

St. George's Church Brockworth

August 2020



To journey in faith and share
God's love.

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NB This is a new address

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Please email 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: Sunflowers

Prayer



What's the point in PRAYING?

&

Why do so many people PRAY?



Trends data released from **Google** identified, "internet searches for "prayer" for 75 countries, found that "search intensity for '**prayer**' **doubled** for every 80,000 new registered cases of Covid-19".

There is a lot of praying going on, which emphasises our initial question, 'What's the point in praying', and 'why are so many people doing it'?

A survey conducted by the BBC found that on average 42% of the adult population in the UK had prayed at some point in their lives. The study also found that as people get older their chance of praying increases: 51% of those aged 55-74, and 61% of 75+. However, when compared to data from a 2017 market research survey, only 1% of people in the UK claimed to go to church on a regular basis, and only 20% claimed to have a faith in any kind of spiritual power.

Albert Einstein once said, 'there are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle', either life's a random fluke, or there is a Creator, a God behind creation. Prayer is the process of **connecting and communicating with the Creator**. Jesus's disciples only ever asked him to teach them one thing, 'Lord, teach us to pray'(Luke 11:1). No other

aspect of Jesus's life and work did they ask for teaching on, preaching, leadership, healing etc. The disciples identified the way Jesus prayed was the foundation for the works and miracles he was performing, and Jesus's prayer time re-connected him with the creator, God.

Pete Greig in 1999 started a prayer movement that continues today, '24/7 Prayer', he describes prayer as, 'building a relationship with God through communication'. **A healthy relationship is built on communication** (personal, written, telephone), any friendship would wither if we stopped communicating. The character of "god" can simply be identifying with a higher power, a being that has more power than any individual, and therefore a good go-to person in the event of need. For Christians, followers of Jesus, God would be that power.

Inherently within us, there is a need to connect with someone other than ourselves. When faced with pain, or suffering, or the loneliness we may have faced during lockdown, we want/need/desire to connect

with someone. Alternatively, with good news we need to tell others: the announcement of a wedding, the birth of a baby, passing exams, a good medical diagnosis, we need to tell someone. That someone can be our Creator, a higher power who we can reach out to.

Prayer is the label given to the mechanism for connecting with that higher power. It is **comforting, peaceful** and **reassuring** to know there is always **someone to turn to**. For a Christian, a follower of Jesus, prayer is exactly that, connecting and communicating with God, Rabbi Abraham Heschel (a Polish Jew 1907-1972, in 1939 he moved to London from Warsaw), explains that, **"prayer is our humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living"**.

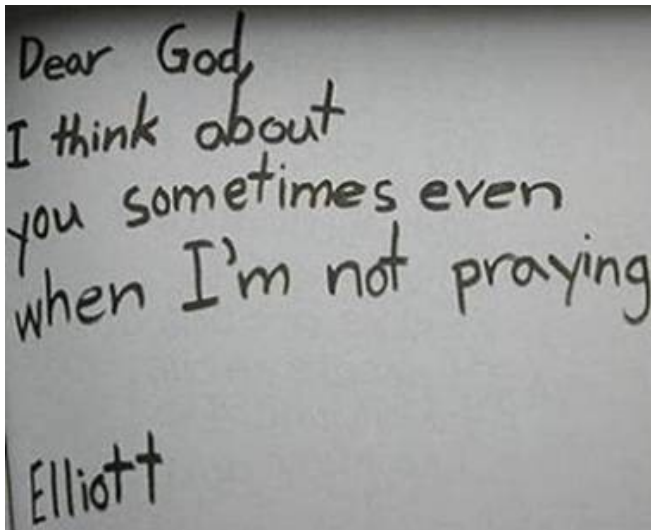
All this does not mean praying is easy, connecting and communicating with an invisible God is hard, but it is worth practicing a discipline of prayer. As with learning any new discipline: **Keep it Simple & Keep it Up**.

Set some time aside, keep it simple to start with, 5mins will be perfect. Spend some

time acknowledging and being thankful for family, health, friends, home etc. If you find it difficult to find things to be thankful for, try being thankful for the basics in your life, food in the cupboard, clean water, flushing toilet, water to shower. Then check how you are feeling, if you are feeling tired, sad, anxious, or worried ask for help: increase my sense of peace, give me energy, give me joy. The

bible says through a life connected to Jesus you will notice an increase in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Is there anyone among us who would like to know more peace in their lives or experience more patience? Then, keep doing it.

