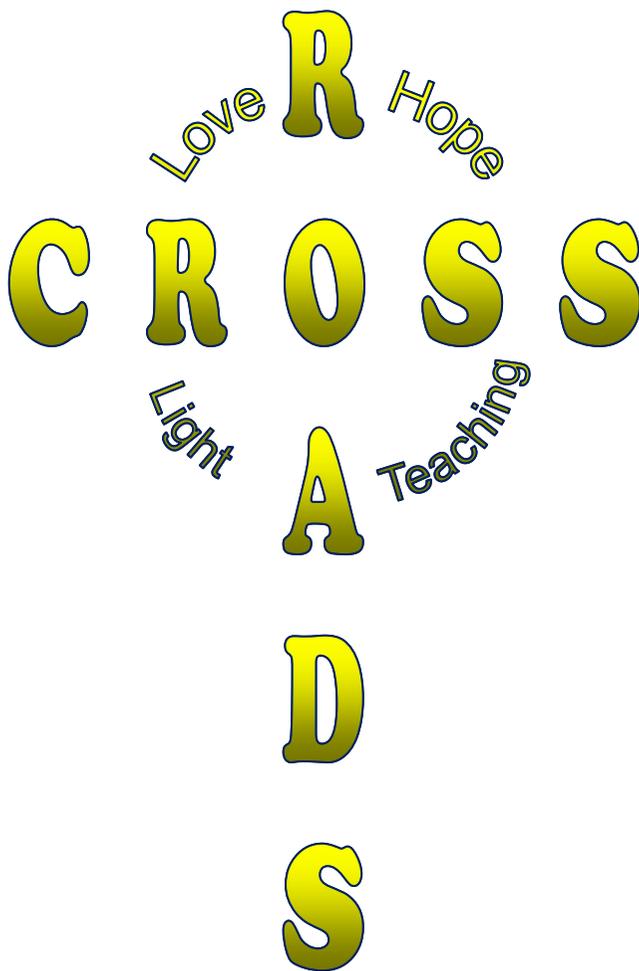


**The magazine for the  
Benefice of St George's Tuffley  
with St Margaret's Whaddon**



**MARCH 2017**

**50p**

***Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering***

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

Website: [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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:**

**CHURCHWARDEN:** 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](http://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

## **A message from Bishop Rachel to the Diocese:**

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

### **Pray without ceasing**

Last year we began our vision shaping process with 10 days of prayer. We did so in the period from Ascension Day to Pentecost; that period when the early Church waited in faith, trusting in Jesus’s assurances for the blessings of the Holy Spirit to come. I continue to give thanks that our LIFE vision is now planted -- but I also know that without our prayer, it will neither take root nor grow.

### **Life in all its fullness**

Over the past few months I have, on occasion, heard people talk about ‘Bishop Rachel’s vision’. This is true, it is my vision; but not mine alone. This is our vision, and more than that, it is God’s vision. That was what the prayer, energy and wisdom so many gave to the vision shaping process was to discern.

This is about all of us together - ‘The Diocese of Gloucester’ - seeking to abide in Jesus Christ ever more deeply as we respond to the invitation to join in with God’s mission of transformation, so that we and others will know life in all its fullness. And that begins and continues with prayer.

When we talk about prayer, there are no experts. Rather, we simply come before God desiring an ever-deeper encounter with our creator, redeemer and sustainer. We should give thanks for God’s generous love, and open our hearts and minds to the work of the Holy Spirit. And as the Holy Spirit works within us, there comes both repentance and joy; and the cries of our hearts grow ever stronger as we voice our longings for the world and ourselves.

Together with each of you, I long to see our LIFE vision bearing fruit -- and I know this begins and ends with God:

*“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.”*

*(words of Jesus from John 15:4)*

During Lent, Bishop Robert and I will each be praying in three churches across the Diocese of Gloucester. The details are here: <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2017/praying-with-a-bishop-this-lent/>

Our time together will include reading from scripture and a mixture of active, creative and reflective prayer. Please come and join us. No experience or expertise is required, just an expectant heart.

### **Thy Kingdom Come: Join the global wave of prayer**

This year, also between Ascension Day and Pentecost, the Archbishop of Canterbury is encouraging every Christian community to join together and pray that their friends and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ. This is a great vision and hope, and is the golden thread running through our own diocesan LIFE vision. I have joined the #Pledge2Pray and I invite you to do so too. Do make time to watch the short video of Archbishop Justin’s personal testimony and his invitation to us and discover specially crafted resources for use by churches, individuals, families and young people:

[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

In the Diocese of Gloucester there will be specific prayer gatherings hosted by different worshipping communities, of which more details will be sent out shortly.

### **Rooted in prayer**

Perhaps all of this sounds like more activity, but it is actually about our doing beginning in a place of being -- and of being together with God.

