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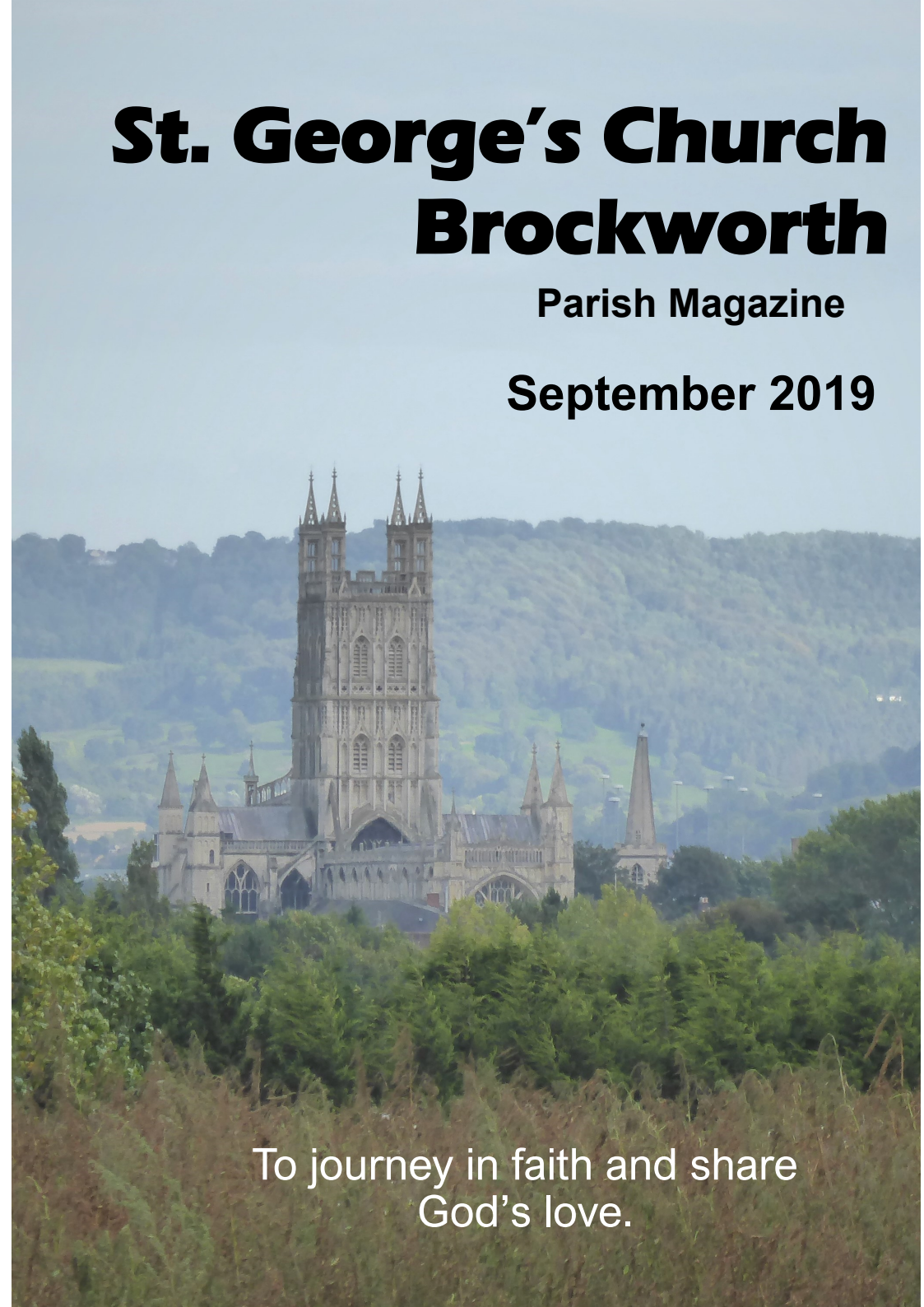
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# **St. George's Church Brockworth**

**Parish Magazine**

**September 2019**



To journey in faith and share  
God's love.

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**Facebook:** Search for "[St George's Church Brockworth](#)" and 'like' our page

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**The article deadline for the October issue is 15/09/19.**  
Please email [stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)  
If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church Office.

### Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

Any ecclesiastical or political views contained in this magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC or the Editor. This church promotes good practice in work with children and young people. It has a current and active Child Protection Policy that's available to view at St George's Church & St George's Church Centre. St. George's, Brockworth is a Fair Trade Parish and supports the Parish Giving Scheme.

**THIS MONTH'S COVER:** Gloucester Cathedral viewed from the West



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## Parish notes for September 2019

I do hope you've all had a good summer! Even if you don't have school children, September always seems to be a "back to normal" month. Our own Parents and Toddlers group will restart on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and I'm sure our lovely team of helpers will enjoy welcoming some new faces. The Monday evening Bible study group does not restart till 23<sup>rd</sup>, but otherwise it's very much "business as usual".

It might be a good time to consider doing something new – church cleaning, brass polishing, grass cutting, gardening, odd-jobbing, refreshment providing after church on Sundays, being a server or a sidesperson, or perhaps you're an organist or pianist. If you think any of these things could be something you could do, please get in touch – see one of the Churchwardens, PCC members, or pop into the office, call 01452 550554, or email : [churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk). We'll be very pleased to hear from you.

