

February 2023



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

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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: St. George's on a foggy evening after bellringing practice. Taken by Martin Yemm

A Smile



A smile costs nothing and yet produces a lot
It enriches he who receives it
Without making he who gives it any poorer
It only lasts an instant
But the memory it leaves sometimes lasts forever.
No-one is rich enough to be able to do without one:
No-one is so poor he does not merit one.
It creates happiness in the home,
It is a tangible sign of friendship.
A smile makes he who is tired feel rested,
Gives new heart to those who are down.
It cannot be bought, nor loaned, nor stolen,
For it is a thing which only has value
In the moment it is given.
And if, from time to time, you should meet someone
Who no longer knows how to smile,
Be generous – give him yours,
For no-one needs a smile as much
As he who cannot give one to others.

Contributed by David Sutch who found it in a museum of paper in Cordoba

Recycle and raise money for our charities.

As we get more and more conscious of not throwing anything away that could be of use, please remember we collect and recycle:

Greetings cards for the Cobalt Unit (not Christmas cards now, though)

Used postage stamps for The James Hopkins Trust, a local charity which provides nursing respite care for Gloucestershire's life limited, and life threatened young children

Old or broken jewellery for The Alzheimer's Society

Old spectacles for Sightsavers

Medicine blister packs are taken to be recycled at a branch of Superdrug for Marie Curie

Used Ink cartridges for LINC—The Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund

There are some boxes in the Church porch for some of these items and they can be taken to the Church office in the Church centre, Monday – Friday, 9.30 – 11.30

Our support is very much appreciated by these charities.

Thank you for your help.

We hope to be able to collect plastic milk bottle tops once again, this time for Cobalt—to be confirmed in the March magazine

A New Year's message from Bishop Rachel



Published: Tuesday January 3, 2023

I know that journeying can be an overused metaphor when we talk about faith, but it seems a good one as we begin a new year and recall the visit of the Magi and the unfolding of the season of Epiphany.

I have done a lot of journeying recently – some of it good and some of it more challenging due to adverse weather conditions, train delays and unexpected incidents. I think a five-hour journey to travel from Down Ampney, near Cirencester, back to Gloucester in the mid-December snow might be something of a record; and for various reasons Guy and I experienced a lot of uncertainty in our travelling over the Christmas period. Amid it all we commented on the time we spent on Christmas Day with Iranian Christian brothers and sisters enjoying an English Christmas meal with generous friends at St Lawrence's Barnwood. We reflected a little on the poignancy of their journey as asylum-seeking Persian Christians as we recalled the Christmas journeying of the Persian Magi seeking the Christ-child. All of it full of uncertainty and yet much faith.

As Guy and I and experienced frequent unexpected changes to travel plans with many hours of waiting, we repeatedly commented with thankfulness that at least we knew our destination and the warmth awaiting us. Furthermore, our longing for home and resolution was nothing compared to the many people across our world fleeing in fear, journeying with no sense of destination, and facing uncertainty regarding the future.

As we all venture forth into 2023, we are surely aware of much uncertainty regarding what lies ahead not least with so many national and global issues, the challenges facing the National Church, and all we are immersed in concerning the people and places of our local contexts. Perhaps some of it seems confusing and bewildering, yet

let us not allow that to close our inner selves to holy mystery.

The very meaning of Epiphany challenges us to look beyond what seems to be, and to open our hearts and minds to the mysterious presence of God, and to yearn to see and hear the signs of God's certain kingdom.

Every New Year's Day, I remember that poem by Minnie Louise Haskins which was quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast (it has been said that the late Queen Elizabeth II handed it to her father as a child):

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

Amid all the knowns and unknowns of the coming year, let us not forget the certainty of our home in God, and may that certainty give us peace amidst anxiety and

restlessness. Hundreds of years ago Augustine of Hippo famously wrote 'Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.'

I hope and pray that as we journey into 2023 we will marvel afresh at the journey of those restless, curious and faithful gift-bearing Magi who were utterly focused on following that mysterious star as they sought out the new-born King; and that we will keep our minds and hearts focused on the mystery and wonder of God's certain love and forgiveness. It won't remove all the pain, uncertainty or struggle, but it will free us to be joyful in the unchanging hope we have in Jesus Christ. My prayer is that we will be generous in living and sharing this transforming hope in our various contexts. It is a gift more precious than gold, frankincense and myrrh. May we carry it with us as we journey through the coming year.

Bishop Robert and I give thanks for the privilege of journeying with you in the months ahead.

