

# CROSSROADS

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

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering**



**Growing God's Kingdom**



## **COMMUNION AT HOME VIDEO**

**We can all enjoy taking part in our own church family Communion  
available via video on our website or on YouTube**

**Please check our website or weekly newsletter for details**

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St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon  
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**JUNE 2020**

**50p**

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

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## OUR VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

You got a problem?

Reality is, we all have a problem or two. For some, our problems are piled so high and deep we can't see above or beyond them.



But God can. And God wants us to too. That's why he's given us prayer. And what a gift: we can talk with God as 'Our Father in heaven...'

Can you think of a gift anything more awesome than this, to relate to the Creator of the Universe as our Father? And to bring him all our problems?

Peter wrote to the early Christian believers who'd been scattered because of persecution: *'Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you'* (1 Peter 5:7).

If in their extremities they could trust themselves to God, surely we can too. And so we've launched [Tuffley Prayer 24/7](#) to encourage us all to join together in crying to God through this period of distress and confusion. The idea is that each one of us reserves one hour a week to pray, for Tuffley and the world.

One whole hour? Well, yes actually. What a privilege!

And to help us all, we've published a little 'Tuffley Prayer Resources' booklet. I think it's excellent. Do get it, and use it.

May we all find we're enriched in our praying.

And even, just perhaps, we may also find God doing a new thing among us.

Give God a chance. Sign up and Pray.

God bless you  
BRUCE

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:

June Margaret Addis

Josephine Ann Taylor Beard

Terrence Edward Raybould

Garry Alfred Jeffrey

## THE EASTER STORY

by Tony Jones

Is it eggs, bunnies or other things?  
Or the sound of church bell rings  
Perhaps the bright flowers in all their glory  
That tell us about the Easter Story

We as Christians really know  
That to follow the truth is where to go  
That Christ died that day for all our sins  
And that's where Easter really begins

He suffered so much to save us all  
And for each of us today that's the clarion call  
He rose again Alleluia! we sing  
The Easter Story that CHRIST IS KING

## ANNUAL REPORTS' PACK

A pack of reports covering most of the 2019's activities has been produced. These include a review of 2019 by our Vicar, reports from Churchwardens, Treasurers and the Pioneer amongst others. If you haven't looked at these documents on our website or been emailed a copy or been able to get hold of a copy yet, please let Bruce or me know and we'll get one to you.

Editor: *If you have an email address, I can email a copy to you almost by return.*

## THE KINDNESS OF FRIENDS NEIGHBOURS AND STRANGERS

Yesterday I was speaking to my neighbours, both nurses in critical care at the GRH; they were on leave for a week after working long shifts amidst the height of this Covid 19 pandemic. They were just about to go off to do their shopping and asked us if they could do any for us. I was very touched and moved by their generous offer as I suspected during this week the thing they needed most was to rest and recuperate.

As I was reflecting on this kind offer I was transported back to my childhood when, at the age of thirteen, we, as a family, moved back to the village I was born in, to live with my mother. We had been allocated a house on the edge of our village in a cul-de-sac of fourteen houses. We moved in and, as I recall, we possessed three beds for six children and Mum, (we did head to toes! Interesting experience!)! We had a small Baby Belling cooker, some of you may recall them, a beaten up chaise longue given to us by Grandma and a few other possessions, so more or less an empty shell. Within a few weeks however, we were astounded by the generosity of neighbours, friends and strangers from the village. Groceries seemed to magically appear, tables, chairs, rag rugs, clothes for us all and much more. Within what seemed like a few weeks our shell became a home and I loved it, albeit second hand.

Throughout my life I have been incredibly grateful for those wonderful folk who gave of themselves to provide our family with a place to call home. I can even remember most of their names and in some cases, faces.

I then made the leap to our current situation today and have seen, heard and read of the amazing generosity, love and kindness that has been poured out in our community and communities elsewhere during this crisis.

As I pondered the parable of the Good Samaritan came to mind and the Hymn. When I needed a neighbour were you there were you there.

My prayer is that the pouring out of this love, kindness and generosity will live on when this Pandemic is finally over.

Love and blessings  
LINDA MEDWELL

## MAY RIDDLE-ME-REE

1. Mary has four daughters, and each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does Mary have?
2. I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I am the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?
3. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
4. I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red. What am I?
5. A man looks at a painting in a museum and says, "Brothers and sisters I have none, but that man's father is my father's son." Who is in the painting?

## SIGN UP!

To book your chosen hour, see instructions in the Tuffley Prayer booklet, available on our church website under 'worship during the coronavirus', or pick up a copy from the vicarage porch.



