

Regular services and activities

Sunday

8 am: Said Communion in Church (Book of Common Prayer service on the first Sunday of each month)

10 am: Parish Communion with hymns in Church (Family service on the first Sunday of each month)

Monday

10 am: Coffee morning in the Church centre lounge

10 am: Parent and Toddlers in the Church centre hall

7.15 pm Bible study in the Church centre lounge

7.30 pm: Mothers' Union on the 4th Monday of each month, in the Church centre hall

Wednesday

9.30 am: Holy Communion service in the Church centre chapel, followed by coffee

Thursday

10 am: Needles and Natter in the Church centre lounge

10 am: Flower arrangers in the Church

7.30 pm: Bell ringing practice in the Church tower



St. George's Church
Brockworth **March 2020**

To journey in faith and share
God's love.

How to contact *your* St George's team

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

Parish Website: www.st-george-brockworth.org.uk
Facebook: Search for "St George's Church Brockworth" and 'like' our page

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

Licensed Readers :
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Churchwardens:
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The article deadline for the April issue is 15/03/20
Please email stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com
If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church Office.

Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

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

THIS MONTH'S COVER: A carpet of crocuses



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Parish notes for March

We will be into the season of Lent by the time you read this. As usual in Lent, Morning Prayer will take place in the Church centre Chapel each morning at 9.30 am, at which all are welcome.


Lent lunches will be served every Wednesday at 12.30 pm, in the Church centre hall, to which you are also very welcome.

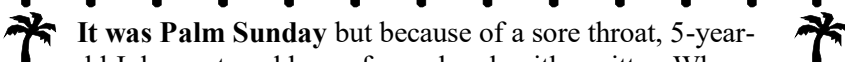
You will see from a poster elsewhere in the magazine, that this year's World Day of Prayer will be held at 10 am on Friday March 6th at the United Reformed Church hall in

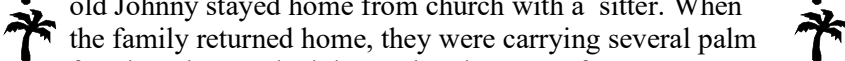
Moorfield Road. You will be very welcome and following the service, refreshments will be available.

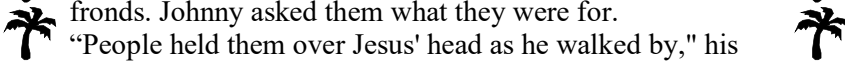
Smartie tubes are again available in Church. Please take one, enjoy the Smarties, then, if you can, fill the tube with coins (£1 coins fit well!) and return to Derek Harbottle, our treasurer, —every little helps him balance the books.

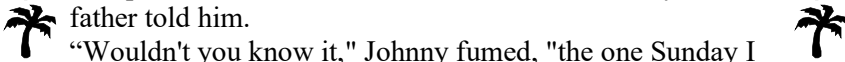
Mothering Sunday is on 22nd March and, with the hope that Spring is just around the corner, the clocks go back for British Summer Time on 29th March.

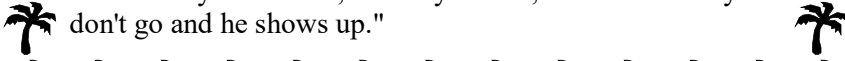




It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.


 "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.


 "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."









A Message from Mike

We moved to Brockworth exactly a month ago as I sit to write this, and it has truly flown by! Sarah and I moved to Cheltenham from Scarborough in 1999 and we have loved living in Gloucestershire, although we do miss the sea!! Our three boys were all born in Cheltenham and love playing sport – anything that is round will either be kicked, thrown or headed. Life wasn't crazy enough so 2 years ago we added Molly our dog – we now feel life is sufficiently chaotic!! Although, I am constantly hounded about when we are getting our next dog!

I was previously the curate at Christ Church Cheltenham, where I spent 4 amazing years growing and learning

from the wonderful community of faith.

We are incredibly excited about joining in and learning from the rich tradition at St. George's: a church that has a foundation of faith and passion to share that faith and the good news of Jesus with those around them – you are living examples of the St. George's mission statement, "to journey in faith and share God's love".

