

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



Growing God's Kingdom



ST GEORGE'S	Sunday	Parish Communion at 10.30am
	4th Sunday	(with prayers for healing)
	Tuesday	Parish Communion at 9.30am
	Wednesday	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: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

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

CHURCH IN TUFFLEY: 3rd Wednesday Refresh at 7.30pm on Zoom

ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON

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Anyone who requires prayers to go on our Intercessions list for themselves or others could you please ring Linda Medwell on 01452 302590.

OUR READER WRITES...

Dear readers

THE ROAD AHEAD

I'm writing this on the first Sunday in August. It's our first Sunday without Bruce and Rosie and I must confess to feeling a little queasy.

We have spent a great deal of time over the last couple of months preparing for the handover and truly no-one could have led that process more conscientiously than Bruce. We have a good team in the benefice, and a lot of help promised from our Area Dean, Archdeacon and the various clergy who will be leading our services.

So why this queasiness, Jonathan? I suppose it's because I am a worry-guts. I worry about crises which may arise. Things I can't cope with. Articles for Crossroads that I can't think how to start or what to say. Set-backs, disappointments, problems.

It's strange, really, because by nature I am an optimist. If I put myself on the psychiatrist's couch for a moment, I admit it, I'm a weird case. I'm an optimist who spends a lot of time worrying. So there's a puzzle.

It's also wrong, because Jesus has told me very definitely not to worry. "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself". (Matt 6.25). You will find that same message crops up many times in our scripture. Do not be afraid.

Isn't it odd that the things you really worry about almost always turn out to be not so bad?

Isn't it odd, too, that sometimes we are still slow to take it all to the Lord in prayer? That, dear friends, is the real answer. Bruce has shown time and again that the right way to approach ANYTHING is with PRAYER. So, let's pray our way through this vacancy. It will be hard work, and this may go wrong from time to time, but God is on our side and he wants to hear our prayers. "Do not be anxious about tomorrow". Amen.

JONATHAN

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Our sympathies to the families and friends of:

Philip David Brown

Ruby Fenella Lodge

Marjorie Lilian Griffiths

FAMILY PRAISE FOR AUGUST

Welcome to our family service for August, and Jesus the Door...

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.
(John 10. 9-10)

At the beginning of June we thought about Jesus the Good Shepherd, and here Jesus speaks about one of the roles of a shepherd.

In Jesus' time, the sheep pen didn't have a permanent gate, but instead, once the sheep were inside, the shepherd would lie down in the gap, keeping the sheep in and everything else out.



Looking at this sheep pen, how safe the sheep must have felt inside, with their beloved shepherd close by.

And it's clear how the only way in for the sheep is through the doorway. But the sheep wouldn't stay in the pen forever. They would go in at night and rest, but the next day they would leave again following their shepherd.

We've spent a lot of time over the past few months being stuck in one place, and sometimes it feels hard to move outside again. And, of course, it is still important to take precautions.

But perhaps the call we face now isn't to go out and resume all the activities we were so furiously engaged in at the beginning of the year, but instead to go out into a new world and to be open to Jesus' leading in different ways.

A shepherd when he led his flock out from the pen on a new morning wouldn't retrace his steps, because he would know that his sheep had already grazed that land. He would journey onwards, to pastures new. And so, we too are being led into new ways.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, promises us life, and life in abundance.

Centuries before Jesus, the prophet Jeremiah brought a message to the people from God: *"For I know the plans I have for you"--this is the LORD's declaration--"plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."*

We can be as sure of those words today, as when Jeremiah originally spoke them.



Loving Shepherd, we bring to you all our fears and worries. Help us not to be caught up in concentrating on them; but encourage us to look to you to lead us onward. When we are tempted to look backwards, guide our eyes forward to where you are calling us to go. Give us the confidence to trust in you and to follow you, even though the way is unfamiliar. For we know that you are calling us to fullness of life.

Loving Lord, we bring to you our friends and family. We ask that they may know your presence with them, whatever their position may be. We pray for healing

for those who suffer, and peace for those who mourn. May they be conscious of your love surrounding them, even when we cannot physically share our love.

We bring all our prayers together in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Amen.

THE ANCIENT SHEEP PEN

I must own up and tell you that the sheep pen picture in Susan's article was not actually in the Holy Land. But heading over that direction.

I took the picture in 2002 in Turkey. Carol and I were on holiday in Kalkan on the south coast and decided to hire a car for a couple of days. We wanted to visit the ancient city of Myra, where St Nicolas was Bishop in ancient times.

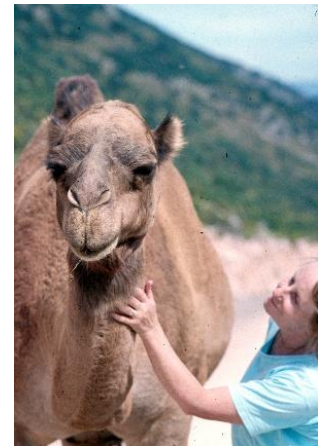
It was heaving with luxury coaches and their occupants, so we headed off to more remote areas. So long as the road had a surface, I was up for it, though my map was pathetic, and signposts are few and human habitations likewise. I didn't have a mobile phone in those days and I hate to think what would have happened if the hire car had conked out.

