

# CROSSROADS

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

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering**

**Growing God's Kingdom**



## **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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Thursday**

**Evensong at 5.00pm  
Parish Communion at 9.00am and  
Family Praise at 4.00pm  
Evensong at 5.00pm  
Parish Communion at 9.00am  
Parish Communion at 9.00am  
Parish Communion at 10.30am**

**NOVEMBER 2022**

**50p**

# **ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON**

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### **Social Media**

Website: [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

Instagram: @TuffleyStG

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

Twitter: @TuffleyStG

## THE READER WRITES...

Do you ever feel like Martha? Martha in Luke's story, I mean. (Luke 10, 38-42). Jesus and his disciples had arrived at her house in Bethany and were waiting for a meal. Her sister Mary was sitting at Jesus's feet listening, just wanting to be with him. Martha was doing all the work and finally could stand it no longer. "Come on, I'm doing everything! Just tell her to help me, Lord!"

And I'm sure you remember the sequel. Jesus wasn't having it. "Let her alone, let her do what she thinks is right". In all likelihood, the last thing Jesus wanted at that moment was a slap-up meal, and his hostess getting frantic. A bowl of soup and a bit of quiet would have been just fine.

Life can be busy and complicated, and church life is no exception. There are always new ideas to try, and let's be honest, not enough able-bodied people to make them happen. Nearly all my life I have been busy doing things in church, and very often having a quiet moan to myself because others aren't helping as I'd like them to.

Did you spot something there? In the last sentence I used four versions of the first person singular: 'my', 'I', 'myself', and another 'I'. Not bad going, when as a Christian, I should think of God first, the other person next, and myself last!

Perhaps the trouble with Martha was that she set the agenda without taking Mary with her. She was overworked because she wanted to entertain her way, when something simple would have been easier for everyone, and then they could all have sat peacefully with Jesus. Well, that's just my take on Luke's story of course, and we will never know what really went on in Martha's mind.

But back to my first question. I'll admit I quite often feel like Martha, but as I get older, I would much rather do as Mary did. I want to pull my weight at church, of course, but I also want a closer walk with God. I always have wanted that, and yet I never seem to get much closer to being closer, if you follow me.

Maybe we owe it to ourselves, and to others, to say 'no' a bit more often. Frenzied activity isn't as helpful as we probably think it is.

JONATHAN

PS: and thank you, Luke, for all the lovely human detail in your Gospel. You're my favourite!

## **A ROYAL FUNERAL**

On Monday 19th September, I imagine most of us spent a good portion of the day in front of the television. Watching our beloved late Queen Elizabeth being transported from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey for her funeral. A funeral that had clearly been meticulously planned and prepared, not least by the Queen herself when she was alive. The traditional form of service, the hymns, the readings, the anthems, all chosen very carefully to reflect the Queen's faith and what was important to her in life. One of her favourite hymns, the Lord's My Shepherd, also linked perfectly to her wedding, and signifying the importance of their marriage in her life. One of the readings was that familiar passage from John's Gospel, where Jesus is preparing his disciples for when he will no longer be with them physically and is assuring them that death is not the end – he goes to prepare a place for all to be. This reading is often chosen for a funeral as it celebrates that great hope we have, that through the resurrection of Jesus, we all have access to eternal life.

The funeral at the Abbey concluded, as all Christian funerals do, with the soul of Elizabeth, our late Queen, being commended to the love and mercy of God – with those beautiful words that sum up the Christian belief that after death, we will all be reunited with God. Later in the day, we saw one of the final acts in saying goodbye to our beloved Queen, the committal at Windsor Castle of her earthly body, before she was laid to rest alongside her family members.

Queen Elizabeth II was an example and a model to us all right till the end. Her funeral planned and prepared before she died, to reflect her faith in God, and to inspire us all in hope and belief. Through her funeral, we were all able to give thanks and pay tribute to her life, to remember her before God, and to comfort one another in hope. This is always the pattern of a Church of England funeral, which is available to all.

As we reflect on the example given to us by our late Queen, perhaps we should think seriously about planning our own funerals. Not in a morbid way, but in a way that we too can celebrate hope and love and leave a precious gift for our loved ones. Whether you go to church regularly or not, you are entitled to have your funeral service in your local parish church, or to have a Christian input at the Crematorium.

