

# CROSSROADS

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

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering**

Growing God's Kingdom



**A very Merry Christmas to all our readers,  
see you in the New Year**

## **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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

**Evensong at 5.00pm**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

**Parish Communion at 9.00am and  
Family Praise at 4.00pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

**Evensong at 5.00pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Parish Communion at 9.00am**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Parish Communion at 9.00am**

**Thursday**

**Parish Communion at 10.30am**

# 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

## THE VICAR WRITES...

### The abundant love and hope of Jesus is always present...

Everywhere I've been recently, the same conversation seems to arise, "where has this year gone?" Perhaps at this time of year, it always feels like that, and maybe that's not surprising with all the messages in the shops and on the tv reminding us that Christmas is hurtling towards us! But there seems to be something even more intense about it this year. Maybe this is because it is the year following two very difficult pandemic dominated years, and, of course, Covid has still been with us this year too. Maybe it's because the year has been full of opportunities and challenges for us all, individually, and collectively. We are certainly living through a turbulent time; politically in our country and beyond, the rising cost-of-living, the issues surrounding the NHS and other country wide systems we'd come to rely on, the postal system, the train networks, I could go on. This year has also seen one of the biggest changes for our nation in 70 years, the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II.

Living through these turbulent times can make us anxious, fearful even. Indeed, looking across to the horror in Ukraine reminds us that peace in this world can be very fragile. In these times, both nationally and internationally, we are aware more than ever of our need of the grace of God and the love and hope we find through Jesus. We give thanks that we have a faithful God, who promises to be with us through the whole of our lives. Our beloved late Queen Elizabeth knew this well. In the run up to her 90th birthday in 2016 she said, "I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness."

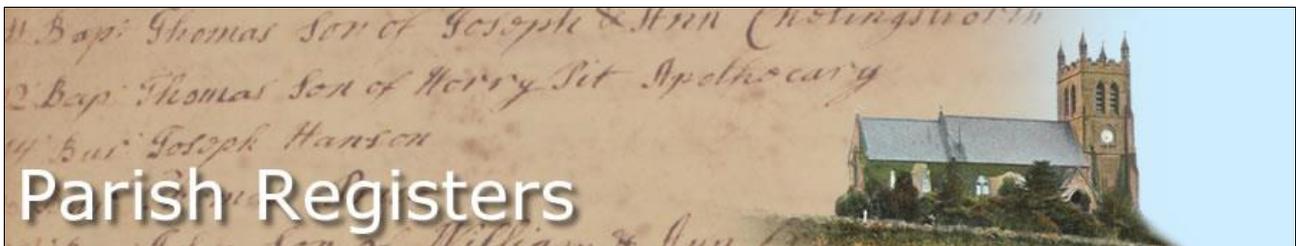
The other words I've heard many say recently are, 'this Christmas will need to be a simpler one' - it's not just that many people can't afford lavish decorations or an abundance of food and presents. We know that many families are wondering if they will be able to heat their homes and put food on the table this Christmas. Lorraine and Pete report that Gloucester Food Bank has seen a 77% increase in demand during October (compared to Oct last year) and Dawn has seen similar increases in Christmas referrals to Gloucestershire Bundles. That is to name just two local charities who are working tirelessly to serve those in need.

What about us? Can we commit to a simpler Christmas, where the message of love and hope found through Jesus is at the centre? If we are fortunate to have more than enough, can we think seriously about how we could share what God has given us, so that others will have enough too? Perhaps this year we could cut back on the number of Christmas cards we send across our church community and instead donate to the Food Bank, to Gloucestershire Bundles, or to another charity close to our hearts. If you would like to do that, there will be some colourful stars at the back of both churches that you can write your Christmas greeting on to the church community, to hang on the tree.

However, you mark Advent and celebrate Christmas this year, I pray that you will know the abundant love and hope brought by Jesus in your lives this Christmas.

With every blessing,

RACHEL



## Parish Registers

### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

**St George's**

Emelia Rose Dourneen

#### **FUNERALS**

**St George's**

Heather Powell RIP

Nicola Davies RIP

# REFRESH

**7.30pm, 21 DECEMBER 2022 at St George's**

Refresh can take many different forms, from in depth bible study to time for reflection, and is an opportunity to worship in a different setting. By the time this magazine is published the November meeting will have passed. I have offered to lead the December meeting at St George's on the twenty first.

What to expect this time: although it's very close to Christmas, this Refresh is not Christmas themed and will be a rest from the frantic Christmas melee. There will be some contemporary worship with time for reflection and affirmation. There will be much learning about each other and our gifts in a fun way. And to end, a new way to pray and something to take away.

There will be refreshments and minced pies! Do come and join us.

DEREK KINGSCOTE



On a very wet and windy Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> November evening Father Gerry Walsh gave a warm welcome to everyone who attended 'Time to Remember' at English Martyrs Catholic Church in Tuffley Lane. I'm pleased to report the service was well attended with the congregation being made up of both church and non-church residents of Tuffley.

