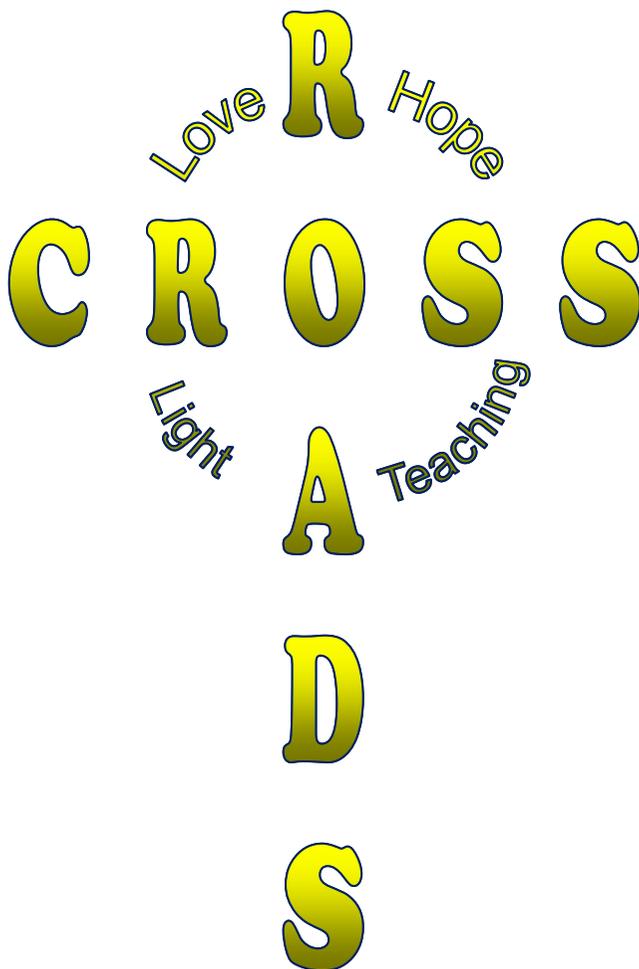


**The magazine for the
Benefice of St George's Tuffley
with St Margaret's Whaddon**



APRIL 2017

50p

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering

**THE BENEFICE OF ST GEORGE'S TUFFLEY
WITH ST MARGARET'S WHADDON**

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



Now on Facebook at

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

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PARISH PRIEST Revd Bruce Clifford Tel: 520851
Email: vicar-bruce@outlook.com

READER Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis Tel: 502174
Email: Jonathanmj@virginmedia.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Glenda Stevens Tel: 307456
NEW Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com
Parish Office open
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday mornings
From 9.00am until 12.00noon

MAGAZINE EDITOR Darrell Stevens Tel: 410507
Email: ds52604@gmail.com

**ST GEORGE'S
CHURCHWARDENS** Mike Brammer Tel: 412204
Sylvia Evans Tel: 416184
TREASURER David Westcott Tel: 302353
SECRETARY Joceline Blunt Tel: 501357
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Vacant

**ST MARGARET'S
CHURCHWARDENS** Malcolm Martin Tel: 302483
Mike Mumby Tel: 411371
TREASURER Hans Rackham Tel: 528939
SECRETARY Susan Scothern
Email: susan.scothern@hotmail.com

***Crossroads and Signpost are now available
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

Easter Joy

The truth of our faith rests on the Resurrection. Who saw Jesus risen from the grave? How trustworthy were these witnesses? How did their discovery of Jesus alive transform their own lives?

We find from the New Testament that many people – some of whom had abandoned Jesus when the going got tough – suddenly became full of courage and boldly declared he was alive again. Their witness often led to their own persecution, and for some, even death; but it turned the world upside down!

Has the news of the resurrection turned your world upside-down?

To find out who experienced Jesus alive, and how, have a look at the final chapter of each gospel, and chapter 15 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. And be prepared to be amazed!