If you would like to talk about Church of England funerals, or would like help in planning your funeral, please do be in touch. We can't promise trumpeters or marchers, but we can promise thanksgiving, dignity and hope.

Rachel



## Parish Registers

### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

#### **BAPTISMS**

**St Margaret's**

Lily Dickinson

**St George's**

Jasper James Andrew Sweet

Kaci-Rose Elizabeth Chappell

#### **WEDDING**

**St Margaret's**

Steven George Hutton & Zara Naomi Roberts

#### **INTERMENT OF ASHES**

Paul Heard RIP

Sylvia Gardner RIP

#### **FUNERALS**

**Gloucester Crematorium**

Ronald Kersey RIP

Margaret Bruton RIP



## **ADVENT GROUPS**

Before the end of this month, Advent will begin! That great season of preparation to celebrate the birth of our Saviour; God coming to dwell among us. As always, there will be opportunities to gather together during Advent to think about what this great truth means in our daily lives today. Two such opportunities will be on Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm and Thursday evening at 7.00pm (beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December). The format of these times is as yet undecided – we could look at another film (maybe the Christmas classic, *it's a wonderful life*, or something similar) or we could look at Advent artwork, poetry, music, or we could have a more formal course or study – do let Rachel know if you have a preference and watch the weekly Signpost for more details!



## **BENEFICE CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

7.00pm, Candlelit Carol Service Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at St Margaret'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  
10.30am, 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





## ST GEORGE'S COFFEE POT

In the Small hall

St George's Centre

EVERY TUESDAY

from 9.30am until 11.30am

Tea, coffee and biscuits available

People to meet and to chat with

Warm welcome



Will meet at English Martyrs on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm



### 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 like to join, but haven't yet done anything about it. So, all I can say is, that you are running out of time for this year... You are probably aware that the prize money is enhanced for the final draw of the year so, it may be worth it for you to take that last step and commit to joining. I can't guarantee that you will win, I only know for sure that three numbers will be drawn and that the owners of those numbers will be handed the prize winners cheques. It could be you so see me as soon as you can...

Many thanks, DARRELL



To have your DECEMBER/JANUARY 2023 CROSSROADS ready for publication  
on SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER...  
...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY, BY EMAIL BEFORE,  
BUT NO LATER THAN...  
on SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

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 5 Crossroads magazines each month and to collect the annual magazine fee in January/February each year, which remains disappointing.*

*Your Crossroads magazine in 2023 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) hover your mouse over **What's On** on the information line at the top of then page then click on **Church Magazine** and **Bob's your uncle**; you will get a list of Crossroads issues available to view; click on the latest issue or a previous one and off you go; 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.*





## **ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT ENERGY COSTS?**

As energy costs soar you may be finding it difficult to meet these increasing costs. In response, many energy suppliers are offering help to customers who are struggling to pay their bills.

Here's a list of energy suppliers who offer grants to their customers:

British Gas Energy Support Fund

Scottish Power Hardship Fund

Ovo Energy Fund

E. ON Energy Fund

E. ON Next Energy Fund

EDF Energy Customer Support Fund

Bulb Energy Fund

Octopus 'Octo Assist Fund'

Even if you can't get a grant from your own supplier, you might be able to get a grant from the **British Gas Energy Trust**. These grants are available to anyone and you don't have to be a British Gas customer to be eligible.

You may also be able to access local grants and you can see what's available in your area on the Simple Energy Advice website.

If you don't have access to the internet, you should be able to telephone your energy provider to establish if they can help.



Remembrance Sunday falls on 13<sup>th</sup> November this year and there will be a variety of services for you to be part of that day. The Eucharist (Holy Communion) service in the benefice will be at 9.00am at St Margaret's, which will end with an Act of Remembrance. At St George's we will be joined by the uniformed organisations and the service will begin ten minutes early at 10.20am, to enable us to be out and in position at the cross for the 11.00am Act of Remembrance. Refreshments for all will be offered in the Main Hall after this Act. In the afternoon, at 4.00pm, at St Margaret's there will be the monthly Family Praise service, which is a service for all the family. Please do come along to any or all these services, and do let your family, friends and neighbours know about them.



