

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



ST GEORGE'S

Sunday	Parish Communion at 10.30am
4th Sunday	(with prayers for healing)
Tuesday	Parish Communion at 9.30am
Thursday	Morning Prayer at 8.15am
1st Saturday	Messy Church at 10.00am

ST MARGARET'S

1st Sunday	Family Praise at 10.30am and
	Evensong at 5.00pm
	(with prayers for healing)
2nd Sunday	Parish Communion at 9.00am
3rd Sunday	Evensong at 5.00pm
4th Sunday	Parish Communion at 9.00am
Thursday	Parish Communion at 10.30am

WEBSITE
FACEBOOK:
REFRESH

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon
3rd Wednesday at 7.30pm (Venue varies)

MARCH 2020

50p

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

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OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

Lent: Our journey to Easter

I've been impressed with our Cathedral's motto, 'from visitor to pilgrim'.

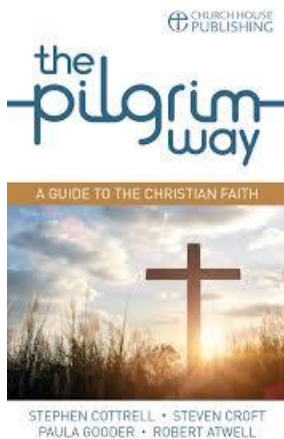
I wonder if you think of your life as just a series of events – some random, others planned; some wanted and longed for, others definitely unwanted?

I do hope you think of life as much more than this! For we're all on a rich journey, heading for a wonderful destination.

Yes, we're all Pilgrims, on the way to Heaven!

In March, at church on Sundays and in small groups on weekdays we'll be refreshing our understanding and experience of being 'Pilgrims on the Way'.

We'll look at the Lord's Prayer; the Beatitudes; the Commandments; and the Creeds. Yes, it's packed with action!



There's also a special free booklet for everyone. So, if for any reasons you can't get to church, and you'd like a booklet, contact the office we'll get one to you.

This way we'll use Lent well, and hit the road running all the way to the Easter celebration of our Resurrection life!

Father God, you've made us to enjoy You forever. You've sent Your Son Jesus to save us and re-make us. And You've left your Holy Spirit to live within us and constantly renew us preparing us for our destiny of eternal love fulfilled eternally. Thank you! Amen

God bless us all on the Pilgrim Road together.

BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

We welcomed to the Lord's Family:

Matthew Saunders

Miles Saunders

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:

Angus Mackellar RIP

Philip Brain RIP

Joyce Evans RIP

Eileen Stevens RIP

Marion Slater RIP

Gerald Evans RIP

EILEEN STEVENS RIP

You will have read in last month's issue of Gloria's contact with Eileen. Unfortunately, Eileen died on the day our February issue was made available we send our sympathies to Eileen's family and friends for their sad loss.

WANTED! "BEETLERS" FOR A BEETLE DRIVE

No experience required, apart from being able to shake a dice and hold a pencil. A fun evening is guaranteed. Only £2.00 per person and bring any drink or nibbles you fancy. There will be prizes and a raffle. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. Saturday 21 March in St George's Centre from 7.00pm. for more information and tickets see Sylvia Evans.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCHWARDENS NEED YOU!

Church care and cleaning week: Sunday 15 March to Saturday 21 March; is looming near and Mike and Sylvia need your help. Everyone can do something. There are many small jobs like clearing up loose paper and tidying books, right up to huge jobs including polishing the floor and silverware. Yes! We could do it ourselves, but we'd all have a sense of pride; if we all could donate 10 minutes of our time to make St George's bright and shiny for the Spring that would be great.

Please see Mike or Sylvia if you have a burning desire to do a specific job. Otherwise add your name to the list in the porch saying what you'd like to do and when. The church will be open all week so please feel free to pop in and help us out.

Thank you so much for all you do every week. It's greatly appreciated.

MIKE AND SYLVIA

Editor's note...

If you have happened to notice something in St George's Church which needs attention, please tell our Churchwardens.

LENT GROUPS

We'd love many to take part this year in "The Pilgrim Way" journey:

- Tuesdays from 3.00pm for an hour or so in the Vicarage, starting on 3 March
- Fridays at 9.30am until 11.00am in the Softly Lounge at St George's from 6 March.

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.

POCKET PRAYERS

Over the last few months we've been sharing in a delightful series of eight small booklets, "Pocket Prayers". These have the subtitles:



- Franciscan prayer
- Prayer for Families
- Prayer Journey
- Ignatian prayer
- Making Space for God
- Examen
- Contemplation
- Lectio Divina

We hope you've been finding them helpful. If you missed out on any, or you'd like another copy for a friend, just ask at the office.