Or book direct by ringing Linda Medwell on 01452 302590. If Linda does not answer straight away, just leave a message.

For further support please contact Helen, on 07729 615993.



Questions based on the Gospel readings for April

- 1 Jesus sent two of His disciples into a village saying, 'you will find a \_\_\_\_\_ tied, and a colt with her'. What did the disciples find tied?
- 2 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, '\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_?' What were the crowds asking?

- 3 How much did the Chief Priests pay Judas to betray Jesus?
- 4 Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_ it, gave it to His disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body'. What are the four missing words?
- 5 As they went out, they came upon a man from \_\_\_\_\_ named Simon; they compelled this man to carry His cross. Where was Simon from?
- 6 After His resurrection scriptures tell us, 'the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said'. What were the four words Jesus used to greet His disciples?
- 7 How did Jesus prove to His disciples He was resurrected?
- 8 According to scripture approximately how far is Emmaus from Jerusalem?
- 9 Jesus met two disciples as they walked to Emmaus. One of these disciples was named. What was his name?
- 10 As Jesus walked with these disciples, scripture tells us, 'beginning with \_\_\_\_\_ and all the \_\_\_\_\_ he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. Which two words are missing?

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

### ALAN DREWETT WRITES...



"Oh David, thank you so much for giving up your throne and weakening the authority of both the British Monarchy and Empire to become my third husband. But what was that large single engined monoplane that we just flew by in this de Havilland

Dragon Rapide of the King's Flight? And what are those large agricultural buildings below us? "

" A Vickers Wellesley and barns, Wallis"

Although most people had not heard of the shy, awkward Barnes Neville Wallis until the publication of Paul Brickhill's book "The Dambusters" in 1951, he had already done far more for his country than the King of 20 January to 11 December 1936.

Born on 26 September 1887, he was first apprenticed to a marine engine builder before working on airships, airframes, the famous bouncing bombs and finally jet aircraft so radical that 21st century designers are only just catching up. However, Barnes Wallis might not have done any of this had he not transferred his indentures to the Isle of Wight shipyard of J. Samuel White and worked in the drawing office next to H. B. Pratt. Despite his unfortunate handle, Pratt moved to Vickers to build airships and took Wallis with him as Chief Assistant.

In fact it was the Ripley, Derbyshire, born Wallis who ended the First World War as Britain's leading expert on airship design, but was massively frustrated when his R80 - a dirigible of rare aerodynamic efficiency - was scrapped on Government orders in 1920 after only 73 hours flying time.

Armed with an external London University science degree, Barnes Wallis took a teaching job in Switzerland but wrote to his wife "All my heart is in airships." In 1925, his prayers were answered. Under the leadership of Ramsey MacDonald, Britain once again favoured rigid airships. Two of them in fact. The R101 to be built by the Air Ministry at Cardington, Bedfordshire and the private enterprise Vickers R100 at a remote spot in Yorkshire called Howden.

Thanks to Barnes Wallis and a team including the engineer and writer Neil Shute Norway, R100, twice the size of any airship built before, first flew on 16 December 1929 and crossed the Atlantic to Canada in July and August 1930.

Unfortunately, on 5 October 1930, the overweight and underpowered R101 crashed in France on the way to India. Most of the crew and passengers died, and with them Britain's hopes of an Imperial airship service.



Barnes Wallis's R100 was grounded and then scrapped, but the designer himself had moved to the aircraft division of Vickers in January 1930.

At Weybridge, Wallis's basketwork like Geodesic method of construction - retained from the R100 - proved to be twice as strong but only two thirds the weight of conventional aeroplane building. Its first application was the single engined Wellesley monoplane bomber which captured the World Long Distance record in 1938.



But even more famously, it gave strength and resilience to the twin engined Vickers Wellington. The mainstay of RAF Bomber Command before the arrival of the four engined "heavies", 11 461 Wellingtons were built and served all over the World until 1953. Even before a Wellington has starred in the film "One of our aircraft is missing" though, Barnes Wallis had been researching ways in which one large bomb could wreck the German war economy.

One of these would be to destroy the Ruhr Dams, which would not only flood the factories downstream but cut off their hydro electricity supply for months to come. However, as the dams were protected by torpedo nets, the only way to get an explosive charge between the lake and the dam wall was by bouncing a bomb across the water. At first this seemed an impossible job, but after tests at Chesil Beach, Reculver, the National Physical Laboratories and a tin bathtub in Wallis's back garden, the drum shaped Upkeep bombs were dropped by 617 Squadron RAF on the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe dams on 16 May 1943. The resulting carnage was eventually repaired, but only after diverting manpower and materials from such Nazi projects as the Atlantic Wall breached on D-Day.