With my thanks and prayers,

+ Rachel



Plant Sale



I am hoping to organise a plant sale on Saturday June 3rd from 10 am until 1 pm with the hall open from 8 am for setting up. I have chosen this date because it doesn't clash with the ballet class that uses the hall most Saturday mornings. Please let me know if you are willing to provide plants to sell on the day. It would be nice if we could also have a few other stalls, e.g. cakes or home-made crafts etc. just to add extra interest. If you are willing to help with these please let me know. Any other suggestions will be gratefully received so that we can make this a happy and successful event.

Judy Baldwin tel. 862840



Give Him a Call!

The phone was a great invention. How easy it is to press a few numbers on our small devices and speak to someone on the other side of the world. There was a time when a phone in the home was a luxury item. Now, it seems, we take it for granted that we have a gadget in our pocket enabling us to contact anyone, at any time, in any place.

However, how many times have you wanted to speak to someone, only to be given a recorded message with a variety of options? Then you have to wait in a queue for ages before your call is answered. Sometimes a voice informs you “your call is important to us” but meanwhile you are left waiting, listening to endless music.



Yes, a phone may be useful in all kinds of circumstances, but they can also be very frustrating! So, it is good to know that God can be contacted immediately when we need Him.

There is no celestial call centre where our messages are delayed or referred. With prayer we can call on God directly. This service is free with no charges. He hears our every call and we can be confident that our Creator will answer us in ways which are only for our good.

“When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.” (Isaiah 58:9)

Contributed by Gordon and Rona Clifford



From the Church Registers

NOVEMBER

& DECEMBER 2022

Funerals

Monday 21st November	Florrie Cook
Wednesday 7th December	Doreen Hughes
Wednesday 14th December	Nicholas Cushnan
Wednesday 28th December	Pat Woodman
Friday 30th December	Lawrence Josey

100 Club

December 2022

WINNERS

1st — Mary Fowler (22)

2nd — Edna Ford (29)

3rd — Brian Vogwell (1)



The year it actually did come home

With the recent disappointment of England losing once again in the Football World Cup, I begin to think how fortunate I was to have been around to experience the excitement of us winning it that one and only time. I wrote this poem to recall some of the happy memories of 1966. It was also a special year for me as it was the year in which I got married but the nation will always remember it as the year we won the football World Cup.

I remember watching the match at my future in-laws, accompanied by the obligatory crate of brown ale. As they are a large family, we were quite a crowd, and being a mixture of English, Welsh, and Scots, it must have been one of the rare occasions when we were all cheering for the same side.

Needless to say, it was a somewhat noisy but very enjoyable affair. My prospective mother-in-law retreated to the garden, dreading the prospect of yet more football, and worrying about the thought that any of her husband's possible expletives about the opposition might be heard by the neighbours through the open windows on that July afternoon. Added to which she bemoaned the fact that she was missing Coronation Street being shown on the other channel. She, of course, had absolutely no chance!

Chris Carswell

Oh to be at Wembley in 1966
When England took on Germany, the nation was transfixed
With World Cup fever at its height
The end was finally now in sight
Twice we'd licked them in the war
Could we do it just once more?

Our lads came out in shirts of red
Like Shankly's army, people said
The teams lined up, the anthems sung
The marathon had then begun
England were attacking, Tilkowski lay prostrate
The Germans stopped defending; Moore's goal went in too late

There was big Jack Charlton, so dangerous in the air
Along with brother Bobby, who exuded style and flair
Then suddenly in minutes England were to find
Haller put one in past Banks, we were a goal behind
But thanks to German antics and fouls on Ball and Moore
Hurst struck a perfect header and evened up the score

And so into the second half with many a save from Banks
Peters seized his chance to score, the boys gave him their thanks
A free kick the from Emmerich drove through the English wall
The England fans were silent as Weber hit the ball
As ninety minutes neared its end they'd thought the battle won
But Germany had equalised, so all back to square one

Another thirty minutes, would we now lose face?
The Germans, clearly jaded, had really slowed the pace
But still the shots and challenges came from Ball and Stiles
Those weary legs with socks rolled down that must have covered miles
Ball then passed to Hurst to give that controversial goal
Wembley was ecstatic, we were on a roll

Extra time was nearly up, the Germans had to yield
The fans, a little premature, encroached upon the field
The crowd thought it all over, they'd watched the referee
When Geoff Hurst's boot struck home once more, we'd just won World War Three
They thought they'd heard the whistle blow amid the deafening row
The scenes were unforgettable, it was all over now

The crowd sang "Ee-Aye-Addio, we have won the cup"
Ramsey's British Bulldogs had never given up
With courage and conviction the warriors of the game
Had found the honour long denied the in Football's Hall of Fame
Moore and Banks and Peters heroes every one
Will keep our hopes alive for generations yet to come

Hymn Writers, continued

Dear Readers, I have always been fond of Gospel Hymns so for this essay I have chosen a little known black American author, Thomas Andrew Dorsey. Not to be confused with white swing trombonist, Thomas Dorsey.

