

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

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

MAY 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

Pioneering faith

The book of Hebrews says faith “gives us assurance about things we cannot see”. Our wise God doesn’t show us the future – but he does assure us we’re safe in his hands. All he asks is that we be not afraid but strong, not discouraged but courageous. And we have each other to help us along.

Now we’re welcoming Helen to join us. Read her article later in this magazine. Her role as our Pioneer is to help lead us in new ways to share our life-transforming faith with those we care for around us.

We don’t know what this will look like. We are to trust ourselves to God. And we have a pile of pioneers who’ve gone before us in faith. Read Hebrews chapter 11 and be encouraged!

And, in the words of Hebrews: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.” (Chapter 12)

God bless and encourage us all in the challenge of pioneering faith ahead.

BRUCE

FROM OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY PIONEER

‘Life is a journey’. How many times have you heard that saying and wondered where your life journey is taking you? Where are you on your journey? Has your journey been hazardous and exciting, taking unexpected turns, leading you down paths you never expected to tread? Or has it been much as you expected it to be, leading to outcomes not far from where you pretty much planned?

Wherever we are on our journeys and however far we have travelled, we all have one thing in common – we understand that it is better to travel with company. Friends and family are usually what keeps us putting one foot in front of the other, and are often the reason our journeys have been so fulfilling.

Going on a journey together brings us to share a story. What’s the story of your journey? Who do you share it with? Does your story make you smile or do your eyes well with tears? Do you choose to chatter about it and laugh as you remember the detail, or keep it enclosed, as a secret?

I love people’s stories. The joys and sufferings remind me of our brokenness as human beings and then of the love and devotion we give one another as we determine to step into better days together. Regardless of our age and our status, our life stories are each as precious as another, because they are ours.

It is the sharing of our life journeys together that builds community. My new role in our community is to help facilitate the sharing and the building together. I am trusting that you will help me step into a new journey alongside you, to walk with you, and to share my story with you as you share yours with me.

HELEN McGEOCH

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

St George's

Enzo Maverick Cornock

FUNERALS

Crematorium

Martin Starkey RIP

Peggy Embley RIP

ST GEORGE'S APCM ELECTION RESULTS

Sylvia Evans and Mike Brammer were elected as Churchwardens

Derek Kingscote was elected as a Lay Member of the Deanery Synod

Brian Woodruff, Darrell Stevens, David Westcott, Roger Meadows, Joceline Blunt, Linda Medwell, Rosie Clifford, Linda Brown and Jayne Close were elected as Lay Members of the Parochial Church Council.



I was unable to attend this month's meeting as we had family visiting from Canada.

However here are the details for the next meeting on Tuesday 9th May. We meet in the small hall at 2.30pm and our speakers will be David and Sylvia Chamberlain talking about their visit to New Zealand. Everyone is very welcome so please come and join us.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

PLEDGE2PRAY

For our loved ones, and our friends and our neighbours, who could ask more than that they discover the life-transforming love of Christ? Archbishop Justin Welby is inviting us all to pledge to pray for this each day between Ascension Day 25 May and Pentecost (Whitsunday) 4 June. In doing so, we'll be part of a global wave of prayer: "Thy Kingdom Come". More details in our weekly news 'Signpost', or see www.thykingdomcome.global

LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

You've heard the story about Anybody, Nobody, Somebody, and Everybody?

An important job had to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

What's this important job? It's all about looking out for each other. We all want to do it. And now *Linda Medwell* is going to help us.

So when you're feeling blue, or if there are folk you know that do, talk to Linda.

She's *our new Caring Co-ordinator*: our official *go-to person*.

Though she won't always be able to respond herself, she will always try hard to find someone appropriate who will!

Thank you Linda.

Lord through your grace and with Linda's help, may we all grow as a truly caring community, sharing the compassionate love of Christ with all. Amen

PSALM FOR THE MONTH:

PSALM 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.

² So we will not fear when earthquakes come
and the mountains crumble into the sea.

³ Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

⁴ A river brings joy to the city of our God,
the sacred home of the Most High.