Later in the war, 617 would drop Barnes Wallis's 120 000 lb Tallboy and 220 000 lb Grand Slam bombs to sink the battleship Tirpitz and drop the Bielefeld railway viaduct. And in the atomic age, Barnes Wallis would work on tail-less variable geometry concepts named Wild Goose and Swallow, which would eventually influence the General Dynamics F-111 and other swing wing aircraft. Other projects included the Parkes radio telescope in Australia and cargo carrying nuclear submarines.

Knighthed in 1968 aged 81, Wallis died in 1979 and was honoured with a memorial service at St Paul's Cathedral attended by the Prince of Wales. His gravestone in Effingham churchyard, aptly, bears the inscription "Spurns the earth on ascending wings".

All the best  
ALAN

*Ps: - The David in question was the name that the Royal Family gave to the Prince of Wales who very briefly became King Edward VIII before marrying the American divorcee Wallis Simpson.*

## ABSENT TOGETHER

We may be still stuck at home, but we're also still worshipping together each Sunday: if you've not yet caught up, see our website or contact Bruce.

And we're still praying together every Thursday: contact Bruce for an invite.

And our next monthly *Refresh* meeting is on Wednesday 17 June; contact Bruce.

## PONDER ON...

Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it's the courage to continue that counts.

"The word of God is not received by faith when it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart"

(John Calvin, theologian in 1500's)

"You did not receive the 'spirit of religious duty', leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the 'Spirit of full acceptance', enfolding you into the family of God."

(Romans 8:15, The Passion Translation)

**The following and others spread throughout this month's Crossroads are examples of AMISH WISDOM AND HUMOUR**

A woman's work is not seen, unless it's not done.

Conscience: that still, small voice that makes you even smaller.



Our next 100 Club draw will take place on Sunday 14 June. If you need to make a payment to your collector, please do get in touch with them or with me as soon as convenient. Cheers Darrell

## PETER'S JUNE

# posers



- 1 -273 degrees centigrade is also known by what term?
- 2 By what name are Conninellids better known?
- 3 Which song did Ed Sheeran release a version of at the end of 2017 in which he duetted with megastar Beyoncé?
- 4 By what name is Lake Tiberias better known as in the Bible?
- 5 What is the name of the super villain that rivals the justice league and uses the omega symbol?
- 6 What type of animal is a Cotswold lion?
- 7 What is the only even positive prime number?
- 8 In winter sports, Nordic combined consists of what?
- 9 The lyrics of the famous English lullaby 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' derived from an early 19th century poem written by which female poet?
- 10 What is the 2nd tallest building in the world?
- 11 Which famous explorer returned from Baffin Island with Fool's Gold?
- 12 What is the radius of a circle if its diameter measures 25cm?
- 13 What famous play was written by George Axelrod and was later adapted into a movie starring Marilyn Monroe?
- 14 Can you unscramble the following word to reveal a type of helicopter: ONOIHCK?
- 15 What was the name of the first dog in space?
- 16 Which male artist released hit songs in the late 50s that included Lonely Boy, and Put Your Head on My Shoulder?
- 17 Complete the following quote by Albert Einstein "There are only two things that are infinite, the universe and .... ,and I'm not sure about the former"
- 18 How many hearts do octopuses have?
- 19 What connects Australia's Sydney central business district with the North Shore?
- 20 Who invented the word 'assassination'?

Extra questions again to help you through until our next issue

## ANSWERS TO PETER'S MAY POSERS

1 ...the eye of the beholder: 2 Mercury: 3 Henry Clay: 4 Pole Vaulter: 5 Portugal:  
6 Bat: 7 Macbeth: 8 Yes in 1889: 9 Hand: 10 Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and  
Michael: 11 China and Russia both have 14: 12 Ridley Scott: 13 Reflex angles:  
14 U2: 15 James II and William III: 16 Rapid Eye Movement: 17 16 pounds: 18  
Gaggle: 19 Cair Paravel: 20 Hypotenuse:

## TELL ME WHEN IT'S MONDAY

I remember my routine and a calendar to match  
Even a regular stagecoach bus that I used to catch  
To take me all the places, that I held so very dear  
But because of all the dangers, I'm now confined to here

It's really a posh prison, where time just passes by  
As long as you are active, the days can really fly  
We get some food delivered, which comes on different days  
But whatever is received, we always give it praise

Each day is a challenge, finding things to do  
The letters or calls received, are getting very few  
It's hard to think what day it is, traffic very rare  
Has the weekend disappeared - is this really fair?