This hymn writer who was born in 1899 and died in 1993 was a musician, composer, and Christian evangelist. Born in rural Georgia, Dorsey grew up in a religious family but gained most of his musical experience playing blues at barrelhouses and parties in Atlanta. He moved to Chicago and became a proficient composer and arranger of blues and jazz music. He influenced the development of early blues and 20th century gospel music. He composed 3000 songs, the most famous being, Take my Hand Precious Lord and my choice for this edition, There Will be Peace in the Valley, which sold millions of copies in both gospel and secular markets.

He originally wrote the Hymn for Mahalia Jackson and then it became a hit in 1951 for Red Foley and the Sunshine Boys, reaching number seven on the Country & Western Best Seller chart. It was among the first gospel recordings to sell one million copies. It then became a hit for Elvis Presley following his third and final appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on January 6, 1957. Before an audience estimated at 54.6 million viewers, Presley closed the show by dedicating the hymn to the 250,000 refugees fleeing Hungary after the 24 and 31 October 1956 double invasion of that country by the Soviet Union.

The hymn was then recorded by many artists including Little Richard, Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, Jo Stafford, and Loretta Lynn

Dear readers we all need a little peace and quiet in this hectic world so that we can better focus on the things that are important. We want peace among the nations so that we don't have to go to war with each other. There must be more unity among our political leaders, who must stand down and stop starting wars. There must be an end to the bickering and fighting that goes on within nations. We need peace in our communities so that we can work together to solve our problems.

Finally, there will always be conflicts in every country but let us pray and hope that we can find a way to live together in harmony instead of going to war. The Lord can give us peace, if only we humble ourselves and seek His will. Think what St Paul said to the Corinthians in chapter 13 verse 11:

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you”

PEACE IN THE VALLEY

Well, I'm tired and so weary, but I must go along
'Til the Lord comes and calls me away
Where the morning's so bright and the Lamb is the light
And the night, night is as fair as the day

[Chorus]

There will be peace in the valley for me some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh, Lord, I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me

[Verse 2]

Well, the flowers will be blooming and the grass will be green
And the skies will be clear and serene
Where the sun ever beams in this valley of dreams
And no clouds there will ever will be seen

[Chorus]

There will be peace in the valley for me some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh, Lord, I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me

[Verse 3]

Well, the bear will be gentle and the wolf will be tame
And the lion shall lay down by the lamb
And the beast from the wild shall be led by a child
And I'll be changed, changed from this creature that I am

[Outro]

There will be peace in the valley for me some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh, Lord, I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me someday

MISSING PERSONS

An apology has been received from the “Union of Camel Train and Associated Four-Legged Transport Operators” for the worry and disruption caused by their recent strike action, particularly on the Nazareth to Bethlehem route.

Shepherds on the hill near Bethlehem were urged, by the sudden appearance of a heavenly choir, to hasten into town to gaze on a Very Special Baby whom they would find cradled in the manger of a stable.

Arriving at the stable, they were cross and disappointed to find it devoid of animal or human occupation, and feared the message was a scam and that their flock would have been stolen in their absence.

The innkeeper, who owned the stable, was very disgruntled and said crossly, “I could have let this accommodation ten times over tonight! That Family won’t be getting their deposit back!”

Three wealthy and learned travellers, seeking the same Child, became worried and confused when the star they were following lost its brilliance. They feared they had got their calculations wrong and frantically consulted their calculators and sat-navs.

Fortunately, when the strike ended, the expected Family arrived in time for the Baby’s birth. The shepherds, at the Choir’s bidding, returned to the stable to gaze in awe at the promised Babe. “Better late than never” said the youngest shepherd, “and at least we got here before the posh three!”

Eventually, all the characters involved, gathered in their appointed positions to worship and adore the Holy Babe of Bethlehem.

However, from henceforth, we will have to celebrate Christmas on the 28th/29th of December!

Apology received from an anonymous member of our Flower Guild!

Gordon & Rona write from Fishguard....