The sheep (or goat) pen was near a hot and dusty road, next to a deep and empty cistern with steps down the side. The thought of digging out these arrangements under the blazing sun is rather awful. I wouldn't want to calculate how many tons of rocky soil were shifted to create them.



There was also a well, with a thoughtfully provided beer-can on a string in case you wanted a drink. Here is a picture of Carol demonstrating. I recall that the water was very clear and refreshing, though we weren't going to drink more of it than we had to. While we were inspecting these ancient wonders, a local man passed nearby carrying a rifle, which gave us a bit of a turn, though he didn't seem interested in us and we didn't attempt to get into conversation.

A little earlier, we had found a camel by the roadside, grazing unattended, and of course had to have a picture. Another odd memory was a field containing a flock of jays. Just like the jay we see in Britain, but a flock of them, feeding on the ground. A remarkable sight.



We used to stay in a lovely family-owned hotel on a rocky cliff just outside the resort, where you could dive straight into twenty feet of gin-clear turquoise water. No beach, but warm water and a gentle swell. It was tempting to spend all the time there, but you can see from what I have said that if you go inland a bit there is much of interest to be seen.

By the way, St Paul came ashore at Patara, just a couple of miles along the coast from our hotel and he also changed boats at Myra. What determination he had, proclaiming the Gospel in such inhospitable and mountainous terrain.

JONATHAN

2020 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The much delayed APCMs of St George's and St Margaret's will take place on Sunday 4 October. St George's will follow the 10.30am service and St Margaret's will follow the 5.00pm Evensong. Anyone whose name does not appear on the Electoral Rolls will not be eligible to vote or be elected to the PCC. The current Electoral Rolls will be displayed on notice boards shortly.

This is the time we elect our Parish Church Councils and our Churchwardens. Please consider people you may like to nominate for the privilege and responsibility of sharing the leadership of our churches in this way. Also consider humbly and honestly whether you yourself might be willing to serve your church too!

Nomination forms will be pinned to the porch noticeboards in both churches soon so watch out for them and make your nominations as soon as you are able.



BENEFICE HARVEST FESTIVAL 2020

Sunday 4 October

10.30am St George's Harvest Celebration

10.30am St Margaret's Family Praise

5.00pm St Margaret's Harvest Evensong

What can you bring to our Harvest Festival Services? We would be happy to accept tinned and packet foodstuffs like: - Long life milk, Long life fruit Juice, Packet mash, Biscuits, Tinned cold meat, Tinned rice pudding, Tinned custard, Treats for children, Tinned sponge pudding for families, Tinned fruit, Tinned potatoes, Packets pasta 'n sauce, Packets savoury rice, Packets savoury noodles, Sugar. Toiletries now accepted at the Foodbank.

But perishable items are quite acceptable. All donated foodstuffs will be passed on to the following charities: - Gloucester Foodbank, George Whitfield Centre, 107 Great Western Road and Emmaus Gloucestershire, Chequers Road

A MEMORY OF MY FRIEND KATH

I first met Kath over 30 years ago, we were asked if we could give St Margaret's Church a real good clean. I don't know why but, my Mum, Beryl Chiswell, Ann Western, Marilyn Mowatt and I went along. The menfolk were out in the churchyard doing their bit to get the grounds into some sort of order.

My Mum was in charge... she gave us all our jobs for the day. I turned round and there was this very quiet lady standing there. She asked if she could join us, which she did and we welcomed her with open arms. Mum sorted her out a job and off she went. Marilyn and Ann had brought biscuits to go with the tea; that was my job to keep the girls going with the tea. Lionel Chiswell came to the door asking if it was time for tea and Kath's reply was for him to make it himself; he didn't but the men were given tea and biscuits anyway!

Kath and I hit it off right away and we'd been great pals ever since, we both love pussy cats, Kath with Noddy and then with Dusty and me with Bramble and Willow then Misty and now Maya and Trixie. We would talk about our cats and how funny they were, we could talk about them until the cows came home.

I was working fulltime then and when I retired, I told Kath that maybe we clean at St Margaret's more often. So, every Monday, I did the brass and Kath concentrated on the furniture. We always had a cheese and onion sandwich and coffee before we started, just to set us up for the morning. Then we would start and put the world to rights, and everyone else. Kath was so funny, with a quip here and there. We used to do the floor quite regularly and often had to get on our hands and knees, we always said never again, never again. It was hell on our knees and our backs, but that discomfort would go away when we looked at the final result... It looked lovely!

It's been an honour and a privilege to have known Kath for so many years and to be her friend. I will miss her terribly as will all those who knew her. So, it's goodbye and God bless my friend and buddy...

JILL PONTER

“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?”