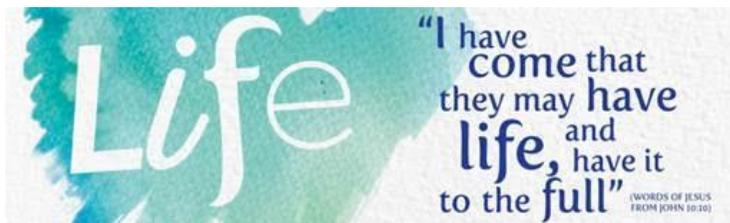
In the gospels, when Jesus invites his followers to pray, what happens always involves three things -- intention, decisive action and perseverance -- but it starts in a place of letting go and with a deep dependence on God.

As we learn more of what it means to grow in faith and live as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ, please continue to share the stories and experiences that emerge from your worshipping communities, whatever and wherever they may be.

My thanks go to each of you for joining in as we pray for each other and for the people and places of this diocese and our partners overseas. May God bless us as we venture deeper into prayer, and as we live and share the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ so that people may know life in all its fullness.

***Life Prayer***

God of hope and transformation,  
who in our Lord Jesus Christ offers the gift of life in all its fullness,  
send your Holy Spirit and grant us  
joy in our following and vision in our leadership.  
May we be rich in imagination,  
confident in faith,  
and courageous in our engagement  
with the people and places of this diocese.  
As we share your life with the world,  
keep us rooted and grounded in love  
as we bear witness to your glory  
and pray for your Kingdom to come.  
Amen.



## THE VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

### Lent

What do you normally have for breakfast? I enjoy a mix of cereals. Some folks don't eat breakfast. At least, not before midday.

Yet all of us do eat breakfast, in the original sense of 'breaking our fast', even if the fast is just overnight!

But sometimes a fast can be far longer. We read from Matthew chapter 4 that "*Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry*".

Lent provides each of us with the opportunity to 'fast and pray and give'.

To fast is to abstain, to do without something significant.

Fasting is always helpful for our self-discipline. Yet it can also be much more.

Fasting can help us to pray better; to hear God better, as we focus less on our bodily or material needs and comforts and more on the spiritual side of our life.

And fasting can help us be more alert to the needs of others and the world around us. This in turn can lead us to want to give more, in money or other ways, helping those less well-off or in need, whether they live next door or thousands of miles away.

Fasting can also lead us to review how we support the church's work as we seek together to 'grow God's kingdom' here in Tuffley and Podsmead and Whaddon.

Special opportunities for us together this Lent include:

- 'Stories of Jesus' on Ash Wednesday at 11.30am
- Lent lunches (soup) on Fridays at 12.30pm from 10 March
- Lent study groups:

- ❖ Friday mornings at 11.30am (followed by lent lunch)
- ❖ Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm,  
'Bible, the Big Picture' from 28 February.

Read on in this magazine for more details...

How will you celebrate Lent, together with others from the Christian community?

And how will you celebrate Lent, just between you and God?

Do join in, so we together will walk the path of Jesus through the wilderness. Then, identifying more closely with him, we will grow more like him in loving commitment to God and the world around us.

God bless you through Lent and always.

Bruce

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

### **FUNERALS**

#### **Crematorium**

Gloria McCoppin RIP

Audrey Higgs RIP

A Vicar's wife was making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who should get the first pancake. Mum said "If Jesus were sitting here, he would say "Let my brother have the first pancake; for I can wait." Her eldest boy turned to his younger brother and said "You be Jesus."

## **EASTERTIDE DATES**

### **Sunday 9 April**

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

Parish Communion, 9.00am at St Margaret's  
Palm Sunday Service with choir, 10.30am; at St George's  
Family Praise, 10.30am; St Margaret's  
Palm Sunday Evensong, 4.00pm; at St Margaret's

### **Tuesday 11 April**

Please note that there will be no morning Communion  
this week at St George's  
Parish Communion, 7.00pm; at St George's

### **Thursday 13 April**

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Please note that there will be no morning Communion  
this week at St Margaret's  
Blessing of Oils, 11.00am; at Cathedral  
Parish Communion, 7.00pm; at St George's followed by vigil

### **Friday 14 April**

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Liturgy for Good Friday, 10.30am; at St George's  
The Church in Tuffley Procession of Witness  
with Stations of the Cross, starting at 12.00noon

### **Saturday 15 April**

#### **EASTER EVE**

Messy Easter, 10.00am; at St George's  
'First Light of Easter', 8.30pm at St Margaret's

### **Sunday 16 April**

#### **EASTER DAY**

Parish Communion, 9.00am; at St Margaret's  
Parish Communion for Easter with choir, 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**

## **GLORY?**

Archbishop Justin Welby, reviewing the year 2016:

“It is amongst those on the edge, those ignored, and amongst persecuted believers that I have most clearly seen the glory of God this year, a glory that chases away the fear of terror, the power of death, and the economies of injustice, and presents a path to a more just, more Christ like world”

How do you see signs of the glory of God? What impact does this have for you?

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Annual meeting of the Parochial Church Council (ACPM) will be held on Sunday 2 April 2017 at 11.45am. Anyone whose name does not appear on the Electoral Roll is not eligible to vote or be elected for the PCC. The Electoral Roll will be displayed on the notice board from Sunday 5 March 2017 until the 26 March 2017. If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from me or from the table at the back of church. Completed forms should be handed to me or a Churchwarden by no later than Sunday 26 March 2017.

