

CROSSROADS

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

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering



St George's

Sunday

Parish Communion at 10.30am

Tuesday

Parish Communion at 9.30am

Thursday

Morning Prayer at 8.15am

St Margaret's

1st Sunday

Family Praise at 10.30am and

Evensong at 5.00pm

2nd Sunday

Parish Communion at 9.00am

3rd Sunday

Evensong at 5.00pm

4th Sunday

Parish Communion at 9.00am

Thursday

Parish Communion at 10.30am

MAY 2018

50p

**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	
WEBSITE	Hans Rackham	Tel: 520851
	H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net	
ELECTORAL ROLL	Margaret Barber	Tel: 730182

ST GEORGE'S

CHURCHWARDENS:	Mike Brammer	Tel: 412204
	Sylvia Evans	Tel: 416184
TREASURER:	David Westcott	Tel: 302353
PCC SECRETARY:	Rosie Clifford	Tel: 520851
ORGANIST	Paula Rix	Tel: 01453 860903

ST MARGARET'S

CHURCHWARDENS:	Vacant at the time Crossroads was produced	
TREASURER:	Hans Rackham	Tel: 528939
PCC SECRETARY:	Vacant at the time Crossroads was produced	

THE VICAR WRITES...

Dear friends

Good News - Bad News; Real News - Fake News;

Who can you trust?

One thing's for sure: fake news isn't new. It's as old as Adam and Eve – each blaming another. And as the chief priests of 2000 years ago who put out the fake story that Jesus' disciples had stolen his body.

Truth is, each one of us can probably own up to providing a bit of fake news at some time in our lives ('wasn't me?')

What's not true is a lie. However 'white' the lie, it's black as sin. And we're all guilty.

Now that's bad news. But also good news. Because Jesus has taken the guilt.

So we're free of sin and shame. Free of condemnation.

God's grace at its most powerful; the most amazing news ever. What joy!

And it's not fake.

Yet neither is it real, till we accept it.

So don't be confused. Be encouraged; and thankful. Let Hallelujah be your song.

And live in the Truth. Trust in God.

As you do, may God bless you!

BRUCE

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

St George's

Matthew-James Noel Taylor

FUNERALS

Crematorium

Pam Whitmore RIP

Marilyn Lillian Connor RIP

Marion June Stearns RIP

St Margaret's

Miles John Jones RIP

INTERMENT OF ASHES

St Margaret's

Sheila Eagles RIP



The Diocese is holding a Festival for All over the summer with celebratory events all over the Gloucester and surrounding areas. The launch party is on Thursday 17 May from 4.00pm until 7.30pm at Gloucester Cathedral, College Green Gloucester, GL1 2LX. There will be fun for all ages – bring a picnic and enjoy live music, dancing, circus skills, sports, arts & crafts and more, in the grounds of Gloucester Cathedral. All activities are free and open to everyone

ST MARGARET'S A JOB WELL DONE!



It's great to report that the new roofs for the nave and porch at St Margaret's are complete at last, and the scaffolding is down. Our contractors and surveyor have done a great job, and we are all delighted with the result.

The south slope of the nave, exposed to the prevailing weather, is entirely of new slates from Gold Hill Quarry, Tetbury. This is a tough stone, and trimming and fixing the slates was hard going for our two roofers, who had to work through the winter. Let's hope and pray that it will stand the test of time and keep St Margaret's watertight for a good few generations to come. The appearance is rather "new" but will of course gradually tone down to blend with the chancel slates. On the north side and on the porch, the new covering is mostly of old slates salvaged and recycled from the previous roof, and the appearance is pretty much how it was.

That, however, is not the end of our work schedule. Any day now, more scaffolding will arrive, for the renewal of the tower roof. As you probably know, thieves broke into the tower in September last year and stole the copper roof. This was of minimal cash value, but gives us a very expensive replacement job. By agreement with the insurers, it will be renewed in stainless steel, coated to a dull finish, and the 1970s chipboard will be replaced in a more durable material.

And then... yet another task; we think we will have enough money left over to redecorate the church, and a start has been made by repairing three areas of failed lime plaster. With luck the church can be re-lime washed by the middle of the summer, and that will make a big difference to the interior. The job was last done about 1993.

All of which is a very satisfactory state of affairs, and we must once again express our thanks to all who helped make it happen. Half the cost of the new stone roofs came from the Government in the short-lived Roof Repair Fund run by the DCMS. There are now plans for a new type of state support for churches – so let us give HMG its due share of gratitude, bearing in mind that we also have the huge benefit of reclaiming the VAT. The Government has listened to what the Churches have been saying, and has delivered.

Our thanks too to the other grant makers; and to all our friends from near and far who have sponsored slates, laid on fundraising lunches, or who have helped in any way. Thank you too to the late Evelyn Challoner whose legacy gave us a foundation on which to make a

credible financial plan. Evelyn went back a long way and she loved St Margaret's dearly. I wish that she and other absent friends could see the completed work.