Have a truly joyful Easter, everyone
BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

WEDDINGS

St Margaret's

Stephen Ray Thomas Best & Elizabeth Dawn Jorden

FUNERALS

Crematorium

Lionel Lee RIP

Russell Woodman RIP

2017 APCMs

With the APCMs of both our churches on the horizon it is necessary to remind all of our church family of the importance of being involved in church life. There will be elections for Churchwardens and PCC members at both APCMs so please consider adding your name to the list of people who are willing to stand for election. These lists are usually pinned up in the porch so please don't just walk past and not even consider what you could bring to church life. If you definitely can't stand for election talk to someone about it and they might just feel the calling themselves and sign up.

HOME COMMUNION SET

We want to publicly acknowledge the very generous anonymous donation of a fine home communion set for use in home visits. Many thanks – God bless you!

ALPHA IS COMING TO TUFFLEY!

“Alpha is a way to explore what we hunger after – meaning and intimacy and relationship – in a very non-pressed, non-judgemental environment” (Bear Grylls).

- ❖ No pressure, no charge, no follow-up!
- ❖ Food, video and friendly discussion.
- ❖ Ask questions and make up your own mind.
- ❖ All welcome, includes craft and colouring for children.
- ❖ For more information and to book, ring 07534 488 994.

Hosted by Grange Baptist with St George's and English Martyrs.
PS please invite a friend!

AMEN!

Q: Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?

A: The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!



Sunday 9 April PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Service with St George's Singing Group,
10.30am at St George's
Palm Sunday United Praise, 10.30am at St Margaret's

Thursday 13 April MAUNDY THURSDAY

Parish Communion, 10.30am at St Margaret's
Blessing of Oils, 11.00am at Cathedral
Parish Communion, 7.00pm at St George's followed by
vigil for those who can stay until 9.00pm

Friday 14 April GOOD FRIDAY

Benefice Good Friday Liturgy, 10.30am at St George's
The Church in Tuffley Procession of Witness
"The Way of the Cross" starting at 12.00noon

Saturday 15 April EASTER EVE

Messy Easter with Baptism, 10.00am at St George's
'First Light of Easter', 8.00pm at St Margaret's

Sunday 16 April EASTER DAY

Easter Communion, 9.00am at St Margaret's
Easter Communion with St George's Singing Group,
10.30am at St George's
Easter Praise, 10.30am at St Margaret's

**It is possible that the above information may change
so check your Signpost**

PSALM FOR THE MONTH:

PSALM 34

- ¹ I will praise the LORD at all times.
I will constantly speak his praises.
- ² I will boast only in the LORD;
let all who are helpless take heart.
- ³ Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness;
let us exalt his name together.
- ⁴ I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me.
He freed me from all my fears.
- ⁵ Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy;
no shadow of shame will darken their faces.
- ⁶ In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened;
he saved me from all my troubles.
- ⁷ For the angel of the LORD is a guard;
he surrounds and defends all who fear him.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!
- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you his godly people,
for those who fear him will have all they need.
- ¹⁰ Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry,
but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.
- ¹⁷ The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help.
He rescues them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.
- ¹⁹ The righteous person faces many troubles,
but the LORD comes to the rescue each time.
- ²⁰ For the LORD protects the bones of the righteous;
not one of them is broken!

We welcomed Rosie Clifford to our March meeting to share her thoughts about Lent with us. She recalled a Lent talk she had heard at the cathedral which was based on a painting. That painting was “The Return of the Prodigal Son” by Rembrandt which can be seen in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. Rosie gave us an outline of Rembrandt’s life including the facts that three of his four children died young, his first wife died young also and he was declared insolvent.

Looking at the painting Rosie drew our attention to the father’s hands embracing his son’s shoulders. The left hand appears larger, firmer and more masculine while the right hand is softer, more feminine with a more tender touch. The richness of the father’s clothes contrasts with the rags and worn sandals of his son. The older son stands, with clasped hands, on the right hand edge of the painting and two other figures are in the middle in darkness. A close inspection reveals a barely visible figure in the top left hand corner which it has been suggested may possibly be the sons’ mother.

Rosie said she had also had inspiration from the book by Dutch priest Henri Nouwen [1932-1996] *The Return of The Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* [1992] which he wrote after several hours spent contemplating the original painting. We were certainly left with food for thought.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th April at 2.30pm in the small hall. The speaker will be Jim Rollinson of Gloucestershire Older Persons Association [GOPA]. Do come and join us; you will be very welcome.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

TUFFLEY FESTIVAL - 2017

Riding on the back of the successful 'Tuffley Celebrates' of last June the small band of volunteers who were the original members of the Steering Committee have been quietly working in the background again to organize yet another event for this year – (gluttons for punishment comes to mind!!)

