

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

Love **R** Hope
C R O S S
Light **A** Teaching
D
S

JUNE 2017

50p

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering

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

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

Facebook: [St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon](#)

WHO'S WHO

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

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

PIONEER: Helen McGeoch Tel: 07729615993
Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

PASTORAL ASSISTANT:
Susan Scothern
Email: susan.scothern@hotmail.com

CARING CO-ORDINATOR:
Linda Medwell
Email: linda47medwell@virginmedia.com

ADMINISTRATOR: Glenda Stevens Tel: 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

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: Vacant
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

THE VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

PENTECOSTAL POWER

“The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power” said St Paul to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 4:20). He was not rubbishing the sermon – once he preached all night! But words of advice and counsel, even the most eloquent, are not sufficient. We already know the good we *should* do; the problem is the good we *don't* do and the evil we *do* do, too often.

Yes, own up. We're all in the same boat.

What has the Kingdom of God to do with this? It is God's power at work in us, to do what is good, continually. This is the most life-transforming power known to humanity. And the power source is the cross of Jesus. Infinite-zillion watts of power! Power that completely forgives all our failures, past and present and future. And power that enables us to live very differently.

Power that was unleashed on the church at Pentecost 2000 years ago. Power that goes on and on and on – from renewable energy that's everlasting.

So what's not to celebrate?! And what's not to share with all our friends and family!

Let's make it our priority to live in the power of Pentecost this month, and always.

God bless and empower us all afresh to know and spread his love and life all day and every day.

BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Crematorium

Peggy Embley RIP

St George's

Emily Harriet Long RIP

GENERAL ELECTION 2017:

Archbishops highlight the place of faith in British life

Faith has a central role to play in politics and this general election, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York say today.

In a pastoral letter to the parishes and chaplaincies of the Church of England, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu urge people to set aside "apathy and cynicism" and draw new inspiration from the ancient Christian virtues of "love, trust and hope".

The three-page letter, intended to be shared in churches from this Sunday onward, encourages voters to remember Britain's Christian history and heritage as well as a concern for future generations and God's creation as they make their decisions.

Following divisions of recent years, it calls for reconciliation drawing on shared British values based on cohesion, courage and stability.

It upholds marriage, family and households as the building blocks of society which should be "nurtured and supported" as a "blessing".

At a time when political differences may be felt more intensely than ever, the Archbishops insist that Christians' "first obligation" during the election and beyond is to pray for those standing for office and recognise the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

But Christians also have a duty to play an active part in the process, they add.

The letter also calls for space for faith in political debate and says politicians must be free to speak openly about their own beliefs and convictions and treated fairly for doing so.

"This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound questions of identity," they say.

"Opportunities to renew and reimagine our shared values as a country and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only come around every few generations." We are in such a time.

"Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God's world will all play a shaping role.

"If our shared British values are to carry the weight of where we now stand and the challenges ahead of us, they must have at their core cohesion, courage and stability."

The Archbishops highlight major concerns over poverty, housing and the dangers of "crushing" debt among other issues.

They call for a generous and hospitable welcome to refugees and migrants but also warn against being "deaf to the legitimate concerns" about the scale of migration into some communities.

They also single out the importance of standing up for those suffering persecution on grounds of faith around the world.

Faith, they argue, has a unique role to play in preventing extremism and religiously motivated violence.

"Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief," they insist.

"The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people's lives.

"Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England serve people of all faiths and none.

"Their contribution and that of other denominations and faiths to the well-being of the nation is immense - schools, food banks, social support, and childcare among many others - and is freely offered. But the role of faith in society is not just measured in terms of service delivery.

"The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy."

They add: "Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm."

ST MARGARET'S APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Malcolm Martin and Mike Mumby were elected as Churchwardens

Mike Mumby was elected as a Lay Member of the Deanery Synod

Jill Ponter, Hans Rackham, Susan Scothern and Kath Senior were elected as Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council.

Susan Scothern was elected as PCC Secretary

Hans Rackham was elected as Treasurer for the PCC.

We were treated to a whistle stop tour of New Zealand when Sylvia and David Chamberlain shared pictures and memories of their holiday of a lifetime.

Starting on North Island, we saw panoramic views of New Zealand's largest city, Auckland from the top of the Sky Tower. Collecting their camper van Sylvia and David embarked on their road trip of over 2,000 miles. Driving was easy as New Zealand drives on the left, as we do and away from the towns and cities there was very little traffic. Still on North Island, Rotorua has a cable car and is famous for its hot mud pools and geysers and Sylvia and David were able to experience a little of Maori culture.