No longer do we bother, to look at any clock  
But take pride in family photos, occasionally taking stock  
Every day is much the same, in almost every way  
So, will someone please - TELL ME WHEN IT'S MONDAY

TONY JONES

Nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you  
are interrupting.

## PENTECOST PRAYER



Isn't it wonderful to know we're living in the Pentecost Era – the time when the Spirit has come to us all.

Question is: are we living in the Spirit, or ignoring the Spirit?

Spirit of Truth, breathe life into us and move us to new places. Help us to see the ways in which we have power and resources to change the world, and urge us to use what we have for the good of all. Through the one who motivates us into new living, Jesus Christ. Amen

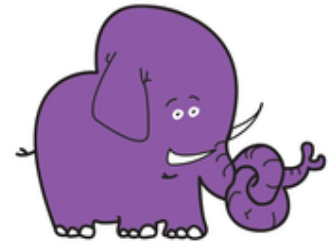
## GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH JUNE

If you want God  
to bless you,  
bless others.

Community is like an old coat: you're not aware of it until it's taken away.

In order to have your **JULY CROSSROADS** ready for publication on Sunday 28 June 2020

**ARTICLES NEED TO BE IN THE EDITORS' HANDS  
PREFERABLY BY EMAIL BEFORE, BUT NO LATER  
THAN... ..SATURDAY 13 JUNE**



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**



### **CROSSROADS ARTICLES**

Glenda and I are happy to accept and consider articles for Crossroads at any time from contributors, if you feel that you have an article or poem that you would like to write, what better time is there than to do it now? We would prefer articles to be emailed to us at [ds52604@gmail.com](mailto:ds52604@gmail.com) or they can be emailed to the church office at [stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com) our deadline each month is the 13<sup>th</sup> but, of course, you can send an article in as early as you like. If you are sending something that you have seen or read, please make sure that you have permission for it to be reproduced. Cheers!

GLENDAL AND DARRELL

# Getting *to Know You*

**Rev Bruce Clifford**

(Or what you wished you had known five years ago!)

Bruce grew up in Coulsdon, on the edge of the North Downs, in a part of Surrey later absorbed into Greater London. His parents, Douglas and Joan, were both teachers; Marilyn his sister was four when he was born. One of his earliest memories is of falling head first into a neighbour's garden pond, and being rescued in the nick of time. Early days at school and nursery were happy. Sunday saw the family at 8am communion, Bruce attired in kilt, due to his mother's abiding passion and interest in all things Scottish. The kilt was probably not the best thing about Sundays from Bruce's point of view...

He joined the school choir when he was eight, having begun to learn the piano from the age of five, his mother insisting on at least thirty minutes daily practice. He also took up the violin.

At weekends and in holidays Bruce would help the milkman deliver milk, taking himself down to the dairy for the 5.00am start. He was very good at persuading customers to buy grocery items they hadn't realised they needed... He relished the opportunity to take the milk float's controls from time to time. The family would often head to Scotland on holiday, eventually investing inherited money to buy an isolated house in the west Highlands, where they would spend the school holidays. Close to a loch, Bruce sailed, climbed local hills and got to know local people. One of these, Mary, was to have a profound impact, living very simply without electricity, fetching water from the nearby stream, utterly content, a faith in Jesus sustained through prayer, reading and worship.

The house in Scotland proved a haven, a special place. His parents chose to retire there. He had won a music exhibition to a boarding school at thirteen and had to adapt to the experience of living amongst teenage boys. Not the happiest time in his life, but he learned to be resilient and studied hard, as well as spending many hours learning and practising the piano, plus a little on the organ and the trombone – and learning to fence!

Bruce left school at eighteen with no clear idea of what next. A late application to study maths saw him head to Birmingham University, and live in the Birmingham Settlement, a mixed household of those who had just left care. It wasn't long before he thought he recognised one of his fellow students, whose brother had attended school. Yes, Rosie! Three very happy years ensued, when he learned a bit of concertina with his professor instead of tutorials, and joined the orchestra. The person of him in a new way. Jesus also came alive for Engaged in the third year, they planned to marry two years later, giving both a chance to spend a further year studying. Bruce chose to study Social Statistics at Southampton University, where son David is currently a lecturer.



Studying over, Bruce and Rosie married in 1974. Bruce had been offered a job as a researcher in Social services in Romford, Essex, Rosie was expecting to work in central London. With nowhere to live and two days to go until the wedding, Bruce's uncle came to the rescue suggesting they might rent unfurnished rooms above his firm of solicitors, in an old Georgian house near Euston station. Wonderful provision, with all of London on the doorstep! Sleeping on a mattress on the attic floor, with no kitchen, life was a romantic adventure.

