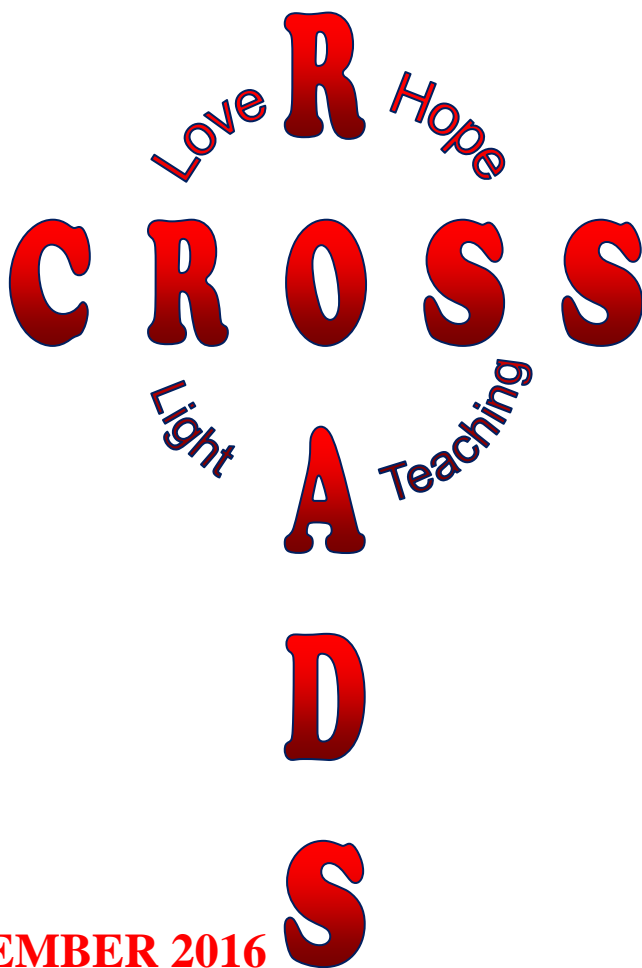


**The magazine for the
Benefice of Gloucester St George,
with Whaddon**



DECEMBER 2016
JANUARY 2017

50p

**To make known God's love, hope, light and teaching
throughout this Community**

**THE BENEFICE OF GLOUCESTER ST GEORGE
with ST MARGARET, WHADDON**

Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk



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

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for free on our Benefice website; www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
Check it out!*

Please note that the views expressed in this publication are not necessarily
those of the Editor, the Parish or the Church of England

THE VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

Crisis – at Christmas?

A well-known charity highlights the needs of the homeless and marginalised who are part of our society not just at Christmas, but the whole year round. It is good for us to remember them at this time when we remember Jesus, the displaced child.

But there is also another crisis today. Some say, a crisis in the economy. Others, in our security. Still others, it's a crisis of faith. What do you think?

I believe with many others, that we are living through a crisis in hope. The uncertainties of world government, the ever-present threat of 'terror', the fragile state of our climate, the lack of trust in authority, seem to have conspired together to produce a pervasive sense of despair. What hope can there be for our future?

This is the context in which we can turn to the amazing story of Jesus, who has come among us as God's son – and see this as truly good news, news of great joy, joy to the whole world; news to which we can respond with awe and adoration. For God with us is the fulfilment of God's promise to all: "my plans for you are for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11).

Yet as we are people of hope, let us also consider the words of St Augustine, that "Hope has two daughters: their names are anger and courage". To live in hope means also to be angry at evil and have courage to stand against it.

I commend these prayers to strengthen us as God's people of hope this season:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference. (*Rheinhold Niebuhr*)

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy." *(St Francis of Assisi)*

May this season be one where all of us, in all circumstances, know the deep peace, lasting joy and real hope found in Christ, God with us.

God bless you all
BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

St Margaret's

Cora Ann King

WEDDINGS

St Margaret's

Richard John Hyett & Rebeka Jane Snell

FUNERALS

St George's

William Lionel Harrison RIP

Carol Wendy Ann Close RIP

CREMATORIUM

Harry Rust RIP

RING OUT WILD BELLS!

"Ring out, wild bells" is actually the first line of a poem by Tennyson. There is a story behind it, but we'll save that for another day. Bruce suggested that I might write some notes about the bells at our two churches. There is nothing very wild about them of course - we have just one bell at St George's and two at St Margaret's, and I don't think we're ever going to hear them on the radio for "Church Bells on Sunday".

The bell at St George's was given in 1971 in response to an appeal in the Diocesan Gazette. That would have been in Bill Barber's time. Mr and Mrs Alan Cadbury responded, as they had a bell at the back of their large house at Haffield, just over the county border into Herefordshire, but within Gloucester diocese. (Their nearest church would have been at Donnington, which goes with Dymock).

The bell is 16 inches in diameter and is believed to bear the date 1815, when the house at Haffield was built.

