

# St. George's Church Brockworth

April 2020



To journey in faith and share  
God's love.

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

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**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9.30am - 11.30am  
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**Email:** churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk

**Parish Website:** [www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk](http://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  
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**The article deadline for the May issue is 15/04/20**  
Please email [stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)  
If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church Office.

### Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

Any ecclesiastical or political views contained in this magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC or the Editor. This church promotes good practice in work with children and young people. It has a current and active Child Protection Policy that's available to view at St George's Church & St George's Church Centre. St. George's, Brockworth is a Fair Trade Parish and supports the Parish Giving Scheme.

**THIS MONTH'S COVER:** St George's Church from the south-west



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## Parish notes April 2020

I very much hope this finds you in good health and good spirits. These are challenging times for everyone. As you will understand, all services and meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Please don't hesitate to use the form below if you need help with anything.

We have a new, simpler website address:

[www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk](http://www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk)

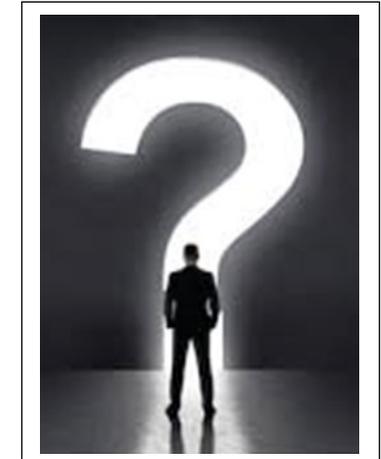
Please add this to your favourites. The old address will continue to work for another 6 months or so, then be discontinued.

If you need to get in touch with the Parish Giving Scheme, they have requested contact by email (rather than phone) so their staff can respond if working from home. [info@parishgiving.org.uk](mailto:info@parishgiving.org.uk)

Our APCM, the annual business meeting, is scheduled for 7 pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, though I'm not sure what form this meeting will take. Please could groups submit their annual reports to the office, before Easter if possible.

Thank you.  
Take care of yourselves,

Pat Hartwell



## Big Questions

**Is there a point to life?**  
**Why be moral? How should we live?**  
**Why is there evil? What is evil?**  
**Does God really exist?**  
**Did Jesus really live?**  
**Is the story of creation compatible with scientific evidence?**  
**Is faith really that important?**  
**& many, many more!!**

What are your big questions? Questions that either stop you engaging with a faith or confuse the faith you have. Let me know what your conundrums are, and I will start the conversation. Hopefully we can navigate through these topics towards a richer understanding and experience of who we are and how we fit into this wonderful, yet scary community we call earth. With thanks, Mike Smith  
([mike.smith@st-george-brockworth.org.uk](mailto:mike.smith@st-george-brockworth.org.uk) | 07415 089897)

### Hello! If you are self-isolating - we can help.

My name is ....Mike Smith.... fm St. George's Church.

I live locally at .....Court Road, Brockworth.....

My mobile is .....07415 089897.....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping  Posting Mail

A Friendly Call  Urgent Supplies

Txt OR Call & I'll do my best to help you (for free!).

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.  
#ViralKindness

### Supporting those affected by domestic abuse

Mothers' Union is committed to supporting healthy and flourishing relationships. One of the greatest threats to individuals, families and societies around the world, is violence and abuse which is carried out against women and girls because of their gender, or which affects women and girls disproportionately. As part of our ongoing work to end gender-based violence, we are committed to supporting those who have been affected by domestic abuse by supporting individuals and communities practically, and encouraging and advocating for change at local, national and international levels.

Mothers' Union practically meets the needs of those affected by domestic abuse, in many ways:

### Meeting needs and empowering women

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mothers' Union members work closely with survivors, in particular those affected by sexual violence as a result of conflict, by providing emotional support, meeting basic needs such as housing, and equipping them with skills to become economically empowered.

In the UK, members work closely with local domestic violence refuges, providing essentials such as toiletries, food and clothing for women and children who have been forced to flee their home due to violence.

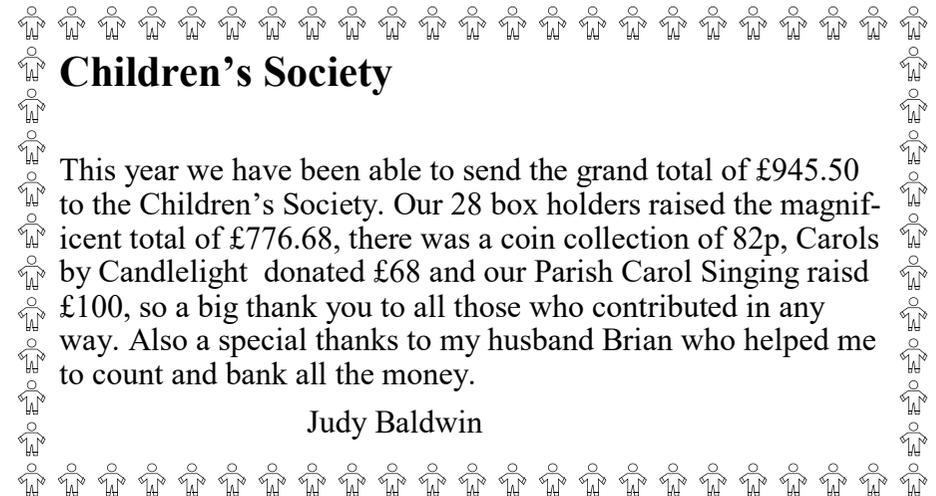
Mothers' Union fund counselling for those survivors of domestic violence and rape in war-torn countries such as Sudan.