The event will be known as 'the Tuffley Festival' and will be held on 1st July at Grange Primary School – starting 11:00am with an official opening at 12.00noon and finishing at 3:30pm with a mass 'sing' of the song 'Somewhere only we know'.

We are again appealing for all choirs and singing groups in the area to join in, as well as any rock/jazz bands and orchestras etc. to perform on the stage at allotted times during the event.

There will be a varied selection of side shows including Bouncy Castles and open-air skittles as well as numerous stalls etc. and many other surprises, subject to confirmation. This year there will be a more varied selection of food and drink available including ice-creams.

Please put the date in your diaries NOW – 1st July

HANS RACKHAM
CHAIR
STEERING COMMITTEE TUFFLEY FESTIVAL

AT A WEDDING

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment and then said "So why is the groom wearing black?"

SHALOM

‘A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones’, says the book of Proverbs (14:30).

During the coming weeks we’ll be thinking more about Christ’s ministry of healing today. Are people physically healed, as they were in Jesus’ own day? What about emotional healing? We’ll explore how the physical, emotional and spiritual sides of our lives are inseparably inter-twined. And how the transformation Jesus brings is to ‘life in all its fullness’ (see John’s gospel chapter 10). In other words, well-being in every aspect of life – or ‘shalom’.

Do please share your insights and questions with the vicar, to help us forward.

100 CLUB WINNERS MARCH 2017

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...Margaret Rowell who won £30.00...

...Sue Winter who won £20.00...

...and to Jayne Close who won £10.00

...better luck in June to all our other contributors

BIBLE LESSON

A Sunday school teacher asked the children if front of her why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "Because they couldn't get a baby sitter."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Getting to know all about you...

...LINDA MEDWELL

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

Linda, a much-valued member of the Messy Church team, involved in the church's healing ministry and in pastoral care, tells of her troubled early life, and her life as a nurse, counsellor and trainer, and as a mum. She recalls those who have been there for her at times of crisis and decision, believing in her, encouraging her on her way.

Linda, born just after the Second World War, grew up in the countryside outside Stoke on Trent. The war had profoundly affected her parents. Her father served in Burma, one of the forgotten army. He came home, deeply disturbed, to find his wife, left on her own, had had a child, Bill, by another man.

Linda was one of nine children, not all of whom survived. With five brothers, she longed for a sister. She recalls one day, being seated by the mangle, asking her mother why she couldn't have one. Within a year, her sister, Carole arrived..... Eight years younger than her, she was not as great a playmate as Linda had hoped. Linda held her own with her brothers, at times obstructing their game of cricket until they would let her play.

Unable to afford a home of their own until Linda was eight, the family moved around from one member of the family to another. Linda speaks of her childhood as "difficult". Her father was violent and abusive. Her mother, living with the loss of some of her children, finally could stand it no longer and left her husband. She spent three to four months in hospital, recovering from a breakdown.

Linda, now aged twelve, and her siblings were taken into care, to a children's home.

Lonely and serious, Linda was a responsible and anxious child. Family circumstances made her resourceful and resilient. She sought solace in the countryside and in books, longing for a "normal childhood", for something better, a way out, an escape. Creative, at school she enjoyed English and music, a teacher at one point suggesting voice training (something that Linda recognised was never going to happen).

In care Linda became disturbed and withdrawn, speaking to no-one, running away at one point. She was found by a policeman, who, Linda recalls, bought her an ice-cream. Back in the home, her social worker came one day with an ultimatum, "Talk to me, or I'll find someone else". Linda broke her silence, beginning a relationship with someone who was to become a beacon in her life.

Her mother, once recovered, was able to look after her children again, though there was to be no contact with their father. Back together as a family again for a short while, it was not long before Linda was sent to look after her grandmother, (known to be cantankerous at times), who had become ill. It meant that she had her own room for the first time, helping her study.