MARGARET BARBER  
Electoral Roll Officer

## **MAKING THE MOST OF CANDLEMAS**

"There's more to Candlemas than candles", I agreed, while Bruce and I were discussing our next family service at St Margaret's. He was quite right - we usually go big on candles and their symbolism at St Margaret's, but there are other aspects to this lovely festival.

When I was first going to church (half a century ago!) Candlemas was pretty well unheard of. Certainly the Book of Common Prayer

had readings for 2<sup>nd</sup> February, rather wordily entitled: "The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, commonly called The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin". But unless you were going to a communion service on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, you probably wouldn't have known anything about it. It was a sort of Cinderella of Festivals. I think it was the Common Worship revolution which brought it more into the mainstream of Anglican worship. Various new offerings of seasonal worship came along in the closing years of the last century, and the best ideas and texts were incorporated in Common Worship. And alleluia for that, say I.

Candlemas is now being used in a much more imaginative way and it is a natural for family services. With volunteers to be Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna, one can enact the story from Luke chapter 2. You can use candles of course, symbolising the light of Christ in our lives, and perhaps bless a basket full of new candles for use in the church. Or, as Bruce was suggesting, one can focus on something different, such as the idea of us being presented to God... just as the first-born baby Jesus was presented, according to Jewish custom. What have we to offer to God for use in building his Kingdom?

We did indeed enact the story. Unfortunately none of our babies was present, so Jilly's life size doll Kimmie had to deputise. Joseph couldn't make it either, so his young son George Harvey accompanied his mother Laura – and said afterwards he thought Kimmie was a real baby! As to the idea of presenting ourselves to God, Malcolm found himself press-ganged into a bit of role play – acting the part of someone being presented to the Queen and walking backwards afterwards.

Of course being St Margaret's we couldn't manage without a few candles, and these included earth candles dug into the ground along the path. These were made by children at Wynstones for their Candlemas exercise a few days previously, and despite steady rain, they were successfully re-lit and added a certain something to the day.

JONATHAN

## **AN INVITATION TO JOIN A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND – NOVEMBER 2017**

The Revd Geoff Crago of Highnam has been leading Holy Land Pilgrimages since 1997 and he invites you to join his 20th anniversary pilgrimage.

The group leaves on 6th November 2017 and will spend six nights in Jerusalem and three nights by the Sea of Galilee. There will be the opportunity to meet local people as well as visiting all the key Biblical sites.

For full details please email [g.crago@btinternet.com](mailto:g.crago@btinternet.com) or telephone 01452 750575, or see  
Website: <http://crago.co.uk/holyland.html>

## **LENT LUNCHES *BACK TO BASICS***

Mike and Laura Mumby are catering for Lent Lunches this year which will start on Friday 10 March and continue for five weeks. Profits from the lunches this year will go towards supporting the homeless and the menu will reflect this: -

A bowl of homemade vegetable stew  
with a chunk of bread  
followed by tea or coffee

**For a suggested donation of £5.00**

Lunches will be served at 12.30pm on five Fridays during Lent

## PSALM FOR THE MONTH:

### PSALM 19

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens proclaim the glory of God.  
The skies display his craftsmanship.
- <sup>2</sup> Day after day they continue to speak;  
night after night they make him known.
- <sup>3</sup> They speak without a sound or word;  
their voice is never heard.
- <sup>4</sup> Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,  
and their words to all the world.  
God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.
- <sup>5</sup> It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.  
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.
- <sup>6</sup> The sun rises at one end of the heavens  
and follows its course to the other end.  
Nothing can hide from its heat.
- <sup>7</sup> The instructions of the LORD are perfect,  
reviving the soul.  
The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.
- <sup>8</sup> The commandments of the LORD are right,  
bringing joy to the heart.  
The commands of the LORD are clear,  
giving insight for living.
- <sup>9</sup> Reverence for the LORD is pure,  
lasting forever.  
The laws of the LORD are true;  
each one is fair.
- <sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold,  
even the finest gold.  
They are sweeter than honey,  
even honey dripping from the comb.
- <sup>11</sup> They are a warning to your servant,  
a great reward for those who obey them.
- <sup>12</sup> How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart?  
Cleanse me from these hidden faults.
- <sup>13</sup> Keep your servant from deliberate sins!

Don't let them control me.  
Then I will be free of guilt  
and innocent of great sin.

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth  
and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.



As the February meeting fell on the 14th we shared our thoughts and memories of previous Valentine's days.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March at 2.30pm when Rosie Clifford will share her thoughts about Lent with us.

Everyone is very welcome to join us.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

## MOTHERS' UNION

Sometimes described as the backbone of the church, the Mothers' Union in Tuffley has been strong for many years. On Mothering Sunday we'll be celebrating all the good work done, often unnoticed, and praying for our Mothers' Union to grow from strength to strength under God's direction and blessing for the coming year.

Do be part of this if you can!  
St George's Church at 10.30am

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Getting to know all about you...