Our summer fun afternoon, Ice Cream Sundae, was a huge success. It was a real joy to welcome so many families who came and sampled the delights of the bouncy castles, arts and crafts, games, exotic animals, cream teas and a visiting fire engine. Even the weather was kind! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and run the afternoon.



## PCC and Vacancy news

By the time you read this there will have been an advertisement in the Church Times for our new vicar and the Parish Profile will be available for everyone to read on the St. George's Church website, ([www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk](http://www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk)). In the meantime, we are very grateful to our retired clergy, our readers, visiting priests and churchwardens for keeping services running smoothly.

The PCC continues to meet as usual during the vacancy and our last meeting was held in July, with business discussed as follows:

Rita Fix is our safeguarding officer, and this important topic is always on the agenda. The churchwardens report on the general running of the church

in the vacancy and on the fabric of the church. An on-going issue is how best to tackle the cracks in the West wall and the North door. The structural surveyor has given advice and a builder is looking at the plans. Derek Harbottle, our treasurer always reports to the meeting and this time asked the council to think about how best to spend some of the money in our missions' fund. We also received reports from the sub committees – fundraising, church centre management, communication and from our Deanery synod representatives. Work has been taking place to replace bearings on one of the bells in the tower. We are still in need of a permanent organist. The next meeting will take place in September.

Pat Hartwell, Lay Chair

### A Prayer for us all during the vacancy

Lord Jesus, Faithful and Good Shepherd to us all, during our Vacancy, please walk alongside to guide, encourage and protect us and those who have the responsibility of leadership and Ministry at this time, and be with those who assist you to choose our new priest.

We look forward in hope for whoever comes to St Georges, so that together we may serve the people of our parish, building on the work and witness of all those who served in this parish before.

May we journey in faith and share God's love in trust and faith, to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen

## A Choirboy's Guide to Vicars

By Reginald Frary (reproduced with the approval and kind permission of The Sign publication which is part of Hymns Ancient and Modern)  
– to be taken with a pinch of salt!

**Dynamic progressive** vicars are on the increase these days. They are easy to spot – in fact you can't miss them. They are generally elephantine characters who blunder into parishes and make a clean sweep. That is, they alter everything that has been done before – whether it's for better or worse. The vicar keeps on saying and doing Dynamic Progressive things, and in due course he or she is noticed by the Bishop, who soon hustles them off to a nice job in a cathedral or fashionable church. And from then on, they settle down happily, leave things exactly as they are, and are never any further trouble to anyone.

**Musical** vicars are often not very musical at all. But the less they know about music the more they strive to create the impression that they are experts, and they take a great deal of trouble in finding out what they are supposed to like and dislike, to be in the prevailing musical fashion. Thus, they feel it their Christian and artistic duty firmly to suppress all popular hymns that happen to be Victorian. Despite the vicar's efforts at enlightenment there is, however, always someone who dies and has instructed that a famous Victorian hymn, which is popular at football matches, shall

be sung at their funeral. And with disappointment and sorrow the vicar allows this, bravely striving to keep the expression of pain from their face and discreetly withholding their own voice from the swelling and dreadful sound.

**Artistic vicars** often suffer a great deal, particularly when they take over new parishes and find the church full of dreadful Victorian stained-glass windows representing saints with dinner-plate halos and long red and blue garments that look like night-shirts. Then, of course, there are the heavyweight brass lecterns. Artistic vicars often don't like these, but there is always someone who has polished and cherished the brass lectern for 40 years and refuses to give up the job. There is a chance that an artistic vicar will find a fellow spirit in their parish and then they do feel happier and find that they can endure the surrounding Philistines with a slightly more cheerful and forgiving spirit.

**Public-spirited vicars** are not often seen in church. They are too busy getting themselves elected onto town committees and into local papers. ("Vicar hits out at antiquated sewerage works".) Public spirited vicars are, of course, very keen on their flock's being public spirited also, with the result that half the congregation find themselves members of every conceivable organization in the town, and the other half form a sort of opposition group and remain in a perpetual state of inactivity and disgrace.

## From the Registers— June and July 2019

### Baptisms

Sunday 9th June : Oliver Jon Henderson

Sunday 30th June : Ivy Coles

Saturday 6th July : Boris O'Connor

Sunday 14th July : Harry and Logan Cox

Sunday 28th July : Teddy Evans

*May God, who has received you by baptism into His Church, pour upon you the riches of His grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may be daily renewed by His anointing Spirit and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.*

### Marriages

Saturday 13th July : Rachel Griffin and Jonathan Paterson

*Faithful God, giver of all good things, give these couples wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their lives together. May they dwell together in love and peace all the days of their life, seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens and sharing one another's joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

### Funerals

Monday 1st July : Joyce Grace, Gloucester Crematorium

Monday 5th July : Russell Arthur, Gloucester Crematorium

Monday 22nd July : Jean Adams, Gloucester Crematorium

Friday 26th July : Carly Ellis, StGeorge's Church followed by Cremation & Interment of ashes.

