

# CROSSROADS

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

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering**

**Growing God's Kingdom**



**In concert at St George's**  
**See page 9 for details**

## **ST GEORGE'S**

**Sunday**

**Parish Communion at 10.30am**

**Monday**

**Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5.00pm**

**Tuesday**

**Parish Communion at 10.00am**

**Evening Prayer at 5.00pm**

**Wednesday**

**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**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**60p**

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

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## FROM LORRAINE...

Dear Friends,

February is almost here. The days are lengthening and early signs that Spring is on the way can be spotted. The challenges and upheaval of Christmas and New Year have given way to a resumption of normal routines and any resolutions made are either well on the way to becoming established or have been quietly forgotten.

Lent begins on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month. It seems appropriate that a day celebrating Romantic Love, St Valentine's, should herald in our period of watching and waiting in preparation of celebrating the greatest Romance of Sacrificial Love the world has ever seen.

Many Christians make a practise of self-sacrifice during Lent, giving up a favourite treat such as chocolate or biscuits. Self-discipline is good for us and helps us focus on our priorities. If anyone is interested in a slightly different challenge, I could provide you with a list of what Gloucester Foodbank would hope to provide should you and/or your household need a 3-day emergency food parcel as unfortunately many people do. The challenge would then be to choose 3 days (not necessarily consecutive) during Lent when you plan 3 meals a day from that list.

Our benefice already supports many worthwhile Charities, and such support is hugely appreciated by each organisation and their beneficiaries. May our fellowships remain generously faithful, and our faithfulness strengthen during the coming weeks.

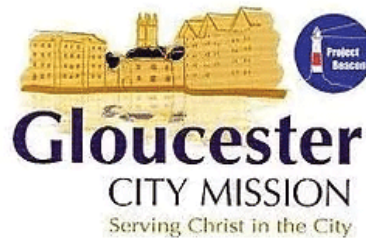
With Love and Blessings to you all,  
Lorraine Best (07407516553)



# FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

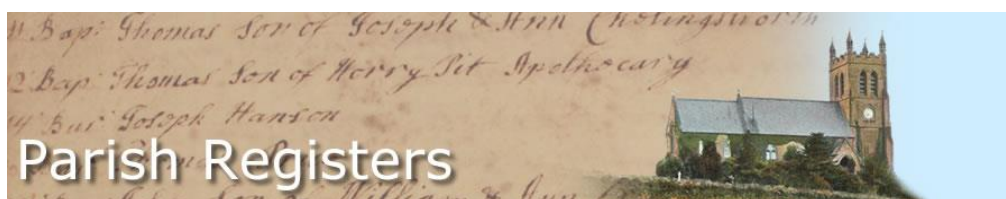
Freedom from Torture is a British registered charity which provides therapeutic care for survivors of torture who seek protection in the UK. Since it was established in 1985, over 57,000 survivors of torture have been referred to the organisation for help and it is one of the world's largest torture treatment centres.

We are collecting **ANY** old or unwanted gold, silver, costume jewellery, watches, old & new bank notes, UK & foreign. Broken and damaged items welcome.



Could do with some sleeping bags to offer rough sleepers. Perhaps in your loft, shed or cupboards you have one or more no longer used?

*Please contact Lorraine Best if you have anything to offer either of these appeals.*



## **Baptisms**

### **St Margaret's**

Cora Bella Smith

Bethan Scarlett Birch

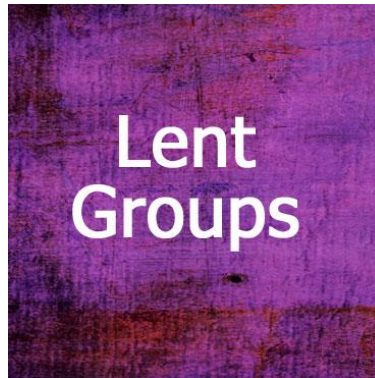
Harrison Benjamin Birch

### **St George's**

Seren Esme Violet Buckley

Noah James Patrick Buckley

**Ash Wednesday is 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent is 18<sup>th</sup> February**



We'd love you to take part in our 2024 Lent journey: - Monday evenings from 7.30pm for an hour or so, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> March or Wednesday afternoons from 2.00pm for an hour or so, from 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> March. The venue will be clarified as soon as possible.

