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# St. George's Church Brockworth

Parish Magazine

February 2019

*To Journey in Faith and Share God's Love*

## How to contact *your* St George's team

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Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4ET  
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**Email:** churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk](http://www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk)  
**Facebook:** Search for "[St George's Church Brockworth](#)" and 'like' our page

**Vicar:** Reverend Jane Walden – 01452 862114,  
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**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Rita Fix 01452 550554

**The article deadline for the March issue is 15/02/19.**  
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: Snowdrops.**



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## Parish Notes for February

Christmas may seem a far distant memory now but as we are still in the season of, and there has not been a magazine since, I would like to offer huge thanks to all who helped with any of our events or services. One way or another we welcomed many people to St George's and encouraged them to join us again soon.

A note for your diaries; Easter is not until 21<sup>st</sup> April this year and so Ash Wednesday is later than is often the case. It is on 6<sup>th</sup> March and there will be the usual 9.30am Eucharist with imposition of ashes and also a 7pm Eucharist also with the imposition of ashes.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March there will be a Parish Quiet Day for Lent, at

Brownhill Monastery.  
You will find details and a sign up list at the back of church.

Thanks to all who returned Smartie tubes full of coins; almost £1500 will have been raised for church funds. This is a good and gentle way to raise money and so perhaps it could continue through the year. What better reason to treat yourself to a tube of Smarties.

Our Portaloo facility is still much used and appreciated but we have little funding remaining. It costs approx. £20 a week to keep and maintain so if you feel able to make a donation towards this, then please speak to Derek or Jane.

And finally .....

My Dentist used to be a pie maker before she became a Dentist. She's not a very good Dentist but she does offer a good range of fillings!

(Thank you, Gordon!)



## A letter from Jane...

What does 2019 hold for you, what are your hopes, your fears, your expectations?

For me, as most of you will by now know, it holds retirement and all the associated emotions that brings with it.

What I am retiring from is stipendiary (paid) parish ministry, but when I was ordained priest, it was a lifelong commitment and so after six months or so to get used to this new stage of life, I will ask the Bishop for permission to officiate which means that I can help out in various parishes where there is a need, or follow a different path of ministry entirely. To date in my life, God has directed me gently and wisely and I trust Him to continue to do so; if I did not, then it would be even harder to leave Brockworth where I have walked my journey of faith with so many wonderful people.

I hope that whatever your year holds for you, God will be part of it, because whoever we are, whatever our role in life, there is nothing God wants more than to be included in it.

A piece of advice which is good for all of us to take on board is to "take one day at a time". Don't worry about yesterday, it cannot be changed, or about tomorrow, why waste today thinking of tomorrow.

If hymns are your thing perhaps this advice brings one in particular to mind: 'New every morning is the love'.

As Christmas carols are still in the back of our mind we may also recall the one with a line which says, "Love came down at Christmas"., Love came down at Christmas and New every morning is the love.

Could this mean that every day is Christmas, filled with God's gift of love.

A spot of imagining, just imagine that every morning you were given £86,400 with the instruction that you could do what you liked with it but there was no way of carrying it over to the next day, it would simply be lost; what would you do?

Not an easy question to answer is it, but for myself I know I wouldn't want to waste it, so I would do my best to spend it; yes, some on myself, but then just use

it to help as many people as I possibly could, wherever I could.

Stop imagining now. It's a fact that every day we are given fresh and new, out of God's love for us, 86,400 seconds to spend as we see fit, but there can be no carrying over. How do we spend this precious fund, freely given to us?

We should be hugely excited by this gift and recognise the possibilities and diversity it holds for us, all of us, whatever our circumstances, this isn't imaginary, this is true; above all we shouldn't waste it.

New every morning is God's love for us all, however much or little we love ourselves, so we should take one day at a time and resolve to live each day, all 86,400 seconds of it, clothed in and sharing God's love with

those we meet. And of course giving thanks for God's gentle and wise directing of our lives. My hope for myself and for all of you for 2019 is that it will be a happy and peaceful year filled each day with God's wisdom, gentleness and love.

My love to you all,

*Jane*



### Something's missing!

We have apologies from BWB who is not well enough to write this month. I know many people have enjoyed his stories, especially his wartime reminiscences and his contributions will be sadly missed.

Thank you!