### **CiT ENVIRONMENT GROUP LITTER PICK GROUP**

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

November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm meeting at English Martyrs

*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 are continuing to meet on a monthly basis for Saturday morning St George's church cleaning, our next session will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, between 10.00am and 12.00noon. If you can make it do come along, no auditions are necessary. We're in the build up to Christmas so making St George's look it's best, for all those who will visit us leading up to that very special time, would be great! I might even get the long wobbly pole out to attack the cobwebs, so coming along just for that 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



## **TIME TO REMEMBER**

Traditionally in the Church, across the world, All Souls is a time to give thanks for and remember before God our loved ones who have died. Over the past few years, the Church in Tuffley has held a joint service for this called, 'Time to Remember'. This year, the service will be at English Martyrs Church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm. As always there will be prayers, readings and reflections; loved ones will be remembered by name, alongside the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. Everyone is very welcome at this service.



## **QUIET PRAYER GROUP**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 from 2.30pm  
at Matson Baptist in Matson Avenue

and 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



## **WHEN WILL OUR OLD FORMAT STAMPS BECOME INVALID?**

All non-barcoded stamps will be valid for use until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. After this date, non-barcoded stamps will be treated as insufficient postage. If not used, they can be swapped for the new stamps using a swap-out form available online. They cannot be swapped in-store.

### **Are any stamps exempt?**

Special stamps with pictures on and Christmas stamps will continue to be valid and do not need to be used or swapped.



## **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ**

Questions based on the Gospel readings for September

1 Jesus turned to his followers and said, "whoever does not hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, even life cannot be..." What can't they be?

2 Jesus added, "Which of you, intending to build a \_\_\_\_\_, does not sit down and estimate the cost?" What type of building did Jesus mention?

3 Jesus then asked, "If a king realised his opponent has more soldiers than himself, he would send \_\_\_\_\_ and ask for terms of peace." What would the king send?

4 Jesus frequently ate with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Who were these people?

5 In the Parable of the Lost Sheep the shepherd, once the lost sheep had been found, invited friends and neighbours to do what?

6 What was the next parable Jesus told?

7 The dishonest manager invited his master's debtors to change what they owed on their bills. The first owed a hundred jugs of olive oil. "Make it \_\_\_\_\_", said the dishonest manager. What was the new figure?

8 The master of the dishonest manager commended him because he had acted.... How had this manager acted?

9 Jesus said, "No slave can serve two masters. You cannot serve \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." What are the missing words?

10 In the Parable of the Sower 4 areas of ground are mentioned. In what condition was the second area of ground and what did that area lack?

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

**"November: The last month of autumn, but the beginning of a new adventure; time to take a risk and do the unexpected." – unknown**

## **DONATE FOOD TO FOODBANK**

### **CHRISTMAS DONATIONS**

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.



## WORDSEARCH

### Church Terminology

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

TRUTH  
COMMUNION  
CONGREGATION  
DENOMINATION  
BISHOP  
CLERGY  
CATHEDRAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCHWARDEN  
CRUCIFIX  
PARISH  
WORSHIP  
PEWS  
PSALM  
ORGAN  
HALL  
WELCOME  
WINE  
VICAR  
STRENGTH  
WAFERS  
BIBLE  
CHOIR  
DEAN

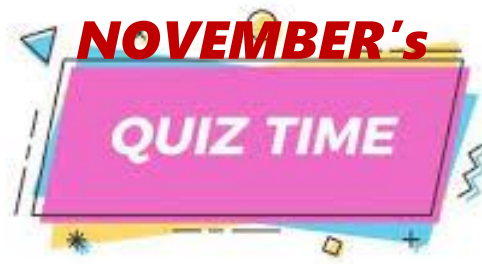
This Wordsearch was set by Angela Kent, many thanks to her for taking the time to provide us with something new.

I hope you enjoy it!!

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

**“October extinguished itself in a rush of howling winds and driving rain and November arrived, cold as frozen iron, with hard frosts every morning and icy drafts that bit at exposed hands and faces.”**

**— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**



- 1 The fashion designer Kath Kidston is the cousin of which property TV presenter?
- 2 What connects Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Pitcairn Islands?
- 3 In what body of water is the Sargasso Sea found?
- 4 In which decade did the Six-Day War take place?
- 5 'Dicky bird' is cockney rhyming slang for what?
- 6 'Devil in the Kitchen' is an autobiography by which chef?
- 7 In the croquet game in Alice in Wonderland, which creatures were used as mallets?
- 8 Alliumphobia is the fear of what?
- 9 The battle of Balaclava took place during which war?
- 10 In music what does the term Allegro mean?