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to all readers of St George's Church magazine from us both. We hope and pray that 2023 will be kind to us all and that we can all enjoy good health and peace

It seems a long time since we put a few words together for this important outreach publication back in the middle of November in readiness for the December / January edition.

We are both enjoying good health and had an enjoyable Christmas with festivities with both our immediate families and our church family.

Like so many other families Covid 19 and cold & coughs changed our Christmas plans so we had two celebratory meals one with John and Kaye before Christmas and another with Andrea and Paul on Christmas Day and New Year's Day which were very enjoyable.

We have collected our different items together and posted Used Postage Stamps to James Hopkins Trust, Christmas Cards to Cobalt for Up-cycling and tablet/pill foil carriers to Superdrug for Marie Curie. Note Superdrug stores will only accept these foils if they have an in-shop pharmacy. The nearest to us is Llanelli (60 miles away) hence posting them to Cheltenham store.

As we write this article, we are awaiting the arrival of our second great granddaughter, a sister for Elsie. Harry (our grandson and Georgia live in Warwick) so we are on standby to make a flying visit to see them

Church wise at St Mary's, Fishguard has been busy with Christmas preparations and services. Rona especially has been involved in helping decorate the church with two pedestal arrangements and along the Rood screen on the entrance to the chancel and high altar. She was also asked to join the singing group /choir for the carol service and lessons. We had the figures brought to the altar stable (inside the altar) by different people from Fishguard organisations and members from these also read the lessons e.g. the local mayor, headmaster, leaders of the sea and air cadets and emergency response personnel. We held lighted candles for the final gospel reading with the electric lights extinguished. Very moving.

We had a visiting local ladies choir 'The Deci-Belles' for a concert at church to raise funds. The church was packed and the choir sang some lovely pieces. Such talent.

Our Autumn Fair took place at the beginning of December and raised almost £1,000.

We expect that you have learned that Lawrence Josey passed away in December. He would have been 99 on January 6th. He always referred to himself as an Epiphany baby. Lawrence was my Evensong congregation for about 10 years and I took him Holy Communion with the reserved Sacrament for the 15 years before Covid 19 as he was unable to leave his home. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Thank you to those who sent us Christmas Cards and good wishes. We did respond but with the Royal Mail industrial action we also emailed some video Christmas cards, we hope that they arrived before Christmas rather than afterwards.

Gyda'n cariad a'n gweddiau (With our love and prayers)

Gordon & Rona

PS: We became great grandparents again yesterday, 12th January, with another baby girl, Jessie, and a sister for Elsie. Harry and Georgia are the proud parents.

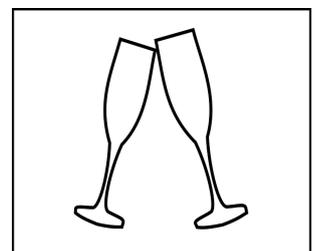
And finally.....

Last night in a restaurant I ordered a glass of wine with my meal and the waiter asked for some ID. I replied, "Do I look that young?"

and the waiter said "No, I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizens discount".

PS I will be 80 during February so thought that this joke was relevant!!

Gordon A very happy 80th birthday in February from all your St. George's friends! Ed.



MY FAVOURITE POEMS, CONTINUED

Dear Readers, many of you have responded saying how much you appreciate my nonsense poems. A good laugh. So, I thought that I would continue with one of the most popular nursery rhymes, Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle.

No one can be sure who wrote it, but it is believed that this traditional nursery rhyme dates to the 18th century England. We don't know the exact origins of "Hey Diddle Diddle" but the first known version of the song was published in 1765 under the title "High Diddle Diddle." The words of this rhyme are very imaginative and hilarious, having a very positive impact over children: It makes them laugh a lot and will also stimulate their imagination and maybe yours, dear readers.

'Hey Diddle Diddle' with its bovine athletics and eloping cutlery and crockery, certainly qualifies as nonsense. What does this intriguing nursery rhyme mean, if anything? What are its origins? The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes calls 'Hey Diddle Diddle' 'probably the best-known nonsense verse in the language', adding, 'a considerable amount of nonsense has been written about it.'

'*Hey, diddle diddle*' is a six-line nursery rhyme that follows a rhyme scheme of AABCDB. The lines are mostly similar in length as one would expect with a simple children's rhyme, and the rhyme scheme itself falls in line with other similar lyrics. The repetition in the word "diddle" helps create a pleasing rhythm, even more so when it rhymes with "fiddle" in the next line. This rhyme is perhaps the best-known example of nonsense poetry in the English language. The imagery is comical, otherworldly, and meant to bring joy to those who read it. The lines depend heavily on sound and benefit from being read out loud.