**Brockworth link**

# NEED A JOB?

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[www.brockworthlink.org.uk](http://www.brockworthlink.org.uk)

Brockworth Link, Brockworth Library,  
Moorfield Road, Brockworth. GL3 4EX

## **The Son of God, by Jeffrey Archer**

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers.

He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living on bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen. He became the manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition. The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God.

They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they'd hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain claimed on more than one occasion that he'd never been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can you explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best known celebrity on earth?

Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

## **100 CLUB WINNERS**

### **December 2018**

1st — Patrick Reynolds (52)  
2nd — Rona Clifford (43)  
3rd — Ann Mawson (40)

### **January 2019**

1st — Sheila Watts (32)  
2nd — Louisa Messenger (46)  
3rd — Ken Holbrook (20)

## **Sides Persons Volunteers Required**

It would be helpful if at least two more members of the congregation could volunteer for the Sides persons rota. The duties are not onerous and involve getting to the Church at 0915, updating the hymn boards, welcoming (and counting) the congregation as they arrive, handing out hymnbooks, taking the collection and directing people to take communion. They are responsible for nominating two people to bring the bread and wine to the altar and finally for collecting and tidying up the books at the end of the service. This duty should only come around once in five or six weeks, (or of course less frequently should more people volunteer.) If you feel you could help with this valuable service, please contact Richard Ashenden.

## A Song is Born

In 1961 at the tender age of 21 I had already been in the Royal Air Force for six years. I had been fortunate enough to be presented with a Commendation for some repair work I had done on the first of the UK's 'V' Bombers, The Valiant. The award appeared (very low down) in the New Year's List!

Later that year the RAF, in its infinite wisdom, decided that I should be posted overseas. The RAF gave you three months' notice of your impending departure. This was to allow you to put your affairs in order: ie getting married, dumping the girl friend, selling car or motorbike etc. I opted to sell my car as none of the other options applied!

Again the RAF considered your welfare and asked you to choose three preferred postings. Having only travelled to South Wales (for basic RAF training) I thought I should take advantage of the offer and duly applied for 1) Hong Kong, 2) Singapore and 3) Cyprus. It seemed an ideal way to get my knees brown but in February 1962 I found myself on a very cold airfield in northwest Western Germany,

close to the Dutch border.

The 'wisdom' of the RAF's thinking soon dawned on me when I was told that I would be repairing badly damaged aircraft at No. 420 Maintenance Unit.

This was quite varied and I carried out major repairs to Canberras, Javelins, Hunters and helicopters of the RAF and Army Air Corps.

Attached to our unit there was a German civilian workshop with lathes, planers, milling and boring machines, all of which produced parts that could not readily be supplied from aircraft manufacturing stocks. They also made one-off specialist tools to our particular requirements, for example extended screwdrivers and spanners bent into unusual shapes.

The Germans were not allowed to work on the aircraft but could be shown what was required.

One young engineer called Hans took a shine to me and asked me to help him with his English as he wanted to come and work in the UK. Although we had very little social contact, at lunch and tea breaks we would converse and he would make notes.

When my two and a half year stint was complete I was posted back to RAF Lyneham, near Swindon. Hans asked to keep in

## ELECTORAL ROLL

Under the Church Representation Rules a new Electoral Roll must be prepared every six years. Everyone who wishes to have their name included on the new Roll, whether their name is on the present Roll or not must fill in a new application form. The forms are available in church or from the Church office and **must be completed and returned to me or the Church Office by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March** so that the new Roll can be published three weeks before the APCM which is to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.

Membership of the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the APCM or stand for election to the PCC. You are entitled to have your name entered on the roll if:

- You are baptised and aged 16 or over
- You have signed a form of application for enrolment and either
- are a member of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the C of E and are resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) have attended public worship in the parish for at least six months.
- Are a member in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the C of E) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Any error discovered in the roll should be reported to the Electoral Roll Officer

Many thanks

Lizbeth Harbottle Electoral Roll Officer

## **AN UPDATE ON SOME OF THE CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

As we write this for the February magazine, we are making trips (with at least 100 carrier bags full of Christmas cards to date) during the two weeks at the beginning of January to the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham with all your 2018 Christmas Cards. This project has now closed until next January.

