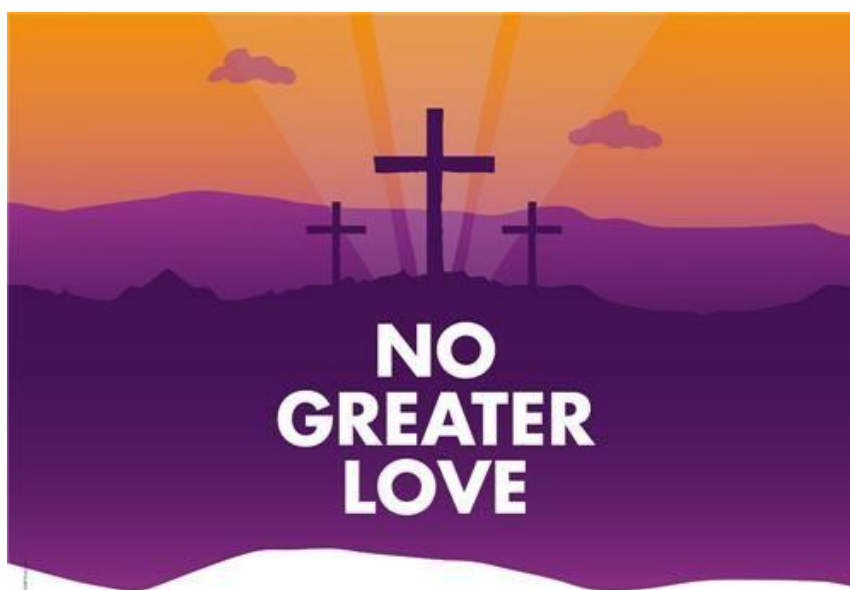


CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering

Growing God's Kingdom



ST GEORGE'S

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday

Parish Communion at 10.30am
Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5.00pm
Parish Communion at 10.00am
Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

ST MARGARET'S

Wednesday
1st Sunday
2nd Sunday

Morning Prayer at 8.15am on Zoom
Evensong at 4.00pm
Parish Communion at 9.00am and
Family Praise at 4.00pm

3rd Sunday
4th Sunday
5th Sunday
Thursday

Evensong at 4.00pm
Parish Communion at 9.00am
Parish Communion at 9.00am
Parish Communion at 10.30am

APRIL 2024

60p

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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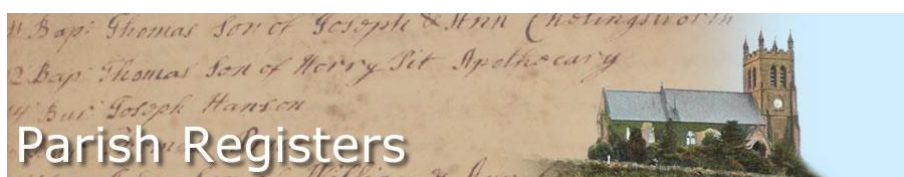
OUR READER, JONATHAN WRITES...

This has been the mildest winter I can remember, with very little frost or cold. Even so, what a relief it is to break through to the longer days, a little more sun, and the annual miracle of Nature's re-awakening. By the time these words are in print, we will be walking the pilgrimage days of Holy Week, and then will come the marvel of Easter.

I wonder which is your favourite part of the Easter gospels? Personally, I love the story of the Walk to Emmaus. The two disciples are dispirited and bitterly disappointed, just as we would be, when our most fervent hopes are dashed. And then the stranger walks with them on the road, putting the scriptures into perspective for them as they go. Then the shared meal, and the stranger slips away. Now the realisation... it was Jesus, of course, it was the way he broke the bread. And finally, the dash back to Jerusalem to tell the others what had happened.

The events of the Passion are always hard to bear, no matter how many Holy Weeks we have followed. But just as the refreshment of spring follows the dark days of winter, so too the accounts of the Resurrection give us new heart for the days ahead. To quote the ancient hymn, Hail thee, Festival Day: "Lo, the fair beauty of earth, from the death of the winter arising, Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns." Amen to that.

JONATHAN



BAPTISMS

St George's

J'Naih Zendaya Ellis

FUNERALS

Crematorium

Marlene Elsie Mellor RIP

On Mothering Sunday, Rachel mentioned Mothering Buns whilst addressing her congregation, which set me wondering; what are Mothering Buns? But Google tells me...

MOTHERING BUNS

Have you ever wondered by Mother's Day falls on a different day each year? There's a very good reason for that and unbelievably Mother's Day never started out as a holiday to celebrate your mother at all.

The origins of Mothering Sunday reach back to the sixteenth century when people returned to their "mother" church for Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent). In the Industrial Age it became a day when servants were given a day off to return to their family and it was often the only time of the year when entire families would congregate together and visit church as a family. It was also known as "going a-Mothering." Over time this Mothering Sunday tradition evolved to one where mothers are celebrated.

