

St. George's Church Brockworth

June 2020

To journey in faith and share
God's love.

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Parish Website: www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk **NB This is a new address**

Facebook: Search for "St George's Church Brockworth" and 'like' our page

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The article deadline for the July/August issue is 15/06/20

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: View from Witcombe Roman Villa towards St. Mary's Church, Great Witcombe



Deconstructing Faith.

.According to 2015 figures (pewresearch.org), 84% of the world's population identifies with a religious group: 6.55 billion have a faith in something, but in reality, we all have faith. Life is based on having some faith of some description. When you spend money on a debit card you have faith that the banks will release your money, when we eat out in a restaurant (when we can!!) we have faith that the people preparing the food will have good hygiene, or when we drive on the roads we have faith that the other road users will be focused and obeying the same rules. We all live with faith.

So why is faith so important? Psychologists suggest that faith is important because it is an expression of hope. Hope that the chef in the kitchen would be hygienic, hope that the banking system wouldn't collapse, hope that health would improve, a situation resolve, or hope that a

friendship would be restored. Hope established through faith requires one more quality, trust. Trust is the firm belief in the reliability, truth or ability of someone or something. However, this trinity can be quite fragile. Psychologists and counsellors suggest that faith is the language of the heart, and belief, the outworking of faith, is based in the mind.

This starts to shine a light on why faith can be difficult to have, and maintain. The mind needs logic, reasons and evidence to draw conclusions. This conflicts with faith, which doesn't need all the answers, there is an element of uncertainty, which is where faith steps in. You sat down on the chair you're probably reading this magazine on without checking it was safe – you had faith that the chair hadn't let you down yet, so it would probably be good to sit on now – you sat down and then you

knew it was safe. Faith came before the knowledge.

Our striving for understanding has always been there, but one period in particular boosted humankind's need to have evidence in order to have a faith. The Enlightenment era (1715-1789), period which saw intellectual heavyweights such as Rene Descartes, Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and scientists such as James Watt, Joseph Black and the ripples from Isaac Newton's Principia Mathematica (1687) all elevated man's ability to solve problems. Theology was also brought into discussions and the challenge to prove God's existence began. Belief in man's ability to reason and solve some of the world's, and universe's biggest conundrums was high, and with such a high opinion of their own abilities' faith declined. The heart-based hope was swamped by mind-based belief.

Faith maybe important emotionally, physically, and mentally, but that doesn't mean it is easy to maintain a faith. Disappointments in life, pain and suffering, and a lack of understanding, can erode our faith and leave us relying too much on our reason. This then spirals round: disappointment leads to my faith declining which

increases my need to know why (why the original disappointment and then why is my faith declining!!), which then leads to more disappointment. Having a faith is hard. It was partly for this situation that the church was born: a place to worship but also a place to refocus our faith, not on disasters, and knocks in life but on the Father and Creator and the source of hope and help, and an all-inclusive space to welcome and encourage everyone.

What would it look like for you to place that same faith you have in your chair to remain firm, or your car to start first time, in Jesus? In faith, accept what Jesus said to be the truth, just like you knew the chair was safe only when you had the faith to sit on it, in that moment of accepting Jesus on faith you would know who Jesus is and you would know who he claims to be.

So where do you stand? How difficult is it for you to bridge that gap between heart and mind with faith? If you would like to chat further contact me, I would love to hear your thoughts on faith.

Mike



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

A message from Bishop Rachel

As we live these days, it is important that we continue to **recognise our reactions and reflect on our responses**. I have certainly been aware of my own weariness this week and that of those with whom I have spoken. This is not surprising and I do commend these **reflections from the Tragedy and Congregations website regarding trauma and tragedy in Christian congregations**.

These days of uncertainty are ones for becoming more aware of ourselves and giving attention to our well-being and who we are as precious individuals, underlined by this morning's Psalm - **Psalm 139**. All of this includes a recognition of the truth that we are created to live in relationship with God and neighbour and creation. Amid the sadness and the gladness of these days which I wrote about last week, there is the opportunity to go deeper in all these spaces of relationship, recognising what is life-giving and what is life-diminishing.

