

St. George's Church

Brockworth

May 2020



To journey in faith and share
God's love.

How to contact *your* St George's team

Church Office: Church Administrator, St George's Church Centre,
Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4ET
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am
Phone: **01452 550 554**
Email: **churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk**

Parish Website: www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk NB This is a new address
Facebook: Search for "St George's Church Brockworth" and 'like' our page

Vicar: Rev. Mike Smith: The Vicarage, Court Road, Brockworth
Tel: 07415 089897
Email: mike.smith@st-george-brockworth.org.uk
Mike's day off is Friday

Licensed Readers :

Mr Gordon Clifford – 01452 862475; email: gordon.clifford@sky.com
Mrs Louisa Messenger – 01452 862058 email: louisamessenger@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Mrs Lizbeth Harbottle, 31 Green Street, Brockworth
Tel: 01452 863732, e-mail: eaharbottl@aol.com
Mr. Richard Ashenden, "Hilldown", 62 Court Road, Brockworth.
Tel: 01452 862515

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Lianne Eve

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Rita Fix 01452 550554

Magazine Editor: Mrs. Pat Hartwell : stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com

The article deadline for the June issue is 15/05/20

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: Easter tableau in the Church porch

Photo by David Sutch



steps back and deteriorate. However, good news I think I am now turning a corner, I spoke with one of the doctors at the hospital last night, they are monitoring me - they are such a great team; very caring and reassuring, they have suggested that it could be a couple of weeks before my breathing and fatigue is anywhere near normal levels. Please feel free to share these details with any of the church family. Sarah is back at work and the boys have been fantastic.

Dear All,

Firstly, Happy Easter - Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

I am so sorry I have been out of action for the past few weeks, thank you for all your prayers and thoughts for all of us here, they have been much needed and brought us such hope and encouragement, and we are very grateful and feel very supported.

It has been an incredibly surreal 3 weeks: testing positive for Covid-19, then a side effect of a chest infection leading to pneumonia. My health seems to be very up and down: just as I think I am improving, I then take two

I have spoken with Archdeacon Hillary and she has been really supportive and caring.

As time goes on I will slowly be picking up emails. While I maybe out of action physically, you are all very much in my prayers. I cannot thank you enough for providing us with worship material each week - David what a blessing.

Stay safe, praying for protection for you all. Love & prayers, Mike

Mike continues to improve day by day, though is still getting back to his normal energetic self! Ed.



As we are still in lockdown, we are not able to hold meetings
until further notice.
Please keep the work of Mothers' Union and all members and
each other
in your prayers.

REMEMBER!

Cast all your care upon Christ our Redeemer,
and trust in his promise to be by your side.
His love will uphold you, his arms will enfold you,
let him be your Saviour, your shepherd and guide.

Fret not nor fear, for whatever befalls you,
remember for love of you Jesus was slain.
In dying for us, he shared all human sorrow
and bore on his shoulders the weight of your pain.

Though life be fraught with all manner of sorrows
the stresses and strains that beset us each day.
Be firm in your faith for the Lord will be with you,
and be by your side as your strength and your stay.

Many blessings, Rona.

CAN YOU HELP US FEED PEOPLE IN NEED?

The Feeding the 5,000 project is providing vulnerable and isolated people across Gloucestershire with delicious, nutritious food over the duration of the Covid-19 crisis.

Led by The Long Table and supported by the Diocese of Gloucester, we are delivering home cooked food to people's doorsteps. We are collaborating with organisations across the county to ensure that every person needing food, gets it.



THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE FOR:

- Vulnerable at risk people who are **unable to leave their homes**
- Vulnerable people who are **unable to afford food**
- **Foodbanks** - to reduce the strain on the system by supplying foodbank customers with regular deliveries of pre-cooked food.