Mothering buns were traditionally made by children for their mother, no doubt with a little supervision from their mother. A speciality of Bristol, the buns were made by local bakers the day before Mothering Sunday. Traditionally, on this day only, the Lent fast was relaxed. The buns used to be decorated with caraway or aniseed; today, hundreds and thousands are used.

MOTHERING BUNS' RECIPE **MAKES 12**

Sweet and sticky buns to make for Mother's Day... or just because



FOR THE BUNS

500g strong white bread flour
1 tsp salt
50g caster sugar
7g sachet instant yeast
50g unsalted butter, diced and softened
300ml water

FOR THE ICING

200g icing sugar
2-3 tbsp water

1. Put the flour in a large bowl. Add the salt and sugar on one side, the yeast on the other. Add the butter and three-quarters of the water, then turn the mixture round with the fingers of one hand. Add the remaining water a little at a time, mixing until you have taken in all the flour and the dough is soft and slightly sticky; you might not need all the water.
2. Oil the work surface to stop the dough sticking. Turn out the dough and knead for 5 mins, or until smooth and no longer sticky. Lightly oil the bowl, return the dough to it and cover with cling film. Leave to rise for at least an hour, until doubled in size. Line 2 baking trays with baking parchment.
3. Scrape the dough out of the bowl onto a lightly floured surface and fold it inwards repeatedly until all the air has been knocked out and the dough is smooth. Divide into 12 pieces.
4. Roll each piece into a ball by placing it into a cage formed by your hand on the work surface and moving your hand in a circular motion, rotating the ball rapidly.
5. Put the balls of dough on the prepared baking trays, spacing them slightly apart. (They should just touch each other when they have risen.) Place each tray in a clean plastic bag and leave to prove for about 40 mins, until the rolls have doubled in size. Heat the oven to 220C/Fan 200/425F.
6. Bake for 10–12 mins, until the rolls are golden and sound hollow when tapped underneath. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.
7. For the icing, mix the icing sugar with enough water to give a thick but pourable consistency. Dip each roll into the icing and then into the hundreds and thousands.

Editor's note: They still look like iced buns to me...

REMEMBER

That to have your

MAY 2024 CROSSROADS

ready for publication by **SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024**

FLAMINGTEXT.COM

...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY BY EMAIL
BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN... ...**SATURDAY 13th APRIL**

Crossroads will be printed on Monday 22nd APRIL

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

[Thank you for your help in this matter](#)



CONFIRMATION SERVICE

We are really looking forward to welcoming Bishop Rachel to St Margaret's to lead a Confirmation Service on Sunday 28th April. There will be a rehearsal for the candidates with Bishop Rachel at 4.00pm, and the service will start at 5.00pm. Please do consider coming along to support our candidates if you can (we are hoping to still be able to use the school car park) and to welcome Bishop Rachel to our Benefice again. After the service we are hoping to serve abundant refreshments, reflecting the abundant love and welcome of Jesus. If you are able to bake anything, or help with the serving of refreshments, please do have a word with Lorraine or Rachel.

St Margaret of Scotland, Whaddon

Passion Sunday 17th March 2024

Dear All

We are overdue for a proper newsletter for St Margaret's, but here is a quick mini newsletter, to bring you up to date on a few things and, most importantly, to let you know the Holy Week and Easter service times.

Holy Week and Easter

On Monday in Holy Week (25th March), we have a candlelit service of Compline, or night prayer, at 7.00pm.

On Maundy Thursday (28th March) there is the normal 10.30am communion service, and at 7.30pm at St George's, communion followed by a quiet time of reflection.

Full details of services and events in the Benefice on Good Friday and Holy Saturday can be found on the website: glos-stg-stm.org.uk

but please specially note....

On Holy Saturday at St Margaret's, we have our very special Service of Light starting at 8.00pm.

On Easter Day there will not be a 9.00am service at St Margaret's. This is because the clocks are going on that night, and it would have left a short turn-round after the special service on the Saturday evening. There will be a 10.30am parish communion service at St George's and of course all are welcome to that. And we will have a Family Praise service on Easter Day at St Margaret's at 4.00pm.

Other news from St Margaret's

We are glad to say that the loo is working again!! Cotswold Drainage have done an excellent job.

An outline planning application for 2750 new homes at Whaddon Fields has been submitted by Taylor Wimpey. The PCC has registered an objection particularly to the proposal for a Park and Ride near the churchyard. We must await developments.

YES, IT'S CHOIR CONCERT TIME AGAIN!!



On this occasion St George's Church is privileged to welcome the Innsworth Military Wives Choir to entertain us. The IMWC have offered an evening of song for Saturday 20th April at 7.30pm in Church.