Thank you ALL so much for giving your cards to this charity allowing them to up-cycle them to produce and sell new cards for Christmas 2019, all to raise much needed funds.

We have received a letter of thanks from Julia Jenkins, Head of Fundraising at Cobalt thanking us for our continued support.

Please continue to give us your Occasional Cards (birthdays, anniversaries etc.) during 2019.

We have recently also visited -

The Alzheimers Society with a large carrier bag of unwanted or broken jewellery.

The James Hopkins Trust with many used postage stamps and old mobile phones.

Vision Aid / Sight Savers with approximately 30 pairs of unwanted or out of date spectacles.

Any further items mentioned above are still required. Please leave them at the church centre office or centre lounge, hand them to us at church or contact us and we will collect from your home.

All the organisations made us welcome and all are very grateful for these items which raises much needed funds for their charities.

Gordon & Rona

Telephone 01452 862475 or e-mail [gordon.clifford@sky.com](mailto:gordon.clifford@sky.com) or [rona.clifford@gmail.com](mailto:rona.clifford@gmail.com)

touch and as I had no forwarding address he wrote via my mother. I heard nothing for the first 4 or 5 months and then he wrote saying he had got a job in Portsmouth Dockyard. Months passed and I heard from him again saying that he had met and fallen in love with a girl called Daisy. He said he was going to see her father and go down on one knee and

propose to her. I wrote my congratulations. Three weeks later I received an invitation to their wedding. On seeing Daisy enter the church it was obvious what the hurry had been about. It was simply a case of '*Hans, knees and bump a Daisy Tra la la*'

Keith Stacey

Vickers-Armstrong Valiant V-Bomber



## CHURCH ARCHITECTURE CHAPTER THREE

Dear Readers, it seems some time ago that I last wrote to you. But you may remember my composition on Gothic architecture and an explanation describing “Flying Buttresses” An amazing co-incidence, Ann and I visited Exeter Cathedral shortly after my article and attended a presentation on its history and architecture given by a lady whose name eludes me but was excellent. She commenced by saying I must tell you something about Flying Buttresses and proceeded to explain Gothic architecture. She must have read my script! Moving on, the subject of this treatise is Romanesque architecture. Romanesque architecture is massive, low, and solid-looking. Round Roman arches, thick walls, and small windows are typical of the buildings. How different from Gothic style with pointed arches. So Readers you ask “where can I see a good example of Romanesque architecture?”

The answer is on our doorstep, Gloucester Cathedral, see the image on facing page. Much of this Romanesque Cathedral has survived including the entire crypt, much of the east end, the great nave piers most of the north aisle and the Chapter House.

So where did it all begin? Let us stick with our Gloucester Cathedral. The Romanesque style was brought from the Continent by William the Conqueror and his followers. The rounded arches were used by the ancient Romans and became popular throughout Europe during the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Gloucester Cathedral was begun by Abbot Serlo in 1089. The quire and transepts were completed by 1100 just four years before the Abbots death in 1104. The Nave was completed several years later. You will remember that Gothic architecture became the accepted style in France in the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century and then became the preferred style throughout the UK. I intended to tell you something

## World Day of Prayer - Everybody Welcome

This year, the World Day of Prayer, (formerly the Women’s World Day of Prayer,) will be held in St Patrick’s Church Hall at 10am on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

For anyone not familiar with this annual event, it is a simple service planned by the women of a different country each year. The details are sent for by churches all over the world with the intention that all over the world this service will be held on the first Friday in March. It is designed to give all those attending a little bit of an insight into the culture of that country and particularly a little into the lives of the women in the country.

This year’s service was planned by a group of women from Slovenia and the theme is “Come – everything is ready”. Here in Brockworth representatives from St Patrick’s, the URC and Gloucester Salvation Army, as well as St George’s have been meeting to put it together.

Although always traditionally planned by women, everyone is welcome to this short, interesting service. Refreshments are available afterwards and they usually include some local delicacies from the country of the planners.

## **‘OPEN THE BOOK**

Open the Book continues to lead the assemblies at both junior schools in Brockworth once every two weeks. Brockworth Primary Academy is visited on a Tuesday and Castle Hill School on a Thursday. Both teams are made very welcome by pupils and staff alike.