CHURCH IN TUFFLEY

Palm Sunday 5 April

- 9.00am Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Mass with procession and Children's Liturgy of the Word at English Martyrs
- 10.00am Here Comes Holy Week for all ages at St Margaret's
- 10.30am Palm Sunday Communion at St George's
- 10.30am Palm Sunday Celebration at Grange Baptist

Maundy (Holy) Thursday 9 April

- 7.00pm Parish Communion followed by a Vigil at St George's
- 7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of Feet at English Martyrs

Good Friday, 10 April

- 12.20pm Easter Procession leaves English Martyrs and arrives at St George's for 1.30pm
- 1.45pm Celebration of Christ's Passion at St George's followed by drinks and hot cross buns
- 3.00pm The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord with Veneration of the Cross at English Martyrs

Easter (Holy) Saturday 11 April

- 3.00pm Messy Easter at Grange Baptist
- 8.00pm Baptism and Confirmation service at Gloucester Cathedral
- 9.00pm Easter Vigil including Liturgy of Light, the Word, Baptism and the Eucharist at English Martyrs

Easter Sunday 12 April

- 9.00am Easter Mass with Children's Reflection at English Martyrs
- 10.30am Easter Family Praise at St Margaret's
- 10.30am Easter Communion with St George's Singing Group at St George's
- 10.30am Easter Celebration at Grange Baptist

See 'Dates to Remember' for other services happening in Tuffley over the Easter period

ST GEORGE'S DAY CENTRE

Every Thursday
10.30am until 2.30pm



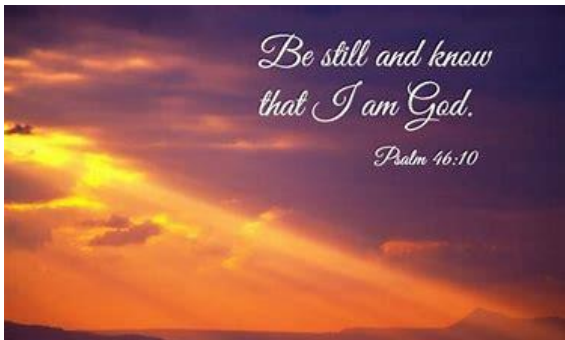
If you are lonely and would like to meet new friends
then come along and join us!

A hot meal is available and transport can be
arranged, subject to a waiting list

Contact Hans Rackham on 528939



TUFFLEY PRAYER DAY 29 FEBRUARY 10.00am until 2.00pm



A wonderful opportunity for us all to
come and enjoy God's presence for a
period of stillness at St George's.

This is a time to be still; and if you wish,
to be creative with our interactive prayer
stations.

As we become open to God in the stillness, so we allow God to come close,
and to grow His Kingdom of love among us here in Tuffley.

The quietness will begin and end with five minutes of meditative worship
together, each hour, on the hour.

Drop in any time, for however long.

Come either by yourself or with friends.

Refreshments available.

*"I love God because He bends down to listen to me; He hears my prayers and
He answers them" (Psalm 116:1)*

MARCH RIDDLE-ME-REE

1 I have branches, sometimes a few and other times hundreds or more, but I have no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?

2 I am a word; if you pronounce me correctly, it will be wrong; if you pronounce me wrong it is right? What word am I?

SOUL SPACE

A new worship opportunity for everyone: -

- ✓ for all ages
- ✓ Second Sunday of each month
- ✓ Afternoon (3.30pm)
- ✓ Food too
- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ St George's
- ✓ Next Soul Space is on March 8

Just come along and enjoy!

(For more information, contact Helen)



A comment...

Initially I had reservations that this new venture would not be for me and a little out of my comfort zone and therefore went along with a little trepidation only to find that my assumptions and preconceived ideas blown out of the water.

It is a very relaxed informal setting welcoming a broad spectrum of ages. What both moved and impressed me this Sunday was a young lady, Rachel aged 15, from Grange Baptist church who spoke to us about anxiety, albeit a little shyly, and then confidently linked them to passages from the Bible based on God being our anchor and our handhold. It reminded me of a poem I came across many years ago entitled; *The Child is Father of the man*.

It also reminded me that whatever our age we do not have the monopoly on wisdom and that we should never underestimate or undervalue our wonderful young people.

So, if you fancy giving it a whirl why not come along and give it a go. The dates and times are published in signpost.

LINDA MEDWELL



Yes, the date has been fixed for our latest extravaganza, Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm in the main hall of St George's Centre. So, if you would like to be on stage entertaining a supportive and appreciative audience, please let me know. Don't forget to tell me what you would like to do to entertain so I can put a show together which will please all in attendance. To be part of the audience will cost £5.00 each which will include a light

supper but please bring your own drinks.

