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St. George's Church Brockworth

Parish Magazine

March 2019

To Journey in Faith and Share God's Love

How to contact *your* St George's team

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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: Magnolia at Westonbirt Arboretum



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Parish Notes for March 2019

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on March 6th and there will be two services; our usual 9.30am in the chapel and a service in church at 7pm. On both of these occasions, the imposition of ashes will be available for those who wish it.

As in previous years, Morning Prayer will be said in the Chapel on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings at 9.30am. Please do join us as this is a good way to keep Lent.

During Lent we will as usual have Lent lunches. These will be in the hall on Wednesdays, beginning on Ash Wednesday, at 12.30pm and there will be a sign up list for offers of soup and bread.

This year there will be just one Lent group each week and it will be held on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm, directly after Lent Lunch. It will be held in the church centre lounge and reminders will be in the pew sheets as well as a sign up list in church. The book we will be using costs £2.99 and so we will need to know as soon as possible how many people are attending, in order to purchase the books. If you would like to attend but are unable to purchase a book please just put your name on the list anyway and have a word with Jane.

On Friday 22nd March there is a Parish Quiet Day at Brownhill Monastery. Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to join us, or have a word with Jane for further information.

Another reminder that we would love you to consider whether you might stay for baptisms after services as it is really good to have church family members supporting. The more folk prepared to do this, the less often each will need to be there. The baptisms will be taking place at 11.30am and in the vacancy will be conducted by David Sutch, Adrian Slade, and Jo Wetherall, who will also be taking some morning services. I know they would appreciate your support.

I also want to send out a plea for help with church opening. The church is visited by many folk and the fact that it is open is much valued; however at present the same few people commit to opening and closing the church and it would be good if a few more might join their ranks. Please do consider whether this is something you might be able to help with.



A letter from Jane...

Time flies as they say, and here we are again with Lent upon us! Wednesday 6th March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season, but what do you think of when you hear that word Lent; is it just about giving up something you enjoy, is it about Lent lunches shared or perhaps it's about Lent study groups.

Is it a season to reflect on how bad you are, or how good God is; or perhaps it's about all these things in some measure.

Originally Lent was kept as a sort of pre-Easter retreat if you like, an opportunity for some spiritual toning up, and the reason why Christians from the days of the early church took it so seriously is because Easter Day was the highlight of their year, the day of resurrection, the day Jesus rose from the dead.

But not only that, it was also the day when they welcomed converts to Christianity into full fellowship of

the church, and welcomed back those whose faith had grown dim.

Lent provided an opportunity to discover for the first time, or to revisit, the basic teaching essential to an understanding of Christianity. Pretty soon they thought it would be a good idea for all of them as well; so this if you like is what our season of Lent is founded on.

I have asked what Lent is for you, so now let me add to the mix what I think it is not! It is not all about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness, it is not about standing still focusing on the past and it is not about penitence, about beating ourselves up because of our many sins.

In saying this, I am not suggesting it is an easy time; it begins as I have said, with Ash Wednesday and that really is a day of penitence, the principal penitential day of the church calendar, the day when we focus on how large the gap between us and God has grown. But we focus on that so that we can then use Lent to move forward, to close the gap. During those weeks leading up to Easter we learn of Jesus' journey to his Father, a journey of pain and sacrifice culminating in joy and we can allow ourselves to be encouraged as we move forward in our journey towards being who God has called us to be.

Nowadays, along with many things which are beyond my understanding, we hear of people engaging a "Life Coach". As far as I can see, these life coaches charge a lot of money for doing what Lent offers us the opportunity to do without any

monetary cost. Note though, that I said monetary cost and not without any cost.

A proper keeping of Lent can, and probably should be, very costly but at the same time should be seen not simply as costly fast but rather as costly feast, as these words entitled Keeping a Holy Lent help explain.

Fast from criticism; feast on praise.
Fast from self-pity; feast on joy.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from jealousy; feast on love.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from selfishness; feast on service.

Fast from fear; feast on faith.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from concern; feast on compassion from others.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Perhaps if we have grown up believing that we must give up something in order to 'Live Lent', we could give up some time, or in other words, take time to be – time to rest – time to listen- and all this in the presence of the most qualified of life coaches, he who gave us life, he who is love and

who wants us to feast on him. He of whom the prophet Joel says;

"Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and full of mercy; he is patient and keeps his promise, he is always ready to forgive and not to punish."

So all this culminates with me wanting to say to you and to myself, Lent is in fact a glorious forty day opportunity: an opportunity to ask; what have I been doing with my life? What has God been teaching me? Where have I succeeded in living life God's way? Where have I failed? What do I need to confess to God or to change? And to take a leaf out of the book of the prodigal son who made a calculated choice to come back to the Father. The Father who is waiting, just as the prophet Joel told us.