Tickets are £10.00 each which Glenda and Darrell are selling, after church on Sundays, on Tuesdays at Coffee Pot or from the Church Office on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday morning before 11.30am.

There will be a cash bar in St George's Centre staffed by St George's personnel and the choir themselves will be running a Tombola for their own funds. Should you have something which you would like to donate to the Tombola please let Glenda or Darrell have it.

It will make sense to put the date in your diaries NOW and to get your tickets from Glenda and Darrell as soon as possible as they are available online too and you wouldn't wish to miss out, would you!

Innsworth Military Wives Choir is part of the Military Wives Choirs charity - a network of over 2000 women in 72 choirs across the UK and internationally - connecting women in the military community and creating a support network through the power of singing. The choir, based at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester, has recently celebrated their 11th birthday and meet weekly to sing songs ranging from the First World War to present day artists.

...and there's news of another possible concert in September, more information when its available.





The winners of our latest 100 Club when it was drawn on Sunday 10th March were:

1st Prize of £30.00 was Mike Clift (again!)

2nd Prize of £20.00 was Sue Winter

3rd Prize of £10.00 was Linda Brown

Thank you

SUNLIGHT ON A LOCK

The other week in St Margaret's, the sun just happened to illuminate something I had never really noticed before. It was the lock of our main door and its fine metalwork. Out came the mobile phone to capture what I saw, for later study.

This lock undoubtedly dates from the restoration of the church in 1855. Churches all over the country were then being repaired, enlarged or built from scratch, and there was a thriving industry of art workers to provide all the hardware needed. Blacksmiths, tinsmiths, joiners, jewellers, embroiderers, stained glass workers, all producing a wealth of fittings and ornaments.

Firms such as Jones & Willis of Birmingham produced pattern books and could supply things in a range of qualities, from the richest and most detailed, down to the plain and utilitarian. I imagine much was left to the individual artist or craftsman ... provided the work stayed within budget, of course.

Just look at this lock. A sturdy oak box to hide the lock itself, and superb iron straps to secure it. Note the shapely curves and the pleasing arrangement of the screw heads. And above and below the box, the teardrop-shaped strap ends. The straps are decorated with deeply-cut lines around the screw heads, and there are wavy-diamond shapes halfway up, just to break up the plain surface.

When I was growing up one might have said "oh, it's only Victorian". Now, I ask myself: "who could do that work today, and at what cost?" Yes, there are skilled blacksmiths (a few), but have they the design skills to dish up work as good as this, and for a simple village church on a modest budget? I fear it's extremely doubtful.

I hope the black and white picture in the printed Crossroads will be clear enough, but I'll put a decent size colour photograph up on each of the church notice boards, so you can see what I am on about.

JONATHAN



February 27 is the feast of Saint Baldomerus of Lyons, the patron saint of locksmiths. He was a simple man, very devout and frugal in his lifestyle, working with his hands as a locksmith. St Baldomerus was always aware of the needs of others, and he gave away most of what he had to those less fortunate than himself. The Abbot of the nearby monastery of Saint-Just was so impressed with St Baldomerus that he made available to him one of the monastic cells so that he could spend time there in prayer. He died about the year 660, having gained a reputation for himself of simple piety and goodness.

St Baldomerus sets a good example to follow. He was a simple tradesman who lived by working with his hands, not a priest or a religious. He did not seek fortune and fame but did good through his work, sharing his wages and possessions with the needy.

Editor's note: I just thought that you might like to know the above note about the patron Saint of locksmiths.



The Blessing of the Pets

We are really looking forward to welcoming pets (and soft toys!) to St Margaret's on Sunday 21st April. The 4.00pm service will be a joyful thanksgiving for all God's creation, and hopefully will be held outside in the churchyard - weather depending! It will be a service of hymns, prayers and readings and will include the option to bring your pet or soft toy for a blessing. There will be refreshments served afterwards in the marquee. Please do invite your neighbours, friends, and families to come along, and most importantly, do invite your pets and soft toys! I have a special soft toy monkey called Mickey who I think is keen to come along, although the last time he came to St Margaret's churchyard he ended up riding down a zip-wire rather too quickly for his liking! I've assured him that there won't be a zip-wire this time, but who knows in the future...

RACHEL

P.S. Lorraine or I would be very pleased to hear from any volunteers to help with refreshments and/or the installation of the marquee, please.



B IS FOR.....

Boomerangs? Biscuits? Banquets?

Ruth Valerio in her book 'L is for Lifestyle' chooses Bananas.

80 years ago, during the 2nd World War, my parents as children never saw a Banana. Nowadays, they are the world's most popular fruit and regularly on the shopping lists of 9 out of 10 UK households.

How has such a change come about? Chiefly through the rise of large Supermarket chains and Global Trade practises. Ruth could have chosen to call her chapter B is for Bullies because many powerful corporate firms in the Food Industry, Big Name multinationals, exercise their influence over prices in such a way that less than 10% of the price paid by the consumer goes back to the producers whilst almost 80% stays with them.