⁵ God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed.
From the very break of day, God will protect it.

⁶ The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms crumble!
God's voice thunders, and the earth melts!

⁷ The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.

⁸ Come, see the glorious works of the LORD:
See how he brings destruction upon the world.

⁹ He causes wars to end throughout the earth.
He breaks the bow and snaps the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honoured by every nation.
I will be honoured throughout the world."

¹¹ The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.

ANGIE'S COMMUNITY CHOIR
FORMERLY
KINGSWAY AND QUEDGELEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Angie Gingell was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in 2010. Her treatments included four different chemotherapies, radiotherapy and three surgeries. Despite all of this, Angie had a passion to start a choir in her local area of Kingsway and Quedgeley. She started planning it in 2015 and managed to launch it later that year with funding help through John Gow (Kingsway Community Builder).

The choir went from strength to strength with Angie being the driving force behind it. She had a clear view that the choir should be open to all and must be fun with a modern upbeat feel.

In June 2016, Angie's cancer had progressed, causing immense pain to her right shoulder and arm. After fighting the disease and carrying on with her life for six years, she was admitted to Sue Ryder Hospice at Leckhampton, with the view to getting her pain under control. Unfortunately, Angie's pain had become very complicated and even the strongest drugs were unable to relieve it so she could not return home. When she was able to communicate, she always praised the staff at the hospice and said what a very special place it was. Sadly, Angie passed away last September.

Angie was only forty six years old at the time of her passing. She had been a loving wife to Neil, who she met at the age of seventeen. She was a devoted mother to their daughters, Hannah and Sophie. Nothing was ever too much for Angie. She was always at her happiest when she was giving to others.

After the initial shock, Neil decided to take on the work with the choir and said that he is determined to put as much effort into growing the choir as Angie would have. He admits that this is a tall order but hopes he can continue to build on his wife's successes and keep the choir a fun place to sing.

It was suggested, by the choir members, that the name should be changed to 'Angie's Community Choir' in memory of the founder.

Since its conception, the choir have been involved with a number of performances. They were also invited by the Chaplain from Sue Ryder (Rob Pestell) to join them in their annual remembrance service at Christmas. Neil said, 'we were honoured to be involved and will strive to raise money for their cause, wherever possible.'

The choir have been very fortunate to attract Kate Mason as their new musical director. She is very qualified and enthusiastic to take the choir forward. Kate is a Primary School Music Specialist, who had previously been a singer and pianist for the Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir, conducting the choir when needed, and is currently singing with Innsworth Military Wives Choir. Since taking on the role, the choir has grown and has the fun upbeat feel Angie would have most certainly approved and been proud of!

They are a friendly choir. There is no need to be able to read music and no audition is required. They have members from all over the Gloucester area and meet at the Kingsway Community Centre at 7.30pm on Mondays with the rehearsal ending around 9.00pm. If you're interested or have more questions, you can get in contact, with the committee, through their Facebook page.

NEIL GINGELL

You have the opportunity to listen to Angie's Community Choir as they will be singing in St George's Church on Saturday 19 August from 7.30pm. Proceeds of the concert will be split between Angie's Community Choir, James Hopkins Trust and St George's Church. Tickets will be on sale as from 1 June; more details will be available soon.

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

...Noah He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

...Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.



6th GLOUCESTER GUIDES

We have had another busy term with a celebration of Thinking Day – our Founders birthday as a district event at St George’s with all the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides here. At the celebration we presented Val Thomas with her 30 year award (Division Commissioner).

We have held an indoor camp at our headquarters at Cowley, Cheltenham for a weekend. In our meetings we have organised trails to follow, a party and Mothers’ Day gifts have been made and enjoyed.

Next term we will be preparing for our summer camp, bag packing at Morrison’s, taking part in the Tuffley Festival (teas and coffee stall) and completing campers badge and a challenge camp.

The girls continue to be involved in preparing their own plan of activities and fulfilling their ideas.

