Romulus and Remus were brought up by which animal?
- 7 What is the main source of vitamin C?
- 8 Insulin is commonly used to treat which condition?
- 9 The first atom bomb was dropped on which Japanese city?
- 10 What is dermatophobia the fear of?
- 11 The Velocipede was a nineteenth-century prototype of what?
- 12 Which is Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, published for the first time in 1791?
- 13 What was the middle name of Wolfgang Mozart?
- 14 What is the art of stuffing animals for preservation?
- 15 The term bhp is used when describing the power of a motor vehicle; for what does it stand?
- 16 What is Prince William's second name?
- 17 Who invented the Flying Shuttle in 1733?
- 18 What does a Geiger Counter measure?
- 19 If you were an LLD, what profession would you be involved in?
- 20 How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Anne?

ANSWERS TO PETER'S DECEMBER/JANUARY QUIZ TIME!

1. 360th day: 2. Donkey: 3. Justin Trudeau: 4. Christmas Day: 5. Norway: 6. King George V: 7. Germany: 8. A game of football between British and German soldiers: 9. 1843: 10. The Christmas cracker: 11. Indian Ocean: 12. A stable: 13. Capricorn: 14. 3pm: 15. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh: 16. William the Conqueror (William I): 17. Australia: 18. Kissing under mistletoe: 19. Poinsettia: 20. Four



The Tuffley Poet strikes again...

OAPs can go crazy	A funeral plan in the mail
But hate the thought of being lazy	Can't afford a trip by rail
They can jump on a bike	Bus pass worn but ready
And even take a long hike	Legs not quite so steady
But don't like the look of a daisy	Time to miss the Blue Cross sale

...from me...

There was a young fella from Gloucester
Whose dog ran away, so he lost her
Whilst hunting around
He heard a woof sound
But the dog that he found was an imposter

...and from 1916

There was an old woman of Gloucester,
Whose parrot two guineas it cost her,
But its tongue never ceasing,
Was vastly displeasing
To the talkative woman of Gloucester.

If you think that you can do better than these! Get your limericks to me by 13th March, and we'll see!

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Judea: 2 Annas & Caiaphas: 3 Zechariah: 4 Vipers: 5 Holy Spirit and fire:
6 winnowing: 7 Elizabeth: 8 Judea: 9 wolves: 10 serpents, doves:

JILL'S JOTTINGS

from St Margaret's

Well, my friends, it's me again, the moaning Minnie that does at St Margaret's. We have had to do without our mate, Dianne, throughout December because she has been very poorly. Marilyn and I did the cleaning as usual and found out that our first Carols by Candlelight service was on 16th December. We told Jonathan that we should have the Christmas tree before that date.

We had the tree in the church porch on 11th December so that we could get on with the assembly and decorating; Marilyn, Jonathan and I manhandled the tree onto its plinth, then we started to put the lights on all over. Jonathan had to leave us to it as he was playing the organ for Jeanne Wilson's funeral. We were putting the finishing touches to the tree when it fell over! I had to leave Marilyn hanging on to it whilst I found someone to help us put it back up. Then we had to put most of the baubles back on. It seems silly now, but I must say a big thank you to the gentleman and his wife who helped us. I forget their names but thank you very much. Our tree looked so pretty, but it did have a bit of a lean, but I don't suppose anyone really noticed. It was fine for the service. I took our Marg, Alison Price and Carol Tarbox to the service, we left early so we weren't late; there were quite a few of us sitting in the pews. Marilyn and her sister Anne were in front of us, and we both said that the tree looked quite spectacular, considering that it had fallen down.

The service was wonderful, Rachel set the tone of the service just right, I did one of the readings which was nice. We had another service on 21st December and we hope in future to have two Carols by Candlelight services each year. I do hope that those who went to the second service this year enjoyed the experience. I told Marilyn that Gloria could not do the Christmas flowers this year, so she helped me to do them. I'm no flower arranger at all but I do my best. I went early to the supermarket and collected the flowers and left them in my car whilst I collected laurel and ivy. I thought I had collected enough but I still had to go out and cut some more down and to do some filling in; on Christmas morning I took my camera and took a whole lot of photos. I do hope that everyone enjoyed St Margaret's Christmas services and the flowers.