£25 WILL PROVIDE SEVEN MEALS FOR SOMEONE DELIVERED TO THEIR DOOR

This service is open to everyone. For people who can afford to buy their meals their money will help fund free meals to others, such as the vulnerable, homeless and key NHS staff in our hospitals.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS VITAL SERVICE

If you are able to donate money to help us to provide food for every person who needs it, please

- » visit our **online donation form** - <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12553#!/DonationDetails>
- » or send a **BACS payment**, with the reference *C-19 - Long Table Feed 5000*:-
Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance
Barclays Bank
Sort code 20-33-91
Account number 90289957
- » or **send a cheque** made payable to *Gloucester DBF* to the Finance Team, Church House, College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LY.



WWW.GLOUCESTER.ANGLICAN.ORG/FEEDING-THE-5000

The Treasurer writes

I thought that I would remind friends and colleagues of 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. We have seen a significant reduction in our income, loss of plate giving due to suspension of worship in the church building, loss of income from the hire of the Church Centre and loss of income from the cancellation of fund raising events. Yet our expenditure has not significantly reduced, though there are a few savings in certain areas.

Regular giving schemes are - Parish Giving Scheme. Thank you to all who use this scheme for regular giving, being a direct debit procedure this is continuing 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. I have also been advised today, that new donors 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 – BROCC.

Contact details for the Parish Giving Scheme –

Phone – General enquiries and amendments 0333 002 1260

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

Email – info@parishgiving.org.uk

Website –

www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk

Address – 76 Kingsholm Road,
Gloucester, GL1 3BD

St George's weekly envelopes.

Thanks also to all who use the weekly envelopes. Under the current regulations and closure of the church, I know at present you cannot hand in your weekly envelopes. But, please remember that the envelopes can be filled each week with your weekly giving, then when restrictions are lifted, they can be returned in the church collection plate, or given to Jenny or Derek.

Standing orders. There 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 have ceased for the time being, but we do have the smartie tubes. How are these filling up? 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. 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.

Thanks ,Derek
24th April 2020

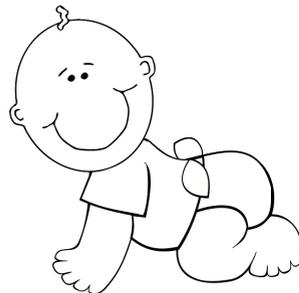
Email – eaharbottl@aol.com
Phone – 01452 863732

Congratulations

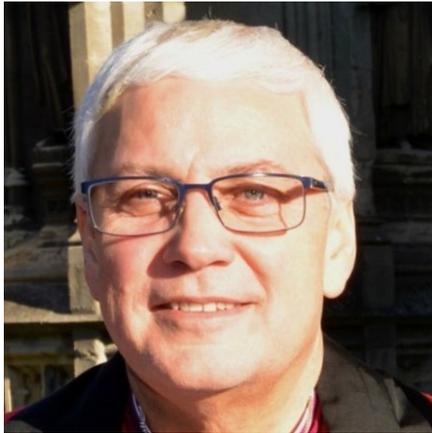
Good News from Bob and Joy Curzon!

We've had some lovely news we'd like to share. Our granddaughter and her partner had a baby boy yesterday morning, on the Queen's birthday! He is to be called William Edward James Margetts and he is our third great grandchild. All is well.

Take care and keep safe
God Bless
Joy



A message from Bishop Robert



Last Sunday, low Sunday, seemed especially appropriately named this year. The high feast of Easter had been celebrated, differently but with energy and imagination, but then after many of us had rested, came the announcement of three more weeks of lock-down and sobering news from our hospitals and care homes of deaths and staff struggling heroically with such challenging conditions. What we knew with our heads moved to our hearts as the marathon nature of the race we must run became yet clearer. All of us, without exception, will be managing a

range of emotions, alongside the practical tasks of living each new day with all that it will demand of us. All of us, without exception, have been and continue to be inspired by our front-line health workers and carers, and so many more, those who go to work to ensure basic services continue, those who care for children at home, all struggling with adversity, all of us need to know that kindness we are called to show others **and** ourselves.