When it comes to the deepening of relationship with neighbour, it is both about our local communities and our neighbours worldwide. It has been good to connect with our partner dioceses during this time and this weekend marks the beginning of Christian Aid week (May 10-16).

The impact of coronavirus on communities already struggling with issues of food poverty, lack of clean water, conflict and disease is immense, and I hope that this coming week will reveal generosity beyond our imagining as we respond to the work of Christian Aid in many different ways. Please do take some time to look at **the resources** and reflect on how you might respond.

Before Christian Aid week begins we will live the 75th anniversary of VE day on Friday. This too will offer pointers for our reflections on self, neighbour and God as we live with the unexpected. Events and services which had been planned will now not be taking place yet people are still finding ways of marking the anniversary of this significant event. VE day was a day full of thankfulness that a chapter of awful conflict had come to an end, whilst at the same time people held the pain of grief and sadness and devastation. I am sure that many of us will reflect on the poignancy of all that in these current days, and it is perhaps particularly poignant that those in our communities who have memories of that day will be those who are now shielding and self-isolating as well as those who are unwell.

I am delighted that there will be a service provided virtually by the cathedral on Friday, **available from 11.15am on the cathedral website**

and I am looking forward to joining some members of the Company of St Kyneburga for a virtual cup of tea in the afternoon and hearing some of their memories of that day in 1945.

In all of this may we allow the ebb and flow of our thoughts and emotions to take us deeper into the heart of God who first loved us and created us to live in relationship.

“Jesus said: ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and

with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’”

(Matthew 22:37-39)

Bishop Robert and I continue to hold you in our prayers with thanksgiving.

Bishop
Rachel



News from the Lockdown

Many will know that I am involved with Churchdown ABC (Affected By Cancer). We had fortnightly meetings and members were meeting with each other in between. Friendships were being made and isolation overcome.

Then the Lockdown came to us all. Those at risk were doubly isolated now. So with Zoom we started virtual meetings and Quiz days. This was fine for those with computers and WiFi, and for those without, we managed, with a grant, to buy some Tablets which run on Sim Cards. So far so good. But trying to teach over the phone, at a distance, proved interesting, to say the least (I have the same problem with my mother – at least we have the landline to talk through instructions, and it certainly helps time pass). Success brought smiles to many faces as we saw members again.

Then we started a recipe exchange – and perhaps the birth of Churchdown ABC Lockdown Recipe Book – who knows.

Then, of course are all the jokes and cartoons circulating. Some funny, some hilarious, some sad.

But keep smiling – it uses more calories than frowning, so you keep fitter when you laugh.

Take care, keep safe, be a lert – we need all the lerts we can get!

David Sutch

In a Time of Distance

The unexpected always happens in the way

The unexpected has always occurred:

While we are doing something else,
While we are thinking of altogether
Different things – matters that events
Then show to be every bit as
unimportant

As our human concerns so often are;
And then, with the unexpected upon us,
We look at one another with a sort of
surprise;

How could things possibly turn out this way

When we are so competent, so pleased
With the elaborate systems we've
created –

Networks and satellites, intelligent
machines,
Pills for every eventuality – except this
one?

And so we turn again to face one
another

And discover those things
We had almost forgotten,
But that, mercifully, are still there:
Love and friendship, not just for those
To whom we are closest, but also for
those

Whom we do not know and of whom
Perhaps we have in the past been
frightened;

The words *brother* and *sister*, powerful
still,
Are brought out, dusted down,

Found to be still capable of expressing
What we feel for others, that precise
concern;

Joined together in adversity
We discover things we had put aside:
Old board games with obscure rules,
Books we had been meaning to read,
Letters we had intended to write,
Things we had thought we might say
But for which we never found the time;
And from these discoveries of self, of
time,

There comes a new realisation
That we have been in too much of hur-
ry,

That we have misused our fragile world,
That we have forgotten the claims of
others

Who have been left behind;
We find that out in our seclusion,
In our silence; we commit ourselves
afresh,

We look for a few bars of song
That we used to sing together,
A long time ago; we give what we can,
We wait, knowing that when this is over
A lot of us – not all perhaps – but most,
Will be slightly different people,
And our world, though diminished,
Will be much bigger, its beauty revealed
afresh.