Well, my loves, that's about it for now, hope that you all had a good New Year; so, from Marilyn, Dianne and me until the next time.

JILL PONTER



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya! Maya! Oh, there you are! What are you doing in that garden bag? Just resting, Trix, just resting and it's quite warm as well. Warm? Maya, it's freezing out here. I know, Trix but, the wind passes over the bag and it's warm right by the wall. Oh Maya, you do find all the best places, shove over and I'll join you. Alright, just don't try sitting on me! I won't, just shift your bum over a bit. Oh, that's nice Maya, we can people watch from here and no one will see us. But we will be able to see our mum, when she gets back home. Maya? Where does she keep going off to? She keeps bringing lots of bags home and she says she has to go to the Post Office for stamps. What's stamps, Maya? I don't know Trix, but she keeps putting things on envelopes, have you seen all those envelopes that she has? She sticks those things on them and then throws them in that red box at the top of the hill. I just wonder if she knows what she is doing!

Oh, hello Ging and Little Ging, how are you these days, it's been a while since we last saw each other. I know Trix, what you doing in that sack? Oh, we're just people watching, Ging. Don't you do that? Well, we do, but we do that from inside our homes. Little Ging has just got a new bed. How come Little Ging? Well, Trix, it was like this, my human has family that comes to visit every now and then and they have a puppy and every time he comes, he chews my bed and then he shakes the living daylight out of it. Oh, Little Ging, what did your human do to the puppy? Not a lot, Maya, but I made my presence known to him. I biffed him on the nose, he was so surprised that he just sat on his bottom. He left my bed alone, well what was left of it anyway. My human picked it up and put it in the dustbin, so I went on the landing and stayed there.

Oh, Little Ging, poor you! When did you get your new bed? Well, that was just the other day, it was all wrapped up in pretty paper, but was just right for me. I now sleep in a little cupboard under the stairs and the puppy can't get at me or my bed, thank goodness! What about you Ging, have you got a new bed too? No Trix, I haven't, what about you two, have you been given anything new? No, not really, our mum just keeps us on our toes. We do try and please her,

she makes sure we are well fed, that's for sure. We have the very best and we do get the odd toy to play with, but in the main we just carry on as normal. Mum has been putting out things all over our new fire surround. It looks alright too! But I haven't a clue what she did it for, maybe she wanted it to look pretty for a change.

Well, you know that it's Christmas and our humans have done something similar in our houses as well. What's Christmas, Ging? Don't you know the story, Maya? Well, I think I do, our mum told us something a wee while back, but I don't understand it at all. I think it's someone's birthday, Trix. They do this every year? Yes, Trix, every year. You have a birthday every year too. Oh, I know about my birthday and Maya's birthday because it's the same day. Aren't we clever to be born on the same day? Trixie, you really are a card, you do make me laugh. We will see you two girls around, say hello to Yasmin for me and tell her that Harry is well on the way to a full recovery. Ging! What do you mean 'full recovery'? When we have more time. See you then, bye for now.

Now Trixie, it's time for us to say tata too, so off you go. Oh my, well folks it's tata from me, Trixie, and it's tata from me, Maya. Until the next time.

Best wishes
MAYA AND TRIXIE PONTER



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello everyone, I'm sorry about last time, but I lost track of time, also I couldn't find the writing materials. Where my mum puts them, I just don't know? She probably just hides them from me. Not a lot has happened though, all I do know is it's been cold and wet; but my mum still makes me go out in it and then she tells me off because I've got wet feet! I don't like the rain at all! I try to drape myself around my mum's legs to get the worst off. I must confess that

I do like home comforts. I'm fed and watered regularly, I sleep on my mum's bed which is so comfy, Aunty Jill comes in a lot, and she sometimes gives me a big cuddle-up. It's lovely. It doesn't happen very often, but I enjoy it when I can.