JONATHAN



St Margaret's in early April – the scaffolding has gone and the new nave roof can be clearly seen.

TONY MINTER: HOT NEWS

Many of us have recently had the joy of getting to know and love Tony Minter who's the pastor of Grange Baptist Church. Tony's now leaving for pastures new in Plymouth – and he's engaged to be married! The Grange Baptist congregation are inviting EVERYONE to a farewell lunch on Sunday 27 May from midday. Do come!



THE RESULTS

We're most grateful for the 23 responses received.

Most people responding said they read almost all the articles regularly. Most find the magazine good for keeping in touch (18), and informative (17). Half (only half?!) find it interesting (12) and helpful (11). Some find it devotional (7), amusing (7), inspiring (6); a few find it boring (3)! Scope for some improvement then...

Lots of answers about what people find most valuable. Top of the list are the 'getting to know you' articles (4), 'who's who' (3), vicar's letter (3) and simply 'everything'(4).

Suggestions for the future were very varied:

Content: photo club info – monthly recipe – more on local schools and community – less about cats – less padding – more from St Margaret's – articles on Christian books (yes please!) – more about different religions – why we mark the seasons and festivals with different colours – photos of events (several requests) including with families – poetry corner – more on the events run by groups who use church centre – and "I don't think we can improve on anything"

[The editor would love to include these, and looks forward to receiving loads more articles in his post box – including from YOU!]

Presentation: update the look – front cover (recent changes were welcome) – font (notice the difference?) – some colour photos – articles on Facebook (not just our website)

Circulation: copies for sale in local shops and library – for all the congregations / joint magazine for the Church in Tuffley – for all Tuffley people – "I always try to speak to new comers and offer them a copy, no charge first time"

And now for the competition entries: complete this sentence 'To make Crossroads more attractive and appeal to a wider readership, I would...'

Answers received:

...add more stories from other people"

...start again with the format"

...modernise its set-up"

...add content to appeal to wider audience"

...run a feature to include the youth"

...add reports from those using the Centre"

...add joculariry"

...add local trade adverts"

...put material on ALL forms of social media"

...Can't think of a better way than it's done now"

Our prize winner is Gloria Wiggall, for her response: "... ask local school children for contributions". Thank you all, and congratulations Gloria; a garden token is winging its way to you.

[Note from the Vicar]: On behalf of us all, I'd like to pay tribute to our sterling editor Darrell, who's been on the case for I don't know how long, and who perseveres through thick and thin every month. May we all express our tributes by deluging him with suitable offerings through the year please – and invite our friends across the community to join in the fun, for everyone's benefit – and for Darrell's encouragement! Thanks everyone.] Oh and while I have your attention, a big THANK YOU also to the faithful production and delivery teams!

Editor's comment

It is truly wonderful to see and read all of these comments and I am sure that they will all be taken on board and where possible implemented; after all it is **YOUR** magazine not **MINE** or the **VICARS**. However, it will be the same magazine if suitable articles are not received especially if people won't commit themselves to helping with the suggestions that are mentioned above. I noticed that there are quite a few 'new' article types mentioned so why haven't I had any sent through in the past. Don't wait for someone else to write it; write it yourself!

One aspect that I have already been looking into is the replacement of our current photocopier and duplicator (especially as they both broke down recently) I have received the following three quotes: -

To provide...

A4/A3 Mono copier, printer scanner 40 copies per minute purchase price £3,500.00

A4/A3 Colour copier, printer scanner 25 copies per minute purchase price £3,300.00

A4/A3 Colour copier, printer scanner 32 copies per minute purchase price £3,600.00

There would also be a Maintenance contract to fund which would be a charge for each copy that is made. (Our current equipment which is over 20 years old; is maintained via this system)

I am sure that we would love colour in our magazine but as usual what we would like comes at a price. I will however produce a colour copy of May's Crossroads and leave at the back of St George's and St Margaret's; I would be interested in any comments.



The speaker at our April meeting was Ron Powell who talked about bees and beekeeping. He has been keeping honey bees for about 10 years. He started his talk by explaining how dependent we are on bees as they are responsible for pollinating about 40% of our food crops. Even the ancient Egyptians took beehives along the river Nile as different crops required pollination.

Showing us examples of the smaller parts of a beehive Ron explained that the lower part has frames where the wax cells are used for the queen to lay eggs and the larvae are raised. A special grid keeps the larger queen bee from getting to the upper part of the hive where the worker bees, which are all female, make the honeycomb. The role of the male drone bees is to mate with the queen and also to control the temperature of the hive by creating air currents with their wings. There are no drones in the hive in the winter. They are either driven out or killed.

Honey production varies with the weather as the bees are unable to fly in the rain. If the weather is good a hive of 45,000 bees could fill 12 frames with honey in only a week. Yellow oilseed rape flowers are a favourite for the bees to visit. Having harvested honey the beekeeper must feed the bees during the winter with a supplement called ambrosia. Bees have to fight raids by wasps and hornets. The varroa mite is a bee parasite that beekeepers have to contend with.