Many workers in countries which grow our food, including Bananas, not only live in poverty but all too frequently also suffer ill health from the high use of chemicals during the intensive farming and production processes.

There has in recent years been some hopeful changes with companies such as Fair Trade becoming more influential and more 'fairly traded' choices appearing on our supermarket shelves. I've spotted Tea, Coffee, Chocolate and Wine as well as Bananas.

Consumer power is real, the choices we make weekly as we shop can make a real difference.

If you want to exercise your Activism hat (see last month's article) there is an organisation called the Trade Justice Movement, (www.tradejusticemovement.org.uk) which is a coalition of aid agencies, environment and human right campaigners, fair trade organisations, faith, and consumer groups. If you have questions but do not have internet access, I can do some research for you. Meanwhile may we all continue to pray about these issues as we journey towards a fairer, simpler, Kingdom centred world.

LORRAINE BEST

WORD SEARCH

Easter

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

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

Arimathea, Calvary, Christ, crucified, denial, disciples, donkey, ear, empty, Golgotha, Good Friday, Jerusalem, Jesus, last supper, Mary, roman soldier, sleep, Thomas, tomb, vigil,

The answer is printed later in Crossroads



Editor's note: There are a number of requests for help in this month's Crossroads, please consider helping out at one or more of them.

HOW DO FOOD BANKS WORK?

FOOD IS DONATED by Schools, churches, businesses, and individuals who donate non-perishable, in-date food to a food bank. Large collections often take place as part of seasonal celebrations such as Harvest and Christmas, and food is also collected at supermarkets.

FOOD IS SORTED & STORED by volunteers who sort food to check that it's in date and store it ready to be given to people who are referred to food banks in crisis. More than 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at food banks across the UK.

PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED. Our Food banks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, teachers, health visitors and social workers to identify people in crisis and give them a food bank voucher to access emergency food.

PEOPLE REFERRED RECEIVE FOOD by bringing their voucher to a food bank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers welcome people and offer them further support to help resolve the crisis they face.

St George's has a weekly collection of the donations made; Foodbank personnel usually arrive on a Friday morning, but we accept your donations mainly on a Sunday, but it can be anytime during the week when St George's Centre is open. There are crates in the corridor, just pop your donations in one of the crates. There is a list of the most urgently needed items by Foodbank in our Signpost each week.

Your support, however small, is welcomed and although you may not be thanked personally, you can be assured that you and your donations are appreciated not only by us here in the Benefice but by those who receive the results of your thoughtfulness.

The Foodbank which collects from St George's on a Friday morning is George Whitfield Centre, 107 Great Western Road, Gloucester, GL1 3NF.

They really need: long life fruit juice (not chilled), tinned tomatoes, and tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes), tinned or cartons of custard, and tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, tinned meat (e.g. corned beef, ham), and Fray Bentos pies, packet Pasta 'N' Sauce, and Instant Mash, bottles of sauce, bottles of squash, toiletries inc. shampoo/shower gel, and toothpaste.

They currently have excess of: Tea, Dry Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Rice (Long Grain/basmati etc).



JOIN THE
CLEANING
TEAM

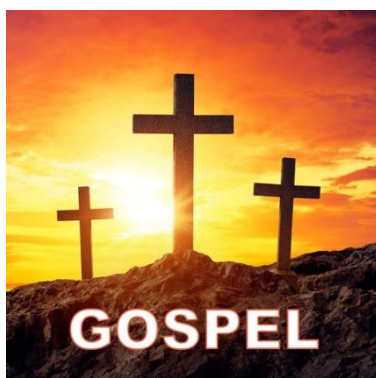
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH CLEANING
Saturday 6th April from 10.00am onwards

See you all again on Saturday 5th April. We welcome, duster flickers, hoover moovers, cobweb shifters, light bulb changers, chair straighteners, and anyone new to our little band. We were a little light in numbers in February, hopefully that was put right for the March church cleaning session (no it wasn't really).

Please check your Signpost for any new church cleaning updates.

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

If you spot something which needs our cleaning attention, please don't keep it to yourself and fret about it; tell us! or better still come along and join us. You know it make sense...



GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ

Questions based on the Gospel readings for February

- 1 In one of February readings we learned, "the darkness did not overcome it." What was not overcome?
- 2 Who came to testify about that which was not overcome?
- 3 What 'came into being through Him'?
- 4 Who did Jesus take up a high mountain?
- 5 Which other figures were mentioned as being on the Mount of Transfiguration?
- 6 What was torn apart as Jesus was baptised?
- 7 After His baptism where was Jesus driven?
- 8 After an arrest, 'Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God.' Who was arrested?
- 9 Jesus told his disciples, 'the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Who rebuked Him?
- 10 How did Jesus describe the generation of people amongst whom He lived?