Finally, it is impossible to determine the exact meaning or origin of the term "diddle". The expression "hey diddle diddle" was found in some Shakespeare's works, and there is a connection of it with "hey nonny no" used in old English folk songs

Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Allan Delves

 * **Thank you from Jan Bowkett**
 *
 * I would like to thank my friends from St. George's for all the lovely
 * cards, good wishes, and food parcels after my recent operation. Thank
 * you for your kindness.
 *
 * Love, Jan
 *
 * *Good to see you back on your feet again! Ed.*
 *

Allan found these adverts from various churches:

Ladies don't forget the rummage sale, it's a chance to get rid of those unwanted things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.
- * Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- * Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not come this way again" giving obvious pleasure to many in the congregation.
- * For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- * Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the Church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.
- * Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones..
- * The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoons.
- * This evening at 7:00PM there will be hymn singing in the park opposite the Church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin.
- * The Rector unveiled the Church's new Tithing Campaign Slogan last Sunday with the slogan : " I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours"

 * A Sunday School teacher asked if anyone knew another name for
 * God. She was expecting answers like 'Lord' or 'Almighty'.
 *
 * After a long moment of silence, a little boy raised his hand and said,
 * "Howard."
 *
 * "Howard?" replied the confused teacher.
 *
 * "You know," continued the boy, "Howard be thy name".
 *

The journey is short

An elderly woman got on a bus and sat down. At the next stop, a strong, grumpy young woman climbed up and sat down sharply beside the old woman, hitting her with her numerous bags.

When she saw that the elderly woman remained silent, the young woman asked her why she had not complained when she hit her with her bags.

The elderly woman replied with a smile “There is no need to be rude or discuss something so insignificant, as my trip next to you is so short because I am going to get off at the next stop.”

The answer deserves to be written in gold letters “There is no need to discuss something so insignificant, because our journey together is too short.”

Each of us must understand that our time in this world is so short, that darkening with struggles, useless arguments, jealousy, not forgiving others, discontent and an attitude of constant discovery is a ridiculous waste of time and energy.

Did someone break your heart? Stay calm. The trip is too short.

Did someone betray you, intimidate, cheat, or humiliate you? Relax. Excuse. The trip is too short.

Did someone insult you without reason? Stay calm. Ignore it. The trip is too short.

Did you not like a neighbour's comment. Ignore it. Forgive. The trip is too short.

Whatever problem someone has brought us, remember that our journey together is too short,

We will appreciate friends and family

Let us be respectful, kind and forgiving. We will be filled with gratitude and joy, after all, our trip together is very short.

Author unknown.

Contributed by Joy Curzon

Feeling Down?

Everyone feels low or down from time to time. It does not always mean something is wrong. Feeling low is common after distressing events or major life changes, but sometimes periods of low mood happen for no obvious reason. One may just have low moods due to tiredness, frustration, hearing bad news, feeling alone, adverse weather or not being able to go out, feeling a bit hopeless. And, we all have moments like these, moments where our hope dwindles.

During Christmas I was reading the book of Isaiah and one part that I had never heard or quoted, Chapter 41 verses 9 and 10 which I would like to share with you if you are feeling down.

9. You are my servant' I have chosen you and have not rejected you.

10. So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

So, if you are feeling down, you may get some comfort by reading the above verses.

Allan Delves



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

Church diary—FEBRUARY 2023

1st	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
2nd	10.00am	St George's Flower Arrangers : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
5th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10.00am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
	5.00pm	Prayer Meeting : Church Centre
6th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
8th	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
9th	10.00am	St George's Flower Arrangers : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
12th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10.00am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
13th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
	7.00pm	Standing Committee Meeting : Church Centre
15th	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
16th	10.00am	St George's Flower Arrangers : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
19th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10.00am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
Ash Wednesday		
22nd	9.45am	Ashing Service : Church Centre
23rd	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
25th	Time TBC	Messy Church : Church Centre
26th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10.00am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
27th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting : Church Centre