TUFFLEY FESTIVAL - 2017

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

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

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

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

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

HANS RACKHAM
CHAIR
STEERING COMMITTEE TUFFLEY FESTIVAL

Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
...Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Which area of the Middle East was especially wealthy?
...The area around Jordan as the banks were always overflowing.

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
... Ruthless.

Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?
...German Shepherds.

What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?
...Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Also probably a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
...Samson. He brought the house down.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Getting to know all about you...

...**JEANNE WILSON**

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

Jeanne Wilson's first visit to St George's happened seventy years ago, while she was still living in Yorkshire. Her musical and administrative gifts led to thirty years' involvement with Grange Infant and Junior schools, and to her serving as organist at St George's for the best part of twenty years. And how many of us can say we met our lifetime's partner at the tender age of five?

Jeanne's roots are many miles from Gloucester. She was born in a small village outside Doncaster, close to her paternal grandparents, and was baptised in the village church. Her parents moved to Doncaster when Jeanne was eight months old when her father joined the Police force. Jeanne continued to worship at the village church when she visited her grandparents. An aunt took her to church when she was three, but vowed "never again" as Jeanne continued singing "Praise him, Praise him" long after the congregation finished the last verse of "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven"! Despite the threat, Jeanne continued to go up to her late teens.

When Jeanne was five, a Mr and Mrs Wilson, and their son Geoffrey, aged eight, moved in next door. Jeanne and Geoffrey's mothers became great friends. Mr Wilson was the foreman plumber for a building firm based in York, and when the Wilsons moved to Bedford two or three years later the mothers wrote to each other until war broke out and they lost touch. Meanwhile, Jeanne, her parents and her new baby brother moved house within Doncaster. Later the Wilsons were moved again – this time to Tuffley, when work began on the estate being built to house families coming from London to work at the RAF Maintenance Unit, 7MU in Quedgeley.

Jeanne's childhood was happy. Jeanne attended the local school, moving to the high school in Doncaster at eleven. She enjoyed Domestic Science, English literature, sport – and music, learning the piano from the age of ten, and at sixteen taking on some of her music teacher's pupils when her teacher became ill. It was wartime and Jeanne recalls nights fire-watching, with camp beds being set up in the staffroom.

Jeanne attended Doncaster Parish church (dedicated to St George) regularly, sometimes cycling to the 6.30am communion service, returning for evensong at the end of the day. She was confirmed there as a teenager. Her ability to play the piano led to her being an accompanist at the Youth club, a role she loved. In 1945 the Schools Advisor for music asked her if she would play for a massed choir of the Doncaster schools when they sang at a concert at the Doncaster Mansion House to celebrate the end of the war.

Jeanne left school at 16 and worked at the Head Office of the private owners of six collieries in South Yorkshire as secretary to the Safety Officer. In 1947 when nationalisation took place, Doncaster became the Area HQ for twelve collieries. A staff choir was formed – and yes, they needed a pianist!

A year earlier Mrs Wilson in Gloucester had come across a scrap of paper - the new Doncaster address for her former neighbours. She wrote to see if they were still living there. This led to an invitation for Jeanne to come to Gloucester for Easter in April 1947. Once here Mr Wilson, currently the St George's Church treasurer, asked Jeanne if she would like to go to the Easter Sunday service. Little did Jeanne know that the 4 April 1947 would be the start of a 70 year "visit"! Despite any memories of being pestered by the little girl next door Geoffrey decided that he could put up with Jeanne and two years later they were married at St George's, Doncaster. In the two years before their marriage Jeanne and Geoff saw each other every six weeks. St George's had a thriving Church of England Men's Society which held social evenings where Jeanne was able to meet some of the congregation, easing her move to Gloucester.

Though the estate was now finished and the builders had moved on, Geoff and his father stayed, carrying out repairs when needed. Geoff

had a spell in the Royal Artillery, joining his father on being invalided out. The newly-weds lived with the senior Wilsons for two years until moving to Tuffley Lane where their three daughters, Christine, Marion and Janet were born. The girls were all baptised and confirmed at St George's and all three joined the church's Guide company and youth club. Two sang in the choir and were married there.