A wonderful opportunity for us all to grow in our understanding, experience, and confidence about our faith, and to raise those questions we've never quite got around to before, with friends.

DO come, and do bring a friend! To make the journey even more enriching for others.

We're still working on the fine details, so please keep an eye on up-and-coming issues of Signpost for the very latest. The groups can be based on the films about The Holy Land, Les Mis, or Elton John, the choice is the groups, let Rachel know your preference as soon as possible.

**A SPACE TO CONNECT:**

On Mondays at 6:15pm we welcome young people between the ages of 10 and 13 to come into the Church centre. We drink hot chocolate, eat doughnuts, and do different activities. We have had mocktails, baked muffins, made slime, and played games. Why? What is the point? How does this fit with our vision and mission in Tuffley? The answer is simple, connection and relationship. We want this age group to know we are here for them. We are not just here for little

children or older folk. God is not just for adults. God loves them and has time and space for them in his kingdom.

As we are representatives of that Kingdom, we need to ensure that our Church has space for the noise and mess and joy of these "tweenagers." They need to know where their Church is, who their Church is. Building relationships with them ensures that at the point that they may want to engage with God they have somewhere familiar and safe to come. It is also a place of stability and peace for them now in the turbulent teenage years where everything is changing. We can reflect the fact that God never changes by providing them with a welcome and acceptance that is constant each week. We have a team on a rota who come and hang out, make drinks, chat, play Jenga etc if you'd like to join it, please come talk to Rachel or myself but this isn't an appeal for volunteers, it is a prayer appeal!

*Please pray for these sessions.*

Pray for openness and communication.

Pray for opportunities to share our faith.

Pray for safety and for fun and for connections with their wider families.

Pray for God's Kingdom to come every Monday at St Georges at 6:15pm.

Thank you  
LAINE

## **CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT ST MARGARET'S, 28TH APRIL WITH BISHOP RACHEL**

It is with great joy and delight that we will be welcoming Bishop Rachel to St Margaret's on Sunday 28th April to lead a Confirmation Service. Currently, we have three confirmation candidates, including one young woman, Shelley, who has been a regular worshipper at Family Praise for many years. It is thanks to her inspiration that we have invited Bishop Rachel to St Margaret's since Shelley expressed a desire to be confirmed in the place where her faith has been nurtured and developed over the years and where she feels part of the church family.

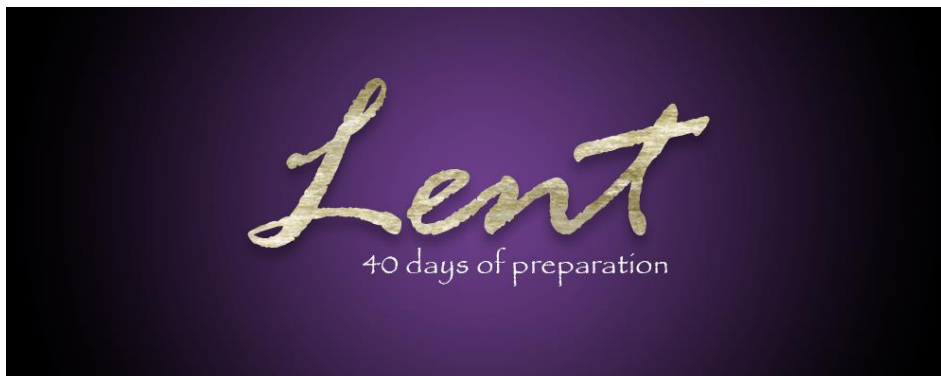


There is still time for others to express an interest in being confirmed at this service too!