At fifteen Linda left school and went to college, where she gained 'O' levels in biology, English literature and human biology, giving her the necessary qualifications to apply for training as a nurse. It was the first time that she discovered that life could be fun, could be good.

For Linda, who had been used to caring for other members of the family from an early age, nursing seemed the right, the obvious thing to do. Her application was successful and she began her course at the teaching hospital in Stoke-on-Trent. Whilst there, Linda worked hard and played hard, enjoying parties, making life-long friends. Unbeknown to her, her social worker was following her progress from a distance. On the day she qualified she sent Linda flowers and a box of chocolates, with the message "I knew you'd do it!"

Linda's first job was on a gynaecological ward as a staff nurse, a role she enjoyed. Hesitant to apply for promotion, a second "beacon", this time a charge nurse, encouraged her to apply for the post of night sister. She was successful and loved the work. Thinking it was time to spread her wings Linda applied for a role with the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Service. Interviewed by a Wing Commander she was none too pleased to hear him say that she had been accepted, but was rather small. She refused the offer; "with that remark, he wasn't going to have me!"

Instead she applied to work on a thoracic intensive care ward in the hospital where she trained, working nights and caring for very sick children and adults. It was the early days of open heart surgery. The demanding work took its toll on doctors and nurses. After two years, and after a series of patient deaths, Linda decided a change was needed. A post in casualty proved a good move, with the focus on addressing immediate injuries and illness, before patients were passed to further treatment and care, if required. The unit treated casualties from road traffic accidents that occurred on the M6, including some with very severe injuries.

During this time, at one of the many local parties, Linda struck up a conversation with Barry, who had been going out with a friend of hers (whom Linda thought had treated him very badly). An engineer, working for the General Electric Company in Kidsgrove, he played the guitar. He, Linda and others would sing folk and protest songs in pubs. Though wary of marriage, anxious not to follow in the footsteps of her parents, Linda and Barry married in 1971.

Later that year Barry found himself made redundant, an event which precipitated a move away from Stoke. He was successful in gaining a job at Smiths Industries in Bishop's Cleeve. Without anywhere to live he stayed with a friend in Oxford. Linda joined him when she could, catching up on her sleep after night duty in a car in the coach car park. They eventually found a bungalow in Bodiam Avenue in Tuffley. Homesick at first, Linda settled and found a job at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in the Accident Unit. They came to love Tuffley, moving up the road when they eventually needed a larger house.

Their first son, Andrew, was born in 1975. Richard arrived two years later. Linda took a twelve-month break from work after Richard's birth. An unexpected phone call invited her to consider going back to work part-time - on the twilight shift from 7.00pm to 11.30pm. She accepted the invitation though a busy shift could result in her not getting home until 2.30am, little time to sleep before the rest of the family woke. Linda continued working part-time until she felt she wanted to spend time at home with the boys as they grew up.

After three years Linda thought she might apply to do some voluntary work. She had in mind respite care for sick children so she was surprised to be allocated to reception work at the charity Relate. It was a significant move leading to Linda accepting an invitation to train as a counsellor, eventually working for the agency for 12 years. Blessed with lots of energy Linda also found time to work part-time, doing nights, at Brunswick nursing home.

From Relate Linda moved to work with Accord, a team which delivers training in pastoral care for the Diocese of Gloucester. She led courses on visiting, befriending, baptism and marriage preparation, which she enjoyed. She continued to nurse, finally retiring at 59. Through nursing, Linda says, she has met many wonderful people, some of whom became "beacons" in her life, helping direct her path, providing encouragement and support along her way. She also experienced times of sadness and loss, finding in the sluice a quiet place to cry.

Linda has reflected deeply on her life. Eventually her father was allowed access to his children and she was able to form a good relationship with him. She feels no bitterness towards him, seeing him as a bright, intelligent man, dealt a tough hand, denied by family circumstances the chance to go to grammar school, his education cut short by the war, his health damaged by his war experiences (living with what may have been undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder) and by malaria, forced to live on the poverty line. Acts of kindness have meant a great deal. She recalls with affection the family's GP providing them with a hamper of food each year at Christmas.