I am on a steep learning curve and so grateful and very much appreciate the care, guidance and support around me, thank you, I am confident I will learn quickly! My priority is to join in, learn and understand the rich tradition of worship developed over centuries here at St. George's. With the kindness and grace you have already shown me, I'm sure I will soon be in the rhythm of St. George's and the wider Brockworth community. THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

It has been wonderful already to see the many diverse and wonderful ministries that are full of life in Brockworth.

I am here for you and look forward to getting to know you all in the weeks and months ahead. I pray that you would know and experience the peace, joy and presence of God the father and our saviour Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our endlessly talented and inventive flower ladies helped make the Church look very special and personalised for Mike's Induction service. One of the arrangements had this poem attached. We hope Mike doesn't take it too much to heart

Blame the Vicar

by Sir John Betjeman

When things go wrong it's rather tame
To find we are ourselves to blame,
It gets the trouble over quicker
To go and blame things on the Vicar.

The Vicar, after all, is paid
To keep us bright and undismayed.
The Vicar is more virtuous too
Than lay folks such as me and you.
He never swears, he never drinks,
He never should say what he thinks.
His collar is the wrong way round,
And that is why he's simply bound
To be the sort of person who
Has nothing very much to do
But take the blame for what goes wrong
And sing in tune at Evensong.

For what's a Vicar really for
Except to cheer us up? What's more,
He shouldn't ever, ever tell
If there is such a place as Hell,
For if there is it's certain he
Will go to it as well as we.
The Vicar should be all pretence
And never, never give offence.
To preach on Sunday is his task
And lend his mower when we ask
And organize our village fetes
And sing at Christmas with the waits
And in his car to give us lifts
And when we quarrel, heal the rifts.

To keep his family alive
He should industriously strive
In that enormous house he gets,
And he should always pay his debts,
For he has quite six pounds a week,



Risks facing children in care must be addressed

5 Dec 2019

Commenting on new figures which show the number of children in care at March 31 rose 3.6% to 78,150 this year, Sam Royston, Director of Policy and Research at The Children's Society, said:

"More investment is urgently needed to ensure families get early support which could help avoid the need for children to go into care – but also to ensure that when this is necessary young people get the support they need to stay safe and thrive.

"Both have become more difficult amid the financial pressures facing councils, with the Local Government Association estimating that children's services departments face a £3bn funding shortfall by 2025.

"Without the right placement and support, children in care are more likely to be unhappy, go missing from home and be at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation.

"That is why we are really concerned by the continued rise in the number of children being placed outside their home area, as well as the huge increase in number of young people being placed in semi-independent unregulated placements (39%) - which can be due to a lack of suitable local placements.

"Too often, children in these placements do not get the help they need and some are cynically targeted by dangerous adults. Children placed far from home may be more likely to go missing, but shortcomings in information sharing involving police forces and councils in the different areas mean not all are offered Return Home Interviews which are a crucial opportunity to understand why they went missing and help prevent this happening again.

"It's vital the law is changed to ensure that semi-independent supported accommodation for children is regulated and inspected, and a national action plan is needed, backed by funding, to ensure all areas can offer local placements to all children for where this is appropriate."

The Children's Society is one of the charities we regularly support at St. George's

March 2020

Daily Bible Readings:



Monday 2nd March	Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-end
Tuesday 3rd March	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday 4th March	Jonah 3; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 5th March	Esther 14:1-5,12-14; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday 6th March	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday 7th March	Deuteronomy 26:16-end; Matthew 5:43-end
Monday 9th March	Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday 10th March	Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday 11th March	Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday 12th March	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-end
Friday 13th March	Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Matt 21:33-43,45-46
Saturday 14th March	Micah 7:14-15,18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-end
Monday 16th March	2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 17th March	Song of the Three 2,11-20; Matthew 18:21-end
Wednesday 18th March	Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 19th March	Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Friday 20th March	Hosea 14; Mark 12:28-34
Saturday 21st March	Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14
Monday 23rd March	Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-end
Tuesday 24th March	Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 25th March	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday 26th March	Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-end
Friday 27th March	Wisdom 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday 28th March	Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-52
Monday 30th March	2 Kings 4:18-21,32-37; John 11:1-45
Tuesday 31st March	Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30

And when we're rude he should be meek
And always turn the other cheek.
He should be neat and nicely dressed
With polished shoes and trousers pressed,
For we look up to him as higher
Than anyone, except the Squire.