Turning now to St Margaret's, we have two bells, so can play a choice of two tunes: "ding-dong", or alternatively "dong-ding". It is believed that there were once five bells, cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1694. Rudhall was the first of a famous family of Gloucester bell founders, and was also Clerk of Works at the Cathedral. His grandson recast the second bell in 1752: presumably its predecessor had cracked. The treble bell was recast in 1971 with its original inscriptions of 1694 reproduced. The treble weighs just over four hundredweight, and the second bell is just over six hundredweight.

We don't know what happened to the other three bells from 1694, but from 1850 there was a large bell, cast by Mears of London. Its tone did not marry well with the two Rudhall bells and in 1971 it was decided to sell it for scrap in order to pay for recasting the treble and rehanging both the Rudhall bells for chiming.

"Chiming" refers to the method used for ringing the Whaddon bells. They are hung in simple fashion from RSJs which span the tower, and the rope is attached to a lever which causes the bell to swing. Very little swing is required: the skill is to stop the rope with a slight

jerk of the wrist, so that the clapper hits the bell. One person can easily ring both bells in this way. Outside, the bells make a fine sound, but with only two notes to play with, we must avoid boring the neighbours with a lengthy performance!

We always invite visitors, especially children at Family Praise, to have a go at chiming, and it is amusing to see them using all their weight to get the rope going up and down in a crazy fashion, usually with no sound coming from the bell. "Calm down, you're working too hard" we tell them, and restart them with just a few inches of stroke, and try to get them to master that little jerk of the rope which is the secret of making the bell ring.

All this is a long way from true ringing, where the bell is swung through a full circle in alternate directions and an entirely more disciplined approach is needed.

If anyone would like to learn the gentle art of chiming the Whaddon bells, they're welcome to come and have a go five minutes before any service.

JONATHAN

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE...

...PLAY ON, WROTE SHAKESPEARE (Twelfth Night)

Music certainly packs a powerful punch in enhancing our worship every Sunday.

So it is with great sadness we report that after 13 amazing years Brian Woodruff has decided to hang up his organist's shoes and conductor's baton. We'll celebrate his faithfulness and skill and leadership, during his final service as Music Director on Sunday 29 January, 10.30 at St George's. Watch this space for more details.

Brian has said he will remain very much part of our worshipping community, and may even step in to help with music from time to time when needed.

Meanwhile we'll take this opportunity to reflect on the way forward in music, particularly as we develop the 'pioneering' side of our ministry together. Please join in prayer for wisdom for the next steps; and let Bruce or Jonathan or one of the wardens know your thoughts and suggestions.

The following two poems were read out during the funeral of the late Carol Close.



TODAY WE ALL REMEMBER

Today we all remember,
A Mum, Nan, sister and friend,
A life that was so special,
But sadly had to end.

You were there when we needed you most,
And go that extra mile,
You'd greet us with a loving hug,
And such a charming smile.

Knowing you were always there,
Was such a piece of mind,
A Mum, Nan, sister and friend,
Truly one of a kind.

You are loved so much by all of us,
Our Mum, sister, friend and Nan,
We'll try our best to make you proud,
In whatever way we can.

Words are not enough,
To say what I want to say,
Nan, we'll never forget you,
And remember you every day.

Although we cannot see you,
It doesn't mean you've gone,
'Cause we love you and you're in our thoughts,
Your memory will always live on.

Nan, it's time now to say goodbye,
You're someone we'll always love,
You'll be missed so dearly,
At peace now – up above

POEM

Nothing can console you; your loved one has gone away.
People offer sympathy, but no matter what they say.
It's you who has the heartache, you who bears the pain.
But please, believe that one day, you will meet again.

God makes us and he takes us and lifts us to the sky.
It's the loved ones who are left behind, who find it hard to say
goodbye.
But remember they are happy now, at rest with God above.
They've got everything they need as they're surrounded with his
love.



WHAT IF IT ISN'T TRUE?

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

Matthew 11:2-3

Was it because of his imprisonment that John the Baptist had this crisis of faith? John apparently embraced his prophetic role with his eyes wide open – separating himself from the comfort of conventional living and denouncing sin, even when this led him into

direct confrontation with Herod. John's action was deliberate, and the consequence predictable: he ended up in Herod's gaol.

So this was hardly enough to bring about his anguished question. Was it, rather, that Jesus was not following the script that John and other disciples had written for him? There was still no sign of his becoming the deliverer that the Jews had so long expected. So had John invested his life in a spurious cause?

It was, most likely, not the imprisonment itself that threw him. But no doubt it gave him time to brood on the awful thought that perhaps his confidence was based on a fallacy – that all that he had believed and proclaimed was in fact untrue.

Even the most steadfast Christian may be assailed by doubt. Sometimes it may be caused by suffering, though Jesus never promised his followers exemption from that. More often, perhaps, undergoing pressure or enforced inactivity – maybe through a time of unemployment or unexpected change – we may suddenly find ourselves questioning the very things on which we have built our lives.

It may be our professional work. 'I have worked so hard all these years, and what have I achieved? What difference has it made?' Or it may be our faith. 'Has being a Christian made any difference to my life? Can I be certain of one answered prayer? What if it really isn't true?'