In 1954 Eva Sparey asked Jeanne if she would like to join a Young Wives Group which she had been asked to organise to cater for the newcomers arriving on the Grange Estate. This blossomed, becoming the Women's Fellowship as members grew older and many members joining the Mothers Union in 1960. In 1955 the Young Wives were given a view of the footings for the new church which would replace the existing wooden church. The old church became the church hall until the church centre was added and the old building (where they had so many happy times as young women) was demolished.

When Jeanne's eldest daughter, Christine, was seven she joined Grange Junior School. Her teacher asked the class if anyone had a Mum who could play the piano for the class to perform a musical item at the summer concert. A small request which heralded the beginning of something much bigger... Other teachers quickly jumped on the bandwagon and Jeanne was soon involved in both summer and Christmas concerts.

When the growing school recognised it needed additional help, Eva Sparey, school secretary at the time, was quick to suggest that Jeanne, with valuable clerical experience gained in Doncaster, might be considered for the role. This led to Eva and Jeanne working together for fifteen years supporting the school staff, children and families. The following year the Infants school also recognised its need for more administrative support and Jeanne found herself working at both schools.

With Jeanne working in the office at the Junior school, the Head, Mr Alderton, revisited a long-held ambition for the school choir to enter the Cheltenham Schools Music Festival. His ambition was realised, and over the next fifteen years, the choir accompanied by Jeanne,

won many cups including Best in Festival one year. Jeanne was about to add another string to her bow. Visiting the school for a concert in 1968, the County Music Advisor asked her if she would join a scheme he was starting for children to learn the piano in groups of four. Jeanne accepted the challenge, transferring to Beaufort when it opened in 1970 (the year when she gained her ALCM teaching qualification), and continuing until 1982 when the scheme was forced to close due to cut-backs.

Jeanne first played the organ at St George's when she deputised for the vicar's wife, Mrs Moss in the late 1950s. She acted as organist from 1964 to 1988 with a break of five years (when she took the opportunity to play her part in flower arranging, church cleaning, lesson reading and as sidesman). Despite being organist for so many years Jeanne never had formal organ training, though she had learned to play the stops on her grandparents' harmonium when she was a teenager. She did, though, decide to qualify as a teacher of the piano when she was forty, revisiting a path she would have taken as a teenager if her piano teacher had not fallen ill.

Jeanne particularly enjoyed playing at weddings of ex-pupils and of children of the church and school. There were also sadder times - funerals of many old friends in the church family, the Head teachers of both Infant and Junior schools allowing Jeanne time out to slip over to the church to play. Post-retirement led to stand-in duties for various organists until 2008, five years after Jeanne retired from playing for the Entertainers and for previous drama groups for about thirty years. Stepping back from a role she loved wasn't easy - Jeanne cried all the way home from her last service playing the organ.

Moving to a bungalow in Matson for their retirement left Jeanne and Geoff more time to travel abroad. A trip to the Holy Land led by Canon Hedley Ringrose was a particular highlight. The family grew as the eight grandchildren came along. Now the eight great-grandchildren are a source of great joy to Jeanne who lost Geoff after 64 years of very happy marriage.

Jeanne is very grateful for her parents, who encouraged her musical abilities and for Geoff and her family. She says she doesn't know

how people get through life without faith. She has known God's comfort and his voice when members of her family were very ill. She recalls the last few days of Geoff's life, when sitting with him in his hospital room; she found the words of the third verse of the song "Be still for the presence of the Lord is here" come unbidden:

*Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal to minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place.*

She knew God's strength and presence at that moment, as she did when her daughter Christine was visiting her two year old daughter seriously ill in hospital with hepatitis. Nursing the sick child's baby sister Jeanne felt an overwhelming sense of peace – and knew all would be well. And with Emma, one of her grandchildren, currently seriously ill Jeanne is joining her prayers with many from around the world who have promised to pray.

And a perfect day? Jeanne would choose to worship in the morning, following it with a trip out for a country or seaside walk, rounded off by evensong, her favourite service. She loves the theatre and reading. Favourite authors include the Bronte sisters and Gervais Phinn.