Biking in the snow

How to meet your biking friends who meet on Sundays and not miss Church? I spotted we had a meet of Royal Enfield guys 09:30 at a café in Barnwood not too far from home. I noted that a friend who was a trainee at our church was now vicar. His church near the café and had a service at 10:30. Looking good. We had had snow, but the morning was looking bright. The lawn on one side was white but looked soft and the car park was largely thawed. Bike out, C.M.A. jacket on and away. Main road to Gloucester a bit of snow falling no problem. Approaching Barnwood getting thicker. Road now more like packed ice. But hey, I was riding when we knew what snow was and the Enfield was designed in the days before Global warming was even thought about. Now all I had to do was find that road off the main road that I had seen on Google maps. No, better ask, back I go, ask again, I had now passed it twice as it had been blocked in some time ago and a little bypass through the village created. Now shown the way I progressed round the row of roundabouts to reach the café. No bikes. Too late? Wrong place? Parked up and out comes Russ our R.E.O.C. branch secretary to take a picture of my black (no white) jacket and bike. Got in the warm to meet 9 of our chaps and 4 Scooter guys (but not today). Breakfast finished I asked the time. 10:17 'What time do you have to get to the church?' '10:30 and I don't know where the church centre is. They meet 09:00 in the old, cold and no loos etc church building and at 10:30 in the church centre. So kit on, off outside find bike, wipe off some snow start up 15 yards to round about then 'what is that building the other side of the roundabout?' Church centre! I could have walked, hey ho, park up again and go in.

off outside find bike, wipe off some snow start up 15 yards to roundabout then 'what is that building the other side of the roundabout?' Church centre! I could have walked, hey ho, park up again and go in. Great welcome just as one gets as we meet old and new Christian family members. Then found out the advertised Café Church was today something of a Christmas celebration and after a carol singing visit to the St. John's care home next door. We assembled in their back garden and all around residents came to the windows, and some were opened to hear the Angels sing (well we did our best) with the snow gently falling again. Back to the centre another mince pie and coffee and depart. Now riding on ice no great problem I have done hundreds of miles of that but round the corner and join the back of a queue of cars who somehow even with four wheels cannot maintain progress.

Nothing for it but to try to grow a little more of that fruit of the Spirit, Patience. Once back in town, queues gone and I did make one short unplanned detour but better to stay upright in the wrong direction than carry on in the correct direction flat on the floor. Home and remember God is good even if things are not quite as originally planned.

Brian



A very Happy New Year to everyone, on behalf of all staff and Trustees of Mothers' Union!

2022 was a tough year for everyone, with the pandemic, fuel and economic crisis and continuing impact of climate change, as well as conflict in so many parts of the world. What inspired me throughout was the resilience shown by so many, and the continuing focus of our members, whatever challenges they have been facing themselves, to support those in their communities in greatest need.

Especially during Advent, we heard so many stories of help provided by members - for instance, to foodbanks, practical gifts for those in hospitals, love and care for prisoners and their families and those in refuges – to name just a few. For each and every act of kindness, however small – thank you!

As we look to the start of this fresh year, 2023, whilst challenges remain, there is so much which gives me hope!

- We look forward to sharing stories throughout the year of the difference that MU members make within their own communities. For example, we will share a report of the work of MU in some of the poorest communities in Burundi. Over 20 years, through supporting training in literacy and building savings and credit groups, long-term transformation has been achieved for individuals, their families and whole communities
- We are excited to be continuing and developing our partnerships with the National Churches and Women's Aid, to continue to raise awareness of, and bring an end to, the scourge of domestic abuse
- We are uplifted by the number of branches and groups who are starting to use "Metamorphosis bite-size" to engage more widely within parishes, understand the areas of greatest need locally and respond, often in partnership with others
- As we continue to weather the economic storm, we will be looking freshly at how best our home, Mary Sumner House, can be made to generate maximum resources to support the work of members – and we will also be seeking to work closely with members to increase our raising of funds for the movement, so that, together, we can make a difference for more people

As we begin the countdown to our 150th anniversary in 2026, and with the coronation of the new King of the United Kingdom in May, there was never a better time to really move forward in our journey of Transformation – Now!

Lord, who makes all things new,

we thank you for this New Year.

To make a fresh start in our lives,

trusting in your presence through all

(W E Orchard, 1877-1955)

Bev Jullien CEO



Our meeting this month is on
Monday, 27th February 2.30

We look forward to welcoming our Reader Louisa Messenger.
Louisa will talk to us about her role as chaplain at Gloucester Royal Hospital.

In December we met for a Christmas lunch of Fish 'n' Chips.
Although not the customary Christmas meal, we all enjoyed it and the opportunity to get together.

“Oh God of all, at this time of our gradual awakening to the dangers we are imposing on our beautiful Earth, open the hearts and minds of all your children, that we may learn to nurture rather than destroy our planet.” Amen

Lorraine R. Schmitz

The joys of motherhood!

Little Katie was watching her mother spread cream on her face.