Father Gerry was ably supported throughout the service by the leaders of the Church in Tuffley, the English Martyrs Choir, and members of English Martyrs Church, Sally Boughton who provided piano accompaniment, and George O'Neill, who gave a reading.

The service began with Father Gerry's warm welcome then the meeting opened with the hymn, 'How Great Thou Art' which was followed by an opening prayer. A reading from 'The Wisdom of Solomon 4:7-15' was given by Rev Sarah Todd of St Barnabas. Sarah then gave a reflection on the reading entitled 'A blameless life is ripe old age'.

We were then invited to sing 'The King of Love my shepherd is' after which George O'Neill read a poem by Winifred Mary Letts entitled 'Alive'.

There then followed a beautiful musical reflection played on the violin by Sally Boughton with two pieces, 'Ashokan Farewell' followed by 'Abide with me'. Rev Rachel Beck from St George's and St Margaret's, Whaddon, gave a reading and reflection entitled 'A place for us all', based on John 6:37-40.

The Act of Remembrance then followed.

Father Gerry invited those in the congregation who wished to light a candle to come forward whilst the Choir sang and names of 200 loved ones who had passed away were displayed on the screen. It was solemn, reflective time for us all as people quietly left their seat and moved forward to light a candle in remembrance.

Pastor David Crunkhurn, leader of Grange Baptist Church led a time of prayer culminating in the congregation being invited to sing "The Lord's Prayer". We were then invited to sing the final hymn, 'In Christ alone', before Father Gerry gave the blessing to which we all responded 'Amen', and then the dismissal, the response being, 'Thanks be to God'.

After the service those who were able stayed and enjoyed the refreshments and spent a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.

A lovely way to end what was a lovely service.

**"Peace on earth will come to stay  
when we live Christmas every day."**



### **Miracle on 34th Street – Advent reflections**

Thank you very much to those who gave feedback and ideas on the question of Advent Groups this year. The unanimous wish has been to continue with our film-based discussions, which have been very well attended and engaged with. Therefore, we will be looking at the classic film, 'Miracle on 34th Street' during Advent and using the film clips to help us think about faith and belief, especially with reference to Advent and Christmas. We will think about what inspires and challenges our faith today, and we will reflect on what it means for us this Christmas, in the year 2022, that we believe God came to live amongst us as a human being, Jesus, being born as a baby, 2000 years ago.

If you haven't yet been along to any of the film group discussions, please do consider coming along for a first time this Advent. Stopping for an hour and a half in this often busy than normal period to focus on what Advent and Christmas are really can be a real blessing. The sessions will be on Wednesday afternoons, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on 30<sup>th</sup> November and, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Dec) and Thursday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> December) in the Lady Chapel at St George's (with the heating on!) You don't have to be able to make all four as they are standalone discussions, and you won't be put on the spot to say anything – everyone is welcome to say as little or as much as they feel comfortable to! Do have a word with me if you would like to know anymore, and I very much look forward to our time together this Advent.

RACHEL

**“Christmas isn't a date on a calendar, it's a feeling in the heart.”**



**BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

7.00pm, Candlelit Carol Service; Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St Margaret's  
10.00am, Messy Christingle, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at St George's  
4.00pm, Carol Service; Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at St George's  
7.00pm, Candlelit Carol Service; Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at St Margaret's  
10.00am, Family Nativity Activities; Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at St George's  
11.30pm, Christmas Communion; 24<sup>th</sup> December at St George's  
10.00am, Christmas Family Praise, 25<sup>th</sup> December at St Margaret's

### **CAROLS AT ST MARGARET'S**

Christmas is looming up, and we have been planning our special services for St Margaret's. First, we have our Advent Carol service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm; "From Darkness to Light". This starts in total darkness, and candles are gradually lit during the first half of the service, symbolising our journey from the darkness of sin and death to the light of Christ. If you love the advent hymns like 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel', 'Come, thou Redeemer of the earth' and so on, don't miss this.

Our candlelit Carol services are on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, both at 7.00pm. We find that splitting the event makes for a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere, as well as more elbow room, which is wise in view of Covid. I'm hoping we can do a very different carol this year: "See him lying on a bed of straw" with its Caribbean calypso tune. Sadly, I didn't think to include this in our new carols' booklet, but we will find a way round that.

Also, I hope Sylvia will sing "Love came down at Christmas" as a solo, with its beautiful words by Christina Rossetti. It is a very short carol, but a friend of mine is writing some little interludes to go between the verses, which should add at least 30 seconds!

By the way, if anyone who hasn't done a reading before would like to have a go, please speak to me or to Lorraine Best.

JONATHAN



**“Don’t let your right hand know what you’re left hand is doing!”**

**So, Jesus says in Matthew chapter 6 verse 3!**

Today I want to say a very big thank you to someone who really does do that. Some months ago, an anonymous donor offered to purchase enough material for St George's altar to be made up in the four liturgical colours we generally use in the C of E. I asked quietly around and in her usual quiet and gentle manner, Hilary Brammer took on the task!