You may be asking what Confirmation is and why might you want to be Confirmed... Simply put, Confirmation is an opportunity for you to publicly declare your faith in God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and to make a public commitment to following Jesus. If you were baptised as a baby or young child, others made this declaration and commitment on your behalf. Confirmation gives you the wonderful opportunity to confirm for yourself this belief and commitment and to take responsibility for it. During the Confirmation service, the bishop lays their hands on your head and prays for the Holy Spirit to give you renewed strength and wisdom to live out your desire and commitment to follow Jesus.

Whilst in the Anglican Church you are now welcome to receive Holy Communion from the point of Baptism, traditionally people didn't until they had been Confirmed. This was a way of marking the importance of owning the belief in Jesus Christ for yourself and receiving the presence of Jesus through the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a celebration of this. Even if you already regularly receive Holy Communion, you may still want to take the step of being Confirmed as a way of publicly declaring your commitment to Christ – just as a couple do through the marriage vows exchanged at a wedding.

If you would like to talk through whether this would be the right time for you to be Confirmed and for more details of what the service involves, please do talk to Rachel. If you are interested in thinking more deeply about the significance of Baptism and Confirmation generally (whether you have been baptised and confirmed or not) please do come along to the discussion group on a Wednesday afternoon led by Mark.



## **ON PACKING AWAY, THE CHRISTMAS THINGS**

I'm writing this after the annual chore of taking down the Christmas decorations, the tree, and the cards.

I've never really understood this Twelfth Night business, because if you start counting on Christmas Day, that means your decorations have to be down for Epiphany, or the visit of the Magi. But isn't that an important part of Christmas?

Well, it seems that in some church traditions, you should start counting on Boxing Day (or more correctly, St Stephen's day), so the Twelfth Night is the 6<sup>th</sup> January, or Epiphany. That seems a lot more logical to me. What is of course mere superstition and baloney is that it is bad luck not to take the decorations down on the prescribed day.

In our house, we have a set of white lights over the fireplace from Advent Sunday right through to Candlemas, or 2nd February. This certainly eases the pain of taking down the Christmas things, and it brightens up those long January evenings. In church, the Christmas season definitely goes on till Candlemas, and there is nothing wrong with leaving the tree and the crib in place. Then, from Candlemas onwards, we turn our attention to Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

But let me just go back to the domestic dismantling of the Christmas things. I used to hate it: all the nice things of Christmas a memory, back to school or work, and the return of routine things. But as I get older, I find, that I am more ready to put the stuff away for another year, and to plan ahead. It's a good moment to reflect on what God might have in store for us by the time the decorations come out again for next Christmas.

And the cards? Many can go straight into the recycling bin, but others contained news from old friends. Christmas letters, perhaps, which can now be read again a little more carefully, and at least some of these will merit a phone call or a little note in response.

Do you ever hear people say that Christmas cards are a waste of time and postage? I notice each year a few more people on my list are resorting to emails. Yes, Christmas cards do take time and effort, but if only just a few



contain a message from someone we know and care about, but don't see very often ... then in my book they are worth it.

JONATHAN



The Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir are singing in St George's Church on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. They will have a guest soloist with them on the night too. Tickets are £10.00, children can be part of the audience for free, as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Although, proceeds of the concert will go to St George's Church; the concert has been arranged in memory of Pat Price who died at home last year. Graham, her husband, and her family will be at the concert too, in fact Graham will be singing Pat's favourite song along with the choir, during the evening. The concert will be in two halves and during the break, teas, coffees, and squash will be available free of charge. At the end of the concert the audience is invited to join with the choir in the main hall for their "Afterglow" a time to relax and to chat over a glass of wine.

## **UNEXPECTED YOUTH CLUB THRIVING IN GLOUCESTER**

When Gloucester City deanery started focusing on new ways to engage with secondary-aged young people, they had no idea that within a year God would give them what they needed to start a thriving and expanding youth club.

At the start of 2023, Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester, visited the deanery to help them think around ways to connect with youth and teenagers in their area. Together, they hit upon the idea of ensuring that the excellent relationships the church has with primary school children were not lost as they got older. The deanery decided to prioritise being there for the Year 6s as they dealt with all the challenges of transition and ensuring that they had a safe space to meet with their friends.