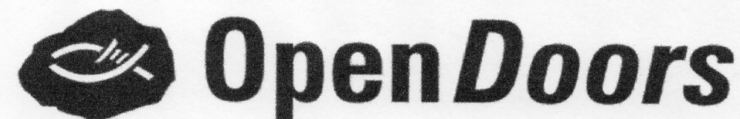
*"I am the resurrection and the life" says the Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Amen*

**Please also remember all who are sick or bereaved and who need our prayers:** *Heavenly Father, giver of life and health; comfort and restore those who are sick and bereaved, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## September 2019 Daily Bible Readings



Monday 2nd	1 Thess 4.13-end	Luke 4.16-30
Tuesday 3rd	1 Thess 5.1-6,9-11	Luke 4.31-37
Wednesday 4th	Col 1.1-8	Luke 4.38-end
Thursday 5th	Col 1.9-14	Luke 5.1-11
Friday 6th	Col 1.15-20	Luke 5.33-end
Saturday 7th	Col 1.21-23	Luke 6.1-5
Monday 9th	Col 1.24-2.3	Luke 6.6-11
Tuesday 10th	Col 2.6-15	Luke 6.12-19
Wednesday 11th	Col 3.1-11	Luke 6.20-26
Thursday 12th	Col 3.12-17	Luke 6.27-38
Friday 13th	1 Tim 1.1-2,12-14	Luke 6.39-42
Saturday 14th	1 Tim 1.15-17	Luke 6.43-end
Monday 16th	1 Tim 2.1-8	Luke 7.1-10
Tuesday 17th	1 Tim 3.1-13	Luke 7.11-17
Wednesday 18th	1 Tim 3.14-end	Luke 7.31-35
Thursday 19th	1 Tim 4.12-end	Luke 7.36-end
Friday 20th	1 Tim 6.2b-12	Luke 8.1-3
Saturday 21st	1 Tim 6.13-16	Luke 8.4-15
Monday 23rd	Ezra 1.1-6	Luke 8.16-18
Tuesday 24th	Ezra 6.7-8,12,14-20	Luke 8.19-21,
Wednesday 25th	Ezra 9.5-9	Luke 9.1-6
Thursday 26th	Hag 1.1-8	Luke 9.7-9
Friday 27th	Hag 1.15b-2.9	Luke 9.18-22
Saturday 28th	Zech 2.1-5,10-11	Luke 9.43b-45
Monday 30th	Zech 8.1-8	Luke 9.46-56



Naomi\* is a pastor's wife from Indonesia, a country with rising religious intolerance. Besides some violent attacks on churches, Christians experience discrimination and verbal abuse. Most of the members of Naomi's church are from a Muslim background, and face oppression from their families. "Families who are forced to leave home for accepting Jesus have to live in other church members' houses," she says. "Their relatives only want them back when their economic situation improves. Their children are mocked at school. But we stand strong." As many Indonesian Christians struggle with poverty, Open Doors runs projects to help improve their economic situation. With this support, Naomi is not only investing in new skills for herself, but also passing on what she learns to other women in her church.

"Last year I attended a handicraft workshop held by Open Doors. Then I passed on my new skills to my church members .... after the workshop the ladies were able to increase their income by \$20 a month." Naomi has also been learning tailoring at the Women's Training Centre built by Open Doors. "Every Sunday I show my work to my church members. I also want to train the youth in my church with new skills. That way they can be economically independent, create jobs and be a blessing in our village. I have many dreams now because of Open Doors. Thank you." You can watch Naomi's story online at: [www.opendoorsuk.org/prayernews](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/prayernews)

\*name changed for security reasons  
Please continue to pray for our persecuted sisters and brothers.



## Anyone for tennis?

Peter Williamson writes ....

It happens every year at this time of year. When it's all over they tell us how many ice creams, bottles of champagne, and strawberries and cream have been eaten; how many folk have attended; how many hours of sunshine and hours of rain there were; and we know who the new Wimbledon champions are. Someone has become, or maybe has become again, world famous. Days and days of waiting, either there at Wimbledon or watching the television/computer screen; head left, head right; groans of despair, roars of applause, the odd tantrum or two maybe, chalk flying, judges and umpires scowled at or groaned at; and those annoying words – fifteen, thirty, forty, deuce, game – oh! And I nearly forgot, *love*. Have you ever stopped and thought about the method of scoring at tennis? I find it most odd. The first single point you gain and it's fifteen right away. You gain another point and it's thirty. Then you score again and it makes – forty (why isn't it forty-five?). Then it's not fifty or fifty-five or anything numerical at all, it's *game*. Unless of course you both have forty, and then you drop numbers and *deuce* is called. After that it's *advantage*. Then there are *aces* somewhere in the game. Oh! I nearly forgot, there's this business of *love*. And they say

cricket is difficult to understand!! On a tennis court love equals nothing – or to put it another way, love means you have lost. All I want to say is this, while love on the courts of Wimbledon means you have lost, in the courts of heaven love means you have won; indeed, there you can only win by love. In the world today, there is an increasing tendency to denigrate love, to count it as a failure, something weak, something of little worth. The game of life goes to the strong and powerful, those who pile up the scores no matter how they do it; and love is to be shunned. The Bible says there are three things which last for ever. Faith, hope and love. Folk today tend to laugh at such sentiments – consider them to belong to a past age. The things that last for ever, they say, are wealth, fame, position, power and possessions – not love. Such folk have no time for a service of love – they are quite prepared to take advantage; they don't want to be hampered by umpires and judges. Rather they want to win at any price and for them love means losing, as it does in tennis. You win a fifteen per cent rise in salary, with thirty minutes a day off working hours. With a forty per cent increase in dividends – however that has all been achieved. Let those who will, talk on foolishly about love. I believe in love and I'm making my plea for greater love to be shown in relationships, in church, in society – that sacrificial love as lived and

## HOW FOODBANKS WORK

### Providing emergency food to people in crisis.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

### FOOD IS DONATED

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations and food is also collected at supermarkets.