The first magnificent offerings were in green. We use this colour of 'life' for almost six months in our Church calendar. Everyone was astonished at Hilary's work. Now we come into the Advent season, here as in lent our colour is purple. I always see purple as the 'reflecting colour'. A time of reflection and preparation. In advent preparing for Christmas and in lent preparing for our greatest festival at Easter and Jesus' glorious resurrection! What another glorious task Hilary has performed. Next, we will ask for red - the colour of the Holy Spirit and of blood. Those Saints who were martyred for Jesus' sake are commemorated in red. The Holy Spirit of course is red for the fire of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Finally, when the time allows Hilary will tackle our festival colour of 'white and gold'. When I thanked Hilary for all her time, skill and energy she modestly almost brushed it off. So, I say openly on behalf of us all: Thank you Hilary for giving your time and talents to beautify God's house. You really do so modestly fulfil the scripture.

PAUL

## **TUFFLEY LIBRARY**

### **A Warm Welcome!**

As the weather gets colder we invite you to use our library as a warm space. There will be free hot drinks available and you are welcome to charge your phone, come with, or meet friends to play board games or simply sit and read! So much choice there! Stay all day if you wish...

#### **Our regular adult groups:**

Mondays 2.00-3.30 Knit 'n Natter

Thursdays 11.00-1.00 Computer Club



#### **Our regular activities for children:**

Thursdays 10.30-11.00 Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Saturdays 10.30-12.30 Lego Club and Junk Modelling

**STOP PRESS...** also for children and the child in you, we present

*MID WINTER TALES*

*A Feast of Festive Fantasy and Fables*



A free event with master storyteller Bill Church

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm

All welcome!

Visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries) to book

or just turn up!

Tel 01452 522160

**The Library**



To have your FEBRUARY 2023 CROSSROADS ready for publication on  
SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023...  
...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY, BY EMAIL BEFORE,  
BUT NO LATER THAN...  
on FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

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

*Editor: I still haven't had anyone offer to deliver just 5 Crossroads magazines  
each month and to collect the annual magazine fee in January/February each  
year, which remains disappointing.*

*Your Crossroads magazine from the February 2023 issue will increase to 60p a  
copy and £5.00 for the year. However, the current September/October issue  
will become two separate issues so there will be 11 issues in 2023. Don't forget  
you can view Crossroads on the Church website [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk) and  
it's in colour too.*

*If you decide to go down this route, please tell us so we don't continue printing  
more copies than we need to.*

### **NEW YEAR INVITATION**

Everyone is very warmly invited to an open morning at the Vicarage on  
Saturday 7th Jan 2023. Paul and I would love to say thank you to you all for a  
wonderful year in the benefice of Gloucester St George with St Margaret  
Whaddon! We have been thrilled to be with you for well over a year now, and  
feel very much at home, thanks to you all. Please do drop by anytime between  
10.00am and 12.30pm on Saturday 7th Jan for light refreshments and,  
hopefully, for a good start to the new year together.

RACHEL



## **CIT ENVIRONMENT GROUP LITTER PICK GROUP**

These are the dates of the next litter picking sessions: -

*There is no litter pick in December*

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 2.30pm meeting at St Barnabas

Please come along and join us



## **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH CLEANING**

Our merry little band of duster flickers and hooverers will meet up for the final time in 2022 on a Saturday morning to give St George's church a bit of a clean, this session will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, between 10.00am and 12.00noon. If you can make it do come along, no auditions are necessary. This will also be our last clean in the build up to Christmas trying to make St George's look it's best for all those who will visit us, leading up to that very special time. Last month we even partly sorted the meeting/storage room out somewhat and put up some shelving, special thanks to David and Mike for working out how it went together and to Dawn for her telephoned advice. I can't promise such a spectator sport happening again but coming along just in case would be worthwhile! I will also make you a cup of tea or coffee. Should it be that a Saturday morning is not good for you, but you'd like to help, please let me know as there are other times when you could come along and flick a duster around.

DARRELL



### **QUIET PRAYER GROUP**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 2.30pm the venue for which has yet to be confirmed please keep your eyes peeled on the next issue of Crossroads and our weekly Signpost for more information

### **A SENSE OF JOY** by Tony J

Bird Flu regrettably, now on the rise, turkeys rare, but not mince pies  
Wine and cocktails, on the shelves, awaiting collection, by the Elves  
Fruit and Veg, from distant shores, perhaps insufficient, for our stores  
Pigs in blankets, cold like us, it's not the time, to make a fuss  
Price increases, wherever you look, shop at Amazon, for a book  
Xmas cards, trees and lamps, how about, the cost of stamps  
Pulling crackers, all part the fun, no jokes this year, what have they done  
A seasonal message from the King, it doesn't quite have, that certain ring  
Our families unite, as they usually do, looking forward, to something new  
We've weathered the storms, which came our way,  
So, nothing will ruin, this precious day  
A sense of joy, spread here on Earth' time to celebrate, a special Birth

### **100 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW**

It's the last 100 Club draw of the year on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> and a number of our congregation have told me that they would have liked to have joined, but haven't yet done anything about it. So, all I can say is, sorry but you're too late to join in the final draw of 2022. I don't know who will win, I only know for certain that three numbers will be drawn and that the owners of those numbers will be handed the prize winners cheques. Good Luck to all names in the draw.

