

The Benefice of Gloucester St George with Whaddon  
**St Margaret of Scotland, Whaddon**  
*Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering ...*

**Newsletter Autumn 2017**



Dear Friends

**Reroofing news ...**

The reroofing work is in full swing, work having started in earnest on 7<sup>th</sup> August. You can see from our picture above that things look a little different. The temporary roof has proved its worth, as the weather has been distinctly changeable. The roof is now completely stripped and the timber and stone repairs are nearly finished. Some of the felt and battens have been fixed, but we now have a slight delay. The reason for this is that we have been advised to change our choice of quarry and our stone slates will now be from Goldhill Quarry near Tetbury. They will be delivering stone slates quite soon but in an unpredictable flow of varying sizes according to what comes out of the ground – that is the nature of the product.



**Timber repair in progress**

Spare a thought for the contractor's foreman and clerk of works who will have to plan from day to day as slates become available for the graduated courses, and keeping the weight roughly balanced from one side to the other. The plan is that the south slope will be of new slates, and the north (the side which faces the road) will be a mixture of new and salvaged slates. Meanwhile the timber repairs have been done to a very high standard, and in close consultation with David Newton, our inspecting surveyor, and Sinclair Johnston, our structural engineer.

**Discoveries**

The work is a golden opportunity to discover a lot more about our little church. No serious study of the building and its archaeology has ever been undertaken, so far as we know. A friend of St Margaret's has kindly covered the cost of a tree ring survey, from which we hope to pin down the date of the rafters of the nave roof.



**Our surveyor David Newton (left) with Andy Moir, who was carrying out the tree ring survey**

We won't have the results for a few weeks but it is possible they will reveal the actual year in which the timber was felled. Our picture shows the survey in progress. The rafters include assembly marks scratched on them – at first sight a jumble of intersecting lines, until you discover the odd shorthand of the mediaeval joiners. More news in due course.

## **A set-back**

Sadly we have just had a set-back in that thieves have broken into the tower and stolen most of the 1970s copper tower roof. The scrap value of the copper was minimal – say £50 at most. Alas it will cost a four figure sum to replace - though we don't yet have a figure, and we don't yet know how much the insurers will cover. You can imagine how we felt on discovering this.

## **A project completed - the new noticeboard**

Our new roadside noticeboard is finished and looks superb. The joinery is by Tim Jeffree, who made our new gates, and it was painted and lettered by Graham Rolfe of Hucclecote. We are most grateful to Brookthorpe & Whaddon Parish Council and to Roger Western for their generous help with this project.



## **Heating upgrade**

Despite having our hands full with the roof work, the next project is ready to start. The PCC has decided that the heating must be improved. It is inadequate in cold weather, but much more seriously, it is hazardous. The present heaters get very hot to the touch and we have already had one accident where a crawling toddler burnt his hand. The new underpew type will be far more powerful, but the body of the heater does not get hot. We have two on trial in the church. The heaters themselves are being paid for as a memorial gift, for which we are hugely grateful.

## **Harvest Service**

This Newsletter should be just in time for Harvest. We have a special Harvest Praise on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 10.00am**. There will be the traditional hymns and also the chance to discover at firsthand what goes into preparing some basic food ingredients. Do come along to this special service, and please bring something for the harvest display at the altar step. This will form part of our prayers. Nothing will be wasted – perishables will go to Emmaus and tinned food etc to the food bank.

## **Candlelit Carol Service**

It is of course much too early to be talking about Christmas, but just to note that our Carol Service is on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.

We will be decorating the church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December starting at 9.15am – all helpers welcome!

## How you can help us sustain the life and work of St Margaret's

Please remember St Margaret's in your prayers, asking God for his blessing on all that we do in His name. Please pray especially for Helen McGeoch, our Pioneer Minister, who is doing great work in the schools and in the wider community of Tuffley. We are always hoping and praying for new members. We need to know what people have to say about the forms and times of worship they find most helpful. If our services are not right for you, please say what you would prefer.

We always need help with the cost of maintaining the building, the churchyard and our ministry. The best way is by standing order, which helps us to budget and makes tax reclaim easier. But any type of giving is welcome. You may wish to consider a legacy – please ask if you need advice about how to do this.

## Thank you for your help and support.

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Website for St George's and St Margaret's: [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk)

NB: you can download our monthly magazine Crossroads on the website

## Normal Service Times

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	10.30 am	Family Praise
	5.00 pm	Evensong
2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.00 am	Sung communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	5.00 pm	Evensong
Thursdays	10.30 am	Holy Communion