Linda says she has always had faith, knowing God by her side. Her parents sent their children to church, maybe welcoming an hour's

respite. Whilst there Linda met a deaconess, who would invite her back for tea on a Sunday. She believed in Linda, and became a great influence on her life. Linda sang as the only girl in an all boys' choir. Confirmed at 17, still with lots of questions, she drifted away from attending church once she began nursing.

Her faith began to be rekindled as she thought about having her sons christened. Why did she want it? Apprehensive, she tentatively began to come back to church. She found St George's congregation welcoming, but it was a while before she felt able to take communion, regaining confidence on hearing afresh the words of invitation, "Draw near with faith". Linda also found herself unable to recite the words of the creed. Comforted and encouraged by a curate that it was OK to take time with things she didn't understand, Linda recalls experiencing a sense of peace in her kitchen at home one day, a moment of revelation. She felt able to come to a new understanding of God's constant love for her that she might have left him, but that He, at no point, had left her.

Home is very important to Linda, her sanctuary, a treasured place – something she longed for in her early years. She wanted Andrew and Richard to have a very different family life from the one she had experienced. She has been there for them, caring for them, as has Barry, in tough times, in times of darkness, celebrating their diverse gifts and their choices in life. Blessed with a lovely tenor voice Richard shares Linda's love of music, singing locally with the St Cecilia Singers and working at Newton House, which provides supported living for men who have mental health and substance misuse problems. Andrew enjoys sport; he and his wife have three children.

Linda loves to read, to listen to music and to paint, enjoying her regular art class. She also likes to walk, although her knees prefer the flat nowadays. She is drawn to the sea, particularly when it is whipped up by the wind, reminding her of stormy weather on the moors of her childhood. The north coast of Cornwall is a favourite spot. She enjoys her garden too, looking forward to the summer and seeing it in bloom again.

Through her nursing, her counselling, her family, Linda has come across and supported many people in significant need. At times, caring has taken its toll. Barry has been her solid support, gentle and kind, ready too to help anyone in need. Linda believes there is something good in most people. She also believes that it is important to be kind, to do unto others as you would have done to yourself. She would encourage us all to be ourselves, to aim for the stars, believe we can get there, finding help and support on the way, as she has done.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

“The Church in Tuffley” (otherwise known as St George’s with St Margaret’s, with Grange Baptist and English Martyrs) are arranging for a procession of witness on **Good Friday**, remembering Jesus’ final walk to Golgotha where he was nailed to the cross. We’ll be carrying a cross around key locations of the parish, and pausing for reflection at a number of ‘stations of the cross’ along the route. Starting at **12.00noon** at Grange Baptist, and finishing at around 1.00pm at St George’s for a hot drink and hot cross bun. Details of route and timings will be available soon. Please do join us, for whatever you can manage – and bring some friends!



**MAY magazine material should be
with the editors by
THURSDAY 13 APRIL 2017
at the very latest
Thank you for your help in this matter**

SPRING HARVEST...

...is an annual event when several thousand Christians gather together at Butlins in Minehead. Over five days, we worship God and celebrate his love; we learn more from a range of Christian speakers and seminars. We can browse a large 'Christian Resources' exhibition; make the most of all the activities Butlins offers – including an amazing swimming pool – and have good fun in days full of action. Bruce intends to go for one day only – Wednesday 12 April – leaving Tuffley at 7.00am, returning at 11.00pm. He has four car seats available: first come first served, so please speak with him soon.

FOODBANK COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all who contribute to the weekly Foodbank collection. The Gloucester Food bank gave out over 5,000 three-day emergency supplies to people last year. The St George's congregation has collected over 100 kilos of food and toiletries since the beginning of the year. A great start to 2017.

Some might like to know that the Foodbank also welcomes donations of money to cover the cost of staff and of running the charity.

PIONEERING PONDERING...

I wonder...

...how will the new Pioneer work with the church?

...how will the new Pioneer work with the community?

...what difference will the Pioneer make?

...how might I help and support?

We hope our new Pioneer will be joining us in May. One of the Pioneer's first priorities will be to get to know us. So – invite her round for coffee and chat while the diary is free!