### Creating change through our programme work

Through our Literacy and Financial Education Programme: around the world we seek to educate and empower women in particular. In areas where this programme has been run, women often report a decrease in domestic abuse, and more equal and positive relationships in the home.

more likely to experience symptoms of depression than peers with no experience of financial strain. The proportions with low life satisfaction were 12% compared to 8% and high depressive symptoms were 17% compared to 12% respectively. Mark Russell, Chief Executive of The Children's Society, said: "It is scandalous to find out so many children have spent their entire lives growing up in poverty or live in families who regularly struggle to pay the bills and put food on the table. Something must change, especially as this research clearly shows that just one experience, no matter what age it happens, can have a detrimental effect on how satisfied

a child feels with their life. "We know the start of year is often an extra tough time for families and so it is vital the government makes a renewed commitment to cutting record high levels of child poverty and sets out a brand new action plan. "We also believe the government need to look at ways to prevent families from falling into crisis. It is vital they commit to providing long term funding to local welfare assistance schemes. This means that if families do experience financial crisis, they are not left with nowhere to turn and with the children left dealing with the long-term consequences."



**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



## Children's Society

### A tenth of 14-year olds blighted by poverty

12 Feb 2020

1 in 10 children aged 14 in the UK have been blighted by poverty throughout their childhood, according to research by The Children's Society. New figures from the charity estimate that around 73,000 14-year-olds are living in persistent poverty. Analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study found 1 in 10 14-year-olds (10%) who took part in the research were from households living below the income poverty line on each of the six occasions when interviews for the study were conducted. This suggests that thousands of children have grown up knowing nothing but hard times, with their families struggling to pay the bills and provide basic items such as food, clothing, toys and books.

A further estimated 153,000, or around one in five (21%), 14-year-olds have grown up in homes experiencing intermittent poverty.

The charity is deeply concerned about the effects this could be having on young people's wellbeing. The research found that, of the children who had

experienced poverty at any of the six points considered between the ages of 0 and 14, one in eight (12%) had low life satisfaction, meaning they were unhappy with their life as a whole. One in six (16%) also had high symptoms of depression, such as feeling miserable or unhappy, like no-one really loves them, or that they did everything wrong.

In comparison, one in twelve (8%) of those children aged 14 who had never experienced income poverty were unhappy with their lives and one in eight (12%) had high depressive symptoms.

The Children's Society has also looked at the well-being of children when their family is under financial strain. The survey asked parents how well they were managing financially, with responses ranging from living comfortably to finding it very difficult. 18% of families (an estimated 131,000 14 years olds in the UK) reported experiencing financial strain more than once across the six interviews.

Once again the results show children aged 14 years, who had any experience of financial strain, were unhappier with their lives and

Men whose wives have benefited from our programmes frequently report that as a result of the programme, they now see their partners as equals, and where once they would have been violent towards them, they now treat them with dignity and respect.

#### Prayer, emotional and spiritual support

In the DRC, Mothers' Union runs Bible study sessions for women who have experienced sexual violence, looking at what the Bible says about the issue, encouraging women to understand that they are made in the image of God; rebuilding self-esteem, worth and confidence; and breaking stigma and shame.

Frequently members here in the UK and overseas take part in silent prayer vigils to pray for those affected by domestic violence.

#### Advocacy and campaigns

We work tirelessly to challenge the mechanisms that perpetuate injustice at all levels, and advocate with decision-makers and those in power to bring about necessary change, including changes to local and national laws and policies.

We campaign for legislation which prevents gender-based violence, by tackling root causes including gender inequality, and harmful norms and attitudes about gender; as well as calling for all forms of violence against women and girls to be outlawed everywhere.

Members throughout the world take part in our 16 Days of Activism campaign to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

Mothers' Union members have held workshops with church leaders and those in authority, raising awareness of domestic abuse and the harm it causes.

## Syrian pastor is a lifeline to his community

Despite the persecution, violence and direct threats to their lives, church leaders in Syria have chosen to stay and serve their communities instead of fleeing for their own security. One such church leader is Syrian Pastor Abdalla who has stayed in Aleppo through the civil war. He remains a lifeline for his community.