From Wellington [New Zealand's capital] it's a 3 hour ferry trip across Cook Strait to Picton on South Island. The road to the fur seal sanctuary that Sylvia and David travelled on has now been destroyed in an earthquake. Here Sylvia and David took a whale watching trip. Travelling down the west coast there was a visit to Shantytown, a reconstructed 19th century gold mining town. Sylvia had a go at gold panning and managed to find a little but unfortunately not enough to make her fortune! Moving further south a visit to Fox Glacier was a little disappointing as it has retreated so much owing to global warming. After Queenstown and a boat trip at Milford Sound Sylvia and David headed north again. They experienced one of those "small world moments" at the bowls club in Brighton, near Dunedin, when they met a woman named Sally who was originally from Gloucester and had lived in Tuffley Avenue.

Christchurch still has the devastation caused by the earthquakes in 2011. The cathedral was very badly damaged, including the total collapse of its spire. There is debate about whether it can be repaired or should it be demolished and rebuilt. Meanwhile there is a temporary building, officially known as the "Transitional Cathedral" but popularly known as the "cardboard cathedral" because that is one of the building materials from which it is made. City Mall in central Christchurch was also badly affected and there is now a series of retail premises housed in old shipping containers and known as Re:

START. There is a poignant memorial to the people who died in the earthquake consisting of 185 different empty white chairs.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th June at 2.30pm in the small hall. Our speaker will be Virginia Adsell giving a talk titled "Those were the days." We will also enjoy a bring and share tea. Do come and join us. You will be made very welcome.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

TEXTUAL CRITICISM

A new monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old texts by hand. He notices, however, that they are copying copies, not the original books. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to ask him about this. He points out that if there were an error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all of the other copies. The head monk says "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son." So, he goes down into the cellar with one of the copies to check it against the original. Hours later, nobody has seen him. So, one of the monks goes downstairs to look for him. He hears a sobbing coming from the back of the cellar, and finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books crying. He asks what's wrong. The old monk sobs, "The word is celebrate."

POWER – FOR GOOD AND ILL

I WONDER - has anyone ever asked you to explain the Holy Trinity? Where do you start? One God in three – three in One? How confusing is that!

We now know that the basic building block of our entire universe is the atom. The orbiting of three particles, proton, electron and neutron, in constant interplay with each other.

Does this help us begin to understand the mystery of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each separate yet relating together as completely One?

AND - has anyone asked you to explain the power of evil in the world? I find it intriguing that Robert Oppenheimer, known as the 'father of the atom bomb', named the Mexico detonation site 'Trinity'...

PSALM FOR THE MONTH:

PSALM 67

For the choir director: A song. A psalm, to be accompanied by stringed instruments.

- ¹ May God be merciful and bless us.
 May his face smile with favour on us.
- ² May your ways be known throughout the earth,
 your saving power among people everywhere.
- ³ May the nations praise you, O God.
 Yes, may all the nations praise you.
- ⁴ Let the whole world sing for joy,
 because you govern the nations with justice
 and guide the people of the whole world.
- ⁵ May the nations praise you, O God.
 Yes, may all the nations praise you.
- ⁶ Then the earth will yield its harvests,
 and God, our God, will richly bless us.
- ⁷ Yes, God will bless us,
 and people all over the world will fear him.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...
Getting to know all about you...

... Councillor Steve Morgan

One of our local Councillors, Steve Morgan, from Grange ward, has been elected by fellow councillors to serve as 537th Mayor for the coming twelve months. Bruce will act as his chaplain. Many will have spoken with Steve on the doorstep, or met him out and about, or chatted when he has dropped in at Coffee Pot. He is a member of the steering group which has overseen the appointment of Helen McGeoch as Families and Community Pioneer, and came, with Sally his wife, to Helen's commissioning. In this article, Steve tells us a little about himself, what drew him into politics and what his year as Mayor might hold.

Steve is proud to be a son of Gloucestershire. Born in Cheltenham in 1949 Steve was adopted by Lottie and Wally Morgan at a year old. Steve understands that his parents visited a Cheltenham children's home and chose the boy who smiled when his father threw a spotted ball into a room of children in cots.

The Morgans lived in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote, where they had a big garden and kept chickens (fed on a boiled stew of potato peelings and the like). Steve remembers helping his mum put the sheets through the mangle on washing day – and having measles which damaged his eyesight. His father's family were coal merchants, working from Sherborne Street, but Wally decided he didn't want to work in the family business, choosing instead to become an apprentice butcher.