### **ANSWERS TO OUR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER QUIZ!**

1 Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh: 2 Pig: 3 Fosse Way: 4 The colours of the Olympic rings: 5 None: 6 Trinity House: 7 Golden Hind: 8 Royal Flush: 9 Rugby: 10 Alison Moyet: 11 True: 12 False (look out, beware): 13 True: 14 True: 15 False (Jaws): 16 False (Fish): 17 True: 18 False (Marshal of the Royal Air Force)

**"The word advent means expectation.  
What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope."  
Louie Giglio**

## JILL'S JOTTINGS

### from St Margaret's

Well, hello folks, it's me again that moaning Minnie that does the cleaning at our little church in Whaddon. It is always so pleasing for us ladies what does, we may be getting on a bit, but we all put the world to rights when we meet up. Marilyn is our No. 1 person with the Brasso; Dianne is always on top form with the spray polish and duster; and I am on my hands and knees doing the floors.

I have never seen so much dirt collected, at the end of a couple of weeks, you would never believe that we had ever cleaned, but we have. You can never see me when I get down to polish between the pews. It may not look much to the congregation, but an awful lot of hard work goes into getting it to look so nice. We all have a moan about the dead flies that accumulate on the windowsills and floor. I brought my old cleaner up to St Margaret's so we could keep the floors up together. We do have a cleaner, but it's very small and needs to be emptied during the cleaning session. But we appreciate having the use of the little cleaner and will continue to use it.

The nights are drawing in now and the girls and I were talking about festivals that will be celebrated. St Margaret's does like a celebration! So, we will be pulling out all the stops to please our congregation. Marilyn has done a most beautiful arrangement of autumnal flowers; the colours are stupendous! So well done Marilyn. I know she does our church flowers to perfection. I on the other hand can put flowers in oasis but it will look alright but not as good as Marilyn's. As I always say I'm a trier and my sister says, that I am very trying!! I just say thank you for that, but there isn't another like me anywhere, so there!

We go to St Margaret's every couple of weeks, and we meet some lovely people who just pop into the churchyard to put flowers on a loved one's grave and to do a bit of tidying up. Then they pop into the church just to say hello and to pass a few minutes with us. They say that they always wanted to look inside but the door is often closed and locked. So, we show them around and tell them the church's history. I'm glad we let them take in the beauty of our church, maybe they will come back and share a service with us sometime, here's hoping.

Well, my loves, that's about all for now as I have to get this to the editor, so until next time I'll say goodbye and bless you all and stay safe.

JILL PONTER  
Deputy Churchwarden



**CHRISTMAS FAIR 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
**From 2.00pm until 4.00pm**

Have you saved the date, yet! You wouldn't want to miss out, would you? Tell your family and friends about the 80<sup>th</sup> year celebration of St George's and Christmas Fair. We've had a number of volunteers to help in some way on the day, so, thank you to those who have already committed themselves, please let me or Rachel know if you can help too.

I haven't seen the sheet at the back of St George's to sign up to run or help on stalls yet, but I'm sure that it's on its way! Could you donate something Christmassy as a prize for a Christmas Draw if you are able to help us great!!

If you can make a cake for the Mothers' Union cake stall and bring it along on the day, that too would be great. You may, of course, make it (or them) when it's convenient for you and freeze it, but remember to unfreeze before the day of the Fair...

A lot more people have booked tables at our Christmas Fair, so thank you to them...

If you would like to run a stall at our Christmas Fair, please see Rachel or Darrell soon please.

Father Christmas has promised to attend, and we will have live music too.

## St George's 80<sup>th</sup>

Is happening on the same day, so we're looking for you to look out NOW, photos of your time here at St George's including photos you may have taken at previous Fairs and other events or photos which mean something to you. I've looked out photos from tea, dinners and other celebration and previous pantomimes, Surely, you must have some, somewhere...if you can scan them and email them to me, GREAT! If not, please let me borrow them and I will scan them for you and put them in the archive with others we receive. I will make sure that you get them back.