After a very interesting talk we were able to buy jars of honey that had been produced by Ron's bees.

Next month's meeting is in the small hall at 2.30pm on Tuesday May 8th. The speaker will be Peter Covey-Crump and his subject is Charles Kingsley and The Water Babies.

SARAH KINGSCOTE

A QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Anything worth doing, is worth doing badly" G.K. Chesterton.
[Helpful advice for the perfectionists among us perhaps?]

ST GEORGE'S COFFEE POT

EVERY Tuesday morning from 9.00am until 12.00noon
St George's Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley

Hot drinks and food available until 11.00am

People to meet and to chat to in a friendly environment



BIG QUIZ CHALLENGE Arranged by St Paul and St Stephen's
Tuesday 15th May at 7.00pm; The Avenue Pub, Bristol Road, Gloucester
£5 per team entry; All donations to Christian Aid
Other prizes to be won
Nibbles provided; drinks available at the bar all evening
All welcome!!



Here at Tuffley Library, we are busy planning for the summer months ahead. Despite the amount of snow that we had at the beginning of the year, we are looking forward to sunshine, ice cream and mischief! Mischief? This year's Summer Reading Challenge (for children going into reception up to going into year 7) is themed "Mischief Makers". The challenge starts on the 14th July and will run over the summer, with plenty of activities and fun. Please watch this space for more information.

We're also continuing all of our normal activities for all ages from 0 – 120! Baby Bounce, Knitting Club, Computer Club, Homework Club...

If you would like to know what the library can do for you, please pop in and see us or call us on 01452 522160. Or even check out our social media pages.

ELIZABETH BEST
Library Assistant

ANOTHER QUOTABLE QUOTE

"God sends no-one away empty except those who are full of themselves" D.L Moody



BEETLE DRIVE ST GEORGE'S CENTRE

Suitable for all ages
6.00pm Saturday 12th May

£2.00 including refreshments
Drinks available

Tickets from Sylvia Evans 416184



BENEFICE

psalm

OF THE MONTH

In light of Hea Woo's story, let us reflect on Psalm 23 together this month. As we do, remember our Christian brothers and sisters like Hea who face persecution. And pray for God to revive us all in courageous love for him and readiness to share the good news of Jesus, the good shepherd who died that we all may truly live.

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely[e] goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

FOR ALL CAUGHT UP IN THE WAR IN SYRIA:

You may like to use this prayer from the Archbishop:

Lord of all power and might, wisdom and love,
You gave your only Son to live with the suffering and poor, to die for our sins
and rise from the dead so that we may live.
In your hands justice is perfect, and mercy and righteousness meet.
We pray for all caught up in the war in Syria; for the innocent who are poisoned
by its weapons and bereaved or wounded by its violence,
for those serving in our armed forces, for those who make decisions and order
actions.
Be merciful to the people of Syria, bring justice in their suffering, and let new
life arise where there is now destruction and fear.
We pray these prayers in the name of your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen



The final date for JUNE CROSSROADS
ARTICLES TO BE WITH THE EDITORS IS

SUNDAY 13 MAY

The earlier you can get your articles to the Editors
the greater chance of getting it published

Thank you for your help in this matter

ANSWERS TO PETER'S APRIL POSERS

1 The Bull; 2 Canoeing; 3 (Right angle) Triangle; 4 Sheffield; 5 Battle of
Copenhagen (1801); 6 Bagpuss; 7 Liverpool; 8 "21"; 9 Hydrochloric acid;
10 Bob Dylan.



THE LEPROSY MISSION

Gloucester Branch

Annual Fellowship meeting

THURSDAY 10 MAY at 7:30pm

COME AND HEAR

REGIONAL MANAGER: TREVOR GRANT

CHOIR: THE SILVER SINGERS

PARK STREET Mission Hall

Park Street

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments afterwards



St Catharine's, London Road has organised an Organ Recital for Saturday 9 June by Andrew Partington of Gloucester Cathedral. If you would like to, you can make a request for a particular piece of music, already on his play list are Elgar's Imperial March and Widor's Toccata. Your requests should be passed to Graham Dyer at St Catharine's as soon as possible. Andrew's recital will begin at 12.30pm on the 9th, admission is free and varied and lavish refreshments will be provided. (Their words not mine. Editor) I'm sure that if you contact Jo Sanders on 302438 or by Email on jsanders@stcatharine.org.uk she will have more information.



GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

Some of you have probably been getting emails from various organisations asking if you still wish to receive communications from them. This is all part of the new regulation on personal data (GDPR) which comes into force on 25th May this year. These regulations affect churches as well as commercial organisations and becoming compliant is mandatory and will not be a trivial exercise. GDPR gives individuals more rights and protection in how their personal data is used by organisations. It means that we have to be transparent about how we collect personal data (including names, addresses and phone numbers) and what we do with it. It also sets restrictions how we communicate with people, particularly on how we tell people about the church events, activities and fundraising. We also have to ensure that the data we keep is proportionate, accurate and up to date. Storage of all personal data whether on computers or on paper has to be secure and only kept if it is necessary to do so.