### FOOD IS SORTED AND STORED

Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks.

### PROFESSIONALS IDENTIFY PEOPLE IN NEED

Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

### CLIENTS RECEIVE FOOD

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and can signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.



## Why God Created Children.....

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children:

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve, and the first thing He said was "Don't!"

"Don't what?" Adam replied.

"Don't eat the forbidden fruit," God replied.

"Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve..... we have forbidden fruit!!"

"No way!"

"Yes way!"

"Do NOT eat the fruit!" God said.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Father and I said so!" God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after the elephants. A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was furious!

"Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?" God asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"Then why did you?" said the Father.

"I don't know," said Eve.

"She started it!" Adam said

"Did not!"

"Did too!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set, and it has never changed.

**BUT THERE IS REASSURANCE IN THE STORY!**

If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be too hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

From Sheila Watts

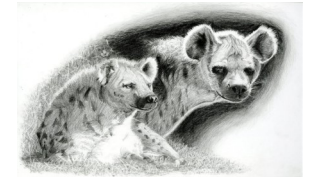
taught by Jesus and because of which he died. I'm doing it with the inner confidence that when love meant for Him a cross and it looked as though He had lost, in fact He had won – game, set and match for all time. And all who try to follow Him and His ways are now on the winning side – whether you are playing tennis, any other sport, or, and most

importantly – the game of life.

*Prayer for the day:* Loving Lord, help us day by day to live in your love and to demonstrate it in victorious living. Amen.

Louisa Messenger, one of our readers, introduced us to this creed during one of her talks. It is taken from a book called "Christianity Rediscovered", by Vincent Donovan who worked with Masai people in East Africa.

## An African Creed



We believe in one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know Him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the bible, that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes. We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

## **BIBLICAL CITIES** **CHAPTER FOUR:** **DAMASCUS**

Dear Readers, you will recall my last epistle was on Jericho and I informed you that there were 58 references to that City in the Bible. Can we exceed that with references to Damascus, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world? It was founded by Uz, the son of Aram the son of Seth. Of course, there are 100 references in the Bible. To summarise in 2 pages of the Parish Magazine means that we will only touch the surface. So, I start with what is to me the most important reference; that of the conversion of Paul (Saul) referenced in Acts. He who was a persecutor of Christians and breathing threats and murder to the disciples, until journeying to Damascus and as he neared his destination suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

This city is memorable as the scene of Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-25). The street called "Straight," in which Judas lived, in whose house Saul was found by Ananias, is known by the name Sultany, or "Queen's Street." It is the principal

street of the city. Paul visited Damascus again on his return from Arabia (Galatians 1:16, 17). Christianity was planted here as a centre (Acts 9:20), from which it spread to the surrounding regions. As Dylan Thomas commenced "Under Milk Wood" with the words "To begin at the beginning" I should have commenced with the earliest biblical reference to Damascus. That is in Genesis, chapter 15, verse 2 which mentions Eliezer of Damascus. I quote, "But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'" Eliezer was the son of Nimrod who in turn was the grandson of Noah and who became king of Mesopotamia.

Moving on, I omit the references in Chronicles and turn to Isaiah, Chapter 17, verses 1-3 for my next quote: "An oracle concerning Damascus. Behold, Damascus will cease to be a city and will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer are deserted; they will be for flocks, which will lie down, and none will make them afraid. The fortress will disappear from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus; and the remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel, declares the LORD of hosts".

There are many references to the destruction of Damascus in the book of Isaiah resulting it becoming a feeble city. Another important

## **More Ramblings**

I had to go to hospital for some tests. On arrival I was early and the first to sit down and fill in the long form. Gradually the waiting area began to fill, and I thought how British we are. Each person or pair sat with empty seats around them. Each lot making sure they had their own personal gap of at least two chairs either side of them. What is it about us as a people that we are afraid to sit by someone else? We always head for the gap or spare seat. I know we do like to have our regular seats and get annoyed when they are taken by a stranger or worse still – someone who knows we always sit there!

Starting my first job I went to church, arriving early, and sat right in the middle. Within minutes I was poked in the back with a walking stick. "Young



Woman, you're sitting in my seat!" The whole church was empty, but I chose the wrong one – welcome to the Church of England I thought, then apologised and moved. I'm glad things have changed, and we give visitors a warm welcome, they can even sit in our seat.

Liz Hopkins

## **100 Club WINNERS**

### **July**

1st Bob Mawson  
2nd Anne Banting  
3rd Trish Proffit

### **August**

1st Christine Bartholomew  
2nd Anne Mawson  
3rd Lizbeth Harbottle



## A REFLECTION

What are your feet like? Well, I am having terrible trouble with mine!! The younger among you reading this magazine probably don't have any trouble at all. But those of us "of a certain age" suffer!

How many of you visit a Chiropodist, or have one come to your home? They see your nails are alright; they will deal with corns and callouses; and generally spruce up your feet.