It wasn't long before the family were on the move to Rodborough, Stroud, to be nearer the butcher's shop which his father managed. Steve left Larkhay Road School for Woodchester School, moving when he was eleven to Marling, where he particularly enjoyed English.

It was a happy home. Steve remembers the cold winter of 1962-3 and the exhilaration of sledging on the common- and being at the Tabernacle youth club when President Kennedy was shot. He worked in the butcher's shop on a Saturday, carrying heavy carcasses up steep steps from the underground cold store. The shop was unheated, there were rats in the basement, and they took no holidays..... So when in 1967 the opportunity came for his father to own his own business, he leapt at it. Moving back to family roots in Kingsholm, they set up shop in Alvin Street. Competition was strong – there were four other butchers within half a mile. The house was old and had no bathroom. Steve recalls trips to the slipper baths. Arriving as Clapham Court was being built the Morgans decided to open their shop early to serve cooked breakfasts for the builders. The breakfasts proved popular and the new business was underway. Steve's mother again served in the shop and in due course expanded the range of goods on sale, adding fruit and vegetables to the range available.

Steve was in the sixth form at Marling studying English and French for A level when the family moved. He decided not to pursue his studies and to look for work. But what kind of work? His father was keen to guide him into banking, but Steve knew he wanted to work with people. His interview at the Labour Exchange resulted in his being taken on as an Employment Officer. Transferred to Bristol, he found himself a bedsit in Cotham. It was the era of the miners' strikes in the 1970s, when fuel was limited and his gas oven was the only source of heat. TV reception was variable due to the makeshift arrangement of coat hangers suspended from the ceiling – there was no other aerial. He came home at weekends, returning with clean clothes and meat from the shop for the week ahead.

Leaving there Steve became a sales representative for a canned meat company, but was made redundant just as he and Sally were to be married. He had met Sally at a motor club event when a planned holiday to Spain was cancelled due to the holiday company folding. His parents helped them buy a cottage in Hempsted, built as one of three for the gardener, the cook and the butler at Hempsted Court.

Steve worked with his father in the butcher's shop for ten years until it closed in the mid 1980s. By this time Steve and Sally were blessed

with their two children, Samantha and Simon, and had moved to a larger house in Hempsted Lane where they still live 37 years later. After Steve's mother died, his father came to live with them for the last ten years of his life.

Steve then ventured into sales, at one time selling commercial vehicles for Haines and Strange. He studied part time at Oxstalls for a Diploma from the Chartered Institute for Marketing, giving him a new perspective on life and work. In 1998, Steve joined McIntyre Caravans as a salesman for long-time friend Martyn White. The same year saw them both elected as City Councillors, Steve for Westgate, Martyn for Quedgeley. Steve first registered an interest in politics at school at the time of a general election. His interest was rekindled when he noted the annual increase in rates and questioned the value of the services city residents received in return. He represented Westgate ward for five years, being subsequently elected for Grange ward in 2004, along with Nigel Hanman, a partnership which continues to date.

What concerns local residents most? Steve cites dog fouling, litter and parking as common issues across wards. In the main he finds fewer issues in Grange than he did in Westgate. There is social isolation; Steve is looking forward to working with Helen McGeoch, our new Pioneer, to try to help reduce this.

During his time on the City Council Steve has been a member of the Planning Committee and became the Cabinet Member for Planning, then for the Environment, before taking on the role of Deputy Leader to Paul James for a year. His role in planning has led to involvement in controversial developments with pressure groups fighting proposals. In the city centre he is looking forward to the development of Blackfriars and the building of the new student accommodation.

Since rejoining the Council in 2016 after a short break Steve has returned to the Planning Committee and is Chair of the General Purposes Committee. He also represents the City Council on the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.

He reckons he spends about 20 hours a week as councillor, calling on people, following up issues raised, inspecting parks and brooks, and attending meetings. He is able to devote more time to his role now that he has fully retired. Since leaving his sales role, he has among other things, run a coffee business and been a Registrar. Retirement also gives more time for his three grandchildren - Remie, Devon and Lottie - plus a little DIY, gardening and a newly acquired 1975 MG Midget.

Steve looks back in gratitude and appreciation to his adoptive parents, “lovely, hard-working people”, who instilled their values and strong work ethic into their son. Three years ago he discovered he had a half-sister, living in Devon, when she got in touch – and also an aunt living in the Forest. He is grateful for the skills he learned at school, proud of raising his two children to be decent human beings. Steve was confirmed in the Anglican Church, and has embraced the principles of the Christian faith, though not been an active Christian or felt the need to attend church services. He is grateful to have come through a serious car accident and to have had good health.