**...MALCOLM MARTIN**

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

*Malcolm is considering stepping down in April from his role as churchwarden at St Margaret's, having held the office continuously for 34 years and overseen major maintenance and improvement projects. Here he tells us about his life growing up in Tuffley, his schooling and apprenticeship, and his work and family life.*

Malcolm has lived nearly all his life in Tuffley – all bar the first eighteen months. It was war time, and his father was about to start work at 7MU in Quedgeley in February 1941, when the family moved from Bournemouth to their new home in Epney Road, arriving as the builders and cleaners moved out, the walls still damp from plastering. Those early days were marked by tragedy. In May a telegram advised them that their eldest son had been killed when his Wellington Bomber had crash landed when returning from a sortie over Germany. Malcom, who still under two, was too young to know and understand the impact of this news.

Malcolm describes his childhood as “quiet”. Denis, his remaining brother and eighteen years older than Malcolm, had left home. There was little traffic in Epney Road in those days; the road was a dead end with a stretch of grass separating the houses from Podsmead. His parents were fair but strict, members of the newly formed Grange Baptist church.

Malcolm attended Linden Infants School, moving on to Whaddon Junior school and then Linden Secondary school, with its motto, "Tenacity of purpose". He particularly enjoyed woodwork and metalwork, learning skills that would play a key role during his working life.

Malcom's father had a heart attack when he was eleven. Malcolm recalls visiting him in the Infirmary in Southgate Street where he was a patient for six to eight weeks. His father recovered but lived with angina, unable to resume work. This meant that money was tight. Malcolm spent Sundays at the Baptist church, joining the Life Boys and then the 4<sup>th</sup> Gloucester Boys Brigade company, which owned the motto "Sure and steadfast".

A week after leaving school at fifteen Malcolm started work with William Collett and Sons in Melbourne Street, Tredworth, and was introduced to the world of coachbuilding. After a year, he began a five-year apprenticeship, learning how to build flat-bedded and drop-sided lorries and furniture pantechnicons. These were the days when customers could both specify the design and the materials to be used. On completing his apprenticeship Malcolm was looking for recognition of his new status in an uplift to his wages. On hearing this was not to be forthcoming he handed in his notice then and there - without a job to go to. It wasn't long before he found work at Thomas Hext Ltd, on the Bristol Road. Other jobs followed. Malcolm also explored the world of work outside of coachbuilding, working for British Road Services and as a postman, before returning to what he knew best.

He met his future wife, Dot, at the Baptist church when he was about ten. They married in December 1961, living with Malcom's parents for the first two years of their marriage. Dot's father gave them £250 for a house deposit and they moved to their present house in 1964 with their two boys, Ken

and Andy. Sylvia arrived to complete their family eighteen months later.

When Sylvia was eight, she was invited by the then vicar of St George's, Hedley Ringrose, to join the choir. She suggested to her Mum and Dad that they might like to join her on a Sunday morning, which they did. Dot and Malcolm had left the Baptist church some years before, and had attended the Elim Church in Park Road some Sunday evenings, following an invitation from neighbours over the road. They recall one evening particularly well when prayer for healing was offered. A gentleman who had used a wheelchair for many years found the strength to walk again, left his chair and began walking up and down the aisles.

Even though Malcolm was a skilled coachbuilder, able to turn his hand to building commercial or private lorries, and repairing badly damaged vehicles, the pay was not great and making ends meet was not easy. And with mass production, specialist work was less in demand. In 1973 a conversation with Ian, his next-door neighbour, marked a turning point in Malcolm's working life. Ian mentioned that Post Office Telephones (which subsequently became BT) were recruiting. He thought Malcolm was just the person they were looking for. Malcolm applied and began work as a construction engineer in the machine jointing group, joining cables over long distances throughout Gloucestershire. It was a good move, providing Malcolm and the family with a significant increase in income, four weeks paid holiday, a pension and sick pay from day one. Towards the end of his time with BT Malcolm joined the maintenance teams at weekends, reconnecting communities following bad weather. In 1996 BT announced they were to employ graduates to conduct quality checks into their construction process. Malcolm considered this an unnecessary and insulting move; no-one ever had had cause to question the

quality of his work. He made an immediate decision to leave BT, three years before his official retirement age.

Malcom has continued to find an outlet for his many skills in design and construction – at home, for the family and for the church. He was keen to pass on his carpentry knowledge to his grandsons, Zac and Nathan, encouraging them to handle and use real tools from an early age. Teaching a left-hander to use a saw was more difficult than he had imagined!

In 1983 Hedley Ringrose asked Malcolm whether he would consider taking on the role of churchwarden at St Margaret's church – just for a short time..... He had already been a deputy churchwarden at St George's. The “short time” has turned out to be 34 years! Malcolm has overseen the funding and installation of new nave flooring, when the congregation relocated to St George's Lady Chapel for worship until the work was done. Then came electrical rewiring and complete redecoration of the building using lime and tallow, a special preparation that came from Malvern in very large containers. More recently Malcolm was pleased to have been involved in the construction of the toilet and storeroom in the churchyard, acting as project manager. During his time as church warden he has seen the fabric of the church restored and improved and seen a growth in the numbers of those who worship there.