I do have little chats to Maya and Trixie when I can use that machine, it's been in use a lot recently, so I have to bide my time until I can get to it. Maya and Trixie do have a lot of adventures with their friends; the only felines living by me, only want to make mischief. I have a few scuffles with them, but I soon put an end to it. I then lick my wounds when mum opens the door. I haven't heard or seen that pesky dog for quite a while now, not that I see her, because I'm always shut up in my mum's bedroom, but I can hear her, because she snuffles around the door. Thank goodness she's never allowed in! I don't like any dogs coming near me. I just run away! My mum tells me that I'm a wuss. I don't care so long as I'm not late for my meals.

I've run out of think now, so I'll say tata for now.

Love, JoJo Whittle (Miss)

From the Diocese of Gloucester's February Messenger...

Praying together for LIFE Together

'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'. Philipians 4:6-7

Worshipping communities and individuals in and around Gloucestershire are invited to join in monthly prayers on Zoom for the work of the church in this area.

Prayer needs to be at the heart of all we are and do, so as we continue to live our LIFE Together vision, there will be a monthly online prayer gathering over Zoom. This is an exciting opportunity for us to gather across our many different local contexts and to discover new depths to prayer together.

Bishop Rachel writes, "The intention is that this is a time of prayer for anyone and everyone, regardless of age, story, church tradition or familiarity with prayer. All that is needed is a willingness to join in with what God is doing, as we bring our thanks and desires to God. No expertise or previous experience is required, and no one will be asked to speak unless they wish to do so."

The prayer gathering will last no more than 30 minutes and will be scheduled for a different time each month so as to be accessible to different people during the course of the year. Bishop Rachel or Bishop Robert will be present to welcome people, and each gathering will be led by someone different.

- Monday, 7 February, 5:30 pm, led by Bishop Robert, from St Barnabas Church, Gloucester
- Monday, 28 March, 10:30 am, led by Bishop Rachel

Email THastieSmith@glosdioc.org.uk for Zoom details.

One Diocese blog: Will Mansell shares his 'why'

Will Mansell, Pioneer Minister and Founder of the GRACE Network Social Enterprise shares his passion for creating social change through faith and action.

"As I grew into adulthood, I realised that my sense of being was motivated by a feeling of discontent between what the world could be, compared to what it currently is.

"Every manifesto that was written seemed to be a nod to the problem that quickly returned to the safe ground of compromise. Yet those who feel lost, lonely, hopeless or poor don't want compromise, they want power and agency to change.

"I began to help lead a small local church and as time went on, I would pray, go to church on a Sunday and then try to encourage people to be better citizens individually and collectively. The problem was although some people grew, the wider community kept on existing in its broken state and the world just rolled on, seemingly crushing people into despair and trouble.

"I began to be convinced that to create the conditions for change in the world, we needed to change our economy as that was the seat for so much power. If people have a job with a social purpose, it can give them meaning. A good workplace can give you community. A good employer invests in its staff to see them grow in skills, confidence, and leadership. I started to dabble in social enterprise, founding a couple myself, and rapidly ended up with a network of social enterprises based in a local warehouse.

My day job now is leading The Grace Network and co-leading a new monastic community called Wayfarers Monastery. The Grace Network aspires to create a network of place-based enterprise hubs that can spawn 100s of social enterprises over the next 50 years. Whilst Grace Network itself is not a religious organisation, we are pioneering a model of all-encompassing community building centred around monastic models of living.

My sense of purpose in life, my why, has always been to help people have the space and time to grow in emotional, physical, relational, spiritual, and intellectual capital and ultimately to be able to become leaders themselves.

In running Grace Network for 7 years, I have discerned some basic principles for this work:

1. Change needs to be done in community. No one can do it on their own.
2. Change can't be controlled from the top down. It needs to be a shared endeavour.
3. Change needs to include all aspects of life. It is not just a "work thing".
4. Change needs to happen little by little. It is not a quick fix.