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



JOTTINGS From St Margaret's

Hello everyone, it's that moaning minnie who does the cleaning at St Margaret's. I'm sorry to say that I've been under the weather since Christmas, I've been diagnosed with Osteoarthritis. I've had an Xray which confirmed the diagnosis, so it's slow going for the time being. I still tidy up when I go to St Margaret's on Thursday mornings, but it's not the same as going on a Monday morning then getting everything done.

I hope to get myself to St Margaret's with Dianne and Marilyn as soon as I can, but currently, both Marilyn and Dianne have both gone down with bad fluey cold that's going around. They are both coughing like mad, so we won't be cleaning for a little while, so St Margaret's is looking a little uncared for at the moment.

It won't be long before we will all be able to give her a really good clean up, but for now that's all for now. I hope to be up and running in the near future so until then, that's all, look after yourselves and stay safe.

JILL PONTER

Editor's Note: *If anyone could help out the cleaning team at St Margaret's do have a word with their Churchwardens to see what might be arranged.*

ST GEORGE'S COFFEE POT



EVERY Tuesday morning from 9.30am until 11.30am

St George's Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley

Hot drinks and food available

If good company, conversation, and refreshments are just the ticket for you, then come along, and bring a friend!



Our 'annual meetings' will take place on Sunday 19th 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.

Mike Brammer has decided to stand down as a Churchwarden at this year's St George's APCM, we thank him for his service over numerous years and wish him well.

We also say thank you to Lynne McEwan-Berry who served as our Parish Safeguarding Officer for the past two years, and has decided that now is the time to step down. Lynne has transformed our safeguarding systems, led some wonderfully thorough group training, and been an inspiring advocate for the importance of safeguarding in its widest sense. Please do consider whether God is calling you to this role - Lynne has offered to informally support anyone who feels able to take this important role on.

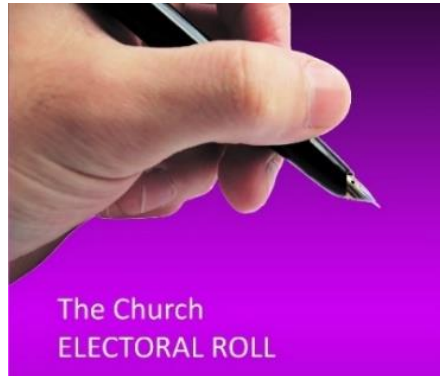


Our speaker this month was Laine Lewis. She spoke of her journey to finally deciding to become a Vicar. She first was sure that she wanted to be a teacher a work experience

at Whaddon school changed her mind. While at University she found an advert in a church magazine to work with youth. She was so good and was told she could get a degree as a youth community teacher which she did and also combine it with talking about her faith. On moving to Gloucester she joined Dawn Dolphin from Bundles which made her want to help families in need and with sick children and also speak about faith so she has now made her choice to a Vicar and is being ordained in June. We all wish her well in her new journey.

The next meeting of our Mothers' Union is on Tuesday 9th April at 2.00pm in the small hall. All are welcome.

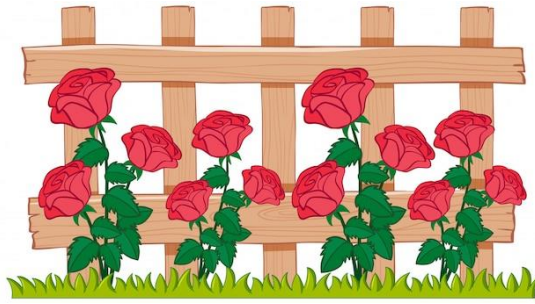
GERALDINE



This year's APCMs are to be held on Sunday 19 May 2024. If your name does not appear on the Electoral Roll, you will not be eligible to vote at your churches APCM or be elected to its PCC. In St George's the Electoral Roll will be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 21 April 2024 to Sunday 12 May 2024. If you wish for your name to be added to the list, forms are on the table at the back of St George's Church or you can see me, Margaret Barber. Completed forms can be handed to me, Glenda or to a Churchwarden.



I'm sorry but I've postponed the proposed 'Let Us Entertain You' evening, there is a lot going on and of course the Innsworth Military Wives will be in concert on 20th April. But just keep an eye on future issues of Crossroads for a revised date. Darrell



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, Maya, what you doing? I'm just minding my own business, Trix. What may I ask are you doing? Well, Maya, it's like this, you see I was just sitting on the fence, and I saw Yasmin making her way towards me. So, I said 'Hello,' but she gave me one of her looks, you know the one when she almost crosses her eyes trying to look oh so superior! Well, I just ignored her after that and went looking for Dozy Rosie instead. Well then when Rosie came around the corner Yasmin fell off the fence, I thought that Rosie was going to have a fit there and then, but she covered it by having a good cough. Maya, it was the funniest thing ever! Yasmin, just walked on by with her dignity just about intact; but I still had a giggle to myself. And what pray did Rosie have to say?