DARRELL

ST GEORGE'S COFFEE POT

EVERY Tuesday morning from 9.00am until 11.00am
St George's Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley

Hot drinks and food available until 10.30am

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

We are desperate for help to lay up tables on a Monday and to put things away after Coffee Pot on a Tuesday if you can spare some time please speak to Mike Brammer or our Vicar ASAP



MY TRIP HOME TO CHINA



My name is Sun and I would like to tell you a little about my recent trip to China. I am originally from a remote area near Huanren, in Liaoning County, it is just above North Korea on the map. I went for three weeks as it takes over a day to

get there, flying from Birmingham to Amsterdam, then Amsterdam to Shanghai, Shanghai to Shenyang and then a three hour car journey.

I normally go back to visit my family in the late Spring or early Autumn when the weather is similar to our Summer in the UK avoiding the cold of the winter and the heat of the summer which can rise well into the 30°C. This year I visited for Chinese New Year it is a big celebration in China, similar to New Year in the UK but it is more like a week-long Bank Holiday, and a chance for families and communities to meet up and relax and celebrate.

This time of year, the weather is very cold with daytime temperatures averaging around -5 and about -15 to -30 at night. The area was blanketed in snow and ice with the local lake frozen so hard that people could drive on it and some go ice fishing. My family had organised a large number of events for me as I am not home often, and I was looking forward to seeing them all again.

However, a few days into my visit Coronavirus struck China, the main area being Wuhan which is about as close to where I was as Tuffley is to Rome. Within a matter of days, all of the restaurants, shops, tourist sites, planned events were closed, all the activities my family had planned for me were cancelled and I spent the rest of my time visiting my family, mainly chatting, eating and playing Mah-jong.

For me it was a nice relaxing break, however my two flights home were cancelled, and my husband, Jonathan, had to rebook them from the UK, roads were being closed on a regular basis to prevent the virus spreading, but fortunately there were no cases in the area I was in. I left and travelled home after a very quiet and relaxing trip and was glad at the end of it to get safely back to Tuffley.

The next day my brother called to be sure I was home safely and said how lucky I was as the main motorway out of the area only a few hours after my departure had been closed, if I hadn't have left when I did I would not be able to leave.

I have now been at home for two weeks just as a precaution, and I am looking forward to returning to Church and seeing you all again shortly.

CHURCH CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

We continue to enjoy the new lighter feel of St George's Centre with the bright new double-glazed windows and doors cheering our spirits. We've even sorted the keys out for the Centre users and Church officers. I would ask that if you use the small hall of St George's Centre you take particular notice of the new doors with panic bars fitted. Unlike our previous door they will not lock automatically, so if you go out through them by using the panic bar, they will remain open and unlocked so a great security risk. The doors have to be locked internally unless you can find a Churchwarden or the Vicar to lock them securely. I have put locking instructions on these doors just in case.

We've haven't got around to the painting of the grey walls in white yet as the weather has been not ideal.

But we have been reviewing the proposed equipment for the toilets and need to go back to our preferred choice of supplier and fitter with a few questions. I hope that should any changes become necessary they can be achieved without increasing the current quote of around £20,000. Unfortunately, we're not there yet with the funding and may have to look elsewhere for help. I will keep you posted on how progress is being made. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to ask me.

DARRELL

AMISH PROVERBS ABOUT TIME

"Nothing lasts for ever, even your troubles"

"Do more of less"

Disappointingly our February Speaker did not arrive. We used the time to air any queries we had regarding Mothers' Union. Also, for the benefit of visitors, the procedure for enrolling was explained. Looking ahead we discussed the celebrating of the "World Day of Prayer"; which will be on Friday 6 March. Our members will be taking part at St Barnabas Church Stroud Road at 2.00pm, all are welcome.



Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10 March in St. George's small hall at 2.30pm when the speaker will be Katie Richardson the Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain. Please join us.

ELECTORAL ROLL

The Annual meeting of St George's Parochial Church Council will be held on Sunday 19 April 2020 at 12.00noon. Anyone whose name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll will not be eligible to vote or be elected to the PCC. The Electoral Roll will be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 15 March until the Sunday 12 April. If you wish your name to be added to our Electoral Roll, please complete a form which is available from me or from the table at the back of St George's. Completed forms must be handed to me, Glenda or a Churchwarden by no later than Sunday 12 April 2020.

MARGARET BARBER, ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

YOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP NEEDS YOU!

Our Annual meetings are coming up in March and April. This is the time we elect our Parish Church Councils and our Churchwardens. Please be on the look-out 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! And most of all, please keep the matter in your prayers.

Thank you

**ST MARGARET'S Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM)
4.00pm TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2020 in the vicarage**

**ST GEORGE'S Annual Parish Church Meeting
12.00noon SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2020 in the church**

Everyone is welcome, to come hear about the past year and take part in discussion on directions for the next year.