DARRELL

Editor's Note: *We really do need your old photos as soon as possible, any aspect of happenings at St George's from the past will be gratefully received and if you can identify who is in the photos all the better, if you can't identify someone we'll try and do it for you, but no promises!*



## ENGLISH MARTYRS GIFT FAIR 2022

Will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of November. They will have several stalls selling all sorts of crafts/gifts plus a cake stall and a parish stall. their Cafe will be open for delicious lunches or tea and homemade cakes. If you would like a stall, then please contact Marisa in the Church Office asap. This is a lovely Parish event which brings the community together so put the date in your diary, come along and support it.



**'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 His disciple: 2 a tower: 3 a delegation: 4 tax-collectors & sinners: 5 Rejoice with him: 6 The Lost Coin: 7 Fifty: 8 shrewdly: 9 God, Wealth: 10 rocks, moisture:



## **CHURCH IN TUFFLEY CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2022**

As a Church in Tuffley community project, we would like to provide 40 Christmas hampers for local families. We are working in partnership with Gloucestershire Bundles (Dawn Dolphin) who will add appropriate presents for the each of the children with our hampers. Our aim is to share some of what we have with other families in a time when there is a high pressure to provide something more than usual. The hampers will be full of all the treat items we often buy for Christmas such as Christmas puddings and mince pies, along with a few essentials like tea and coffee. The average cash value of the food for the Hampers is £40 each. We want this to be a real gift/treat and we hope that by delivering it as early as possible, we will be saving these families some cash.

Please help us put these hampers together. You can choose any item from the lists available at the back of the church. It's helpful to have the items bought in groups of 5. Please make sure you buy the items as specified and return to St George's collection point by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. If there are no lists at the back of church please see Rachel.



# Pantomime time

**ST GEORGE'S ENTERTAINERS**

Will be presenting

## **GOLDILOCKS**

In the Main Hall of St George's Church Centre

on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm and  
on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 2.30pm and at 7.30pm

Tickets are £5.00 for adults, and £3.00 for Children  
From Glenda and Darrell



**Get your tickets as soon as possible!**



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

It's going to happen on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm.

If you would like to be part of this entertainment in song, word, dance, or by musical instrument, please let me know and I'll add you to my list...

The evening will have a 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 will be £5.00 each with a light supper included, but please bring your own drink.

Proceed from the evening will be donated to St George's Church.

Cheers Darrell



## **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

## **SOFT SHOE SHUFFLE by Tony J**

Tinkered round the edges - not much change  
Priti still in post - how very strange  
Other than that, nothing much  
We know for sure, he's lost his touch  
Boris is struggling - the future is bleak  
Will the magic return, after this week  
A pension revolt, taxes too  
Never mind Covid - or the Flu  
A winter perhaps, of discontent  
All goodwill - possibly spent  
Surrounded by those, who want his power  
Keep an eye on Lizzie - cometh the hour  
Now firmly in the public eye  
Will she overshadow Rishi, who she'll gladly pass by.

## **DON'T LET THE OLD MAN OUT by Tony J**

Stuck at home, fed up with life  
Picking arguments, with the wife  
The weather's cold, its raining too  
Increasing trips, to the loo  
The pub is just, a short stroll away  
Their football team, won't let me play  
Next doors' dog, I can't pick up  
Befriending him since, he was a pup  
Aching limbs, a funny itch  
Backing horses, won't make me rich  
Read the paper, inside out  
Time to medicate, that painful gout  
Food and parcels, delivered to the door  
No need for shopping, anymore  
The car is rusty, needs a clean  
Same as teeth, and bits in between  
Are there more, like me about  
If so don't let, the Old Man Out



## **THROUGH THE WINDOW**

Hi, everyone, It's your feline friend chatting.

Not a lot to report, well not very interesting stuff anyway. I think that I told you I had to go to that place again. I still have to take gob stoppers for my own good, or so. I'm told (but I don't believe it!). It's horrible what my mum does to me, but she loves me, really.

When my Auntie Jill comes to the house, Oh boy! there's ructions. Can they talk! It never stops. Still, I like it that way, it means that someone is about. Now and then a lady comes and sits with Auntie Jill and my mum. I don't know what they are doing, but I do try and help them. Somehow, they don't need my help and tell me to get off the table, so I go away and sulk.

It's getting colder now, so I don't stay out so long. I like a bit of fresh air and a bask in the sun. When it rains that's when I ask to come in. I don't like getting my feet wet! When my mum goes to bed, I go up and snuggle up on her bed. It's really cosy and warm. Sometimes my mum has a visitor to stay over, it's a man, her son I think, but he doesn't always bring that Holly dog with him. Me and dogs just don't mix! So, I have to be shut up in the bedroom (by myself!).