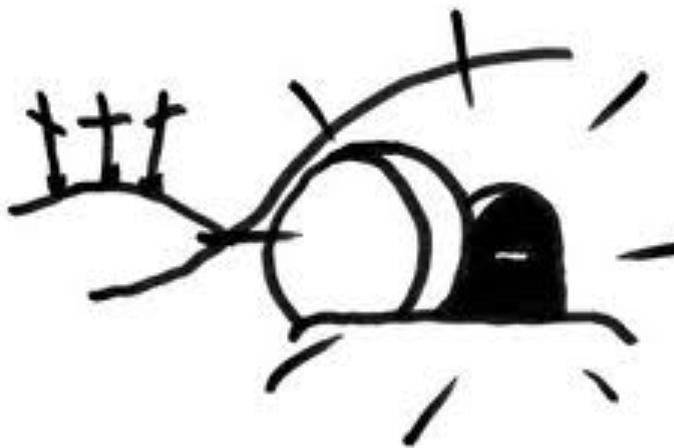
But the great truth of the Easter feast is that it is not a one-day wonder, it lasts a full 50 days, taking us from the confused and frightened first disciples with not much of a clue as to what was going on other than a dawning realisation that hope was somehow restored, to the Emmaus Road, the upper room with doors closed and brave Thomas the only one with the courage to voice his doubts, to the lake shore with nets full of fish and Jesus cooking breakfast, to Pentecost and the outpouring of the gift of the Spirit. The Easter feast asks us

to go on a journey with highs and lows as we discover what it is to live resurrection life. That life does not deny the darkness, the reality of death that we hear of each day in the news and that many of us know all too close at this time, but it does assure us that this is not the last word.

There is rightly a sense of this being a new season, and yes, it is a marathon and not a sprint, yet this is Easter too, and we will need to run it at the right pace, with kindness that allows us to rest and recover, offering mutual support and encouragement, not in competition.

With Bishop Rachel, I remain deeply inspired by the life we share in this Diocese which it is our immense privilege to lead. Thank you for all you are doing. In these days of Easter take time, rest, work, cry, care, mourn, laugh, love, sleep and know it is the risen Christ with whom we walk. We may struggle to understand, we may doubt, but the one who has come through the darkness is with us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



BIBLICAL CITIES,
CHAPTER ELEVEN:
ATHENS

Dear Readers you will recall my previous contributions on those cities that had mostly over 50 references in the bible. Well today I have gone to the other end of the spectrum and chosen Athens which has only four. These appear in books of the bible namely The Acts of the Apostles and in Paul's epistle to the Thessalonians.. However there are fourteen references to Greeks in four books of the bible. It is not recorded anywhere as to whether Jesus visited Roman Athens. So what do we know about Athens in Jesus lifetime? Following its foundation some five thousand years ago, Athens, named after the Goddess of wisdom, Athena, suffered a turbulent history with wars against typically Spartans, Macedonians, Persians and Romans.

In Jesus' time, Greece was dominated by the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire

(27 BC – AD 395), The Roman era of Greek history began with the Corinthian defeat in the Battle of Corinth. The Republic had been steadily gaining control of mainland Greece by defeating the Kingdom of Macedon in a series of conflicts known as the Macedonian Wars.

Most Theologians believe that Jesus was born in 4 B.C. or earlier.

This is because most date the death of King Herod the Great to 4 B.C. Since Herod played a major role in the narrative of Jesus' birth

So, dear readers you may ask about the biblical references to Athens?

They all concern themselves with Paul's missionary journey to Athens.

Paul, – who was trained as a young man in the art of debating in Greek – was delighted at have an opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus in the cultural heart of the ancient world, among its numerous pagan temples, altars, statues and monuments for which Athens was an example.

Acts 14-17 refers to the Areopagus sermon which was the most dramatic and fullest reported speech of the missionary career of Saint Paul . It is also recounted in Acts 17:16–34. In 1 Thessalonians 3:1 Paul quotes “When I could no longer endure it” Paul could barely endure the thought that the faith of the Thessalonians might

crumble under this season of affliction, so he sent Timothy to both check on them and to help them.

Acts 18.1 I quote “After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth” So in my next essay I will tell you about Corinth.

Allan Delves.