Malcom also served on the Church Centre Management Committee at St George's for many years helping to design and install the new kitchen. He put his carpentry skills to use to make a holder for the flags of the church's uniformed organisations.

Retirement has offered Malcom and Dot the opportunity to travel, and to enjoy a number of cruises. They have also enjoyed time with the family. Ken joined the Royal Signals and Andy the Royal Engineers, whilst Sylvia became a teacher at St Rose's Special school, in Stroud. Andy and Sylvia have both

been leaders in the Scouts. Dot and Malcolm enjoy their garden, and like nothing better than spending time there.

Two years ago, as many in Tuffley will know, tragedy struck again when grandson, Zac, was murdered. How did he get through? “With determination”. He thinks the tragedy has brought the family together, but the loss remains very hard to bear. Dot and Malcolm treasure memories of the time, not long before his death, when Zac decorated their hall, one of his first jobs as a painter and decorator.

Have there been times when Malcolm has been particularly aware of God’s presence? In response, he cites trips to Haringey, Wembley and Bristol to hear Billy Graham speak. He has great respect for the evangelist, although he says he didn’t have the courage to go forward in response to his hard-hitting message.

Dot and Malcolm celebrated 55 years of marriage last year. When asked what words of wisdom he would want to pass on to those younger he volunteered, “Marriage is hard work; you have to learn to work together”. A hint of his school motto, and the Boys Brigade motto, being put into practice.

## **STORIES OF JESUS**

We’re continuing to consider together some of the events of Jesus’ life, using the film “The Miracle Maker”, a stunning animation of the greatest story ever told. Join Rosie and Bruce at the vicarage on Ash Wednesday, 1 March, at 11.30am. Followed by soup lunch, and finishing at 1pm. All welcome, whether or not you came last time. And bring a friend!

# Life

The vision for the Diocese of Gloucester over the next five years is a vision for **Life**, a commitment to go out and share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people may know life in all its fullness as Jesus promised when he said: “I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10).

In Gloucester we’re looking at four themes making up “Life”:

**L** for leadership – committed to transformation

**I** for imagination – opening up new paths to faith

**F** for faith – living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

**E** for engagement – living out Christ’s love and hope.

During the year, we’ll be exploring together how we can put this vision into practice together in Tuffley and Whaddon. All contributions welcome! Watch this space for updates...

## **THE BIG PICTURE COURSE**

“You, the Bible and God’s Big Plan” is the title of this inspirational Bible course with DVD, compiled by café (Catholic Faith Exploration) with the Bible Society. It’s a step-by-step journey through salvation history. We’re running this at English Martyrs on Tuffley Lane during Lent, starting on Shrove Tuesday 28th February for six weeks, 7.30pm until 8.45pm. For more details please see leaflets at back of church.



## **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**

### **FOODBANK**

Thanks to all who regularly donate: keep up the good work! You can find up to date lists of foods most needed, at their website: <https://gloucester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Also the foodbank are now asking for small regular gifts of money by Standing Order towards their overheads. These can be gift-aided. Some forms are in the foodbank box at back of St George's church.

### **COMING ON 75...**

A St George's church in Tuffley began in 1942.

Yes, that's 75 years ago – surely an opportunity to celebrate with the community! How shall we celebrate? We're looking for your great ideas, so keep them coming...

Speak with Bruce, or Sylvia Evans.



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

### **ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY'S PETER'S POSERS**

1. TOM, DICK, HARRY: 2. BENEDICTINE (DOM = Deo Optimo Maximo = To God, most good, most great.): 3. IBIZA: 4. MARTINA NAVRATILOVA (1982-87, also 1978, 79, 90): 5. KENYA: 6. COINS (and/or Medals): 7. ANNE NIGHTINGALE: 8. CAPTAIN NEMO: 9. CAMELS: ERIC CLAPTON

### **PETER'S POSERS FOR MARCH**

1. In which film did Roger Moore first play James Bond?
2. How many gallons of beer are in a firkin?
3. What in Cornwall is the most southerly point of mainland Britain?
4. Alan Minter was undisputed World boxing champion at which weight?
5. Which 17th century explorer was buried with a pipe and a box of tobacco?
6. Which Latin term, usually applied to legal evidence, means 'at first sight'?
7. What was the character name of TV's 'The Saint'?
8. In literature, who was the best known pupil of Greyfriar's School?
9. What is the alternative common name for a Black Leopard?
10. Who composed The Wedding March?

**ST GEORGE'S DAY CENTRE**  
**Every Thursday**



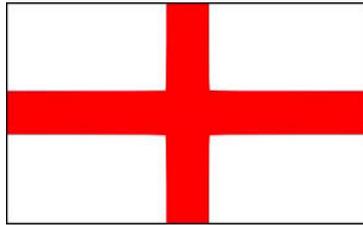
10.30am – 2.30pm



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



**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. The cost will be £13.50. If you would like to join us you can pay in instalments; Please give your name, with your £5.00 deposit to Glenda or Darrell; a second £5.00 will be due by the end of February; with the balance being payable by Sunday 26 March.