St George's Coffee Pot



**St George's Centre
EVERY TUESDAY
from 9.00am until 12.00noon
Hot Drinks, Hot food
People to meet and to chat with
Warm welcome**

ANSWERS TO MARCH'S PETER'S POSERS

1. LIVE AND LET DIE (1973);
2. NINE;
3. LIZARD POINT;
4. MIDDLEWEIGHT;
5. SIR WALTER RALEIGH;
6. PRIMA FACIE;
7. SIMON TEMPLAR;
8. BILLY BUNTER;
9. PANTHER;
10. FELIX MENDELSSON.



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

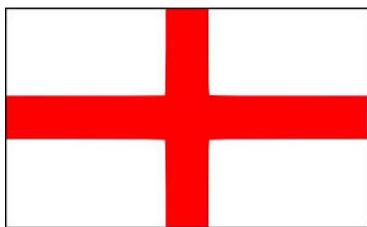
PETER'S POSERS FOR APRIL

1. Which actor appeared in Papillon and The Great Escape and died in 1980?
2. What do the British call the vegetables that Americans call zucchini?
3. In which bay is Alcatraz?
4. What is the most northerly cricket ground at which a Test Match can (as at 2009) be played?
5. Which British general was killed at Khartoum?
6. Which Cornish village claims to be the birthplace of King Arthur?
7. KAR120C was the registration of a yellow Lotus 7, in which 1960s cult UK TV series?
8. In which Dickens novel was Miss Havisham jilted on her wedding day?
9. What is an otter's home called?
10. Who had a 1985 hit with Saving All My Love For You?

YOU READ IT HERE FIRST

The Church Times on 17 March carried an article that ‘apparently the CIA is in possession of a time-machine built by the Vatican’. [I expect it works just once a year – on a particular day early in April?]

Rumour has it the vicar is planning to launch loyalty cards for attendance in church on Sundays. The warden on duty will stamp your card, and stamps will earn prizes. The cards will be available on 1 April, for one day only: make sure you get yours!



ST GEORGE'S FUNDRAISING LUNCH – 23 APRIL 2017

The Famous Five are preparing lunch for you; Vegetable Soup, Roast Beef with all the trimmings, Fruit Crumble, Coffee and Mints, but please bring your own alcoholic drinks. If you haven't yet committed to joining us and would like to please speak to Glenda or Darrell as soon as possible, the cost will be £13.50.

Places are now subject to availability!!

We, the Famous Five, see the lunches and teas that we put on as being our attempt to raise much needed funds for St George's. We do thank you most sincerely for your support over the years and hope that you will continue to support us and our ventures in the future.

FAMOUS FIVE



FROM ST MARGARET'S

Well my friends, it's me again, that certain person who with her friend Kath lands up to our armpits in Brasso and furniture polish. I haven't much news at the weather has been so appalling, we were hoping to at least get the borders tidied up a bit but the ground has been like a quagmire so we have stayed off. Our friend David who lives next door to our church keeps the far corner of our churchyard, which backs on to his garden, clear for us. It makes that corner of our

churchyard look loved. We try during the winter months to just keep the shrubs tidy, but with the rain pouring down that job is a no no, so we do tend to concentrate on the inside of the church.

The Sinnott family came to our church on the 26 February for the dedication of the new gates that we have at St Margaret's. They are beautiful, they were commissioned by the grand daughter of Colonel Sinnott who had lived at The Grange in Grange Road and was a keen member of St Margaret's Church. We have a family grave in our churchyard and we do try to keep that grave up together as much as possible.

The family have always been most generous to our church and keep in touch through Jonathan who keeps us informed on how the family are getting on. The Sinnott family had lived in Tuffley for many, many years and is still remembered by just a few Tuffley residents, as so many of Grange Road residents have now passed away. The Colonel always used to collect the windfall apples and put them in a basket at the bottom of his drive for anyone to take. I can remember my mum taking a shopping bag and filling it up and bringing it home; we had apple something or other for days after, but we enjoyed it.

Kath and I are doing our best to keep St Margaret's up together so we won't have to rush around for ever leading up to Easter. There are no flowers so our church looks so bare but never mind we do have a prayer tree which has lights on so that anyone who puts a prayer on the tree sees it all lit up. I love to see what the children have written on their prayer cards, they really are an inspiration.