"The most powerful thing you could ever do is pray" – Pete Greig.

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in dark ink and reads: "Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying". At the bottom left, the name "Elliott" is written with a cross at the end.

Dear God,
I think about
you sometimes even
when I'm not praying
Elliott†

A message from Bishop Rachel

22agdalene and as I celebrate the fifth anniversary of my consecration, I am giving immense thanks to God for the Diocese of Gloucester.

Mary Magdalene knew about life's turbulence and living with the unexpected. She had experienced Christ's healing, travelled with him, was at his crucifixion and then bore witness to his resurrection, so she knew about having to continually reorient herself within a new reality. After the resurrection I believe she ventured into the future with hope because amid both her tears and her laughter she had discovered that Jesus Christ is the one in whom true life is found.

This is captured in those words of Christ as told by John in his gospel: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10). Following a period of prayer and conversation that verse emerged as the heart of our diocesan LIFE vision in 2016. Through an iterative and grass roots process we discerned four themes with a number of commitments which are interwoven in the one vision.

Over the past four years worshipping communities have faithfully sought to discern which aspects of the LIFE vision have resonated with what God has been doing in each local context.

Opportunities and gaps have been highlighted and connections made across the themes and commitments.

Whilst for all of us the last four years have brought both unexpected joys and struggles, none of us imagined that in 2020 we would be experiencing the impact of a world-wide viral pandemic. Amid the trauma, people of all ages and backgrounds have not only experienced bereavement with the death of loved ones, but also the loss of things which were familiar and valued as well as the loss of looked-forward-to events. Yet, for many people there have also been aspects of the last few months which have been life-giving, as we have all been forced to live differently.

Some aspects of our LIFE vision identified in 2016 as necessary for major culture change, have seemed almost prophetic over these past few

months. Worshipping communities have been living 'new and courageous ways of worshipping in different places, which connect with more people' as well as 'sharing stories through digital media'. There has also been a renewed emphasis in many places on 'enabling people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth', and as July is the feast of Mary Mpeople have reflected on what it

means to be the Church beyond the walls of church buildings and with a different pattern to life there has often been a greater understanding of what it means to 'nurture confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week.' People have lived deeper engagement with local communities as people have sought to 'be advocates for flourishing through initiatives which combat injustice, exclusion and isolation' and there has been a new awareness of environmental issues.

When we hear those beautiful words of Jesus in John's gospel regarding life in all its fullness, it is easy to forget that they are set within a context of danger and potential destruction. Jesus refers to the wild animals which seek to devour, and the thief who, unlike him, breaks in to steal the sheep. In the face of potential trauma and destruction, Jesus presents himself as the shepherd who does not abandon his sheep, but who vulnerably lies as the gate across the entrance to the sheep fold with unwavering love. This sacrificial love cost Jesus Christ his life yet it was not the end of the story. Christ's resurrection revealed love and life stronger than even death itself.

As we emerge into the seasons ahead we are navigating uncharted territory and, as with any unexpected trauma, we are faced with how to survive the

aftermath and rebuild, knowing that life will never be the same again and indeed the threat of repeat is a real possibility. In every sphere of life people are asking big question about the sort of people, world and communities we want to be. As the Church we don't know what lies ahead, yet as followers of Christ we do know how the story ends and that one day God's kingdom will be fully present on earth as in heaven. I am aware that in the present each person from the youngest to the oldest is grappling with an array of experiences and emotions, yet in it all the shepherd will not abandon us. As portrayed in Psalm 23, whether we are lying by still waters or walking through the valley of the shadow of death, Christ walks with us and the table laden with good things awaits us. The abundant love and life of the crucified, risen and ascended Christ is unchanging and hope is present in our tears of laughter and of joy.

The themes we discerned together in 2016 are as pertinent as ever as we remain committed to transformation in our Leadership, opening new paths to faith with Imagination, living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ with Faith; and living out Christ's love and hope in our Engagement with people and places. So, I want to reassure you that as we look to the next five years of our life together in this

diocese beyond 2021 we will not be changing our LIFE vision.

Unsurprisingly our seeking to join in with what God is doing has shone a spotlight on some specific things in LIFE and there is plenty of time in the coming months to share more. However, I pray that as we look back over the past few months, taking time to recover as well as responding to the unknown changes still to come, we will continue to ponder the content of LIFE as we reflect on who and what we are being called to be as Christ's body in our different contexts. The deanery strategic planning process begun before lockdown is all part of this.