Maya, I'm over here, Trixie and I were just catching up about Harry, you know that he's still not allowed out at the moment. His Mum and Dad have been taking him to the Animal Hospital at least twice a week. Twice a week!! Rosie, I thought it was just once in a while. No Maya, Harry has really been in the wars, his skin is so fragile at the moment his doctor needs to see him frequently just to keep an eye on his progress. He keeps getting skin infections. So, he's having to have his skin washed all the time. I do miss him, Maya, especially when he used to jump out on us! We're still able to go round and see him through his window. I know, Rosie, just because he is getting on a bit, he can still give us a surprise.

So come on let's see if the two Gingers are about. I haven't seen them in a while. OK, Maya, come on Trix we've got quite a job on our hands, the two Gingers usually hang around the corner, so let's get going and find them. Oh, Oh, Trixie, look who's getting all chummy with Yasmin! Who's that Rosie? Are you blind or something, it's big Ginge and little Ginge. They must have seen Yasmin fall off the fence and are giving her a hand to get all cleaned up, Come, on let's go over and say hello to them, I'll try not to laugh. If you do Trixie, I'll flatten you myself and remember we came over to catch up with the boys. I

know, Maya, hello boys how are you? Yasmin, I'm fine, Trixie. Maya, Rosie long time no see. I know Yasmin, I've been looking after the family and that great big sippy dog. Why are you looking after the family, Rosie? I thought they had hoomans to look after them. They do Yasmin, but I have to make sure that they behave themselves. You know, the littlest hooman can be quite naughty, you know about our little girl hooman, don't you big Ginge. I certainly do Rosie, she got me to come to her one day and I didn't see the dog in his bed under the stairs. I almost had a heart attack, when he came bounding over and tried to lick me all over and that little minx just wouldn't let me go. I had to suffer the licking from head to paw. She let me go when her Mum told her to let me go though. I couldn't get out of that house quickly enough. Little Ginge was on the fence laughing his head off. I told him it was all right for him because he didn't have to suffer all that licking. It took me ages to get cleaned up again.

Have you seen Harry boys? Well, the last time we spoke to him he said he was feeling a lot better and that he could spend a few hours outside if the weather got warmer, but he would have to wear his cover up bandage. Ginge, what's a cover up bandage? It's like a Babygro for animals to keep his wound covered and clean so he recovers better. So, where are we off to now girls? Are you all coming including Yasmin of course. Yes, we are, come on Rosie and Trixie say tata to everyone. Tata everyone see you all again soon. It's tata from me too, Maya, stay safe and warm.

MAYA AND TRIXIE



An EASTER thank you...

Thank you to everyone who was involved in any activity or service during the lead up to and over the Easter period at St Margaret's or at St George's, your involvement, time, and caring has not gone unnoticed.



During the week of 11th March, we were delighted to welcome into church 628 children and over 50 school staff and parents for Explore Easter, in 18 class groups, Mondays@6.15 group, and the Beavers and Cubs! This is the third time we have been able to offer this important mission activity at St George's, and it is a particular joy to do this with our friends across the Church in Tuffley.

We are very blessed to benefit from the immense gifts and experience of Pastor David from Grange Baptist, who was a Headteacher of a Church School for 13 years before accepting the call to be the Community Pastor at Grange. David tells the Easter story to each class group gathered on the platform at St George's, in such an engaging and interactive way, that the children are engrossed and hanging on his every word.

After they have heard the story, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, they have half an hour to explore for themselves the meaning of God's love and forgiveness through 8 different activities set up around the church. Rachel normally leads the Last Supper activity, where the children get to re-enact the Last Supper with crackers and pretend wine! The children this year loved sitting underneath the Last Supper sculpture and nearly everyone one of them expressed amazement in a 'wow' when they looked up around the table, to Jesus sitting at the end (one of the children said Jesus looked like a lion!) At the other stations around the church, there is usually a volunteer to help the children to think about the activity and the meaning of that part of the story - there have been some wonderful, very touching conversations over the week. Thank you so much to all those who were able to give of their time and energy to Explore Easter - there were over 15 altogether, across the 3

churches, and we could not do this without you. Thank you also to all who have prayed for the week, this too is very important.

Here is a thank you email we received from the RE Lead at Harewood Junior School:

"Dear David and Rachel

Thank you so much, to you and your team, for the wonderful 'Explore Easter'.

Once again, staff described it as 'brilliant and 'exceptional' and I know the children were thrilled with the arts and crafts they created and reflective experiences. I'm only sorry that I wasn't able to be there, but perhaps next year!