Well my friends that's about all for now so until the next time tata and God Bless.

JILL PONTER

PREPARING A SERMON

A boy was watching his father, the Vicar, writing a sermon. "How do you know what to write?" his son asked. "Why, God tells me what I should write and say." His Father replied. "Then why do you keep crossing things out?"

SING, PAINT, DANCE, VIEW, LEARN...

Do you fancy an evening of gospel music
with the London Community Gospel choir?

Or maybe folk is more your thing?

Or maybe Art?

Might you like to learn how to paint an icon
or make something in silver?

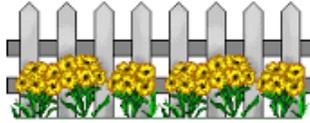
Or maybe already part of the Messy Church team
you would like to try out Messy church science?

Or maybe you would value an evening studying themes
common to the Bible and Islam?

Or maybe being part of Big Sing 17 really attracts you
with choir and orchestra and lots of audience participation?

All these events – and many more - are part of this year's Christian Arts Festival running from 22 April – 7 May at venues in Cheltenham and Gloucester. Lots of information and booking for all events can be found at www.christianartsfestival.org.

There is also a brochure at the back of each church.



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Oh hello Harry, how are you? Well you know Mist, so, I've been seeing Charlie here down the road. What for Harry? Can't he find his own way? Not so much now Mist, he's been to that certain place, you know the one, and he's had to have some stuff put into his eye, so he doesn't see too well for a little while, so I just go with him so that he doesn't get lost. How long does he have to have the stuff in his eye for Harry? Charlie doesn't know but he's hoping that it won't be for too long, he can't stand having to have someone looking out for him Mist, and he is so independent. I won't be long Mist. I'll just see him to his house and I'll be back.

So Mist, what have you been doing this week? I saw you over the road coming through the ally. Well Harry, it was like this, you see I saw my mum walking through that ally and I wondered where it went to so I followed her and she just kept on walking on and on, and then she went to another ally, mind you she didn't half shout at me and told me to go home, so I did, and do you know Harry, when she came back home she was nice as pie to me. Well Harry, I couldn't say too much to that could I, she put some extra nice food down for me but she wouldn't let me go outside again though, well you know me Harry I do like to get out and about to see the rest of our feline friends but my mum does have a habit of getting me to go with her and then she shuts the blooming door again! Oh wait a minute Harry I think that's our JoJo on the machine thing. Yes Jo what's the matter, just seeing if I'm alright, yes Jo he's here. Harry she wants to know if you found your bag of things? Tell her yes, I did find them, fat George was lying on them, took me ages to shove him off me bag. My, he's a big feller isn't he? I've still got a bad back from all that shoving. Yes JoJo we hear it all the time but he's still lovely. Jo did you hear anything about Harnold? I was listening to my mum and Auntie Jayne talking the other day and Harold is being a bit naughty at the moment; he likes to cuddle up to Auntie Jayne and his mum, but now and again he hides behind the settee and won't come out so

then they have to leave him there so that he can come out in his own good time. He does like to go outside as well but he doesn't like other felines going into his garden and chases them away. He looks at all the birds that come and go into the garden but he's just not fast enough. What you going on about JO, you can't watch them either. Where do you wait for them then Jo, under the Pyracantha bush opposite the kitchen window? You must enjoy yourself very much Jo. Oh yes don't worry I'll tell him, bye Jo, speak to you again soon.

Harry, here come the boys. Harry I was telling them about Auntie Di's cats. Harry, my mum took that cat box out of the shed, I thought it was for me but my mum said not to worry it wasn't for me but I can tell you Harry I very nearly had a heart attack. Phew, a narrow escape I can tell you, but my mum had to take Billy and Tammy to that place for their annual inoculations and what a performance they had to get Billy into the cat box and all the doors and windows were shut at Auntie Di's house but he still wouldn't go into the box; he tried to get out the window but my mum caught him but he wouldn't let go of the window, they both had to talk to him and eventually he let go and they got him into the box. My mum said she was glad they only have to go once a year but the cats have to go on a diet to lose a bit of weight because my mum said they make two of me. What do you make of that Harry? What do you mean Harry; I'm as sylph as I've always been. Anyway my mum's just come into the kitchen, so let's hop into the den just in case, say tat ta Harry. Tata folks until the next time and it 'bye from me Mist and the rest of the gang.