So as we move into August my prayer is that we rest and pray. Living both lament and Alleluia can be exhausting and now is a time for watching and listening for the movement of God's Spirit as we seek to discover yet more of the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ so that we and all people may know life in all its fullness.
Bishop Rachel



+ Rachel



Hello everyone! Just when I had got used to looking like a Yeti, I have an appointment with the hairdresser on Wednesday!! Yippee! We have all been in the same boat and I find that strangely comforting. It is soo good to be able to go into our lovely church again, even if it's only for an hour twice a week, its moving in the right direction as far as I am concerned. I would do anything for a hug! But I ask the Lord Jesus to put his arms around you until we can. I leave you with a few thoughts. I hope that they make you smile.

1. Don't put a question mark where God puts a full stop.
2. If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.
3. It's easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one!!!
4. Stop griping about your church. If it was perfect, you could not belong.

Till we meet again, God bless you and yours.

Louisa



August 2020

Daily Bible Readings:



Saturday 1st August	Jeremiah 26:11-16,24; Matthew 14:1-12
Monday 3rd August	Jeremiah 28; Matthew 14:13-21
Tuesday 4th August	Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22; Matthew 14:22-end
Wednesday 5th August	Jeremiah 31:1-7; Matthew 15:21-28
Thursday 6th August	Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 16:13-23
Friday 7th August	Nahum 2:1,3,3:1-3,6-7; Matthew 16:24-end
Saturday 8th August	Habakkuk 1:12-2:4; Matthew 17:14-20
Monday 10th August	Ezekiel 1:2-5,24-end; Matthew 17:22-end
Tuesday 11th August	Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14
Wednesday 12th August	Ezekiel 9:1-7,10:18-22; Matthew 18:15-20
Thursday 13th August	Ezekiel 12:1-12; Matthew 18:21-19:1
Friday 14th August	Ezekiel 16:1-15,60-end; Matthew 19:3-12
Saturday 15th August	Ezekiel 18:1-11a,13b,30,32; Matthew 19:13-15
Monday 17th August	Ezekiel 24:15-24; Matthew 19:16-22
Tuesday 18th August	Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-end
Wednesday 19th August	Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16
Thursday 20th August	Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14
Friday 21st August	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40
Saturday 22nd August	Ezekiel 43:1-7; Matthew 23:1-12
Monday 24th August	2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-end; Matthew 23:13-22
Tuesday 25th August	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-end; Matthew 23:23-26
Wednesday 26th August	2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-end; Matthew 23:27-32
Thursday 27th August	1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-end
Friday 28th August	1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday 29th August	1 Corinthians 1:26-end; Matthew 25:14-30
Monday 31st August	1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Luke 4:16-30

Biblical Cities,

Chapter 14

Philippi

Dear readers, you will recall my series on Biblical cities - those associated with Paul's missionary journeys. Well today we go to Acts, chapter 16. verse 12 which recalls Paul's journey from the port of Neapolis via Egnatia to Philippi. He was accompanied by Silas and Luke.

Paul and Silas first visited Philippi in Greece during Paul's second missionary journey, which occurred between approximately 49 and 51 AD. Philippi was the location of the first Christian community established in Greece. The first Christian church in Europe was built on top of a tomb of a Hellenistic hero which had become an important early Christian centre following a visit to the city by Paul the Apostle in 49 CE. In late antiquity, Philippi was a prominent city in the Eastern Empire and an episcopal seat.

So, what else did Paul do in Philippi? We learn in Acts, chapter 16 verse 13, that as he knew there were few Jews and no synagogue in Philippi, Paul and his companions went to the riverbank just outside the city on the Sabbath day, and begin to speak to the women gathered there. One of them, Lydia – from Thyatira in the Roman province of Asia, was a wealthy dealer in expensive purple cloth (which only the most important Roman citizens were allowed to wear). For interest, dear readers, the

expensive purple dye was made from thousands of tiny *murex* shellfish.

Thyatira was well known for its dyeing and garment making, and Lydia may have been an overseas agent for a Thyatirian manufacturer.

Lydia was probably a wealthy widow who had inherited her husband's business and she and all her household had become believers. They were baptised, and her large town house (or 'villa') becomes Paul's headquarters in Philippi.