Many thanks, DARRELL



## **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ**

Questions based on the Gospel readings for October

- 1 The disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. In response to their request Jesus talked about a particular seed. What seed was Jesus talking about?
- 2 Jesus also talked about a tree being planted in the sea. What type of tree did Jesus mention?
- 3 The scripture says, "Do not work for food that perishes". Which food does Jesus advocate we work for?
- 4 The scripture reads, "He gave them bread from heaven". The scripture also goes on to say someone didn't give them bread from heaven. Who was that person?
- 5 A parable describes a persistent widow kept coming to someone? Who was that Someone?
- 6 The same parable asks, "When the Son of Man comes will he find \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_"? What are the 3 missing words?
- 7 On the sabbath day Jesus followed a particular custom. What was that custom?
- 8 In this passage of scripture two towns are mentioned. The first is Nazareth. What is the second town named as?
- 9 In the passage of scripture headed 'blessings and woes', how many times do the words 'blessed & woe' appear?
- 10 Jesus said to his disciples, "Blessed are you....". Can you give a name to any of the conditions Jesus mentions?

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

**"The best gift you can open this Christmas season  
is your own heart."**



We recently released our latest figures showing record numbers of emergency food parcels distributed by food banks in our network between April and September. The cost of living crisis is pushing more people to food banks.

Food banks in the Trussell Trust network distributed 1.3 million emergency food parcels from 1st April to 30th September 2022. Almost half a million of these were for children.

Across the UK, this represents a 33% increase in emergency food parcels distributed compared to the same period in 2021/22 and a 52% increase from the same period in the pre-pandemic year of 2019/20. England saw a 33% increase in emergency food parcels distributed compared to the same period last year.

As we go into the winter, food banks are braced for even greater increases in need. For the first time ever, more food is being given out than is being donated. This cannot be right. We need the government to take action both now - to help people through the immediate cost of living crisis - and beyond, so that social security always provides a lifeline when people need support.

By the time you read this, Jeremy Hunt will have announced his plans for the economy, and it is so important that people on the lowest incomes are supported.

By reaching more people with these devastating statistics, we can build understanding that urgent change is needed to ensure we can all afford the essentials. Please help us by sharing on your social media or starting a conversation.

Your support is invaluable. Thank you for standing with us.

THE TRUSSELL TRUST

APRIL 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2022

**1.3 MILLION**

**EMERGENCY FOOD PARCELS  
WERE GIVEN TO PEOPLE IN  
CRISIS BY TRUSSELL TRUST  
FOOD BANKS**



## ***DONATE FOOD TO FOODBANK BEFORE CHRISTMAS***

In the three weeks leading up to Christmas the foodbank will provide over six hundred Christmas parcels to local individuals and families in crisis.

You can help at this time by donating an item or two from the Christmas shopping list below. Please check to ensure 'BEST BEFORE' dates are after Christmas and no product contains alcohol.

### List 1 (About half our clients are single people)

INDIVIDUAL FESTIVE SPONGE PUDDINGS

100g CHOCOLATE BARS (Please avoid moulded figures e.g.,  
Reindeers and Santas as they break easily)

SMALL PACKS OF CHOCOLATE MINI ROLLS

SMALL PACKS OF FESTIVE BISCUITS

CANNED SOFT DRINKS

SMALL PACKS OF SAVOURY BISCUITS or CRISPS



### List 2 (For parcels going to households of two or more)

LARGE ICED CHRISTMAS CAKES

MEDIUM CHRISTMAS CAKES (Slab type)

FESTIVE SPONGE PUDDINGS (FAMILY SIZED)

MEDIUM SIZE NON-ALCOHOLIC CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

MEDIUM PACKS OF FESTIVE BISCUITS

MEDIUM PACKS OF SAVOURY BISCUITS

### ITEMS **NOT** REQUIRED

As these items are donated in bulk from other sources

Christmas Crackers

Mince Pies

Children's Selection Boxes

Thank you, so much, if you are able to help out this Christmas. We are aware that there are so many such requests, but every donation will be seen as much needed caring to those who are less fortunate.