Linking up with an old Birmingham friend, they joined a church south of the river which was to give them in the following ten years a new understanding of what it is to live a life of deep love in the body of Christ. After years without a piano Bruce was able to use his skills, with those of others, in leading worship. Many precious friendships were made which have lasted the test of time. In due course, buying part of a terraced house near the church, they found themselves living in a very diverse neighbourhood of rich and poor, with racial tensions bubbling under the surface in Brixton down the road. *To be continued next month...*

The best vitamin for making friends is B1.

Two can't quarrel when one won't.



## RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1. 5 as each daughter has the same brother: 2. The letter "e": 3. Light: 4. Fire:  
5. The man's son:

## GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Donkey: 2 Who is this: 3 Thirty pieces of silver: 4 blessing it He broke:  
5 Cyrene: 6 Peace be with you: 7 He showed His hands and side: 8 Seven  
miles: 9 Cleopas: 10 Moses, prophets

## HOW HAS CORONAVIRUS AFFECTED US?

### How have we spent these last weeks in lockdown?

A few people have again put pen to paper so we can gain a glimpse of what life has been like for them...

The first three are members of St George's congregation:

**Lynne McEwan-Berry**, a senior nurse at Gloucester Royal Hospital who hails from Scotland, writes:

"Hello to everyone. Rev Bruce and Rosie have shared that they are inviting folks to pen (or type) a few lines to keep in touch during current times. My turn today.

Firstly, hello and I hope that everyone is taking care and keeping safe at this time. Peace be with everyone. I am getting on fine and family too thankfully. Myself and my husband Darren have both been very fortunate as we have both been able to carry on going to work during current times. We had been due to have a week's holiday this week for a "Clan gathering" in Aberdeen. Also as was our Wedding Anniversary...2 years. We will have to replan the get-together

once brighter times come back around. I am really missing being able to be by the seashore. We were both able to go to work instead, which was positive.

We have been keeping in touch with family and friends by the magic of computer, video calls and something I never heard of before...Zoom. I now take a virtual exercise class with my friend and we have a family "zoom" quiz night every week. We both potter about in our little garden and get out most days for a walk about the park, following a diagonal path to keep broomsticks apart from everyone else out and about for their walk too. I am keeping up piano practice and looking forward to being able to restart lessons again when possible.

I attend virtual St George's each Sunday, my hymn singing is still shocking but I'm giving it a go.

I am very lucky, I know, to be able to still be at work. At this time there is a great deal to be sad for, however there is so very much kindness about and a great deal I am grateful for. I am trying to thank as many people as possible each day, at work, shops, post man and post lady, folks that collect the rubbish, my neighbours, Rev Bruce and Rosie, and to one and all.

Looking forwards to being back amongst friends at St George's, virtual church keeping us together until then. With best wishes to all and stay safe."

### **Stella and Stuart Mitchell write:**

"We started self-isolating on the 16th of March, our Wedding Anniversary. We talked about all the things we could do; DIY, gardening, sorting out the loft, going through the family photos and so on. We started with good intentions but we have now stalled - the photos are still in the box and the partially filled charity bag is forgotten in the cupboard.

However we walk every day, often in Randwick Park and have seen bare trees come into leaf and blossom; seen a crow take up occupation in her nest and seen the front gardens of Tuffley becoming bright and colourful and have stopped to smell the lilac.

At home we are spending time doing sewing, photography, craft activities, pottering in the garden and DIY and by doing various puzzles trying to keep

our brains active. We are even getting to grips with “techy” stuff and Stuart has had virtual meetings and I have video calls with friends.

Talking with friends and family has become the highlight of the days. On Sundays we listen to Bruce’s recorded services and sing along with the hymns. We are very aware how lucky and privileged we are and how divided our country is and really hope and pray that the help, kindness and goodwill that is all around us will now continue after the crisis and we will become a fairer society.”

Stella has been beavering away putting her considerable sewing skills to great effect, making scrubs bags for GRH staff and face masks.

**Pauline Deeley writes** of a new family in her garden:

“Apart from usual chores I have been catching up with reading – about the growth of Tuffley, Yorkshire vet books, and the repair shop TV programme amazed at the wonderful skills.

However, the better weather has allowed us into the garden and its wildlife. We have seen goldfinches collecting dandelion seed heads, presumably for nesting elsewhere, but the most interesting has been our bird cam box. My younger son built it for me, and we have watched as a pair of blue tits took up residence. The hours that were spent ferrying in fleece for the nest, then the arrival of five eggs, would they hatch?

Yes, by 28th April there were five chicks; three hatched first, then two the next day. Since then we have watched as both parents constantly feed the little gaping beaks – the chicks still haven’t open eyes yet, but it will not be long. They are getting stronger each day, and we watch with interest.