As an organist who has played so many hymns over the years what are her own favourites? Jeanne cites "The day though gavest, Lord, is ended" and "Love divine all loves excelling" to the tune Blaenwern. Down the years, Jeanne in her role as organist will have helped many to be "lost in wonder, love, and praise".

Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
...*David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.*

Which Bible character had no parents?
...*Joshua, son of Nun.*



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



Many thanks to those who have added their names to St George's merry band of mowers. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us over the cutting period.

QUOTES TO MULL OVER

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain
(Psalm 127:1)

Attempt great things for God. Expect great things from God (William
Carey, 1792)

Always remember: even if you're on the right track, you'll get run
over if you just sit there (Will Rogers, 1879-1935)

ALPHA HAS ARRIVED – COME AND SEE!

Yes it's begun.

But it's still not too late to join in.

Come and see!

Try it – I think you'll find the evenings very worthwhile.

Because they're all about what matters in life; what really matters. It's a rich feast - both physical and spiritual!

When: Mondays 7.00pm start, ending before 9pm.

Where: Grange Road Baptist Church.

See you there!



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**



A FURTHER QUOTE TO MULL OVER

“We are called to be contemplatives in the heart of the world by:

- seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, everywhere, all the time, and seeing His hand in every happening
- seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor” (Mother Teresa, writing about the Missionaries of Charity – but is it our calling too?)

ANSWERS TO APRIL’S PETER’S POSERS

1. STEVE MCQUEEN: 2.COURGETTES: 3.SAN FRANCISCO BAY: 4. RIVERSIDE (CHESTER-LE-STREET, DURHAM): 5. CHARLES GORDON: 6. TINTAGEL: 7. THE PRISONER: 8. GREAT EXPECTATIONS: 9. HOLT: 10. WHITNEY HOUSTON.

ST GEORGE’S DAY CENTRE
Every Thursday

10.30am – 2.30pm

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

Contact Hans Rackham on 01452 528939



PETER'S POSERS FOR MAY

1. Which actor appeared to have a wooden leg in the 1956 film Moby Dick?
2. How have vegetables been cut which are served Julienne?
3. Which mountain overlooks Rio de Janeiro and its harbour?
4. Who was the first black player to captain England's soccer team?
5. In Roman mythology, Neptune is the equivalent to which Greek god?
6. What is the only English language single word anagram of the word crouton?
7. Which TV character said, 'Live long and prosper'?
8. Which playwright wrote The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, and The Cherry Orchard?
9. What is the other name for Wildebeest?
10. Who had a 1960s hit with Let's Go To San Francisco?



FROM ST MARGARET'S

Well folks, it's me again, Kath and I have been doing our bit at St Margaret's, me on the brass and Kath on the polish. We decided that if we did the major clean before Easter we would be able to enjoy the services with a clear conscience. Keeping everything up together does seem to be an ongoing thing at our church, no matter how many times the floor is cleaned and the pews polished we always find more to do. We had some lovely people come into our churchyard the other day, Kath was watering the plants at the side of the entrance and I was just sorting out some dusters and a family spoke to Kath, the lady said what a lovely church and churchyard we had and were we

not proud of it. Of course we said yes, we were always proud of our church and of those who come to worship there.

As the weather is now getting warmer, Kath and I will be able to do some more clearing up in the borders, our friend David who lives next door to the church has cleaned up a grave that was in the hedge, I knew that it was there and so did Kath but we didn't know just where. We will have to make sure that we keep the hedge away from the grave. Apparently the grave was there before the trees were planted, we will have to cut the branches back a bit so that the grave is always visible. David is our friend and keeps his eye on the developing borders; we are trying to keep them wild life friendly; we have a grey squirrel, robins and many more small birds. I've seen a couple of rabbits bobbing about the churchyard as well. People also share our love of our churchyard and we have a lovely man called Phil who keeps our graves tidy. We do have a formal grasscutter but he doesn't always go around the graves, but we do appreciate all that our grass cutter does for us.