The ‘Open the Book’ project (now part of The Bible Society) celebrates 20 years since it’s foundation this year and visits 3000 schools nationally. Both of our teams are ecumenical with members from St George’s Church, St Patrick’s Church and The United Reform Church. The Castle Hill School team have been leading their assemblies for 10 years this year and Brockworth Primary Academy team for 9 years so long may we continue. Please remember both teams and both schools in your prayers.

Rona.





#### URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS IN ORDER OF SCARCITY

**LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE (NOT CHILLED)**  
**TINNED COLD MEAT**  
**TINNED FRUIT**  
**TINNED READY MEALS**  
**TINNED RICE PUDDING**  
**LONG LIFE MILK**  
**TOILETRIES**

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about the Romanesque parts of the two latest Cathedrals that we have visited, namely Exeter and Chester . Both these two have remaining small examples of this style. There is no need as Gloucester says it all.

For the next Chapter I will tell you something about Perpendicular style.

Allan Delves



## DEPRESSION

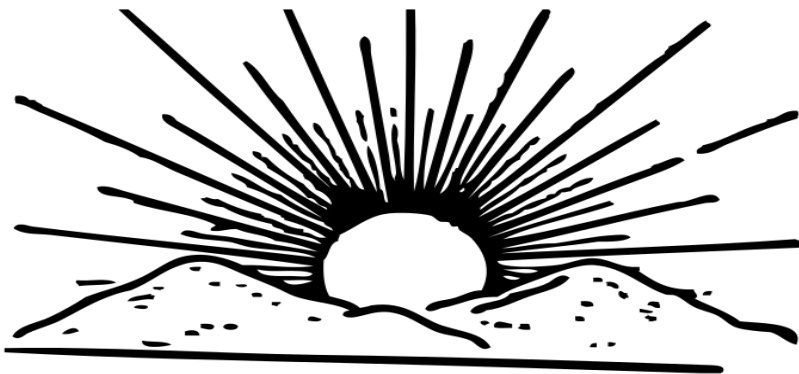
Dark winter days  
Blacks and greys  
Cold weather ways  
Depressing

Post Christmas blues  
Heavy coats and shoes  
Trying to lose  
Depression

Warmer days to come  
Promise of Summer sun  
To take away with fun  
Depression

You wake up one day  
God's love's come to play  
Its all gone away  
What's depression ?!

Liz Curtis



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY February 2019 (cont'd)

17th	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Parish Eucharist: Church
18th	10.00am 7.15pm	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre
20th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
21st	10.00am  10.00am 7.30pm	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre  Flower Arrangers: Church Bell ringing: Church
24th	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Parish Eucharist: Church
25th	10.00am 10.00am 7.15pm 7.30pm	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre Mothers' Union meeting: , Church Centre
27th	9.30am 7.00pm	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre Standing Comm meeting: Lounge, Centre
28th	10.00am  10.00am 7.30pm	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre  Flower Arrangers: Church Bell ringing: Church

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**February 2019**

<b>3rd</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b> <b>Family Service: Church</b>
4th	10.00am 10.00am 7.15pm	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre
6th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
7th	10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Flower Arrangers: Church Bell ringing: Church
<b>10th</b>	<b>8.00am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist: Church</b> <b>Parish Eucharist: Church</b>
11th	10.00am 10.00am 7.15pm	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre
13th	9.30am	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
14th	10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Flower Arrangers: Church Bell ringing: Church

## **THE QUEEN MOTHER'S FAVOURITE CAKE.**

This recipe has been doing the rounds since the 1940's and was originally baked and sold in churches along with this note: 'This was reputed to be the favourite cake of the late Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. At her request, the recipe must not be given away but sold for 5p and the money donated to a charitable organisation' so if you would like to donate something to St. George's church or to Mothers' Union, please do!

### **INGREDIENTS:**

170g dates  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
170g sugar  
60g butter  
1 beaten egg  
1tsp vanilla essence  
170g sifted plain flour  
1tsp baking powder  
½ tsp salt  
5tbsp full fat milk\*  
85g chopped walnuts

### **METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 180C/gas mark 4.
2. Pour half a pint of boiling water over 170g of dates and 1tsp of bicarbonate of soda.
3. Allow to stand while the following ingredients are mixed: sugar, butter, egg, vanilla essence, sifted flour, baking powder, salt and chopped walnuts.
4. Add those ingredients to the date mixture.
5. Place mixture in a 30 x 23cm baking tin.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes.