Then in Acts 16:16-40 we learn that each day in Philippi, while crossing the central agora (the Roman marketplace fringed with pagan temples), Paul is pestered by a slave girl who makes her owners rich by fortune-telling. An evil spirit in her keeps shouting and drawing attention to Paul and his companions. Exasperated by this, Paul casts the evil spirit out of the girl – to the fury of her owners who see their profits disappear. When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put

them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks (Acts 16:16-24). Philippi is traditionally identified as Paul's prison but it was actually a cistern for storing water during the 1st century, then later transformed into a small church whose walls were covered in paintings of Paul's arrest, his miraculous liberation and the baptism of his jailor's family. It was while Paul was in prison that he wrote his epistle to the Philippians which is addressed to the Christian congregation he had established in Macedonia.

History tells us that in the BC 500 years, Philippi was a Roman "colonia" for retired Roman soldiers and their families. Does that remind you, dear readers, of anything? No? well it ought to, as

Glevum (now Gloucester) was a Roman fort in Roman Britain which too became a "colonia" of retired legionaries in AD 97.

Philippi was also an important gold mining centre but it was abandoned in the 14th Century after the Ottoman conquest. The present municipality Filippos is located near the ruins of the ancient city and it is part of the region of East Macedonia and Thrace in Greece. Sadly, most of the biblical cities that I have summarised for you are ruins so for my next chapter I thought that I would reverse the trend and report on Paphos, a UNESCO world heritage city popular with tourists. It is in Greek Cyprus.

Allan Delves



Paul's prison as it is today

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 2020

New guidelines: Please remember you will need to wear a face covering in Church.

2nd	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
5th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
9th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
12th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
16th	9—10am	Church open for supervised private prayer (Mike on holiday)
19th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
23rd	9.00am	Morning Prayer (Mike on holiday)
26th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
30th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube

9.00am Communion in Church

The wardens and I have been busy ensuring that we are operating within Government and Church of England guidelines when we worship together. We will have all the necessary precautions in place ready for our worship: sanitiser, cordoned off pews, safe procedures for distributing communion wine and bread, and stewards to help us.

In order for us to be safe and socially distanced, we can only manage 25 people in church. In order for us to operate within this boundary we need to know who intends to be at the 9am service. If you would like to be at the service, could you email me how many from your bubble will be there and we can reserve seats. We will then email and confirm your space.

Please can I emphasise, in order to keep everyone safe, do not arrive at church if you haven't received an email confirmation.

Mike, Vicar of St George's Church, Brockworth

mike.smith@stgeorgebrockworth.uk

☎ 07415 089897

Parish notes August 2020

It's great to be able to report some progress towards normality. Following permission to open the Church again for limited private prayer, we were then given permission to hold services, the first of which took place on Sunday, 19th July at 9 am. To adhere to social distancing and keep everyone safe, numbers in Church are strictly limited and places must be booked by emailing mike.smith@stgeorgebrockworth.uk or telephoning Mike on 07415089897 beforehand. With the able assistance of our technology wizard, Richard Eve, the services have been live streamed on YouTube, so those unable to be present can still see and hear the service. In addition, an on-line service is available each week, all accessible through the St. George's website – www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk.

We are so grateful to Mike, Richard, and the Churchwardens for all their work to make these things happen.

Thanks, too, to the bell ringers – great to hear the bells again on a Sunday morning! Again, this is limited by social distancing requirements in the tower.

Mike and family will be having a well-earned summer holiday in August, and while Mike is away, Sundays will be a little different. On the 16th, the Church will be open from 9-10am for private prayer and on the 23rd, our Reader, Louisa Messenger, will lead Morning Prayer.

The PCC has not met since March, but is planning to meet on September 16th, prior to the postponed APCM which is scheduled for September 30th.

Take care and enjoy the summer,
Pat Hartwell

1

Did you know that you could help raise money for St George's Church by just a few clicks on your computer or phone? Yes, it's that easy!

5

ON A SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

- Download the **easyfundraising** app
- Once it's downloaded, go into the app and click on 'Sign Up'
- In 'search for a good cause', enter 'St George's Church—Brockworth' and click on 'search'
- Click on the photo of our church
- Click on 'sign up with email'
- Enter your name, email address and a password of your choosing and click on 'create my account'
- **YOU'VE REGISTERED!!** Well done!

