

St. George's Church Brockworth

September 2020



**To journey in faith and share
God's love.**

Getting in touch:

Church Office: Church Administrator, St George's Church Centre,
Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4ET
Office Hours: Closed, but email, messages and post dealt with
Phone: **01452 550 554**
Email: **churchoffice@stgeorgebrockworth.uk**
NB This is a new address

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

Vicar: Rev. Mike Smith: The Vicarage, Court Road, Brockworth
Tel: 07415 089897
Email: mike.smith@stgeorgebrockworth.uk
NB This is a new address.
Mike's day off is Friday

Licensed Readers :

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

Churchwardens:

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

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Lianne Eve

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Rita Fix 01452 550554
safeguarding@stgeorgebrockworth.uk

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

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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: Gloucester Cathedral viewed from Nut Hill



Work, Rest & Play

I was recently reading a BBC article about how professional athletes, during lockdown, have been struggling to keep their disciplines of eating good food and good training. However, the article also highlighted the third most important part of an athletes training – **REST**. Our bodies need rest. Our muscles, joints and organs all need to rest and recover. This is also true for our brains, our brains use 20% of our bodies energy levels. We may not be professional athletes, but we do demand a lot from our bodies. **We need rest.**

Psychologists describe the mental skills we use for memory, problem solving and self-control as Executive Functions of our brains. Our ability to focus our attention, regulate our emotions, predict outcomes in situations, and make decisions, rest on the foundations of our executive functions. However, when we are tired, or poorly nourished, we can lose the ability to control those executive functions. We can become distracted, react impulsively, or even irrationally, and we can make poor decisions. Who doesn't want to make better

decisions, or think more clearly? Have more self-control?

Rest is the answer. The more we demand of ourselves, physically, mentally, or emotionally, we pressurise, or stress our executive functions, and that has an impact on us. Sometimes life is pressurised and stressful and there is nothing we can do about it, but consistent extended periods of stress have a negative impact on us, on our health, our relationships, and our ability to cope with life. Rest is essential to our flourishing and recovery. How many times have we heard someone say, "you've worked really hard you deserve a rest", or "put your feet up, you've earned a break". **Rest** is not a reward; it is a **necessity**.

If you consider the bible, a narrative of the relationship between a Creator (God), and his created world (humanity, nature, our world and the universe), that relationship models the elements of a thriving, flourishing life, or as Jesus describes it, "I came that they [you] may have life; and may have it

abundantly" (John 10:10). Rest plays an important part in that story. Rest is mentioned 368 times in the bible, and more specifically there are 10 occurrences where Jesus is described as resting.

The Problem is: rest is seldom convenient, or intentionally thought about, but Resting is Essential.

So what is rest?

1) Rest to some might be walking, running, listening to music, or it may even be as crazy as an afternoon sleep! If it leaves you invigorated and energised it can be rest for you.

2) Rest doesn't happen naturally (for some). Just as we may put meetings or put dates in our diaries to catch up with friends, we should schedule periods of rest. Daily, weekly and monthly.

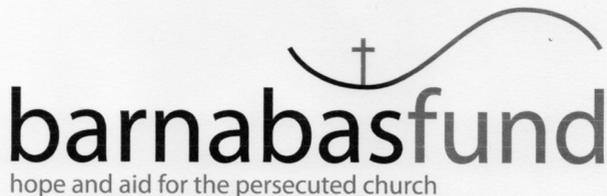
Resist the urge this summer, when holidays have been cancelled because of travel restrictions, to miss out on rest. We can get into routines, and patterns to life which seem to be self-perpetuating, and the

delusion of, "I'm OK", masks the longer-term negative, and destructive effects of our own health, or to the relationships of the ones we love. Whether you feel like it or not, **plan to rest**. Ignore those internal conversations with yourself, and the guilty feelings that persuade you not to rest. Remember, when you rest you are investing in yourself and in your relationships. So I'm off to watch a film and rest



Rev Mike Smith





BEIRUT EXPLOSION – SEND YOUR AID FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS THROUGH BARNABAS

A massive explosion rocked the Lebanese capital, Beirut, early on Tuesday evening (4 August 2020), causing utter destruction in the port area of the city and damaging homes up to six miles away. It was followed moments later by a blast wave that knocked people to the ground. At least 135 people were killed, about 5,000 injured and hundreds of thousands made homeless.