Importantly, we can only use personal data for the purpose for which it was collected. So we cannot use Electoral Roll data for anything else than compiling the electoral roll; we cannot use data about those who give Gift Aid for anything else than collecting the Gift Aid. Not everything requires specific consent as there are some other grounds for communication with people, but all 'marketing' communication requires consent. GDPR will affect many of the 'back office'

functions. The regulation requires us to have 'privacy by design' which means that data protection is not an add-on to existing ways of doing things. Rather our procedures and processes have to be based on privacy as a core principle. This all has to be documented because the regulation requires us to be able to prove that we are compliant (as opposed to the Information Commissioner proving that we are not compliant).

Over the next few months the PCC will be going through the way we hold data to ensure we are compliant with the regulations. You may be asked to give consent for us to send you information. If so, please do respond and 'opt in' to those communications as that will allow us to keep you up to date with what is going on in the church. We have a great deal to learn about GDPR, but should you have any questions, please send them through the PCC Secretaries of St George's and St Margaret's who will find someone to provide an answer for you.

So to sum up GDPR is a massive piece of legislation which affects us all. Both St George's and St Margaret's have to implement it so please be patient and cooperate with any requests you may receive from us. The Church like all organisations has to overhaul all its data systems; you may be asked to give your consent to something that you have already done; this may be just us using a 'belt and braces' approach. You may also be contacted by more than one person from the Benefice. So as I wrote early please be patient.

Should there be a member of St George's or St Margaret's who has a current involvement with GDPR we would very much like your guidance.

DARRELL

PETER'S POSERS FOR MAY

- 1 Voted the World's Best Restaurant in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 in which country would you find Noma?
- 2 Which is the largest planet in our solar system?
- 3 Which three colours feature on the national flag of Jamaica?
- 4 Who was the last emperor of India?
- 5 What colour is Kermit the Frog?
- 6 Who is the famous father of actress Angelina Jolie?
- 7 Which Australian city lies on the River Yarra?
- 8 Which element has the Atomic number of one?
- 9 In the play by Shakespeare, who died first Romeo or Juliet?
- 10 In which sport did Briton Jonah Barrington compete in the 60s and 70s?

Answers next month

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13-19 MAY

This year's focus is on helping people in Haiti build new homes to weather any future storm. Please join in prayer, and give generously. [Listen, look out and read elsewhere in this Crossroads for opportunities to support locally and in church]

A prayer for this year: *Holy God, in Your Kingdom the strong need the weak, the rich are transformed by the poor, the fortunate are welcomed by the homeless. Your Kingdom is built by those who expect their God to come. Amen*



Gloria and Bruce Wiggall's first Great Granddaughter Louise was born in Paris on Palm Sunday to Alice their Granddaughter.

Alice is married to Greg and is the daughter of Helen and Yves. Helen and Yves were married at St Georges by Hedley Ringrose. Alice lives in central Paris and Helen lives in Lille. Gloria and Bruce are looking forward to meeting Louise. Alice has a sister Christele.

Having part of their family in France is down to Helen learning French whilst at Grange School in the time of Roy and Joan Alderton who taught French as many of you may remember at Grange School. Helen after leaving Grange School went to Ribston Hall and then onto Reading University. During taking a year out she met Yves and the rest is history.

Getting
to Know You
BERT WELCH

Gloucester born and bred, Bert Welch has lived in Tuffley for over 50 years. With his wife Greta, he volunteered for many years with the night shelter, supporting the homeless. A long-time member of St George's, and a keen gardener, he celebrates his 90th birthday this summer.

Early years

Born in St Catharine Street, Gloucester, Bert and his family moved to Sweetbriar Street when he was still young. His father had a horse and trolley, used for carrying coal. The horse was tethered overnight on the meads near Westgate Bridge. His father knew Wally Morgan, (current Mayor, Steve Morgan's father), who lived nearby and was a local coal merchant. It was a close-knit community, greatly changed since rebuilding.

When he was five years old Bert went to St Mark's school in Worcester Street. The family attended nearby St Mark's church. Out of school he would enjoy playing hide and seek or tag in the street, or playing with his whip or top. The family would head to Bournemouth for their holiday; Bert recalls some of his happiest times on the beach there.

When he was ten the family moved to Sandhurst Lane, where the second of his sisters was born. Bert went to Longlevens School the next year, enjoying most subjects (but not Maths – a common theme in these stories!), playing football and cricket. He was to leave at fourteen to work with his father, then running a haulage business with six vehicles. Goods sent by rail were unloaded at the station and delivered by lorry. With the firm's drivers called up into the army, Bert's job was to direct the new drivers round the streets he knew so well.