### **For the topping:**

Boil together 5 tbsp of brown sugar with 2 tbsp of full fat milk\* for three minutes.

Spread mixture on the cake and sprinkle with finely chopped walnuts.

(The recipe suggests using "top of the milk". Those of us older members of the congregation will remember the milk of our childhood being delivered to our doors and having a layer of cream at the top of the bottle! When I was young my sister and brother and myself used to see who could get to the bottle first to get the "top of the milk"!!! )

Rona Clifford

## From the Registers— November & December 2018

### Baptisms

Sunday 23rd December                      Florence Withers

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 10th November                      Kate Larkin & Michael Tales

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

Friday 16th November                      Terry Fisher

"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

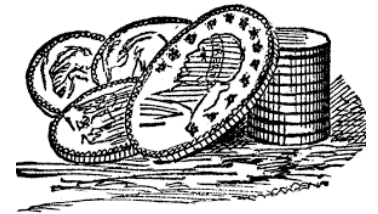
### Cash4Coins

Our treasurer, Derek Harbottle, is always on the lookout for ways of raising money for St. George's. He has found a website called "cash4coins".

They accept all foreign coins and notes, euros, pre-euro European coins, old UK coins and pre-decimalisation UK coins, - i.e. most things.

If we can collect over 5kgs of coins we can send them off for free. So, please have a rummage down the back of the sofa or in your odds and ends drawers for any old coins and notes no longer in use and give them to Derek, Karen in the office, or any member of the congregation who will pass them on and Derek will arrange to send them off.

Thank you in anticipation...



### **Wanted!**

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  
March issue  
is 15th February**

**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!



## Daily Bible Readings



Fri 1st Feb	Hebrews 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34
Sat 2nd Feb	Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19; Mark 4:35-end
Mon 4th Feb	Hebrews 11:32-end; Mark 5:1-20
Tues 5th Feb	Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43
Wed 6th Feb	Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15; Mark 6:1-6
Thurs 7th Feb	Hebrews 12:18-19,21-24; Mark 6:7-13
Fri 8th February	Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Sat 9th February	Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21; Mark 6:30-34
Mon 11th February	Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-end
Tues 12th February	Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13
Wed 13th February	Genesis 2:4b-9,15-17; Mark 7:14-23
Thurs 14th February	Genesis 2:18-end; Mark 7:24-30
Fri 15th February	Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-end
Sat 16th February	Genesis 3:9-end; Mark 8:1-10
Mon 18th February	Genesis 4:1-15,25; Mark 8:11-13
Tues 19th February	Genesis 6:5-8,7:1-5,10; Mark 8:14-21
Wed 20th February	Genesis 8:6-13,20-end; Mark 8:22-26
Thurs 21st February	Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
Fri 22nd February	Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34-9:1
Sat 23rd February	Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13
Mon 25th February	Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
Tues 26th February	Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
Wed 27th February	Ecclesiasticus 4:11-19; Mark 9:38-40
Thurs 28th February	Ecclesiasticus 5:1-8; Mark 9:41-end

Listens, Observes and Acts.

Across the world, in 84 countries, Mothers' Union members respond daily to the immediate and pressing needs of hundreds of thousands of people in their communities.

Our four million members are driven by their Christian faith to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people around them, regardless of their religion, politics or backgrounds.

But FAITH is at the core of what we do!

For our Branch meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm  
in St. George's Church Centre hall,  
Mr Chris Evans from Dundry Garden Centre is coming to talk to us about his Charitable Project helping vulnerable people in our area.. Chris is a very interesting speaker and as everyone is welcome at our meetings please do come along to hear what he has to say.

Lord, where there is selfishness, surround your people with  
generosity;  
where there is greed, envelop your people with charity;  
where there is sadness, enfold your people with happiness;  
where there is prejudice, encircle your people with acceptance;  
where there is indifference, encompass your people with interest;  
where there is jealousy, enclose your people with benevolence;  
In this diverse world where there is so much uncertainty about the future let the prayers of the Mothers' Union members around the world encircle all those in need and shine as a light to a brighter future for all. Amen. (Jill Cameron, Province of Scotland)

Many blessings, Rona.