The explosion particularly affected East Beirut's Christian neighbourhoods, damaging churches and Christian ministries, with many Christians amongst the injured, homeless and dead. It also destroyed the grain silos at the port, where most of the country's supplies of wheat were stored. Bread is the staple food in Lebanon. Another terrible blow is the loss of huge stores of medicines, which were housed near to the place of the explosion.

The devastating blast appears to have

been triggered when a fire ignited a warehouse of ammonium nitrate. The world's heart goes out to Lebanon, as this latest affliction falls on a country hosting 1.5 million refugees and plummeting into economic meltdown. Reports say that 20% of the population are already malnourished. As the injured and homeless are dispersed from Beirut across this small and fragile country, the tragedy in the capital is spreading to affect every part.

Many Christians are in desperate need following the explosion. Through our existing project partners in Lebanon, Barnabas Fund can send immediate aid to our brothers and sisters who have suffered in this disaster. Urgent needs are food, medicines and accommodation.

Your gift of any size will help.
Please give now.

A message from Bishop Rachel



Today's gospel reading for a service of Holy Communion happens to include the verses for this Sunday (Matthew 14: 22-33). It is an episode which is told slightly differently in the Gospel of Mark and John, and I have frequently reflected on each of these.

There is much in Matthew's narrative around storm and fear, expectation and faith, and it also has much to say about identity.

Over the past few months I have been very aware of conversations in which people have been pondering their identity, sometimes in relationship to a role which has changed or been taken from them, and sometimes relating to place and what has been revealed about a local community.

As worshipping communities make decisions about emerging from lockdown, future patterns of worship and what it means to be Christ's good

news within the wider community, so much of it is about identity regarding place and who we are individually and together.

As the disciples travel with Jesus they are constantly having to assimilate new information and what it says about who they are and who Jesus is. They have just participated in an amazing miracle as 5,000 people have been fed with a tiny picnic, and they are surely left with questions about their identity and that of Jesus. Now they are once again in a boat on the water and once more in a place of scarcity. Their fear is high and their human resources again seem inadequate as they are battered by the waves and feel far from in control. Then, as so often, the unexpected happens and Jesus comes walking towards them and he speaks words of identity: 'It is I'.

In those few words so much is held. This is Jesus Christ, and his words resonate with those words heard by Moses hundreds of years earlier at another time of unexpected encounter, this time not on water but by a burning bush when God is revealed as 'I am'.

The one who walks upon the water is mysteriously and inextricably connected to the one who created it and we are invited to go on discovering our own identity in relationship with this three-in-one God.

My hope and prayer is that amid the expected and unexpected events of

August we will each have the opportunity for reflection on our identity and our calling at this time, individually and together; and in all of that may we go deeper in our understanding and experience of who Christ is as he continues to come towards us however strong or weak our faith.

As ever this letter ends with assurance of prayer and heartfelt thanks from myself and Bishop Robert.



A prayer by Bishop George Appleton (modern adaptation by Jim Cotter)

*Give me a candle of the spirit, O God
as I go down into the deep of my
own being
Show me the hidden things. Take me
down to the spring of my life, and
tell me my nature and my name.
Give me freedom to grow so that I
may become my true self – the
fulfilment of the seed which you
planted in me at my making.
Out of the deep I cry unto thee, O
God.*

A brief message from Bishop Rachel to young people in the Diocese of Gloucester:

This week I am giving thanks for all the ways you shape life around you for good, simply by being you. I am also deeply aware that this time of viral pandemic has impacted your lives in many different ways, not least those of you who have been awarded exam grades or who are still waiting. Whether you are celebrating, confused or upset, may you come to know the truth that however the next steps of your future have been determined your identity and worth is not measured by data and processes but that your

value is immeasurable. You are unique and precious, created in the image of God, equal to all around you, and with potential yet to be lived and discovered, however winding the path.

May we also join together in praying for schools, colleges and universities as they continue to respond to government decisions in their own decision-making and planning. May there be wisdom, compassion and courage amid struggle and hard choices.

‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’ Isaiah 43:1

Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.
It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear our organ play,

And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so,
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.