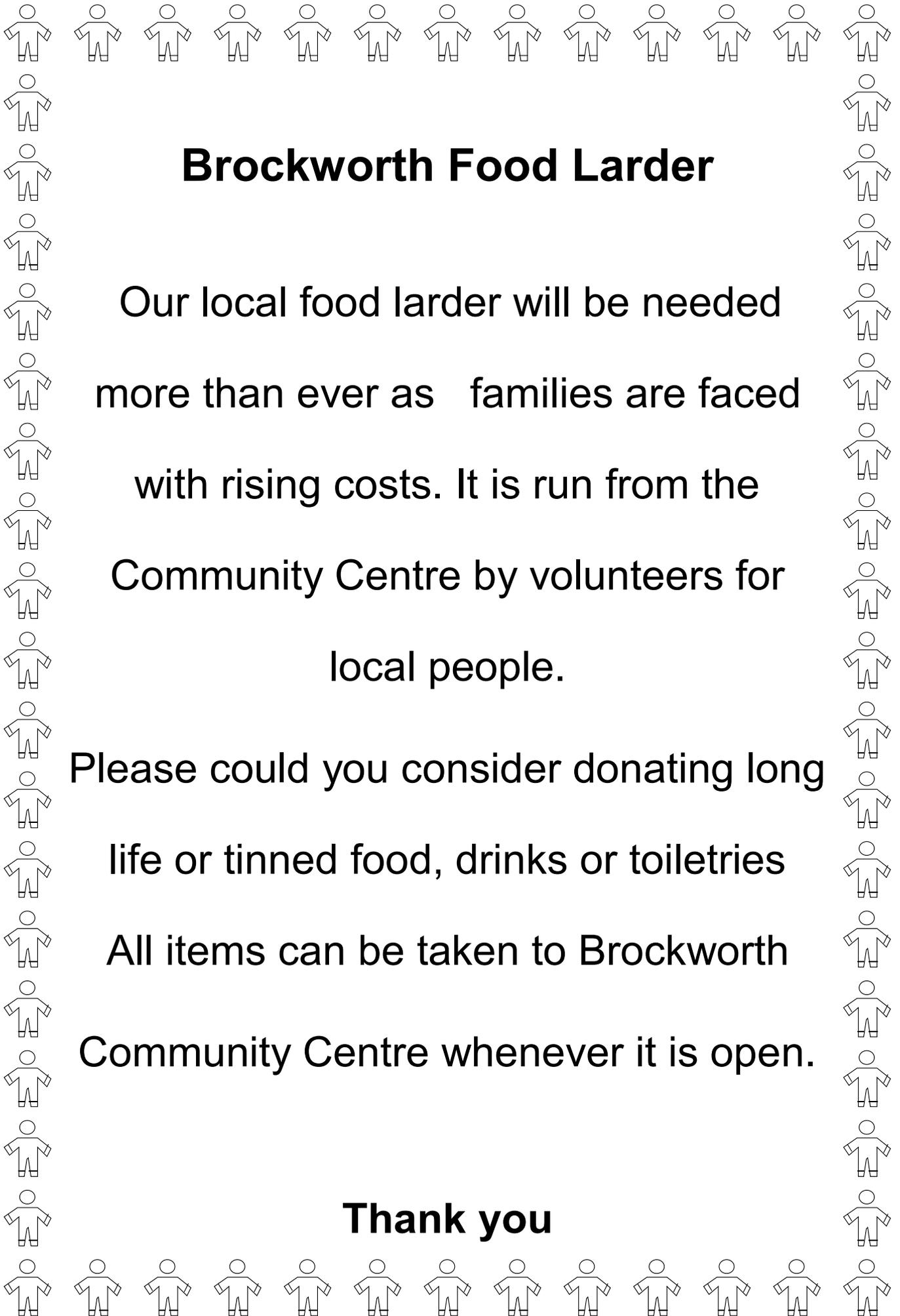
“What is that for Mummy?”, she asked.

“It is to make me look beautiful, dear” replied her mother.

Later, on her way to bed that evening, Katie noticed her mother was removing the cream, then in a tone of sadness, she whispered to her mother,

“It did not work then, did it?”