Now, whenever you shop online, all you need to do is :

- Log in to the **easyfundraising** app
- In 'search' enter the name of the retailer you wish to buy from and click on 'search'
- Click on the name of the retailer
- Click on 'shop now'
- This will take you to the retailer's website and you shop as normal

SIMPLE!

6

ON A COMPUTER

- Go to **easyfundraising.org.uk**
- In 'search for a good cause', enter 'St George's Church—Brockworth' and click on 'search'
- Click on 'support this cause' next to the photo of our church
- Click on 'continue with email'
- Enter your name, email address and a password of your choosing and click on 'create my account'
- Click on 'no thanks'
- **YOU'VE REGISTERED!!** Well done!

Don't forget to make a note of your password!

Now, whenever you shop online, all you need to do is :

- Go to **easyfundraising.org.uk** and log in
- In 'search for a retailer' enter the name of the retailer you wish to buy from and click on 'search'
- Click on the name of the retailer
- Click on 'shop now'
- This will take you to the retailer's website and you shop as normal

JUST AS SIMPLE!

2

easyfundraising.org.uk

is a charity cashback website allowing you to raise money as you shop online. Every time you buy something online from most retailers, a small percentage is donated to us.

3

It costs absolutely **NOTHING** to do. All you have to do is

register with your email and then whenever you shop online, you log into your

easyfundraising account first and then shop as normal. How easy is that?

4

I'm now going to tell you how to do it and if you need any help contact the Church Office on 01452 550554 and leave a message or email: churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk and I will phone you back when it's convenient and talk you through it. So here goes.....

7

Thank you so much for taking the time to help us. We really do appreciate it.

St George's Church

My favourite hymn,

Allan Delves has been keeping us entertained with his favourite poems, which gave Liz Ashenden the idea that we could do a series on our favourite hymns. I haven't heard from anyone else this month, so here is my choice.

I was probably born with hymns in my blood. My maternal grandfather was a Methodist Minister, my paternal grandfather a Methodist Church organist, my mother an accomplished pianist with a good soprano voice and my Dad, a Methodist local preacher (the equivalent of a C of E Lay Reader).

Words and music together can elicit powerful emotions – joy, praise, sadness, remembrance, and can often speak more powerfully than words alone. I could choose so many, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, Jerusalem, Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer, Let all the world in every corner sing, Tell out my soul, Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us (Living Lord), The day Thou gavest Lord is ended, or my favourite carol, It came upon a midnight clear, but I'm going pick this one for the way the words and music fit together so perfectly to tell the Easter story: My Song is Love Unknown.

Samuel Crossman, a Puritan Minister, wrote the words in 1664 as a poem. The tune, Love Unknown, was

Pat Hartwell

My Song is Love Unknown,

My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I,
That for my sake
My Lord should take
Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend,
My Friend indeed,
Who at my need
His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
And for His death
they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight,
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
Themselves displease,
and 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay,
Yet cheerful He
to suffering goes,
That He His foes
from thence might free.

In life no house, no home,
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb,
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home;
But mine the tomb
Wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend,
in Whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, SHEILA!

Our very own, much-loved, Sheila Watts will be 100 years old on 26th August and we all send her many congratulations and special birthday wishes.

She would very much like her friends to join her on Saturday 29th August for a celebration in St. George's Church Centre grounds.

We will need to comply with latest advice to keep everyone safe so, for further information, please contact Louisa Messenger on 01452 862058



100 Club July 2020 WINNERS

1st — Karen Whitfield (64)
2nd — Gordon Clifford (44)
3rd — Anne Banting (25)

Contributions please!

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 September issue
is 15th August**

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!



MY FAVOURITE POEMS:

“If” by Rudyard Kipling
We are all familiar with Rudyard Kipling’s Just So stories, Jungle Book and Kim but probably less familiar with his poems, so I have chosen the one that came first in a competition for the nation’s favorite poem in 1995.

If was written by Kipling, an English Nobel Laureate, in 1895 as a tribute to Leander Starr Jameson. It is a literary example of Victorian era stoicism. The poem, first published in Rewards and Fairies (1910) is written in the form of paternal advice to the poet’s son, John.