Never mind these things are sent to try us...

Your feline friend, JoJo Whittle (Miss)

**"O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being.  
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead  
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing."  
— Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ode to the West Wind"**



## **OVER THE GARDEN FENCE**

Maya, what you doing? I'm just listening, that's all. What you listening to then, Maya? I don't know, Trix. I just heard a very funny noise, that's all. Where's it coming from, Maya? I think that it's coming from next door's garden. Oh look, it's Rosie Posie from down the road. How did you get your foot stuck in that box, Rosie? I don't know, Maya? Hiya, Trixie, how are you both? We're doing just fine, but let us give you a hand to get your foot out of the box. Trix, you grab one side and I'll grab the other. Now pull! Thanks, pal, oh, that feels much better, girls. I don't know how it happened, I was just mooching around, and I sort of fell, then I couldn't get my foot out! I feel such a Nelly!

So, what are we going to do for the rest of the day? We are going to find Harry and Yazmin, Rosie. Then we will tell you all about what's been happening in our house!

Hi Harry, Hi Yazmin, just brought Rosie Posie to see you both. She got her foot stuck in a box in next door's garden! She wanted to meet you and the Gingers, and as they are on their way, I'll tell you what we have been upto in our house... It started when we had a call from our JoJo on that machine. Good job, I was on the table when it rang so I could pick it up. You know, Harry, what you put to your ear, and you can hear what someone is saying. Well, our JoJo has been having to take those gob stoppers every day for ages, her mum just grabs her and shoves them down her throat! She does try to spit them out, but her mum just shoves them back in and holds her mouth shut until she's swallowed it. Our mum helps her sometimes which is a bit mean, but there you go. It all helps to pass the time. When we had finished on the thingy, there was a knock on the front door. When our mum opened it, her friend Ken was standing there. He went straight up the stairs to the bedroom with tools in his hand. We didn't see what he was doing, but there was a lot of cussing going on; then bits of bed were brought down the stairs. We very nearly fell over, what on earth was happening? We stayed on the windowsill and watched out of the window. Then

they came back in and then more bed went out and put with the other bits in his vehicle. Then the last bit of bed went out and into the vehicle, then the mattress followed. I tell you folks, it was a total revelation, mum made Ken a cup of tea, so Trixie and I went up the stairs and into the bedroom, it was bare! Mum said that she hated that bed and was glad to see the back of it. When Ken had gone, mum told us that we were getting a brand-new bed. Where it's coming from, I just don't know, mum made up a bit of a bed on the floor. I like it on the floor Harry, Rosie I was cuddled up nicely every night, but then we had more disruption...

Two men came with stuff. Our mum was so excited, they brought in all this stuff, then they left taking a big plastic bag filled with bits of cardboard with them. It looked as though they were going to fall into it at one point. Our mum had to sign a paper to say that everything was fine. Mum stayed upstairs, then she came back down and let us out, well a girl has to do what a girl has to do, doesn't she! When we came back in we went straight upstairs to that bedroom and there before us was the biggest bed you ever saw. It was wonderful to behold and so comfy. You just sink into it. Our mum say's it's lovely, it must be as she now sleeps lots and lots.

Well girls, how has the world been treating you all, as you can tell there's never a dull moment in our house. Rosie, how about you? Maya, nothing like that ever happens in my house. First of all, my humans won't let me anywhere near that machine thingy and I have to sleep either under the stairs or on the landing. How about you, Yazmin? Oh, my dears, I sleep in my own bedroom, and I have my very own bed as well, I don't share with anybody! Thank you very much. Well Yazmin, you are very lucky, but I'm afraid we will have to say goodbye to everyone, come on Trixie, say cheerio to everyone. Oh, it's me, Maya, tata folks until the next time. It's goodbye from me, Maya too until the next time and please stay safe.