And a word of wisdom? Steve would encourage others to “avoid extremes”. “There are always two sides to everything”. He enjoys walking (always useful when there are leaflets to deliver!), cycling and tinkering with his car. He has always enjoyed motor sport and rallying.

Steve began his year as Mayor of Gloucester in May. An historic role, with a dedicated seat in the Cathedral, given in recognition of the City’s role in saving the Cathedral in the time of Oliver Cromwell. His predecessor reckons he attended 750 engagements in his year of office. Steve is looking forward to learning more about the communities that make up our city and to meeting people. He looks to the regeneration of the city to be more than new bricks and mortar, to bring new jobs and to be creating a better place, a legacy, for the next generation.

He has chosen Footsteps counselling and Teckels Animal Sanctuaries as his chosen charities. Steve knows it will be a busy year ahead, but is ready and keen to hear from residents. His closing words, “Please feel free to use me”. An open invitation.....



**JULY magazine material should be
with the editors by
TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017
at the very latest
Thank you for your help in this matter**

ANSWERS TO MAY'S PETER'S POSERS

- 1 GREGORY PECK (Captain Ahab);
- 2 THIN STRIPS (or shreds or sliced lengthways);
- 3 SUGAR LOAF; 4 PAUL INCE;
- 5 POSEIDON; 6 CONTOUR; 7 MR SPOCK (Star Trek);
- 8 ANTON CHEKOV; 9 GNU; 10 FLOWERPOT MEN

NEW NOTICE BOARD FOR ST MARGARET'S

Even in an age of e-mails and websites, a church notice board still conveys an important message. It needs to be clear and well maintained - otherwise it will give a negative impression, whether to potential worshippers or to the general passer-by.

At St Margaret's we have a new board on order, to be made by Tim Jeffree, who produced our lovely new gates last year. It will be of the best materials and joinery, with a good-sized weatherproof opening section for special notices.

The general appearance will be similar to its predecessor, with traditional gold leaf signwriting on a deep claret background, complete with the cross of St Margaret of Scotland and the diocesan arms. There aren't many signwriters around now: we use Graham

Rolfe of Hucclecote, whose work can be seen at the Cathedral ... and on the lorry fleet of Moreton Cullimore, a familiar sight on local roads.

Why bother with hand-applied signwriting, as opposed to computer-set vinyl lettering? Today's computer lettering is very good indeed, but if you want gold leaf, it must be hand painted. Not only that, the computer is constrained by predetermined spacing, whereas the practised eye of the signwriter can make adjustments to give a more pleasing result. It's a subtle difference, but the result is less mechanical, and easier on the eye.

The wording will be a little clearer now, following our recent change to 5pm for Evensong all the year round, rather than separate times for summer and winter.

We are very grateful indeed to Brookthorpe & Whaddon Parish Council, who have made a generous grant to the cost. The balance of the cost comes from a very kind donation by Roger Western of Churchdown. It will be a special way of remembering his dear wife Anne, for so many years a stalwart of St Margaret's.

JONATHAN



**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**



NOT JUST A LEGEND

[An extract from: Bible Society of Egypt Newsletter 13 April 2017, after the bombing of Christians worshipping in church on Palm Sunday]

Thanks to all who expressed concern and prayers following the tragic bombings in the churches of Tanta and Alexandria.

Palm Sunday is one of the busiest days on our church calendar. Egyptian Christians carry intricately woven palm branches. They chant “Hosanna to the King of Kings.” It is a day of joyful celebration.

Then the first bomb exploded.

Instantly, many robed chanters participating in the liturgy exchanged their now-bloodied, earthly robes for martyrs’ robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). A few hours later, the second bomb exploded in Alexandria as a suicide bomber detonated his explosive device outside Saint Mark’s Church. Altogether, 46 people went from celebrating by faith to celebrating by sight, meeting their saviour face to face. Many more were wounded. The funerals were a mixture of wailing and rejoicing, as a bishop explained:

“True, we love martyrdom. But we also love life. We don’t hate life on earth. God created us on earth to live, not die. The fact that we accept death doesn’t mean our blood is cheap, and it doesn’t mean

that it doesn't matter to us. We do not commit suicide. But we witness for Christ, whether by our lives or by our transition to heaven. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord."

Social Media is abuzz. In many instances, Muslims who are outraged at the blind and evil hatred of this atrocity have expressed frustration with Christians in all their talk of love and forgiveness.