This poem was one of those chosen by the flower team to complement the wonderful floral decorations in Church for Mike's induction. Poor mouse might go hungry with no Harvest Festival this year!



BIBLICAL CITIES

CHAPTER 15

PAPHOS

Dear Readers, here we go with my latest Biblical City. For a change I have chosen one that is a bustling popular tourist attraction, unlike so many that I have written about which are ancient ruins. The city in question is Paphos, on the southwest coast of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. Readers, you will recall me telling you about Paul's reluctance to travel by sea because of piracy and bandits. The weather was also unpredictable. With no other means of travel to Cyprus, Paul was determined to go in the hope of converting Jews. Saint Paul's connection to the island of Cyprus can be found in the 13th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. In this chapter, there are nine verses (5-13) detailing the missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas on the island of Cyprus, which was part of the saint's First Journey.

So, dear Readers, we learn that in A.D. 45 the Apostles Paul and Barnabas, (who was a Cypriot by birth) accompanied by the evangelist John Mark, visited the island and stopped off in Paphos, then the capital of Cyprus. The only way that they could have travelled to Cyprus was by getting a lift on a Merchant Ship. The Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, was initiated into Christianity by the Apostles and eventually converted to the new religion.

This journey was the start of what is called St. Paul's First Missionary Journey. They landed on the east coast

at Salamis, the largest city (it had 3 synagogues) and then came to the Roman capital Nea (New) Paphos. It is believed that Paul was not welcomed in Paphos. In 2 Corinthians 11: 24-25 St. Paul says that during his ministry so far he has been beaten five times by the Jews, three times by the Romans. Cypriot tradition has it that the apostle was tied to one of the many pillars that now lie adjacent to the church of Agia Kyriaki and beaten. If this is correct it will probably have been done by the Jews but, as neither Acts nor Paul's letters speak of any mistreatment in Cyprus, the tradition of the beating, and the association of the apostle with the area where Agia Kyriaki lies, must remain open to question.

However, a noted landmark 10 to 12 miles from Paphos today is the pillar. This is the pillar where St. Paul was flogged by the Roman Governor Sergius for preaching Christianity. Yet later as mentioned above Sergius had an about turn and converted to Christianity.

There is so much more to tell you about Paphos that I will continue in the next edition so "Watch this space"
Allan Delves



Creation

When God made the earth and the sky, the flowers, and the trees,
He then made all the animals and all the birds and bees.
And when His work was finished not one was quite the same, so He
said:

“I’ll walk this earth of mine and give each one a name.”

And so, He travelled land and sea,

And everywhere He went

A little creature followed Him until it’s strength was spent.

When all were named upon the earth and in the sky and sea,

The little creature said:

“Dear Lord, there’s not one left for me?”

The Father smiled and softly said:

“I’ve left you to the end,

I’ve turned my name back to front

and called you DOG, my friend.



From Gordon and Rona
Clifford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—September 2020

Please remember you will need to wear a face covering in church

2nd	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
6th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
9th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
13th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
15th	7.00pm	PCC meeting (details to follow)
16th	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
20th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
23rd	3—4pm	Church open for supervised private prayer
27th	9.00am	Communion (no singing): Church This service will also be broadcast live on YouTube
30th	3—4pm 7.00pm	Church open for supervised private prayer APCM (details to follow)

9.00am Communion in Church

The wardens and I have been busy ensuring that we are operating within Government and Church of England guidelines when we worship together. We will have all the necessary precautions in place ready for our worship: sanitiser, cordoned off pews, safe procedures for distributing communion wine and bread, and stewards to help us.

In order for us to be safe and socially distanced, we can only manage 25 people in church. In order for us to operate within this boundary we need to know who intends to be at the 9am service. If you would like to be at the service, could you email me how many from your bubble will be there and we can reserve seats. We will then email and confirm your space.

Please can I emphasise, in order to keep everyone safe, do not arrive at church if you haven't received an email confirmation.