With the army in the Caribbean

Bert's own call up for National Service came in 1946 when he joined the army, initially training at Colchester and then on Salisbury Plain, before being deployed to Jamaica and British Honduras. Bert travelled by banana boat, the trip taking two weeks. The ship's captain laid down strict rules. He was not having daily PT for the troops on his decks, nor were the troops to make their own beds or clean their own shoes. In his mind, the ship's crew were there to serve and wait on their army guests. Deck games and good food were the order of the day! No complaints there then! Once in Jamaica, life wasn't quite such a picnic, with further training, assault courses and marching. Fifty mile route marches in the heat were quite a challenge... His company was moved to Belize when Guatemala threatened to invade. Thankfully the threat did not materialize. Demobbed in 1948, Bert looks back on his time in the army as a great opportunity to experience a beautiful part of the world. It was during this time he met and got to know Tony Eagles, who also happened to be stationed in Jamaica.

Marriage and a move to Tuffley

Bert returned to work with his father, now working on behalf of West Midland Farmers. In the 1950s Bert began to drive petroleum tankers, delivering to farms and schools and other venues within a seventy-mile radius of Gloucester. It was a role he enjoyed and continued for 38 years until his retirement in 1992.

It was through his work he was to meet Greta. Greta had grown up in Lancashire, where her father was a coal miner and her mother worked in a cotton factory. Greta too worked in a cotton factory, with its noise, dust, and constant moving belts, until she contracted TB and lost a lung. She was advised to move to somewhere healthier, eventually ending up in Gloucester, working for British Road Services, and lodging with a friend of Bert's.

Married in 1962, they set up home in a bungalow in Gainsborough Drive, eventually moving to a larger house in Nympsfield Road in the 1970s. They welcomed sons, Paul and Darren, who were christened at St George's, both later being confirmed and becoming servers. The boys attended Harewood School, while Greta became a dinner lady at Grange School. It was Greta who encouraged Bert to consider confirmation, a step he took after Paul and Darren were confirmed.

A keen gardener, Bert has always made the most of his garden, growing a range of vegetables including cabbages and peas, beetroots and parsnips. For many years, he supplied produce and plants for the annual church May fair. It has given him great pleasure over the years – and still does. He says he would be lost without it.

Bert has over the years been part of the team who have cut the grass round the church. On one memorable occasion he noticed ripped pound notes amongst the cuttings. Unwittingly he had mown over a stash of money. No-one ever found out why it was there. Fortunately, the bank was able to replace the torn notes. He also cut the grass in St Margaret's churchyard with Malcolm Martin. Bert has also been responsible over the years for calling people to worship by ringing the church bell. He recalls with a smile the occasion when the rope snapped...

Serving the homeless

A woman of strong faith, Greta began to help at the city's night shelter for the homeless, making a large pan of soup each week, which Bert took to the shelter at the Barbican centre. The road outside the Barbican centre was narrow and not far from the police station. On one memorable occasion Bert returned to his car to find a parking ticket. He took this up with the police who were understanding, cancelled the fine and noted Bert's car number plate to ensure it never happened again. Keys to the shelter were held by prison staff, where back-up was always on hand.

Former Bishop John Yates, his wife Jean, and former vicar, Hedley Ringrose, led the initiative at that time. On a Saturday evening Bert and Greta would visit the Tesco store in Northgate Street to collect food which was nearing the end of its shelf-life. They took it to a freezer in the Bishop's garage for later use. Eventually the shelter would move to Southgate Street and then to the Mariners Hall. Greta and Bert served the homeless for ten to fifteen years in all.

Looking back

Greta had a gift with words and would often express her faith and thoughts in poetry. Bert is grateful that God brought her to him, and that, despite her early TB, she lived a long life and her death from pneumonia, when it came was not protracted. He was pleased to have had eleven years of retirement with her before her death. He is thankful too for the way his life has worked out, for his parents and family and for his lifetime good health.

Sons, Paul and Darren, live close by giving Bert the opportunity to keep in touch and see his grandchildren. Nevertheless, the days can be long now. Sometimes Bert will take himself out for a walk round the local roads. He often is among those who come to Communion on a Tuesday morning, staying on for a chat at Coffee Pot. And with the better weather coming, there is the vegetable patch to sow and tend.

His parting words: "Have faith in everything you do".

THY KINGDOM COME

The archbishop is calling us all to join in another 'global wave' of prayer this year, between Ascension Day (10 May) and Pentecost (20 May). Please take part as you can.

Almighty God,

your ascended Son has sent us into the world

to preach the good news of your kingdom:

inspire us with your Spirit

and fill our hearts with the fire of your love,

that all who hear your Word

may be drawn to you,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of our salvation, hope of all the ends of the earth, we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That the world may know Jesus Christ as the Prince of Peace, we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That we may be bold to speak the word of God while you stretch out your hand to save, we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That the Church may be generous in giving, faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming,

we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

That the day may come when every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, we pray:

Thy kingdom come.