If like me, you find it helpful to have words on which to focus your thoughts, then maybe those I have shared from the prophet Joel or the words entitled; Keeping a Holy Lent will help your Lenten thinking and journeying. Or maybe these words from a well-known hymn might prove a useful Lenten prayer.

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

From the Registers— January 2019

Baptisms

Sunday 13th January

William Shields

Sunday 27th January

Eleanor Moore

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

Marriages

No marriages during January

Funerals

Friday 18th January

Audrey Hamblett

"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

**FOREIGN SECRETARY
JEREMY HUNT
WELCOMES THE OPEN
DOORS WORLD WATCH
LIST 2019**

16 January 2019

Today, the anti-persecution charity, Open Doors released the 2019 World Watch List, it's annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has welcomed the report and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting persecuted Christians around the world.

The World Watch List report will be presented to parliamentarians today at an event in Westminster. Speaking ahead of the launch, Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt said: "People of all faiths and none should have the freedom to believe what they choose, but that is clearly not the case across too much of the

world. Today's figures published by Open Doors show that the persecution of Christians has risen across the world in the last year, and more than 245 million Christians are experiencing persecution. I look forward to receiving the results of the review being carried out by the Bishop of Truro, to see how the UK can better support persecuted Christians wherever they are. Faith isn't a crime, believers shouldn't be treated as criminals, and the UK must fight for that to be the case across the world."

Please continue to pray for Open Doors as they highlight the suffering of Christians around the world. They continue to meet regularly with MPs in an effort to encourage them to speak out for those who are persecuted because of their faith. To find out more, go to: www.opendoorsuk.org

100 CLUB WINNERS

February 2019

- 1st — Sue Boulton (78)
- 2nd — Patrick Reynolds (52)
- 3rd — Ken Holbrook (20)

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

Whatever you choose to use or do,
or not, I wish you a holy Lent and
a fulfilling journey with our Lord,
from a Penitential Ash Wednesday
to a Joyful Easter Day.

Love and prayers

Jane



Another story – another song!

On the 26th May 1940, the evacuation of the B.E.F. from the beaches of Dunkirk began. Less importantly, historically at least, it was also the day I was born. We lived throughout the war in my grandparents' tied cottage at Westlecote near Old Town, Swindon. There was always aircraft flying around from the nearby bases of Wroughton, Lyneham, Hullavington and the "Shadow Factory" at South Marsden. Later in the war, there were also the paratroopers flying off for D Day from Membury. With my father and three uncles in The R.A.F., my interest in the

R.A.F. and aircraft seemed inevitable. All I knew of my father was a very stern looking man in uniform in a black and white photograph. The photo terrified me! Little did I know how that terror would manifest itself when he came home. Life in my grandparents' cottage was spartan. Just 2 rooms up and down, no bathroom, no gas or electricity and one cold water tap. The toilet at the bottom of the garden was a small brick building with a wooden plank with a hole over a large bucket. It was separated from the neighbours by a

sheet of hessian sacking. Not at all private!

Like many children at the time, my sister, (who was 16 months younger than me), and I had no recollection of our father. Many fathers, of course, never came home and for many children, not even the mothers knew who the father was.

When ours came home, we were quickly removed from our grandparents influence and moved into central Swindon. Two years later our family now numbered six and my father decided to move us to North West London. We lived in a three-bed semi in Colindale at 169 Bouty Road (how unlucky is 13x13?!). At the back of the house was the above ground section of the Northern Line, with tube trains passing in opposite directions every 10 minutes. To the front of the house was Hendon Aerodrome, which was still operational. Twin engine Avro Ansons and De Havilland Devons flew over the house most days, so low that you could recognise the aircrew. There were also Chipmunk trainers and several winch launched gliders. On the far side of the airfield was a small detachment of American DC3 Dakotas, with no other markings except "United States of America" on a white background along the fuselage. When they landed, they were surrounded by American military police and a black car would whisk the occupants away, where,

at the main gate, two British police cars would position themselves, one in front and one behind, and race off at speed towards Central London.

By the time I was eleven, I was now the eldest of seven children, and nine of us lived in the three-bed semi. Difficult! It seemed that my father was single-handedly trying to repopulate the country!

I went to Goldbeaters Secondary Modern School, where my games master was Mr. Les Hill. He was an ex-Hurricane fighter pilot who flew against the Japanese from India and Burma. He was also the commanding officer of the Air Training Squadron that was based on Hendon Airfield. I could not wait to join, but you had to be 14, so I spent three years waiting. With his encouragement and because he was aware of my unhappy home life, at the age of 15 ½ I joined the R.A.F. as a boy entrant.

Careers advice in those days was very limited at school, but many of the local companies would canvas for apprentices outside the school gates. De Havilland, Handley Page, Desouter Engineering and Frigidaire were among them.