The beauty and elegance of If contrasts with Rudyard Kipling’s largely tragic and unhappy life. He was starved of love and attention and sent away by his parents; beaten and abused by his foster mother; and a failure at a public school which sought to develop qualities that were completely alien to Kipling. In later life the deaths of two of his children also affected Kipling deeply. But it was after leaving school and working as a journalist, firstly in

England and then in India, his birthplace, that his fortune changed to a happier life. While working in India, Rudyard Kipling published a collection of verse and several volumes of short stories, including *The Phantom Rickshaw*, all of which were well received by the public. He moved to England in 1889 and enjoyed a meteoric rise to literary fame, especially after the publication in 1892 of his Barrack Room Ballads and other poems and songs.

Significantly, Kipling turned down many honours offered to him including a knighthood, Poet Laureate and the Order of Merit, but in 1907 he accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature. Kipling’s wide popular appeal survives through other works referenced in the first paragraph.

Wimbledon Tennis players will note that the eleventh line from the poem appears above the tennis player’s entrance at Wimbledon’s Centre Court. “*If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same*” So here we go with “If”, a coming of age poem.

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master,
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build them up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Allan Delves



The Treasurer writes:

Three months ago, I summarised the regular giving schemes we use here at St Georges to support our work in the parish and our contribution to the diocesan parish share. So I thought a reminder and update is due.

We have seen a significant reduction in our income, loss of plate giving due to suspension of worship in the church building, loss of fees from weddings and funerals, loss of income from the hire of the Church Centre and loss of income (and social contact) from the cancellation of fund raising events. Yet our expenditure has not significantly reduced. There are a few savings in certain areas eg. electricity bills, but we have had some additional expenditure in opening up the church for private prayer and the new style of worship.

Regular giving schemes are -

Parish Giving Scheme. This is now a well-established scheme across the Church of England, used by 30 member dioceses raising regular donations for 2,884 parishes. We receive 100% of your donations, including gift aid if applicable, into our bank account monthly, the costs are covered by the member dioceses.

Thank you to all who use this scheme for regular giving, and being a direct debit procedure this has continued under the present regulations. I am advised by the Parish Giving Scheme office, that amendments to existing donations can continue to be made. Their preference is for contact by email. New donors are welcome and can now be set up by a telephone call to a dedicated telephone line (see number below), and one of their administrators will take you through the sign up process. You will need some personal details and in particular, your bank account details, and you will need the PGS code for St Georges Brockworth which is – BROC.

Contact details for the Parish Giving Scheme –

Phone – General enquiries and amendments 0333 002 1260

Set up for new donors 0333 002 1271 (weekdays between 9am and 5pm)

Email – info@parishgiving.org.uk

Website – www.parishgiving.org.uk

Address – 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD

St George's weekly envelopes. Thanks also to all who use the blue weekly envelopes. Under the current regulations and reduced services at the church, I know it is difficult to hand in your weekly envelopes. But, please remember that the envelopes can be filled each week with your weekly giving, then as restrictions are eased, they can be returned in the church collection plate, or given to Jenny or Derek.

Standing orders. There are a few regular donations by standing order. This procedure is where **you** instruct your bank to make a regular donation. I can let you have an appropriate standing order form to complete and forward to your bank.

Smartie tubes.

Fund raising events are still in abeyance for the time being, but we do have the smartie tubes. How are these filling up? Thanks for the ones returned. It is difficult returning these at present, but if you are out for a walk, tubes can be returned to me via the church centre office letterbox or through my letterbox or, if you attend a service, in the collection plate. I do have a supply of smartie tubes (full of smarties) if you need a replacement, please let me know and I will try and get one to you.

Just Giving

Electronic donations can be made using our Just Giving account. Search for 'PCC St George Brockworth' on the Just Giving website or use the QR code below.

Thanks, Derek
22nd July 2020
Email – treasurer@stgeorgebrockworth.uk
Phone – 01452 863732



From the Registers—
June 2020

Baptisms

No baptisms during June

Weddings

No weddings during June

Funerals

No funerals during June

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*



Garry Lemon, director of policy and external affairs

Our nation is at a crossroads.

The government has responded to coronavirus with unprecedented measures to support workers, businesses and self-employed people. But the stark reality many of us now face is laid bare in today's unemployment figures, with hundreds of thousands of people falling off payrolls since March and the largest decreases in the number of self-employed ever recorded.

With the jobs retentions scheme and the self-employed income support scheme set to wind down over the coming months, there is real concern that this is just the start of a tidal wave which will sweep people into poverty and financial hardship.