At the height of the conflict millions of people fled Syria to seek safety in Jordan, Lebanon and the West. Those that left the country were predominately aged between 18 and 45. They were the breadwinners of the family, the affluent and able. The sick, vulnerable, elderly and those with young children were unable to flee. They have stayed in Syria's devastated villages amid the ongoing violence, lack of work and rising food prices. Many became dependent on food aid when their source of income was cut off by the war. Pastor Abdalla said: "The families are perplexed and confused about their future. They are without jobs; their

houses are destroyed or damaged. There are so many challenges in people's real lives. We need to encourage the Christians to stay in this land. As a church we want to stand next to the people and help them. We want to see a better future for Aleppo and Syria." Pastor Abdalla's church has become a Centre of Hope, one of 16 centres already established across Syria.

Centres of Hope are not big buildings, but simple, low-cost places through which the local church can bring hope to their community.

Through Centres of Hope, Open Doors is providing vital aid for 12,000 vulnerable families. The Centres of Hope offer relief aid, medical care, trauma care, vocational training and loans, children's activities, marriage courses and Alpha courses. At the height of the crisis the Centres of Hope distributed predominately food aid and emergency relief. Now they are gradually scaling down emergency aid and instead providing micro loans to people who bring proposals for longer-term income generating-projects.

"Now, we have brought down

## April 2020 Daily Bible Readings:



Wednesday 1st April  
Thursday 2nd April  
Friday 3rd April  
Saturday 4th April

Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28; John 8:31-42  
Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-end  
Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-end  
Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-end

Monday 6th April  
Tuesday 7th April  
Wednesday 8th April  
Thursday 9th April  
Friday 10th April  
Saturday 11th April

Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11  
Isaiah 49:1-7; John 12:20-36  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; John 13:21-32  
Exodus 12:1-4,11-14; John 13:1-17,31b-35  
Isaiah 52:13-53:end; John 18:1-19:end  
Job 14:1-14; John 19:38-end

Monday 13th April  
Tuesday 14th April  
Wednesday 15th April  
Thursday 16th April  
Friday 17th April  
Saturday 18th April

Acts 2:14,22-32; Matthew 28:8-15  
Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18  
Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35  
Acts 3:11-end; Luke 24:35-48  
Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14  
Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Monday 20th April  
Tuesday 21st April  
Wednesday 22nd April  
Thursday 23rd April  
Friday 24th April  
Saturday 25th April

Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8  
Acts 4:32-end; John 3:7-15  
Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21  
1 Maccabees 2:59-64; John 15:18-21  
Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15  
Proverbs 15:28-end; Mark 13:5-13

Monday 27th April  
Tuesday 28th April  
Wednesday 29th April  
Thursday 30th April

Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29  
Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35  
Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40  
Acts 8:26-end; John 6:44-51

## Some thoughts from Louisa Messenger

Hello everyone

I thought I would give you an update on things I am involved with. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Rock Choir I belong to has a big concert in Cheltenham Town hall. All the tickets have been sold and all three choirs are rehearsing flat out, so I do hope and pray that this virus will not cause it to be cancelled.

It is so good to see the Vicarage lived in! I really look forward to working with Mike and getting to know his lovely family. So far, so good!

A date for your diary. As most of you know, Sheila Watts will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Church centre hall is booked for the following Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Please come and bring food to share. Let's make it a real celebration!

The Lord continues to bless me richly at the hospital and in my ministry as Reader in this place.

Stay well, all of you – I can't wait to have a proper hug!

God bless you and yours,  
Louisa

## First Come, First Served!

The Bible Reading Fellowship sent us, in error, an extra copy of the New Daylight Bible Reading notes for May to August 2020, and when I informed them and suggested that I should just give them to someone else who might want them, they agreed heartily! These are daily notes written by different writers, who are given a theme which they follow with quotes from the bible. For example, this one includes a week of readings based on the Sermon on the Mount, another two weeks on Bethlehem and Nazareth.

The relevant bible verses are with each reading, so the readings are all self contained.

If anyone would like to make use of this little book, which starts on 1st May 2020, then just let me know.

Liz Ashenden

the number of food packages," Pastor Abdalla said. "We try to focus on the lonely and sick, elderly people, the larger families without a bread winner, widows with no family members around, and families whose members have chronic diseases. Besides that, we have also started to focus more on income-generating projects, and on offering activities in the Centres of Hope."

Three times a week Pastor Abdalla's church runs activities for the children: "We want to support and strengthen young children psychologically and spiritually and remove the side effects of war," Pastor Abdalla said. "We also have all kinds of programmes for women, couples and men. We hope these programmes will bring about change. Every day of the

week the church is busy," Syria is number 11 on Open Doors' World Watch List, a ranking of 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian. As the conflict in Syria continues, Islamic extremists still have control over areas of Syria. In these areas, Christians are forced to pay protection money, follow a strict dress code and cannot express their faith publicly. In other areas of Syria, the leaders of historical churches are targets for abduction – their robes identify their faith and thus they are an easy target. Christians are sometimes kidnapped for ransom. Believers from Muslim backgrounds face pressure from their families, as leaving Islam is seen as a huge source of shame.