Jesus' answer to John was twofold. Take another look at the evidence (in our case, evidence that John could not have dreamed of). "Go and tell John what you hear and see", Jesus answered; "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." And 'blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me' (Matthew 11:6). The friend of sinners, the crucified deliverer, has never followed the scripts that humans have written for him. But he is still the author and finisher of our faith, the one who will bring to completion the work that he has begun.

HELEN PARRY

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At our November meeting our speaker was Margaret Edwards who is a former Diocesan President. Having attended the AGM of the Mothers' Union in September she shared her experience with us. As we are celebrating the 140th anniversary of our foundation there were two services in Winchester cathedral, one in the morning and one in the afternoon to accommodate the demand from members wishing to attend. It was hoped the Queen would be able to attend as she is our patron but she was still at Balmoral. The preacher was Archbishop Justin Welby who is an enthusiastic member of the MU, often popping into the HQ, Mary Sumner House as it is just down the road from Church House.

The AGM considered where the Mothers' Union might be in 10 years' time. Overseas the Mothers' Union is growing rapidly but the challenge here is that the membership of both the Church of England and the Mothers' Union is falling and also in many places it is also ageing. Unfortunately this means it will become more difficult to provide grants to support the work of MU overseas as most of the funds are generated in the UK the USA and in Australia. This provided much food for thought as to how we might need to change in future to further our aim of supporting family life throughout the world.

Our meeting on Tuesday December 13th at 2.30pm will be our Christmas social.

SARAH KINGSCOTE



COFFEE POT...

...is in St George's Centre

**EVERY TUESDAY from
9.00am until 12.00noon**

**with GOOD TEA/COFFEE
and FRIENDLY SURROUNDINGS
as well as COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

Purple Community Fund (formally Philippine Community Fund) – one of our chosen charities. In their recent newsletter the fund are requesting for Ring Pulls from cans of drink, which they recycle into a range of handbags, jewellery and clothing. If anyone cares to collect the ring pulls please save them and let me have them as and when, then I'll arrange to get them to the PCF in Southampton. Many thanks

HANS

Whilst staying with my cousin in Suffolk in September, we spotted this poem taped to the front window of a cottage.

SMILING

Smiling is infectious you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile then realised its worth,
A single smile just like mine could travel round the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.

Author unknown

We read this poem and wondered about the person who lived in that cottage, then we continued our walk – smiling naturally!

STELLA MITCHELL



FEBRUARY magazine material should be
with the editors by
FRIDAY 13 JANUARY 2017
at the very latest
Thank you for your help in this matter

PETER'S POSERS

*(So named in memory of Peter Hutson
who set quizzes for Crossroads for many years)*

1. In which 1979 film was the spaceship called Nostromo?
2. What have been cooked in syrup and glazed to make the sweetmeat Marrons Glacés?
3. The Shatt-el-Arab (River of Arabia) is the confluence of which two other rivers?
4. The Sheffield Shield is competed for in which sport?
5. At which town did Billy Butlin open his first holiday camp?
6. In knitting, what is meant by the initials 'pss'o'?
7. In UK TV's 'Noel Edmund's House Party', the 'house' was situated near to which village?
8. Also the title of a famous literary work, who were Mrs Page and Mrs Ford?
9. What is infant whale commonly called?
10. Which DJ had a UK Top Ten hit with the song Snot Rap?

ANSWERS TO NOVEMBER'S PETER'S POSERS

1. From Here To Eternity
2. Peach
3. Zurich
4. John Surtees
5. Memphis, Tennessee
6. Buckinghamshire
7. Russ Abbott
8. PC Plod
9. Hermaphrodite
10. Juke Box Jury

ADVENT MARKS THE BEGINNING...

... OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR OF BIBLE READINGS

Last year we focused on Luke's gospel; this year our focus is on Matthew, the hated tax-collector whom Jesus chose to become a disciple. Matthew focuses on Jesus as God with us, and on how Jesus fulfils all God's purposes that had been revealed and anticipated by the Old Testament prophets. He also highlights the adventure of being a disciple of Jesus. We're in for a real treat!

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no increase in the cost of Crossroads for 2017 it will remain at 50p per issue or £4.00 for the year if you pay in full by the end of January. Remember that if you have access to the internet you can read Crossroads for free by visiting the Benefice website.

www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk







St George's Day Centre
Every Thursday

10.30am – 2.30pm

If you are lonely and would like to meet new friends then come and join us!
A hot meal is available, and transport can be arranged

Contact Hans Rackham on 01452 528939



2017...

...marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's nailing of his 95 theses to the local church door. This led to the Reformation - a revolution which has changed the practice of Christianity worldwide ever since. Pope Francis has urged that we reconcile our differences and pledge to work together towards 'full communion' between denominations.

He hopes for a 'culture of encounter' and a 'sea-change in relationships' where we share our journey together, remembering God's own desire and Jesus' own prayer 'that all may be one'. He says we have wounded the visible unity God wants, and God is yearning for this wound in the body of Christ to be healed. Archbishop Justin echoes this prayer, and the two leaders are role-models for us as they walk together in loving friendship.