**Elizabeth and Stephen Best** were married at St Margaret’s and are part of the Family Praise congregation. Stephen is Pete and Lorraine’s son. Elizabeth used to work in Tuffley library and wrote articles for Crossroads in that capacity. She now works in a different role for the County Council.

“Life has certainly changed recently and it has affected us all in different ways. In our household, I am working from home and Stephen is still working. He collects the recycling (keep an eye out for him on Thursdays!) and has found that people have been supporting him and his crew. Some people have come

out and clapped their thanks and some have even given him tips! It's great to see people grateful for the key workers.

I'm working from home now which has its good and bad moments. I enjoy having the lie in and am not looking forward to losing that extra half hour in bed! It can be lonely though. We try to have a daily conference call each day to have a catch up.

We are quickly getting used to seeing ourselves on screen more often and have enjoyed a few virtual quizzes and games. I have also enjoyed my daily lunchtime walk and will definitely carry on with those after this all finishes. Sometimes I pop round to someone's house on my walk and have a chat across their driveway!

I hope that however this has affected you, you and your loved ones are safe and well."

And finally, **Helen, our pioneer**, gives us a glimpse of life in the McGeoch family.

"David has taken the opportunity to spend his money (and anyone else's who would like (or has been forced) to contribute) on repairing his mountain bike. It was in tip top condition at the beginning of lockdown. He just keeps going out on it and daring himself to do more challenging rides. I say more challenging – what I really mean is silly, kinda life-threatening. He's always gone for the thrill and lockdown has not yet stopped him. Silly boy. So the bike gets repaired. Then something comes off. Then it gets repaired again. There's not many days gone by when it hasn't been in some sort of state of dismantlement in our back garden. Silly boy. School work? He's going back next year to complete his A Levels so didn't get let off with Boris' results solution, and he isn't interested in trying to get ahead of himself any time soon.

Joe has ended up in Tuffley. Brighton was just too big a risk for him, with him being down half a lung. He's enjoyed being home but missing his girlfriend, so spends a lot of his time on his phone. There are now two drum kits assembled in my wee house so it gets a bit noisy every now and then. But I like Joe's music so I really don't mind. He's helpful around the house which is nice for me and knows to get the kettle on at very regular intervals.

They are two very tall boys and take up a lot of the room space (not to mention the washing machine space). I feel very little and have to fight for my space. Fortunately I can stand my ground and get some quiet space to work in the mornings. Afternoons can be a bit of a challenge but then that's a good time to take my exercise and walk around the parish and pray. Joe thinks it's weird that I say hi to random people but we are a friendly bunch in Tuffley.

A good meal usually brings the family together in the evenings and sometimes a board game follows. We keep a pretty regular routine so generally know what's next on the schedule. Meanwhile, the garden keeps on growing and the dust keeps on settling. Plenty to keep us busy.

And God? His heart will be heavy but he will smile at our efforts to be loving and caring. But I know he is near. I know he hears my whispers of prayer and I know how much he loves us."



From our August issue of Crossroads onwards we shall be one distributor down with Bruce and Rosie moving on; so would someone please take on the delivery of the magazines that Rosie so kindly delivered for the parish. There are 9 houses to deliver to covering; Tuffley Lane, Nymphsfield Road, Grange Road, Epney Road and Millin Avenue. Crossroads is available from the last Sunday of each month and need to be delivered as soon as possible after that day. Also once a year, because all the houses involved pay annually you will need to collect the annual fee.

Please contact Darrell on 01452 410507 or email [ds52604@gmail.com](mailto:ds52604@gmail.com) if you are willing to take this on. Many thanks

**DARRELL**

Tackle the problem, not the person.



## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Maya, Maya, where are you! I'm on top of the wardrobe, Trix. What on earth are you doing up there? I'm trying to stay out of the way of our Mum; she's had the cleaning machine going for ages and ages. You know, Trix, she's even been cleaning the walls with that machine! Are you sure Maya, that's a bit extreme, isn't it? I don't know, Trix, but you just try telling that to our Mum! She's been up here for ages and ages and she still hasn't finished! Can I come up there with you, Maya? Just for a little while as Mum's got her duster bag in her hand and you know what she's like when she gets those dusters going. I know, Trix, nothing is sacred, and have you noticed that our Mum hasn't been getting up at silly o'clock in the mornings these days. I wondered why Aunty Marg hasn't been down to see us either come to think of it.

We haven't seen Aunty Jayne and Aunty Linda for a long time too and Harnold has not been mentioned, but our Mum has been on that telephone machine, talking with lots of people.