One boy, whose nickname was "Sad Sam", because of his "Billy no mates" and dour demeanour, joined Frigidaire. Whilst home for a weekend, I bumped into him and asked how things were going. He said he was just a "gofer" for his seniors

ELECTORAL ROLL

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

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

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

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

Many thanks

Lizbeth Harbottle Electoral Roll Officer

INDONESIA TSUNAMI: AN UPDATE FROM TEARFUND'S RESPONSE TEAM

A few days before Christmas, Indonesia was hit by a devastating tsunami caused by a volcanic eruption. Waves crashed through towns on the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra on the night of 22nd December. There was no warning.

437 people were killed, 14,000 injured and more than 33,000 people have lost, or had to flee from, their homes. Hospitals, hotels and shops were also destroyed.

Our local partner launched a response immediately, establishing the scale of the damage and how best to meet people's most urgent needs. Staff are prioritising clean drinking water and medical care, as well as the distribution of blankets, mattresses, cooking equipment and tarpaulins for shelter.

Tearfund's Disaster Management lead for Asia, Sanjeev Bhanja, said "Our local partner worked quickly, with good co-ordination, and was able to provide lifesaving emergency aid among the communities affected in the Lampung district."

Many communities in Indonesia were still reeling from the tsunami back in September, so this latest disaster is another setback for this country.

PLEASE PRAY

Pray for people who have been directly affected by the tsunami – those who have lost loved one, for the injured, for those lacking clean water and shelter.

Ask God to strengthen the emergency response teams including Tearfund's partners and other humanitarian workers.

Pray for efforts to improve tsunami warning systems and that communities would be better prepared for future disasters.

A NEW KIND OF DIET

You might well lose weight by eating a late breakfast and an early dinner.

A study published in The Journal of Nutritional Science has found that if you delay breakfast by 90 minutes, and eat supper 90 minutes earlier, you may well lose weight, even if you do not change what you eat.

Researchers believe the reason may be that moving both meals closer to the middle of the day may attune your eating times with your circadian rhythms, meaning that your food metabolises better. Or, it may be the effect of the longer fast period overnight.

and all he did was screw the backs on fridges with a pneumatic screw-driver. It was two years before I saw him again and he said that he was buying himself out of the apprenticeship and opening a discotheque. He had been to the bank with a business plan, who agreed to part fund the project. He got a lease on a small industrial unit just off the Edgware Road and had restricted hours on Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 7 – 11 pm and Sundays until 10 pm. The local council installed a decibel meter.

He invited me along to the opening night and I pressed my navy blue, pinstriped suit, put on my newest white shirt, light blue tie and my Eton Clubman suede crepe-soled shoes and drove there in my 1947 Austin Eight saloon. On entering, I saw that the floor had been painted, there were some bright coloured upholstered benches, a glitter ball illuminated by two different coloured spotlights, a table with the Dansette record players wired to two large speakers and a soft drinks bar with crisps and nuts as well as fizzy and still

drinks.

I quickly got into conversation with a very attractive young lady. She had black, bobbed hair, high cheek bones and hazel eyes, a beautiful figure and a very smart and expensive-looking dress. We talked and danced together all night, never leaving each other. On the slow dances, she came in very close with arms around my neck as we danced cheek to cheek. I don't mind telling you, I was smitten! At the end of the evening, I asked if I could drive her home and see her again. She stood back and put her hands on my face, and with tears in her eyes she said that was not possible and that I would never see her again. With that, crying her eyes out, she ran from the club. I was devastated and dumb struck and it took me a few seconds to come to and run after her. Outside, there was no sign of her. I got into the car and searched the area, but never found her, and so came about that famous song "I left my heart in Sad Sam's Disco".

Keith Stacey



CHURCH ARCHITECTURE Chapter Four

Dear Readers, you will remember my Chapter Three composition on Romanesque architecture, with particular emphasis on our very own Gloucester Cathedral. Moving on, this month's contribution is on Perpendicular Style architecture. Going back to school geometry lessons, you will recall the definition of perpendicular as "a straight line at an angle of 90 degrees to a given line, plane or surface". So now we know what we are looking for. As it's name suggests, the chief characteristic of Perpendicular Architecture is the emphasis on strong vertical lines, seen most markedly in window tracery and wall paneling. Roof vaulting became elaborate and ornate, with a multitude of vaulting ribs spreading outwards in a fan shape, ornamented with pendants and cross-ribs that served a purely decorative function. Those of you, dear readers, who enjoy my articles will recall Chapter One, on Gothic architecture. Well, Perpendicular style is a term given to the final period of English Gothic architecture (late 14th – mid 16th century) because of the predominating vertical lines. The period slots between Decorative Gothic and Tudor periods of architecture. So, where are the best examples of