It was something of a surprise to hear from Darrell asking for a “Where are they now?” type article for Crossroads. But here goes... first, for those of you who have no idea who I am, I was curate at St George’s and St Margaret’s between 1986 and 1989. After leaving you, I spent another four and half years in the Forest of Dean, before moving to Worcester in 1993 as Rector of a medium sized city parish, to Droitwich in 2001, as

a Vicar in the team there, and back to Worcester in 2013 to take up a diocesan role.

Along the way I collected some additional roles, particularly getting involved in training and developing Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers). Since 2004 I have also held the role of Director of Reader Training for the diocese, first alongside my parish role and then with my diocesan role. I will come back to that in a bit.

When I started working for the diocese directly in 2013, the role was called Mission Development Officer. The largest part of that was what usually goes under the heading of social responsibility. In that capacity, I supported parishes in their community and social projects, and represented the diocese in various ways in partnerships, projects and meetings across the voluntary and local government sectors.

I will highlight a couple of things here. I helped set up, with various local charities, the police and the city council, a City Homelessness Forum to try to promote collaborative working across all the agencies. I became the first chair of this. Despite our secularised society, there are still people who look to the church as an honest broker between different, sometimes competing organisations. It was a privilege to be able to provide this, and I think we would have made some significant steps towards a coherent city-wide approach by the time I had to hand this on.

A second thing I will mention, which you might want to use yourself, is a group I worked with to provide some resources to promote and support dementia friendly churches. We deliberately aimed at the basics, things that churches could do without huge amounts of training or expenditure. Other dioceses

have taken different approaches, and we wanted to complement, rather than compete with their offer. You can find those resources (anyone can use them) here:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/parish-support/accessibility/dementia-friendly-churches.php>

Initially this role also included some work with stewardship and discipleship. Later, we appointed a full-time stewardship officer, and I had responsibility for World Mission and our diocesan scheme for Authorised Lay Ministry. In Worcester, ALMs are parish authorised ministers – worship leaders, pastoral workers, children’s workers and so on, who do a diocesan training course before their vicar authorises them.

In the world mission role, I had oversight of our partnership links with the world church, as well as mission agencies. Worcester has partnerships with the Anglican dioceses of Morogoro (Tanzania) and Peru (one diocese for the whole country, and an ecumenical link with the Protestant Church of Central Germany, based on Magdeburg and all in the former East Germany. I was fortunate enough to visit all three.

Then, last summer, as with many other dioceses, Worcester faced a financial crisis, and that role was made redundant. I was fortunate enough to be appointed to a new role, combining some parts of my previous role with some other work, being responsible for Discipleship and Lay Training. I will point you towards one new resource I have developed for use in Worcester which we call Patterns for Kingdom Living. Any church or individual can use this as a way of making a specific time-limited commitment to take a new step in their journey of faith. If you want to know more, you can find that here: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/your-faith/kingdom-patterns/>

As you’ll see, if you look up the links I’ve mentioned, finding ways to communicate clearly and where possible visually is something that matters to me. It seems a long time since Hedley said on my arrival, “I want you to take charge of parish communications”. At the time, my response was “I don’t know anything about that.” Since then, I think I have learnt both how much it matters, and how much I enjoy it. Along the way I have taken up photography and learnt a fair bit about design. The videos I have linked to were ones I edited and produced. As is this final one, a reflection on what photography means to me: <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/video/doug-chaplin-4-august-2020.php>.

With good wishes for your future, and my love to those who actually remember me. God bless you!

DOUG CHAPLIN

AUGUST RIDDLE-ME-REE

- 1 What 7 letter word is spelled the same way backwards and forwards?
- 2 How can you make seven even?
- 3 A pet shop owner had a parrot with a sign on its cage that said "Parrot repeats everything it hears". Davey bought the parrot and for two weeks he spoke to it and it didn't say a word. He returned the parrot but the shopkeeper said he never lied about the parrot. How can this be?



QUIET PRAYER GROUP

Since Churches were ordered to close because of Covid 19, the Quiet Prayer Group have also been meeting 'together but apart'. We have produced a suggested reading, prayer and selected focus picture which has either been emailed to our members or hand delivered to their addresses.

On the last Friday of each month at our usual time of 2.30pm we have lit our own candles, enjoyed a quiet Prayer time with the Lord, then put the kettle on. From September, we hope to start meeting in person again, whilst continuing the emails/leaflets for those shielding or preferring to stay at home. If anyone would like to join us (by either method). Please contact Lorraine on 07407516553.