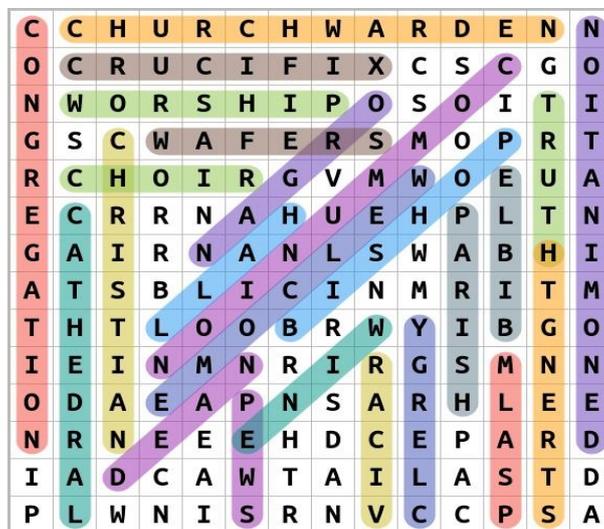
THE TRUSSELL TRUST

**Christmas Wordsearch**

R Y R M R S T O C K I N G T  
 S E A A C S G N I T E E R G  
 B K T N A E D I T E L U Y Y  
 E N S G R P S A V I O U R L  
 T O S E P A E V I T S E F L  
 H D M R E W R E A T H I L O  
 L M T T N S S C J E S U S J  
 E K Y S T R T D O N A R U L  
 H N A R E T I N Y T I M I W  
 E G L O R I A H E A N G E L  
 M A R Y V H H W A S S A I L  
 D M I S T L E T O E E N N O  
 T S R R E I N D E E R R G T  
 H I G A M A T U R K E Y P G

- WASSAIL
- SAVIOUR
- STOCKING
- MISTLETOE
- ANGEL
- MYRRH
- CARPENTER
- REINDEER
- PRESENTS
- BETHLEHEM
- JESUS
- MAGI
- JOLLY
- YULETIDE
- FESTIVE
- GREETINGS
- MANGER
- STAR
- DONKEY
- GLORIA
- WREATH
- TURKEY
- TINYTIM
- MARY

*The answer to this Wordsearch will be provided next month.*



Last month's solution

A graphic with the words "Christmas Quiz" in a large, red, rounded font with a white outline. The background is a soft-focus image of a Christmas tree with lights and snowflakes falling.

- 1 In what film is it 'Always winter but never Christmas': a) Elf, b) The Snowman, c) The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe?
- 2 In which country are children visited by 13 Yule Lads instead of the 1 Santa Claus: a) Iceland, b) France, c) Italy?
- 3 How many days are there between Boxing Day, otherwise known as St. Stephen's Day, and New Year's Day (not counting Boxing Day or New Year's Day)?
- 4 What job did Jesus' father Joseph do: a) Carpet Fitter, b) Carpenter, c) Caterer?
- 5 How many of Santa's Reindeer have names beginning with the letter 'D'?
- 6 In the UK, Christmas decorations traditionally stay up for: a) 12 days, b) 13 days, c) 14 days?
- 7 What guided the Three Wise Men to the birthplace of Jesus?
- 8 What has been given to the people of Britain by the city of Oslo in Norway each year since 1947?
- 9 Which Christmas song repeats the lyrics, 'O come, let us adore Him'?
- 10 'Feliz Navidad' means Happy Christmas in which language?
- 11 What type of play, beginning with the letter 'N', is performed by children at Christmastime?
- 12 How many different types of birds are mentioned in the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
- 13 Which popular Christmas song begins with the lyrics, 'Oh the weather outside is frightful but the fire is so delightful...'?
- 14 What type of cake, beginning with the letter P, is traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmastime?
- 15 Which country is generally credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition: a) Finland, b) Germany, c) Canada?
- 16 In the Children's story 'The Snowman', who gives a scarf to a young boy?
- 17 In which country do millions of people eat KFC for their main Christmas meal?
- 18 What are the names of the two burglars in the movie 'Home Alone'?

- 19 How is the snow described as being in the Christmas song 'Good King Wenceslas': a) Cold and steep and freezing, b) Deep and crisp and even, c) Warm and slushy and melting?
- 20 What is Boxing day also known as: a) St Martin's Day, b) St Joseph's Day, c) St Stephen's Day?

## **ANSWERS TO OUR NOVEMBER QUIZ!**

1 Kirsty Allsop: 2 All British Overseas Territories: 3 Atlantic Ocean: 4 1960's (1967): 5 Word: 6 Marco Pierre White: 7 Flamingos: 8 Garlic: 9 Crimean War: 10 Quick:

## **JILL'S JOTTINGS**

**from St Margaret's**

Well folks, it's me again that moaning Minnie who with her mates does the cleaning at St Margaret's, and every time we do, we always put the world to rights. I know that Dianne makes the best cup of coffee for us on our cleaning Mondays. I do the best moaning and Marilyn never stops laughing at me; we always have lots of fun as well as we do the cleaning. We clean out the window sills and the windows. It's a bit difficult for me as I only have little short legs, but we do what we can with our mops and brushes. Marilyn said that we should have longer arms and legs, so I asked what we would do with that extra length the rest of the time! But there was no answer to that, so it's back to the drawing board so to speak.