Mike, Vicar of St George's Church, Brockworth

mike.smith@stgeorgebrockworth.uk

 07415 089897

Parish notes September 2020

A big “Welcome back” to anyone who has not been in touch since March. You will have paid your annual subscription, then, due to Covid restrictions, not heard from us since. We will take the year’s subscription as starting from this September issue, our first to be back in normal print and distribution. If you have yet to pay your subscription of £5.50 for 10 issues, then please either give it to your distributor or post it through the door of the Church centre office, remembering to include your name and address, thank you.

Early in lockdown Mike and Sarah started “cake ministry”, visiting local schools and care homes with cakes for the staff, to let them know our own “local heroes” were being prayed for and their work and dedication appreciated. This has continued during the summer with a team of volunteers making cakes to take into our care homes for the staff and is very much appreciated by the recipients.

Mother’s Union members are making “twiddle muffs” for Brockworth House and Millbrook Lodge. They can’t use them during the pandemic but will save them till they are safe to use and, again, they are very much appreciated, so keep knitting!

E-mail, Zoom and our website have been vital in keeping us together whilst unable to meet normally. Can I encourage you to keep an eye on our website – www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk as a good way of keeping up-to-date with developments as we try to comply with rapidly changing guidelines?

It felt like a big step when the first service was held in Church on Sunday 19th July. After a risk assessment process, 25 people were allowed in for a 9am service, having previously applied to Mike for a place. Richard Eve, our webmaster, has been very successful in live streaming the services, so that those who can’t be in Church can still hear and see the service on You Tube.

We aim to meet as a PCC on September 16th and our APCM is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th September. Details of how these meetings will take place to follow.

By the time you read this we will have a centenarian in our midst! Shelia Watts had her 100th birthday in August (too late for photos to be included here) and we wish her many congratulations.

Please continue to take care and stay safe
Pat Hartwell

1

Did you know that you could help raise money for St George's Church by just a few clicks on your computer or phone? Yes, it's that easy!

5

ON A SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

- Download the **easyfundraising** app
- Once it's downloaded, go into the app and click on 'Sign Up'
- In 'search for a good cause', enter 'St George's Church—Brockworth' and click on 'search'
- Click on the photo of our church
- Click on 'sign up with email'
- Enter your name, email address and a password of your choosing and click on 'create my account'
- **YOU'VE REGISTERED!!** Well done!

Now, whenever you shop online, all you need to do is :

- Log in to the **easyfundraising** app
- In 'search' enter the name of the retailer you wish to buy from and click on 'search'
- Click on the name of the retailer
- Click on 'shop now'
- This will take you to the retailer's website and you shop as normal

SIMPLE!

6

ON A COMPUTER

- Go to **easyfundraising.org.uk**
- In 'search for a good cause', enter 'St George's Church—Brockworth' and click on 'search'
- Click on 'support this cause' next to the photo of our church
- Click on 'continue with email'
- Enter your name, email address and a password of your choosing and click on 'create my account'
- Click on 'no thanks'
- **YOU'VE REGISTERED!!** Well done!

Now, whenever you shop online, all you need to do is :

- Go to **easyfundraising.org.uk** and log in
- In 'search for a retailer' enter the name of the retailer you wish to buy from and click on 'search'
- Click on the name of the retailer
- Click on 'shop now'
- This will take you to the retailer's website and you shop as normal

JUST AS SIMPLE!

2

easyfundraising.org.uk

is a charity cashback website allowing you to raise money as you shop online. Every time you buy something online from most retailers, a small percentage is donated to us.

3

It costs absolutely **NOTHING** to do. All you have to do is register with your email and then whenever you shop online, you log into your **easyfundraising** account first and then shop as normal. How easy is that?

4

I'm now going to tell you how to do it and if you need any help contact the Church Office on 01452 550554 and leave a message or email: churchoffice@st-george-brockworth.org.uk and I will phone you back when it's convenient and talk you through it. So here goes.....

7

Thank you so much for taking the time to help us. We really do appreciate it.

St George's Church

Dear readers I presume that many of are spending more time with your grandchildren during this lockdown period and no school. As Ann and I are. This poem came to mind which was written by 65year old Becky Netherland in 2008 as she sat down with one of her three grand daughters and gave her this advice. It is equally apt to all grandchildren. *Allan Delves*

Pearls of Wisdom to My Granddaughter

By Becky Netherland.