Questions based on the Gospel readings for July

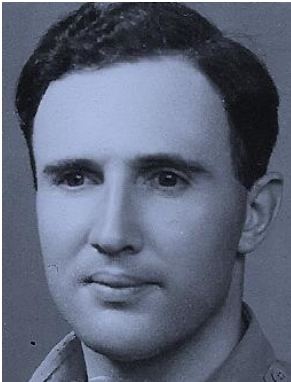
- 1 Jesus talked about His generation. He said, "We played a ____ for you and you did not dance." What instrument was Jesus referring to?
- 2 Jesus was accused of having a demon. His accusers said, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of _____ and sinners". Who was Jesus accused of befriending?
- 3 Jesus said, "____ _ _ all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens". What are the 3 missing words?
- 4 In the parable of the sower Jesus talked about seed sown on good ground. He mentioned 3 different yields being harvested. What numbers were they?
- 5 Jesus gave many parables. What 6 words did He frequently use to start a parable?
- 6 Weeds had been sown into the wheat field owned by the householder. Who reported to the householder, weeds had also come up?
- 7 Jesus said, "The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will collect out of His kingdom all causes of ____ and all _____". What will the angels collect?
- 8 Then the scripture tells us of the reaction of those who are thrown into the furnace of fire where there would be weeping and ____ _ _____. What is this last reaction?
- 9 In the parable of the yeast the woman took yeast and flour and mixed them together. How many measures of flour were there?
- 10 The parable of the hidden treasure – what did the man who found the treasure do next?

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

TIME TO REMEMBER

Details for this service to remember our family and friends who have gone before us, is being prepared with the likely date being 1 November. Please look out for more information in our newsheet and listen out during the notices, but make sure you put the date in your diary.

A STRANGER IN MY HEART



Like many men of History, John Monro a Shropshire farmer never discussed his time in the 2nd World War. When he died from Emphysema in 1981, his daughter, Mary knew nothing of that period of his life. Some 30 years later, she heard him being described as a '20th Century Great'. Which prompted her to research what led to him being awarded with the Military Cross.

It turned out that he fought at the battle of Hong Kong and escaped across Japanese occupied China and became an assistant Military attache in Chongqing; where he formulated a daring plan to free the prisoners of war. He had been tortured himself; through his own diaries and her travels across China Miss Monro has placed together the story for a book, 'Stranger In My Heart'; which is published with profits going to Riding for the Disabled, a Charity which Lieutenant Colonel John Monro was President.

BRIAN GRABHAM

To have your NOVEMBER **CROSSROADS**
ready for publication on Sunday 25 October 2020

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



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

WE TOOK IT TO THE MENDERS

We all know that ours society, where if they usually get broken one is thrown a little story of a was much better than faithful.



is a throwaway things stop working, replaced – and the away. It is nice to tell simple repair job that replacing an old

Our vacuum cleaner is a Dyson which we bought in 1996. I remember it got slightly damaged when I took it to St Margaret's when the organ was installed – and that was November 1997. Anyway, it has worked OK ever since but had developed a tendency to cut out after a spell of hard work, and then you had to wait an hour or two before it would restart. More recently it would cut out after maybe twenty minutes work... or ten... or even five.

All right, let's replace it – something decent, that will last. Tap, tap, tap on the computer to see what's available and mental confusion soon sets in. After ten minutes of this - a thought. Why not get it fixed?

Now, this is not a free advert so I'm not naming the place, but a quick phone call and a trip into town was all that was needed. "Yes, we can come to you, Sir, but it is a much more expensive way of doing it. Bring it in and we will take a look".

Two days later we collected it. Total bill £20.00. Whatever was causing it to cut out was replaced and it works fine. Whether it will go another 24 years remains to be seen, but it got us back in business at less than a tenth the cost of a good quality replacement. Perhaps we all ought to do more of this sort of thing.

JONATHAN

PETE AND LORRAINE'S FRIDAY GROUP

We are not planning any meetings of the Friday Group this year. We shall look again at the Covid19 situation in November and decide whether meetings can go ahead in 2021 or not.

MUSIC THAT HAS GOT ME THROUGH *A LOCKDOWN PLAYLIST*

Library teams were encouraged to use the Naxos Music Library (free with library membership) and find a piece of music that lifted their spirits during lockdown. Here are a few of their suggestions:



"Hans Zimmer, Blue Planet II, Track 3, 'Surfing Dolphins' because no matter how low your mood, it just lifts your spirits".

"Michael Nyman's 'The Heart Seeks Pleasure First' from The Piano. When worried and anxious, this track is very calming. It's quite melancholic but there is a hint of joy and better times to come".

"The emotive sweeps of The Lark Ascending by Vaughan Williams serve to heighten the senses and keep me wanting more."

"The track that always helps me to chill out and relax is Debussy: Suite Bergamasque, Clair de Lune".

To access the playlist and discover your favourite, login to the Naxos Music Library <https://gloucc.nml3.naxosmusiclibrary.com/> ; click on the 'Playlists' option in the left hand menu; select 'Gloucestershire Libraries playlists'; then 'Lockdown' playlist. Enjoy!



Whether you are new to the Bible or want to go deeper, The Bible Course is for you! It shows how all the books, characters and events fit together to form one BIG story, from Genesis to Revelation.

The course also provides tools and skills to help apply the bible to everyday life.

It consists of eight interactive sessions. Each session will be hosted on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm by Helen and will include a video, discussion time, personal reflection. August sessions will all be online and accessed via zoom. Please let Helen know you are interested so she can send you the zoom invitation link. We shall wait and see how things change for September before confirming how we will host the meetings.

The Bible Society have an accompanying booklet available to help you with your learning. Please let Helen know in advance if you would like a copy.

Course dates for August are 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th.