What decision will we make? We can either choose to build the biggest and best lifeboats to sail people to financial safety – or risk many more people being swept into destitution if we do not invest enough to keep everyone afloat.

At the Trussell Trust we know how high the stakes are. Food banks across the UK have just reported their busiest month ever. Our volunteers are telling us many people are coming for the first time. The number of families with children needing emergency food has doubled, compared to this time last year.

This simply isn't right. But there are things the government can do to protect people from needing a food bank as the economic downturn unfolds. That's why we're working with a coalition of anti-poverty charities to call for a Coronavirus Emergency Income Support Scheme to ensure we all have enough money coming in to weather the storm.

There are already signs the government is open to making the changes that are needed.

Our coalition has been calling for a boost to the emergency schemes run by local councils in England, to ensure they can get cash grants into the pockets of people facing financial crisis. When run well, these schemes get money to people quickly and can reduce the likelihood that people will become homeless or need to turn to a food bank.

Last week the Prime Minister announced a new £63 million fund for these schemes in England to help people struggling to afford food and other essentials due to coronavirus.

It is heartening that the government has listened to and acted on the calls of charities and campaigners. We'll be working with government

officials to try and ensure this money is administered properly – read more about how in this [blog](#)

But we still have a long way to go to ensure everyone makes it to safety.

We urgently need funding to support the roll out of the rest of the emergency response proposed by our coalition to ensure everyone has enough money in their pockets for essentials during this crisis.

We know that for too many people, benefit payments do not adequately cover the cost of living, with research showing households referred to food banks being left with just £50 per week after housing costs. That was before this surge in unemployment – a surge forecasters say is likely to get worse as our economic downturn takes grip.

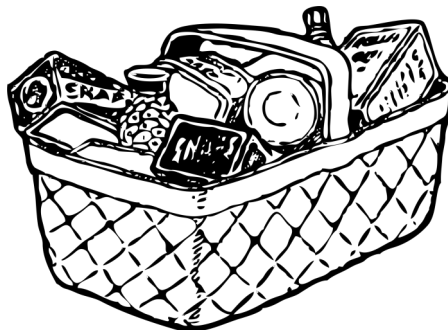
That's why we must:

Increase benefits that go to families to help with the costs of raising children
Extend the suspension of benefit deductions
to include advance payments the loans offered to cover the five-week wait for a first Universal Credit payment

Lift the benefit cap to ensure this support scheme benefits everyone
Our nation faces a crucial fork in the road.

We must choose the right path. The path that builds on the foundations our government has laid and buoys up the many people already struggling to keep their heads above water, as well as people pushed into poverty for the first time.


We've already seen what can be done to put support in place for people – we have the power to do this if we stand together.





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Mother's Union members have had to think creatively about fundraising opportunities

When Covid-19 hit the UK and we had to go into lockdown, it meant that many plans had to change and events had to be cancelled and postponed. Mothers' Union members have had to stop meeting together for fellowship and their opportunities to fundraise have been hampered. Sandra Pearce, a member and branch treasurer in Leicestershire, was one of those who found herself having to cancel a summer concert – a fundraiser that had raised over £1000.00 the year before and was well attended by the community of her thriving village.

Faced with this shortfall in revenue Sandra, thought about what skills she had instead that could give her an opportunity to raise money. She knew that she could sew very well and had a cupboard full of material and there was a lot of discussion in the press about the public having to continue to wear face coverings as we come out of lockdown.

After finding a suitable pattern she made a couple of cloth face coverings and decided to put an advert in her Church notices offering to make and sell face masks for £3.00 each. This was an overnight success and after a couple of days she already had 100 orders. Given the demand and the quality of the fabric she was using Sandra decided that she would charge £5.00 per mask going forward, which people were very happy to pay given that all the money goes to Mothers' Union. Sandra has already made 360 masks and raised over £1845.00 – and the orders are still coming in thick and fast!

"I didn't want Covid-19 to stop me from doing my part and raising funds for MU" Sandra says "I couldn't believe what an incredible response I had from just placing an advert in a newsletter and word-of-mouth has certainly helped business. I think everyone wants to help and everyone wants to be as generous as they can be in these difficult times".

Welcome back into Church!

St. George's Church is starting to re-open.



Please keep checking our
website: www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk
and our
Facebook page: St George's Church Brockworth
during August for additional diary events
We look forward to seeing you soon!