Well, my trouble is, my feet are costing me a fortune!! Let me explain, I have bunions (as many of you will expect), and those bunions are forcing my big toes over to my other toes, and making them double up, as it were. So, when I say my feet are costing me a fortune, it is because the shoes that fitted me 6 months ago, no longer do. They are rubbing the joints of those toes which are being forced up to the top of my shoes – even my sandals. Do any of you have that trouble? I could sell you shoes which I have hardly worn!! I know, some people have far more trouble with their feet than I do with mine, if they have diabetes.

Feet are so important, aren't they? They enable us to walk, run (if we are young), and make sure that we can do all we need to do each day. Feet are mentioned many, many times in the Bible. Jesus' feet were nailed to the Cross. And one text which comes to mind is to be found in Isaiah Chapter 52 and verse 7. That verse says, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns".

Isaiah was talking about the Jews who were going to come back from Babylon after exile. God says that when the people return to Zion (Jerusalem), they will be able to tell others of the good news of salvation, and bring peace. They will be able to proclaim that their God reigns.

It is a privilege to be able to share God's Good News with others. It is a privilege to be able to share with others the love of Jesus, and of His redemption, salvation and peace. And God says that the feet of those who bring good news to others are "beautiful".

In that lovely hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal, two of the lines say: "Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee".

God loves beautiful feet. He looks beyond the corns, the callouses and the bunions, and looks to see if they are being used to help others. Feet will be on show in the summer months, when, in the heat, they will be bare. Many feet will get sand between their toes.

But, when you next look at your feet, and I look at mine, let us, like God, look beyond their shape, and ask ourselves whether they are going to the people and places where someone is in need – whether they are going where Jesus wants them to go.

I wish you all a happy summer. Enjoy the long hours of daylight. And each day let's all thanks God for all that we see around us and proclaim that "Our God Reigns".

Margaret Newman

text on Damascus appears in the book of Kings. After Solomon's death, Israel was divided into two kingdoms, and Damascus increased in power. At different times, both Israel and Judah made pacts with the ruling kings of Damascus (1 Kings 15:18–20). Eventually, this led to Damascus dominating both Hebrew kingdoms. For the remainder of the Old Testament, both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel remained entangled with Damascus in battles for control.

In conclusion, what do we know of Damascus in 2019, it is the capital of the Syrian Arab Republic located in SW Syria and is the country's largest city with a population of just short of 3 million?

There is so much more that I could write on this on this sadly, continuously war-torn city. that I will continue in the next issue.

Allan Delves.



**Listens, Observes and Acts.**

Hope you all had a good summer break!  
What an enjoyable evening was had  
by those who attended St. George's Church  
on a lovely sunny evening in July  
when Gordon led our Summer service by conducting  
Evening Prayer  
(everyone agreed it made a nice change to have Evensong!)  
Gordon also presented **Jan Bowkett and Jean Corless**  
with **50 YEAR MEMBERSHIP** certificates.

Many congratulations to you both!  
The service was followed by a delicious 'Bring and share' supper  
(isn't it amazing how with no prior knowledge of what each person is  
bringing we always have a good selection on the buffet table?)

The 'Wave of Prayer' service this year is on  
Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> from 2.00pm until 2.40pm  
in St. George's Church centre Chapel.  
This year we will be praying for the Diocese of  
**Bari** in the Province of Nigeria,  
the Diocese of **Dar es Salaam** in the Province of Tanzania,  
the Diocese of **Durgapur** in the Church of North India, the Diocese of  
**Gloucester** in the Province of Canterbury, (in MU terms), the Diocese  
of **Ilesa** in the Province of Nigeria and the Diocese of **Khartoum** in the  
Province of Sudan and South Sudan.

Please do try and attend this prayer service to keep the  
wave of prayer circling around the world.

**God of welcome. Plant in us your seed of compassion;  
Take our mustard seed of faith;  
Nourish it with your Holy Spirit,  
that confidence will grow within us to speak  
your words of invitation in order that vision  
will grow and commitment will flourish. Amen.**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**September 2019 (cont'd)**

15th	8.00am	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b>
	10.00am	<b>Parish Eucharist: Church</b>
16th	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
18th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
19th	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	10.00am	Flower Arrangers: Church
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
22nd	8.00am	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b>
	10.00am	<b>Parish Eucharist: Church</b>
	11.45am	Baptism: Church
23rd	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.15pm	Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting: Hall, Church Centre
25th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
26th	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	10.00am	Flower Arrangers: Church
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
29th	8.00am	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b>
	10.00am	<b>Parish Eucharist: Church</b>

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **September 2019**

1st	8.00am	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b>
	10.00am	<b>Family Service: Church</b>
	11.30am	Baptism: Church
2nd	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
	(Toddlers restarts on 9th)	
	(Bible Study resumes on 23rd September)	
4th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
5th	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	10.00am	Flower Arrangers: Church
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
7th	4.00pm	Wedding: Church
8th	8.00am	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b>
	10.00am	<b>Parish Eucharist: Church</b>
9th	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
11th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
	7.00pm	PCC meeting: Lounge, Church Centre
12th	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	10.00am	Flower Arrangers: Church
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church

At our Branch Meeting this month on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30pm in St. George's Church Centre hall, we look forward to welcoming our own Pat and Phil Hartwell who are going to give us an insight into some of their wonderful exotic '**Holiday highlights**'

Everyone is welcome to come to this meeting,  
I am sure it will be very enjoyable!  
(Judy and Mary are serving refreshments)

**Heavenly Father, as we meet as members of Mothers' Union, may we know your presence and hear your word.**

**Teach us to know how best to serve you, not just in the needs locally, but in those of the wider world. Fill us with your spirit, that we may have the strength to follow your way.**

**We pray with sure hope and assurance. Amen.**

(A prayer written by Beryl Strange, Cardigan branch, Province of Wales)

Many blessings, Rona.