Dear People, who have read so far,
I know how really kind you are,
I hope that you are always seeing
Your Vicar as a human being,
Making allowances when he
Does things with which you don't agree.
But there are lots of people who
Are not so kind to him as you.
So in conclusion you shall hear
About a parish somewhat near,
Perhaps your own or maybe not,
And of the Vicars that it got.

One parson came and people said,
Alas! Our former Vicar's dead!
And this new man is far more 'Low'
Than dear old Reverend so-and-so,
And far too earnest in his preaching,
We do not really like his teaching,
He seems to think we're simply fools
Who've never been to Sunday Schools."
That Vicar left, and by and by

A new one came, "He's much too 'High',"
The people said, "too like a saint,
His incense makes our Mavis faint."
So now he's left and they're alone
Without a Vicar of their own.
The living's been amalgamated
With one next door they've always hated.

Dear readers, from this rhyme take warning,
And if you heard the bell this morning
Your Vicar went to pray for you,
A task the Prayer Book bids him do.
"Highness" or "Lowness" do not matter,
You are the Church and must not scatter,
Cling to the Sacraments and pray
And God be with you every day.

FIVE KILLED IN ATTACK ON CHURCH LEADERS IN BURKINA FASO

14 February 2020

Please pray for our family in Burkina Faso. In the early hours of 11 February, the deacon of the Evangelical SIM Church, Lankoandé Babilibilé, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in Sebba, north east Burkina Faso. His car was stolen and used to abduct Pastor Omar Tindano of the same church, along with two of Omar's daughters, his son and two nephews. Yesterday, the news broke that Omar, his son and his nephews had all been executed. His daughters were released, physically unharmed, on the same day.

Lankoandé helped establish the first churches in the Sebba region, while Omar was the president of the Sebba region of the Evangelical Church.

Burkina Faso has seen a sharp increase in Christian persecution recently - it is now at **28 on the World Watch List**, jumping more than 30 places. Violent attacks account for this enormous rise, and tragically more than 50 Christians were murdered in 2019. There is a

climate of fear for believers in Burkina Faso, and this attack comes less than a week after gunmen attacked an evangelical church in Nagnounbougou. At least two believers were killed in that attack.

"Christians in these areas are in need of urgent prayer and support," says Illia Djadi, an Open Doors senior analyst on freedom of religion or belief in sub-Saharan Africa. "They are traumatised and don't know how to handle all this violence. Even close friends and members of SIM church are reluctant to share details with reporters, fearing further targeting."

Your family in Burkina Faso desperately need your prayers. As we read in Galatians: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

PLEASE PRAY

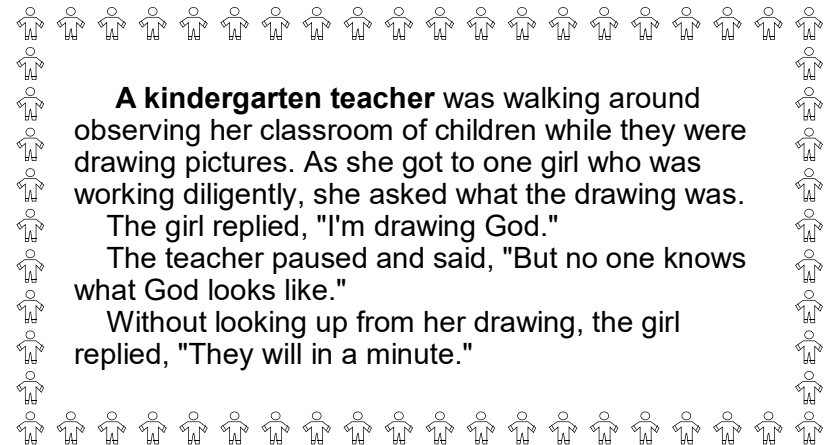
for the mourning family members, that God would be a deep source of solace and comfort for Omar's daughters, as they start to heal from the trauma of abduction for strength and resilience for Christians across Burkina Faso.

When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.



A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

WARNING

By Allan Delves

It is pleasing to me to be able to record that many of you dear readers not only enjoy my Biblical articles but have also enjoyed my two poetry contributions. So, I thought that I would compose a further poetic article.