BREAKING NEWS

**Wearing a mask 🤒
inside your home is now
highly recommended.
Not so much to prevent
Covid-19 but to stop eating.**

OPPORTUNITIES

I have a mobility scooter for sale. It was used for trips to Needles and Natter and Sunday Church. It originally cost £1,000 and serious offers will be considered. One opportunity would be for the Church Community to buy it to assist those who find the final slope to St George's becoming increasingly impossible.

With thanks and love
David Sutch
01452 552926

Mothers' Union adapts to COVID-19

24 Apr 2020

Extraordinary, unexpected, unprecedented. Every day we are hearing words to describe what has been happening around us that tell us we are living through a remarkable series of events. Across Britain and Ireland, and all over the world Mothers' Union is rising to meet the unique challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Members are pulling together, adapting to unforeseen circumstances and spreading a message of hope in the face of great adversity.

Faith in action in Britain and Ireland

Even within these difficult circumstances, members are putting their faith into action in practical and useful ways. One of the most prominent activities our members have become involved with is the call to make scrub bags for the NHS.

92 year-old Margaret from Worcester thought her sewing days were behind her but has been delighted to join a Mothers' Union sewing team, making scrub bags with the Worcester group. It has given her a renewed sense of purpose and a reason to get up in the morning.

Elsewhere, the emergency department team at York Hospital thanked Mothers' Union in York Province for their recent kind donation of scrub bags. They said;

“We can put our uniform in them after our shift and put them straight in the washing machine once home so there is limited contact with the uniforms. Thank you for thinking of us.”

From the Registers—

March 2020

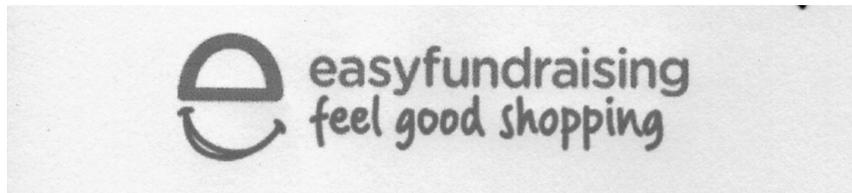
Funerals

Monday 16th March

Graham Workman

“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*



How does it work?

easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at easyfundraising, then shop as normal. Our retailers will then make a small donation to say, “thank you”.

We have 3,787 retailers to choose from and so far, we've raised over £28 million for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across the UK. Easy!

Over £500 has been raised for St. George's Church through this scheme. Please consider using it when doing any online shopping. Thank you!

**100 Club
April 2020
WINNERS**

1st — Henry (George) Cook (99)
2nd — Enid Lovell (56)
3rd — Ros Stacey (45)

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 June issue
is 15th May**

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 FAVORITE POEMS, CONTINUED

Continuing my series on my favourite poems, I have chosen one by the lesser known American Edwardian Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier. He was one of the "Fireside Poets," called such because their work was popular enough to be read (ostensibly by the fire) in homes all over America. And Whittier was one of those rare poets who actually made a rather comfortable living from the proceeds of his work.

Thinking about the current virus situation I thought the poem "Don't Quit" most appropriate but first I quote some comforting words from St Paul's epistle to the Philippians as follows: "Be anxious for nothing, but in every situation by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus".

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is strange with its twists and turns
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure comes about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow—
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell just how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit

Finally, the meaning of this poem is quite simple: don't quit. Life is like a roller coaster, with its twists and turns and you can never predict what will happen next. This poem describes how life can beat you down but in order to succeed, you need to pick yourself up and try again

Allan Delves 31.03.2020

Lockdown

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N. is a time to

Listen to God's Voice and reflect. Let go and let God.

Obey His Word and His teachings.

Call on Jesus' name and be calm.

Know what is the purpose of all this.

Dwell in His presence. Do not panic.