### **MU Summer of Hope Appeal**

Educating mums in Burundi. Bonding families in Northern Ireland. Uniting communities in South Sudan. These are just a few examples of what Mothers' Union does for people every day worldwide. By joining in this year's Summer Appeal, you can ensure Mothers' Union can continue to change the lives of thousands across the planet.

From our founding over 140 years ago we have remained steadfast to a simple aim; to help more families, parents and church groups turn their hopes and prayers into reality. This is only possible with the incredible contributions of people like you.

Our branch enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea hosted by Jan Bowkett, assisted by Enid Lovell and raised £130 for this appeal.

**May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

# The Ultimate Chain Letter

Do you remember chain letters? Sheila Watts was amused by this one and asked us to share it.....

If you are unhappy with your Vicar, simply have your Churchwardens send a copy of this letter to six other Churches who are tired of their Vicar. Then, bundle up your Vicar and send him to the Church at the top of the list in the letter. Within a week, you will receive 16,435 Vicars and one of them should be all right.

Do not break the chain! One Church did and got their old Vicar back!

*(Though we'd be happy if that happened to us!!)*

**Situations Vacant**

Due to declining health Bob and Joy are no longer opening/locking the church and, as of 11th November, Remembrance Sunday, will be giving up sidespersons' duties as well.

If you can find it in your heart to help with either or both of these duties, we know how much it will be appreciated.

It has been a privilege to serve St George's church in these capacities.

Joy & Bob Curzon

*A very big thank you, Bob and Joy, for your many years of cheerful and efficient service in both these roles. Ed*

# Family Service on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

This was my first 'Family Service' at which I preached. After reading the Gospel set for that day, Luke, chapter 12 verses 13-21, and remembering that it was a service where children would attend, I came up with the idea of using the appropriate Open the Book story including congregation participation to replace the children at the school assemblies. Rona helped me by holding up the sign, 'Mine – All Mine', which was repeated numerous times during my talk. Obviously, I am biased, but I thought it went extremely well and thank you to the 6 children who joined in with such enthusiasm. Attending schools that have Open the Book assemblies, it was second nature to them, and they all received an "I helped Open the Book" sticker. I hope that everyone else also enjoyed it. I received many complimentary comments after the service.

Gordon

**Don't be shy!**

This is *your* magazine. We need your interesting stories, facts, jokes, poems, quotes, recipes, brain teasers, photos, notices or anything else that others would enjoy reading.

All contributions will be gratefully received by the church office or, preferably, please email:

**stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com**


**The DEADLINE  
for the October issue  
is 15th September**

**Thank you!**

**Help Guide Dogs  
for the Blind**

Please save your plastic milk bottle tops (they can be any colour, but **only milk bottle tops**) and pass them to Jenny Farmer or into the Church office to help raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind

Thank you!





could you be a  
**HOSPITAL  
CHAPLAINCY  
VOLUNTEER?**



Training Course for New Volunteers  
Autumn 2019

starting on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**  
Eight Wednesday mornings, 9am - 12:30



**at Gloucester & Cheltenham**  
according to room availability

Full details and booking forms  
available on request.  
Telephone 0300 422 6200.



On the 18<sup>th</sup> July, I, along with many other people who volunteer at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital received our long service awards. In my case, it was for 5 years, but there were others who had completed 25 years!! In the Chaplaincy department, we are blessed with some wonderful, dedicated people, Chris Hickson being one of them. I am very proud to be part of the team.

As most of you know, the last two years have been difficult for me, but I have been very blessed with my role in the hospital, along with the sheer joy of the choir I belong to and my ministry as Reader, where, along with Gordon, I continue to serve my Lord and you.

All praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
God bless you and yours,  
Louisa

## Bishop Rachel shares her sabbatical experiences

Published: July 22, 2019

I am just coming to the end of two weeks in Tiberias on the shore of Lake Galilee. It has been a special time of rest, prayer and reflection, particularly focusing on Christ's encounters in the Gospels.



I have deliberately chosen not to visit lots of places as this has primarily been a time of quiet, however, we have had a few days which have included some significant encounters in different places, including worshipping yesterday with Christians in Shefa' Amr.

Last week we took the opportunity to visit Sindyanina a unique non-profit organization led by a team of Arab and Jewish women working to create social change from the ground up. They produce olive oil and other food products, as well as



Come and sing!!

It may seem a little early to think about Christmas but we are planning to put together a choir for Christmas services. All very welcome! More details in next month's magazine, but you can register your interest now with our retired clergy, Lizbeth Harbottle or by contacting the Church Office. Rehearsals will start in October.