All your hard work and welcoming of the children into church is much appreciated.

Many thanks again,

Diane"

I HATE TO SAY IT by Tony J

I hate to say it, but we walk around so blind
Walking past those in need, instead of being kind
We're also in the habit, of taking loved ones for granted
And never smelling roses, once they were planted
Also our patience, is seen to run quite thin
Perhaps never feeling guilty, when committing a sin
Is there anything worse, than bearing a grudge
When someone carries a chip, that never seems to budge
Hiding our skeletons, in cupboards once so bare
Time to de-clutter, don't leave them stored in there
Even our food, goes to so much waste

Consuming it so fast, not appreciating its taste
Do we re-cycle, in the way it should be
Too easy in one bin, hoping no one else will see
Spending so much money, with nothing in the pocket
Just plug some device in a convenient handy socket
So many things in life, to occupy our time
Is excessive use of gadgets, perhaps a major crime



SPRING / EASTER TRIVIA QUIZ

1. How many Easter eggs are bought and consumed in the UK each year?
2. When was the first Easter egg created?
3. Which country does Easter Island belong to?
4. How many eggs have gone into the world's largest omelette?
5. What animal delivers Easter eggs on Easter Sunday?
6. What is a modern-day, 'digital' easter egg?
7. What goes on the top of a simnel cake?
8. Who is always late in Alice in Wonderland?
9. Judy Garland and Fred Astaire starred in which 1948 springtime film?
10. "It's not Terry's, it's mine," is the advertising slogan for which chocolate treat?
11. Who owns the factory in Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?
12. What is Bambi's rabbit friend called?
13. Which egg-shaped chocolate candy treat is banned in the United States?
14. True or false: the people of Mesoamerica used cocoa beans as currency?
15. What part of the cocoa plant is chocolate made from?
 - a) beans
 - b) flowers
 - c) berries
16. What type of 'chocolate' contains cocoa butter but not cocoa beans?
17. What is the name of a male rabbit?

18. Buying what for Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year?
19. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?
20. The world's tallest ever chocolate easter egg was approximately how tall?
a) 8 metres b) 9 metres c) 10 metres

...answers are printed later in Crossroads



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello Friends, I haven't got a lot to tell you, but now that it's getting warmer, I can stay out longer. My Mum loves me really, even though she does tell me off now and again, I have heard a rumour that a dog is coming to stay soon but only for a day. So, I'll be up in the bedroom out of the way. When it goes home I will be allowed downstairs and hopefully outside if it's not blowing a hooley or raining! I hate getting my paws wet.

Do you know, there's another feline that comes into my garden and I don't like it! It soon wanders off when I go outside. The very idea, coming into my territory, I won't allow it!

My Mum tells me I'm a wusspuss, I've no idea what she means, just because I don't like rain, snow, wind; I like it warm and cosy. I have heard my Mum and Auntie Jill talking about taking me, Maya and Trixie to that place again, its only to be treated with that tick and flea repellent stuff. But we don't have things like that on us! As we keep our fur nice and clean. I'll have a few to say to my Mum as I don't think it's very nice saying that we have things like that on us. I know it's only a precaution so it won't happen, anyway we wouldn't allow it!

The weather has improved so I can stay out a bit longer as it isn't so cold. I know I have a fur coat but sometimes it's just not enough, especially if it's very windy. Then I stay indoors where it's warmer!

I'd better close now as my paw is getting very tired. I'll write again soon

'Bye for now, your friend
Jojo Whittle (Miss)

WORDSEARCH ANSWERS
CORRECTION FOR LAST MONTH AND THIS MONTH'S ANSWER

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

SPRING / EASTER TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1 80 million; 2 1873; 3 Chile; 4 110,000 eggs; 5 The Easter Bunny; 6 A message, image or hidden feature found within a film or video game; 7 Marzipan and 11 marzipan balls; 8 The White Rabbi; 9 Easter Parade; 10 Chocolate Orange; 11 Willie Wonka; 12 Thumper; 13 Kinder Surprise; 14 True; 15 a) beans; 16 White Chocolate; 17 Buck; 18 New clothes; 19 Lily; 20 c) 10 metres;

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 The light; 2 John the Baptist; 3 The world; 4 Peter, James & John; 5 Moses & Elijah; 6 the heavens; 7 the Wilderness; 8 John the Baptist; 9 Peter; 10 adulterous and sinful;



Prayer For God's Blessings In 2024

Lord, you know the plans you have for me and I know that they are plans to prosper and not harm me. Heavenly Father, I give you all thanks and praise for having brought me through the year so far. For the rest of the year, continue to pour out your blessings upon me in even greater measure.

Bless my home, my work, my business, my family, dear Lord. I lean on your promises. You will make me the head and not the tail. I will be above and not beneath. Even as others face recession and financial crises, Lord, I remain confident that you are my provider. You will never let your child go without.