Inspired by this idea, the Revd Rachel Beck, Vicar of Gloucester St George's Tuffley, paid particular attention to a couple of Year 6 children who came along to their church's family drop-in and attended the summer holiday club.

Led by Laine Lewis, ordinand on placement, the church invited them back for games, chat, and doughnuts on Monday evenings in September. The initial plan was to trial a group for four weeks, chat to the three or four children they'd invited and see if there was an appetite to meet more often going forward.

Barrie says, "What started out as a simple conversation with the deanery about connecting with teens in our parishes has grown into something much bigger. Showing these young people that the church cares about them and wants to provide for their needs has seen the group of young people grow and grow! It's fascinating to see how God has worked through the personal invitation given to these children to speak to ever-growing numbers of young people."

Every week, more and more 11–14-year-olds turned up – the original group inviting their friends and those inviting more. For an hour each Monday evening, the church hall is full of youth playing games, making things, and chatting to the encouraged, if slightly surprised, volunteers.

Rachel says, "We've accidentally started a youth group! We are full of praise and thanksgiving to God for this, of course, and are very excited by it, whilst also having a few challenges and questions about how to sustain it and help the young people as they develop in faith."

Read more at:

[gloucester.anglican.org/unexpected-youth-club-thriving-in-gloucester](https://gloucester.anglican.org/unexpected-youth-club-thriving-in-gloucester)

*Extract from The Messenger, February 2024*

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

## **ART AND CRAFT GROUP**

Just a quick note to remind those who enjoyed our Art Group, which then became our Art and Craft Group in 2023, that we commence our meetings in February 2024!

Our first meeting is on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 2.00pm until 4.00pm in the Small Hall. We will look forward to seeing old members and new – do come along and see what you think, no pressure to come every week – come when you can.

Bring your own Art or Craft work and materials along, or come and use some of the growing amount of art materials in our 'communal box'.

Do be brave and come along, we're a very friendly group of people with mixed abilities!

# REMEMBER

That to have your  
**MARCH 2024 CROSSROADS**

ready for publication by

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

FLAMINGTEXT.COM

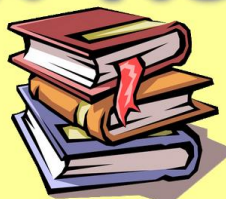
...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY BY EMAIL  
BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN... **...TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Crossroads will be printed on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

If you can get your articles to the Editors earlier than the above date, great!!

Thank you for your help in this matter

## Book Review



**L is for Lifestyle**

A Book Review by Lorraine Best

I read this book by Ruth Valerio with interest, discomfort, and frustration.

Interest, because it is sub-titled "Christian Living that doesn't cost the earth."  
Discomfort, because I found the message of this book personally challenging.  
Frustration, because within a short time this book began to fall apart from use.  
Ruth Valerio is 'Director of Global Advocacy and Influencing' for Tearfund and I heard about this book through A Rocha, the organisation which runs our Eco Church project.

The format of the book is very readable. Each short chapter is titled with a different letter of the alphabet, A is for Activists, B is for Bananas, etc. Ruth then writes a short exhortation or teaching and ends each topic with one or two action points for further consideration.

Inspired by this book, I am hoping to share, in future editions of Crossroads, some thoughts on ecological issues which I hope will encourage us all in a shared desire to live more simply so that others may simply live.



JOIN THE  
**CLEANING**  
**TEAM**

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH CLEANING**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 10.00am onwards**

See you again on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March all you, duster flickers, Hoover moovers, cobweb shifters, light bulb changers, chair straighteners, and anyone new to our little band, especially if you made that New Year's resolution to help clean at St George's (it's not too late to make resolutions, even in March!). Please check your Signpost for any new church cleaning update.

Don't forget there's tea, coffee, and cake for all who join us!

Many, many thanks to all who helped in tidying up the storeroom in St George's Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> January; and for taking some of the unwanted stuff away, what was left was taken to the tip for recycling. What an amazing transformation! All that has to be done now, is to keep it tidy. If you get withdrawal symptoms, we can start on the storeroom off St George Church later in the year.