Contact Helen: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

GLOUCESTER'S JET AGE MUSEUM

After being closed for many months, Jet Age Museum opened again on Saturday 12 July 2020. Due to Covid 19 regulations, visitors were not allowed into the cockpit of the Avro Vulcan. However, models on show not only put the Vulcan in the context of its contemporaries but explored what could have replaced it.

The delta winged nuclear bomber first took to the air in 1952 and became operational with the RAF in 1957. It had been designed to fly long distances with a heavy load and relied on speed and altitude to evade enemy anti aircraft fire and fighter aircraft. However, 1957 also saw the introduction of two Soviet missile systems; the R7 liquid fuelled ballistic rocket and the S-75 Dvina, better known in the west as the SAM-2 Guideline.

The R7 was essentially a bigger version of the Nazi V-2 of the Second World War but with four strap on boosters to give it intercontinental range. Like the V-2, this was unstoppable in flight but vulnerable on the launch pad during the 24 hours it took to fuel. Within ten years, much more practical world spanning missiles were ready in silos across the USA and USSR as well as nuclear powered submarines and, between 1959 and 1963, in eastern England. A 1/72 scale

model of an RAF Douglas Thor is in the same Jet Age cabinet as two 1/144 scale Vulcans and an R7 - also used to launch Sputnik into orbit - in the same scale.

On a higher shelf is a 1/72 scale model of a SAM-2 along with its launch trailer and ZIL transport lorry. The SAM-2 literally shot to fame on 1 May 1960 when a number of them downed an American U2 spy plane over Russia. The U2, modelled here in 1/144 scale, had been flying at 70 000 feet: considerably higher than the V bombers of the RAF. As a result, Vulcan, Victors and Valiants exchanged their anti flash white livery for camouflage and were expected to attack at low level, where SAM-2s and Soviet fighters of the 1960s could not operate.

Many Vulcans and Victors also carried the Gloster built Blue Steel rocket powered stand off missile before Britain's nuclear deterrent passed to the Polaris submarines of the Royal Navy. In another cabinet nearby however are solutions to the SAM-2 threat produced by North American Aviation.

The XB-70A, portrayed in a 1/150 scale desk top model, was first suggested in 1954 and flew 10 years later. Designed to reach over 70 000 feet, it was much faster than the Vulcan at three times the speed of sound. However, still being vulnerable to the SAM - 2 and with strategic bombers being replaced by intercontinental missiles, only two XB-70s were built and only flew experimentally until 1969. Designed for tree top penetration, weaving around radar sites and hiding behind hills was the B-1B Lancer, which mainly survived in USAF service due to delays in cruise missile and stealth bomber programmes. As can be seen from the 1/144 scale model, this has variable geometry wings like the General Dynamics F-111 and Panavia Tornado and can be used as a tactical bomber.

The A-5 Vigilante meanwhile was more comparable to the British Blackburn Buccaneer. Both were twin engined carrier borne aircraft designed to toss a nuclear bomb at a target and then escape at low level. The Buccaneer featured a rotary bomb bay while the Vigilante ejected its bombs - and spare fuel tanks - from a hole between its jet exhausts. It was soon adapted as a reconnaissance aircraft, like the Lockheed SR-71. But that's a story for another time!

ALAN DREWETT

PETER'S SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER posers



- 1 What colour is a Polar Bear's Skin?
- 2 Cashmere wool originates from which animal?
- 3 What animal lives in a dray?
- 4 With which band did Sting first find fame?
- 5 Which sign of the zodiac is represented by a fish?
- 6 'Viva Forever' was a west end musical based on which pop group?
- 7 On which continent is the Gobi Desert located?
- 8 Which war was known as the Great War?
- 9 According to the comic book on which planet was Superman born?
- 10 Which European country has Valetta as its capital?
- 11 Which is the highest winning hand in poker?
- 12 What is the name of the Roman built wall built to segregate England and Scotland?
- 13 Bono is the lead singer of which Irish rock band?
- 14 In Mythology what King turned everything he touched into gold?
- 15 What are the three ingredients that are used to brew beer?

Not quite so many extra questions to help you through until our next issue

ANSWERS TO PETER'S AUGUST POSERS

1 The Times: 2 Eurovision Song Contest: 3 19th Century: 4 Morse Code: 5 Jacob Rees-Mogg: 6 C. S. Lewis: 7 Andrew (Andy): 8 Blue Peter: 9 Queen Victoria: 10 Palindrome: 11 Gravy: 12 Game of Thrones (A Song of Ice and Fire): 13 Barack Obama: 14 40 cm: 15 Boxing: 16 Joseph Conrad: 17 Sam Fender: 18 Arabesque: 19 Six: 20 WHO (World Health Organisation):



Ride+Stride is a nationwide event supported by the National Churches Trust but organised by local historic churches trusts. All around the country on the second Saturday in September each year, thousands of people are sponsored to travel from church to church by walking, cycling or other methods.