I've traveled paths you've yet to walk
Learned lessons old and new
And now this wisdom of my life
I'm blessed to share with you

Let kindness spread like sunshine
Embrace those who are sad
Respect their dignity, give them joy
And leave them feeling glad

Forgive those who might hurt you
And though you have your pride
Listen closely to their viewpoint
Try to see the other side

Walk softly when you're angry
Try not to take offense
Invoke your sense of humor
Laughter's power is immense

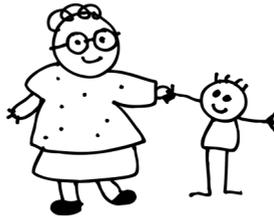
Express what you are feeling
Your beliefs you should uphold
Don't shy away from what is right
Be courageous and be bold

Keep hope right in your pocket
It will guide you day by day
Take it out when it is needed
When it's near, you'll find a way

Remember friends and family
Of which you are a precious part
Love deeply and love truly
Give freely from your heart

The world is far from perfect
There's conflict and there's strife
But you still can make a difference
By how you live your life

And so I'm very blessed to know
The wonders you will do
Because you are my grandchildren
And I believe in you



The North door of the Church

You will be pleased to hear that work has started to repair the stonework above the north door. This should enable the door to be opened again and brought back into use.

It will be a great help to have a second exit from the nave of the church and it will be good to be able to let wedding guests go out that way while the bride and groom are having photos taken by the South door. Hopefully the work will be completed by the time you receive this magazine!

Lizbeth



Our Churchwarden
Lizbeth Harbottle,
dwarfed by a
sunflower. Her husband,
Derek says: First bloom
on our sunflowers this
year, measured at 10ft
4 inches - can anyone
better this??

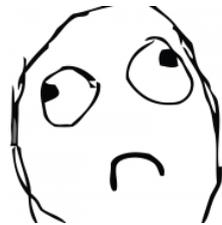
COVID POEM

When a crisis arrives, many people like me find comfort in reading and writing poetry. So I have explored many poems written during lockdown and selected one by American poet Erika Fine from Massachusetts which I found in the New York Times. Is there anyone in Brockworth who reads this paper, I ask?

Allan Delves

Wish

The weeks go by, the fourth, the fifth,
And normalcy's become a myth.
I want to hug, I want to hold,
I want this deadly scourge controlled.
I want to walk amidst a crowd.
I want to lift this morbid shroud.
I sit, sequestered in my home,
And yearn to mingle, travel, roam.
My energy is out of whack —
I want my normal problems back.



St. George's Church Brockworth

Invites you to a

'Welcome Back Sale'

of Produce, Plants,
Pre-Loved Items and Treasures

Saturday 19th September
at 2pm

Join us outside the Church Centre
Court Road
on the field and car park

Tea and Coffee available

All proceeds will be shared between the
Sue Ryder Charity and St George's Church

Please Note

Social Distancing will apply
and Masks where appropriate

Please check our website
www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk
for updates on this event
in case changes are necessary



September 2020

Daily Bible Readings:

Tuesday 1st September	1 Corinthians 2:10b-end; Luke 4:31-37
Wednesday 2nd September	1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-end
Thursday 3rd September	1 Corinthians 3:18-end; Luke 5:1-11
Friday 4th September	1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Luke 5:33-end
Saturday 5th September	1 Corinthians 4:6-15; Luke 6:1-5
Monday 7th September	1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday 8th September	1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday 9th September	1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26
Thursday 10th September	1 Corinthians 8:1-7,11-end; Luke 6:27-38
Friday 11th September	1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-end; Luke 6:39-42
Saturday 12th September	1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-end
Monday 14th September	1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33; Luke 7:1-10
Tuesday 15th September	1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-end; Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday 16th September	1 Corinthians 12:31b-end of 13; Luke 7:31-35
Thursday 17th September	1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 7:36-end
Friday 18th September	1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 8:1-3
Saturday 19th September	1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49; Luke 8:4-15
Monday 21st September	Proverbs 3:27-34; Luke 8:16-18
Tuesday 22nd September	Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13; Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday 23rd September	Proverbs 30:5-9; Luke 9:1-6
Thursday 24th September	Ecclesiastes 1:2-11; Luke 9:7-9
Friday 25th September	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Luke 9:18-22
Saturday 26th September	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8; Luke 9:43b-45
Monday 28th September	Job 1:6-end; Luke 9:46-50
Tuesday 29th September	Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Luke 9:51-56
Wednesday 30th September	Job 9:1-12,14-16; Luke 9:57-end

100 Club July 2020 WINNERS

1st — Karen Whitfield (64)
2nd — Gordon Clifford (44)
3rd — Anne Banting (25)

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 September issue
is 15th August**

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!