We've made a good start locally; yet there's a fair bit further to go. Let's all play our part. On Wednesday 18 January, during the week of prayer for Christian Unity, we'll be joining with our Baptist and Roman Catholic friends in a special shared service at English Martyrs at 6.30pm. Our theme is reconciliation. Do join us.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Getting to know all about you...

...MIKE AND LAURA MUMBY

Another in the series where members of the church family share with us some of their life's story.

Mike is churchwarden at St Margaret's (and has been for over ten years). Two weeks out of four they can be found cooking breakfasts for Coffee Pot regulars and visitors on a Tuesday morning. Widowed within eight weeks of one another, and both having supported spouses through years of living with dementia, they have now been married two years. But their paths had crossed years earlier.....

Mike

Despite having been born in Gloucester, Mike was brought up in Stroud. Earliest memories are of seeing anti-aircraft shells having been fired from Robinswood Hill and of frequent trips on the railcar between Gloucester and Stroud. The family lived in Paganhill where Mike's brother was born, and from where Mike would walk daily to Cainscross CE School. Passing the 11+ he went to Stroud Boys Technical School. He still has items he made during those years. School was, in Mike's words, "great fun". He was good at cricket, swimming and long-distance running, with a talent for art and woodwork – and he headed up the school chess club.

The family attended the Church of the Holy Spirit where Mike was a choirboy, server and crucifer. Sundays were busy; there were four services (the first at 7.30am), and Sunday school in the afternoon as well. He was confirmed in the Cathedral at the age of 11. Randwick woods and common offered wonderful opportunities for play and Mike would often take himself off for the day - a freedom unknown by most children today.

The family moved to Butterow, Rodborough when Mike was thirteen. It wasn't long before he was invited along to Bedford Street

Congregational church youth club, where a young lady caught his eye. Wasting no time he asked her out (despite her being seven years his senior). She declined. Undeterred Mike persisted, and six years later Hazel and Mike were married.

On leaving school Mike worked in retail, selling carpets for a number of years in Bon Marché. Realising a mortgage was beyond his salary he looked around for more profitable work. British Nylon Spinners (later ICI) took him on – where he stayed for the best part of 30 years. Ever willing to learn new skills and earn a few extra bob, Mike did odd jobs as a brickie and a driver in his time off. Some days he drove deaf children to school; on other occasions he drove lorries or coaches.

His experience and his Public Service Vehicle licence stood him in good stead when he decided to take voluntary retirement from ICI before Dupont took over the company. For the next 13 years he continued to provide a taxi service for the deaf and drive coaches for Bennetts, on occasions transporting a young lad called Darius from Upton St Leonards to Brockworth.

Mike and Hazel moved to Harewood Close in 1963. Their daughters Anthea and Celia went to Harewood and Beaufort schools. Hazel joined St George's, but it was some time before Mike joined her, having become involved in the Drama Group first. It was some years later that he was to discover St Margaret's church, where he immediately felt he had "come home". It's a place where he has found solace, particularly during the years he cared for Hazel towards the end of her life.

Laura

Laura was born into a military family. Parents, grandfathers and great-grandfathers had all served. Her mother worked at Bletchley Park, the code breaking station during the Second World War. Laura's first memories date back to her early years spent in Nigeria. The family moved back to the UK in the early 1950s, where her sister was born and where Laura began school. In 1952 her brother was born in Germany. He was to carry on the family tradition, becoming a Royal Marine commando.

With frequent postings Laura became very good at adapting to change. Over the next ten years she was to move school nine times, sometimes arriving half way through the school year, and repeating material she had covered at a previous school. She learned to her cost it wasn't always helpful to point this matter out to the class teacher, being asked on one occasion to take over teaching the lesson. Maintaining friendships wasn't easy either. Her schooling included a convent, a public school, as well as state schools and a tutor. Despite being born with poor sight in one eye, she was good at rounders and enjoyed sports. Geography and history were not so popular.

After over 20 years in the army her father retired from the Royal Army Service Corps (now the Royal Logistics Corps). It was at this time Laura took her first steps to becoming a hairdresser, an ambition she had nurtured since she was eight. She became an apprentice, staying with friends in Wellingborough when her family moved to Bristol, where her father took over the famous Ship Inn on Redcliffe Hill. It was the era of the "cottage loaf" and "beehive" hairstyles. Laura's parents' reaction to her first appearance with a beehive style was less than positive. Her father made it very clear that she was not going out "looking like that". Laura got her first job in a salon in Bedminster through contacts at her father's pub, moving when the opportunity arose to work in an environment more in tune with the way she had been trained.

She met her first husband, Farrokh, a catering manager who arranged her 21st birthday party, marrying him 15 months later. Their son, Darius, was born two years later. Laura stayed at home with him until he started school. By this time they were living in Upton St Leonards, where Laura had made friends, joined the WI, becoming its president. Farrokh was working for Mecca Leisure, in a role that required him to work unsocial hours. Laura became a mobile hairdresser before buying the local salon in 1983. She ran it for six years until contact dermatitis caused her to reconsider her career and forced her to sell her business.