Funds raised are split between the Trust and local churches in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and North Bristol. As lock down restrictions have eased and churches re-opened, we will be holding a Ride+Stride event as planned on 12th September 2020. With churches having been shut for so long, the need for financial help for church renovation and maintenance is probably greater than ever so raising funds is particularly crucial this year to enable us to maintain our grant programme.

2020 is an unusual year and we are making some changes to Ride+Stride to help our supporters. This year we are asking those who support us to choose from the options below or a combination of them depending on your circumstances. We would stress, whatever you choose to do, please do ensure that you are comfortable with what you are planning and of course do abide by the latest government guidance.

Option 1

Carry on with Ride+Stride as normal and ride/walk/drive between churches for sponsorship. Be aware that churches may not be open like they would usually be to offer greetings and refreshments. Where we know a church will be open we will put it on this website.

Option 2

Take part in a sponsored event at home (or other suitable location), for example, 100 laps of the garden, paint a painting, ride an exercise bike for 20 minutes or, indeed, anything that you can think of that you can do!

Option 3

Make a single or regular donation to us to show your support for Ride+Stride and GHCT via Just Giving.

We are simplifying our Ride+Stride administration to reflect the current situation. A significant change is that we will be trying to avoid manual handling so we'll be promoting online payment and we will not be sending out packs of information as in previous years. For the sponsored options 1 and 2 above we'll also be splitting the proceeds 50/50 with the local church as in previous years. We will ensure that all the resources and advice you need are on our website and Ray Singleton who is looking after Ride+Stride this year will also be available to answer questions by email at: ride-and-stride@ghct.org.uk

RIDDLE-ME-REE ANSWERS

1 Racecar: 2 Remove the letter s: 3 The Parrot was deaf:

**Prayer of
Saint John Henry Newman**

May the Lord support us all the day
long,
Til the shades lengthen and the
evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then in his mercy
may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest,
and peace at the last.
AMEN

@catholicbishops

JILL'S JOTTINGS
from St Margaret's

Well folks, here we are writing about St Margaret's again! We have been meeting on Thursday mornings since the beginning of June, just for quiet prayer. Our Marg and Dianne came with me to give thanks that our little church could welcome us once more.

We started our proper services on the 12 July, it was our Parish Communion. We have been learning how to keep our distance as prescribed by the regulations and we are still learning as each week we have a new directive from the Church of England which we must abide by.

Marilyn, Dianne and I have been doing the cleaning and we have decided that Monday mornings remains the best day for us. We have our jobs to do; Marilyn and I are on the brass and Dianne, our apprentice, is on doors and furniture. It is working out very well, long may it continue.

On the 9 July we had Kath's funeral. Jonathan, her son, didn't want a large service and only invited people to be at the graveside. Others complied with his wishes and stayed away, I was one of those but, I did say my prayers for her at the time of interment. There was a memorial service for his Mum on 29 July

which we went to; it was emotional for me seeing Jonathan greeting his Mum's friends. Some spoke about all the little things that she did that weren't always noticed, but they all gave our little church heart. Kath gave her heart in spades we loved her and will miss her but, life goes on; St Margaret's will always be there for us even if we have to keep our distance and not be able to sing but that's the way of life at the moment.

Well my friends that's about all from me for now, so goodbye and keep safe.

JILL PONTER

THE BIBLE ACCORDING TO KIDS... part 1

In the beginning, which happened near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating a bad apple, so they were driven away from the Garden of Eden... Not sure what they were driven away in though, because they didn't have cars then.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million.

One of the next important people was Noah, who built a big boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

SUPPLIED BY HANS

*Allow God
to draw you close
to His holy presence;
to listen to His majesty.
Then go,
to share the glory and goodness
of His love.*
from Ecclesiastes (Chapter 5)

SECRET AGENTS

A word from Bruce and Rosie...

We were really sorry that we couldn't gather together as planned to say Goodbye". Better though to ensure the safety of all. We were glad we were able to gather with a small group of church officers who came on everyone's behalf to bid us farewell. And my goodness you keep a secret well.

Thank you for all your lovely greetings in the 'Whose is THIS front door?' challenge: a fantastic surprise! Thank you for the many farewell messages compiled into a beautiful folder, and the photo compilation of the church family at varied events enjoying life together.

Thank you for the RA Brown church painting copies which we'll treasure. And thank you for the astoundingly generous gift cheque and garden tokens. These all mean so much to us as signs of your love.

Thank you also to each one who has sent us a card, or written us a message by email; all very much appreciated

Oh, I suppose we'd better tell you how well your ol' vicar knows the parish. Together we managed to identify a magnificent 9 of the 67 front doors. After 5½ years. No wonder you need a new vicar.

We'll love you always.

Our new address will be; 20 Estcourt Close GL1 3LT; visitors welcome!

"Thanks be to God for His astonishing Gift, far too great for words!"
(2 Corinthians 9)



Maya, Maya where are you Maya? I'm over here Trix, what's the matter? Oh nothing just wanted to know what you was doing. Well Trix, I've just been round at Ian and Karen's place, they have lots and lots of hidey holes for me to investigate. I know Maya, I've been there to, I sometimes have a nose around their house just to see, you know. Yes, I do Trix, but don't you think it's a bit risky, you might get shut in, and you know how our Mum panics if we don't go home! I know, Maya, but I make sure I nip out just in case.