Bishop David Hamid has included the following prayers on his blog and says: 'The Jesuits in the USA have circulated this prayer which I think many will find useful:'

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they

worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Amen. Jesus Christ, heal us.

Bishop David is the Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese in Europe

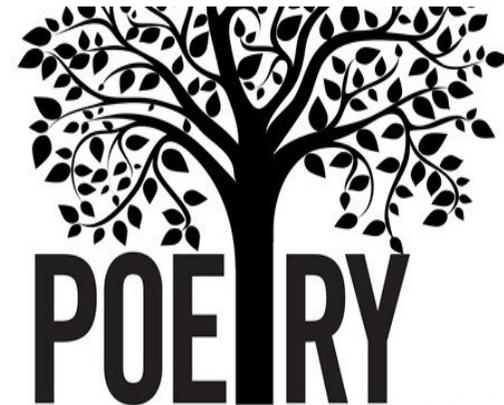
Contributed By Rev. David Sutch

Yes. I remember Adlestrop—  
The name, because one afternoon  
Of heat the express-train drew up there  
Unwontedly. It was late June.

The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.  
No one left and no one came  
On the bare platform. What I saw  
Was Adlestrop—only the name

And willows, willow-herb, and grass,  
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,  
No whit less still and lonely fair  
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang  
Close by, and round him, mistier,  
Farther and farther, all the birds  
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.



Allan Delves

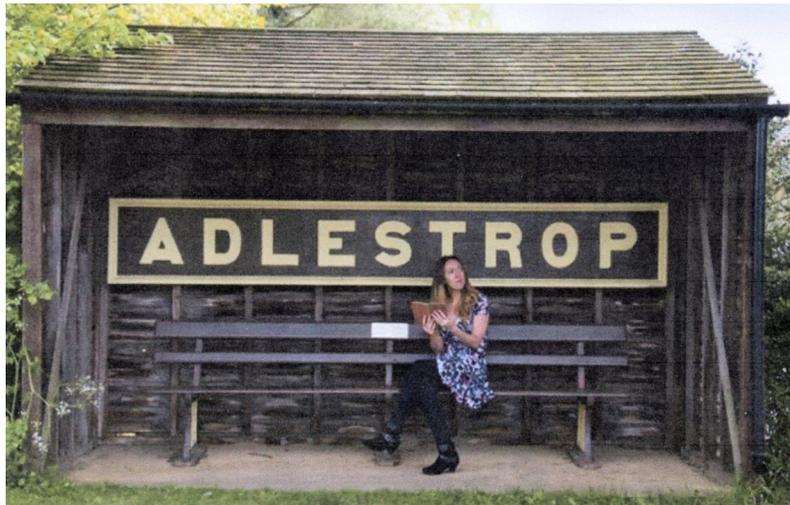
## ADLESTROP

Continuing my series on my favourite poems I have chosen one that combines both my interests in Poetry and Railways. The poem was composed by a lesser known poet called Edward Thomas. It came 20<sup>th</sup> out of 100 in a BBC survey of the Nations Best Loved poems.

Edward was on an express train journey on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1914 when it briefly stopped at the now closed station, Adlestrop near Stow on the Wold. Adlestrop at that time had a population of only 80 and employed 2 employees at this rarely used station. Hence it was ripe for closure by that infamous

railway vandal, Dr Beeching. Within weeks the beautiful Edwardian station was completely demolished and no evidence of it remains. Well, except the sign board which is mounted in the village bus shelter. Jane Austen visited the village and received the inspiration to compose Mansfield Park.

Due to the train stopping Edward had some time to reflect and enjoy an unexpected serene moment where his senses were placated by the natural world. Drawing on the natural world in this manner is somewhat a hallmark of this poem as he creates a visceral picture of the Gloucestershire countryside in which his train has stopped. So, dear Readers, here it is:



## Crucifix buns

1. 500g Exodus 29:2 (bread)
2. 1 ½ tsp Genesis 19:26
3. 75g Jeremiah 6:20 (caster)
4. 7g Matthew 16:6
5. 300ml Genesis 21:19 and Numbers 16:14 Mixed
6. 150g Genesis 1:11 (mixed)
7. Zest 2 Oranges
8. 2tsp Proverbs 7:17
9. 75g Kings 4:22 (plain)

### **For the Cross**

1. 2Tbsp Genesis 21:19
2. 2 Tbsp Kings 4:22

### **For the Glaze**

1. 50g Jeremiah 6:20
2. 50ml Genesis 21:19

### **Method**

Put 1, 2, 3 and 4 into a bowl. Slowly add enough of 5 to achieve a pliable dough. Tip out onto a lightly floured surface and knead well for 5 minutes, then put the dough back into the bowl and leave to rise for 1 hour. Incorporate 6, 7 and 8 into the dough and leave to rise for 1 hour. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Divide the dough into 75g pieces and roll each into a ball. Put them on a baking tray and leave to rest for 1 hour. Set the oven to 220°C For the cross Mix together 1 and 2 Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag and pipe a cross on each bun then bake the buns for 25 minutes until golden brown.