Many years ago, I received a wonderful birthday present, or was it at Christmas or even Easter? I cannot remember. The present was a book entitled "The Nation's Favourite Poems". Most of which were familiar to me and I have learnt many. But one Poem I had never heard of, nor the Poetess, Jenny Joseph. This poem, called "Warning" was identified in 1996 as the most popular post war poem in a BBC survey.

It commences with "When I am old woman, I shall wear purple and a red hat which does not go". This was the inspiration to form a Red Hat Society with ladies all suitably attired.

By an amazing co-incidence a couple of years ago when Ann and I were walking along the promenade at Weston these ladies were walking towards us all in purple with a red hat. So, here we go with the full text:




WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020



Praying with Zimbabwe

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH



10 AM

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CHURCH**

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Gloucester City Mission/ Night Shelter

After a month of preparation during Advent, the celebration of Christmas and now entering into a new year and all that this may mean for us, I thought I would share with you some of my experiences during these times.

Gloucester City Mission opened the Night Shelter on Sunday 1st December. It will remain open every night right through until 31st March, offering a bed for up to 15 people who find themselves homeless and on the streets. As an existing volunteer I wanted to help at the Night Shelter, so started on the first night aiming to continue every Sunday evening throughout the four months it is open. I have witnessed and shared so much amazing generosity every time I am at the City Mission. To be able to participate in supporting the guests who use the shelter and services provided from this place never fails to fill me with love and hope. Whether it's making drinks, giving out clothing, taking food

and hot drinks up into town, chatting or just listening and praying with the people there.

Leading up to Christmas and since, the generosity and donations offered have been overwhelming, from clothes, sleeping bags/tents and toiletries, to food, both fresh and tinned produce. The provision of a three-course hot meal a couple of weeks before Christmas was fantastic, the tables laid with cloths, napkins, crackers and table decorations, we served over 80 seated guests with food and warm apple punch. We had a tender moment of prayer and reflection lighting a candle and inviting people to put messages on the Prayer Tree, remembering those who had died during the year including some longstanding and much-loved volunteers. You could hear the silence, it touched everyone in the room. Then every guest left with a carrier bag full of goodies such as hats / gloves, socks/underwear, tea/coffee/sugar, sweets/ toiletries. Some of the knitted items were made by our very own St. Georges Needles and

100 Club February 2020 WINNERS

1st — Richard Ashenden (84)
2nd — Ann Mawson (40)
3rd — Karen Whitfieldg (64)

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 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!





RICHARD'S STORY

"Without the foodbank, I don't think I would be here today."

Having worked in the police force for six years, followed by 12-years in the Royal Military Police, Richard, 49, from New Milton, had always considered himself fit and healthy. However, this all changed when a chest infection quickly developed into a heart condition and he suffered from two major strokes followed by 19 mini strokes, leaving him unable to work.

Richard's situation deteriorated further when he separated from his wife and moved out of their family home, where, unfortunately due to this change of address his Employment Support Allowance (ESA) was delayed. As a result of his serious heart condition Richard needs 35 tablets a day, but the cost of travelling to collect his prescriptions left him without enough money for food, and his local Citizens Advice Bureau referred him to the foodbank.

Although Richard admits he never expected to be in this situation, on arrival he was put at ease straight away. "The volunteers were fantastic, offering a chat and a shoulder to cry on. I suffer from depression as well and without the foodbank I don't think I would be here today," he said.

Richard looks forward to seeing his 10-year-old daughter every week-end but admits he has skipped meals on a few occasions so she can eat. He explains: "It's a really bad situation that people have to decide whether they can feed themselves, feed their children or put the heating on. It's a case of having to budget or having to go without."

At the moment things are still tough for Richard, he's on the waiting list for a heart transplant and will be on medication for the rest of his life, but he's grateful that the foodbank is available if he ever needs some extra help.

Contributions for the Foodbank can be taken to the Church Office during opening hours. Thank you

Natter group – thank you. All those sleeping at the Night Shelter on Christmas Eve received a sack full of gifts, including brand new clothes, some excited people could not wait until the morning to open their sacks, imagine members of staff very choked and watery eyed witnessing this joy, I have to say, so was I, just listening to the emotional recounting of this tale. Many more groups and Churches volunteer during the evenings to provide/ cook and serve hot food during the period the Night Shelter remains open.