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

## FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY PIONEER

Interview Day is 15 March. Please pray for God's appointment and for us all.

Our Pioneering prayer:

*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*

### ST GEORGE'S APCM APRIL 2017

If you normally write a report for St George's APCM would you please prepare it NOW and send it to Glenda as soon as possible.

Emailed documents would be preferred; if your report has to be hand written please let Glenda have it immediately in order that she can prepare it for the Annual Report and Accounts pack

Remember your report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The deadline for ALL reports is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March your report will not appear in the report pack if it is received after this date.

## MENTAL WELLBEING

What is mental wellbeing? Why do things go wrong? How can we stay well? What do mental health and Christian spirituality have in common?

Come and explore mental well-being at a special one-day seminar in Gloucester.

When and where? Saturday 25 March from 10 till 4 @ Roots coffee and community centre, 69 Alvin Street, GL1 3EH.

Material is Biblically based and draws on best practice from psychiatry, psychology and church ministry.

More info from: [www.buytickets.at/renewingminds](http://www.buytickets.at/renewingminds)

Tickets in advance only, from: [renewing.minds@mail.com](mailto:renewing.minds@mail.com)

## THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS

God made  
Adam bit  
Noah arked  
Abraham split  
Joseph ruled  
Jacob fooled  
Bush talked  
Moses balked  
Pharaoh plagued  
People walked  
Sea divided  
Tablets guided  
Promise landed

Saul freaked  
David peeked  
Prophets warned  
Jesus born  
God walked  
Love talked  
Anger crucified  
Hope died  
Love rose  
Spirit flamed  
Word spread  
God remained

# ST GEORGE'S



In December this year we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St George's 100 Club Draw. Unfortunately we have lost a number of 100 Club members during 2016.

So an opportunity arises for: -

- A) existing members to consider increasing their chances to win.
- B) others to consider joining the club to have a chance to win.

Members have to be over 16 years of age

Each share in the 100 Club will cost £1.00 per month

Payments must be up to date on or before  
the first Sunday of each month

Maximum holding per member is 5 shares

Draws will be made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
in March, June, September and December

These are just a few of the rules appertaining to our 100 Club a full set of rules is available upon request.

Please talk to the promoter Darrell  
if you have any questions, or  
if you wish to increase your chances to be a winner, or  
if you wish to join our 100 Club



## THROUGH THE WINDOW

Dear friends,

Boy! Have I got a lot to tell you. You know I had to go to that place again? I had to have a pin and my toenails cut. Well, my cuz Misty had to go again as well. Her mum took her again and left her there; when she came home my mum had gone out and she picked up that machine and spoke to me. Well, she sounded a bit odd so I asked her what was wrong. She said that her mum had shoved her into her box and carted her off to see the doctor. She couldn't understand why as she was feeling fine. Anyway, she said that she was going bald because some of her fur was missing off her front leg and she had some teeth missing. She was not happy and wasn't going to speak to her mum ever again. I told her not to be so stupid, she only had a little operation and she wouldn't have known anything about it. Then she went on and on and on about her mum shoving big tablets down her throat and some horrible medicine. She tried spitting it out but Auntie Jill wasn't having any of that, she shoved it back in and held her mouth closed until she swallowed it. Mind you, I think I would have done the same! I think she's told all the gang about her ordeal.

All she has done is moan about it for days on end. I'm getting a bit tired of it now. When I think of the times I have to go do I get any sympathy, no I don't. I just get bundled into that box, head first, and transported in that vehicle. I let everyone know that I'm not happy but I still have nasty things done to me.

In my last jottings I told you that I'd heard my mum and Auntie Jill talking and that I'd have to hide under my mum's bed. Well, I did, but it didn't do any good. I still got caught and stuffed into the box.

Mind you, I did give them the run around. Drawers were pulled from under the bed but I was too far up that they couldn't reach me. I couldn't escape though because my mum closed the door. In the end

it was Auntie Jill who managed to grab me, took me downstairs and pushed me head first into the box. I let them know my displeasure all the way there. Misty was very subdued. She makes me laugh really because she moans to me all the time. I don't know how the gang put up with her whinging all the time. She moans about having to stay out when her mum is out but then she doesn't go home when she's there, Auntie Jill has to go looking for her. She's a doughnut really but she knows when she's well off; looked after, and well fed just like me.

This is all for now, until the next time.

JOJO WHITTLE

### **NEW ARCHDEACON FOR CHELTENHAM**

Phil Andrew has been appointed as the new Archdeacon in Cheltenham to work alongside Jackie Searle who is Archdeacon in Gloucester. He comes from Reigate in Surrey.

All are welcome to the special appointment service in the Cathedral on Saturday 11 March at 4.30pm.

### **ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETINGS...**

... are coming soon! (In fact, early in April). We're always on the look-out for new people willing to share responsibility for leading the church, as members of our Parish Church Council (PCC), Churchwardens, and City Deanery representatives. Nominations are needed before the meeting starts. To find out more, please ask Bruce.