As Vice President of the local branch of the Hairdressers' Association Laura had contacts at Gloucestershire College who encouraged her to consider lecturing. She gained her Further Adult Education Teaching Certificate. It was a significant achievement and

one which inspired her son to pursue Art and Design, gaining a first and then a Master's degree. However just at this point funding was withdrawn from the College and no lecturing posts were available. Laura had to think again what she was going to do. Whilst acknowledging that religion has not been a major feature of her life she feels Fate has played a part more than once. This was one of those times.

Chemotherapy was by then being used in certain cancer treatments causing hair loss but there was little on offer for those undergoing treatment before their hair grew back. In 1992 Laura set up her own wig business being amongst the first in the country to provide specifically for this group. The business went well and, in spite of the long hours involved, Laura anticipated working until she was 70. However, at 65 she realised that Farrokh, twenty years her senior, already having had a triple heart by-pass operation and in the early stages of dementia, needed more of her time and help. After more than fifteen years, she decided to sell the business.

Mike and Laura

It was at this time that Mike and Laura's paths came together as they met on a course run by Carers Gloucestershire, and found support and on-going care for their spouses through the Kimbrose dementia group. Following a stroke Hazel moved to Brockworth House, where she lived for two and a half years. When he wasn't visiting Hazel, Mike would at times take Farrokh out for a drive, something Farrokh really valued. Hazel and Farrokh eventually died within eight weeks of each other in 2013. Mike and Laura, with friends, continued to meet for lunch and married 15 months later. They both remain active, thankful for health and strength, enjoying nothing better than a long walk.

Despite their losses and their difficult times Mike and Laura are very grateful for their second chance of happiness, for their health and for their friends. Mike describes himself as the "richest man alive" having found love twice. They are both grateful too for their children and grandchildren. They are both positive, "can do" people, ready to come alongside others and help where they can – there's no such word as can't in their dictionary.



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hi folks,

It's that time again; I can't believe that it's come round already. Doesn't the time go when you're having fun! It's been an eventful time; I've had a call on that machine from Misty, boy is she stupid sometimes. When we were having a chat she said "JoJo, what's a pushkin? My mum uses it all the time and I don't know what it means." I said to Misty, "You muppet, it means that a pushkin is one of us, a feline" Cor come people, she even asked Harry, but he didn't know either. What a Wally!

My mum and Auntie Jill go out a lot together, where they go I don't know. Sometimes they're out for a long time and sometimes they're not. I'm left on my own sometimes and I have to stay outside. I don't mind really but when it rains and is blowing a gale, I can't wait to get into the house.

I have a little smile to myself because when I walk over my mum she moans at me and tells me my feet are cold, well, what does she expect when it's cold and wet outside. My mum tells me off when I go outside she tells me to leave the birds alone, but they sit in a thingy by the kitchen window, so it seems right to see if I can catch them. I don't have much luck though.

I brought in a little creature the other day and Auntie Jill shouted at me and told me to take it outside. I was only bringing my mum a present; not that she appreciates it but I'll keep on trying.

I haven't heard much about Arnold lately, but then I haven't seen Jayne either. I had heard that Jayne's mum was in hospital so she couldn't come to my mum's house. By the time she comes back I

will have forgotten what she looks like. I do like to make my presence known to everyone. Well I have to make sure they're doing things right and make my approval known don't I!!

My cuz, Misty, is still a wuss, she still won't see the next door cats off. I can't say too much though because I have a couple of felines who come into my garden, I do tell them off, but doesn't make much difference. My mum keeps the door shut so they can't come in and pinch my food. They do try and push they're luck but it doesn't wash with my mum and they soon scoot off.

I think that it's time to say goodbye now until the next time.

JOJO WHITTLE

OUR PIONEER VENTURE

We wait with confidence expectation for the final money to arrive! Then we are looking to advertise early in the New Year. Please continue to pray for this appointment which will be a vital part of our 'pioneering' in the community in 2017. We want to trust God to bring His person to us, and to trust ourselves to God's leading so we will all play our parts together to see his Kingdom grow in and around Tuffley.

*Lord help us grow
more compassionate in serving our
community,
more confident in sharing the good news of
Jesus, and
more creative in reaching out to new people,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit.
Amen*



EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS

No, not the presents, nor the lights or carols, not the feast and not the family fun (or fights). But back in time to the first Christmas, the awesome story surrounding the birth of our Lord and Saviour. An experience we'll be sharing this year with hundreds of local school children, during the week starting 12 December. If this excites you, come and be part of it! Please sign-up to volunteer asap. No experience necessary; just a love for children and a worshipful respect for the story of Jesus. The script is already written, you just read it...

There's ALSO an opportunity for everyone of all ages to come and share in the story through the creative Experience Christmas displays, on Monday evening 12th December from 6.30pm till 8.00pm, @ Grange Baptist church – with seasonal refreshments too! Come and bring your friends.