Have you seen Harry at all Trix? No Maya not for a couple of days, but here comes Yasmin, she may know what he's up to. Hi ya, Yasmin, have you seen Harry lately? Yes girls I have, you know he had a swollen face? Yes, Yasmin. Well it seems that it all swelled up again and he had to go to the animal doctor. His Mum told my Mum that he had to have an operation on his face and two pins; plus he had to have his nails cut. Well you know how he goes on about having his nails cut. It's worse than the operation. So how is he Yasmin, well all the fur has been taken off on one side of his face and he had to stay indoors with a lampshade on his head. A lampshade Yasmin? Yes, it's so he won't try and scratch his stitches out; so his Mum says. Mind you he looks right cheesed off, he says that he can't eat properly with that thing on his head and he can't get through the cat flap. Mind you I think he's pleased he can't go out because next door have got a new dog.

It's only little at the moment but you never know how big they'll grow, do you? Never said a truer word, Yasmin. Our JoJo says that her Mum's son keeps bringing their dog down to see her Mum and she is locked in her Mum's bedroom and she's there for hours and hours. She hears her snuffling at the door and then runs hell for leather down the stairs. Dogs are funny creatures, aren't they? Always in the way and slobbering all over the place. Isn't that right

Maya? If you say so Trix. Have you seen Ginger, Trix? Yes, Maya they are coming over our fence now.

Oh hello boys! How are you this bright and sunny morning? Oh fine Maya, how are you Trix? Been up to any mischief lately? No Little Ging, I haven't, I'm a good girl I am! That's not what your Mum says, she says she's ready to do murder because you both won't do as she tells you. Ah well Ging that's because she wants us to go to bed and we don't want to. It's still ever so light, so we want to stay up a bit longer, so there. Well I think you should tell your Mum then. Will do, but she won't take any notice. Our JoJo was going to use that machine again but she hasn't done it yet. Our Mum keeps using it, maybe later on we will hear from her. What are you two going to do for the rest of the day then? Well Maya, you know that house just up from us? Yes Ging, what's up with it. Well girls they've put a new shed up and its got a window in it! How about going over to have a nosey? Yes please. Just show us the way, we're with you. Come on Maya. Trix, don't you think we need to say tata to everyone? Oh yes, tata folks and its tata from me and the gang until next time.

TRIXIE AND MAYA PONTER

GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Flute: 2 Tax-collectors: 3 Come to me: 4 A hundredfold, sixty, thirty: 5 The kingdom of heaven is like: 6 His slaves: 7 Sin & evildoers: 8 Gnashing of teeth: 9: Three: 10: He hid the treasure:

We pray for our family and friends,
all those whom we love and who love us,
keep them safe. We pray too for those
who care for us, each with their
own lives and worries, troubles and
concerns. God who is love, show us
how to love, in this community in which
we find ourselves. AMEN



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello Everybody, It seems ages since I last wrote. Well, I did have to go to that horrible place again! Ooh the indignity, I didn't like it one little bit. They kept picking up my tail, I did try to escape... but to no avail. Anyway, my Mum had to put some cream on it and I didn't like that either! Boy did I show off, but my Mum wouldn't let me go until it was done. Twice a day, I had to have it done and I wasn't very happy about it either! I was told it was for my own good! Just because I had an allergy or something... what? I don't know but I don't have it done now (thank goodness). I assume my tail has healed? I don't want to go through that again.

When I got to that machine and spoke with Maya, she laughed at me, so did Trixie! You wait I'll have the last laugh, they have to go to the animal doctor to have their flea jabs! Ha! Ha! Ha! My Mum goes down to Aunty Jill's to say hello to her two cats. She tells me all about when she comes home. She says that Trixie always comes to her to say hello, not like I do to Aunty Jill. Well sometimes she grabs me and shoves me in the box and takes me to that place. It's not all the time but I still play it safe and keep out of her way.

I do let her stroke me now and again. It's been warm recently and I didn't want to go in the house. My Mum tried to entice me in, but I stood my ground. If she came after me to try and grab me; I just walked away. I eventually went in and then my Mum locked the door! So I couldn't go out again, even if I wanted to. I moaned and I grizzled, but it was no good, so I went to bed! I'll get my own back; you see if I don't. I must confess that my Mum lets me stay out during the day but she prefers me in at night. One day I'll get my own way, just see if I don't!

Bye for now, 'til the next time...

Your feline friend
JOJO WHITTLE

*"Much dreaming and many words are meaningless;
Therefore fear God"*
from Ecclesiastes (Chapter 5)



THE QUEUE

Its been with us since goodness knows when
A tradition used not just now and again
Providing fair play and for order to ensue
Wherever you go you'll experience the queue

Whether its a cinema or a trip to the shop
Visible at airports or the local bus stop
You will gladly join it, its the right thing to do
Even if its always the wrong end of the queue

Now we have a two metre rule thats in place
The lines are much longer and slower in pace
But the strangest question I have to ask
Is why in Bank queues are they wearing a mask?