Perpendicular architecture? The finest examples of Perpendicular fan vaulting survive at King's College Chapel, in Cambridge (1446 – 1515) and Henry VII's Chapel at Westminster Abbey (1503 – 1519) But is there anything closer to home, I hear you ask? Again, we go to the essentially Romanesque Gloucester Cathedral which was remodelled at the East end between 1331 – c1355 and arose from the burial in the abbey of King Edward II. The young Edward III wanted a more fitting burial place for his royal father and instructed the royal masons to carry out some experimental work in the French "Rayonnant" style. I guess this is a new term for you. Whilst all phases of Gothic architecture were concerned to some degree with levels of illumination and the appearance of structural lightness, Rayonnant takes this to the extreme. More of the wall surface than ever before was pierced by windows and buildings were given more glass to allow light to flood in. The South transept at Gloucester Cathedral has the earliest surviving example of English Perpendicular architecture.

To conclude, I have chosen Bath Abbey, which I am sure many of you will be familiar with. The Abbey is now an Anglian Church but was formerly a Benedictine Monas-

ADLENT CALENDAR



PLEASE USE HASHTAG **#ADLENTCALENDAR** TO SPREAD THE WORD

6 March			
Cereal 01	Jars, tins or pouches of baby food 02	Soup 03	Laundry powder 04
Pasta 05	Shampoo 06	Tinned meat 07	Toothbrush 08
Tinned vegetables 09	Nappies 10	Rice 11	Long life milk 12
Hand wipes 13	Tinned fruit 14	Toilet paper 15	Soap 16
Beans 17	Deodorant 18	Biscuits 19	Sanitary towels & tampons 20
Shower gel 21	Cereal 22	Coffee 23	Tinned fish 24
Baby wipes 25	Tinned fruit 26	Liquid laundry detergent 27	Long life fruit juice 28
Pasta sauce 29	Tooth paste 30	Tinned sponge pudding 31	Tinned meat 32
Shaving gel 33	Squash 34	Washing up liquid 35	Tea 36
Biscuits 37	Long life milk 38	Tinned custard 39	18 April Chocolate 40

Please check with your local food bank to find out the opening times and if there is anything in particular they're running short of. You can find your local food bank here: trusselltrust.org/find-a-foodbank/

www.trusselltrust.org
enquiries@trusselltrust.org
01722 580 180

The Trussell Trust is Reg. Charity in England & Wales (1110522) and Scotland (SC044246). Reg. Ltd. Co. in England & Wales (5434524).



**Instead of giving something up for Lent,
perhaps we could give something which
will make a difference!**

Adlent

Reverse advent calendar for Lent

(see facing page)

During spring, many foodbanks struggle with low food stocks, yet the need for emergency food to support people in crisis remains.

You can help food stocks last well into the summer by taking part in Adlent, a great way to help over the period of Lent. Simply download the Adlent calendar and collect or donate one item of food for each of the forty days of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday 06 March and finishing on Thursday 18 April.

You can take part as an individual, community group, at work or at school. Donations made to foodbanks in our network are used to provide three days of emergency food to local people, facing hunger, making a huge difference to their lives.

tery. It is one of the finest examples of Perpendicular Architecture in the West Country. It was founded in the 10th century and remodelled in the Perpendicular style between the 12th and 16th centuries.

So, there we have it. The next instalment takes a slightly different course when I will

explain the meaning and origin of Cathedral and Church terminology.

Allan Delves



Bath Abbey

HEAVEN'S REWARD

A taxi driver and a minister from the same village died and went to heaven. St. Peter met them at the gate. He gave a kindly smile to the minister, but threw his arms around the taxi driver, and several angels rushed to carry the taxi driver in triumph through the pearly gates. The minister was miffed. He wanted to know why his welcome was so much less, considering he had spent his life working for the Kingdom of Heaven. "Indeed, you did," said St. Pete soothingly, "and you did a good job. But sadly, you came nowhere near to what this taxi driver achieved for us up here in Heaven."

"But – but – he has never preached even once," protested the minister.

"True, but while over the years your ministry inspired about 30 people to pray with real fervour, this taxi driver inspired thousands. Anyone, in fact, who got into the back of his taxi for a drive."

Annual Call for Help

It's that time of year again when I make out the new rota for the cleaning of the brass in the church. At the moment we have three teams of two or three. The brass is cleaned every three weeks, so it only comes around every nine weeks. With just one more volunteer, you would only be called on once in twelve weeks.

There is also a team who clean the church each week. Pat and Sue do it once a month, but Jan and Heather do it every other week, with Valda helping whenever she can get there. We need at one or even two more pairs who would do it just once a month, to take the pressure off Jan, Heather and Valda.

If anyone else feels that they could spare a little time and elbow grease to help with either of these unseen but necessary jobs, please could you let me or the office know. Thank you.