### **JOTTINGS From St Margaret's**

Well, here we go on what's been happening at St Margaret's Church.

18<sup>th</sup> December was the day that Marilyn, Dianne, Jonathan, Mike, and Nuala his wife and me met to put up the tree and decorate it. Marilyn, Dianne, and I put the newly purchased lights on it, and it looked smashing! We manoeuvred it into its proper place then we all put the baubles on it, the more baubles we put on the more the church looked ready for Christmas. When we left that day St Margaret's looked totally superb! and was ready for our Carols by Candlelight a few days later.

Our Candlelight Carol service was a total delight with quite a full church; made up of old and new friends and quite a few children, who behaved wonderfully. Rachel always makes our services so special, so rich in content and personal to everyone present.

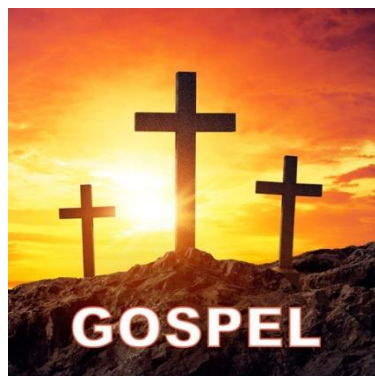
I had left my cats out when I left home, and they were mightily pleased to see me when I got back and shot inside as soon as I had opened the door. It was a chilly night, so I was glad they were in safe and warm.

Christmas Eve was quickly upon us, and our service was lovely. Rachel made the service come alive with all the detail she put into it. Then it was our family Christmas Day service, again superb, which Margaret and I were enthralled by. Even better was that we had been invited to my nephew's for Christmas dinner so, we didn't have to rush home.

Rachel's Paul had been struck down with the lurgy, so she not only had church services on her mind but the health of her husband too, so *Well Done*, Rachel. Pleased to write that he is much better than he was and hopefully on his way to recovery, we hope to see you soon, Paul.

Well, my friends that's about it for now as my think has run out, so until my March article, keep safe and warm.

JILL PONTER



## **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ**

Questions based on the Gospel readings for December

- 1 Jesus said, "The sun will be darkened, but what will happen to the stars?"
- 2 The scripture says, "then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from \_\_\_ winds." What word is missing?
- 3 In reference to a particular type of tree Jesus said, "as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves you know that summer is near." What type of tree did Jesus refer to?
- 4 Which OT prophet said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"?
- 5 Who wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts?

- 6 Who asked, "Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet"?
- 7 When Gabriel visited Mary he said, " \_\_\_\_\_, favoured one." What word is Missing?
- 8 In which Gospel and chapter will you find, "In the beginning was the word"?
- 9 When the angel left the Shepherds where did they go?
- 10 After Jesus birth, on the eighth day, what happened?

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



## **YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP NEEDS YOU!**

Our 'annual meetings' will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. This is the time we elect our Parish Church Councils, our Churchwardens etc. Please be on the lookout for people you may like to nominate for the privilege and responsibility of sharing the leadership of our churches in this way. And consider humbly and honestly whether you yourself might be willing to step up to the plate! But, most of all, please keep the matter in your prayers. Thank you

If you have written a report for APCM Reports pack in the past, you are not being asked to write one in respect of 2023 as reporting is being approached differently this year, of which there will be more explanation in our March issue. However, if you would like to pen a short article about your 2023 year, we could consider it for Crossroads. **Remember that your report covers the period...**

**1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2023 only**



Anyone whose name does not appear on the Electoral Roll will not be eligible to vote or able to be elected to the PCC or any other post. The Electoral Roll will be displayed on the noticeboard in your Church porch a few weeks prior to the APCM. If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from either Margaret Barber for St George's or Jill Ponter for St Margaret's. Completed forms should be handed to your Electoral Roll Officer, to Glenda or to a Churchwarden.