"I don't know where my journey for meaning and hope will end up but working with the Diocese and 100s of people now involved in our site in Brimscombe, I am excited to share with others and meander forward to a more hopeful reality through the power of social enterprise and the ancient rhythms of monasticism. Will is working with the diocese to develop local social enterprises in our communities.

For more information contact Lucy Taylor, ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk



JANUARY 2022

Sun 30	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE February Crossroads available		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
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 TBC	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 2	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	7.00pm	St George's Centre Management Committee	SH
Thu 3	10.00am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 4	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B
	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
Mon 7	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 8	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's

	10.00am	Coffee Pot TBC	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union talk by Robin Burton "Our Heritage in Song"	SH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 9	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 10	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
Fri 11	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sun 13	3rd Sunday before LENT March Crossroads article deadline		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
Mon 14	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 15	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot TBC	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.00pm	Benefice PCC meeting	TBC
Wed 16	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee	SL
	7.30pm	Refresh	St G's
Thu 17	1030am	Day Centre	SH/SL
Fri 18	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B
	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 19	CiT Environmental Group Litter Pick meet at St George's		
Sun 20	2nd Sunday before LENT		
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's

Mon 21		Half Term week	
Tue 22	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot TBC	MH
Wed 23	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 24	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
Fri 25	7.30pm	Entertainers	SH
	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
Sun 27	Sunday before LENT March Crossroads available		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
Mon 28	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH

MARCH

Tue 1	St David's Day/Shrove Tuesday		
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	10.00am	Coffee Pot TBC	MH
	Interment of Ashes for the late Jeanne Wilson		St M's
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
Wed 2	ASH WEDNESDAY		
	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Thu 3	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
Fri 4	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER		
	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 5	7.30pm	Let Us Entertain You Evening	MH
Sun 6	1st Sunday of 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, V = Vicarage

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
SPONGE PUDDING (no alcohol), SAVOURY SNACKS,
BISCUITS, SHOWER GEL, SHOWER GEL AND SHAMPOO**

Ben, from the Foodbank, usual collects donations from St George's Centre on a Friday morning around 10.00am.

*"Never get tired of doing those little things for others,
often it's those little things that occupy the biggest space in their hearts"*

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

When I went to lunch today, I noticed an old man sitting on a park bench sobbing his eyes out. I stopped and asked him what was wrong. He told me, 'I have a 22 year old wife at home. She rubs my back every morning and then gets up and makes me pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit and freshly ground coffee.' I continued, 'Well, then why are you crying?' He added, 'She makes me homemade soup for lunch and my favourite biscuits, cleans the house and then watches sports TV with me for the rest of the afternoon.' I said, 'Well, why are you crying?' He said, 'For dinner she makes me a gourmet meal with wine and my favourite dessert and then we cuddle until the small hours.' I inquired, 'Well then, why in the world would you be crying?' He replied, 'I can't remember where I live.'

After returning from Rome, I couldn't find my luggage in the airport baggage area. So, I went to the lost luggage office and told the woman there that my bags hadn't shown up on the carousel. She smiled and told me not to worry because they were trained professionals and that I was in good hands. 'Now', she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?'

My sister and her husband had just finished tucking their young ones into bed one evening when they heard crying coming from the children's room. Rushing in, they found their eldest crying hysterically. He had accidentally swallowed a 5p piece and was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking could change his mind. Trying to calm him, his dad palmed a 5p coin that he happened to have in his pocket and pretended to remove it from his son's ear. He stopped crying immediately because he was so delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed it and demanded cheerfully - 'Do it again, Dad!'

A man boasts to a friend about his new hearing aid, 'It's the most expensive one I ever bought, it cost me £1800. His friend asks, 'What kind is it?' The man says, 'Half past four.'

An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman all entered a 26 mile swimming race. After 12 miles the Scottish man got tired and dropped out. Then after 16 miles the English man gets tired and drops out. After 25 miles the Irish man decides he can't finish the race either, so he turns around and swims back to the start.