Personal Thoughts on 2020 so far.

Uncertainty! Summoned for Jury service first two weeks of January. Will I be called in? Can't plan ahead! All fine! Sat for three days then no longer required! (He was guilty!)

Marriage Preparation Day at the end of January. Lots of planning, it seemed to go well.

Richard's 80th birthday party on 8th February. Needed to contact all the close family:- what to cook? Will they all fit in? Where shall we sit? Have we enough plates, glasses, cutlery, chairs? All fine! Everyone made it. Ordered big lasagnas from Cook, people brought salads and puds. Wonderful happy day! There was talk of a Corona virus, much scaremongering, but that was in China and maybe Italy.

Escaped to France for three weeks. Virus spreading rather, lots of hand washing, no shaking hands and no hugs! Home in early March, even more hand washing, no contact and no wine at Communion. Dire warnings of rapidly spreading pandemic. Need to take stock! Lots of loo rolls, no immediate problem!

23rd March, LOCKDOWN.

So quiet. Court Road was empty. No cars, no big aggregate lorries trundling up to the new development. Must keep taking exercise, one hour's walking round the streets of Brockworth each day. Everyone keeping 2m away! No problem. No cars so could use the whole road if needed. To start with

many people afraid to talk as they passed, but soon everyone greeted each other. We started to notice our neighbours more. That was good! Must be home by 5pm in time for the Downing Street Briefing. More and more scary! "Much worse if you're over 70 and almost bound to be fatal if you're over eighty and particularly if you're a man." The numbers continued to rise. Started to wake at night, what if I'm next? Even worse, what if Richard is next? Are our affairs in order? – Nothing gained by giving in to fear! Must pray! Started to go through Compline together, last thing before going to bed. The words brought great comfort. Normal sleep patterns returned. All usual activities stopped. No-one allowed into the Church, so no duties, no brass cleaning, (sadness!) No Open the Book. No weekly Pilates class in the Centre! Must practice at home! -Tomorrow! I do miss friends from there and from Church. Sunday mornings. No church! We lay in bed taking more notice of the Sunday service on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am. Then up and dressed tidy, (well, Sunday IS special!) and set ourselves up to go through St George's service at 10am. (Didn't use You Tube hymn link, we could choose to sing in a key we could both manage!) Made a coffee, then watched the cathedral services broadcast during the early weeks, on BBC 1 at 10.45, followed by inspiring stories with Reverend Kate Botley. Recently, we followed our service by watching a service produced by Brockworth URC on You Tube. Good to share! Our friends from there were following ours!

Time. There was lots of time! Time to do all those things I've been meaning to do. Not done them yet. Still, there is always tomorrow! As Spring blossomed the weather was fabulous and the countryside was beautiful. Birdsong filled the air and a robin perched right at the top of a clump of trees behind our garden every day and sang to us nearly all day long!

Face Time. That is nice! Speaking to R's daughter in London three times a week and a widowed friend in France. Other family too sometimes. And of course, there is Zoom! How technical we're having to become! Ventured out to walk to Farm Shop, little traffic so pleasant walking. Second visit, we arrived to find that

my daughter Katie and granddaughter Emily were the "bubble" in front of us. She and I promptly burst into tears! She hugged Emily and I hugged Richard! Emotional moment! We make sure we arrange our meet-ups now, virtual or distanced, so we're prepared!

So, what now? What have we learned?. Numbers are much lower, but it is precarious. All very unsettling! Can't really draw any conclusions. We can only keep our distance, look out for our friends and neighbours and keep praying. Oh,- and WASH OUR HANDS!

Liz Ashenden

From the Registers— June 2020

Baptisms

No baptisms during June

Weddings

No weddings during June

Funerals

No funerals during June

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*

LIFE IN LOCKDOWN.

