

The Benefice of Gloucester St George with Whaddon
St Margaret of Scotland, Whaddon
Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering ...

Newsletter for Easter 2022



Dear Friends

Easter services

The main Easter services at St Margaret's will be an Easter Vigil on the Saturday evening at 8.30pm, and communion at 9.00am on Easter Day, followed by Family Praise at 10.30. (No evensong, even though it's a third Sunday.)

'Easter Vigil' may give the impression that it's a gloomy service, with a lot of sitting in silence. Definitely not! It's an exciting Eucharist which starts in semi-darkness with the first fire of Easter and works up gradually to a blaze of light and lots of music. The best way to start our Easter celebrations.

See the website for full details of all events for Holy Week and Easter.

Thursdays at 10.30

The Thursday service has continued to grow, in its own quiet way. The congregation often exceeds our Sunday attendance. Rachel, Jonathan and Lorraine take it in turns to offer a short reflection on the readings. It's a very special atmosphere and much appreciated by those who come.

Flags at St Margaret's

Dave Trigg has had to give up his work as our flag flyer, after a spell of six years or so. We are delighted that his new neighbour, Adam Broadbent, has taken over. Adam is following Dave's excellent example: the flags go up and come down exactly as per schedule, come rain or shine.

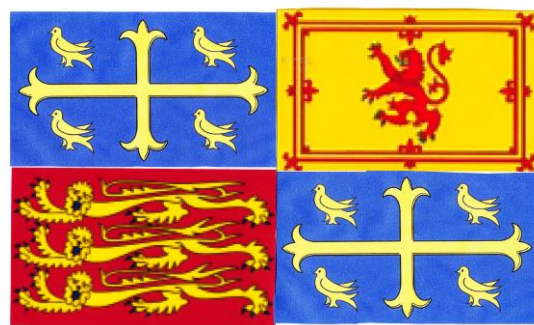


When we last produced a newsletter, we little thought that we would soon be flying a Ukrainian national flag, still less the grim reasons for it. It's actually a nine foot flag - a touch too big for the pole - but it sends out the clearest message. We hope it may give some comfort especially to members of the Ukrainian community here in Gloucester.

Flying the flag for Ukraine

On a happier note, we have acquired a Welsh Dragon flag for St David's day, and we are currently awaiting delivery of a totally new and unique flag, which we are calling the Whaddon Royal Standard. It's a combination of the St Edward's cross (for St Margaret of Scotland), the Scottish Lion, and the Three Leopards (or lions) of England. Any resemblance to the official Royal Standard is highly intentional, and we will look forward to flying it on royal occasions especially during this jubilee year.

This flag was very kindly sponsored by Roger Western in memory of his dear wife Ann, who for so many years was a staunch supporter of St Margaret's, and who served as churchwarden and PCC secretary.



The mock-up design for our new Whaddon Royal Standard



Yet another new flag: Jonathan and Revd Rachel with a replacement flag, kindly supplied by Mission to Seafarers, in good time for Sea Sunday in July.

Our new PCC secretary

We were delighted that Georgina Wood volunteered at the APCM not only to stand as a PCC member, but also to act as PCC secretary. She has wide experience of administrative matters and has the great benefit of being a touch typist and a skilled note taker. She is perfectly capable of completing the PCC minutes by the end of the meeting!

Outreach and New Housing

Construction of the 250 new houses at Yew Tree Gardens, to the south of Grange Road, is nearing completion. Welcome packs have been delivered in person to the first hundred or so households, as part of a joint effort by the Church in Tuffley.

St Margaret's is proud to be part of



There has been further work on draft plans for a far larger development of up to 3000 houses, all the way to Naas Lane. At the time of writing these plans are in abeyance, being enmeshed in the complexities of local planning and politics. Time will tell whether and when this massive change to our neighbourhood will come on stream.

Bird's-eye view of Whaddon

We were delighted to have a small selection of drone photos of the church, taken by Lee Grant from Bussage. Here's a sample:



Drone's eye view of St Margaret's, July 2021

Rachel and Paul

Special thoughts for our Vicar Rachel and her husband Paul as they celebrate their first wedding anniversary on Wednesday 30th March. Due to Covid restrictions they were only allowed six guests when they married in 2021, so they are marking the event now with a blessing of their marriage in the company of friends. May God richly bless their union with love, joy and peace.

Thank you for your help and support and your prayers, which mean a great deal to us.

Website for St George's and St Margaret's: <http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk>

NB: you can see our monthly magazine Crossroads on the website, and full details of services and other activities.

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JMJ