As with previous attacks, the sense of revenge is minimal as families embrace martyrdom as a gift from and to God. In the online version of this update you can click the video clip image to see a well known Muslim TV channel interviewer's astonishment with the widow of the gatekeeper who prevented the suicide bomber from entering the Alexandria church yard, thereby saving countless lives. What is happening in Egypt is not a 2000-year-old legend, but a modern, living testimony to the power of the Christian faith.

Please pray for the Church of the Martyrs, as they seek to faithfully apply the teachings and example of Jesus to forgive and carry on. Pray for patience in the midst of sorrow and grief. Pray for victory over bitterness and anger. Pray for our church and government leaders.

Sincerely in Christ,

RAMEZ ATALLAH
GENERAL DIRECTOR THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF EGYPT

YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG TO FLY

A woman called an airline customer-service desk asking if she could take her dog on board. "Of course," She was told, "as long as you provide your own kennel." It was explained to her that the kennel needed to be large enough for the dog to stand up, sit down, turn around, and roll over. The woman was flummoxed: "I'll never be able to teach him all of that by tomorrow!"

PETER'S POSERS FOR JUNE

1. What make of car was the time-machine in the film Back To The Future?
2. What is the name given to a locked case in which decanters can be seen but not used?
3. In which State would you find the city of Birmingham?
4. Complete the name of the American Football team: 'Washington'?
5. In which war was the Battle of Bunker Hill fought?
6. How old is a horse when it changes from a filly to a mare?
7. Which school featured in UK TV's 'Please Sir'?
8. Robin Hood & Friar Tuck appear in which well-known novel by Sir Walter Scott?
9. What is Canada's national animal?
10. Which is the smallest member of the flute family?



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

SURVIVING OR THRIVING?

Before Theresa May announced the snap election, the UK news cycle was dominated by Prince Harry talking about how losing his mother had impacted his mental health.

As someone who has struggled with depression since my early teens, I'm grateful to anyone willing to go public with what still feels like a slightly shameful thing to confess. Although, according to a 2016 report*, nearly half of adults believe they've had a diagnosable mental health problem at some point during their lifetime, there is still stigma to be overcome.

Mark Rowland, from the Mental Health Awareness campaign, explains: 'We are flipping the focus away from mental ill-health to exploring how we can cultivate good mental health ... Human beings are probably the most resilient creatures on the planet. Through countless setbacks, we have learnt how to survive but we are only now starting to understand how to thrive.'

Here are three of the strategies I've developed as a Christian to cultivate good mental health, alongside medication and therapy:

1. Commit to a Christian community

One of the great gifts (and challenges) of being a Christian is belonging to a church family. Close relationships make life bearable.

2. Memorise as much of the Bible as you can

Jesus fought off the devil with Scripture. When our minds are infused with biblical truth we have a better chance of defeating destructive thoughts and remaining strong through setbacks.

3. Develop a habit of gratitude

Thanking God with regularity and sincerity is not only the right thing to do, but it can change your entire outlook. There is *always* something we can be grateful for.

Sometimes, even survival seems impossibly hard. If this is you, today, I pray you will hold on in blind faith, because we've been promised an end to our suffering. One day the last tear will be wiped

away and we will be whole and happy in God's presence for all eternity. (Revelation 21: 1-4)

JO SWINNEY

Jo is an author, speaker and the editor of *Preach* magazine. Her latest book, *Home: the quest to belong* (Hodder) is out in June. She blogs at www.joswinney.com and tweets as @JoSwinney

* <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/fundamental-facts-about-mental-health-2016.pdf>

Extract from an online article

https://www.licc.org.uk/resources/surviving-thriving/?mc_cid=742ccad0b9&mc_eid=6f02b0fd67



FROM ST MARGARET'S

Well my friends it's me, that perfect moaning Minnie that does the cleaning at St Margaret's, Whaddon. My friend Kath and I are always trying to promote St Margaret's to the people who come to the church for whatever reason.

When Kath and I do our cleaning, we do get people who want to come into the church and look around, they always look at our wall hangings, made for us by the pupils of Wynstones School; they are lovely and much appreciated both by the congregation and strangers alike.

We had some variable services at both churches over the Easter period, I didn't go to so many this year as I had other commitments, but the one service I did go to was the service of light on Saturday 15 April. We who went congregated outside of the church at 7 o'clock, Malcolm prepared the container for the fire and we waited for the

dark to descend upon us, we then lit the Pascal candle and then everyone lit their candle from the Pascal candle. We then proceeded into the church and lit every candle in the church. I'm afraid my friend Kath had got the dreaded lurgy so was unable to come but the service was a joy. The flowers on Easter Sunday were a joy to behold so thank you Gloria and thank you to everyone who gave donations for the flowers.