FROM ST MARGARET'S

Well hello folks,

It's just me, that person who does at our little church with her mate Kath. We have been doing our cleaning on Monday mornings for a few years now and everyone who comes into it always says how lovely it is; there is always something to do, it is surprising how many people come into the churchyard when we are doing stuff in and around the church.

We have had a number of weddings just lately, none more so than of another Hyett family member, this time it was Richard and his partner Rebeka. Jenny and Gerald had done the most beautiful flower arrangements for the church and it looked wonderful. I was unable to go and see the wedding as I had another engagement but I understand

that the wedding went off very well so we send all congratulations to Richard, Rebeka and all the family.

The winter is coming and Kath and I have been tidying up a bit in the church yard, not much as the weather has been against us but we try to keep the churchyard as good as possible. For now we will concentrate on keeping our church in good order.

As you know we are fundraising to put a new roof on our church, we have quite a few tiles bought already but there must be a lot more to go, so we must try as hard as possible to fund raise for the rest of the tiles. My sister and I are doing a winter lunch on the 13 November so that we can enjoy our friends company and make new friends at the same time. I know that it will be hard work but it will be worth it in the end. Everyone will enjoy the meal I hope!! And there will be a raffle as well so we are hoping!

Kath and I will be doing our cleaning as there is still a lot to do, with me doing the brass and Kath doing the sweeping and polishing. It never ends and as the leaves are falling we bring them in on our shoes so we are always wiping them.

Well my friends, that's about it for now as I've run out of think! So it's goodbye for now and God Bless.

JILL PONTER

A MATTER OF DEATH AND LIFE

We all want to live well. But just as important is “dying well”. What might this mean for you and me? It's good for all of us, whatever age and stage in life, to prepare for our death. A helpful website, from the Roman Catholic Church, is <http://www.artofdyingwell.org>. This has resources to help us think about: What will it mean to ‘die well’?

Talking about death ... Facing death personally... Losing a loved one... and Caring for the dying.

If this is a topic that worries you for any reason, do please speak with

BRUCE OR JONATHAN



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Harry! Yes Mist? Harry what's a pushkin? What do you want to know what a pushkin is for Mist? Well Harry my mum keeps calling me her little pushkins and I haven't a clue what that is. Auntie Marg calls our JoJo her little precious pushkins and I just wondered what on earth one of those was. Well Mist, it's a pet name for a feline, mind you we get called an awful lot of other names too, some not as nice as pushkins, but it's just a name for us cats.

Harry have you seen Black Jack and Duke lately? It seems ages since they have been at our back door, of course Princess and Star are never from it. My mum just shouts at them and off they go, but sometimes, Harry, that Star just runs straight through our living room and up the stairs and hides under my mum's bed. My mum goes diving up the stairs and hooks her out and then she is running passed me at a rate of knots and mum shuts the door so that neither of them can come in. I found them sitting on our doormat the other day, then you came round the door Harry and they both scarpered. I didn't half laugh, it was so funny.

I don't like all those bangs going off in the evenings, do you Harry? No Mist, I don't! My humans make sure that I'm in early these days as the nights are getting darker earlier, it makes sense to be home in bed before the crashes and bangs start going off. What about you Mist? Harry I always make sure that I'm home with my mum before it starts to get dark. I don't understand why it's getting so cold and dark early that's all.

Oh Harry it's the machine again, it must be our JoJo! Yes JoJo, No JoJo, not that I know of. You don't say and what about Harnold? He didn't. Who told you that JoJo? Auntie Marg did, well he is a clever feller then isn't he. What do you mean JoJo his gran is in the hospital, that's not good. I know that they do lots of things to you when you go to those places, we both know that, don't we JoJo. You say that

Auntie Jayne hasn't been to your house of late, come to think of it she hasn't been to ours either. What JoJo? Whose been pinching your dinner? That cat from down the road, the one which lives next door to Bert. JoJo who on earth is Bert? Oh just your next door neighbour. Oh I see, but he's still a pain and what Jojo he's at the door this very moment. JoJo just don't do anything stupid. I know how you can upset a feline you know, but JoJo its just food. Your mum will put some more down for you, won't she? She'll make you wait I bet, it's not long Jojo. What do you mean, my mum just makes sure I have my food when I get in, she may have to wash my dish out first but I get it fresh every time. Harry? JoJo. Oh he's here did you want a word? I see, no JoJo, you go, I know you will have a go at that cat again, no JoJo I'll tell him. Yes JoJo, I'll tell him, no we are just waiting for the gang to turn up, yes JoJo speak to you soon.

Harry, JoJo says she's on guard at the back door as she's not sure if that cat has gone home, but she says not to forget to put everything down as Glenda likes to be able to read what you have written and have you got your glasses? Yes Mist, I know all that but you know how things go missing. I just put my glasses, pen and pad down and somebody moves it and then I have to spend half my time looking for it again. Then I get all hungry and have to feed my face. What you laughing at Mist? Oh nothing, Harry, but you do make me smile. Now let's get to the den and see if the rest of the gang are about. Here's Yasmin coming over. Harry pick yourself up please and do keep your tongue in your mouth. I know Mist but isn't she just the best!