**POOR BUT BLESSED OLDEN DAYS**

We met and we married a long time ago,  
We worked very long hours when wages were low;  
No telly, no wireless, no bath; times were hard;  
Just a cold water tap and a walk in the yard;  
No holidays abroad, no carpets on the floors;  
We had coal on the fires and didn't lock the doors.  
Our children arrived, there was no pill in those days,  
And we brought them up without any state aid.  
They were safe going out and they played in the park;  
And old folk could go for a walk in the dark.  
No Valium, no drugs, no L.S.D.,  
We cured most of our ills with a nice cup of tea.  
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,  
We felt we were well-off with a couple of bob.  
People were happy in those far off old days;  
Kinder and caring in so many ways;  
Milkman and paperboy would whistle and sing;  
A night at the pictures was all one mad fling.  
We all got our share of struggle and strife,  
We just had to face it, it was the pattern of life.  
Now I'm alone I look back through the years;  
I don't think of bad times, the trouble and tears;  
I remember the blessings, our home and our love  
And that we shared them together, I THANK GOD ABOVE.

Anon

A little thought.....

Your talent is God's gift to you; what you do with it is your gift to God

Leo Buscaglia

weave baskets. In all of this they are “*enhancing Arab-Jewish cooperation, promoting Fair Trade, creating economic opportunities for Arab women, and assisting local growers and producers.*” Interestingly, they provide the olive oil which LUSH use in their products.

Sindyanna resonated with other projects I have seen this year in both Egypt and Bosnia, in which women are being enabled to flourish and bridges are being built across divides, and I particularly love the fact that the transforming work of Sindyanna is based in Kanna (Cana) where Jesus turned water into wine.

Today, on the feast of Saint Mary of Magdalene and the 4th anniversary of my consecration, Guy and I visited Magdala. I found the archaeological excavations and the new church surprisingly poignant, and it was good to be alone in the Mary Magdalene Chapel where I repeated the declarations I made at my consecration and continued to pray for the Diocese of Gloucester.

This time of sabbatical continues to be a great gift and I continue to keep you in my prayers with thanksgiving.

Bishop Rachel

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. “My problem,” explained the curate, “is that I sleep very slowly.”

## **BARNABAS CHARITY** – working for persecuted Christians.

The earthquake and Tsunami in Indonesia last year caused massive destruction including many church buildings. The following Sunday, one congregation of 98 families worshipped in tents, but there was not room for everyone. After the service they discussed the situation and some members donated materials to rebuild. They collected roof materials, wood and cement – it was sacrificial giving and they started to build a wooden structure – but it was temporary and had no walls. Imagine how great was their joy and thanks when they heard that Barnabas would give them a multi-purpose hall to provide safe shelter for the congregation.

Pray for all Christians that they may be kept safe from persecution.

MML

### **MARY, MARTHA & LAZARUS**

Martha welcomed and worked hard  
And worried about so many things  
Especially that Mary didn't.

Lazarus lived again and found fame,  
And shared supper with the guest  
Who called him from the grave.

But Mary....  
Mary listened and sat at His feet,  
And filled the house with fragrance  
In anointing Him.

Martha served,  
Lazarus honoured,  
But with her hair and  
her heart  
Mary worshipped  
The Lord.

By Daphne Kitching



## **A GARDEN MYSTERY**

A garden is a mystery  
It makes me question "why?"  
The plants I nurture with such care  
Just shrivel up and die?  
While seeds that I don't know about  
All vigorously thrive  
And grow like fabled beanstalks  
From cracks within my drive!



By Nigel Beeton

### **A prayer for someone special**

May the Love of the Spirit Uphold you;

May the Peace of the Spirit Refresh you;

May the Joy of the Spirit Uplift you;

May the Light of the Spirit Shine on you;

May the Holiness of the Spirit Rekindle you;

May the Spirit renew Your innermost being;



Amen



## Events and training

More details for all these events at  
[gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

### Free social media training

Tuesday 10 September, 9.30am to 4pm at  
4 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LR  
Bring your laptop and log ins for your  
church's social media accounts and find out  
from the national Church's digital team  
about social media trends, writing for the  
web, dealing with online negativity and  
how to use Facebook and Instagram. Light  
lunch provided. Book your space online at  
[www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/free-social-media-training-gloucester/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/free-social-media-training-gloucester/)

### Ride and Stride

Saturday, 14 September

How many miles could you cover in one  
day? The Gloucestershire Historic Church-  
es Trust has put out a challenge to see  
who can be sponsored to visit the most  
churches, on foot, bike, horseback, driving  
or public transport. Find out more from  
Glenn at [ride-and-stride@speracc.com](mailto:ride-and-stride@speracc.com)

### Gloucestershire deaf community church

Third Sunday of each month  
(excluding August). Next one is  
Sunday 15 September, 3.15pm  
St Christopher's, Lincoln Ave, Warden Hill,  
Cheltenham. GL51 3DD  
For more information contact the Revd  
Stephen Morris at  
[spadework22@gmail.com](mailto:spadework22@gmail.com)

### Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at  
[klclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:klclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**,  
view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our  
website [gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

Please do share this invitation with  
11-18 year olds that you know

### Catalyst Youth Celebration

Living out God's adventure  
Saturday 12 October, 7pm to 9pm, food  
and chill from 5pm at St Andrew's,  
Churchdown  
Connection, worship, prayer, inspiration  
Speaker is Liz Bewley from OneLife with  
Bishop Rachel. More information from  
[barrie@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:barrie@thedoor.org.uk) 01453 756745.

### Life party

Saturday 9 November, 2pm to 5pm  
All Saints' Academy, Blaisdon Way,  
Cheltenham GL51 0WH  
It's a huge celebration of all that we have  
achieved three years into our LIFE vision.  
Food, drink, dancing, singing, storytelling,  
sports, games, face painting and much  
more. For all in our worshipping  
communities (churches, chaplaincies, fresh  
expressions, families and schools).