## History of Brockworth Court

Tim Wiltshire has kindly given us a number of beautifully illustrated little booklets entitled: Brockworth Court. The Living History of a Medieval Manor House.

As well as describing the many changes undergone by the Court, there are numerous interesting snippets about St George's Church and the Village of Brockworth.

He has invited us to sell them in aid of our Church restoration fund.

We intend to put some at the back of the church for sale at £5 each. For further details, (or further copies,) contact Liz or Richard Ashenden. 01452 862515



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2018

What a wonderful display of Christmas trees for our Festival and what a buzz of excitement and appreciation from the many viewing them over the whole of the weekend. Thank you to all those who helped to decorate their trees and the 'tree fest' team at St George's who made it all happen.

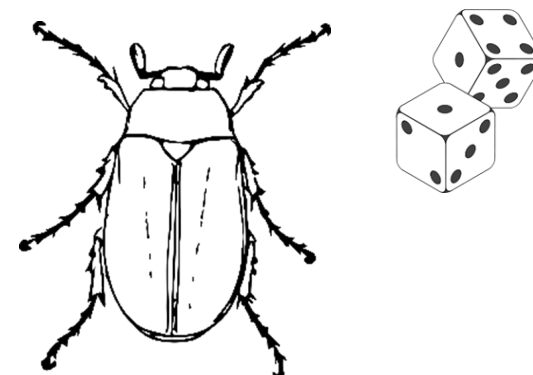
The favourite tree this time was No 6 'Into the woods' by Castle Hill Primary School, getting twice as many votes as any other tree. Congratulations, well done to all the children, they shared a tub of chocolates.

The weekend always closes at 4pm on Sunday, when we gather in the Sanctuary for prayers. During this time the prayer requests are taken from the 'prayer tree' and shared amongst those present to be read out in turn. A privileged and very moving time to share.

Thank you to you all and we'll see you at this year's Festival on the 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.

## Come and join us for an evening of family fun at a BEETLE DRIVE

on Saturday 23rd February 7.00pm



at the Church Centre, Court Road  
£6 per table of 4 on the door  
Refreshments for sale  
at half time

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## Spring Flowers

I don't know if you are like me but I get great pleasure seeing the first tiny snowdrops peeping up through the ground. Looking for them at the beginning of another year gives me hope that winter is on it's way out! It may still be cold and frosty but as I walk down the church path suddenly there they are! these little white flowers bringing a smile to my face!

And unbelievably this year there are crocuses showing their yellow and purple heads above the ground as well as the lovely creamy coloured wild primroses, all at once! Hopefully it means it is going to be a mild spring as usually all these beautiful little flowers are blooming a few weeks apart! All this loveliness is followed by the magnificence of the golden daffodils trumpeting their way into our world giving us even more pleasure!

Isn't Mother Nature

wonderful?

May we thank God for his  
beautiful creation.

Rona



## Open The Book



Here is the  
Open the Book team at Brockworth Primary Academy having enacted the story of the Centurion's Servant (with permission from the Head teacher).



## Events and training

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

### Candlemas Carol Service

Sunday 3 February, 6pm at Gloucester Cathedral

The candlelight Candlemas service brings to a close the first part of the great sweep of the Christian year from Advent, through Christmas and Epiphany.

### Food for thought

Wednesdays, 10.15am to 12 noon at Toast, Tutshill, NP16 7BN.

A chance to talk life and faith with coffee and cake. Contact Steven Shaw on 07934 436935.

### Valentine's Day Tower Tours

Thursday 14 February, 2pm and Saturday 16 February, 2pm at Gloucester Cathedral

A romantic trip up to the top of the tower. On a clear day you can see 40 miles across the glorious Gloucestershire countryside. Enjoy a glass of prosecco or non-alcoholic alternative. £15 per ticket, from [www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk)

Bishop Rachel, Liedentity talk  
Saturday 23 February, 2pm at Shipton Reading Room.

Speaking about her work with young people focused on the issue of value rooted in appearance and how low self-esteem is being fuelled by the pressures of social media to look a certain way. Followed by a question and answer session. <https://bit.ly/2VTWucv>

### Big brew and Bake Off as part of Fairtrade Fortnight

Saturday 2 March, 10am to 2pm at St Stephen's Church, Cinderford

Free samples light lunches, Fairtrade hot drinks, large Fairtrade shop and lots of information about Fairtrade and producers.