Oh well I must get on, come on Mist. I'll just say Tata for now and see you next time so it's goodbye from me, Mist and the gang until the next time...

...MISTY PONTER

ST MARGARET'S CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for Christmas flowers, in memory of loved ones, can be given to either Gloria or to Jill. The flowers will be on display in church on Christmas morning. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. In December 2004, Madame Tussaud's London, offended many by displaying a nativity scene featuring which two celeb waxwork models as Joseph and Mary?
2. Often associated with Christmas, what has sections called a warble and a strabe?
3. Christkindlesmarkt is a Christmas market that is held annually in which German city?
4. Yule Log cake is the traditional Christmas cake served in which European country?
5. What exactly is Picea abies?
6. What is the poem A Visit from St. Nicholas more commonly known as?
7. In which country was Boxing Day renamed Day of Goodwill in 1994?
8. Who served up figgy pudding in Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'?
9. Father Christmas is known as Pai Natal in which European country?
10. Mummer's Day is an ancient midwinter celebration in which English county?

ST GEORGE'S ENTERTAINERS

Are currently rehearsing an adaptation of the Fairy Tale...



Snow White is prettier than her stepmother, so the mirror tells her, so a plan is set to rid the wicked stepmother of Snow White forever. Aided by a handsome Prince the five dwarfs (yes five!) attempt to save Snow White so she can live happily ever after.

All will be revealed on
Friday 17th February and Saturday 18th February 2017

Put the dates in your diary now!

Other information will be made available in the New Year.

Dates for your diary

Don't miss out

NOVEMBER

Sun 27			ADVENT / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Advent Matins
	10.30am		Eucharist / Healing followed by Coffee
	12.30pm		Baptism of Oscar Owen MacDonald at St G's
	4.00pm		Advent Christingle at St G's
Tue 29	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Wed 30	2.30pm		Readers / Deacons / Servers meeting - V
	7.30pm		Refresh Advent Party – St G's

DECEMBER

Thu 1	10.30am	*	Eucharist
	11.15am	*	Advent Group 2 – St M's
	7.00pm		Advent Group 2 – V
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Fri 2	7.30pm		Gardening club – MH
Sun 4			ADVENT II
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by Coffee / Prize Draw
	4.00pm	*	Evensong
Tue 6	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
Wed 7	7.00pm		Monthly Choir Practice
Thu 8	10.30am	*	Eucharist
	11.15am	*	Advent Group 3 – St M's
	7.00pm		Advent Group 3 – V
Sun 11			ADVENT III
	9.00am	*	Eucharist
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by Coffee and 100 Club Draw
	2.00pm		Private let of Centre – MH
	2.30pm		Installation in Gloucester Cathedral of Robert as Bishop of Tewkesbury

Mon 12			Start of Experience Christmas at Grange Baptist Church
	10.00am		Aphasia-Now – SH & SL
	2.30pm		Christingle Service with Grange School
Tue 13			Experience Christmas at Grange Baptist church
	9.00am		Coffee Pot with Crypt School Choir all welcome – A team
	9.30am		Eucharist
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	7.30pm		St G's PCC meeting – V
Wed 14			Experience Christmas at Grange Baptist church
			Christingle Service with Harewood School
	7.30pm		St M's PCC meeting
Thu 15			Last day of Experience Christmas at Grange Baptist church which will close at 12.00noon today
	10.30am	*	Eucharist
	11.15pm	*	Advent Group 4 – St M's
	7.00pm		Advent Group 4 – V
Fri 16	9.30am		Harewood School Concert – St G's
	1.30pm		Harewood School Concert – St G's
Sun 18			ADVENT IV
	10.30am		Family Eucharist followed by coffee
	6.00pm		St George's Carol Service
Tue 20	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – A team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Wed 21	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee – SL
Thu 22	10.30am	*	Eucharist
Fri 23	7.00pm		St Margaret's Carol Service
Sat 24			CHRISTMAS EVE
	4.00pm		Messy Crib
	11.30pm		'Midnight'
Sun 25			CHRISTMAS DAY – White Box day
	9.00am		Said Service – St G's
	10.00am	*	Christmas Praise followed by Eucharist
Tue 27	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Thu 29	10.30am	*	Eucharist

JANUARY

Sun 1			CHRISTMAS II / NEW YEAR'S DAY
	9.00am	*	Eucharist
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by Coffee
	4.00pm		Carols round the tree – St G's
	4.00pm		Private let of Centre – SH & SL
Tue 3	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Wed 4	7.00pm		Choir
Thu 5	10.30am	*	Eucharist
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Fri			EPIPHANY
Sun 8			EPIPHANY I
	9.00am	*	Eucharist
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by coffee/cake sale
	4.00pm	*	Gallery Choir & Epiphany Evensong
Tue 10	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – A team
	9.30am		Eucharist
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	7.30pm		Social Committee – SL
Thu 12	10.30am	*	Eucharist
Fri 13			FEBRUARY CROSSROADS DEADLINE
Sun 15			EPIPHANY II
	10.30am		Family Eucharist followed by coffee
	4.00pm	*	Evensong
Tue 17	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – A team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Wed 18	6.30pm	M	United Service at English Martyrs
Thu 19	10.30am	*	Eucharist
Sun 22			EPIPHANY III
	9.00am	*	Eucharist
	10.30am		Eucharist / Healing followed by coffee
Mon 23		M	Alpha course starts at Grange Baptist
Tue 24	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
	9.30am		Eucharist
Wed 25	9.00am		February Crossroads print off
Thu 26	9.00am		February Crossroads collating
	10.30am	*	Eucharist
Fri 27	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group venue to be confirmed