**This space is reserved for YOU to write something for March's Crossroads. Just pass it to me or to Glenda by 13<sup>th</sup> February and we'll see what we can do.  
Go on...do it!**





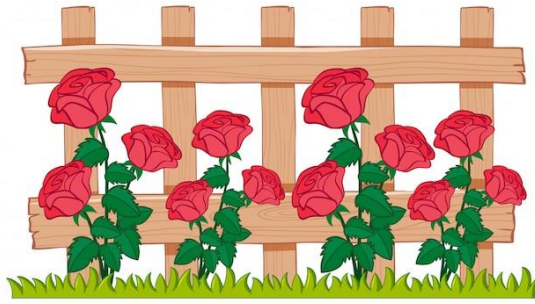
## FARM ANIMALS



Find the following words in the above puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Animals, Bees, Birds, Bison, Buffalo, Calf, Chicken, Deer, Dog, Duck, Fish, Geese, Goat, Goose, Hen, Horse, Lamb, Llama, Sheep, Turkey,

**The answer is printed later in Crossroads**



## **OVER THE GARDEN FENCE**

I was talking to JoJo on that machine earlier and she tells me that she has written about her and our recent trip to the Vet, so I'm not going to repeat the saga again. Suffice to say, we weren't there very long, we were mainly there to support JoJo, who has been quite poorly lately, but she's on the mend now, nothing that a good feed and lots of love from her Mum, eh Trix! Let's see if we can spot the gang in the garden...

Hiya, guys, how are you? Have you seen Harry lately? Yes, we have, Maya. But he doesn't go out much these days as he's getting on a bit! His human keeps him in the house as he still has a problem with that old injury, He's dodderly on his legs and he just likes to stay in the warm. I don't blame him, Maya. I know that Ginger likes to stay in at home too; me and Trixie have been doing just the same these days as its freezing outside. What about Yasmin? How is she these days? We saw her a couple of days ago, but I haven't seen her since. Well lads, it's time to get to our den as its pretty breezy out here in the open, so say tata to everyone Trix. Oh yes tata for now until next time, and its TTFN from me, Maya too, stay safe and warm until then.

## MAYA AND TRIXIE





## **FEBRUARY QUIZ QUESTIONS**

- 1) Which footballer won the first ever Football Writers Player of the Year in 1948?
- 2) In terms of health, what does CJD mean?
- 3) Arthur Wynne is credited as inventing which type of entertainment that has been a staple for newspapers and magazines for generations?
- 4) Barbara Bach, who played Anya Amasova in the Bond film 'The Spy Who Loved Me' married which musician in 1981?
- 5) Which singer was known as the 'Forces Sweetheart' during and after WWII?
- 6) What stage name did actor and dancer Frederick Austerlitz adopt to make himself sound less foreign even though he was born in the USA?
- 7) What is the term for women's breeches that hang like a skirt but have separate legs?
- 8) Baku is the capital of which western Asian country?
- 9) Based on the definition of a desert as being an area that gets less than 10 inches of precipitation a year, what is the world's largest desert?
- 10) Which London building consists of three identical arches and is situated where the Mall leads to Trafalgar Square?

*The answers are printed later in Crossroads*

*"In a quiz, every question is an opportunity to learn something new."  
Unknown*

*"You can never be fully prepared for a quiz,  
but you can always give it your best shot." Unknown*

The Annual General meeting of the Mothers' Union was held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, current officers were re-elected, and a full program of meetings has been arranged for the forthcoming year. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, at 2.30pm when a representative of Sue Ryder will give a talk. All are welcome not just MU members; we always finish with tea and biscuits and a raffle.



Can you sing! Can you dance! Can you play an instrument! Can you tell jokes! Can you read a poem or monologue! Or can you do something more exotic!

Then this is the opportunity for you to let it all out...

I would like once again to put on a LUEY show at St George's on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in our main hall; but it really depends on how many people come forward. But a start will be to find out just what you are prepared to do; it doesn't matter if you are inexperienced or experienced as long as you are happy to be on stage in front of an audience willing you on. Speak to me by the end of March and let me know what you can do; I'll take it from there...

This will be a fundraising opportunity for St George's so your family and friends can buy tickets and come along to support you. We'll put on a light supper to help calm nerves etc.

Talk to me if you're unsure or if you would like to suggest someone who might, with a little push, join in the fun.