[www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/fairtrade](http://www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/fairtrade)

### Wild + Fit exercise class

Saturday 9 March, 10am to 12.30pm in Gloucester Cathedral

Zumba, pilates, body weight fitness session in the Cathedral for the whole family. Fund raised will go to Gloucester City Mission to support their work with people affected by homelessness in Gloucestershire. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children, £7 teens and concessions, £25 family ticket.

[www.gloucester.anglican.org/wild](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wild)

### Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@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)

## faith What makes your heart sing?



When was the last time that you had a really good sing? On the football stands? At school? In the car? Or maybe just a good old kitchen karaoke...? There is something in all of us, that just loves a good old singsong.

Singing in a group has been scientifically proven to have benefits for mental health. It lowers stress levels, helps you to sleep better and even boosts your immunity. The controlled breathing that you use when you sing is good for your lungs and your posture.

There are a number of community choirs across Gloucestershire, but if you struggle to get to choir meetings or are nervous about taking those first steps into singing with others, why not come along to your local church? A big part of what happens in lots of services is the singing—some churches have the traditional hymns that we all remember from our school days, some have more modern styles of singing, but what is certain is that joining in and singing with a smile can help you to feel better about yourself and the world.

If you're interested in coming along, have a look at [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com) for details of your nearest church—don't forget that they are all different, so if one style isn't quite what you are looking for, speak to your local vicar who can help you find a place that suits you.



### Jazz time at the Festivals

Do you love jazz music? The fluid rhythms, the changing moods and the playful notes make jazz enduringly popular but ever fresh. This year, continuing our partnership with the Cheltenham Festivals, the team will be back at Montpellier Gardens in Cheltenham to bring our own take on jazz.

From 4 to 6 May, (the early May Bank Holiday) we will be asking the question 'What makes your heart sing?' and asking people to add their answers to a giant wind chime in our diocesan tent.

We will help you to make a hand drum so you can join in with your own beat in our tent full of inspirational lyrics. If you have a faith, don't know anything about church or just fancy popping in to keep the children entertained, we would love to see you for a chat. Booking for Jazz Festival is now open at [www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/whats-on/grid](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/whats-on/grid) and follow @CheltJazzFest on Twitter for up to the minute news.



### iSingPop the sequel...

The Revd Sue Greatorex, Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Lower Cam and Coaley said that having a children's choir in her church has hugely enriched what is happening locally. The children had an organisation called iSingPop come into their school. This organisation spends a week with children, teaching them pop songs with a Christian theme and putting on a concert

within a week. The children loved it and Sue could see that they were keen for more. She decided to start a children's choir in the monthly family service. It has grown and they are now starting to put together a music group.

If your church would like to do something similar, you might like to sign up to contemporary music training with the Worship Foundation. Find course dates, more information and booking at [www.glosoucester.anglican.org/2018/worship-team-training](http://www.glosoucester.anglican.org/2018/worship-team-training)

### Catalyst: Your Voice

Christian? Aged between 11 – 18? Come and tell us about what could help you in your faith journey? Do you talk about your faith with your friends? What could help your confidence in talking about those things that really matter?

- Saturday 27 April, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Revive at Kingfisher, Moor Street, Gloucester. Contact Andy Macaulay [andy@therock.com](mailto:andy@therock.com) for more information.
- Saturday 12 May, 7pm to 8.30pm at St Lawrence Church, Stroud, contact Barrie Voyce, [barrie@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:barrie@thedoor.org.uk)
- Wednesday 12 June, (time TBC) at St James Church, Chipping Campden, contact Amy Todd [youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk](mailto:youthworker@stjameschurchcampden.co.uk)



**Sunday 12 May, 3pm to 6pm at Discover Decrypt, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TP**

Do the arts bring people into your church? Does the local choir or drama club rehearse there? Do you host art exhibitions - or would you like to? If so, this event is for you.

Designed to bring together artists and church communities, this will be an opportunity to share experience and learn from each other. There will be talks, discussion and interactive arts sessions so you can try for yourself some proven ways of engaging with people through the arts.

You'll have a chance to ask questions and share your own stories or thoughts. Booking by Monday 1 April by emailing [sgardiner@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:sgardiner@glosdioc.org.uk)