I cannot begin to share what a privilege it is to know and love God, to be able to serve Him here at Gloucester City Mission and Night Shelter, to work to better his

Kingdom in this place. Sharing and giving is something every one of us can do, it does not have to be as a volunteer, or provision of donations / finances although this is always needed and welcomed, but a smile to the person we pass in the street, a chat with someone in the bus queue, stopping to help someone in difficulty, a phone call to someone who is poorly or lonely. Smiling and love is infectious, it can lead to laughter. If you would like to know more about the City Mission and /or Night Shelter check out their website which is www.gloscitymission.org.uk or speak to me.

Lorraine Hickson

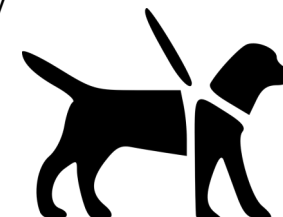
Milk bottle tops for Guide Dogs for the Blind

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting bottle tops for me. I have just had notification that a cheque for £180 has been received for the tops by the treasurer of The Severnside fundraising group for Guide Dogs for the Blind. I take the tops to Dundry Nurseries at Staverton from where they are collected. I take on average 2/3 big sacks full every 2/3 weeks over there.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE only ordinary milk bottle tops as it is very time-consuming sorting through them & taking out all the different bottle tops that get left for me.

Many thanks for your donations. Keep up the good work.

Jenny Farmer



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2020

1st	8.00am	Said Communion: Church
	10.00am	Family Service: Church
2nd	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
3rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
4th	9.30am	Said Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre
	1.30pm	Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.00pm	C/Centre Comm meeting: Lounge, Church Centre
5th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
6th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
7th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
8th	8.00am	Said Communion: Church
	10.00am	Parish Communion: Church
9th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
10th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
11th	9.30am	Said Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre
	1.30pm	Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.00pm	PCC meeting: Lounge, Church Centre
12th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
13th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
14th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
15th	8.00am	Said Communion: Church
	10.00am	Parish Communion: Church

Away from it all, a Mothers' Union Initiative

Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who are experiencing stress in their family life. On average, we help 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families can spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.

Mothers' Union's involved with AFIA will:

Help fund part of the cost of a holiday

Cover a family's travel expenses,

Pay for a whole holiday or day trip

Organise family weeks for groups of families to have a break with activities and outings.

Some of our dioceses also have mobile homes they fund so that numerous families can enjoy a holiday together throughout the year.

Families hoping to have an AFIA holiday don't have to be a member of a church or our organisation and you can apply for yourselves or recommend someone else for a holiday. We will try to find the most suitable holiday, because everyone is different!

How to apply

Would you or someone that you know benefit from an AFIA holiday? Just click on the link on the MU website to start the application process. We will ask for your name and contact details and the number of people who would like to go on the holiday, along with the ages of any children.

This information is sent on to a local Mothers' Union holiday coordinator who will then contact the family and ask them to fill in an application form. (Please note: people can nominate themselves or their friends but anyone applying for a holiday will also be asked to provide details of someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a vicar, teacher, or social worker).

Listens, Observes and Acts.

We are invited, with all members of our congregation to
The World Day of Prayer Service
(formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)
on Friday March 6th at 10.00am
being held this year at
The United Reformed Church Hall
in Moorfield Road
(followed by light refreshments)

'Mothering Sunday' is on March 22nd
Bring your Mothers and Grandmothers!! OK! Children and
Grandchildren along to the 10.00am service in Church
when MU members take part in the service
and small bunches of daffodils are handed out
to celebrate 'Our Mother the Church' and all Mothers.

Our Branch meeting this month is on Monday March 23rd
at 7.30pm in St. George's Church Centre Hall
when Canon Adrian Slade is coming along to give us some '
Lent Reflections'.

This meeting is open to everyone, please do come
and hear what Adrian has to say.

As the days lengthen,
and the earth spends longer in the light of day.
May we spend longer
in the light of your presence, Lord.
May the seeds of your word
Which have been long buried within us.
Grow like everything around us,
into love for you and love for other people.
A visible declaration of your Lordship in our lives.
Grant, Lord, that there may be
a springtime in our lives this Holy season of Lent.