DARRELL



## **THROUGH THE WINDOW**

Hello everyone, just to keep you up to date, I haven't been well lately, so my Mum and Auntie Jill had to shove me in that box again and take me to the Vet. Where I was prodded and poked because my tummy hurt. I had to go back two days later and was kept in a cage. I felt so awful that I didn't care! I had things stuck in me; my neck was shaved and stuff was shoved down my throat. I thought my Mum had forgotten me, but a few days passed and I was back with her once again.

I had lost weight as I hadn't been eating or drinking, but I'm back to my normal self now, my Mum was very pleased to have me back home, but I wouldn't speak to her at first but then she put my food dish down and I forgave her. I can even go outside now, but, boy it's so cold, so I do what I need to do and then go back in to warm up again, usually upstairs, under my Mum's bed!

My Mum rudely awakened me this morning, I had heard her calling me but I stayed put. She found me curled up nice and snug in a drawer. She grabbed me and shoved me in that box again. This time Maya and Trixie were in the car too. We had stuff put on us at the Vets to keep the fleas away. My cousins weren't happy as they had their nails clipped. Mine will probably be done on my next visit.

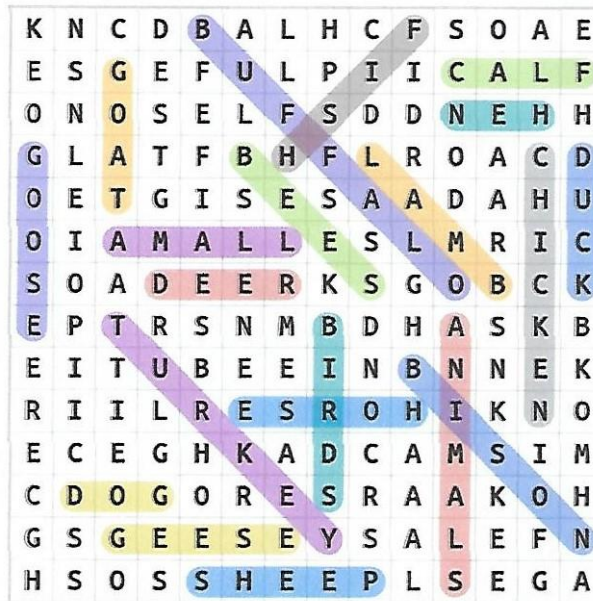
My Auntie Jill comes in most mornings. She waddles like a duck now, as she has back and knee pains and should be taking things more easily! She still takes my Mum out now and again. I think that they really enjoy each others company.

Well goodbye for now  
Jojo Whittle (Miss)

## GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 They will fall from heaven: 2 four: 3 Fig tree: 4 Isaiah: 5 John the Baptist:  
6 Priests and Levites: 7 Greetings: 8 John 1: 9 Bethlehem: 10 Jesus was  
circumcised:

## WORDSEARCH ANSWER



## FEBRUARY QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Stanley Matthews: 2 Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease: 3 Crossword puzzle: 4 Ringo  
Star: 5 Vera Lynn: 6 Fred Astaire: 7 Culottes: 8 Azerbaijan: 9 Antarctica: 10  
Admiralty Arch

*Good luck is when opportunity meets preparation,  
while bad luck is when lack of preparation meets reality.  
Eliyahu Goldratt*

*Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly,  
while bad people will find a way around the laws. Plato*



# CALENDAR

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH AND CENTRE

### JANUARY 2024

Sun 28	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b> <b>February Crossroads available</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	4.30pm	Charles Igbo group meet	SH
Mon 29	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@ 6.15	MH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 30	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free	MH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 31	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	SH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH

### FEBRUARY

Thu 1	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art and Craft Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 3	9.00am	Circuit Fitness Club	MH
	10.00am	Church Cleaning	St G's