If you're on the church's register of electors; you can also vote for your representatives for the coming year.

Last year reports were prepared for or by the following: Joint PCC, Vicar, Pioneer, Deanery Synod, St George's and St Margaret's Churchwardens, Messy Church, Mothers' Union, St George's Centre, JAM (Jesus and me), Safeguarding, St George's Entertainers, St George's Singing Group, Social Committee, Day Centre, St George's and St Margaret's Treasurers and Railway Society. There are probably a few new groups who ought to write reports. So please prepare it NOW and send it to Glenda as soon as possible.

Emailed documents would be preferred; if your report must be handwritten please let Glenda have it immediately in order that she can process it for the Annual Report and Accounts pack

Remember your report covers the period
1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2019 only

The deadline for ALL reports is **SUNDAY 8 MARCH**; so, you don't have long to complete it.

Your report will not appear in the APCM pack if it is received after this date.

Many thanks
DARRELL

AMISH PROVERBS ABOUT MONEY

"Those who let God provide will always be satisfied"

"He who has no money is poor; he who has nothing; but money is even poorer"



Questions based on the Gospel readings for January

- 1 Micah prophesied that from Bethlehem would come 'a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel' In which of the 12 tribes will you find Bethlehem?
- 2 On entering the _____, the wise men saw the child with Mary. What word is missing?
- 3 Jesus came from _____ to John the Baptist at the Jordan to be baptised by him. Where did Jesus travel from in order to be baptised?
- 4 In speaking to John the Baptist Jesus said, 'it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all _____. What word is missing?
- 5 Speaking of Jesus John said, 'here is the _____ who takes away the sin of the world'. Which 3 words are missing?
- 6 Two of John the Baptist's disciples heard John speak about Jesus. One of these disciples was named. Which disciple was named?
- 7 These disciples followed Jesus to where he was staying. It was about _____ o'clock in the afternoon. What time was it?
- 8 Once John the Baptist had been arrested scripture tells us Jesus withdrew to _____. Where did Jesus withdraw to?
- 9 Jesus left Nazareth to live in Capernaum. Isaiah prophesied, 'land of Z_____ and land of N_____ on the road by the sea'. Which two lands was Isaiah prophesying about?
- 10 As He walked by the Sea of Galilee Jesus saw two pairs of brothers. Can you name them?

*The answers to this month's Bible Quiz
can be found later in this issue of Crossroads*

There are occasionally changes to the weekly timetable so please refer to our weekly newsletter for details of any changes. Crossroads and our weekly newsletter are now available for free on our website: -

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

PETER'S MARCH

posers



The 1967 film 'Casino Royale' was an "absurd masterpiece" with an international all-star cast. With the aid of the following initials name some or all of those stars. One point for each correct answer.

1 D N: 2 P S: 3 U A: 4 O W: 5 D K: 6 W H: 7 J P B: 8 C B: 9 R C: 10 B C:
11 P O: 12 W A

ANSWERS TO PETER'S FEBRUARY POSERS

1. Methuselah: 2. Michael Collins: 3. Rogers and Hammerstein's 'Carousel': 4. Singapore Sling: 5. Some Like It Hot: 6. A View To A Kill (Duran Duran): 7. Holland: 8. King Arthur: 9. Pyro: 10. Staten Island, Queens, Manhattan, Brooklyn and The Bronx:



In order to have your

APRIL CROSSROADS

ready for publication on Sunday 29 March 2020

ARTICLES NEED TO BE IN THE EDITORS' HANDS
OR IN OUR EMAIL INBOX BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN

FRIDAY 13 MARCH

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



Thursday 5 March is World Book Day and there is sure to be something happening at the Library on this day. In recent years we have hosted numerous school groups from both Harewood and Grange Schools. It is delightful to see the children dressed up as their favourite fictional characters and it really helps us to celebrate books and the valuable contribution they can make to our lives. Sometimes the staff join in too so please do pop in if you can on this day. There is sure to be something exciting to witness!

Our Saturday morning Lego Club (10.30am until 12.30pm) goes from strength to strength. We challenge those that turn up with a different theme each week. We provide images to inspire or you can create whatever takes your fancy from the vast array of Lego available. Thank you to all who have contributed to our stock and yes, we will gratefully receive any further donations.

We are trying to revive our Junior Knitting Club on Monday afternoons. Some of our Adult knit 'n Natter group become teachers as they guide the learners in this free after school club on Mondays during term time from 3.00pm for ages 6+. The educational benefits of learning to knit are many: it helps in the development of fine motor skills, maths and spatial recognition. Knitting can be wholly absorbing so it increases a child's ability to concentrate and apply oneself to a task!