All I can say is thank you everyone who helps us keep our church and churchyard looking so good.

As Easter is almost upon us and I expect you are all doing lots of things I can only say that I hope each and every one will enjoy the Easter season. So until the next time it's goodbye from me and my mate Kath.

JILL PONTER

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
...because Noah was standing on the deck.

Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?
...yes, it's in the Bible. It says 'He-brews'

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hi friends,

I'm so sorry I missed the deadline for the magazine last month But I was in such a tizzy. I couldn't find my pen or pad. My mum borrowed it, where it went I don't know. At last I've got it and she's not having it back. Oh dear, oh dear I don't know where I am these days. I'm let out to see what's going on and when I try to come back in the doors are locked. My mum is nowhere to be seen. I can't get in to use that machine to talk to my cuz.

I'm sure my Auntie Jill came and they went out together when I wasn't around. It's hours before they came back. I mean a person could starve to death without sustenance! I finally managed to use the 'phone when my mum wasn't around. By golly what a row was going on. Somebody wasn't very happy, I could hear growls and hissing. I could hardly hear Misty because of the racket. Misty said that Harry was having a strop because someone was trying to take his job off him. Well, he's in charge of the writing down what is going on in the gang. I don't understand it really. I only have trouble with two felines trying to pinch all my food. My Auntie Jill feeds all and sundry so it's no wonder squabbles and fallings out occur. I don't know, whenever I speak to my cuz she's always got something to whinge about. A right Whingeing Winnie she is too. Sometimes I'm shut away in my mum's bedroom I think to myself Uh Oh its that other animal coming. A dog called Holly. She runs riot in my house, my home. I ask you luckily it doesn't come too often. You should hear my mum and Auntie Jill mooning over her. It makes you sick to listen to it!!

Still whatever floats your boat. When I'm let out of the bedroom I have to investigate; I can certainly tell you where it's been; she even pinches my toys, not that I play with them much, but they are mine! She has her own toys that are kept especially for her. So she can't have mine!! I have to have a scout around the estate to make sure that she has gone.

I shall have to have a chat with Misty to see what she is up to and tell her about being locked away again. It never rains but it pours, never

mind, I love the sunshine but the wind is flippin' cold. It blows right up my alleyway! My mum say's that it's a lazy wind as it doesn't bother to round you it just goes straight through you. It's a very very lazy wind if you ask me!!

Anyway I must finish now as I'm nearly running out of space.

Bye for now, hopefully until the next time.

JoJo

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Oh hi JoJo how the devil are you? Not so good, tell me about it Jo. Oh the same as me, I think, now Jo, Harry and me have been looking at that book thing that I write in, well, Harry writes in, but I didn't see what you had been up to. What, you didn't, well what do you know, your mum did it. Harry, JoJo says her mum hid the paper and the pen, she looked and looked but she just couldn't find them anywhere; but she did manage to get a pen and paper and she hopes that her mum will take it to Glenda so that she can put it in that book. I do hope that she puts some interesting stuff in her piece!

Harry my mum and Auntie Jayne were talking the other day about Harnold, he has been a bit naughty, he keeps hiding from his family and he keeps getting into the bedrooms; his mum isn't too fussed about it but when she can't find him she has to look all around the bedrooms, my mum and Auntie Marg are going to have a trip down to see Harnold, my mum says that Harnold is much bigger than me but then Harry every other cat I see is much bigger than me! Harry, my mum said that Harnold has got to go to that place to have a horse pill and a jab, you know Harry he must be one scared cat, but then I think he won't know anything about it because his mum hasn't told him. Do you think I should tell him? You don't think so Harry? Oh well, maybe not, Harry I don't know what you mean by that.