FROM PRISON CAMP TO BUTLINS

Every Easter, Butlin's Minehead is host to Spring Harvest – a convention for Christians of all backgrounds to celebrate with worship and study and fun. Paula and Bruce's visit including a very moving encounter with a North Korean lady named Hea Woo who had endured indescribable conditions in a prison camp.

Hea was in a cell designed for 50 but occupied by 200 other women. She told us they had to sleep on the concrete floor in temperatures down to minus 30 degrees, without blankets. One small toilet area had no window in case prisoners escaped (imagine the stench?). Disease and malnutrition were rife. Some died of starvation.

Hea's husband was killed, and one of her daughters died. Hea wanted to praise God but she was tortured for it. She would cry to God 'I can't stand this any longer' but she sensed the Lord's reply 'think of the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross' and this humbled her and gave her strength to bear the torture. Psalm 23 became her comfort and strength.

Hea wanted to speak about her faith in Jesus, but she was scared that she might be executed. So she asked her Lord to guide her to one person to speak with, and she shared simply from a Bible verse: "believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). As she continued to pray and share, she found women did turn to faith. Her next problem was to find a place for them to worship, in secret. Where better than the toilets? Guards wouldn't go near, but God was there already.

The interviewer asked Hea, 'how did you not doubt God's goodness?' She replied, 'I've never doubted God's love for me, he was in my heart. I saw the worst of humanity but also the best of Jesus Christ.'

The interviewer commented that we in the West find it so hard to share the good news, yet she was tortured simply for mentioning the name of Jesus – how could this be? She replied 'I prayed to the Lord, I want to be salt and light in this place. I was able to thank God that I had something to share; and for giving me the faith to share with other people'.

What message does Hea have for us who live in a free world without persecution? 'Give thanks to the Lord for freedom of faith, always, even when you face difficult times. Don't ever be discouraged, only be joyful. And meditate every day on Psalm 23, then you'll never be discouraged. I am praying for revival of the Western church, through you.'



I have been trawling the diary of dates in the Benefice to come up with a date for this proposed variety show. It's not easy so I will just have to pick a date and hope that the acts already signed up are available and that those intending to be in the audience can make it and that I can arrange someone to cater a supper. So in trepidation I have chosen Friday 20 July.

This will be a fundraising opportunity for St George's so if the date is suitable for you, your family and friends please buy tickets and come along and support us.

If you would like to take part do talk to me or if you would like to suggest someone who might, with a little push, join in the fun.

I have now taken down the list, mainly so those that have already signed up can't cross their names off!!

DARRELL



Well hi everyone, it is me, that moaning Minnie who does the cleaning at St Margaret's with her mate Kath. We haven't done so much cleaning lately, just on Thursday mornings but we have decided that Monday 16 April we will start to do some deep cleaning. I have been picking up the Brasso over the past couple of weeks so I'm all ready to go! I know that Kath has been getting the wax polish for furniture; we will have to make sure that we have plenty of dusters too. We had a wonderful procession of witness on Good Friday with Jenny Hyett leading her pony all the way; a good time was had by all. I did Messy church on 31 March it was very well attended and we were extremely lucky to have Bruce and Helen with us as between them they told the children the story of Easter in a way that the children could understand. The children made cards and other things which told the story. To me Easter is so moving, a really special time of the year. We had our first Light of Easter at 8 o'clock in the evening but I'm afraid that I didn't make that service this year as I had had a very busy week and I fell asleep in the chair and when I woke up it was too late to go but I'm sure for everyone who went it was a delight.

We must say congratulations to Gloria Wiggall on becoming a Great Grandmother for the first time; we send our very best wishes to her Granddaughter Alice after the birth of a daughter. Congratulations must go to Jenny and Gerald Hyett on the birth of another Grandson, her daughter Rosie gave birth to a son so best wishes and love from all at St Margaret's to them all. Well my friends, that's about all the news for now, but our love and best wishes must go to Eileen Hyett who has been in hospital, so please get well soon Eileen and hope to see you in St Margaret's, so once again goodbye until the next time.

JILL PONTER



A small committee has been regularly meeting these past six months to plan for the next Tuffley Festival community event. This year we are moving to a new site which will be on the Tuffley Rover's field which is sandwiched between Cole Avenue and Tuffley Lane. It will be held on Saturday 7th July starting at 11:00am, and running through to 3:45pm. (Make a note in your diary!)

As is quite normal at this stage, there is the usual problem of stallholders and choirs/bands not getting round to confirm whether they are attending or not which is quite frustrating, and means having to constantly chivvy people up to reply. We are forever hopeful there will be a good number of stage 'acts'

We are proposing to have the 'BIG SING' again this year; a mass singing of all the choirs/groups attending, to close off the event.

Confirmations received so far include:-

- The Gloucester Brass Band will be playing in the first hour.

- The crew of Red Watch will be bringing their Fire Engine.

- The Library Bus will also be there

- The dance group Ambitions will be performing a couple of sets.