### **For the Glaze**

Combine 1 and 2 together to make a syrup and brush liberally all over the buns

From Richard Eve



Dear All,

In response to Archbishop's instructions earlier today (March 17th) we are to put on hold public worship. Therefore, the following services will be suspended until further notice:

- 9:30am Wednesday Communion Service
- 12:30pm Lenten Lunch
- 13:30pm The Pilgrim Way Course
  
- 8am Sunday Said Communion Service
- 10:30am Sunday Parish Communion Service

This instruction comes at a time when the Government are announcing unprecedented peacetime measures, all the measures are to help us, and our neighbours control the spread of the Coronavirus. We are in unique and uncertain times and it can be challenging and fearful.

Just because we cannot meet and worship together, WE ARE STILL CHURCH, and we can still worship and witness to the two greatest commandments, although it will look very different to what we are used to for the time being:

“love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength ...  
& love our neighbours as ourselves”

Over the coming days I will be sending out details of how we can try and worship together on Sundays and through the week in the safety of our own homes. We will learn and grow together in worshipping and witnessing in a new way, until we can once again worship together. We will need to be more intentional and more deliberate about connecting and caring for one another: making phone calls and praying for one another should be part of our daily and weekly rhythm. Also, if you are struggling, do not “soldier on”, call someone to talk and pray.

## 100 Club March 2020 WINNERS

1st — Jeni Archer (95)  
2nd — Kath Worcester (50)  
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 May issue is 15th April

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!



## **Listens, Observes and Acts.**

Our branch meetings will not take place until further notice.

However, while some of us have extra time on our hands, we have a new project. In the most recent Families First magazine there were details of knitted "Twiddle Muffs" for people suffering from dementia. I have contacted Brockworth House Care Home and Millbrook Lodge who would both be very grateful recipients of any Twiddle Muffs we could knit and donate.

Full pattern details can be found on the Mothers' Union website, or contact Enid Lovell or Pat Hartwell. So, dig out those oddments of wool, buttons and haberdashery bits and pieces and get knitting!

Thank you.

A simple life is all we ask  
that God will grant this day.  
Just enough to meet our need  
and some to give away.  
Just enough and some to share  
with those whose bowl is empty.  
Compared to many in this world  
we know that we have plenty.  
We are grateful for the things we have,  
we have no need for more.  
We pray our hearts will always be an ever open door,  
to welcome friends and strangers  
that we meet along life's way.  
And as we do, we are sure  
that we will meet with Christ each day.  
For we are certain beyond doubt  
that we are rich indeed.  
for Jesus gives us joy and peace  
and everything we need. Amen.

Written (with changes) by Margaret Shoemark MU member, Stafford, UK.

Many blessings, Rona.

My phone number is at the bottom of this email, please call me to talk though any suggestions, ideas or concerns you may have.

Only together, in unity with one another and in partnership with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, will we not only survive this period of time, but we will thrive.

With love & prayers, Mike

Mike Smith  
Vicar of St. George Brockworth

✉ : [Mike Smith](mailto:Mike.Smith@st-george-brockworth.org.uk)

☎ 07415 089897 Church Office: 01452 550554  
[st-george-brockworth.org.uk](http://st-george-brockworth.org.uk)