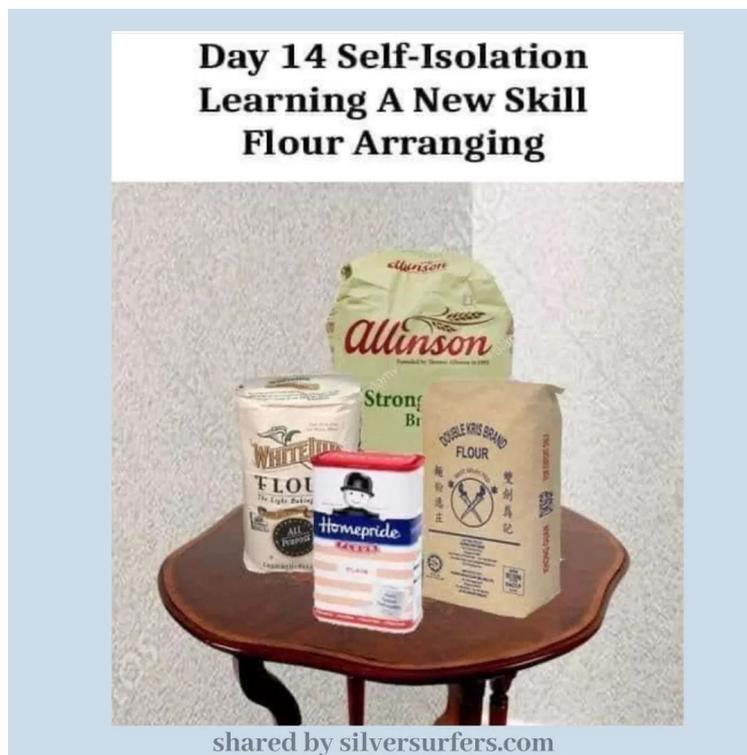
Offer a prayer for everyone's safety.

Wait and be patient. This, too, shall pass.

Nurture our personal relationship with Him.

Please share with your family and friends. God bless us all.

(Taken from one of David Sutch's Sunday services emails, thank you, David.)



Scripture Scones

1. 8oz Kings 4:22
2. 1 ½ oz Psalm 55:21
3. 1 ½ oz Ezekiel 27:19
4. 2oz 2 Samuel 17.29
5. ¼ pint Deuteronomy 6.3
Pinch Zephaniah 2.9

Method

Sift 1 and 6.

Rub in 2.

Grate 4 and stir with 3 into the mixture.

Add 5 keep mixing until a soft firm dough is formed.

Turn onto a floured board and roll out until 2 inches thick.

Cut into rounds and place on a greased baking tray.

Brush with milk and cook in a pre-heated oven 200-210°C, MK7 for about 10 minutes.

Serve hot with plenty of Psalm 55:21

From Richard Eve



May 2020 Daily Bible Readings:



Friday 1st May	Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
Saturday 2nd May	Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69
Monday 4th May	Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10
Tuesday 5th May	Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30
Wednesday 6th May	Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-end
Thursday 7th May	Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20
Friday 8th May	Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6
Saturday 9th May	Acts 13:44-end; John 14:7-14
Monday 11th May	Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26
Tuesday 12th May	Acts 14:19-end; John 14:27-end
Wednesday 13th May	Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8
Thursday 14th May	Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11
Friday 15th May	Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17
Saturday 16th May	Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21
Monday 18th May	Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4
Tuesday 19th May	Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11
Wednesday 20th May	Acts 17:15,22-18:1; John 16:12-15
Thursday 21st May	Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-end
Friday 22nd May	Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23
Saturday 23rd May	Acts 18:22-end; John 16:23-28
Monday 25th May	Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-end
Tuesday 26th May	Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11
Wednesday 27th May	Acts 20:28-end; John 17:11-19
Thursday 28th May	Acts 22:30;23:6-11; John 17:20-end
Friday 29th May	Acts 25:13-21; John 21:15-19
Saturday 30th May	Acts 28:16-20,30-end; John 21:20-end

For unusual times

...