If you would like to be considered for nomination yourself, or if you would like to nominate someone else (and have their permission!), please contact the PCC Secretary:

St George's: Joceline Blunt ([jossblunt@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jossblunt@hotmail.co.uk))

St Margaret's: Susan Scothern ([susan.scothern@hotmail.com](mailto:susan.scothern@hotmail.com)).

# Jill's jottings

## FROM ST MARGARET'S

Well here I am again, that woman and her mate who 'do' at St Margaret's Church.

It hasn't been so hectic now that Christmas and the New Year have passed. We still have to make sure that the church is kept clean throughout with the polish and dusters and with the Brasso!

We do enjoy our many varied services at St Margaret's, this month we had our fifth Sunday service as a nine o'clock communion, not many of us turned up but it was lovely all the same. A few of our congregation went to St George's to hear Brian Woodruff play the organ at his last Sunday service, my sister said it was wonderful and was a joy to hear a master play. Brian has played at St Margaret's as well, he said that our little organ is something of an enigma, not something that you come across too often, but after a while is a joy to play. We have lots of good things going on at both of our churches; I hope we can all enjoy them together.

We will be having our Candlemas service on the 5 February; it will be a joint service of our regular congregation and our Family Praise people. This service is going to be something we will be doing more often throughout the year. I hope the Family Praise folks will enjoy it the same as we will. Jonathan always puts so much thought into putting the service together, both for the families and for the others.

As I write this for our magazine my friend Kath's son was taken ill and had to spend a night in hospital. I went to see them both and for now Jonathan is much better. Kath will tell me more as and when she feels she can, so here's hoping that they will both get over the shock and we will see Kath back in church very soon. I hope that all goes well for Jonathan as well; he has to have some more tests done so I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Well my friends, that's all for now so until the next time, God Bless,



## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Jo, Jo, JoJo are you there? Jo please speak to me Jo. What do you mean, I'm whinging again, you don't know what I've been through Jo. It's been just plain torture you know. Harry, JoJo, yes he's here. You want a word with him Jo, what for Jo, what for? Oh Harry you want a ward with JoJo, Harry here you are, she's on the machine, don't be too long Harry as I haven't finished telling JoJo about my trauma. Yes Harry, my trauma.

You ok now JoJo; Harry said that he hasn't forgotten his glasses, book and pen, all safely stored in the den. Oh yes Jo, well you know when we both had to go to that place, well, I know Jo, first you, then me. We both had to have that needle and the horse pill shoved down our neck and then to top it all they tried to take our toes off. Yes Jo I know it was just our toenails but it felt like she was trying to take our feet off. You know Jo that doctor was a lot bigger than the pair of us. Well Jo I had to go back to that place, yes Jo, I said my mum took me back to that place again, and do you know Jo, she left me there Jo, all on my own she did, and, do you know what they did next Jo, they shaved off my fur on my leg, and they stuck a needle in it! I went into some kind of stupor because I fell right off to sleep. I came round again Jo and I had only had half of my teeth taken out, I mean Jo, I went to sleep and I'm now toothless, how am I going to eat my food from now on? I just don't know!

Jo I'm still here, yes, I know Jo but I was so scared, and do you know Jo, I have been suffering ever since; my mum is a tyrant, she gets hold of me every morning and shoves some stuff from a syringe into my mouth and then the horse pill shoved down as well. I mean Jo I was beside myself. I didn't know when it was all going to stop, my mum is such a bully Jo, I know that she loves me because she cuddles me and then kisses me but Jo how much longer can a person put up with this, I just don't know. If I have to go back to the doctor I'm not going. I refuse to go back, you know Jo they feel you all

over, show a light in your eyes and open up your mouth to have a good look inside, but Jo I haven't got any teeth left, they took them all out. JoJo don't you laugh it's not funny, my mum doesn't care one way or another about my feelings you know. I can't go out until I've had my jollop and bomb so I'm not speaking to her, yes Jo, I've told Harry about it. What do you mean, he didn't laugh like you did and I haven't been able to spend as much time with the gang as I would have liked. You know Yas has won another gong don't you? She's been parading around like she's the only cat to have won something. I mean JoJo I'm just as good as her, no teeth but a lovely smile. Jo don't laugh it's not funny. JoJo she's at it again, I can see that box thing , oh Jo, I'll have to ring you back my mum is coming and I don't like the way she's looking at me.

Jo is that you? Yes it's me. I've just come back from that place again!!! Jo my mum let that lady doctor get me out of my box, and, she looked me all over, Jo I was determined not to let her look in my mouth, I did try to keep her fingers away but it was no good, she got her fingers round my jaw and prized my mouth open. She said that everything was ok and then she lifted me up in her arms and put me on a weighing machine thing, and she said that I had lost a bit of weight but not to worry. My mum has put my bowl with my biscuits in down for me so I can have a nibble during the night, but Jo, I'm not never, ever, ever going back to that place so there. What Jo, oh Harry and the gang are in the den so I'll go and have a natter to them. Yes Jo, yes I'll speak to you again very soon so 'bye for now Jo and it's tat ta from a very tired and upset pussy cat Misty, until the next time.