Shared by Alexander McCall Smith



For those of you who are missing hymn singing in Church here is a quiz to test to test your knowledge.

Can you recognise the first line of each hymn from the initial letters of the words? Sing along with your friends, or by yourself!.

(Answers next month)

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. DLAFOM | 16. BSMSTLIOTS |
| 2. APTOEDD | 17. GTOTAS |
| 3. HHHLGA | 18. FATSWFTLR |
| 4. JLOMS | 19. BOMBOG |
| 5. YCONJ | 20. EFSTS |
| 6. THOGHG | 21. TGBTGGTHHD |
| 7. PTHHITH | 22. OFATTTTS |
| 8. LHCWCD | 23. IHTVOJS |
| 9. MSILU | 24. SATTDNWR |
| 10. WPTFAS | 25. WWTVS |
| 11. SSAGOLAS | 26. LUWAGM |
| 12. LEIHS | 27. OCSMATW |
| 13. ROACFM | 28. AWMFFTE |
| 14. WISTWC | 29. GMOTGJ |
| 15. LDALE | 30. AAHTHAVR |

Thanks to Lizbeth and Derek Harbottle and family

BIBLICAL CITIES **CHAPTER TWELVE**

CORINTH

Dear Readers, you will recall my last contribution on Biblical cities was Athens and I concluded the article with the Apostle Paul leaving Athens and going to Corinth. You may ask where Corinth is, it does not appear in UK travel brochures as a popular tourist resort in Greece. Well, I can tell you it is 49 miles on foot west of Athens on the isthmus of Corinth on a narrow stretch of land that joins the Peloponnese to the mainland of Greece, roughly half-way between Athens and Sparta. Corinth is most known for being a city-state that, at one time, had control of two strategic ports. They were both important because they were key stops on two important ancient trade routes. When Paul arrived in 51 CE, the Corinth he saw was little more than 100 years old, but was five times as large as Athens and the capital of the province of ancient Corinth. The original Corinth, founded in the 10th Century BCE, had been the richest port and the largest city in ancient Greece. During Roman times, it was one of the largest and wealthiest city-states in Greece.

In 146 BC, Corinth was captured and was completely destroyed by

the Roman army. But in 44BC it was completely rebuilt as a Roman colony. Corinth flourished and became the administrative capital of the Roman province of Achaia. So now to the Bible: for Christians, Corinth is well known from the two epistles of Saint Paul in the New Testament, First and Second Corinthians. Luke's account of Paul's stay in Corinth is found in Acts 18:1-18. Here began one of the important friendships of the New Testament – Paul and Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Paul called them his fellow workers who had risked their own necks for my life. According to 2 Corinthians 11:8-9, while Paul was in Corinth, financial support arrived from the Christians in Philippi, and he was able to put aside his tent making for a while and concentrate more fully on the task of building the church in Corinth.

After some initial success in the synagogue, but with considerable conflict, he decides to concentrate on the non-Jews, apparently with significant success.

After one year and six months, Paul says goodbye to the believers and sails for Ephesus across the Aegean Sea with Priscilla and Aquila. He leaves them there and heads east to home bases in Antioch and Jerusalem (Acts 18:18-23).

Finally, I go back to my early days when I worked for a member of

the closed Plymouth Brethren. If we, my colleagues and my self had to travel on Company business he travelled separately and refused to eat lunch or formal dinners with us. He quoted 2 Corinthians 6.14: do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" In fact he was judging us all as non-believers which of course was not true.

I guess most of you think of one particular chapter in 1 Corinthians 13 Pauls' treatise on Love. Love is slow to anger and does not rejoice in anything evil. A person who works in love always looks for the truth and keeps no record of wrong So, dear readers the natural theme for my next contribution will be Ephesus.

Allan Delves



The 23rd Psalm—but not as you know it!

Thanks to Jenny Farmer for sharing these with us.