### Walk with me

Friday 8 to Sunday 10 November  
Yarnfield, Staffordshire  
Enjoy fellowship and prayer with others  
exploring lay and ordained vocations.  
Learn what studying theology is about and  
hear from trainee ministers and others  
who have responded to God's call. Visit  
[churchofengland.org/ministry-events](http://churchofengland.org/ministry-events)

 **DIOCESE OF  
GLOUCESTER**

**September 2019**

**the  
messenger**



engagement

## A church for everyone?

This month we are looking at how welcoming our local  
churches are and what you could expect if you're going.  
**The Revd Canon Dr Tom Clammer** often ministers in  
churches in this area and uses a wheelchair. He shares  
more about how three different churches have shown  
welcome and taken useful steps that help him to access  
worship.

"Beautiful, ancient, historic buildings can be difficult to access. One way  
that churches have made a big difference to me is listing accessibility  
arrangements on their website or on A Church Near You. It's always best  
to be honest about whether a building can be made accessible and to  
make the information as easily found as possible. **Gloucester Cathedral**  
has disabled spaces, wheelchairs available to borrow, lifts and hearing  
loop facilities. It explains which areas are accessible and inaccessible  
clearly on the website. This really makes a difference when you are  
planning your visit, but naturally not all churches are this well resourced.

"**St Stephen's in Cinderford** advertises on the website that there is  
disabled access and that the toilets include disabled facilities. I know that  
many other churches provide these facilities, but when you are going  
somewhere new, it's really helpful to know in advance what is  
available.

"**St Luke's in Tutshill**, where I regularly preach, has recently completed a  
reordering. They ensure that there is a suitable space for me to sit with  
my wife for worship, as well as arrangements for taking holy communion  
which is vital to my feeling of welcome and belonging in a church.

"A growing number of churches across the area are thinking about access  
for those with different challenges to accessing church. If you're keen to  
visit church but are not sure about accessibility, do give your local vicar a  
call (details on [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)) to find out what's available."

## Dementia Songs of Praise: *Remembering the past, engaging in the present*



The Revd Canon Nikki Arthy and her pastoral team in Gloucester City and Hempsted became increasingly aware of a number of people in their worshipping communities living with dementia. They wanted better to understand and support those who have dementia and the people who care for them.

Nikki said. "We wanted to understand dementia better and how we could welcome those living with dementia into our church building and so we arranged training to become more informed. One of the things to come out of that training was an idea to start a monthly Songs of Praise for those with dementia and their carers.

"We sing lots of old hymns that people love and trigger memories. We have had some lovely feedback, with one carer telling us that it's the only thing the gentleman she looks after will get out of bed for. Memories may fade, we may become muddled, but we are always held in the memory of God who loves each and every one of us. Our responsibility as a church is to reach out and support those living with dementia and their carers, as well as going out into our communities and supporting those living with dementia as well."

The Barnwood Trust is a local charity that focusses on inclusion of people living with all sorts of disability. The Barnwood Trust run an excellent programme of free training, which is open to everyone, that help us think through how to ensure that everyone is included in our church and community events: [www.yourewelcome.to/workshops](http://www.yourewelcome.to/workshops)

### Fingerspelling session

Gloucestershire Deaf Church organised a fingerspelling session to help people learn a new skill. It was planned as part of the FestivALL, a month of inclusive activities across Gloucestershire, encouraging people to meet, share and learn from each other. People who went along learned the deaf manual alphabet which can be used for basic communication. For more information contact Stephen Morris on [spadework22@gmail.com](mailto:spadework22@gmail.com)

## More than welcome: disability training

Saturday 12 October, 9.30am to 4.30pm  
St Bartholomew, Coaley GL1 1 5EB

If you are part of a worshipping community and would like to find out more about supporting the full participation of disabled people at your church, you might be interested in the **More than Welcome: disability training**. It's on Saturday 12 October, 9.30am to 4.30pm, at St Bartholomew, Coaley GL1 1 5EB. Despite one in six people in the UK experiencing disability, all too often churches don't know how to respond. And those who do, can find themselves stuck in old, unhelpful ways of doing things.

*"When you talk to disabled people, you'll hear that nine times out of ten, it's attitude, not architecture that says you are welcome."*

*Extract from the 'More than Welcome' training brochure*

[gloucester.anglican.org/more-than-welcome-disability-training-gloucestershire](http://gloucester.anglican.org/more-than-welcome-disability-training-gloucestershire)

## Taking care of your mental health with Scroll Free September



This September we are getting behind the Royal Society for Public Health's Scroll Free September campaign. It's a chance to take a break from social media and find out what you could do with that extra time in your day.

**Social butterfly**—take a break from social media at social events

**Night owl**—give up social media after 6pm

**Cold turkey**—give up all personal accounts for 30 days

**Sleeping dog**—give up social media in the bedroom

**Busy bee**—take a break from personal accounts at school or work.

Social media can take its toll on our self-esteem and lead us to focus on looking a certain way. #Iedentity helps us to recognise that who we are is much more than how we look. Taking a break from social media might be just what you need to help put life back into perspective.

[www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/scroll-free-september.html](http://www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/scroll-free-september.html)