Liz Ashenden 862515

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2019 (cont'd)

17th	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Parish Eucharist: Church
18th	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
19th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
20th	9.30am 12.30pm 1.30pm	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
21st	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Bell ringing: Church
22nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Parish Quiet Day: Brownhill Monastery
23rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
24th	8.00am 10.00am 12.00pm	Said Eucharist: Church Parish Eucharist: Church Baptism: Church
25th	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Mothers' Union meeting: Hall, Church Centre
26th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
27th	9.30am 12.30pm 1.30pm	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
28th	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Bell ringing: Church
29th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
30th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
Mothering Sunday		
31st	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Family Service: Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2019

3rd	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Family Service: Church
4th	10.00am 10.00am 7.15pm	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre Bible Study: Lounge, Church Centre
Ash Wednesday		
6th	9.30am 12.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes: Chapel, Church Centre Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre Parish Eucharist with imposition of ashes: Church
7th	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Bell ringing: Church
8th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
9th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
10th	8.00am 10.00am	Said Eucharist: Church Parish Eucharist: Church
11th	9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
12th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
13th	9.30am 12.30pm 1.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Communion: Chapel, Church Centre Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre PCC meeting: Lounge, Church Centre
14th	9.30am 10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre Bell ringing: Church Chapter meeting: Lounge, Church Centre
15th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
16th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISHES SUPPORTING WINTER SHELTERS

More than 2,300 Church of England congregations are running or supporting night shelters this winter as homelessness projects expand to cope with rising demand.

Some of these “church” night shelters are adding extra beds, and others are opening for longer during the week.

The Rt Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester, and the Chair of the Christian housing charity, Housing Justice, said: “The reasons why people end up on the streets are complex, with many facing mental ill-health, many having been in care as children, and a good number having been released from prison. Behind the distressing rise in numbers, we must remember that behind each statistic is a person, a human being made in God’s image and thus worthy of dignity. I give thanks for all those who work tirelessly to serve those who live on our streets or in other unstable settings.”

A BIG THANK YOU AND KEEP THE CARDS COMING

The Cobalt Unit have asked me to say a big thank you to everyone who dropped their Christmas cards into the Church office etc. I took over 5 car boot loads, in excess of 100 carrier bags full!! so well done, you have been amazing!

BUT DON’T STOP THERE! Please drop your BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, GET WELL, SYMPATHY ETC. CARDS into the office or give them to me as the year goes on. The Cobalt Unit volunteers will be thrilled to receive them and I am more than willing to take them over to Cheltenham to help a very worthwhile charity. Cancer seems to touch everyone’s family and friends in one way or another!

Thank you all, Rona.

Listens, Observes and Acts.

The March Branch meeting is on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm in St. George's Church Centre hall

when our speaker is Rev'd Jane who will be leaving us (retiring) 2 weeks later

and will be an opportunity for us to wish her (and John) much happiness in their new future life.

Also on the afternoon of March 25th at 2.00pm the Mothers Union Lady Day Service is being held at Gloucester Cathedral when Kay Hensley is being commissioned as our new Diocesan President.

Other things happening this month:-

March 1st 10.00am -- World day of Prayer being held this year at St Patrick's Church

Also March 1st - 7.00 for 7.30pm, Lynne Tembey (recent past Worldwide President) is the speaker at The Royal Agriculture University, Cirencester Park.

Lent Lunches start on Ash Wednesday - March 6th

Mothering Sunday - March 31st

Many blessings, Rona.

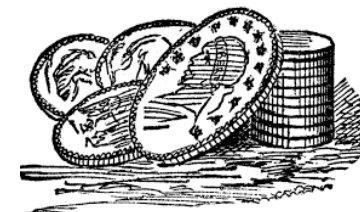
Cash4Coins

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

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

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

Thank you in anticipation...



Wanted!

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

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

stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com

**The DEADLINE
for the
April issue
is 15th March**

Thank you!

Help Guide Dogs for the Blind

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

Thank you!



Daily Bible Readings



Friday 1st March	Ecclesiasticus 6:5-17, Mark 10:1-12
Saturday 2nd March	Ecclesiasticus 17:1-15, Mark 10:13-16
Monday 4th March	Ecclesiasticus 17:24-29, Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday 5th March	Ecclesiasticus 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday 6th March	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Thursday 7th March	Deuteronomy 30:15-end, Luke 9:22-25
Friday 8th March	Isaiah 58:1-9a, Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday 9th March	Isaiah 58:9b-end, Luke 5:27-32
Monday 11th March	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-end
Tuesday 12th March	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday 13th March	Jonah 3, Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 14th March	Esther 14:1-5, 12-14, Matthew 7:7-12
Friday 15th March	Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday 16th March	Deuteronomy 25:16-end, Matthew 5:43-end
Monday 18th March	Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday 19th March	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-2
Wednesday 20th March	Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday 21st March	Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-end
Friday 22nd March	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday 23rd March	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-end
Monday 25th March	2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 26th March	Daniel 2:20-23, Matthew 18:21-end
Wednesday 27th March	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 28th March	Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23
Friday 29th March	Hosea 14, Mark 12:28-34
Saturday 30th March	Hosea 5:15-6:6, Luke 18:9-14