On 30 April we had a communion service for the fifth Sunday, we don't always have a morning service on the fifth Sunday but it all depends what our Vicar wants to do that is special. We do try on the fifth Sunday to make that service special for whatever reason.

Kath and I try to keep up the momentum of cleaning each week, we can always find many things to do, but I noticed that the silver candle holders need a good clean, so it's out with the Silvo as well as the Brasso this time round.

Our friend David is keeping the corner of the churchyard that backs on to his property well sorted and he keeps the grave that we rediscovered in the churchyard clear, I do think that my friend and I will have to get the secateurs out and clear a little of the tree that covers the grave.

Well my friends that's about all for now, so until the next time its bye for now.

JILL PONTER

CALCULATING SHEEP DOG

After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: "All 40 accounted for Sir." "But I only have 36 sheep," says the farmer. "I know Sir," says the sheepdog. "But I rounded them up."

GOOD MEETS EVIL WITH MERCY

Jane Haining, a Christian from near Dumfries in Scotland, “found her life’s work” in 1932 when she moved to Budapest in Hungary to serve as matron at a Jewish and Christian school. When Nazis were invading nearby countries her missionary society called her to return home but she refused, saying “the Jews are now entering their most dangerous period, and nothing would induce me to desert them”. She wept as she sewed on the yellow Star of David armbands the children were forced to wear. For helping the Jews, she was later taken to Auschwitz, and gassed in August 1944.

Pope Francis said recently ‘there is no mercy without concreteness...

Mercy is not doing good while passing by on the other side of the road when someone is hurting. Mercy means involving ourselves with evil and sickness, hunger and human exploitation; showing solidarity, even to the point of laying down our life for our friends’. During World War Two, we didn't give refuge to Jewish families, nor did we help refugees. How well are we supporting refugees today?
[summary from article in ‘Reality’ magazine, April 2017]

CATS RULE THE WORLD

A man absolutely hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of him one day by driving him 20 miles from his home and leaving him in a park. As he was getting home, the cat was walking up the driveway! The next day he decided to drive the cat 40 miles away. He put the cat out of the car and quickly headed home. Driving back up his driveway, there was the cat again! He kept taking the cat further and further away but the cat would always beat him home. At last he decided to drive quite a few miles away; so he turned right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another right until he reached what he thought was a safe distance from his home and left the cat there. Hours later the man calls home to his wife: "Hon, is the cat there?" "Yes," the wife answers, "why do you ask?" Frustrated, the man answered, "Can you please put him on the phone? I'm lost and need directions."



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hi everyone,

It's me again, your feline friend JoJo. I'm being told off again because I keep whinging. I can't understand it myself! All I want to do is go outside and my mum won't open the door for me. There's something up, I know there is because I heard my mum tell Auntie Jill that she would have to get the box out of the shed and hide it. There's only one reason why she does that and that is because I've got to go in it. I have an idea it's to go to that place again – HELP. I expect my cuz Misty will be going as well. I think we should have gone earlier but my mum and Auntie Jill had other things to do, not that I mind because it delays the inevitable. Let's get it over and done with that's what I say.

Do you know another feline visits my domain and boy does he make a racket. I think he's trying to talk to me but I'm having none of it. My mum talks to him (I'm saying him because he's big and looks like a tomcat). I'm sure my mum's nuts because she talks to all her four legged friends, big or small, it doesn't matter.

I spoke to Misty on that machine the other day and I could hear the gang chatting amongst themselves and deciding what they were going to do. Harry is always losing his glasses and sometimes the pad and pen. I think Auntie Jill borrows it the same as my mum does. I don't want to know all the felines in my area. They usually want to have a fight or pinch my food. That's why the back door is kept shut. My cuz in Hampshire had to go to his horrible place because he was feeling poorly and he had to have an empty paw because he had to have blood tests. It turned out ok though and he's feeling fine now, into everything, even things he's not supposed to. He's like me; he does love a box or a bag to climb into. I try to get into Auntie Jill's bag, not always successful because she has too much stuff in it. My

mum says it's because I'm nosey but I'm not, I just like to know things, inquisitive, curious but it doesn't hurt anyone does it?