Tony J

'I will lie down and sleep in peace for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.' So do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today, will take care of you tomorrow and everyday. Either he will shield you from suffering or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings. St Francis de Sales.



Diary

AUGUST

Sun 30	SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER Crossroads available		
	9.00am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
Mon 31	SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY		

SEPTEMBER

Tues 1	<i>Schools start to go back for a new term</i>		
	1.00pm	Bluebird Care	M
	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online *	Z
Weds 2	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
	7.00pm	PCC meeting with The Venerable Hilary Dawson, Archdeacon of Gloucester and Michael Garland, Area Dean	Z
Thurs 3	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Sun 6	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St Margaret's Family Praise	
	5.00pm	St Margaret's Evensong with prayers for healing	
Mon 7	7.30pm	St George's Centre Management Committee	
Tues 8	1.00pm	Bluebird Care	M
	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online *	Z
Weds 9	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
Thurs 10	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Fri 11	7.30pm	St George's Entertainers meet	M
Sat 12	RIDE + STRIDE 2020 *		
Sun 13	9.00am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion and 100 Club draw	
Tues 15	2.00pm	Mothers' Union meet in Church	
	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online *	Z
	6.45pm	GAGS Committee	M

Weds 16	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
	7.30pm	Refresh lead by St George's	Z
Thurs 17	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Sun 20	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
	5.00pm	St Margaret's Evensong	
Tues 22	7.30pm	The Bible Course Online *	Z
Weds 23	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
Thurs 24	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Fri 25	2.30pm	Quiet Prayer Group at home *	
Sun 27	9.00am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing	
Weds 30	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M

OCTOBER

Thurs 1	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Fri 2	7.30pm	Gloucester Amateur Gardening Society meet in Main Hall "Poems and prose" TBC	M
Sun 4		HARVEST SUNDAY	
	10.30am	St Margaret's United Harvest Service	
	10.30am	St George's Harvest Parish Communion	
	11.45am	St George's APCM *	
	5.00pm	St Margaret's Harvest Evensong with prayers for healing followed by St Margaret's APCM *	
Mon 5	10.00am	Speakability	S
Tues 6	1.00pm	Bluebird Care	M
Weds 7	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
Thurs 8	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Sun 11	9.00am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
Tues 13		Crossroads' article deadline	
	1.00pm	Bluebird care	M
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union meet in Church TBC	
	4.30pm	Pioneer Steering Group	Z

Weds 14	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
Thurs 15	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Sun 18	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
	5.00pm	St Margaret's Evensong	
Mon 19		Crossroads printing	
Tues 20	4.00pm	Standing Committee	Z
Weds 21	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
	7.30pm	Refresh lead by English Martyrs	Z
Thurs 22	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Fri 23		<i>Most schools break up for half term</i>	
Sun 25		NOVEMBER Crossroads available	
	9.00am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
Weds 28	8.15am	St George's Morning Prayer	Z
	3.30pm	Slimming World sessions	M
Thurs 29	10.30am	St Margaret's Parish Communion	
Fri 30	2.30pm	Quiet Prayer Group at home *	
	7.30pm	Gloucester Amateur Gardening Society TBC	M
Sat 31		ALL SOULS' DAY	

NOVEMBER

Sun 1		ALL SAINTS' DAY	
	10.30am	St George's Parish Communion	
	10.30am	St Margaret's Family Praise	
	4.00pm	Time to Remember at St George's TBC *	
	5.00pm	St Margaret's Evensong with prayers for healing	

M = Main Hall: S = Small Hall: SL = Softley Lounge: Z = by Zoom:
* = see article in Crossroads

THE ABOVE ARE PROVISIONAL DATES ONLY

Editors' note: Please note that events may be moved, added to or cancelled, any changes will be noted in our newsletter.

Should you know of anything missing from the above listing of dates please let us know so we can update our information for the future. Many thanks

LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...

What did the left eye say to the right eye? Between you and me, something smells.

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? The same middle name.

What did the green grape say to the purple grape? OMG!!!!!! BREATHE!! BREATHEEEEE!!!!

Knock knock. Who's there? To. To who? It's to whom.

What's red and goes up and down? A tomato in a lift!

I waited and stayed up all night and tried to figure out where the sun was. Then it dawned on me.

A man walks into a solicitor's office and asks: "Excuse me, how much do you charge?" The solicitor responds: "I charge £1,000 to answer three questions." "Heck – That's a bit expensive isn't it?" "Yes; so what's your third question?"

A man is walking in the desert with his horse and his dog when the dog says, "I can't do this. I need water." The man says, "I didn't know dogs could talk." The horse says, "Me neither!"

As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field. But hay, it's in my jeans.

What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac, and an agnostic? Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog.

What do you call bears with no ears? B

Why did the lion eat the tightrope walker? It was craving a well-balanced meal.

What did one shark say to the other as he ate a clownfish? Does this taste a little funny to you?