A Prayer for Every Day of the Week (taken from the MU book "Dear Lord")

Sunday is for service: to serve God and serve others first and ourselves last. Lord, we pray that we will serve you and our neighbour in all and not just some of the things we say and do and think

Monday is for materialism: for many there is simply no place, space or need for God

Lord, we pray that we will never forget that all we have has been gifted by you. Grant us a Christ-led and Christ-filled approach to how we use our money and gifts

Tuesday is for threat: we live in a world that is full of threats – threats to our physical, emotional and spiritual lives; threats that can easily separate us from God. Lord, we pray for Christians in all places that the Holy Spirit will provide faith, strength, courage and peace in their daily lives.

Wednesday is for Women: we live in a male dominated and female – abusing world. Women were constant companions to Jesus throughout his ministry – present at his crucifixion, his death, his resurrection. Lord, we pray for women everywhere that they may be respected, and treated as equals to men – as humans created in your image.

Thursday is for temptation: temptation besets our daily lives; temptation encircle our every situation, our every move and action. Temptation separates us from God. Lord, we pray that we will always be alert to temptations and ask for the enduring strength and fellowship of the Holy Spirit to keep us safe and secure in the knowledge and the life of Jesus Christ.

Friday is for food: the world has more than enough food to feed every man, woman and child – and with surplus. Yet thousands will eat no food today and millions will eat no food this week. Lord, we pray that nations will strive to eliminate starvation and that as individuals we will neither be greedy or wasteful.

Saturday is for sickness: sickness will at some time affect us or those whom we love. We are fortunate to have medical professionals and can access health care. Lord, we pray for those in the developing world and for crises such as ebola, malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy and HIV. And we pray for those known to us personally that healing will take place through your gentle touch.

A REFLECTION

Have any of you heard of the word “Brexite”? I expect you have! But before the year 2016 that word was not in our vocabulary.

All sorts of words have suddenly become part of our English language. For instance, we hear of the word “bling” when referring to big, sparkly jewellery. We hear the word “vaping” when people use a contraption instead of smoking cigarettes. Some families go “glamping” which is very posh camping. When someone wants to raise money for a particular reason, they go “crowd-funding”.

All these are new words. Words which we didn’t grow up with. And there are many others which have somehow come into our day to day language.

Words are so important, and we need them to communicate with one another, but you will all know the proverb which says, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”. But they do, don’t they?

The word “Brexite” has brought out the worst in people. Some very terrible things have been said by our politicians. Now, we often think that politicians are thick-

skinned, but some of the things which have been said to them, or about them, must have hurt even the strongest person.

Have you ever been hurt by words which have been said to you? I have no doubt that you have. However, have you ever hurt someone by words which YOU have spoken? Again, I have no doubt that sometime in your life you have. We have all said things which we regret, and wish those words had never left our mouths.

The words which we speak can make or break a friendship. The words which we speak can encourage someone or put them down. The words which we speak can leave someone with a smile on their face, or they can leave those faces tear-stained.

What we say to someone may be the very last words which are said to them. Who knows whether they may have a heart attack or a stroke?

In the book of Proverbs, in Chapter 15, King Solomon (who was a very wise king and who wrote that book) said “A gentle answer turns away wrath”.

Not so very different

Thank you so much to those of you who were kind enough to comment on my sermon on the 27th January. As requested, this is part of the sermon:

“Hurt not others with that which pains yourself” (Buddhism)

“Love thy neighbour as thyself” (Leviticus, Judaism)

“One should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated” (Hinduism)

“What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others” (Confucianism)

“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you” (Jesus Christ, Christianity)

As I pointed out, we are not so very different from each other, are we?

Thank you for your love, prayers and support.

God bless you and yours,

Louisa Messenger, Lay Reader

Sides Persons Volunteers Required

It would be helpful if at least two more members of the congregation could volunteer for the Sides persons rota.

The duties are not onerous and involve getting to the Church at 0915, updating the hymn boards, welcoming (and counting) the congregation as they arrive, handing out hymnbooks, taking the collection and directing people to take communion. They are responsible for nominating two people to bring the bread and wine to the altar and finally for collecting and tidying up the books at the end of the service.

This duty should only come around once in five or six weeks, (or of course less frequently should more people volunteer.)

If you feel you could help with this valuable service, please contact Richard Ashenden.