Many blessings, Rona.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 2020 (cont'd)

16th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
17th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
18th	9.30am	Said Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre
	1.30pm	Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
19th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
20th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
21st	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>		
22nd	8.00am	Said Communion: Church
	10.00am	Parish Communion: Church
23rd	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting: Hall, Church Centre
24th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
25th	9.30am	Said Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch: Hall, Church Centre
	1.30pm	Lent Course: Lounge, Church Centre
26th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Needles and Natter: Lounge, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing: Church
27th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
28th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
29th	8.00am	Said Communion: Church
	10.00am	Parish Communion: Church
30th	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre
	10.00am	Parent and Toddlers: Hall, Church Centre
	10.00am	Coffee Morning: Lounge, Church Centre
31st	9.30am	Morning Prayer: Chapel, Church Centre

Biblical Cities

Chapter Nine:

JERUSALEM

Continuing my series on biblical cities dear Readers, I thought it must be about time that I wrote a chapter on the city that is considered the most holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and is one of the most holy cities in the world. It is also the official hymn of the Women's Institute. Ah, you have guessed it, of course it is Jerusalem. Because of its significance to the three religions it is the safest city in the Middle East to visit even though tensions remain among the three.

So, where do we start when there are 66 verses in the Bible that refer to Jerusalem? Let's go with the lesser known minor Prophet Ezra, who was a Jewish scribe, reformer and a priest, a leader of the Jews and a friend of Joshua. He had several prophetic visions. He was a descendant of Levi, a son of Jacob and Leah.




















He is also important to Muslims as he is mentioned in the Quran and is regarded by some as a Prophet. This is was Ezra quoted:

"Thus saith Cyrus, king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to

build him an house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah." However, some scholars believe the first human settlements in Jerusalem took place during the Early Bronze Age—somewhere around 3500 B.C. The Babylonians occupied Jerusalem in 586 B.C., destroyed the Temple, and sent the Jews into exile.

Cyrus then urged the exiled Babylonians to go to Jerusalem. The house is regarded as the Temple Mount on which are the religious structures such as the Western Wall, the Dome of the rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque. The site is also the location of the first and second Temples and the spot where many Jewish prophets taught.

In 1000 B.C., King David conquered Jerusalem and made it the capital of the Jewish kingdom. His son, Solomon, built the first holy Temple about 40 years later. Fast forward to two of the twelve minor Hebrew Prophets, firstly Joel who concerned himself with the return of Babylonians to Jerusalem. He quotes in Chapter 3 "But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations". This is true today. Similarly, Zachariah in Chapter 8 quotes the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem. "Behold, I will save my people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will






















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.

Many thanks
Lizbeth Harbottle Electoral Roll Officer

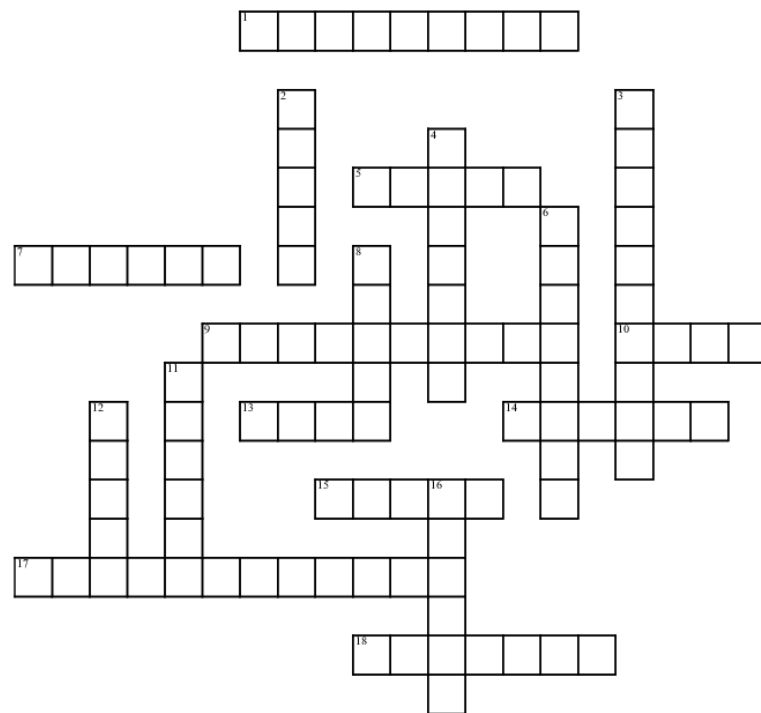






















The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. — *George Burns*

LENTEN CROSSWORD



Across

1. ASH _____
5. The Christian holy book
7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
13. Was with Jesus at the cross
14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
15. What Jesus died upon
17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____
18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

2. What Jesus shed for our sins
3. Holy Communion started after this
4. To go without
6. The final week of Lent (2 words)
8. Number of days in LENT
11. Season after Lent
12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
16. PALM _____

be their God, in truth and righteousness. Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain."