MISTY PONTER (Miss)

A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!" "Why not?" asked his mother. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me and two, I don't like them." His mother replied, "Well I'll give you two better reasons why YOU WILL go to church. One, you're 47 years old and two, you're the Vicar!"

## **KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE**

It's vital for every one of us to take our share of responsibility for keeping each other safe, particularly children and adults who may be vulnerable for any reason.

How? Well, some ways include:

- Listen well, and if someone tells you something worrying, take it seriously
- Watch for any changes in someone's behaviour that could indicate a problem
- Talk to someone, if you have any cause for concern.

We want to be known as good neighbours, who don't just 'pass by on the other side' but take action to help someone in need.

Key people to contact: Hans Rackham (528939) is our church 'Safeguarding' officer. The Diocese is also here to advise, help and support us; contact Becca Faal (835516), the Safeguarding Advisor for the Diocese.

For more details, please see our 'Safeguarding Policy' on church noticeboards.

Jesus taught his disciples to be "shrewd as snakes but harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). In our own behaviour towards others, let us all be wise and vigilant yet above reproach.

## **HEARD IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**

"May I ask a question?" Ben asked. "Of course, go ahead, ask your question," replied the Sunday school teacher. "Well, the Bible says that the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea," continued Ben, "also that the children of Israel built the temple, the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"

# Dates for your diary

## Don't miss out

### FEBRUARY

Sun 26			<b>SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b> <b>White Box Sunday</b>
	9.00am	*	Holy Communion
	10.30am		Holy Communion including the authorisation of Susan Scothern as Pastoral Assistant and followed by coffee
	2.00pm	*	Dedication of New Gates at St Margaret's
	4.30pm		<b>WINTER TEA</b> Please see list on notice board at St George's or talk to Glenda
Tue 28			<b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b>
	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – Jill's team
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Bible; The Big Picture At English Martyrs Church

### MARCH

Wed 1			<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
	11.30am		Stories of Jesus at the Vicarage until 1.00pm to include lunch
	7.00pm		Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Thu 2	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	*	Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Fri 3	2.30pm		Women's World Day of Prayer at Grange Baptist Church
Sat 4	12 noon		Private let of Centre – MH
Sun 5			<b>LENT I</b> <b>APCM reports deadline</b>
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	4.00pm	*	Evensong
Tue 7	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome - Mike's team
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Bible; The Big Picture At English Martyrs Church

Wed 8	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group practice
Thu 9	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Finance Committee meeting
Fri 10	11.30am		Lent Group 1 – SL
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH
Sun 12			<b>LENT 2</b>
	9.00am	*	Holy Communion
			100 Club draw
	10.30am		Holy Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee / cake sale
	12.30pm or 1.00pm	*	Wedding of Stephen Best & Elizabeth Jordan
Mon 13			<b>April Crossroads deadline</b>
Tue 14			Bishop's Training day for all clergy
	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome –Mike's team
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	7.30pm		Bible; The Big Picture At English Martyrs Church
Wed 15			Pioneer Interview day
	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee – SL
Thu 16	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 17	11.30am		Lent Group 2 – SL
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH
Sat 18	10.00am		Messy church
	7.30pm		Karaoke Night – all welcome – MH
Sun 19			<b>LENT 3</b>
			<b>St George's church care and cleaning week starts</b>
	10.30am		Holy Communion
	11.45am		Messy Church planning meeting
	12.30pm		St George's Baptism of Enzo Maverick Cornock
	4.00pm	*	Evensong

Tue 21	9.00am		Coffee Pot – all welcome – Jill’s team
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		St Margaret’s PCC at the Vicarage
	7.30pm		Bible; The Big Picture At English Martyrs Church
Wed 22	9.00am		Crossroads printing
	7.30pm		St George’s PCC at the Vicarage
Thu 23	9.00am		Crossroads collating
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 24	11.30am		Lent Group 3 – SL
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH
Sat 26			<b>St George’s church care and cleaning week ends</b>
Sun 26			<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY / LENT 4 White Box day / Summer time begins / April Crossroads available</b>
	9.00am	*	Holy Communion
	10.30am		Holy Communion / Healing followed by coffee
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
Tue 28	9.00am		Coffee pot – all welcome – Jill’s team
	9.30am		Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Bible; The Big Picture At English Martyrs Church
Thu 30	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
Fri 31	11.30am		Lent Group 5 – SL
	12.30pm		Lent Lunch – SH

## APRIL

Sun 2			<b>LENT 5</b>
	10.30am		Holy Communion
	12 noon		St George’s APCM
	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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Friday	7.30pm	GAGS Club	MH

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

It would be helpful to the editors if articles for Crossroads were emailed where possible using the following format, it is slightly different to that requested some years ago but would help enormously.

Font: Times Roman Font size: 11 Line spacing: 1

Margins: Top and bottom 1.5cm Sides 2.0cms

Paper size A5

Heading: **UPPERCASE in bold**

Name: UPPERCASE

Both Heading and Name should be centred

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

<b>ST GEORGE'S:</b>	Holy Communion (Tuesday)	9.30am
	Morning Prayer (Wednesday)	9.15am
<b>ST MARGARET'S:</b>	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.