	10.00am	Karate	MH
	10.00am	Litter Pick	HP
Sun 4	<b>2 before LENT</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 5	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@6.15	MH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 6	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 7	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	SH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 8	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art and Craft Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 9	7.30pm	Police Choir Concert	St G's
		<b>Celebration of Love Weekend</b>	
Sat 10	9.00am	Circuit Fitness Club	MH
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 11		<b>1 before LENT / Celebration of Love Weekend</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
Mon 12	<b>Half Term Week</b>		
	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Tue 13	<b>Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day March Crossroads deadline</b>		
	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH



	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.00pm	Pancake Evening at English Martyrs	EM
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 14	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.00pm	<b>Ash Wednesday Service with Ashing</b>	St G's
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee	SL
Thu 15	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art and Craft Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
	<b>School's half term ends</b>		
Sat 17	9.00am	Circuit Fitness Club	MH
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 18	<b>Lent 1</b>		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	5.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 19	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@ 6.15	MH
	7.00pm	Lent Group 1	
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 20	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 21	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	SH
	2.00pm	Lent Group 1	
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.30pm	Refresh (moved from 14 <sup>th</sup> )	EM
Thu 22	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's

	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art and Craft Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 23	7.30pm	Gardening Club	SH
Sat 24	9.00am	Circuit Fitness Club	MH
	10.00am	Karate	MH
	11.30am	Litter Pick	EM
Sun 25	<b>Lent 2</b> <b>March Crossroads available</b>		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	4.30pm	Charles Igbo	SH
Mon 26	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Monday@6.15	MH
	7.00pm	Lent Group 1	
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 26	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 28	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot reg	SH
	2.00pm	Lent Group 2	
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 29	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art and Craft Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH

## **MARCH**

Fri 1	<b>St David's Day / World Day of Prayer</b>		
Sat 2	9.00am	Circuit Fitness Club	MH

	10.00am	Church Cleaning	St G's
	10.00am	Litter pick	HP
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 3	<b>Lent 3</b>		
	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, V = Vicarage,  
 LC = Lady Chapel, MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge,  
 EM = English Martyrs Catholic Church, St B's = St Barnabas' Church,  
 GB = Grange Baptist Church, HP = Holmleigh Park High School

*Remember that dates can change, be cancelled, or added so keep an eye on our weekly Signpost Newsletter for the latest information*



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

"Poor old fool," thought Jack as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub; so, he invited the old man inside for a drink. As they sipped their whiskeys, Jack thought he'd humour the old man and asked, "So how many have you caught today?" The old man replied, "You're the eighth."

Jack says to Jill, "Grab your jacket I'm going to the pub." Jill asks, "Oh, are you taking me with you?" "No" said Jack, "I'm turning the heating off."

Jill used to work in a pub next to a hospital and this guy walked in one day with his hospital gown on and holding a drip on a stand that was still connected to a vein in his arm. Jill asked him how she could help and bizarrely he said, "Can I have 2 pints of lager, 2 pints of Guinness, 4 Jack Daniels and coke, 3 gin and tonics, and 6 shots of tequila? It's a free country so Jill poured the drinks and put them on the bar one at a time. As she finished pouring all the drinks, he downed them in order and finished on the shots of tequila which he dispatched one at a time in quick succession. He then looked sadly at Jill and said, "I shouldn't have drunk all that with what I've got." Jill said with a voice full of concern, "Why what have you got?" He said, "About £3.50."

A penguin walks into the same pub and asks Jill, "Has my brother been in for a drink here today?" Jill looks at the penguin and says, "I'm not sure. What does he look like?"

Jack was in his local music store the other day when this chap walked in. He said that he was tired from being ridiculed by his peers, so had decided to learn how to play some "real" musical instruments. He walked around the store, and says to Jack "I like that red trumpet over there and that accordion." Jack said, "I don't think the shop assistant will like that much! So, the chap ignores him and goes upto the counter where the shop assistant looks at him a bit funny, and replies, "OK, you can have the fire extinguisher but the radiator's got to stay."

Another penguin goes into the same pub. At the bar, the peanuts say, "Nice tie Mr!" In the toilets, the condom machine says, "You look stupid in that tie." So, he complains to Jill at the bar, and Jill says, "The peanuts are complimentary, but the condom machine is out of order."

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