Do you know my mum won't let me go out? I keep asking her and moaning at her but she still says no. Misty and me had to go to that place again! I said Yo Mist we could leave home and then they would be sorry. Misty said that she knows where she's well off but I could go if I wanted to but I think I'll stay put.

I'd better close now as I've run out of think so 'bye for now 'til the next time.

Your feline friend

JoJo Whittle (Miss)



EVER FELT LONELY?

If so, you're in good company.

Research quoted in the Catholic Universe on 12 May shows that more than one in three men feel lonely at least once a week; while one in ten are lonely every day.

I wonder whether loneliness affects more or fewer women?

Loneliness has been called the 'silent epidemic'. It affects people of all ages, all walks of life. What's to be done?

Jo Cox (the MP murdered last year) said, "*young or old, loneliness doesn't discriminate...it is something many of us could easily help with. Looking in on a neighbour, visiting an elderly relative or*

making that call or visit we've been promising to a friend we haven't seen in a long time."

The Jo Cox Campaign invites us all to be part of the solution by pledging to start a conversation today. See more at:

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/jo-cox-commission/>
Do come to Coffee Pot on Tuesday mornings. And bring a friend!



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Oh Harry, where are you Harry? I'm over here Mist, whatever is the matter? Harry, she took me to that place again. Mist, you're not making any sense. What place and when? You know Harry, that place where they do horrible things to you. You know what she did? Who's that Mist? My mum Harry, my mum. First of all she wouldn't let me go out and then she shut the door to the bedroom Harry. I knew then Harry there was something up. She went off to God knows where harry and then she came home, and after a while she came for me Harry. Well, I can tell you, I just hid out of the way but she found me Harry. Then she picked me up, was talking to me all lovey dovey Harry and then she put me in that box thing and then I was put into that vehicle. I tell you Harry I didn't half moan, but it made no difference to my mum, she just carried on and we had to go to Auntie Marg's to pick up Jo Jo and boy oh boy did she show off. I couldn't get a word in at all; both Auntie Marg and my mum were having a bit of a giggle at our expense. I can tell you Harry I was a bit miffed at that and when we got to that place we had to sit in amongst a lot of barking dogs. Harry I was glad I was in my box because one or two came to have a sniff at me and JoJo. I hissed at them but they just walked away and then Harry, we got taken into where they start the torture. Harry my mum took me out of the box and was stroking me all over and then they put me on these things and told me I was three point two kilos. Harry what on earth is that? Mist I don't know but

carry on love. Are you getting all this down Harry? Yes, Mist, word for word. Well, then the doctor man felt me all over, Harry I mean Harry, there was no dignity at all and then he shoved a horse pill down my neck and then I had the biggest injection I have ever seen Harry; it just went on and on and all the time my mum held on to me and then to top it all they tried to cut my toes off Harry. My mum said not to worry, it won't hurt. Hurt, Harry you've got no idea. No love, I can't say that I have, but carry on Mist carry on. Well after that, my mum said to get back into the box. Harry I have never moved so fast to get into the safety of my box. My mum put me on the ground and I had to wait for JoJo to be done. Harry she carried on as though she was murdered but she only had the same as me but I bet her injection was not as big as mine, but the doctor man had to make sure she swallowed her pill properly. She does tend to try and spit it out Harry but she had to swallow it and then she had to cut Jo Jo's toes off too. There was no blood so I expect she had her nails cut same as me. Harry she went back into her box rather sheepish just like me but Harry I'm so glad that you were here I don't know what I would have done without you. I know Mist; I'm just purrfect ain't I? Come on Harry say tata to everyone as we have a lot of catching up to do with the gang. I'm sure they will want to know all about my terrible ordeal. Yes Mist, I'm sure they would but it's tata from me and it's tata from me Misty until the next time.

MISTY PONTER (Miss) and the Gang

IN BRIEF

What did the buffalo say when his son left for college? *Bison*

When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

My business partner wanted to open the pub on Ben Nevis but I told him he's setting the bar too high.

When at a loss for the right word to say, try silence.



YOU'RE PART OF A REVO-LOO-TION!

A letter from the Toilet Twinning Director

Thank you for helping to flush away poverty.

Every time a toilet is twinned, we celebrate! As more families in poor communities are equipped to build a toilet, we know that their lives will change: their health, their capacity for work, their desire to learn, their outlook on life....

Seven-year-old Bruce is expected to do his share of the work on the family farm in south-west Uganda. He's one of eight children, including two who've been adopted – and that's a lot of mouths to feed. 'I like to be useful!' says Bruce.