STOP PRESS:

Two events for Children during the Easter holidays to put in your diary now for Thursday 16 April at 10.30am Peter Rabbit Craft in conjunction with Tesco. Just drop in. At 2.00pm A Bird Watching Story Walk with professional storyteller, Bill Church. Children must be accompanied. This is a free event; but places are limited so please book ahead or call in to do so (01452 522160) Hope to see you in your Library soon!

MARGARET AND STEVE



As Bruce, the Vicar of St George's and St Margaret's, very kindly asked me to write an article for Crossroads, I thought that I had better introduce myself.

As well as being privileged to pimp Susan Wilber's ride on a regular basis, I am Secretary of the Gloucester Branch of the World Ship Society, regularly exhibit on the model engineering circuit and look after the model collection at the Jet Age Museum. And, thinking over my mainly 1/72 scale charges, who makes a more impressive entrance than the Red Arrows? Although they have been flying the BAe Systems Hawk since 1979, the aerobatic team of the Royal Air Force started out with the ultimate product of a remarkable man.

The Folland Gnat, a cockpit of which can be explored at Jet Age Museum, was designed by William Edward Willoughby Petter. Born in 1908 "Teddy" Petter was a son of the engine building Petter family of Yeovil. With Petter's spin off company Westland, Teddy designed the Lysander - which took spies in and out of Nazi occupied Europe - and the twin engined Whirlwind fighter, one of which crashed near Speech House in the Forest of Dean.

After the Second World War, Teddy moved to English Electric in Lancashire and designed Britain's first jet bomber - the Canberra - and began work on Britain's only Mach 2 fighter - the Lightning. In 1950 Teddy moved to Folland Aircraft - founded by former Gloster designer Henry Folland - and designed the Midge lightweight jet fighter and the two seat Gnat trainer. The Gnat joined the Royal Air Force in 1962 and was the aircraft first of the Yellowjacks display team and, from 1965, The Red Arrows.

However, in January 1960 Petter left the aircraft industry completely, stating "I have finished with aviation completely. I have strong religious interests to which I am now going to give a lot of my time." Moving to a Christian commune in Switzerland with his wife and daughters, Teddy Petter lived the simple life of a holy man until his death in May 1968.

Teddy Petter might have had a short life even by the standards of his day but his legacy lived on - in the annals of British aviation and in the memories of anyone who saw the Red Arrows, smelt the dyed kerosene of their trails and heard an airband radio crackle with the words "Smoke on... Go!"

ALAN DREWETT

Getting to Know You

STUART AND STELLA MITCHELL part two...



The story of Stuart and Stella's early years was published in the February magazine. Here we pick up the story as they make a big move to a rural unsettled country and a new role for Stuart. Worshipping at St George's, they are part of the Singing Group, Messy Church and Pastoral care teams. Stella is also seen serving coffee on a Sunday morning, while Stuart serves on the PCC.

morning, while Stuart serves on the PCC.

Married in March 1968, Stuart and Stella set sail in the summer to live at a Veterinary station in Vom in central Nigeria. Stuart had been appointed by the Ministry of Overseas Development to re-establish veterinary vaccine production required in the country, and in West Africa, which had been disrupted by the Biafran civil war. It took time to acclimatise, and they valued support from others, especially an American family who took them under their wing, inviting them to worship at their church in a local town. . Stella and Stuart were in the country for two years during which time their daughter was born in the Sudan United Mission hospital which was run by Irish Missionaries.

Back in the UK...

They returned to the UK with very little in the way of possessions and no job but with enough money for a deposit on a house. After staying with Stella's parents for a while, Stuart found work at the Public Health Laboratory at

Watford. They purchased their first house, a very small refurbished 16th century cottage in a village called Bovington. It was here that they welcomed the birth of their son. After about two years Stuart was approached by an ex colleague to join the Welcome Virus Laboratories unit in Kent helping to develop veterinary vaccines. Having accepted the offer they moved to a run-down old ex-vicarage near Sevenoaks. With no nearby childcare provision, Stella embarked on a playgroup course, and set up a playgroup in their front room for 12 children. After about four years however they learned that the Welcome unit was due to close so it was time to make another move.

Life in Tuffley

It was 1976 and the Radiochemical Centre in Amersham was setting up a new facility for the production of non-radioactive chemicals for diagnostic kits in Tuffley. Stuart was appointed to set up and run the facility and over the next 20 years the unit grew from a workforce of 2 to 67, finally expanding to occupy six units in Lower Tuffley Lane. A very challenging role but one which Stuart enjoyed. The unit was eventually run down and closed and Stuart spent his final two years with the company commuting daily to the firm's Cardiff laboratories.