MAYA AND TRIXIE PONTER

**"Enough with 'Hi November. Please be good to me.'  
Start saying 'Hi November. I'll do better this time.'"  
Unknown**



## **WOTS ROUND THE CORNER by Tony J**

Xmas is approaching, Turkeys getting fat  
But I've now flogged the oven, and can't feed the cat  
Sharing a shower, is not so much fun  
A ghastly sight, when all said and done  
Watching the Tele, in bed to keep us warm  
With the neighbours beside us - this really ain't the norm  
Queuing at foodbanks, for pasta and rice  
Now my teeth have disappeared, jelly would be nice  
To cheer us up, King Charlie on our cash  
A mirror image of me - brings me out in a rash  
A cashless society, we don't need it no more  
The global economy, is now on the floor  
Meanwhile our politicians, continue to fight at home  
A female Prime Minister - now residing in Rome  
Russia taking land, by signing some paper  
For their conscript troops, it's bound to be safer  
Migrants going home, nothing here that they like  
All stuck at Dover, with everyone all on strike  
Chaos in the Amazon, they're rushing to their huts  
The locals going bananas - or is it going nuts  
The world has gone bonkers, but where else can we go  
And wots round the corner - for Liz and Sleepy Joe



*Will your November look like this?*



## OCTOBER

Sun 30	<b>4 before ADVENT</b>		
	<b>November Crossroads available</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
Mon 31	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH

## NOVEMBER

Tue 1	<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>		
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.15pm	Deanery Synod	tbc
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 2	<b>ALL SOULS' DAY</b>		
	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 3	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 4	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B
	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
	7.30pm	Entertainers	SH
Sat 5	10.00am	Church Cleaning	St G's
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 6	<b>3 before ADVENT</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
		Baptism – tbc	
	4.00pm	A Time to Remember	EM

Mon 7	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 8	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 9	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 10	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 11	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Sat 12	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 13	<b>REMEMBRANCE / 2 before ADVENT</b> <b>December/January Crossroads deadline</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	<b>10.20am</b>	Parish Communion	St G's
	11.00am	Act of Remembrance at the Cross	St G's
	4.00pm	Family Praise	St M's
Mon 14	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 15	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.00pm	PCC meeting	SH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 16	<b>ST MARGARET'S PATRONAL DAY</b>		
	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.30pm	Refresh	EM
Thu 17	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 18	7.30pm	<b>GOLDILOCKS PANTOMIME</b>	MH

Sat 19	2.30pm	<b>GOLDSLOCKS PANTOMIME</b>	MH
	7.30pm	<b>GOLDSLOCKS PANTOMIME</b>	MH
Sun 20	<b>CHRIST the KING SUNDAY before ADVENT</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 21	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 22	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
		December/January Crossroads printing	St G's
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 23	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee meeting	SL
Thu 24	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 25	2.30pm	Quiet Prayer Group	MB
	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sat 26	2.30pm	Litter Pick	EM
Sun 27	<b>ADVENT 1 December/January Crossroads available</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
Mon 28	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 29	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	MH
	10.45am	Advent Group 1	SL
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	7.30pm	Connections meeting	V

	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 30	8.15am	Morning Prayer	zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 6.30pm	MH

**DECEMBER**

Thu 1	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Day Centre	SH/SL
	7.00pm	Advent Group 1	V
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 2	3.30pm	Messy Church	St B
	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
	7.30pm	Entertainers	SH
Sat 3	10.00am	Church cleaning	St G's
	9.00am	Private let - tbc	MH
	10.00am	Karate	MH
	7.30pm	Let Us Entertain You at Christmas	MH
Sun 4	<b>ADVENT 2</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
		Baptism - tbc	
	5.00pm	Advent 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, CA = Christchurch Abbeydale,  
 MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge, V = Vicarage.



## **A LITTLE BIT OF AUTUMNAL HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...**

What did the tree say to autumn? Please leaf me alone!

How do you fix a broken pumpkin? With a pumpkin patch!

What did one autumn leaf say to another? I'm falling for you!

How do trees get on the internet? They log in!

What is the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie? Your teeth of course!

What is a scarecrow's favourite type of fruit? Straw-berries!

What is the cutest of all seasons? Awwwtumn!

Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize? Because he was outstanding in his field!

Why do trees hate tests so much? Because they get stumped on all questions!

What happens when winter arrives? Autumn leaves!

Why do trees like to try new things each year? Because every autumn they turn over a new leaf!

Why do all the birds fly south in the fall? Because it's too far to walk!

Why did the pumpkin roll across the road? Because it didn't have any feet to walk across!

What do you call a very large pile of leaves? The Great Barrier Leaf!

What's the ratio of a pumpkin's diameter to its circumference? Pumpkin Pi!

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