Sun 29			PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE / White Box day Authorisation of SUSAN SCOTHERN as Pastoral Assistant BRIAN WOODRUFF's last Sunday as Organist and Director of Music
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by coffee
	6.00pm	*	Evensong
Tue 31	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – B team
	9.30am		Eucharist

FEBRUARY

Thu 2	10.30am	*	Eucharist
Sun 5			4 before LENT
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Eucharist followed by coffee and prize draw
	4.00pm	*	Evensong

(M) See article in magazine

(*) Service or event at St Margaret's Church

MH = Main Hall, SH = Small Hall, SL = Softley Lounge,

MR = Meeting Room, V = Vicarage, O = Office

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation towards St George's Flower Fund in memory of a loved one this Christmas, please use the envelopes that are at the back of the church.

Fill out the information on the front of the envelope, enclose your donation, seal the envelope and hand it to a Churchwarden no later than...

Sunday 18 December 2016

THANK YOU

SISTER ACT...

... was one of several film-clips we enjoyed as part of our exploration into “What church might look like for those who don’t currently do church”. Over six weeks and using nationally-produced ecumenical resources, we’ve met with our friends from English Martyrs and Grange Baptist churches, to think about how ‘mission’ might look like in Tuffley (it starts of course with good listening to people across the community), and what shape ‘church’ might look like for those who don’t yet take part – in terms of community, worship, and helping each other to follow Jesus. We’ve seen video clips from several ‘fresh expressions’ of church across the country and shared together how we believe the Spirit of God might be leading us next...

A great help in forming our ideas as we become a ‘pioneering’ community together. Watch this space, to explore how you can be involved in this exciting development!

ALPHA...

... is the first letter of the Greek alphabet.

It’s also the title of a series of gatherings designed to help people who want to take first steps towards faith, or maybe first steps to investigating faith, or maybe just look again at what meaning there could possibly be in life with all that it throws at us.

It’s a ten-week series starting on Monday 23 January. Each evening begins with a simple meal, followed by a video and open discussion. It promises to be fun as well as enriching.

This is another ‘first’ here with all the churches in this part of Tuffley. Do come and take part. And bring a friend.

Offers of help will also be gratefully received, including with catering! Listen out for more details.

REGULAR LETS OF ST GEORGE'S CENTRE

Every Mon except Bank Holiday and 1 st Monday of every month except when Speakability meet every other month from 10.30am – 1.00pm	10.00am	Aphasia-Now	SH & SL
Every Monday of term time	5.15pm	Brownies	MH
	6.10pm	Rainbows	SH
	7.15pm	Guides	MH
Every Tues of term time	6.30pm	Cubs	MH
2 nd Tues of month	2.30pm	Mothers' Union	SH
Every Weds	3.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	5.30pm	Slimming World	MH
	7.30pm	Slimming World	MH
Every 4 th Weds	7.00pm	GAGS Committee	SL
Every Thurs except August	10.30am	Day Centre	SH & SL
Every Thurs of term time	6.00pm	Beavers	MH
	7.15pm	Scouts	MH
Every Thurs except August	7.30pm	Charter Band	SH & SL
Every Friday except August	7.30pm	Entertainers	MH
Every 4 th Friday	7.30pm	GAGS Club	MH



**From the Editors, printers, collators and distributors
 of your Crossroads
 See you all in February 2017**

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S:	Parish Eucharist (1 st , 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th Sundays)	10.30am
	Family Eucharist (3 rd Sunday)	10.30am
ST MARGARET'S:	Eucharist (2 nd , 4 th Sundays)	9.00am
	Family Praise (1 st Sunday)	10.30am
	Evensong (1 st , 3 rd Sunday) (6.00pm in summertime)	4.00pm
	Special Service (5 th Sunday)	4.00pm

WEEKDAY SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S:	Eucharist (Tuesday)	9.30am
	Morning Prayer (Wednesday)	9.15am
ST MARGARET'S:	Eucharist (Thursday)	10.30am

There are occasionally additions to the weekly timetable' please refer to the Signpost, the weekly leaflet for details of any changes.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church, normally takes place at 10.00am on last Saturday of the month but not always so please check the benefice diary inside for this month's information. Messy Church is particularly geared for families with children and offers crafts, activities and worship based on the topic for the day. There is a cafe with drinks and toast too.

THE PARISH OFFICE

Arrangements for Centre Bookings, Baptism, Banns and Marriages can be made between 9.00am and 12noon on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning on 01452 307456.