And the people stayed at home, and read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised and made art, and played games and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And in the absence of people living in ignorant, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Mara



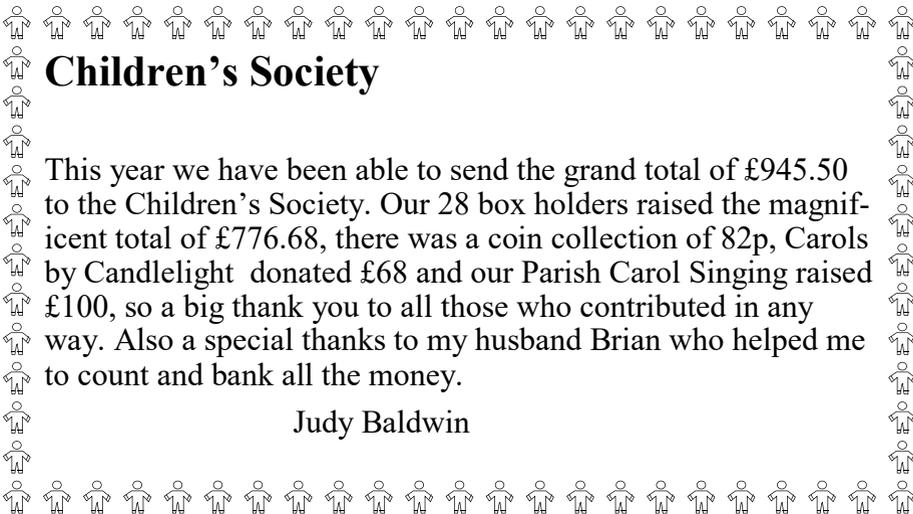
UPCYCLING

In these uncertain times of lockdown and isolation, please keep saving all your cards, (birthday, Easter, anniversary etc.) unwanted jewellery, spectacles, stamps, old mobile phones, and milk bottle tops, store them somewhere safe until we come out the other side of Covid 19 for our charities who will need them more than ever!



Many thanks,
Rona and Gordon.





Children's Society

This year we have been able to send the grand total of £945.50 to the Children's Society. Our 28 box holders raised the magnificent total of £776.68, there was a coin collection of 82p, Carols by Candlelight donated £68 and our Parish Carol Singing raised £100, so a big thank you to all those who contributed in any way. Also a special thanks to my husband Brian who helped me to count and bank all the money.

Judy Baldwin

Parish Notes May 2020

Even though times are very strange, and our Church building is closed, we continue to be a Church family, communicating with each other, supporting and encouraging each other and participating in Sunday worship in our own homes via email. A very big thank you to David Sutch who has been providing our services while Mike is poorly.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting should have taken place in April as a legal requirement. In accordance with a Bishop's Instrument, this has been deferred and must now be held by the end of October. All PCC members will remain in post until the APCM.

Special thanks to our Churchwardens Lizbeth Harbottle, Richard Ashenden, Assistant Churchwarden Linda Vogwell and

Treasurer Derek Harbottle as they carry out their on-going responsibilities, especially during Mike's illness.

Apologies again for not being able to print and deliver your magazine as usual, but we must follow advice and keep everyone safe. If you know of a friend or neighbour who usually gets the magazine, but may not be on the Church emailing list to receive notifications, please point them towards our website:

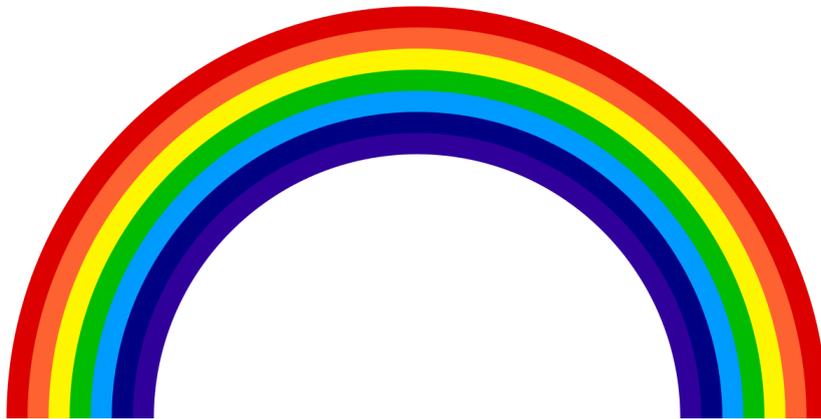
www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk

where they can find the magazine under "Downloads".

We are going to produce two versions this month - the usual one which you can print at home if you are able and one which should be easier to read online.

Stay safe and keep well.

Pat Hartwell





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