CALENDAR

March

Sun 31	10.30am	Joint Easter Parish Communion	St G's
	4.00pm	Easter Family Praise	St M's

April

Mon 1	Easter Monday		
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Tue 2	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
Wed 3	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 4	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art Group	SH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 6	10.00am	Church Cleaning	St G's
	10.00am	Litter Pick	HP
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 7	Easter 2		
	10.30am	Parish Communion followed by coffee	St G's
	4.00pm	Evensong	St M's
Mon 8	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@6.15	MH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 9	9.30am	Coffee Pot	SH
	10.00am	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free	MH
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC

	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 10	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	MH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.00pm	Gardening Club Committee	SL
Thu 11	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 13	May Crossroads Deadline		
	10.00am	Karate	MH
		Let Us Entertain You <i>Postponed</i>	
Sun 14	Easter 3		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	4.00pm	Family Praise	St M's
Mon 15	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@6.15	MH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 16	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
	7.00pm	Fayres Meeting	V
	8.00pm	Karate	MH
Wed 17	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	MH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
	7.30pm	Refresh	St G's
Thu 18	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH

	7.00pm	Connections Group meet	V
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Fri 19	7.30pm	Gardening Club	MH
Sat 20	10.00am	Karate	MH
	Tbc	Grange Baptist Spring Fayre	GB
	7.30pm	Military Wives Choir Concert	St G's
Sun 21	St George's Day Celebration / Easter 4		
	9.00am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	4.00pm	Pets Service	St M's
Mon 22	10.30am	Aphasia-Now	SH
	5.00pm	Evening prayer	Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies	MH
	6.00pm	Rainbows	SH
	6.15pm	Mondays@6.15	MH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Tue 23	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 24	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	MH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00p & 6.15pm	MH
Thu 25	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	10.30am	Thursday Club	SH/SL
	2.00pm	First Impressions Art Group	SH
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH
Sat 27	10.00am	Karate	MH
	2.30pm	Litter Pick	St G's
Sun 28	Easter 5		
	May Crossroads available		
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	5.00pm	Parish Communion & Confirmation	St M's
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
	10.00a	Parish Communion	St G's
	1.30pm	Fun & Free	MH
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	LC
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers	MH
	8.00pm	Karate	MH

May

Wed 1	8.15am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg	MH
	3.30pm	Slimming World also at 5.00pm & 6.30pm	MH
Thu 2	7.00am	Polling Station	St G's
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St M's
	6.30pm	Clubbercise	MH
Sat 4	10.00am	Church Cleaning	St G's
	10.00am	Karate	MH
Sun 5	Easter 6		
	10.30am	Parish Communion	St G's
	4.00pm	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

Signpost is our opportunity to let you know upto date information and any changes to previously publicised dates etc.

Crossroads is our monthly magazine informing you of what's happening in St George's Church and Centre, St Margaret's, Church in Tuffley and the parish generally.

Diary or Calendar is a longer-term view of what's happening.

All of the aforementioned are only as good as the information fed into it, so, if you are aware of a happening or a change to a happening which needs people to know about, please tell someone, there are several avenues for you to do that. More next month...

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH...

Jill said to Jack, "A clown said some very nice things to me today, Jack" Jack reply "Oh, that was a nice jester"

Jack asked Jill "What's a zebra?" to which Jill replied, "I think it's a few sizes bigger than an A."

Jill asked, "Jack, will you put the cat out" She didn't appreciate Jack's reply, "I didn't know it was on fire."

Jack said to Jill that he had heard a pair of cows talking in the field. One said to the other, "Have you heard about the mad cow disease that's going around?" "Yeah," the other cow says. "Makes me glad I'm a penguin."

Jack and Jill were going on holiday on the flight was a lively youngster who nearly drove everyone crazy. He was running up and down the aisle when the flight attendant started serving coffee. He ran smack into her, knocking a cup of coffee out of her hand and onto the floor. As he stood by watching her clean up the mess, she glanced up at the boy and said, "Look, why don't you go and play outside?"

Jill went into a seafood restaurant and asked for a lobster tail. The waiter smiled sweetly and said, "Once upon a time there was this handsome lobster..."

One day the telephone in the office of the Vicar of Jack and Jill's local church rang, and an eager voice said, "Tell me, is it right that you expect the Prime Minister to be in church this Sunday?" "That I cannot promise," the Vicar explained patiently. "But we expect God to be here, and we fancy that will be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance."

Jack and Jill were out celebrating their wedding anniversary and Jack called the waiter over and asked "Waiter, we'd like a bottle of wine, please." The waiter replied, "What year, sir?" Jill snapped back with, "Well, we'd like it right now."

Jack and Jill's son was reciting the Lord's Prayer, and ended by asking: "...and deliver us from people, Amen."

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