The Sailor's version

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.
He guides me across the dark waters.
He steers me through deep channels.
He keeps my log.
Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders
and tempest of life,
I shall dread no anger, for He is with me;
His love and His care, shelter me.
He prepares a quiet harbour before me.
He anoints the waves with oil
My ship rides calmly.
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall guide me on the voyage I take,
And I will rest in the heaven's port forever.

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pace setter...I shall not rush
He makes me stop for quiet intervals
He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity
He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind and his
guidance is peace
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will
not fret, for his presence is here
His timelessness, his all importance will keep me in balance
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by
anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility
My cup of joyous energy overflows
Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours for I
shall walk in the Pace of my Lord and dwell in his house for ever.

From the Registers— April 2020

Baptisms

Sunday 8th March - Jefferson John Smyth
No baptisms during April

Weddings

No weddings during April

Funerals

No funerals during April

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*



Our Church (and the church centre) were decorated to celebrate VE Day.

Thanks to
Liz Ashenden

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!

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

Years ago, I think I remember, Songs of Praise on TV involving someone being asked to select their favourite hymn and explain what it means to them, then everyone sings it. In fact, I rather think we did something similar here at St. George's. Sheila, didn't you choose one?

I've often tried to choose my favourite hymn (particularly when thinking about my own funeral!) and it changes all the time according to my mood and circumstances. I wondered whether some of our magazine readers might like to share their favourite hymns and when I mentioned it to the Editor, she suggested I might kick it off, so here goes!

Normally I would go for one with a fabulous tune, (usually in a minor key) and with a great harmony, but I keep coming back to **Lord for the Years** and it is almost entirely because of the words. When I was working at Dean Close Prep School, this hymn was always the last thing to be sung at the final assembly at the end of every term. Needless to say, since everyone was about to go home for the school holidays, it was always sung with great gusto, but at the end of every school year, when many would be moving on to pastures new, it took on a special significance. But also when one really looks at the words, every verse holds a real meaning, depending on one's situation.

*Lord, for the years
Your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us,
Cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us,
Pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years,
We bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word,
The word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts
And sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains,
Rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word,
Receive your peoples' praise.*

*Lord, for our land
In this our generation,
Spirits oppressed
By pleasure wealth and care;
For young and old,
For commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
Be pleased to hear our prayer.*

*Lord, for our world,
When we disown and doubt Him,
Loveless in strength
And comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless,
Lost indeed without Him,
Lord of the world,
We pray that Christ may reign*

*Lord, for ourselves,
In living pow'r remake us,
Self on the cross
And Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us,
For the future take us,
Lord of our lives,
To live for Christ alone*



From our Treasurer

1. Plant sale – Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the plant sale planned for May. As we had plants which we had been growing on since before the lock down, we had an email and telephone sale and received donations of just over £300 for St George's. Thank you everybody.
(And a very big thank you to Derek and Lizbeth)

This is our QR code which takes you directly to our Just Giving account for donations.



Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) -

As I mentioned in the last magazine, the Parish Giving Scheme have recently introduced a **telephone service** through which you can set up regular direct debit donations. The number is 0333 002 1271 (calls are charged at local rate)] To use this service, which takes no longer than 15 minutes, you will need the following information -

Your personal bank account details

The name of the parish - St George, Brockworth

The PGS parish code – BROC

Derek Harbottle

100 Club
May 2020
WINNERS

1st — Rena Sparks (75)
2nd — Keith Stacey (37)
3rd — Enid Lovell (56)

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 July/August issue
is 15th June**

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!



GOD'S GARDEN

Like many of you, dear readers, I guess that you are taking advantage of the sunshine and spending much time in the garden. The other day I thought back to my teenage days when after school I had a paper round and at one particular house I sauntered up the paving stone footpath carefully folding the paper to pop through the low level letter box when I would read the fourth verse of a Dorothy Francis Gurney poem engraved in one flagstone. I would then look round and admire the very pretty manicured garden and think how apt the poem was. Dorothy Gurney was a Victorian poet and hymn writer, the daughter of the Rector of St Andrews, Undershaft in the City of London and was the granddaughter of the Bishop of London and niece of the Bishop of Colchester. Along with her father, they changed their allegiance to the Roman Catholic faith.