For Christmas my daughter gave me a FitBit.. This small piece of technology has been my lifesaver during lockdown. Just to be able to record how many steps a day & how many miles I have walked has given me motivation. I have recorded this information since lockdown & now here is the surprising news. Since the start of lockdown until the beginning of August I have walked over 800 miles & we are now aiming for the 1000. Walking every day has not only kept me fit, but also sane.

I go out every day, usually in the morning, with my blind son on my arm for a walk. We average 5 miles, seldom less & more often more, the most being 12 miles when we were fortunate enough to enjoy a 5 day break in Devon staying at the Action for the Blind hotel in Teignmouth. A very welcome change from cooking etc. every day.

Apart from this break we walk from home. We have walked up to Bentham, with a beautiful wild flower display on the grass verge on the road up to Bentham & Witcombe. Up to the Roman Villa & through the woods to Coopers Hill. Travelled through Little Witcombe & on to Great Witcombe on past the Church & back through Little Witcombe & home over the fields. Earlier on in lockdown we walked

up the road to Churchdown & back through Hucclecote, not recommended now that more cars are on the road. We have got ourselves lost on Coopers Edge on numerous occasions. We have walked to Barnwood Park & on through to Abbeymead, Down to King George V playing fields & followed the maze of pathways through to Lobleys Park & home. Another day we have walked through the jungle, or that's what it feels like, up through a field of sweetcorn which is over head height & on up to Nut Hill returning past Bowden Hall Hotel & down to the Hucclecote Meadows. These meadows have been purple with cornflowers & dots of yellow from the buttercups.

We have walked through new housing estates that I never knew existed, Up Green street to Painswick road & over Castle Hill. Across the fields from Golf Club Lane to Green street & all round Abbotswood. We have been up roads with no way out, so had to return back the same way. It has all been a learning curve.

As the seasons have changed so has the landscape. On walking up Golf Club Lane & across the fields behind Coopers Edge to Hucclecote Meadows we have watched empty fields being ploughed, planted, & now, like walking through the jungle, going up between sweetcorn that is over & above head height..

Now that it is open again our walk this morning took us up through the jungle, sweetcorn, over the road & on up to Prinknash Abbey. Revived with a cup of coffee & flapjack & back down again, almost 6 1/2 miles.

The weather has only caught us out twice since March. The first time was on the way back from Barnwood Park. We sheltered near Ruddy's for a while, then carried on & sheltered under a tree till the rain got heavier so we just kept going. Arriving home soaked to the skin & had to change completely. The second time it was just heavy drizzle that got us almost as wet, but it was only water & we didn't shrink, unfortunately.

We have disturbed a dozing fox, though I am not sure who was more surprised us or him, then round the corner two deer chased after one another on our path, both of these were in the new wood behind the Primrose Vale strawberry farm. Earlier on in the spring we went through bluebell woods, with primroses & other wild flowers.

I do hope you have enjoyed walking with us from home & remember it keeps you fit & sane, but I am one of the lucky ones able to do it, Give it a try sometime.

Jenny Farmer

From Louisa Messenger

Some people are kind, polite and sweet -spirited, until you try to sit in their pew!! (Would never happen in St George's!!).

When you get to your wits end, you will find God lives there. How true!

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - he will clean them!

Don't wait for six strong men to carry you into church.

Don't let your worries get the best of you, remember Moses started out as a basket case!

Hope these bring a smile.

Louisa



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Listens, Observes and Acts

The **'Wave of Prayer'** is on **Saturday 5th September**

Socially distanced in St. Georges Church

at 2.40pm until 3.20pm

Please try to attend to keep the 'Wave of Prayer' rolling around the world.

We thank you Lord that the seeds planted by Mary Sumner have flourished and grown throughout the world. We may not always see the results of work begun, but we pray that the power of your Holy Spirit will continue to bring to maturity the seeds that are planted by MU members around our beautiful world.



Mary Sumner's Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch
as many lives as possible for
thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by
thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I
speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.

Many blessings, Rona.

Welcome back into Church!

St. George's Church is starting to re-open.



Please keep checking our
website: www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk
and our

Facebook page: St George's Church Brockworth
during September for additional diary events
We look forward to seeing you soon!