Harry, have you seen Luna, or Yasmin? I haven't seen them for absolutely ages. No Mist, I don't think Luna gets out much these

days, she said that her mum lets her out but she just doesn't feel like cavorting with all of us at the moment, but Yasmin, well, she has been around but as soon as she comes out her mum calls her and she has to go, but never mind look who's coming over the fence, Tiger and the Gingers. Well I haven't seen them in an age have you Mist? No Harry I haven't. Hi ya boys, Tiger lovely to see you, little Ging you ok now after you got sent to that place? Well Mist I was so poorly my mum had to leave me there, but I'm ok now, but I was not allowed out for ages so big Ging came to keep me company. It was lovely, my mum let him in and gave him a cushion to lie on, how about that then? Well Ging I wonder if I came round to your place if your mum would let me in and keep you company. Mist, I think that would be a big ask but you could try if you like. Ging, I think I'll stick to just keeping you company when you come around here, and what about you big Ging, how are you doing these days? Mist, I'm in the pink, I've been keeping my eye on little Ging, but I've been keeping up with the goings on with Tiger. So how is things with you Tiger? Ging I'm fine but my humans are driving me nuts, first I'm going on holiday, I go to Gran's house now and again and then I'm not going! I'm looking out for my small humans though, that dog is driving me round the bend, he's just like a Jack in the box that animal, his barking at everything that moves you know, including every leaf that falls. When they go out for a walk he trots into every puddle and rolls into some very unsavoury things that are on the floor, and then, he brings it all home with him, then my humans have to give him a bath! I can tell that that doesn't go down well but never mind I just look on and smile. Oh Harry, look who's coming up the fence, Tiger where is she where? Just coming along the fence Harry. Where is the glasses? Harry you've got the glasses on top of your head again. Oh yes, Tiger so I have. Oh look isn't she just something else Mist? Harry, get your chin off the floor and say tata. Oh yes, tata for now folks. Oh Yasmin lovely to see you, and it's tata from me Misty and the gang.

MISTY PONTER (Miss) and the Gang

Dates for your diary

Don't miss out

APRIL

Sun 30			EASTER 3 / White Box day
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Special Evensong

MAY - Pioneer Helen starts

Mon 1			EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
			Coffee Pot set up
Tue 2	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Holy Communion
Thu 4	7.00am		County Council Elections until 10.00pm in Small Hall
	10.30am	*	Holy Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Sat 6	2.00pm		The funeral of Bishop Michael at Gloucester Cathedral
Sun 7			EASTER 4
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Holy Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 8	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 9	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike's team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	12 noon	*	Interment of Ashes for the late Graham Franklin
	2.30pm		Mothers' Union – SH
	7.30pm		Guide meeting – SL
	7.30pm		Archdeacon's Visitation – St James, Upton Street
Wed 10	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee
	7.30pm		Benefice Standing Committee - Vicarage
Thu 11	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Sat 13			JUNE CROSSROADS DEADLINE
	10.00am		Messy Church
Sun 14			EASTER 5 – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee/

			cake sale/Messy church planning
Mon 15	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 16	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill’s team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 17	7.00pm		Singing Group in church
Thu 18	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 19	7.30pm		Gardening Club – MH
Sat 20			Children & Families Forum
Sun 21			EASTER 6
	10.30am		Parish Communion with Singing Group followed by coffee
	12.00noon		Private let of Centre until 3.00pm – MH
	12.30pm	*	Baptism of Harry Edward Ireland
	1.30pm	*	Baptism of Isla Mae Louise Essen, Bridey May Winter & Theodore James Overbury
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 22	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 23	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Jill’s team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 24	9.00am		June Crossroads print-off
Thu 25			ASCENSION DAY
	9.00am		June Crossroads collating
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.00pm		Parish Communion at St George’s
Fri 26	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group at St Oswald’s, Coney Hill
Sun 28			EASTER 7 / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
Mon 29			SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
			Coffee Pot set up
Tue 30	9.00am		Coffee Pot – Mike’s team – all welcome
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 31	7.00pm		Singing Group practice in Church

JUNE

Thu 1			Another special birthday for Eva, 101 today
-------	--	--	---

	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Sat 3	10.00am		Messy Church
Sun 4			PENTECOST
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion with Singing Group followed by coffee & Messy church planning meeting
	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

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

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 Weekly Prayer Time (in the Vicarage)	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 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 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 Benefice website; www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
Check it out!*

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