God's Garden

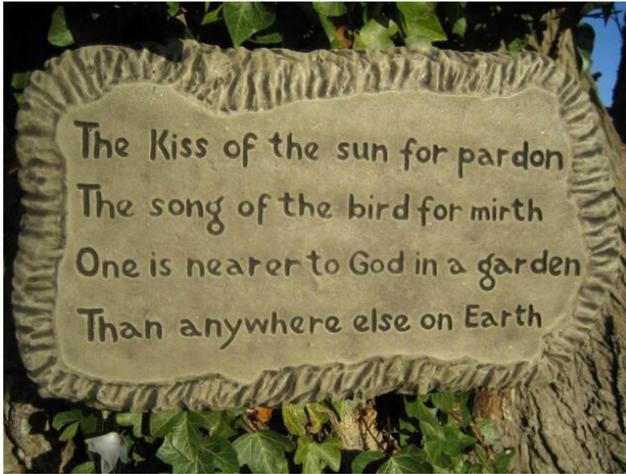
**THE Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And He set there an angel warden
In a garment of light enfurled.**

**So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.**

**And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.**

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,—
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.*

**For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden
And the soul of the world found ease**



Allan Delves

From Louisa and Sheila

Hello members of my lovely church family. How I have missed not worshipping with you in our beloved church. I am keeping sane, going out every day for a long walk, doing crosswords and reading books. I miss my grandchildren and my boys. It's a strange time for us all and as always for me it's my faith in our Lord Jesus that is helping me get through this madness. I pray for you all every morning within my daily prayers. The church will open again and the bells will ring, and you can throw things at me when I preach!!! Till then, stay safe, and remember the church may be empty but so was the tomb. God bless you and yours.
Louisa

Some words from Sheila. As an oldie during lock down I feel I must say a big thank you to the many people who have enquired as to my wellbeing, for those who do my shopping and try to help in any way that they can. I hope that I can repay you by inviting you help me celebrate my 100th birthday. The do is scheduled to take place on the 29th of August - provided we can on that date. Worry not, Louisa will see that it happens!!!. My love to you all.
Sheila

Bible Cake

1. 8oz 1st Kings Ch. 4 V.22
2. 8oz 1st Samuel Ch.30 V.12
3. 4oz Proverbs Ch. 30 V.33
4. 1 Jeremiah Ch.17 V. 11 (beaten)
5. ½ pt Genesis Ch. 21 V.19
6. 4oz Jeremiah Ch. 6 V. 20

Method

Put 2, 3, 5, and 6 into a pan and simmer slowly for 20 min.

Allow to cool.

Add 4 and stir in 1.

Turn into a greased 6in diameter cake tin.

Bake in a very moderate oven (300-350)F / (150-180)C gas mark 2-3 for about 1 ½ hours.



NOTE 1. = SR
6 = White

Richard Eve

SHAMPOO WARNING

URGENT PLEASE READ AND PASS ALONG

**DO NOT wash your hair with shampoo while
in the shower!**

Many People use shampoo in
the shower. However, when doing so,
the shampoo runs down the body!
Printed clearly on the shampoo label
“FOR EXTRA BODY AND VOLUME”.

No wonder people gain weight.
**STOP USING SHAMPOO – START
USING DISHWASHING LIQUID!**

It’s label reads “DISSOLVES FAT THAT
IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE”
Problem solved!

If I don’t answer any phone calls or
texts, I’ll be in the shower!

June 2020

Daily Bible Readings:



Monday 1st June	Romans 12:9-16; Luke 1:39-49
Tuesday 2nd June	2 Peter 3:11a,17-end; Mark 12:13-17
Wednesday 3rd June	2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12; Mark 12:18-27
Thursday 4th June	2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34
Friday 5th June	2 Timothy 3:10-end; Mark 12:35-37
Saturday 6th June	2 Timothy 4:1-8; Mark 12:38-end
Monday 8th June	1 Kings 17:1-6; Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday 9th June	1 Kings 17:7-16; Matthew 5:13-16
Wednesday 10th June	1 Kings 18:20-39; Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 11th June	1 Kings 18:41-end; Matthew 5:20-26
Friday 12th June	1 Kings 19:9,11-16; Matthew 5:27-32
Saturday 13th June	1 Kings 19:9-end; Matthew 5:33-37
Monday 15th June	1 Kings 21:1-16; Matthew 5:38-42
Tuesday 16th June	1 Kings 21:17-end; Matthew 5:43-end
Wednesday 17th June	2 Kings 2:1,6-14; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday 18th June	Ecclesiasticus 48:1-14; Matthew 6:7-15
Friday 19th June	2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20; Matthew 6:19-23
Saturday 20th June	2 Chronicles 24:17-25; Matthew 6:24-end
Monday 22d June	2 Kings 17:5-8,13-15,18; Matthew 7:1-5
Tuesday 23rd June	2 Kings 19:9b-11,14-21,31-36; Matthew 7:6,12-14
Wednesday 24th June	2 Kings 22:8-13,23:1-3; Matthew 7:15-20
Thursday 25th June	2 Kings 24:8-17; Matthew 7:21-end
Friday 26th June	2 Kings 25:1-12; Matthew 8:1-4
Saturday 27th June	Lamentations 2:10-14,18-19; Matthew 8:5-17
Monday 29th June	Amos 2:6-10,13-end; Matthew 8:18-22
Tuesday 30th June	Amos 3:1-8,4:11-12; Matthew 8:23-27

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?

This is the first line of a hymn I spotted when I was sorting some hymns out for Rev. Mike the other day and it set me thinking. We are living in such unusual and strange times at the moment and we most definitely have needed our neighbours since lockdown (not being able to get delivery of groceries from any of the supermarkets!) in fact our neighbours most certainly have been there for us!

With our family all living as far west of Wales that you can get we thought we had no one to help us! But we were wrong! Ria and Dave our neighbours rang and offered help and Dave has been doing a weekly shop for us since the middle of March! He has also been shopping for other neighbours, one of which, aged 90, had a fall and was ambulated to hospital! They gave her a lift home, made them meals for a couple of days and Ria helped her have a bath! Both Ria and Dave came round and worked like trojans to cut back and clear a jungle at the side of our house just out of the kindness of their hearts, they would not take payment (so we gave a donation to the charity Ria works for, James Hopkins Trust) They have been amazing! Big thank you to them both.

Someone else who deserves a big thank you was Lucy and Christopher from Abbotswood Co-op who went “above and beyond” to help me when I had problems sending a parcel to our family, although it was not her job to do so, she works for the Co-op not the delivery firm, she then sent Christopher, who WALKED round and back to collect the

parcel which duly arrived 48 hours later at it’s destination in Wales.

When I rang another one of our neighbours at the beginning of lockdown to see if she was alright she said to me “I now believe there is a God because he has sent this pandemic to stop all the warring and persecuting and violence and aggression in the world”

Perhaps she has a point! The world has seemed a kinder, friendlier, more caring place to live in, we have “clapped for carers” and waved to our neighbours, we can’t get together so we have been contacting each other by phone and all the “techi” systems available, (not always so easy for us old wrinklies to understand!!! but we are getting there!)

Rev. Mike and Sarah have been making cakes and distributing them to the Care Homes and schools (other members of the congregation are now on a rota to help with this)

There have been many, many more acts of kindness and caring shown to others that are so good to hear about and see, we pray that when we come to our ‘new normal’ the Lord will guide everyone in our world that this is the way to move forward.

In all things and under all circumstances let us give thanks and praise to you, Lord,

For our lives will always be safe in your hands. Strengthen our faith in you, Lord.

In you and in you alone we put our trust. Amen.

Many Blessings, Rona.



Good neighbours
Ria and Dave Heap

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.

Thank you to all the amazing cake makers who have volunteered, this is just a sample of the wonderful cakes taken into Millbrook Lodge, Brockworth Primary Academy, Castle Hill School and Coopers Edge School. They have been so thankful that we are thinking of them and acknowledge how hard



they are working in such unusual and difficult circumstances, it is such an incredible privilege.

With just a few more volunteers we could also take cakes to Brockworth House and Brockworth Surgery ... could you make a cake?



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Thank You

Matthew C25v40. "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Firstly the Manager, volunteers and trustees of Gloucester Foodbank want to say thank you.

- ♦ *Thank you for your prayers. We know the Lord is looking over us and our clients.*
- ♦ *Many of our regular volunteers are self isolating because of age or medical conditions—thank you to those who have stepped into the breach especially Adie Jones from Gloucester City Mission*
- ♦ *Thank you to all who have been donating food*
- ♦ *Thank you to people who have just dropped in to give us money. People have been incredibly generous.*



Volunteers packing parcels for home deliveries

Please do continue to support our work. If you are shopping in supermarkets—items of which we are particularly short are highlighted overleaf

Our manager Anneliese Sterry tells us how the lockdown has affected Gloucester Foodbank

Up until a few weeks ago we had a mixture of seeing a few clients coming to the Foodbank and a few referral agencies collecting on behalf of their clients. From 9th April with the offer of a volunteer from Gloucester City Mission and their van we were able to deliver some parcels to clients. We still saw some clients face to face. However, since Monday 27th April we have enlisted more volunteers to help with deliveries using their private vehicles. From that date we began doing deliveries only and not seeing clients face to face. This enables us to provide 7 day emergency parcels which are substantially heavier to carry home instead of the usual 3 day parcels. This additional provision will give people in crisis extra breathing space until their situation is hopefully resolved. Below is an idea of how demand has increased in recent weeks"

April saw a large increase in demand
2019— 295 referrals, 571 people inc.193 children
2020—380 referrals, 824 people inc. 303 children
29% more referrals, 44% more people,
57% more children

Thoughts from our Chairman, Dave Walker

I would like to highlight how churches can pray for the foodbank. I ask them to pray for all of us connected with the foodbank to have strength, humility, perseverance, and wisdom as we go about the business of feeding those who cannot afford to feed themselves.

In these frightening times I am comforted by:-
Deuteronomy (31.8)

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid do not be discouraged.

Proverbs (19.17)

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and he will reward them for what they have done.

Verse 20

Listen to advice and accept discipline and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Apt I think Stay at Home Protect the NHS
Save lives

IF YOU ARE VISITING A SUPERMARKET AND WOULD LIKE TO DONATE SOME FOOD ETC—THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE PARTICULARLY NEED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- ⇒ **LONG LIFE MILK (NOT CHILLED)**
- ⇒ **TINNED FRUIT**
- ⇒ **TINNED VEGETABLES**
- ⇒ **TINNED COLD MEAT (E.G.HAM/CORNERED BEEF)**
- ⇒ **TINNED TOMATOES**
- ⇒ **TINNED RICE PUDDING**
- ⇒ **CEREAL (NOT PORRIDGE)**
- ⇒ **TINNED BAKED BEANS**
- ⇒ **PACKET DRY PASTA**
- ⇒ **TINNED MEAT PIES (FRAY BENTOS)**
- ⇒ **JACKET MASH**
- ⇒ **BARS OF SOAP**



God is there for us all the time

There are many things that Gloucester Foodbank needs but one of them is money. During this crisis we have needed money to pay for extra storage space, to take on a temporary extra member of staff, for transport costs and for boxes



in which to deliver food. Much of this has come from grants from trusts etc but we want to relate one story of how the Lord knows and meets our needs.

When it became obvious that home delivery was the way we needed to work, our Manager found a supplier who could supply 500 boxes for £400. The trustees decided to take a leap of faith and order the boxes. Just after the order had been placed, Dave Walker (our Chairman) heard the back door bell ring. On opening the door he met a man who was not known to the Foodbank. This gentleman said he had felt called to donate money to the Foodbank. He handed over a cheque for £400.

We don't know if he is a Christian but we do have faith the God works through people even when they don't realise he does.

Other people have just walked up and given money. Some have given cheques or cash, and other people have donated through our website using Virgin Giving or Just Giving.

If you can help—thank you