From Allan Delves

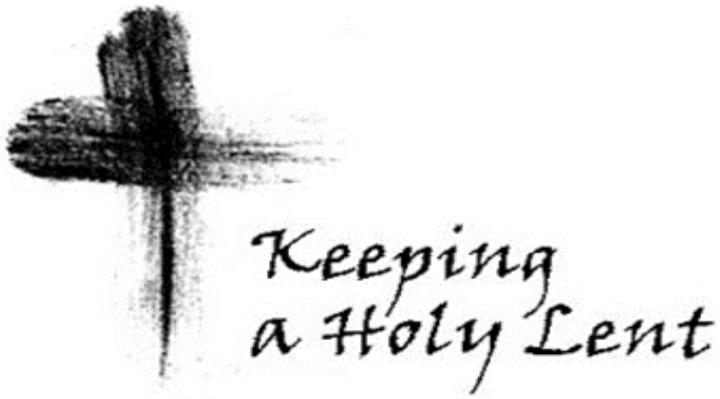


Brockworth Food Larder

Our local food larder will be needed more than ever as families are faced with rising costs. It is run from the Community Centre by volunteers for local people.

Please could you consider donating long life or tinned food, drinks or toiletries
All items can be taken to Brockworth Community Centre whenever it is open.

Thank you



Fast from criticism; feast on praise.

Fast from self-pity; feast on joy.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from jealousy; feast on love.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from selfishness; feast on service.

Fast from Fear; feast on faith.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

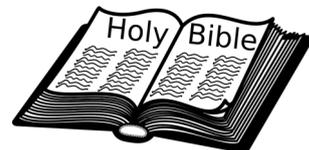
Fast from concern; feast on compassion from others.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

February 2023

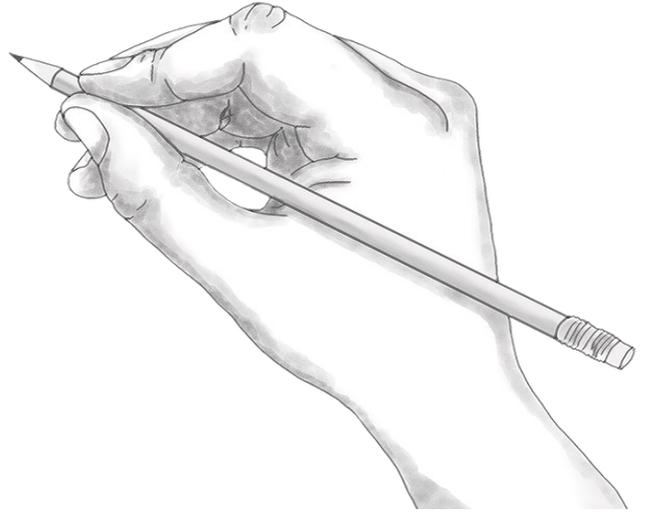
Daily Bible Readings:



Wednesday 1st	Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15; Mark 6:1-6a
Thursday 2nd	Hebrews 12:18-19,21-24; Mark 6:7-13
Friday 3rd	Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Saturday 4th	Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21; Mark 6:30-34
Monday 6th	Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-end
Tuesday 7th	Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday 8th	Genesis 2:4b-9,15-17; Mark 7:14-23
Thursday 9th	Genesis 2:18-end; Mark 7:24-30
Friday 10th	Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-end
Saturday 11th	Genesis 3:9-end; Mark 8:1-10
Monday 13th	Genesis 4:1-15,25; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday 14th	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday 15th	Genesis 8:6-13,20-end; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday 16th	Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
Friday 17th	Genesis 11:1-9; Mark 8:34-9:1
Saturday 18th	Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13
Monday 20th	Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday 21st	Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday 22nd	Joel 2:1-2,12-17; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Thursday 23rd	Deuteronomy 30:15-end; Luke 9:22-25
Friday 24th	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Saturday 25th	Isaiah 58:9b-end; Luke 5:27-32
Monday 27th	Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-end
Tuesday 28th	Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15

Through a child's eye – again

At Sunday school the children were asked to draw a picture illustrating something from the Bible. The Teacher asked one boy who was he drawing. The boy replied, "it is God". The Teacher said, "but no-one knows what he looks like." The boy replied, "well they do now".



Don't be shy!

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
March edition is 15th February.
Thank you.**



**Have you got new
neighbours?**



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magazine



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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A VENUE

**for your children's party, family
gathering, meeting or other event?
St. George's Church Centre is available to hire.**

The hall is located in the centre of Brockworth village on
Court Road, GL3 4ET and has good facilities,
including a private car park for hall users.

The **main hall** holds up to 100 people - perfect for larger events, and
can be hired for £18 per hour,
or £65 for four hours.

The **lounge** can accommodate up to 25 people,
ideal for smaller meetings, for £11 per hour
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For further details, call Karen at the Church office on **01452 550554**
Email: hire@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

Or see our website,
www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org