It's fast coming upto Christmas so we girls will be doing extra cleaning to make sure St Margaret's really shines, I know that we do quite a good job when we are there, but our church does get dusty when we're not there. Jonathan dressed a little window in the sanctuary so that he could take a few pictures inside and outside to make them into Christmas cards. I do hope that the pictures he took make some marvellous cards. I look forward to seeing them once they are printed.

We went to the funeral of Mrs Powell in October, which was held in St George's, she came to the Christmas services at St Margaret's and other special services. Mrs Powell will always be remembered as a very gentle, smiley lady who will be sadly missed by her family and many friends in Tuffley. She always spoke when we met in shops or at a bus stop, it was a pleasure every time to meet her.

We had our Harvest service back in October, Jenny Hyett and her family decorated the church with lots of traditional fruit and vegetables; it looked and smelled magnificent. Jonathan took a whole lot of the produce to Emmaus after the service for them to use in their kitchen. They were very appreciative of the gifts that he gave them.

We my friends, that's about it for now as my think has run out and my cats want to come in and have something to eat, so until the next time stay safe and warm.

JILL PONTER  
Deputy Churchwarden

## **ST GEORGE'S**



***Incorporating St George's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
with displays of photos and memorabilia***

***Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
from 2.00pm until 4.00pm***

**FREE ENTRY**



'Merry Christmas it's Fayre Time' on 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
from 12.00noon until 2.00pm at St Barnabas

### **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS**

1 Mustard: 2 Mulberry: 3 food that endures for eternal life: 4 Moses: 5 the unjust judge: 6 faith on earth: 7 He went to the synagogue: 8 Capernaum: 9 eight: 10 poor, hungry, weep, hate you:

### **CHURCH IN TUFFLEY**



Don't forget the 4<sup>th</sup> December deadline to bring your promised hamper items to St George's.

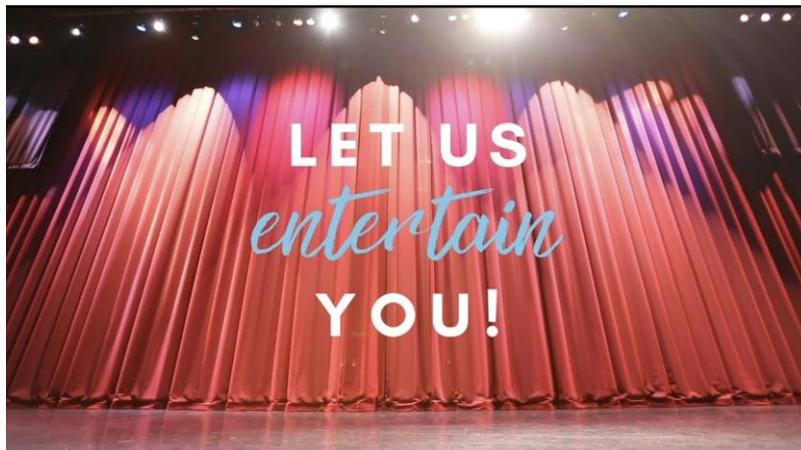


## **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Donations for Christmas flowers, in memory of loved ones, can be given to either to Jill or a Churchwarden 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 Churchwarden.

Thank you



## **LET US ENTERTAIN YOU THIS CHRISTMAS**

It's happening on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm so, not long to wait or to get your tickets. It's getting late, but if you want to be part of this entertainment, please let me know ASAP and I'll add you to my list... The evening will have a mainly Christmassy theme so start practicing now and don't forget to wear something Christmassy too, as you wouldn't wish to look out of place. Would you? Tickets, which are available from me NOW, are £5.00 each with mince pies included, but please bring your own drink. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to St George's Church.

CHEERS DARRELL



## **THROUGH THE WINDOW**

Hello friends, it's me your friendly feline, Coo-ee, I don't know what's happened to the weather! but it's gone very cold and wet. Do you know my mum lets me go outside and I couldn't get back in and it was raining so hard. The other day I didn't know where she was so I got onto the thing that you can speak into and asked Maya and Trixie if she was at their place, but she wasn't. So, I chatted a little more with them. Then I heard a noise upstairs. I said goodbye to them and went upstairs and mum was making our bed, I say our bed but really, it's hers, I just share it, when I can. I usually sit on the settee in my special place to keep mum company; she's all on her own, poor soul. She does have visitors and she goes out sometimes. Where she goes, I don't know. She goes out with Auntie Jill, sometimes into town, sometimes they have appointments at the doctors. She said something about blood tests, whatever they are?

The other day my mum's son came to stay at our house. He saw Auntie Jill, but they had to go out, so it wasn't long before he left too. I was left looking after the house, which I didn't mind because it was all so quiet. So long as I'm fed and watered, I don't mind being on my own.

I still have horse pills shoved down my throat, sometimes I can spit them out because I don't want it, but that doesn't wash with my mum because she says 'if at first you don't succeed, try again'. So, she does, and I have to swallow it, but she loves me really... (I think). I haven't had to go to that horrible place again recently, no doubt it will happen sometime.