I think that we all familiar with the Book of Revelations Chapter two which says "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God

Finally, we go back to Psalm 122, verse 6: I quote "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they be secure who love you!" Will there ever be peace among the three Abrahamic religious peoples?

Jerusalem had a population of 804,400 in 2011, of which Jews comprised 499,400 (62.1%), Muslims 281,100 (34.9%), Christians 14,700 (1.8%), and others 9,000 (1.1%)
For my next article I will tell you more about Jerusalem.

Allan Delves



From the Registers— January 2020

Baptisms

Sunday 5th January	Eleanor Wilcox
Sunday 12th January	Benjamin & Alexander Watts

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

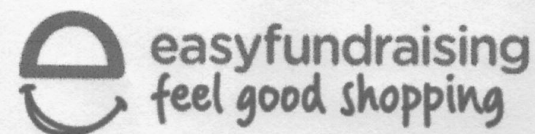
No marriages during January

Funerals

Friday 3rd January	Joan Thomas
Monday 6th January	Gregor Macgregor
Wednesday 8th January	Vera Gardiner
Friday 10th January	Peter Workman
Monday 20th January	Connie Cooper

"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!

Smalls for All

Smalls for All is a small charity, based in Scotland. It collects and distributes underwear to help women and children, in Africa, and also in the UK.

In some parts of Africa, if a woman wears a bra, this denotes a high status and she is therefore less likely to be a victim of sexual assault.

If you have any bras that you no longer wear, but are still in good condition, they can be sent to



Smalls for All
Five Sisters Business Park
Westwood
West Calder
EH55 8PN

Or you can pass items on to me and I will forward them. As the charity is small, they cannot refund postage or arrange collection but if you would like to know more the web site is - smallsforsall.org

Thank you
Coralie Slade

Events and training

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

Explore God's call

Saturday 7 March, 10am to 4pm at 4 College Green, Gloucester

Explore the call which God has for your life. That call is seen to be within the context of a relationship with God in all aspects of life—home, work, church and community. For some the exploration will strengthen their confidence to serve in the places where God has already placed them, others may feel God calling them to step into new areas of ministry. Free with lunch provided. Book at <https://bit.ly/2SfdOsX>

Pause for Hope, a Cathedral service for those affected by cancer

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm in Gloucester Cathedral

An Ecumenical service to pray that the day will quickly come when all cancers can be prevented or cured, bring together in prayer those affected by all forms of cancer and their loved ones and carers and to remember dear ones lost to cancer. More information at www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Have your say

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website **gloucester.anglican.org**

Successfully heating church buildings

Tuesday 24 March, 9.30am to 1pm at St Andrew's, Chedworth

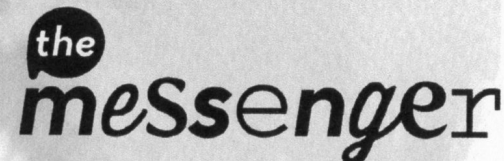
This workshop will outline the DAC's new environmental policy, what it will mean for churches and demonstrate successful strategies to heat churches while making a positive step towards being net zero carbon. The Diocese of Gloucester's DAC's Sustainability Advisor, Matt Fulford, will present on effective, environmental approaches which all churches can adopt to make their buildings more sustainable. To book, contact Catherine McGirr, 01452 835593 cmcgirr@glosdioc.org.uk

Breathe: a day of reflection for young people

Saturday 28 March, 10am to 4pm at Viney Hill Christian Adventure Centre For young people in years 6 to 13. Set in the beautiful Forest of Dean at the Viney Hill Adventure Centre, this day of low octane experiences will help young people of all backgrounds engage with God in a new and refreshing way. Refreshments provided on arrival and during the break, but all participants will need to bring a packed lunch. Free.