Aunty Kath, Mum said that she had to take her cat to the doctors as she's been quite poorly you know. Jonathan said that he would take her to the animal hospital. Well when they did that Kath and Jonathan had to leave her there, but they couldn't bring her back as she passed away. What does that mean, Maya? Well, Trix, I think that means she died. Oh, Maya, how sad; I bet that Kath and Jonathan are very upset right now. I know, Trix, you never know what's around the next corner, but from what our Mum said, Kath wants another pussy cat. What about Harnold, how is he these days. I'll have to have a word with our Mum and get her to find out. Oh, watch out, Maya! Mum's on the talking machine again. It's about Harnold; he's been in a great big punch up with another cat that lives close to Linda and Jayne. They had to take Harnold to the doctors and he had stitches in his neck. I bet it didn't half hurt! I expect his

Mum was upset that her boy had to go to the doctors, but our Mum's upset when anything happens to us. I know, Trix, she was panic-stricken when I had my hurtie, you know.

Are you going up the road, Maya, or are you going up the cul-de-sac? I think I'll go up the cul-de-sac this morning. Listening to that machine going on for ever is giving me a headache. I wonder how much longer it's going on for? I'll be right behind you, Maya. All this staying at home just makes me wonder why our Mum hasn't been to that St Margaret's place recently. How long can we put up with this, I'd like to know? It's no fun when our Mum stays at home! We can't make her jump when we stalk her, either. Well she's been out today, Maya! She came back with a great big bag full of I don't know what!

What you got there, Maya? Oh, Maya, you haven't have you. Oh, Maya, our Mum will go nuts at you! What for, Trix, I haven't done anything. You have, Maya, you just caught a little bird and you know how our Mum likes to hear the birds chirping in the garden. Does she, Trix, I never knew that. Oh, oh, here she comes now, she's picked it up and put it in the wheelie bin. Trix, how do I get it out of there? Maya, you don't. Just leave it where it is. Come on, Maya, there's a lot of things we are going to do, before the day is done. Ok, Trix, but first, we have to say goodbye to all those lovely people who like to know what we get up to. So, tata for now from me and Maya, lots of love until the next time.

TRIXIE AND MAY PONTER

### **CHRISTIAN LIBRARY OFFERS FREE DELIVERY SERVICE TO GLOUCESTER AND CHELTENHAM**

A new Christian library in Gloucester is providing a free loan and delivery service for Christian reading materials during lock down. The books, CDs and DVDs were donated by members of Kingfisher Church or bought through a grant and are now available for anyone in Gloucester, Cheltenham and the surrounding areas to borrow.

Andrew Gatt, Christian library manager shares how the project came about.

"In September 2019 Pastor Ollie Bennett of Kingfisher Church gave a series of talks entitled 'Into The Stretch Zone'. Through this series he encouraged people to grow resilience in their faith by moving out of the comfort zone and into activity for God even where we didn't feel equipped to do so. Out of this series came a number of initiatives. One was an idea to create a church library as a Christian book resource to help church members in their Christian journeys.

"Pastor Ollie announced the idea at church services and asked if people could donate books to help stock the library. At the same time we made an application for a grant to Speaking Volumes, a Christian charity which funds the provision of Christian books for libraries in schools, prisons, hospitals, churches and anywhere where books can be loaned and read by many people. In November 2019 we were delighted to receive a grant from Speaking Volumes and used this to buy a selection of books from our local Christian bookshop, Books Plus Gloucester.

"While waiting for the grant decision, we received many generous donations of books from our church members as well as DVDs and CDs. So with these and the Speaking Volumes books we had a good selection of titles. We also received a financial donation and this was used to buy good second hand books. These were purchased from Scrolleaters Christian Bookshop in Stroud as, in addition to stocking new books, they have an excellent range of second hand books.

"All the books were registered and are now on our Kingfisher Church website, a simple loan process was set up, and we were left with one question: where to put the books? Heather Gatt suggested a mobile set of bookshelves, as often used in schools, and Mark Jones designed, supplied the materials and, with some help, put the bookshelves together.

"The library was opened on 5 January 2020 and since then it has been well used by church members and even more book donations have been received. As a result the library currently contains 547 items including 500 books, 25 DVDs and 22 CDs. Due to the growth of donations we planned to build a second set of mobile bookshelves, as the first one was full and we had more book donations needing storage space. Unfortunately before we could do so lock down for COVID-19 occurred.



"But with setbacks come opportunities and we have just started a home delivery service to church members. While this has only just commenced, it occurred to us that our library could be helpful to other local Christians. So we are now offering to loan and deliver our books, DVDs and CDs to any Christians in Gloucester, Cheltenham and the surrounding local areas."