## Biblical Cities Jerusalem Chapter 10

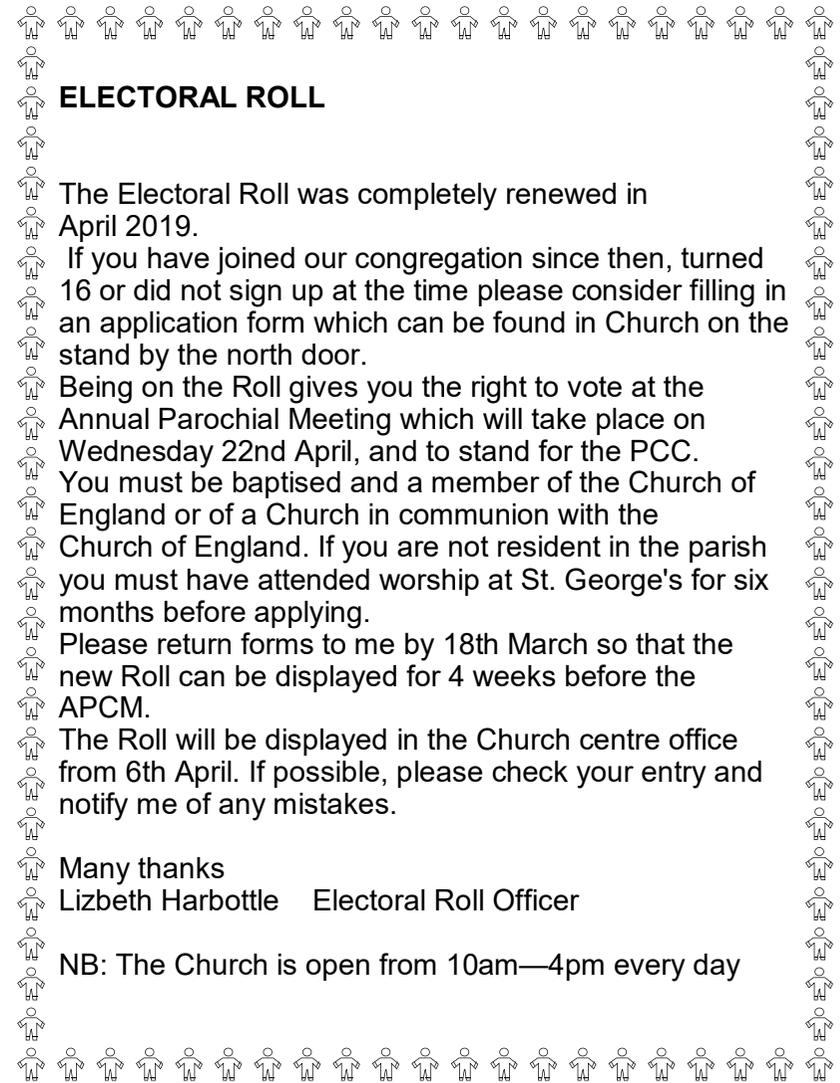
Dear Readers you will recall my last composition in which I summarised biblical references to Jerusalem concentrating on some of the Minor prophets and King David's conquest of Jerusalem and his son Solomon building the first holy temple. I thought that I would give a little bit more on Solomon's golden age of Hebrew Jerusalem in which he built not only the Golden Temple, which was incidentally built on the land where Abraham nearly sacrificed his son Isaac, but also a Royal Palace, mansions for his wives, barracks for his guards and Towers for defence. Sadly, all this was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar who removed the Temple treasures in 604 BC and 597 BC and totally destroyed the building in 587/586. This destruction and the deportations of Jews to Babylonia in 586 and 582 were seen as fulfillments of prophecy and, therefore, strengthened Judaic religious beliefs and awakened the hope for the reestablishment of the independent Jewish state

Several years ago, Ann and I went to Verona to see Verdi's opera Nabucco at the internationally famous Arena de Verona which is a Roman amphitheatre built in the

first century. The opera follows the plight of the Jews as they are assaulted, conquered and subsequently exiled from their homeland by the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar .

However, Nebuchadnezzar was an important character in the Book of Daniel, a collection of legendary tales and visions dating from the 2nd century BC. He took Daniel and other Hebrew youths into captivity in Babylon, to be trained in "the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans". In Nebuchadnezzar's second year, Daniel interprets the king's dream of a huge image as God's prediction of the rise and fall of world powers, starting with Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom (Daniel 2). Nebuchadnezzar twice admits the power of the God of the Hebrews: first, after God saves three of Daniel's companions from a fiery furnace (Daniel 3); and secondly, after Nebuchadnezzar himself suffers a humiliating period of madness, as Daniel predicted in Chapter four.

I think Dear Readers that is sufficient information on Jerusalem in the Old Testament so now we turn to the New. Obviously, the most important New Testament reference concerns Jesus' last days without which we not



### ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll was completely renewed in April 2019.

If you have joined our congregation since then, turned 16 or did not sign up at the time please consider filling in an application form which can be found in Church on the stand by the north door.

Being on the Roll gives you the right to vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting which will take place on Wednesday 22nd April, and to stand for the PCC. You must be baptised and a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England. If you are not resident in the parish you must have attended worship at St. George's for six months before applying.

Please return forms to me by 18th March so that the new Roll can be displayed for 4 weeks before the APCM.

The Roll will be displayed in the Church centre office from 6th April. If possible, please check your entry and notify me of any mistakes.

Many thanks  
Lizbeth Harbottle Electoral Roll Officer

NB: The Church is open from 10am—4pm every day



# DONATE FOOD

Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

OVER 90% OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY FOODBANKS IN THE TRUSSELL TRUST NETWORK IS DONATED BY THE PUBLIC – THAT’S WHY YOUR FOOD DONATIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR ABILITY TO GIVE EVERYONE REFERRED TO US A BALANCED AND NUTRITIOUS THREE DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD. OUR SHOPPING LIST SHOWS THE FOOD ITEMS THAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW.

## URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS IN ORDER OF SCARCITY

- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE (NOT CHILLED)
- LONG LIFE MILK (NOT CHILLED)
- INSTANT MASH POTATO
- TINNED READY MEALS
- TINNED COLD MEAT (E.G.HAM/CORNER BEEF)
- SQUASH
- TINNED CUSTARD
- TINNED POTATOES
- SHAMPOO
- SHOWER GEL

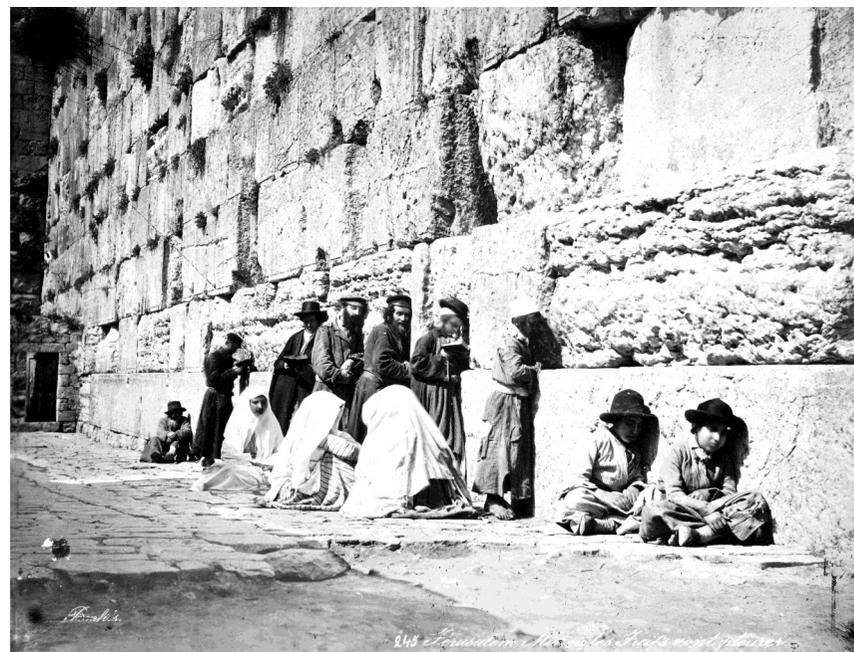
Items for the Foodbank can be left in the office during opening hours,

Thank you.

celebrate Good Friday or Easter. Herod the Great built up the city of Jerusalem, he constructed a fortress with three massive towers part of which remains to this day. He shored up the Temple Mount of which the Wailing Wall is part. He rebuilt the Temple itself. In fact he did everything to glorify Jerusalem. Every year Jesus and his followers visited Jerusalem for the Passover. Jesus’ entry into the city caused a commotion. The city was a powder keg of dissatisfaction with Roman domination and the rule of Herod the Great’s son. Jesus was arrested by the Temple Guards (Luke 22.54). He was tried on a Thursday evening and Friday morn-

ing for Blasphemy and found to be guilty. The sentence could only be carried out with Pontius Pilate’s agreement. Initially he found no reason for guilt but eventually gave in and Jesus was crucified on the Friday morning before the beginning of the Jewish Sabbath. Hence Good Friday remembers this significant event in the Christian Calendar. So dear Readers that concludes my biblical references to Jerusalem. Next month a somewhat shorter prose on Athens.

Allan Delves



## From the Registers— February 2020

### Baptisms

Sunday 2nd February      Isabelle Harris  
Sunday 9th February      Isabelle Rossiter

*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

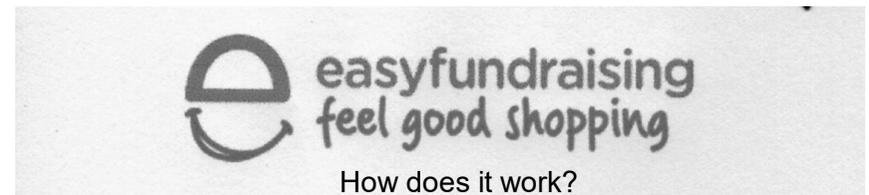
No marriages during January

### Funerals

Friday 14th February      Hildegard Colley  
Tuesday 25th February      Hester Davies

*"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!

### 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.

Another opportunity is to care for Ruby while I am away. She is a 10-year-old Spanish Water Dog with a very loveable nature who enjoys human contact and walks. I won't publish the dates for security reasons and in case the coronavirus disrupts my hopes. She does not shed hair and has recently been shorn. She is up to date with vaccinations. Again, details from me on 552926.

With thanks and love  
David Sutch

## Events and training

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

### Question and answer session with Bishop Robert and Bishop Rachel

Wednesday 1 April 2020, 7pm to 8pm  
Gloucester Cathedral

Ask Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert all your questions about faith, the Church, Christianity, God and Jesus in a special event at Gloucester Cathedral. Contact [dbest@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dbest@glosdioc.org.uk) for more information

### Chrism Eucharist

Gloucester Cathedral

Maundy Thursday 9 April, 11am

The annual service of the blessing of the oils, attended by clergy from across the diocese. One of the most solemn and important services of the year. All are welcome to this service and to renew the vows they made or were made on their behalf at baptism.