Meanwhile the children were at school locally and were confirmed at St George's when Hedley Ringrose was the vicar. Stella volunteered at the community centre playgroup and then at Harewood school where she was a dinner lady for a number of years. Her secretarial training came into it own again when she took up a job at the Gloucester Royal Hospital in the orthotics department, a role she much enjoyed and held for 18 years.

Always close to her parents the family would make sure they visited them in Maids Moreton every two or three weeks. Her mother became unwell and died at 67. Her father coped well on his own for a time though decided after a while to move to Windsor Drive to be closer to Stella and the family. It was a good move, and he got to know his neighbours and joined a lunch club before ending his days in a nursing home.

Travelling the world

Stuart's final working years were in Quality Assurance with a Company licenced by the government to inspect medical device manufacturers to ensure they were compliant with EU regulations before awarding them a CE mark required for sale in the European Community. Initially he spent 18

months weekly commuting to London for training at the Medical Devices Agency. During the following seven busy working years Stuart had the opportunity to visit many countries, hardly touching down from one trip before embarking on another. He finally worked as a consultant for a few years before retiring in 2004.

A life of faith

Stuart and Stella are so pleased that their final move brought them to Tuffley and they enjoy having family and friends around them. They have been able to cope with their times apart and have supported each other through all their changes. Recent years have seen Stuart join Stella at St George's, since he felt moved one day to accompany Stella to the morning service. He has really valued becoming part of the church family, getting to know more people, describing it as "an extremely enjoyable new chapter of life". Stuart had no hesitation in being confirmed. And Stella has valued being able to share church life and talk through issues of faith with him.

And words to be guided by? Stella recalls words of her father "If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well" and also mentions a phrase from Luke's gospel "Do to others as you would have them do to you". Stuart feels it is important to be honest and truthful.

And a day to spend as they would choose?

Together with friends and family in the garden on a summer's day.

Favourite places?

Robinswood Hill and Stratford Park in Stroud.

RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1 A bank: 2 Wrong

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Judah: 2 home: 3 Galilee: 4 righteousness: 5 Lamb of God: 6 Andrew:
7 four: 8 Galilee: 9 Zebulun and Naphtali 10 Andrew, Peter (or Cephas), James and John:

THE BISH AND THE CURIOUS CURATES

Yes, our very own Bishop Robert is bringing six Curates to Tuffley at the end of April. There'll be a Fish and Chip supper; a breakfast treat at the Pike and Musket; morning coffee or afternoon tea in people's homes; a night of entertainment including Rock-and-Roll Bingo, and Sunday Special morning services for St George's Day followed by BYO Lunch and a Party! All flying under the banner of 'Hope in Tuffley'.

We want everyone to take part, so reserve the dates in your diary now – and think of a friend to bring with you! 24 to 26 April.



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello everyone,

Hasn't it been awful weather? Quite frankly I didn't want to go outside but when needs must you have to don't you? I can tell you I didn't stay out long. Sometimes my mum made me, I asked very nicely to come in, but she told me to go and play. Eventually I was allowed in, boy were my paws cold. I am getting older and need my creature comforts, like a warm home and a comfy bed to sleep on. The other day I was outside and it started to rain but I couldn't get in because my mum had gone out with Auntie Jill, where I don't know. Sometimes she goes to a place called 'Coffee Pot', sometimes to church and sometimes elsewhere. She can be gone for hours and hours, luckily, I'm in cosy and warm, sometimes I'm outside when she goes out and when it's windy well it fair takes your breath away. I've had to go to that horrible place again, where I've had to have a huge pin stuck in me and another horse pill, then I thought my feet were to be cut off, but it was only my nails. I still don't like it because there's noisy dogs in there. You should see my mum and auntie Jill making a fuss of them, it's pathetic. I'm always so glad to get back in my box as it's the only time I go in it willingly. When I get home, I don't speak to my mum, in fact I turn my back on her. I speak to

her when it's time for my tea then I don't shut up until I got my food. I then usually go out for a little while but once it starts getting dark, I have to go in. I'm not allowed to stay out all night. Maybe when the weather is better, I will be allowed to stay out for longer. Right now, I'm happy to stay at home. When I get a bit fed up and my mum's gone out, I have a little chat to Maya and Trixie. They go out a lot, sometimes Maya doesn't know when to come home and Auntie Jill has to go looking for her. She gets in a bit of a panic sometimes especially as she has lost a cat of hers and never did find her so she's more cautious about her two just as my mum is about me. Anyway, I'll finish now until the next time. Bye for now, your friend,

JO JO WHITTLE



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, Maya, are you there Maya? Yes Trix, what's the matter now? Well Maya, I've been talking to Yasmin and she told me that Harry has had an accident and he's got a great big hurtie just like you did Maya. Trixie did Yasmin say what happened? No Maya she didn't but she said that he had a lamp shade on his head and that he was not one bit amused and that he was showing off with his mum because she won't let him go out with his lamp shade on. Oh, poor Harry I know just how he feels.