Mother's Union In Action Supporting Refugees

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

Mothers' Union has a long history of helping refugees across the world and each year we bring emergency relief to approximately 25,000 people fleeing conflict, violence and persecution. We are experienced in dealing with large-scale crises and, in many countries, we have the potential to help churches and communities right at the grassroots level which maximises the support we can give – through prayer, through advocacy and through practical support. Here are just some of the things we provide as support for refugees:

- Training to people who come across young refugees in their line of work, such as church professionals, lawyers, social workers and the emergency services. We equip them to better understand and respond to the issues faced by refugee children, and improve understanding of those children's rights and safeguarding needs
- Humanitarian aid such as food, shelter, clothes and water to refugees
- Fund post-trauma counselling and support.

In recent years across the United Kingdom and Ireland, many dioceses and branches have made contact with agencies preparing a coordinated approach towards receiving refugees in their local communities. Members have also taken part in marches of support in cities such as London and Birmingham; engaged in activism and petitions towards local authorities, while others continue their existing activities to provide food and clothing for refugees and asylum seekers. Some of the projects that have been set up are:

- Collections of toiletries, food and clothing to support the local refugee centres
- Preparing Moses baskets containing all that a mother needs for a newborn baby for refugees in camps in Calais
- Mothers' Union Warwick To9ether (MUWT) heard of the imminent arrival of Syrian refugee families into their district, and under the Government resettlement scheme and with Churches Together in Warwick they collected household cleaning packs for each of the five families
- Six Syrian refugee families arrived in Norwich in February 2017 and a further seven families in August. The generosity of the members meant they purchased bedding totalling £2,250 for 52 men, women and children and a group of members helped clean the houses and make up the beds.

BWB RIP

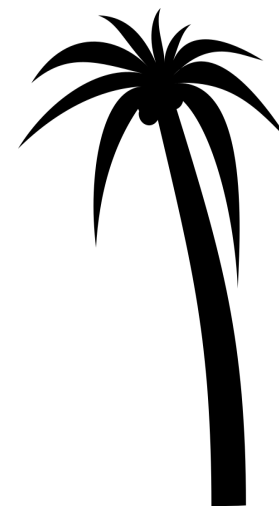
As last month's magazine was issued, with BWB's apologies, my Dad, Bernard Wilkinson Braithwaite, died peacefully in his own bed at home, at the age of 95. Thank you so much for all the love, support, wonderful cards, kind words and thoughtfulness we've received from so many people. Dad very much enjoyed being part of the St. George's family and cherished the friendships he made. Special thanks to Jane for a very personal service for the family at the crematorium and who ensured that the thanksgiving service in Church really did him proud. Thank you all, and love to you all,
From Pat Hartwell and all the family.

ZACCHAEUS

A chap named Zacchaeus was short
Too short to see Jesus, so thought
In order to see
He'd climb up a tree
And in Jesus' sight he was caught.

"Zacchaeus! Come down from your tree!
I'm coming to dinner, you see!"
He went for His dinner
To the home of a sinner!
(A sinner like you and like me.)

Zacchaeus, the worst of the worst,
To such as him, Jesus came first.
The sinner lamented
And then he repented,
And so he was no longer cursed!



LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER.

Look after each other – the time passes so fast.
Enjoy the moment, seize the day.

Forget about the past, take care of each other
in times of tears and frowns and seek sunlight after rain.
Through all life's ups and downs, take care of each other.

Raise free funds for

St George's

every time you book
travel online!

Find us on easyfundraising:



Shop with **over 250 travel retailers** including:



£ £25 million raised

1.5 million users

120,000 causes

TEN THINGS GOD WON'T ASK YOU WHEN YOU DIE

God won't ask what kind of car you drove;
He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have their own transport.

God won't ask how big your house was;
He'll ask how many people you welcomed into it.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe;
He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what diet you were on;
He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was;
He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was;
He'll ask if you performed it to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had on Facebook;
He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived;
He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin;
He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him;
He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.

Silver Cloths

Four people rather reluctantly bought home-made silver cloths from me at the Stewardship sale in January 2018. I hope that you have used them and found them to be as brilliant as I claimed! If so, they should be ready for renewal, (ie looking black and very unattractive, though probably still effective.) I have now managed to get hold of the ingredients and made several more, so am happy to take them back and replace them. If anyone else would be interested, I am selling them at £2.50 each to add to church funds with renewals at £1.50 each.

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Big brew and Bake Off as part of Fairtrade Fortnight

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

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

www.cinderford-churches.org.uk/fairtrade

A Rock and a Hard Place

Sunday 3 March, 4pm at Chantry Centre, Dursley and Friday 8 March, 7.30pm at Sundial Theatre, Cirencester

A new play from the Journeymen Theatre Company, based on the true life stories of survivors of domestic abuse. Tickets £7.50, concessions £5, students free. In aid of Stroud Women's Refuge. Contact Liz Willis on 01453 836898 or lizwillis@live.co.uk

Wild + Fit exercise class

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

Zumba, pilates, body weight fitness session in the Cathedral for the whole family. Fund raised will go to Gloucester City Mission to support their work with people affected by homelessness in Gloucestershire.