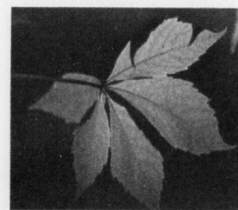
Book with Barrie@illuminatestroud.org.uk

 DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER

 the
messenger

March 2020

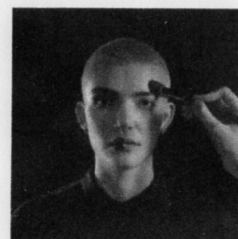
engagement Being advocates for flourishing,
through initiatives which combat
injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation



Local churches strengthen emissions target after climate emergency declared

On 1 February, the Church of England in and around Gloucestershire called on all parts of the diocese to work towards an 80 per cent reduction in emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases no later than 2030.

They also supported an ambition for the diocese to be carbon neutral by the same date. The agreement brought forward the date from 2050 to 2030, meaning that a fast and extensive shift in our current practices will be needed. Read more at <https://bit.ly/37kl89W>



Mirror, mirror answer me, what is it I need to be...

Four young, talented, spoken-word artists have written and performed pieces, especially produced for the Diocese of Gloucester's Liedentity campaign, to help change the message that *who you are, is all about how you look*. The liedentity campaign is

raising the discussion around the impact of social media on young people's lives, especially about how they feel about their bodies. Read more at <https://bit.ly/38g3FSm>

Free online suicide prevention training

This free 20 minute suicide prevention training package, put together by the Zero Suicide Alliance, is available online. The training shows you some of the signs to look out for if someone is struggling, how to talk to them about this, and how to keep them safe. You can access the training here - www.bit.ly/zsa-training. Free drink and snack for those who complete - <https://bit.ly/37dCTZm> This offer ends on 31 March.

Pilgrimage for conservation along the ancient trails



What is the best way to help raise money for a church dedicated to a patron saint of pilgrims? A sponsored walk to the ancient pilgrim destination of Santiago de Compostela.

DAC Secretary Adam Klups is fundraising for conservation work to the unique wall paintings at the church of St James the Great in Stoke Orchard. Starting in the Spanish city of Ferrol, along the Camino Ingles, ('The English Way'), the walk will take six days, finishing on Easter Sunday.

He said, "It will be an amazing adventure to add my footsteps to those of the pilgrims who have made the journey over the centuries before me." Sponsor Adam and help his cause www.gf.me/u/xjm4wj and follow him on Instagram at [@adam_and_liz_walking_to_santiago](https://www.instagram.com/adam_and_liz_walking_to_santiago)

The Inaugural Gloucester Pilgrimage, Saturday 25 April

If you can't stretch to Spain, how about joining the new pilgrimage route from Tewkesbury Abbey to Gloucester Cathedral. This route has been devised by the Gloucester Cathedral Ramblers on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral. 2020 has been designated 'Year of the Pilgrimage' by the Church of England English Cathedrals group.

In addition to the 15 mile route from Tewkesbury to Gloucester, there will be options to join the walk at various intermediate points, providing an opportunity for people to walk a distance that they feel is comfortably within their capabilities.

All intermediate joining points, as well as the start in Tewkesbury, will be accessible by public transport. For more information please contact GloucesterPilgrim@Outlook.com.



Youth Conference—from Thorpe Park to Lambeth Palace

For the first time ever the Diocese of Gloucester is organising a youth forum with young people from across the world visiting our diocese over

10 days. This forum ties in with the Lambeth Conference and is an opportunity for young people to come together, learn about different cultures, and have fun.

It takes place from 18 to 29 July and will include small teams of young people from our partner dioceses. We are looking for young people from across our diocese to be part of this incredible opportunity. More details from garygrady@btinternet.com



Cheltenham Science and Literature Festivals

Did you know that a team from the Diocese of Gloucester runs family activities at the Cheltenham Festivals each year? We're aiming to give people a good experience of the Church

of England, even if they would not normally step into a church building. It's a great chance to connect with new people from across the county and beyond.

We would love to recruit some more volunteers to our fun and friendly team - if you can chat confidently with children and their parents and teachers and would like to be involved, get in touch with Kerry Pateman kpateman@glosdioc.org.uk for details.