Trix, where did you put that magazine our mum was reading? I don't know what you mean Maya, I haven't had any magazine, don't know what you are talking about. Trix, our mum was reading it yesterday and you were right next to her. I know Maya but I don't know what has happened to it. Oh, look Maya, mum has found it under the settee, I expect she kicked it when the phone rang, you know what she's like. The phone rings, she jumps a mile and then she blames everyone else when she can't find things. Auntie Marg is coming down the path, now I wonder what she wants today. Maybe she's coming to dinner, you know that she comes every so often. Oh yes, maybe she is, I expect she has come to say that she's seen Harnold. If she's seen Harnold she must have done it without our mum and you know that where our mum is Auntie Marg is, so Auntie Marg must have seen Auntie Jayne or

Auntie Linda, they do go on about their animals don't they.

Maya, Maya, where are you Maya? I'm right here Trix, what do you want now? Oh, nothing just wondering if you are going out this morning. It isn't half windy today. Trixie, it's ever so windy, so don't go too far away, our mum has taken Auntie Marg to that St Margaret's wherever that may be. I don't like it when it's this windy. I know Maya, I won't go too far. Oh, it's started to rain, better find some shelter, you coming Trixie? Oh, where has that sister of mine got to?

Well what a surprise, my mum has come home and not too soon I may tell you. The rain is coming down in stair rods and Trixie is nowhere to be seen. Mum has just gone out to find her, she's been gone ages so they must be ever so wet. Oh heck, here they come, mum is dripping wet all over the place. Trix what did you do? You what? Mum had to get on her hands and knees to get you out from under a car, not one car but two cars then how did she manage to catch you? She grabbed your paw and pulled you out, then she cuddled you so that most of the rain fell on her. Oh, Trixie you must have known she was trying to protect you. I know you didn't mind mum getting wet but not you. Oh, Trixie just say tata for the moment. Oh, well folks it's tata from me Trixie and it's goodbye from me Maya until the next time.

MAYA & TRIXIE



Well folks, here I am again, that person who does her bit at St Margaret's church with her mate Kath. We have roped in our mate Marilyn; we have known one another for many years and have always got on. When we have our fundraising days, Marilyn is always on hand to do the washing up, she always is prepared with her pinny and marigolds! With our friend Lynn they are a formidable pair, so please don't try to muscle in when they are at the sink. Kath has been on the polish and brush and Marilyn and I have shared doing the brass, we always put the world to rights whilst we are cleaning. It always looks better to us after a good moan.

On the 2 February we had our Candlemas evensong service, this is one of our special services that we have during the year. Jonathan produced the service with the help of Bruce, our vicar. Jonathan always tries to put so much meaning from the bible into the service, we know that Mary has to go to the temple for purification, we know this today as being churched that Jesus was presented to Simeon who recognised him as the Messiah. This service was of hymns and readings and a basket of fresh candles is taken to the Chancel to be blessed. The candles represent the many candles which will be used here in our worship. The sermon was given by Bruce on the theme of Simeon who saw his Lord before he died, that was God's blessing to Simeon.

Bruce said that we must always look for the good in all people like the candles that we light each week, we see the Light of Christ, let us always look to the Light and remember that Christ stands with us when we are being a pain in the neck and when we are helping our fellowmen. We always hope that we are doing the right thing in all that we do.

So, my friends, it's goodbye for now until the next time.

Best wishes, JILL PONTER

OUR PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH MARCH



The Benefice diary is updated on our website at least once every week so please check there for up to date information and new events.

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

Sun 23			SUNDAY before LENT / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing & coffee
	4.00pm	SH	Private let
Mon 24	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, David & Jenny: <i>A Tale of Two Houses</i>
	10.00am	SH/SL	Aphasia-Now
	7.00pm	EM	Alpha Course to include food
Tue 25	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	7.30pm	EM	Pancakes, Puddings and Praise
			No Yoga due to illness
Wed 26			ASH WEDNESDAY
	7.00pm		<i>Sung Communion Service at St George's</i>
Thu 27	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	11.15am		Open the Book at Harewood with Lorraine, Roger, Sylvia & Dianne: <i>The Walls Fall Down</i>
Fri 28	9.30am	SL	Friday Group
	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group meet here at St George's
Sat 29	10.00am	MH	Bundles Sale
			<i>Tuffley Prayer Day at St George's</i>

MARCH

Sun 1			LENT 1
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Evensong with prayers for healing
Mon 2	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, Dianne & Sue: <i>Walking on Water</i>
	10.00am	SH/SL	Aphasia-Now
Tue 3	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion

	7.30pm	SH	Yoga – t.b.c.
Wed 4	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group practice
Thu 5	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 6	7.30pm	EM	Quiz Night
Sat 7	10.00am	SL	Councillor Steve Morgan's Surgery
	10.00am		Messy Church
Sun 8			LENT 2
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee & prize draw
	3.30pm		Soul Space at St George's, a worship opportunity
Mon 9	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans & Jenny: <i>The Two Sons</i>
Tue 10	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	2.30pm	SH	Mothers' Union
	7.30pm	SH	Yoga – t.b.c.
Thu 12	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	11.15am		Open the Book at Harewood with Lorraine, Helen, Jenny & Sylvia <i>An Important Meal</i>
Fri 13			April Crossroads article deadline
	7.30pm		St George's Entertainers AGM
Sat 14	10.00am	MH	Private let until 2.00pm
Sun 15			LENT 3 St George's Care & Cleaning Week starts
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	12.30pm		Today at St George's we welcome Cameela Nevaeh McMullin into the Lord's Family
	2.30pm	EM	Faith & Light
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 16	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans & Jenny: <i>Be like me</i>
	10.00am	SH/SL	Aphasia-Now
Tue 17	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	7.00pm	SL	Centre Management AGM followed by Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
Wed 18	7.30pm		Refresh meet at St George's

Thu 19	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 20	7.30pm		Gardening Club <i>Pot Plants in the home with Nick Morgan</i>
Sat 21			St George's Care & cleaning week ends
	7.00pm	M	Beetle Drive
Sun 22			MOTHERING SUNDAY / LENT 4
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion at St George's with prayers for healing followed by coffee
	10.30am	*	Mothering Sunday Family Praise
Mon 23	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, Dianne & David: <i>The Wedding Feast</i>
	7.00pm	V	PCC meeting
Tue 24	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Thu 26	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	11.15am		Open the Book at Harewood with Lorraine, Roger, Dianne & Helen: <i>A Dreadful Day</i>
Fri 27	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group – v.t.b.c.
Sun 29			LENT 5 British Summer Time begins
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
Mon 30	9.30am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans Roger & Sue <i>A Soldier's Story</i>
	10.00am	SH/SL	Aphasia-Now
Tue 31	9.00am	MH	Coffee Pot until 11.00am – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	12.00 noon	V	St Margaret's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

APRIL

Thu 2	8.15am	V	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Sat 4	10.00am	SL	Councillor Steve Morgan's Surgery
	10.00am		Messy Church
Sun 5			PALM SUNDAY
	9.00am	EM	Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Mass with procession and children's Liturgy of the Word
	10.00am	*	Here Comes Holy Week for all ages

	10.30am		Palm Sunday Communion followed by coffee
	10.30am	GB	Palm Sunday Celebration

M = Read more information in magazine, * = Service or event at St Margaret's Church
 MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge, V = Vicarage, O = Office, EM = English Martyrs, GB = Grange Baptist

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

A man goes to the doctor, concerned about his wife's hearing. The doctor says, "Stand behind her and say something and tell me how close you are when she hears you." The man goes home, sees his wife in the kitchen, cutting carrots. About 15 feet away he says, "Dear, what's for dinner?" Nothing. He gets halfway to her and repeats the same question. Nothing. Very concerned, he gets right behind her and asks again "What's for dinner?" She turns around and says, "For the THIRD time, beef stew!"

Wife: Where are you? Why aren't you home yet? Husband: Love, do you remember the jewellery shop on Regent Street where you saw a diamond necklace and fell in love with it and I couldn't afford it then, but I said 'I will get it one day for you'? Wife (All excited): Yes, I do, I do. Husband: I am in the pub just next door to that.

My village shop is a bit weird. They only accept farm animals. So, if I want a Daily Mail it costs a chicken. If I want 2 pints of a milk and a loaf of bread it costs me a pig. And if I want to buy a bag of frozen chips it's a ram and a ewe. I couldn't afford that though. The price is too sheep.

I went goes to the doctors the other day he asked me what the problem was? I touched my forehead with my finger and said, "My head hurts here, ouch". I touched my leg with my finger and said, "My leg hurts here, ouch". Everywhere I touch, it hurts doctor. The doctor looked me over for a second and told me that my finger was broken.

I walked into an appliance store last week and told the shop assistant that "I'd like to buy that television". The shop assistant looked at me and said, "I can't sell that to you". Furious, I stormed out of the store. The next day I went back to the shop in disguise. I went to the same cashier and said, "I'd like to buy that television". The shop assistant said, "I can't sell that to you". Confused and angry I said to him "How do you know it's me? I'm in disguise!"

The shop assistant replied, "Because that's a microwave, Sir, not a television".

The human body can survive 3 weeks without food, 3 days without water but less than 3 hours without Wi-Fi.