As usual, there will be plenty to amuse the children, including Bouncy Castles, giant skittles, face painting and trampolines etc.

So, don't forget the date and do tell your neighbours and friends...

7th JULY

Hans Rackham
Chair, Tuffley Festival Steering Committee



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hi everyone,

Boy have I had a time of it. I had to go to that place again as I hurt my foot and was limping rather badly. Auntie Jill didn't take me as she had to take two other cats to have their pins. I went in someone else's vehicle and I moaned all the way there! Honestly I was bundled in a box, the door was slammed shut and that was it. I was asleep on my mum's bed minding my own business and then she dragged me by the scruff of my neck and shoved me into the box. I complained all the time but it made no difference.

When the doctor looked at my foot she said she couldn't see anything so I had to have a pin and I also had to have some medicine to take. Auntie Jill came every morning to give it to me; I tried running away but it did no good because I was wrapped in a towel and held tight.

When I could I spoke to my cuz to tell her all about it. Do you know I had to tell her to be quiet so that I could finish my story? She still kept butting in and I had to ask Harry to tell her to be quiet and listen. She did for a while but it didn't last. In the end I just had to listen to what she had to say. It wasn't worth the hassle. She did speak to me later to tell me she was sorry.

I've heard that Misty and me have got to go to that horrible place again to have another pin. What for I don't know. All I get told is that it's for my own good. Mind you I don't believe my mum at all. Auntie Jill and mu mum will probably be going out again leaving us on our own again! I did wonder if we might be having another visit from that horrible d-d-d-dog; but it didn't happen. No double it will in the not too distant future.

Do you know, I was out in my own domain and this other feline had the temerity to come onto my patch? I soon put paid to that I can tell you. Some I will allow in, but others, not a chance. I sometimes have a black cat come round; I tolerate him as long as he doesn't try to steal my food. I'm not having that.

Others sometimes come round to the patio doors, you should hear my mum talking to them and Auntie Jill is as bad. Soppo pair! I'd better close now as my paw is aching; I've run out of think and it's time for a cat nap. Bye for now, your friend

JO JO WHITTLE (MISS)



BILLY GRAHAM – DEAD AND ALIVE!

Ten quotes from Billy Graham on death and heaven:

1. "The moment we take our last breath on earth, we take our first in heaven."
2. "My home is in heaven. I'm just traveling through this world."
3. "One day you'll hear that Billy Graham has died. Don't you believe it. On that day I'll be more alive than ever before! I've just changed address".
4. "I've read the last page of the Bible; it's all going to turn out all right."
5. "We will be completely changed when we get to heaven and so, too, will those we couldn't get along with while on earth. If God can make the lion and the lamb lie down together, we can trust him to take care of our fractured relationships as we enter our heavenly home."
6. "Knowing we will be with Christ forever far outweighs our burdens today! Keep your eyes on eternity!"
7. "The Bible says that as long as we are here on Earth, we are strangers in a foreign land. There are enemies to be conquered before we return home. This world is not our home; our citizenship is in heaven."
8. "Heaven gives us hope; hope for today and hope for the future. No matter what we're facing, we know it is only temporary, and ahead of us is heaven."

9. "Believe that Christ died for you. He suffered for you. He won the battle over sin for you. He rose from the grave and was victorious over death so that you can live forever."

10. "The second coming of Christ will be so revolutionary that it will change every aspect of life on this planet. Christ will reign in righteousness. Disease will be arrested. Death will be modified. War will be abolished. Nature will be changed. Man will live as it was originally intended he should live."

Source: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/10-brilliant-things-Billy-Graham-said-about-heaven>

Billy Graham died on 21 February aged 99.



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Harry what on earth are you doing? Well it's like this Mist. I was coming over to see you and there was a whoosh and I nearly got run over. Run over, Harry? Who or what nearly ran over you? Well Mist, it was a small feline being chased by a large feline. But Harry you look alright to me. A little bit ruffled but on the whole not too bad, but Mist I don't know where my pen went and I will have to get my glasses sorted out and my satchel, have you seen Mist. Look at it scratched and muddied up, I ask you.

Harry you look fine to me; you know we had that white stuff a little while ago. Yes Mist. Well Harry where did you say it comes from? It comes from the sky; its frozen rain and when it keeps falling they call it snow. Yes, but Harry when I put my foot in it my foot got frozen. I know Mist, it's because snow is freezing. Yes but Harry I just don't know where it all comes from. I mean my mum goes out in it and doesn't seem to mind a bit, I go out and freeze my toes off. I know my mum gets me in when she thinks I've had enough, but really Harry when it gets cold out here it gets cold.