MISTY PONTER

AFTER THE PREACHING ON THE DEVIL

Two boys were walking home from Church after hearing a strong sermon from the Vicar about the Devil. One boy said to the other, "What do you think of all this Satan stuff then?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out to be your Dad well it's probably the same with the Devil."

Dates for your diary

Don't miss out

Sun 26			MOTHERING SUNDAY / LENT 4 White Box day / Summertime begins
	9.00am	*	Holy Communion
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by prayers for healing / coffee / messy church planning meeting
Mon 27	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary School
Tue 28	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill's team / all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Lent Group 5 at English Martyrs Bible; The Big Picture (M)
Thu 30	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 31	11.30am		Lent Group 4 – SL (M)
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH (M)
	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group meet at St. Barnabas

APRIL

Sun 2			LENT 5
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	12.00noon		St George's Parish Meeting and APCM
	6.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 3	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary School
Tue 4	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Lent Group 5 at English Martyrs Bible; The Big Picture (M)
	7.30pm		Centre Management Committee – SL
Wed 5	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group practice
Thu 6	9.00am		Open the Book at Harewood School
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society at 12 Ryelands
Fri 7	11.30am		Lent Group 5 – SL – (M)
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH – (M)
Sat 8	7.30pm		Quiz Night – MH

Sun 9			PALM SUNDAY
	10.30am	*	Palm Sunday United Praise
	10.30am		Palm Sunday Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee / prize draw
Tue 11	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	6.00pm		St Margaret's APCM at the Vicarage
Wed 12	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee – SL
Thu 13			MAUNDY THURSDAY May Crossroads deadline
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	11.00am		Blessing of Oils in Gloucester Cathedral
	7.00pm		Benefice Holy Communion followed by a vigil until 9.00pm
Fri 14			GOOD FRIDAY
	10.30am		Benefice Good Friday Liturgy
	12 noon		The Church in Tuffley Procession of Witness "The Way of the Cross"
	3.00pm		Private let of Centre until 5.00pm
Sat 15			EASTER EVE
	10.00am		Messy church with baptism of Tia, Lewis, Joshua and Esmae Minchin
	8.00pm	*	'First Light of Easter'
Sun 16			EASTER DAY
	9.00am	*	Easter Communion
	10.30am	*	Easter Praise
	10.30am		Easter Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee
Tue 18	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Social Committee – SL
Thu 20	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 21	7.30pm		Gardening Club
Sat 22			St George's Day lunch preparation

Sun 23			ST GEORGE'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL / EASTER 2
	9.00am	*	Holy Communion
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by healing prayer / coffee
	12.15pm		Reception for lunch guests
	12.30pm		St George's Day Lunch
Mon 24	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary School
	7.30pm		Alpha Course starts at Grange Baptist church
Tue 25	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
Wed 26	9.00am		May Crossroads print-off
Thu 27	9.00am		May Crossroads collating
	9.00am		Open the Book at Harewood School
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 28	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group meet at Christchurch Abbeydale
Sun 30			EASTER 3 / White Box day
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	6.00pm	*	Special Evensong

MAY

Mon 1			SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
Tue 2	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
Thu 4	7.00am		County Council Elections until 10.00pm in Small Hall
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Railway society – 12 Ryelands
Sun 7			EASTER 4
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	6.00pm	*	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

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



It's almost time to start mowing the grass around the St George's Church and Centre again. If you can spare half an hour or so to help out please add your name to the list in the porch or speak to Darrell or a Churchwarden.

Training, mower and petrol will be supplied.

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S:	Holy Communion (Tuesday)	9.30am
	Morning Prayer (Wednesday)	9.15am
ST MARGARET'S:	Holy Communion (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 third 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

St George's Centre enquiries and bookings can be made between the hours of 9.00am and 12.00noon on a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning either in person or by telephone on 01452 307456.