Drought, floods and crop disease have severely impacted harvests in his region. When Bruce's mum and dad started thinking about building a toilet, our local partner encouraged them to have a composting one. They explained that it would generate 'humanure' – a fertiliser that would improve their crop production – and would inspire other families to have one too.

Bruce's mother, Apophia, has recently started using the 'humanure' from their toilet on the farm – and the crops they've grown have been bigger and better than usual... That's exactly the kind of evidence that will inspire families to build their own composting toilets too.

This is just one example of how communities are changing – through your support. Thank you so much: none of this is possible without you!

With best wishes,
LORRAINE KINGSLEY

Dates for your diary

Don't miss out

MAY

Sun 28			EASTER 7 / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing and coffee
Mon 29			SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
			Coffee Pot set up
	7.30pm		Alpha Course at Grange Baptist
Tue 30	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	9.30am		St George's Quinquennial inspection day

JUNE

Thu 1			Another special birthday for Eva who is 101 today
			Margaret B celebrates a special birthday
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Sat 3	10.00am		Pentecost themed Messy Church
Sun 4			PENTECOST
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee & Messy Church planning meeting
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 5	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary
	10.00am		Speakability – SH
	7.30pm		Alpha Course at Grange Baptist
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 6	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Centre Management Committee – SL
Wed 7	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee – SL
	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group practice
Thu 8	7.00am		General Election voting until 10.00pm
	9.00am		Open the Book at Harewood School

	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Finance Committee – office
	7.30pm		Charter Band rehearsal in church
Sun 11			TRINITY
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee, prize draw and 100 club draw
Mon 12	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary
	7.30pm		Alpha Course at Grange Baptist
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 13			JULY CROSSROADS DEADLINE
	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	7.30pm		St Margaret's PCC – V
Wed 14	7.30pm		St George's PCC – V
Thu 15	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 16	7.30pm		Gardening Club
Sun 18			TRINITY 1
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 19	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary
	7.30pm		Alpha Course at Grange Baptist
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 20	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 21	9.00am		July Crossroads printing
Thu 22	9.00am		Open the Book at Harewood School
	9.00am		July Crossroads collating
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Sun 25			TRINITY 2 / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee / prayers for healing
Mon 26	9.00am		Open the Book at Grange Primary
	7.30pm		Alpha Course at Grange Baptist

	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 27	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike’s team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Thu 28	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 30	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group meet at Christchurch, Abbeydale
	3.30pm		Harewood Junior School Fete and Messy Church
	7.30pm		Entertainers - MH

JULY

Sat 1	11.00am		Tuffley Festival at Grange Primary School
	3.30pm		Messy Church at Grange Primary School
Sun 2			TRINITY 3
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	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

DESERT ISLAND DISCUSSION

A man was stranded on the proverbial desert island for years. Finally one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper's attention. The boat comes near the island and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man. After a while the sailor asks, "What are those three huts you have here?" "Well, that's my house there." "What's that next hut?" asks the sailor. "I built that hut to be my church." "What's the third one?" "That's the church I used to go to but now I don't!"

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

OVERHEARD...

I walked into a service station toilet and had barely sat down when I heard a voice from the other stall saying, “Hi, how are you?” Now, I'm not the type to start a conversation in toilets, especially at a service station; but I answered, somewhat embarrassed, “Doing just fine.” And the other guy says, “So what are you up to?” What kind of question is that?! I'm thinking this is too bizarre, so I say, “Oh, I'm like you, just travelling.” At this point I'm just trying to get out of there as fast as I can when I hear another question: “Can I come over to your place for a while?” Okay, this question is just plain wacky, but I figured I should be polite, answer him, and end the conversation. So I say, “Well, I have company, so today is a bad day for me.” Then I hear the guy say nervously: “Listen, I'll have to call you back, there's an idiot in the next stall who keeps answering my questions. Bye!”

SUNDAY SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S:	Parish Communion	10.30am
ST MARGARET'S:	Parish Communion (2 nd , 4 th Sundays)	9.00am
	Family Praise (1 st Sunday)	10.30am
	Evensong (1 st , 3 rd Sunday)	5.00pm
	Special Service (5 th Sunday)	5.00pm

WEEKDAY SERVICES

ST GEORGE'S:	Tuesday Parish Communion	9.30am
	Thursday Morning Prayer	8.30am
ST MARGARET'S:	Thursday Parish Communion	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 church 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 ADMINISTRATOR'S 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 mornings either in person or by telephone on 01452 307456.

*Crossroads and Signpost are now available
for free on our 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