Harry see if any of the gang are around, I've just got to give Jo Jo a ring, Tiger said she would try and get over to see us. Oh hang on that might be Jo Jo now. Hiya Jo how are you, you what? I don't believe it, your mum did that, so what did you do? You hid under the bed. Jo don't you always hid under the bed? So

what did you hear the Jo? No not again Jo, you will have to be banished to the bedroom again. Jo how long will you be banished for this time? All day Jo, you mean from morning until the evening Jo, Oh that's not fair and the dog will have full run of the house. Jo you should say something to your mum. She'll just shove you up there anyway. Well Jo, I'd show off and go in a mood forever. Have you heard how the rest of the felines are getting on? Harnold is doing fine; his mum took him to that place again you say. I bet he enjoyed that. He had to have a pill and a pin! I bet that hurt. It does me when I have to go. My mum told me that Auntie Di's cats are staying in a bit more as it's been so cold. They're just waiting for the warmer weather. Okay Jo, I know your mum's coming so I'll speak to you again soon. Oh I will Jo. See you.

What did Jo Jo say Mist? Not much Harry, she said the rest of the cats were fine. Harnold went to that place for a pin and a pill. But she was asking about you, she wanted to know how you were getting on. I told her you were a bit flustered but on the whole you were Okay. She said she hoped that you hadn't forgotten your glasses or your pen. Oh by the way I found another pen for you. Oh Mist thanks where did you find that one? On the side Harry, I just took it out of the jug it was in. Anyway say tata Harry. Oh tata folks see you next time and its goodbye from me and the gang until next time.

MISTY PONTER (Miss) &
THE GANG

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL

Sun 29			EASTER 5 / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by Prayers for healing & coffee
	6.00pm		Youth Alpha Group at English Martyrs Church
Mon 30	9.15am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, Mike and Laura 'Goodbye At Last'
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up

MAY

Tue 1	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 2	4.00pm		Benefice Standing Committee – V Please note change in meeting's start time

Thu 3	8.15am		Morning Prayer in St George's
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society – 12 Ryelands
Sat 5	10.00am		Messy Church 'Pentecost Party time'
Sun 6			EASTER 6
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	11.45am		Messy Church planning meeting
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 7			May Day Bank Holiday
			Coffee Pot set-up
Tue 8	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot
	9.30am		Parish Communion
	2.30pm	M	Mothers' Union – SH
Wed 9	7.00pm		St George's Singing Group practice
	7.00pm		Gardening Club Committee – SL
Thu 10			ASCENSION DAY
	8.15am		Morning Prayer in St George's
	9.15am		Open the Book at Harewood with Sylvia, Jill, Rose and Jenny 'A Special Promise' & 'God's Friend'
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
			Day Centre trip to Highfield Garden Centre
	7.00pm		Ascension Day Service at St George's
Sat 12	6.00pm	M	Beetle Drive until 9.00pm
Sun 13			EASTER 7 / SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion with St George's Singing Group followed by coffee
Mon 14	9.15am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, David and Dianne 'The Helper Arrives'
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set-up
Tue 15	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Thu 17	8.15am		Morning Prayer in St George's
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 18	7.30pm		Gardening Club – MH
Sun 20			PENTECOST
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by coffee
	5.00pm	*	Evensong
Mon 21	9.15am		Open the Book at Grange with Hans, Roger and Sue 'The Kind Stranger'
	9.00pm		Coffee Pot set up
Tue 22	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Wed 23	9.00am		June Crossroads print off
Thu 24	8.15am		Morning Prayer in St George's
	9.00am		June Crossroads collating
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
Fri 25	2.30pm		Quiet Prayer Group at St George's
Sun 27			TRINITY / White Box day
	9.00am	*	Parish Communion
	10.30am		Parish Communion followed by prayers for healing and

			coffee
	6.00pm		Youth Alpha Group at English Martyrs Church
Mon 28			Spring Bank Holiday
			Coffee Pot set up
Tue 29	9.00am	M	Coffee Pot
	9.30am		Parish Communion
Thu 31	8.15am		Morning Prayer in St George's
	10.30am	*	Parish Communion
			No Day Centre

JUNE

Sat 2	10.00am		Messy church ' <i>Stairway to Heaven</i> '
Sun 3			TRINITY 1
	10.30am	*	Family Praise
	10.30am		Parish Communion
	1.30pm		Private Let of Centre

(M) Read more information 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

There are occasionally changes to the weekly timetable so please refer to Signpost, the weekly newsletter for details of any changes. Crossroads and Signpost are now available for free on our website; www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

SO CHECK IT OUT!

SPRING by Brian Grabham

Tell tale garden items foretell the arrival of Spring
 Many pre-spring growths appear before Spring is actual
 The acceptance of the approach can be seen when roadside
 trees blossom profusely other growths can be more factual
 Many pot flowers push forth their green shoots in preparation
 of flowering; when the weather is correct this usually guarantees
 That Spring actual is in growth

A little bit of humour to finish with...

A lady walks into a library and says, "Can I have a burger and fries please?"
 The librarian says, "I'm sorry, this is a library."
 So the lady whispers, "Can I have a burger and fries please?"

'Doctor, doctor I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'
 'That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome.'
 'Is it common?'
 'Well, it's not unusual.'