### Diocesan service of baptism and confirmation

Saturday 11 April, 8pm to 9pm

A service for people from across the diocese to be confirmed or baptised by Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert. Contact [dbest@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dbest@glosdioc.org.uk)

### Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto: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](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

### Sunday 12 April is Easter Sunday

Celebration services will be taking place at churches across the diocese. Visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) for more information.

- Stratton Church is holding a sunrise service in the fields at Stratton at 6am with **Bishop Robert**, followed by bacon sandwiches or vegan alternative. Full details from [www.churnvalley.org.uk](http://www.churnvalley.org.uk)
- **Bishop Rachel** will be leading the service in Gloucester Cathedral at 10am on Easter Sunday.

### Environment and Eco Church Workshop

Tuesday 21 April, 7.30pm to 9pm at The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Blockley OR Thursday 30 April, 7.30pm to 9pm at St Andrew's Church, Churchdown

Practical workshop on environmental concerns, with a focus on the EcoChurch awards, for churches who want to go started or are already engaged and want to explore the next step. Be inspired by what others are doing; ask questions; and share with others who are working in this area of ministry. Make a booking at <https://bit.ly/2U97vqH>

 DIOCESE OF  
GLOUCESTER

**the**  
**messenger**

April 2020

engagement

Being advocates for flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation

### Candles for change: Pauline Farman, Churn Valley Benefice



"What happens to your candle-ends; wax chipped off those window ledges following a carol service; wax shavings from making candle-ends fit; votive-candle bits and

containers, etc? Does it all end up in the bin and subsequently in landfill? If so, there is a solution.

"Put your candle-waste into a separate bag or bin and it can be recycled. The Recycled Candle Company recycles candle-waste from cathedrals, churches, hotels, pubs and the general public. It is then made into new candles that they sell. It won't make any money for your church, but it won't cost you anything either, except you will know that you are helping the environment as it's not going into landfill.

"You may think that the little waste you generate is negligible, but remember we have a cathedral, an abbey and hundreds of churches across the diocese who all use candles at some time or other and many in their congregations do so in their homes, and not just when there's a power cut. So, don't hide your light under a bushel (or landfill), recycle it and it will shine for longer. Diocesan Environmental Officer, the Revd Arthur Champion, the Revd Cate Williams and the Revd David Minns (Churn Valley) all endorse this scheme."

Pauline says that she is happy to coordinate the collection of the candles. Contact: [paolinefarman19@btinternet.com](mailto:paolinefarman19@btinternet.com) To sign up for Eco Church visit <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk>



## Are you offsetting your emissions?

Engaging with global environmental care can be difficult. Climate Stewards helps you to offset unavoidable carbon emissions by supporting community forestry, water filter and cookstove projects in the developing world. Though many people are trying to reduce their emissions, there will always be some emissions that can't be avoided.

Offsetting provides a way to deal with those unavoidable emissions. Climate Stewards was started by A Rocha and is now an independent NGO, but still very much part of the A Rocha network.

Voluntary offsetting reminds us that climate change is our responsibility and creates a self-imposed incentive to reduce our emissions. It slows down climate change and reduces the impact on the poor, who are most at risk.

Offsetting demonstrates to politicians that we are serious about wanting action on climate change. You can offset flights, travel, household emissions, or the emissions generated from your diet. For example, to offset 10,000 miles a year on a large petrol car, you would pay £116. To offset eating a low level of meat, seven days a week for a household of four people for a year would cost £136.46.

Climate Stewards believes that offsetting has a small but significant impact on global emissions levels and can demonstrate real concern about climate change and reduce its impact on millions of vulnerable people. It's also a practical way of getting people started on reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Recent evidence from the Forest Trends Institute confirms that for many organisations, offsetting is just one part of their strategy for tackling carbon emissions.

Find out more at [www.climatestewards.org/offset](http://www.climatestewards.org/offset)

## everyday faith

### Everyday Faith Event

This October, every benefice is being invited to send representatives to an inspirational day conference, equipping people to live out their faith every day, in the situations and

places they find themselves. It's a packed timetable of workshops, including;

- *Being a Christian in your school community*
- *Courageous Advocacy: How and why can Christians be brave and make the world a better place*
- *Inspiring everyday faith at home: ideas to help families grow in faith together*
- *Know your Story*
- *Praying with your eyes open*
- *Standing up for God's world: being a green Christian*
- *Confidence in God: Know you are loved and liked'*
- *Discover how to reach deeper places: meaningful conversations*
- *Live your faith in your place of work*
- *That's a good question: enjoy exploring the big issues*
- *To do or not to do: managing time in the light of eternity,*
- *The power of food and friendship*
- *Transform your workplace*
- *Reading the Bible with everyday life in mind*

Your member of clergy should have details of how to get your benefice's representatives signed up to this brilliant opportunity.