Tickets £10 adults, £5 children, £7 teens and concessions, £25 family ticket.

www.gloucester.anglican.org/wild

Stroud Sacred Comedy Festival 2019

Saturday 16 March at St Laurence's Church, Stroud

A full day of laughs from a deeper place. Includes improv comedy, kids comedy show, a multi-dimensional chat show and a sacred stand up night. Includes Tony Vino, Jo Enright, Stephen Cookson and Mark Palmer. Free entry to all shows, with suggested donations to cover costs. www.stlaurencefuture.org.uk for full details.

It takes two: building a lasting marriage

Wednesday 20 March, £7 at Cheltenham Elim Church (Churches Together in Gloucestershire event)

Sometimes how we spend our time doesn't reflect what matters most to us. While we're quick to fix the boiler, MOT the car (hopefully) and carve out countless hours for the latest Netflix movie, we often don't take time to invest in our marriages. This is a chance to take a night out, set aside distractions and focus on the two of you as a couple. <https://bit.ly/2TLMPmT>

March 2019

faith Finding a new shape for your life

Through the five weeks of Lent, the Diocese of Gloucester is inviting everyone to explore how faith influences what we do every day. Each week will have a different theme - relating, praying, working, playing and growing and the aim is to help us get our lives back in balance.

There are resources for people who want to look at deepening their faith with their church. There are fun activities, reflections and prayers for every week for families and for our schools. Bishop Rachel has made a series of videos about each week to help guide you through the themes.

The first week's focus is on how we relate to others and talks about welcome and hospitality. "Where would you go if you needed help? If you needed somewhere to stay or a hot dinner? Back in medieval times everyone knew that if they ran into problems and had nowhere to stay or nothing to eat, they could go to the monks at the monastery who would always give them food and shelter for a day and night. It was part of the shape of their life that they wouldn't turn anyone away and said, 'Let everyone be welcomed as Christ'. They would bow their heads to people as a sign that they recognised the presence of God in them. How would you like to be welcomed, especially somewhere new? How do you welcome people to your home, school, Beavers, Rainbows, Brownies or Cubs group? Are there ways you can think of helping people who need somewhere to stay or some food, to feel welcome?"

Downloadable resources for each week are available on the diocesan website—look at www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/shapes-for-living/ to download your free pack.



Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube [Diocese of Gloucester](https://www.youtube.com/DioceseofGloucester) or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org



Your Voice Events

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

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

Fairtrade Fortnight, 25 years of Fairtrade in the UK

Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March

The Fairtrade Foundation works with 1.6 million farmers and workers across 74 developing countries, ensuring them a living income, protected from changing market prices. This year, the She Deserves a Living Income campaign is focussing on the women who grow the cocoa for our chocolate treats. Without a living income, basic human rights like decent food, accommodation and schooling will not be achievable. To find out more about events happening across the country visit Facebook and click the Interested button on Fairtrade Fortnight 2019 #She Deserves. Details of Cinderford St Stephen's Big Brew and Bake Off can be found on the events pages of the Messenger.

**Under five
and
flourishing**

Engaging with our
youngest children

30 March 2019
10am to 3pm
at Hartpury College

More information
and booking at
[gloucester.anglican.org/
under-five-and-flourishing](http://gloucester.anglican.org/under-five-and-flourishing)

**DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER**

**EVER DONE AN
EXERCISE CLASS
IN A CATHEDRAL?**

WILD+FIT

A health & wellbeing event, fun for the WHOLE family

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH, 10AM-12:30PM
GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

TICKETS Adults £10 / Children £5 /
Teens & Concessions £7 / Family £25

**Funds raised go to
Gloucester
City Mission**

THE EVENT INCLUDES:

- A HIIT class (a body weight fitness session)
- A Zumba class (dance and movement based session)
- A Pilates class (balance, core and stretch based session)
- A goodie bag
- Health foods cafe

(All sessions suitable for all ages and all abilities,
participate in all or part of the morning)

BOOKING IN ADVANCE VIA GLOUCESTER.ANGLICAN.ORG/WILD
(Some places available on the day)

**COME AND WORK-OUT WITH US, HAVE FUN
AND BE CHALLENGED TO LIVE FULLY.**

EMAIL wildandfitevent@gmail.com / TEL 07538 002 041

**Wear comfortable/
active clothing
and bring a drinks
bottle.**

**Optional bring a
towel / yoga mat.**

**GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL**

**Gloucester
CITY MISSION**
Sharing Faith with the City

SALMS
Active Faith for the Next Generation

**DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER**