

A photograph of a forest path in March 2024. The path is covered with fallen brown leaves and patches of snowdrops. A small stream flows through the path. The trees are mostly bare, with some green foliage visible in the background. A red mailbox is attached to a tree trunk on the right side of the path.

March 2024

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:** 9.30—11.30am, Monday—Friday

**Phone:** **01452 550554**

**Email:** **admin@stgeorgesbrockworth.org**

**Parish Website:** [www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org](http://www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

**Facebook:** Search for "St George's Brockworth" and **'like'** our page

**Vicar:** Rev. Mike Smith  
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Mike's day off is Friday

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**Churchwardens:** Positions vacant

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732  
email: [treasurer@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:treasurer@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

### PCC Secretary:

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Liz Hopkins 01452 550554,  
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**Magazine Editor:** Mrs Pat Hartwell email: [stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)

### The article deadline for the April issue is 15/03/24

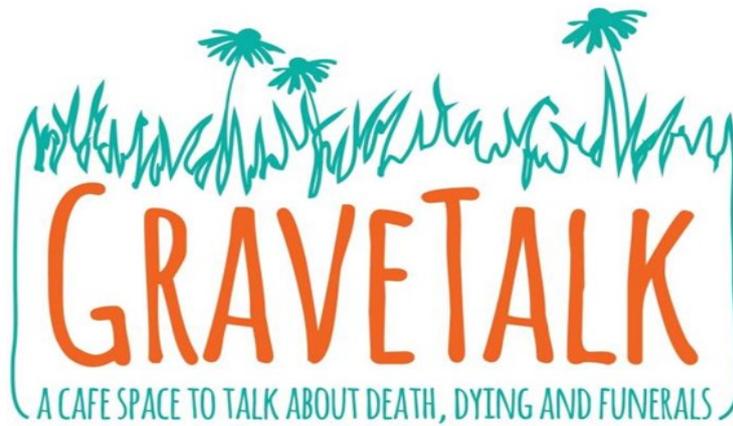
Please email: **[stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)**

If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church Office

### Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

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

**THIS MONTH'S COVER: *Rococo Gardens, Painswick***



For those with big questions about **death, dying** and **funerals**, having someone to talk to can be invaluable.

But how do you start those conversations, and with whom?

### **St. George's GraveTalk & Grief Café.**

It's not easy to think about your own funeral. Talking about death, dying and funerals raises big questions that we need to face at some point. GraveTalk Café is a welcoming, inclusive, and non-judgemental space to talk through these big events in our lives and those we love.

This would also be a good space for people to talk about **their grief** and the **pain of loss**, and find courage and strength in knowing you are not alone through the simple kindness of listening to someone's story. It is an informal and relaxed opportunity to talk to others who are also bereaved, make new friends, and socialise with a group of people who understand the complexities and power of grief.

**Would you be interested in joining us in a monthly Café style meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 10am-1130am?**

Let us know if this would be of interest to you –

[vicar@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:vicar@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

# Regular services at St. George's Church

You are very welcome to try us out each Sunday:

9am Worship in the Church – a friendly and formal act of worship.

Alternatively, 10.30am worship gathering in the Church Centre – more relaxed with children's groups and a time for the adults to explore faith and life.

9.45am service each Wednesday in the Church Centre.

Or even just come along to the church centre at 10am every Sunday and you can join us for a cuppa or coffee.

Mike Smith



# ST. GEORGE'S

Brockworth

## WORSHIP NIGHTS

Every other Tuesday  
7:15pm for 7:30pm start  
8:00pm finish

*(starting 23 May 2023)*

*Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything,  
any excuse for a song to God the Father.*

Ephesians 5

Join us in Church for 30 minutes of contemporary (aka loud!) worship.

Maybe you need to sing out loud, maybe you want to sit and be still,  
maybe you need to pray, maybe you want to soak in His presence;  
the time is yours to do as you wish.

The purpose of these evenings is to create space  
to worship God freely.

Our prayer is that you'll leave feeling blessed and refreshed.

Any questions? Please speak to Chris & Claire  
[hello@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:hello@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

More info and dates visit:  
[www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org/worshipnights](http://www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org/worshipnights)

March 5th (Contemplative)

March 19th



# Water of Life



On a recent visit to Chester, I visited the cathedral, and in spite of the rain, ventured into the cloister gardens, where I was fascinated by this sculpture. It was designed to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the founding of the Benedictine Abbey of St. Werburgh in 1092.

The water feature, according to the website of Broadbent studios, the creators of the sculpture “depicts the encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria, showing their shared bowl overflowing with water”.

The words around the base are from John’s gospel and read: “Jesus said “the water that I give will be an inner spring always welling up for eternal life”.

*Pat Hartwell*

# PARDON

Pardon

I've lost my Hearing Aid

It's put me in a tizz.

I've searched in drawers and under the beds

I don't know where it is.

Pardon

I need to get another one

from the NHS.

They say it'll cost me seventy quid

I'm really in a mess.

Pardon

I know I put it down somewhere

I don't mean to moan

I've also lost my garage keys

and my mobile phone.

Pardon

I can't hear the telly

I really need it loud.

I've had complaints from miles away,  
some say as far as Stroud.

Pardon

Do I actually need one?

It's very hard to say.

Cos 'Er indoors is mumbling.

You never listen anyway

Pardon. can you say that again?

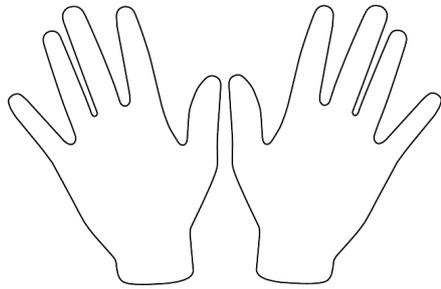


*The poem was written by Ann Compton's late brother-in-law.*

*Some of us might identify with it! Ed*

## Happy Hands and Feet

You will probably have noticed the regular advert in the back of the magazine for hand and foot care. Regular reader Graham would like to say how delighted he is with this service and wishes to wholeheartedly recommend Germaine and her professional and friendly service to anyone in need of hand or foot care.



## Christian Women's Group

Our Friday morning group consists of women from St. Patrick's Church, Brockworth Free Church (URC), and St. George's Church. We use the Bible, generally using themed booklets to guide our discussion, and we pray for the needs of our communities and of the world.



Tea and biscuits are provided.

We meet on Fridays from 10am to about 12noon either in one of our church halls or homes.

If you would like to join us, please contact Liz Ashenden 07742 053530.

## Church Register

January 2024

### Weddings

Saturday 27th January

Liane Treadwell and

Scott Jones

### Funerals

### Baptisms

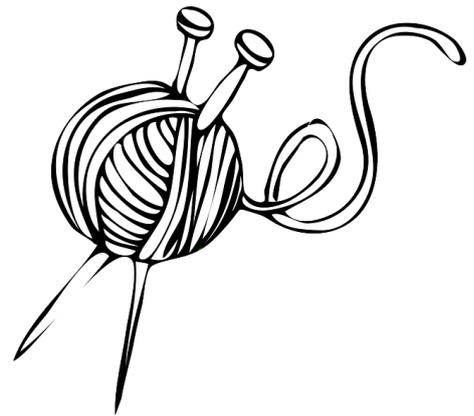
## KNIT AND STITCH

Come and join us at a friendly and informal knit and stitch group, every third Tuesday of the month,

10 – 11.30am in St. George's Church Centre lounge.

Bring along whatever knitting, sewing or craft project you have on the go, and if you're a novice and would like to learn more, there will probably be someone who can help. Enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 19th March**



# Message from Bishop Robert

It's a rather wonderful clashing of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day this week. I might wish otherwise, but I suspect that the sales of roses and chocolates will outweigh those of ash... indeed, I fear that it will be a one-sided contest. But I am not downhearted for this unusual event (1945, 2018, 2024 and soon 2029) brings with it some helpful resonance as well as a distinct difference.

The resonance is, of course, that they both celebrate love. St Valentine, who gives the day its name, was a priest, possibly a bishop, martyred at Rome traditionally on this day. While much is lost in speculation, what we celebrate today is possibly rooted in a pagan festival of the same date. Since then, the day has become associated with lovers and the sending of cards. For many it's a lovely tradition celebrating commitment. Others find it hard – in contemporary understanding and advertising, Valentine's Day promotes only one insight into the nature of love, one that can easily be exclusive. It is therefore good to go back to Valentine the martyr, a man who gave his life for faith and for the love of God. He counted that faith and love so precious that he gave up his life for an eternal crown. This is the distinct difference and it's one that we see set before us in the ash of Ash Wednesday.

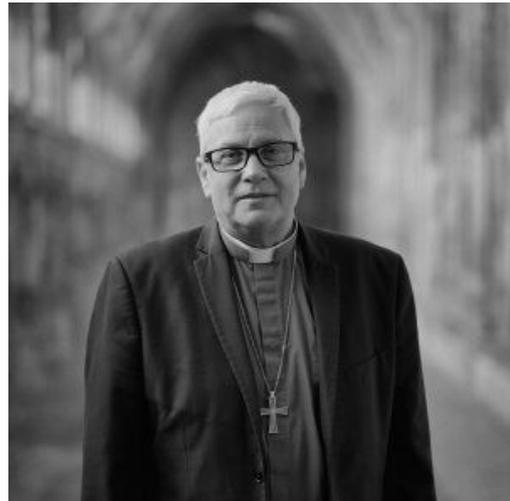
That ash, traditionally made by the burning of the palm crosses of the previous year, is a reminder of our sin. It's a reminder of our failure to live our lives in the way we are called to live as disciples of Jesus Christ; our failure to truly love God and our neighbour as we love ourselves; our failure to work ceaselessly for the coming of the Kingdom of justice, mercy and peace.

Yet that ash is traced in the sign of the cross on the foreheads of those who worship this day. The ash is the sign of the triumph of love in Jesus Christ over darkness and death that leads to resurrection and to new life. The ash made in the sign of the cross, is a symbol of the power of the love of God in Jesus Christ that gives hope of renewal, restoration and life for all, in all fullness. It is the extraordinary thing that this love, though hard won, is overwhelmingly generous and gracious. It is not exclusive, but freely given and for all.

That won't and shouldn't stop those who celebrate Valentine's Day. Those who will be in church being ashed should certainly not look down on others: That would be a strange way indeed to follow the one who walked with sinners. After, some may also send Valentine's themselves. These two different perspectives on love, taken together, help reveal more about love's true nature.

It is this that Lent invites us to discover again. Like a Valentine's card, the ash acts as an invitation to a renewed walk with God, to a rediscovery of God's purpose for us, a deepened relationship, that we may see the beauty of the cross and the life of the resurrection offered for all.

+ Robert



Support the work of St. George's  
Church, in Brockworth.

QR code for St. George's  
donations page on the Parish  
Giving Scheme website.,

Thank you





Our next meeting is on:

**Monday 25th March**

2.30pm at the St George's Church Centre

Our speaker will be the Reverend Mike Smith

Mike will offer us **Reflections on Lent**

We look forward to welcoming Mike, hearing his talk and enjoying time together.

All welcome.

Prayer for Lent

*Creator God,*

*We are people of frailty. Grant us strength and protection,  
support us in all danger and carry us through all temptations.*

*Amen*

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change. Why not put your faith into action by joining us as we work together for a better world?

## Further adventures (and misadventures) of Jenny and Paul

For my birthday Paul paid for us to go to Teignmouth from Monday til Friday at the beginning of February. Although the weather was very windy, it was dry until Thursday during the day. We averaged 9 miles of walking a day during the time we were there.

Monday, we arrived about 1pm & parked at the hotel. We set off for somewhere for lunch, then walked the length of the bay & back through all the narrow streets.

Tuesday, we walked to Shaldon over the bridge & caught the bus to Paignton. We had lunch before walking back to Torquay, & then bus back to Shaldon & walked back to the hotel.

Wednesday, we caught the train to Exmouth & after walking along the promenade to the end of the bay, we watched the crew of the new life-boat on a training exercise on return. We caught the train back to Teignmouth & as we pulled into the station it was announced to "Mind the gap",

The doors opened & the chap who waves his paddle for the train to leave came to help us off the train. Seeing me holding Paul's white cane he went to help me, but I started to explain it was Paul who needed help & before I could finish, Paul had stepped off into the gap. Our station man immediately saw him & grabbed him under his arms & dragged him back up onto the station. Paul was unharmed thankfully, but my heart was in my mouth & I couldn't stop shaking for about 5minutes. We went into a cafe & had a cup of sweet tea, before walking back to the hotel.

Thursday, we walked to Dawlish & caught the bus back (safer).

Friday, after a walk across the bay & back, we left for a walk through Halden Forest, following one of the forest trails, before driving home without any further problems.

One day we'll have a holiday without any problems.

Jenny.

## Anything you can do Jenny, so can !!!!

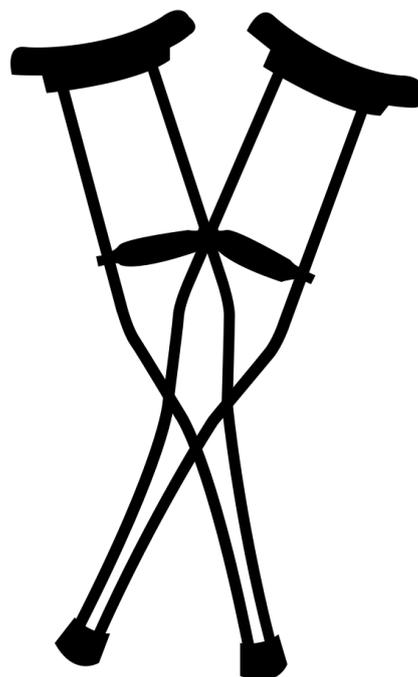
My son, daughter-in-law and grandsons took me to Portreath in Cornwall for a Christmas holiday. We had a cottage with the necessary Hot Tub.

All went well until Christmas morning. We had breakfast and decided to all go for a soak before cooking the lunch. Then yours truly slipped as I was going down the steps as I was getting out, slipped and landed on the patio. First thought was, how do I get up as with a knee replacement and arthritis in the other knee it is very difficult. My son and grandson were soon at my side and lifted me to my feet. I could walk so thought I was O K. Not so, as by Boxing Day I could hardly walk. So off to Truro hospital we went. I booked in at the reception at 11.14, saw triage nurses, had 2 X-rays and saw a medical practitioner, I was then told I probably had a fractured pelvis and they cannot do anything about it and it will take 6-8 weeks recovery . I was given a pair of crutches, strong painkillers and discharged at 12.12. Fantastic service !!!

Luckily the MU ladies knit blankets, bonnets and cardigans for the neonatal ward at the hospital . An urgent appeal appeared on my iPad. So I found a couple of balls of suitable wool and started knitting, With help of the Diocesan President who twice shopped for more wool for me I have so far knitted 17 cardigans, so I haven't been sitting around doing nothing.

The only thing I can say is that it's a real pain in the bottom !!!

*Enid Lovell*



# Church Diary March 2024

3rd	9am	<b>Communion Worship service: Church</b>
	10am	<b>Coffee and biscuits: Church Centre</b>
	10.30am	<b>Family Worship service: Church Centre</b>
	5pm	<b>Prayer meeting: Church Centre</b>
4th	10am	Parent and Toddler group: Church Centre Hall
5th	10am	Friendship Club Café: Church Centre Lounge
	7.15 for 7.30pm	Worship nights (contemplative music): Church
7th	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice: Church
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>		
10th	10am	<b>Big Family Worship: Church</b>
	11am	<b>Coffee and Biscuits: Church Centre</b>
11th	10am	Parent and Toddler group: Church Centre Hall
13th	9.45am	Communion: Church Centre Chapel
	12.30am	Lent Lunch: Church Centre Hall
14th	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice: Church
16th	9am	Men's breakfast: Café Royal
17th	9am	<b>Communion Worship service: Church</b>
	10am	<b>Coffee and biscuits: Church Centre</b>
	10.30am	<b>Family Worship service: Church Centre</b>
	12md	<b>Baptism: Church</b>
18th	10am	Parent and Toddler group: Church Centre Hall
	7pm	PCC Meeting (Open Invitation) Church Centre Hall
19th	10am	Friendship Club, Knit and Stitch: Church Centre Lounge
	7.15 for 7.30pm	Worship nights : Church
20th	9.45am	Communion: Church Centre Chapel
	12.30am	Lent Lunch: Church Centre Hall
	7.30PM	Mid-week Church: Church Centre Hall
21st	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice: Church

Continued .....

## **Palm Sunday**

**24th 9am**

**Communion Worship service: Church**

**9.45**

**Families to join at end of service (if not already attending service) for procession back to Church Centre**

**10am**

**Coffee and biscuits: Church Centre**

**10.30am**

**Family Worship service: Church Centre**

## **Holy Monday**

**25th 2.30pm**

**Mothers' Union meeting: Church Centre Hall**

## **Holy Wednesday**

**27th 9.45am**

**Communion: Church Centre Chapel**

## **Maundy Thursday**

**28th 7pm**

**The Eucharist of the Last Supper: Church**

**8-10pm**

**Prayer Vigil: Church**

## **Good Friday**

**29th 10am**

**Walk of Witness (Brockworth Churches Together); Meet at St. Patrick's Church and finish in St. George's Church Centre**

**10-11.30am**

**Messy Church: Church Centre**

**11.30am**

**Refreshments incl. Hot Cross Buns: Church Centre**

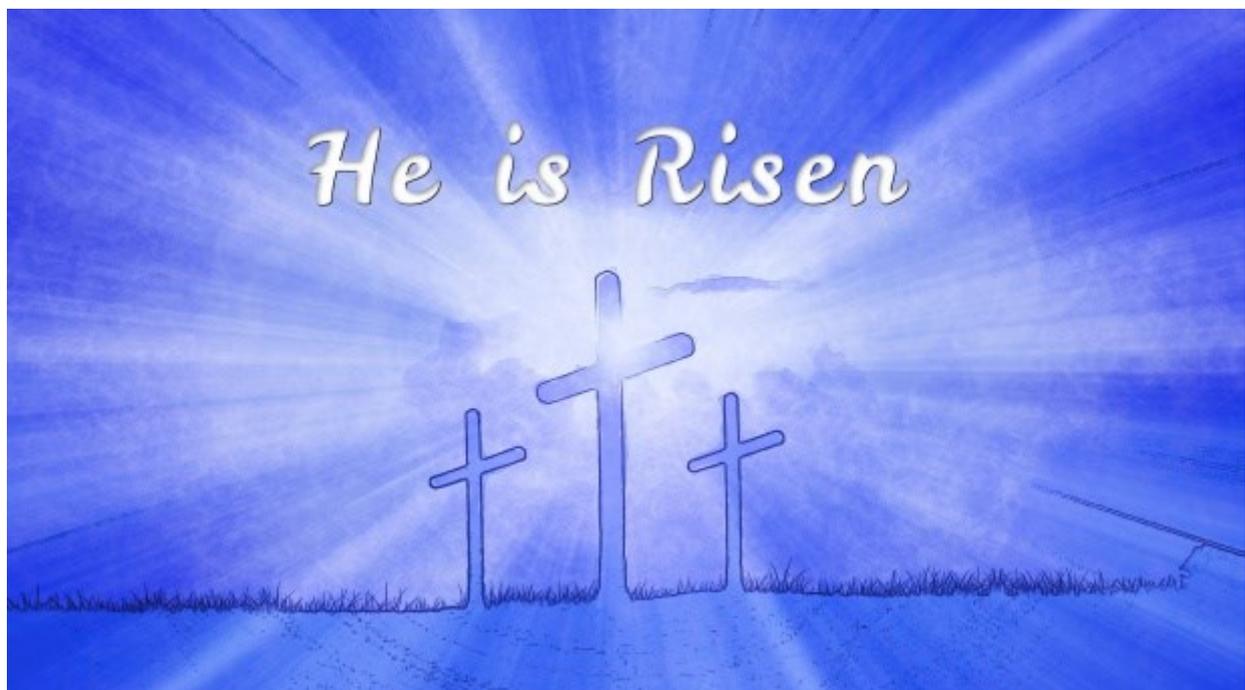
## **Easter Day**

**31st 10am**

**Big Family Worship: Church**

**11am**

**Coffee, biscuits and Hot Cross Buns: Church Centre**



# Blessed Are They

Author Unknown

Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering step and shaking hand  
Blessed, who know my ears today  
Must strain to hear the things they say.

Blessed are those who seem to know  
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow  
Blessed are those who looked away  
When I spilled tea that weary day.

Blessed are they who, with cheery smile  
Stopped to chat for a little while  
Blessed are they who know the way  
To bring back memories of yesterday.

Blessed are those who never say  
"You've told that story twice today"  
Blessed are they who make it known  
That I am loved, respected and not alone.

And blessed are they who will ease the days  
Of my journey home, in loving ways.

# Memories of that winter of 1947

In 1946 the month of December had started with winds and rain, followed by a cold snap, which brought some early snow. This was not to last however, and Christmas and the New Year came and went and were celebrated in quite balmy temperatures. It wasn't until January 21<sup>st</sup> that high pressure, which had been building up over Scandinavia, allowed bitterly cold air across Europe, bringing blizzards for over two months to the United Kingdom. Temperatures fell to -21C and gales and heavy snow created huge drifts several metres deep.

Britain was turned into a white wonderland where at least the children had great fun sledging, skating, and skiing.

Still struggling to recover from the effects of WW11, we were not prepared for the effects of this weather phenomenon which paralysed the country and brought it to a standstill. Food was still scarce, and rationing was still in place. The waterways and seas froze over preventing fishing and transport. Thick ice coated the railway lines stopping trains from running, and most importantly from bringing in the coal, which most people relied on for heating and producing electricity for their homes and our industries. Power cuts often lasted for several hours a day. Our farming was in crisis with thousands of animals dying from the cold and starvation, where it was often impossible to reach or rescue them. Vegetables were simply frozen solid in the ground and unable to be retrieved.

Once again, the spirit of the Blitz prevailed, with everyone doing their bit. The troops and prisoners of war were drafted in to help clear the railway lines and the RAF bombers flew from Fairford, dropping food and vital supplies to the isolated villages cut off by impassable snow drifts.

I, too, was one of the many cut off by the vicious storms of that winter. At the time, my family was living in a small hamlet high in the Cotswolds. The blizzards had blown across the open fields that surrounded us and completely blocked any way out.

Our cottage did not have electricity and we got by with oil lamps, an old wood fired lead range for cooking and open fires for heating. I can still remember the water frozen in the tap and the ice on the inside of the windows. We couldn't get out of our gate due to the huge snow drifts, and the lane outside had no definition to it, just massive sheets of deep snow. My father joined the other men in the village and the digging out process began. When we did venture out the high walls of snow dwarfed the figures of my mother, sister and myself and our cottage roof was just visible in the distance.

We were cut off for two weeks whilst the men had managed to dig a way through, taking sledges down to North Cerney, loading them up with fresh bread and supplies and bringing them back up the steep hill to where we lived.

My ten-year-old sister had been seriously ill in hospital with peritonitis, but thanks to the recent general availability of the new wonder drug penicillin she had made a remarkable recovery and had been discharged to come home. As we didn't own a car in those days, a taxi was hired to bring her back. The driver had only just left the A435 when he encountered a huge drift near the village of Bagendon. Rather than get stuck on the road my father wrapped her up tight and carried her across the fields through the deep falling snow to the safety of our house.

The snow remained until April when the thaw finally set in disclosing spring flowers in bloom underneath.

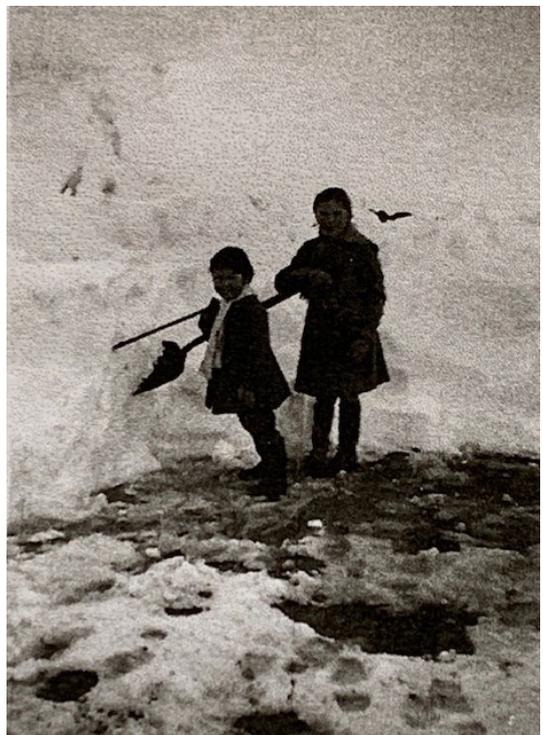
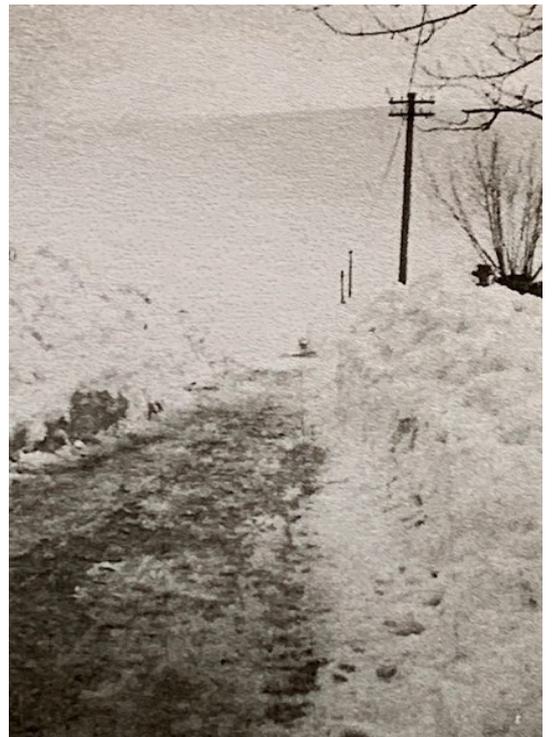
Heavy rain eventually brought the thaw, causing severe flooding in certain parts of the country. Despite the severity of the last months of terrible weather, the summer that followed turned out to be one of the warmest on record, something the British people needed to help them get back to some sort of normality.

Due to Global Warming, we will probably never see the likes of the winter of 1947 again. It might not be the coldest on record, but its volume of snow remains unparalleled.

Chris Carswell



Chris's  
photos of  
winter  
1947



# Passover, The Last Supper

Jesus and his disciples had a Passover meal together which is known as The Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus ate unleavened bread and drank wine. Christians remember this event at Eucharist services in Churches when bread and wine are given. But what about the meal itself which sadly, Christians do not celebrate. Except me. During the meal the reading of the Haggadah (Parable) ( I have my copy} is carried out summarising the order of the Passover Seder. According to Jewish practice, reading the Haggadah at the Seder table is a fulfilment of the mitzvah to each Jew to tell their children the story from the Book of Exodus about God bringing the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt more than 3000 years ago.

The traditional Passover meal called the Seder (meaning order) includes the reading, telling stories, drinking 4 cups of wine and eating Matzos 3 times during the meal. Matzos are unleavened bread symbolising the hasty escape from Egypt when there was no time to wait for the bread dough to rise. Matzos are usually dipped in salt water or vinegar. The matzos are symbolic of the three groups of Jews: Priests, Levites and Israelites. They also commemorate the three measures of fine flour that Abraham told Sarah to bake into matzo when they were visited by the three angels (Genesis 18:6).

The seder plate contains six symbolic ceremonial foods including Matzos. The foods and their meanings are:

Roasted lamb shank bone represents the lamb that was the special paschal sacrifice on the eve of the exodus from Egypt, and annually on the afternoon before Passover in the Holy Temple.

A boiled egg which represents spring and the circle of life due to its rounded shape. Some schools of thought say it is the food for mourning. Especially for the destruction of the Holy Temple.

Bitter herbs: represent the bitterness of slavery. Bitter herbs remind us of the bitterness of the slavery of our forefathers in Egypt. Fresh grated horseradish, and romaine lettuce (or endives), are the most common choice.

Haroset: represents the mortar used by the Jews in Egypt. It is an applesauce-like mixture with wine, nuts, apples, honey etc.

Karpas: represents spring and hope. It is often parsley, or another green vegetable dipped in salt water and symbolising both new life and the tears shed by the Jews in slavery.

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Now, Dear Readers, an article on the Last Supper would not be complete without mentioning Leonardo de Vincis famous 15 ft iconic painting. Although *The Last Supper* is easily one of the world's most iconic paintings, its permanent home is a convent in Milan, Italy. And moving it would be tricky, to say the least: Leonardo painted the religious work directly (and fittingly) on the dining hall wall of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie back in 1495.

On an Italian holiday many years ago Ann and I had the pleasure of visiting the Convent in Milan and seeing the painting. Ann got told off for taking a photo of it, not allowed as flashes can affect the colours.

Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* is one of the most admired, most studied, and most reproduced pieces of art the world has ever known. But no matter how many times you've seen it, I bet you didn't know these details.

Everyone knows the painting depicts Jesus's last meal with his apostles before he was captured and crucified. But more specifically, Leonardo da Vinci wanted to capture the instant just after Jesus reveals that one of his friends will betray him, complete with reactions of shock and rage from the apostles. In Leonardo's interpretation, the moment also takes place just before the birth of the Eucharist, with Jesus reaching for the bread and a glass of wine that would be the key symbols of this Christian sacrament.

Allan Delves

# Recycle and raise money for our charities.

We collect::

Used greetings cards for the Cobalt Unit



Used postage stamps for The James Hopkins Trust.

Old or broken jewellery for The Alzheimer's Society

Old spectacles for Sightsavers

Ink cartridges for LINC

**Please remember we can no longer collect medicine blister packs or milk bottle tops**

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

Thank you for your support.

# My Favourite Hymns continued

*By Allan Delves*

Dear readers, a few years ago listening to TV religious programme, I was immediately impressed by a black girl singing an African American spiritual hymn that I had never heard of. "Tis me Lord standing in the need of prayer".

Like many folk songs, its origin is unknown. Both text and tune became well known after their publication in *The Book of American "N" Spirituals* (1925), compiled by James Weldon Johnson and his brother, Rosamond Johnson.

When African Americans met or congregated, they consoled and strengthened themselves and one another in sacred song—moans, chats, shouts, psalms, hymns, and jubilees, first African songs, then African American songs. In the crucible of separation and suffering, the African American sacred song was formed.

After praying for everyone else, it's my "tis" me time to make my petition. I need God to do what I know God can do. St. Augustine of Hippo, a fifth-century saint of African descent, describes prayer in this manner: "For in most cases prayer consists more in groaning than in speaking, in tears rather than in words. But He setteth our tears in his sight, and our groaning is not hidden from Him who made all things by the word and does not need human words". With all that the enslaved Africans endured, tears and groanings were likely commonplace in their prayer.

As a call to prayer, this song should be part of a time of silent prayers - for forgiveness, of course, but also for healing, for gratitude, for more fervent faith, and so on.

Finally, it reminds me of the hit single by both Frankie Lane and David Whitfield the first two lines of which are:

Answer me, Lord above:

Just what sin have I been guilty of?

'Tis me, me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.  
'Tis me, me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.

Not my Deacon, not my Elder, but it's me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.  
Not my sister, not my brother, but it's me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.

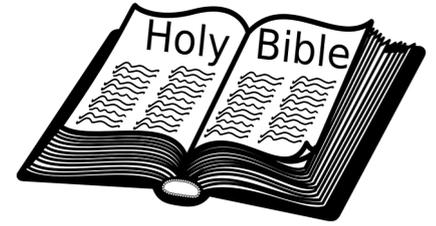
'Tis me, me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.  
'Tis me, me O Lord,  
Standin' in de need of pray'r.

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www.glasbergen.com



**“I downloaded them from a cloud.”**

# March 2024 Daily Bible Readings



Friday 1st	Genesis 37:4,12-13,17-28; Matthew 21:33-43,45-46
Saturday 2nd	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-end
Monday 4th	2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 5th	Song of the Three 2,11-20; Matthew 18:21-end
Wednesday 6th	Deuteronomy 4: 1,5-9;Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 7th	Jeremiah 7:23-28; luke 11:14-23
Friday 8th	Hosea 14; Mark 12:28-34
Saturday 9th	Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14
Monday 11th	Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-end
Tuesday 12th	Ezekiel:47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 13th	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday 14th	Exodus 32:7-14;John 5 31-end
Friday 15th	Wisdom 2:1,12-22;John 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday 16th	Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7: 40-52
Monday 18th	Susannah 1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; john 8:1-11
Tuesday 19th	2 Samuel 7:4-16; Matthew 1:18-end
Wednesday 20th	Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28; John 8:31-42
Thursday 21st	Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-end
Friday 22nd	Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-end
Saturday 23rd	Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:31-end
Monday 25th	Isaiah 42:1-9; John 12:1-11
Tuesday 26th	Isaiah 49:1-7;John 12:20-36
Wednesday 27th	Isaiah 50:4-9A; John 13:21-32
Thursday 28th	Exodus 12:1-4,11-14; John 13 21-32
Friday 29th	Isaiah 52:13-end of 53; John 18: 1-end of 19
Saturday 30th	Job 14:1-14; Matthew 27: 57-end

## **Please keep supporting this valuable service**

It is run from just behind 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





# Friendship club

@

St. George's Church Centre.

Join us on the first Tuesday of every month,  
10—11.30 am in the lounge.

Next meeting : 5th March

A social club that is an inclusive and welcoming space. A great way to meet like-minded people. We'll provide the tea, coffee and cake (all free) and you bring yourself and a friend or neighbour, or come on your own.

Everyone welcome!

# Becoming Confident Disciples

Jesus' last commission to his followers was, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you' (Matthew 29.19-20). Jesus' words are both an invitation and a command to each of us to deepen our relationship with him. It doesn't matter who we are, young or old, new to faith or mature, failing or succeeding – being a disciple is not just for a special few, it is for us all. So what does it mean for you or me to be a disciple?

We begin our lives as disciples as we respond to the call of Jesus: 'follow me'. We are called so that we may then also be sent to share in God's mission in the world. This understanding of a disciple is rooted in our baptism in which we are

- called by name
  - sent with the promise that the Spirit will be with us to equip and guide us.

A disciple is a learner who is seeking to work out how to live their life in the way that Jesus would want them to. Having a Christian faith affects every part of our life.

Bishop Rachel reminds us that this means that the primary places where we will express and live out our calling to be disciples is not in church but in the world. In her first sermon as bishop, she quoted Michael Jinkins who says of our baptism: 'we are soaked to the skin in the death of Christ. Our union with Christ drips from us..... We trail wet footprints wherever we go; we never dry off'. (The Church Faces Death p.23).

*Taken from the Gloucester Diocese website*

# Prayers for Peace and Hope

## **Prayers for peace and hope in the midst of the on-going Israel-Gaza conflict.**

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.

Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.

We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.

Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

---

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.

We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.

Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.

In Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

*From the Church of England website*

# Happy Hands & Feet

Professional hands, feet, and nail care services.

Fully qualified, trained and contracted by Birmingham Podiatry.

· Insured · CRB checked

Telephone Germaine- 07738 020426

## Menu of Services

Initial assessment, nail cutting, filing of skin & foot massage  
(Including purchase of equipment) £30

Routine toenail cut  
Including filing of nails & foot £20

*Additional services in addition to toe nail treatments above  
if conducted at the same appointment:*

Routine fingernail cut £5

Nails varnished (each set) £5

Foot & lower leg massage £5

Hand & arm massage £5

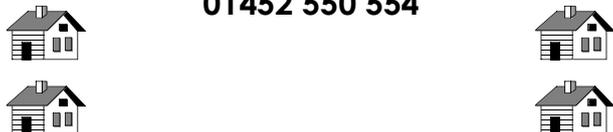


**Have you got new neighbours?**

How about putting  
a copy of our magazine  
through their door!

You can get extra copies  
from  
the Church Office

**01452 550 554**



### Please get in touch!

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](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)

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

**Thank you.**

## **The Messenger, March 2024**

### **An Easter message from Bishop Rachel**

In January, I unintentionally sparked media interest in my criticism of major stores putting Easter eggs on the shelves during the days of Christmas. Yet as retailers lurch from mince pies to Easter eggs, I do of course want to encourage people to live and share the connection between Christmas and Easter.

As we journey towards the suffering of the cross and beyond to the joy of the empty tomb, I wonder how well we encourage people to join the dots, not simply in a story with sequential chapters but as a mystery to be entered into as we live the laughter and tears of life.

Christmas, Good Friday and Easter reveal the truth that the light of Jesus Christ cannot be overcome by the darkness, and that the love and life of God is stronger than even death itself.

Strangely, the retailers don't seem to encourage us to look beyond Easter to Ascension Day and Pentecost, yet amid the celebration and pain of life these next dates are vital landmarks as we seek to live life in all its fulness as offered us in Jesus Christ, sharing the resurrection hope of Easter through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and around us.

May our hearts be expectant and hope filled as we walk the coming days.

#### **Outstanding Ofsted judgement for Christ Church CofE Primary School**

The Cheltenham school is celebrating having been awarded an Outstanding rating in all five areas of effectiveness in an inspection.

The glowing report states that, 'Pupils love to attend this school, and rightly so. They receive an excellent start to their education. This is because staff have the highest ambition for every pupil to become 'the very best they can be'. Pupils leave the school highly equipped for the challenges of secondary education.'

The school belongs to the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust, which it joined in 2022. It is one of 21 primary schools in rural and urban locations throughout the Diocese.

Canon Rachel Howie, Chief Executive Officer of DGAT, said, "I am delighted that this external judgement from Ofsted validates what the headteacher and Trust leaders know about the quality of education that the children at Christ Church get on a day-to-day basis. The staff and local governors work terrifically hard, doing their very best for the children they serve, and this judgement is a well-earned reflection of this."

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/outstanding-ofsted-judgement-for-christ-church-c-of-e-primary-school/](https://gloucester.anglican.org/outstanding-ofsted-judgement-for-christ-church-c-of-e-primary-school/)

## **New local network for creative Christians**

A social website has been created by a Gloucester-based Christian to bring together people who enjoy being creative and exploring ways that God speaks to us and reaches others through art. The Gloucestershire Christian Creative Collective (GCCC) is ‘a non-denominational community for Christians who want to find new ways to spread the Gospel and celebrate the Word through creativity and collaboration’. Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/new-network-aims-to-bring-creative-christians-across-the-diocese-together](http://gloucester.anglican.org/new-network-aims-to-bring-creative-christians-across-the-diocese-together)

### **Bishop Robert appointed as a Deputy Lead Safeguarding Bishop**

Bishop Robert’s appointment as a Deputy Lead Bishop for Safeguarding for the Church of England will focus on liaison with diocesan bishops on behalf of the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG).

Bishop Robert will work closely with the Lead Bishop for Safeguarding, Joanne Grenfell, and the National Director for Safeguarding, Alexander Kubeyinje, to continue to develop the Church’s safeguarding practices. He will also work closely with Bishop Julie Conalty, Deputy Lead Bishop who has a focus on survivor engagement. Along with being a member of the NSSG, Bishop Robert will also sit on the National Safeguarding Panel, attend the House of Bishops and be a member of the Theology of Safeguarding Group and the Safeguarding Programme Board.

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/new-deputy-lead-safeguarding-bishop-appointed](http://gloucester.anglican.org/new-deputy-lead-safeguarding-bishop-appointed)

### **Get the latest news from around the Diocese on WhatsApp**

Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events, straight to your phone.

Simply visit: <https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>

## Events and training

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events) Youth worship night Trinity Cheltenham, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NW 1 March, 7pm to 9.30pm A collaborative youth ministry project dedicated to gathering young people from across the area of Cheltenham to worship Jesus. During the night, whether it's their first time or not, we'll help young people worship, connect with the Bible and journey into deeper faith. [gloucester.anglican.org/youth-worship-night/](http://gloucester.anglican.org/youth-worship-night/)

A night at the opera by candlelight Gloucester Cathedral 1 March, 7.30pm London Concertante presents an evening at the opera with an array of opera arias and overtures, performing works from Puccini, Verdi, Rossini, and Mozart. [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/a-night-at-the-opera-1-march-24)

Make a potted plant for Mothering Sunday Gloucester Cathedral Learning Hub, 2 St Mary's Street, GL1 2QR 9 March, from 10.30am Come along to the Cathedral for a family activity day to decorate and plant up a pot, then make a card for someone special for Mothering Sunday. [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-planted-pot-and-card-for-mothers-day](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/make-a-planted-pot-and-card-for-mothers-day)

Easter wreath making Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral, Gloucester, GL1 LX 19 March, 10.30pm and 1pm Learn how to make your own Easter wreath in the magnificent surroundings of the Medieval Chapter House. You will learn how to use a mix of fresh foliage and sundry supplies to create a show stopping wreath to take home. Includes hot drink and a treat. [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-wreath-making](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-wreath-making)

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

# 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 can accommodate up to 100 people, perfect for larger events, and can be hired for £20 per hour, or £70 for four hours.

The lounge can accommodate up to 25 people, ideal for smaller meetings, and can be hired for £11 per hour, or £40 for four hours.

**For further details, contact the  
Church Office on  
01452 550554**

**Email: [hire@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:hire@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)**

**Or see our website,  
[www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org](http://www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org)**