If you would like to borrow a book, just look at the Kingfisher Library list, decide what you would like and call us on 07775 439093 and we will deliver to your home address on the next Thursday.

### **"BECOMING"**

For every door that's been opened to me, I try to open my door to others.  
And here is what I have to say finally: Let's invite one another in.

Maybe then we can begin to fear less,  
To make fewer wrong assumptions,  
To let go of the biases and stereotypes that necessarily divide us.

Maybe we can better embrace the ways we are the same.  
It's not about being perfect.  
It's not about where you get yourself in the end.

There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard,  
In owning your unique story,  
In using your authentic voice.

And there's grace in being willing to know and hear others.

This, for me, is how we become.

*These are the closing lines of Michelle Obama's book "Becoming":*



Hello Everyone,

I don't know what's going on, but my Mum and Aunty Jill haven't been gadding about lately. My Mum only goes out into the garden, does a bit out there, does some washing and then puts it on the line. I go out there to make sure that she does it right.

I see Aunty Jill first thing in the morning when she brings the paper in, she doesn't stay long though. I get out of her way in case she makes a grab for me and puts me in a box to take me to that place. I must confess it seems ages since I last went, so maybe she's forgotten about it; I hope so! I have been making the most of the fine weather. I like to play hide and seek with my Mum. I scoot around the garden like a streak of lightening, diving under shrubs and bushes. Then rush out when she's not looking. She says I make her jump when I run past her. But it keeps her on her toes. I haven't been able to have a chat to Maya or Trix because our Mums are always around. When they do go out then we can have a chat; we talk about everything, what we've been up to and whether we've misbehaved, which of course we haven't. Little innocents, us! Although, I must confess I did stay out one night and wouldn't come in. It was getting dark too. I know my Mum wanted me in, but I didn't want to. I did go inside once, but when my Mum went to close the door, I bolted out again. I don't think that she was very happy with me, so she had to bribe me with treats to get me in, then she locked the door and we went to bed.

I think that Maya does the same to Aunty Jill, because I've heard her tell my Mum that she has to go looking for her up the alley. Just like me Maya has a mind of her own; Trixie is a little homebody. We never go very far but like to know that we can come and go when we want to.

Well folks this is all for now, 'til the next time, your friend...

JOJO WHITTLE

## DIARY

Sunday 31 May	Pentecost
Thursday 7 June	Trinity
Saturday 13 June	Crossroads Deadline
	Vicarage Strawberry Tea TBC
Tuesday 23 June	7.00pm PCC meeting on ZOOM
Saturday 4 July	Tuffley Festival TBC
Sunday 5 July	12.00noon St George's APCM TBC
Tuesday 7 July	5.00pm St Margaret's APCM TBC
Wednesday 29 July	4.00pm Standing Committee
Saturday 8 August	Tea party in Helen's garden
Saturday 5 September	Messy church party
Tuesday 8 September	7.00pm PCC meeting
Tuesday 20 October	4.00pm Standing Committee
Tuesday 1 December	7.00pm PCC meeting

**THESE ARE PROVISIONAL APCM, PCC AND STANDING COMMITTEE DATES**

**ALL OTHER DATES FROM JUNE ONWARDS  
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Post pandemic **Let Us** share and celebrate with humour etc. So come on poem or monologue



ages, or that song you've and we'll have that celebration, *still don't know when*, yet, but I do know where it will be; and *eventually I know that we'll meet up again* and be ready to celebrate post isolation in the way we know best.

**Entertain You** so we can each other in song, word, sort out that celebratory you've be wanting to do for been wanting to sing to us

Interested in taking part? Contact Darrell

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

I met my girlfriend whilst she was working at the zoo. There she was in her uniform – straightaway I knew she was a keeper.

Just a quick note to say thanks to everybody for all the wonderful birthday cards and money yesterday; and to the Royal Mail for giving me the job.

Two Barn Owls sitting on a perch and one says to the other: "Can you smell fish?"

I'll tell you what I love doing more than anything: trying to pack myself in a small suitcase. I can hardly contain myself.

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: 'I'm looking for the man who shot my paw.'

'A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer." '

Doctor, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'. He said: 'That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome'. 'Is it common?' I asked. 'It's not unusual' he replied.

What do you call a man with a rubber toe? Roberto!

I stayed up all night wondering where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

What is the difference between an angry circus owner and a Roman barber? One is a raving showman; the other is a shaving roman.

What do you call a group of killer whales playing instruments? An Orca-stra!

What is the most common Owl in the UK? A TeatOwl!