I will write again soon, until then 'bye for now.

Your feline friend, JoJo Whittle (Miss)



## **OVER THE GARDEN FENCE**

Maya, Maya, Maya Ponter! Just you stop messing about and come and say hello to Rosie Posie. Trixie Ponter what are you yelling at me for, I've just been around talking with Luna, if you must know, and it's good morning, Rosie, and how are you? I'm alright. Maya, have you seen Harry and the boys today? No, I haven't, Rosie, as they haven't been out for quite a while, now. Oh, here comes Yazmin. How are you Yaz? Rosie, I'm over the moon, my mum and dad have brought home a brand new baby. A baby Yaz? Yes, a baby, of the four legged variety, I might add. She is just nine weeks old and although, I don't get too involved at the moment, she is going to be a lovely companion for mum and dad and me. So, what's her name then Yazmin? Trixie, they just call her baby, I don't know if that is going to be her permanent name, but it's what we call her anyway.

Oh, blimey look who's coming over the fence. Trixie, Maya, how are you all doing? Hello boys, now what have you been upto these days? Harry, you old son of a gun, how the devil are you? Ging, I only saw you yesterday, how are you little Ging? Harry, I'm fine, I had to go and see the doctor the other day, I stepped onto something, and I had a 'hurtie'; I had to have two pins and they took something out of the wound on my foot. I didn't know much about it as I was asleep, but boy, when I woke up my foot didn't half hurt! And how is it now Ging? I'm fine thank you Harry. Girls what have you all been upto since I last saw you? Well, little Ging, we haven't been upto much, we just go and see our mates. Rosie Posie is a permanent guest in our garden, we see Duke first thing most days. Who is this Duke person you are talking about? Oh, he is a cat who found himself a free breakfast every day. Our mum seems to find lots of felines to look after as well as us.

Maya, Trixie, you have so many adventures. I know, little Ging, we just can't help it. Big Ging have you seen that other feline who lives in the house on the corner across the road? No Trixie, I haven't, but rumour has it that her dad took her to

the doctors, and she never came back home. She must have been very poorly, or she would have come home. Maybe, she's gone to the Kitty Heaven that we keep hearing about? That maybe the case folks, but she will be missed by both of us, won't she, Maya. She certainly will, Trixie. So come on Harry, what have you and Yazmin been upto since we last saw you both? Well, Maya, as Yazmin said we had to keep an eye on baby, when she first came into the house, she was put in a great big cage, so she wouldn't wander off and get hurt. She had a lovely blanket in there, so she was nice and comfy, and her own dirtbox and food and water containers. She gets taken out of her cage during the day to stretch her legs, but she does get tired easily, so she goes back into the cage. Awww... she's cute too.

Well, Trixie, Maya that's about it from us for now, so it's goodbye from all of us, that's Harry, Yazmin, the two Gingers, Rosie Posie and us, until the next time, keep safe and warm.

## MAYA AND TRIXIE PONTER

### **REGRETS** by Tony J

Regrets they play on your mind  
The more you look, the more you find  
Past mistakes, not all your fault  
Perhaps unlucky, you got caught  
Did something wrong, or took a chance  
It all looked good, at first glance  
An opportunity, or play it safe  
Is it rich, or be a waif  
Lost connections, a special friend  
Something said - why did it end  
Losing touch, happens all the time  
Part of life, it's not a crime  
So don't look back, just let go  
Ditch regrets, go with the flow  
It's very liberating, to clear your head  
To awake each day, a different mind instead



## NOVEMBER

Sun 27	<b>ADVENT 1</b>		
	<b>December/January Crossroads available</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
Mon 28	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.00pm	Safeguarding Training	St G's
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 29	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.30pm	Connections meeting	V
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 30	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	2.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 1	LC
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH

## DECEMBER

Thu 1	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 1	LC
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 2	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
Sat 3	10.00am	Church cleaning	St G's
	10.00am	Karate	MH
	7.30pm	Let Us Entertain You at Christmas	MH
Sun 4	<b>ADVENT 2</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
		Baptism – tbc	

	3.00pm	Private Let	MH
	5.00pm	Advent Evensong	St M's
Mon 5	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 6	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.00pm	Domestic Abuse Awareness	St G's
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 7	8.15am	Morning Prayer	zoom
	2.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 2	LC
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.00pm	Centre Management Committee	SH
Thu 8	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 2	LC
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 10	<b>ST GEORGE'S OPEN DAY &amp; CHRISTMAS FAYRE</b>		
	10.00am	Karate in Small Hall and Softley Lounge	St G's
	10.00am	Fayre setting up	
	2.00pm	Fayre opens	
	4.00pm	Clearing up	
Sun 11	<b>ADVENT 3</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee and the 100 Club Draw	St G's
	4.00pm	Family Praise	St M's
Mon 12	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 13	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	11.00am	Harewood Christingle	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Social	SH

	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 14	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	2.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 3	LC
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 15	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 3	LC
	7.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	St M's
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 16	1.00pm	Harewood Junior Carol Service	St G's
Sat 17	10.00am	Karate Club	MH
	10.00am	Messy Christingle	St G's
	12.00 noon	Private Party	MH
Sun 18	<b>ADVENT 4</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	4.00pm	Carol Service	St G's
Tue 20	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	7.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	St M's
Wed 21	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	2.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 4	LC
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.30pm	Refresh	St G's
Thu 22	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Miracle on 34th Street Advent Group 4	LC
Sat 24	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
	10.00pm	<b>FAMILY NATIVITY ACTIVITIES</b>	St G's
	11.30pm	<b>CHRISTMAS COMMUNION</b>	St G's
Sun 25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
	10.00am	<b>CHRISTMAS FAMILY PRAISE WITH COMMUNION</b>	St M's
Mon 26	<b>BOXING DAY</b>		
Tue 27	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
Wed 28	8.15am	Morning Prayer	zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 29	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's

Sat 31	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>		
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## **JANUARY**

Sun 1	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY NAMING &amp; CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS CHRISTMAS 2</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 2	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>		
Tue 3	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 4	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 5	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 6	<b>EPIPHANY</b>		
Sat 7	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 8	<b>BAPTISM OF CHRIST/EPIPHANY 1</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	4.00pm	Family Praise	St M's
		Private Party – tbc	MH
Mon 9	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 10	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 11	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 12	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL

	7.30pm	Charter Band	7.30pm
Fri 13	<b>FEBRUARY CROSSROADS DEADLINE</b>		
Sat 14	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 15	<b>EPIPHANY 2</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 16	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 17	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 18	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee	SL
	7.30pm	Refresh	Tbc
Thu 19	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 21	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 22	<b>EPIPHANY 3</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
Mon 23	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 24	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	6.30pm
	8.00pm	Karate	8.00pm
Wed 25	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 26	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL

	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 27	2.30pm	Quiet Prayer Group	Tbc
	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
Sat 28	10.00am	Karate	MH
	2.30pm	CiT Litter Pick	St B
Sun 29	<b>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE / CANDLEMAS FEBRUARY CROSSROADS AVAILABLE</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
Mon 30	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 31	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free Tuesday	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH

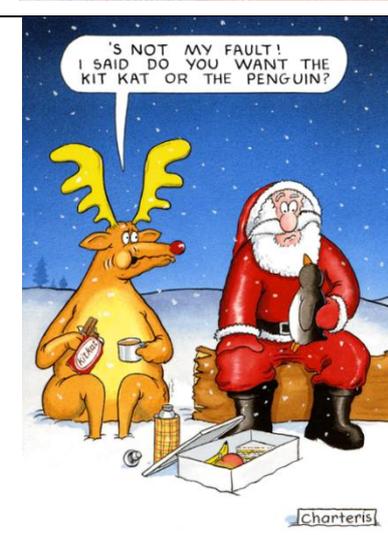
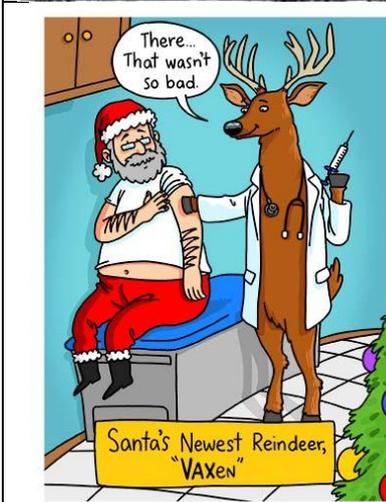
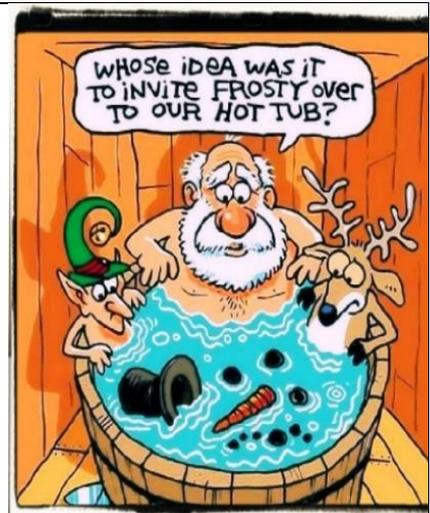
## **FEBRUARY**

Wed 1	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 2	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 3	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 4	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 5	<b>3 BEFORE LENT</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	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, LC = Lady Chapel, MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall,**  
**SL = Softley Lounge, V = Vicarage.**

**“Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance  
each beautiful, unique, and gone too soon.”**

**A LITTLE BIT OF END OF YEAR HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...**



George's Church and Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0PE  
 St Margaret's Church, 2 Church Lane, Whaddon, Gloucester GL4 0UE