

May 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  
The Vicarage, Court Road, Brockworth, GL3 4ET  
Tel: 07415 089897  
Email: **vicar@stgeorgesbrockworth.org**  
Mike's day off is Friday

### **Licensed Reader:**

Mrs Louisa Messenger 01452 862058, email: [louisamessenger@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisamessenger@hotmail.co.uk)

**Churchwardens:** Positions vacant

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

**PCC Secretary:** Mrs Elaine Marsh

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Liz Hopkins 01452 550554,  
email: [safeguarding@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:safeguarding@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

**Magazine Editor:** Mrs Pat Hartwell email: [stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)

### **The article deadline for the June issue is 15/05/24**

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: RHS garden Harlow Carr**

# THY KINGDOM COME



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we again invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

*"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."*

Archbishop Justin Welby

On Ascension Day, Thursday 9th May there will be a short service at the top of Cooper's Hill at 7am.

All welcome

# 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)

14th May (contemplative)

28th May



# **St. George's Church Brockworth**

Invites you to a

## **Spring Fair**

**Produce, Plants,  
Pre-Loved Items and Treasures**

**Saturday 25th May at 2pm**

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

Tea and Coffee will be available

Please check our website [www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk](http://www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk)  
for updates on this event in case changes are necessary

# Bishop Rachel's Easter Day sermon

I suspect that most of us have seen shocking pictures of that destroyed Baltimore Bridge, not only resulting in loss of life but also leaving communities and businesses in a place of deep separation and disconnection. That bridge is for me something of a metaphor for a world which, with technology and travel, seemingly has greater connection than ever before, and yet a world which is blighted by separation and disconnection.

Earlier this month I had the privilege of being in New York at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The concepts of connection and disconnection; relationship and separation, have been strong in my reflections.

It was not easy listening to representatives from Israel, including one of the women who had been held hostage with her son after the horrific atrocities of Hamas on 7 October. The horror of brutal disconnection, imprisonment, separation and trauma was palpable, as was the sense of broken relationship.

A few hours later I sat in a session focused on the women and children of Gaza and listened to the pain, anger and desperation of people who are effectively imprisoned, disconnected and separated from the world around them, resulting in a humanitarian cri-

sis that I suspect most of us cannot bear to dwell on for too long.

The two rooms where the sessions were held were in close proximity, but the emotional and psychological separation and disconnection were immense.

In another session focused on the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan, the words of one woman are etched in my memory as she so forcefully articulated that as women, they have not simply become disconnected from society, but rather they have been erased. Utter separation.

And I'm sure that as we reflect on issues closer to home, in local communities and across the country, we would not find it difficult to give examples of disconnection and separation – whether it be in families and households, or in the challenging issues facing us as a nation and in our local communities.

On Good Friday, I was in a women's prison in Surrey. In my role as Anglican Bishop to Prisons I am deeply aware not only of the disconnection and separation we impose as punishment, but also how issues of disconnection and severed relationship are often so prominent in the stories of those in prison. Now is not the time for me to expand on all this, but it is

interesting that our *human* response to the brokenness so often rooted in disconnection and separation, is *further* separation and disconnection, whether it be the young person removed from school or the person sent to prison.

Not so with *God's* work of restoration and transformation.

In that prison chapel on Friday amid those women's stories of disconnection, severed relationship and separation; there was a deep sense of entering into Christ's pain and death as he hung on the cross in a place of utter desolation, and separation not only from friends and followers who had fled, but even from God the Father. So as the world's brokenness and sin (past, present and future) was held between those outstretched arms, Jesus cried out in agony 'my God, my God why have you forsaken me.' In this place of disconnection, darkness covers the land. The light goes out. And in that bleakest of hours it looks as if hope has been cut off and separation has had the final word.

Perhaps it feels like that to you as you look out at the world through the lens of the media and social media, and as we look at our own lives and the lives of those around us.

Yet, in that prison chapel, even as we knelt at the foot of the cross, there was also a deep sense of hope, and a clinging on to the truth that in Christ's outstretched arms on the cross was

the most overwhelming and generous act of love and reconnection that there will ever be.

And so it is that Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb three days after Christ's burial. she is once more in a place of brokenness and disconnection. In her grief she is cut off from Jesus whom she loves so deeply.

Then she sees that the stone has been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, and in her confusion and distress runs to tell the other disciples, and so it is that John and Peter run to the tomb.

And then Mary looks in and sees an angel, yet in her grief and confusion she cannot connect with the truth. It is only when Jesus speaks her name that she recognises the risen Christ, and there is reconnection and a sense of restored relationship.

*[Incidentally after my time in New York I rejoice even more deeply that the first witness to Christ's resurrection was a woman who was once shunned and separated from her community but who had discovered restoration, dignity and worth, through Jesus Christ's love and counter-cultural relationship of connection].*

Jesus tells Mary not to hold on to him – because true reconnection with God and neighbour and the world is going to be something far greater than physically holding on to the person of Jesus. Restoration is not going to be



about life going back to how it was. Indeed, those words of Jesus to Mary about him ascending are really important in God's great work of reconnection and restored relationship.

In 50 days' time, if you stay the course, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost (just 10 days after Ascension Day and the mystery of Jesus leaving the earth and returning to be with God the Father); and we will celebrate the amazing mystery of God's Holy Spirit coming to be with us in every place and at every time (connection mysteriously poured out in abundance).

And it is after this that the apostle Peter, speaks those words which we heard in our first reading from the book of Acts. Peter, who in a place of fear before Christ's crucifixion, denied even knowing him, but then after Jesus' resurrection is restored to relationship with him. And then sometime after Jesus Christ's ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter is able to say, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality... 'that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives forgiveness of sins.'

God's heart is for re-connection and restored relationship with *all* people: Children, young people, adults;

people of every age, background, story; those who see themselves as insiders and those who feel separated and disconnected. ALL people. No partiality. This was shocking news, not least for faithful Jews. (*Go home and read the first part of Acts Chapter 10*).

God's promise of reconnection – to reconcile all things to God – is not on a par with President Biden promising to rebuild a devastated bridge. It is far far greater – even beyond our imagining – as on this Easter day we proclaim what God has done in Jesus Christ and wonderfully what cannot be undone, even as we live amid the mess and pain of this world's separation and disconnection. In this Eucharist we will proclaim that 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again'. Perfect relationship will be restored, with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

That doesn't mean that the pain of disconnection and separation that we see close at hand and far away, is any less painful. Indeed, if we have followed Jesus Christ to the foot of the cross and beyond to the empty tomb and proclaimed today, 'Alleluia he is risen', then we have also said 'yes' to entering ever more deeply into those places of separation and disconnection, as followers of Christ who live and speak hope even

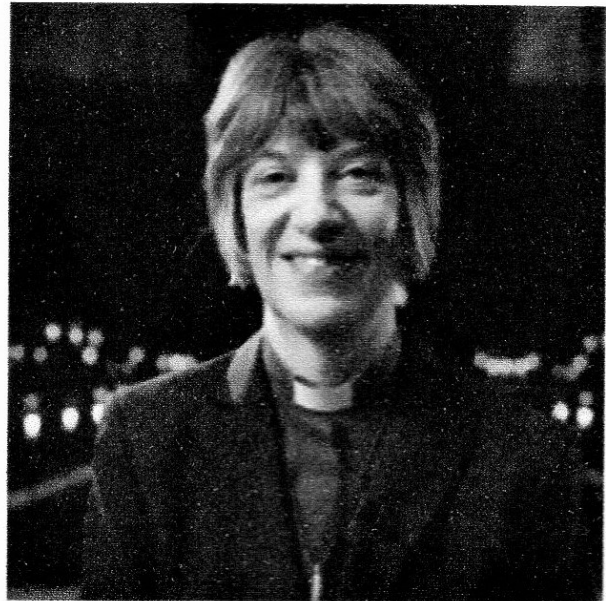
even through our tears and in the darkest places.

In this Eucharist as we stretch out our hands and open our hearts to the love, mercy and forgiveness of God, the *future* fulfilment of God's restorative work and all that God has done in *the past* through Christ, are met together in the *present* as we are fed in bread and wine.

When you leave the Cathedral today those huge glass doors are marked with the keys of St Peter, because of course this cathedral takes his name. And may those of us, who like Peter have said "yes" to following Jesus Christ, step through those doors refreshed and restored as Easter-hope people, desiring to share the connecting love and hope of the risen Christ, not least among all those who feel separated and disconnected in

our beautiful yet broken world.

Alleluia, Christ is risen.



**The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek,  
Bishop of Gloucester and Anglican  
Bishop for HM Prisons**

On Friday 17th May at 7 pm we will have a

St. George's Church

## **Ladies' Evening Out**

At The Victoria Inn, Brockworth

Menus will be available nearer the time and for further details or information

talk to Cathy Mubanga or Pat Hartwell



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IN ST GEORGES CHURCH CENTRE  
BROCKWORTH GL3 4ET**

**Further information :** [secretary@gloucesterfilmmakers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@gloucesterfilmmakers.org.uk)  
**01452 531838**

# Coffee Time

## **We need more volunteers for our Sunday coffee rota.**

### **What does it involve?**

Working in a team of two

Serving approximately once a month  
on a Sunday morning

(the more teams, the less often the commitment)

Preparing coffee/drinks, setting up tables etc  
at the Church Centre between 9am-11am  
(if you attend the 9am service you can set up at 8am)

Serving coffee for people attending both  
services, between 10am-10:30am

Training is provided.

If you'd like to join us or know more, contact:

Claire Sandys  
[hello@stgeorgesbrockworth.org](mailto:hello@stgeorgesbrockworth.org)

# Easter Flowers

All the flowers in Church at Easter were given in loving memory of the late Allen Cooper, from Mary and all his family.

Allen had been a long-term, behind the scenes, friend of St. George's Church. He must have carried tons of foliage up that path to provide the flower arrangers with the greenery for their displays. When I have asked Mary how much I owed her for the flowers she had bought, her frequent answer was "Nothing, Allen paid for them!" (I'm not entirely sure that Allen always knew that he had done so!!)

When you look around the Church during the Christmas Tree Festival, the trees are standing on the shelving made and paid for by Allen. For several years, until we found a storage place on site for them, he carried them home and brought them back when required. If we needed props for Flower Festivals he was again so helpful.

On a freezing cold day when many displays were required, imagine the joy of the arrangers when Allen arrived with a steaming package of Fish and Chips.

Thank you, Allen.

We have been so sorry that his health had deteriorated over recent years during which time he has been lovingly cared for by Mary, who, amazing lady that she is, has never missed a Thursday morning session at Church.

We offer our love and grateful thanks to Mary and all his Family, for the beautiful flowers - Allen's final gift to St. George's Church.

*Anne Banting*



Our next meeting is:

**Monday, 20th May**

**2.30pm at The Church Centre**

Our guest is:

**Doreen McLellan,**

**President of Gloucester Diocese Mothers' Union.**

Doreen is an experienced speaker and as this goes to print it is a

**Mystery Subject!**

Doreen will decide her topic nearer the time so come along to hear what she has chosen to talk about.

(Please note this is a week earlier than the usual 4th Monday due to the Bank Holiday.)

In March, Rev'd Mike Smith gave us some reflections for Lent. His talk was illustrated with images of Holy Week which introduced new perspectives and interesting interpretations. We greatly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the Easter season in this way and are grateful to Mike for his time, expertise and knowledge.

*"God of Peace and Justice,*

*We pray for all areas of conflict, for those at risk and in fear,*

*that you will hold and protect them."*                      *Amen*

# Good Friday Walk of Witness



A very good number of people from the Catholic Church, the URC and St. George's gathered at St. Patrick's for the annual Walk of Witness, following readings, reflections and images from the Stations of the Cross, remembering Jesus's journey to His Crucifixion as we set off around the village. As we progressed, the storm clouds gathered and as we approached the Church centre, having been rained and hailed on and all very wet, it was decided to observe the last few stations in the Church centre lounge. We finished with a hymn then were very grateful for hot drinks and hot cross buns.

A hugely successful and very well attended Messy Church was taking place in the hall, where children and adults alike were enjoying all kinds of activities and hearing the Easter story. It was fascinating to see a scene of the tomb made on a plate with some green icing, half a doughnut and an Oreo biscuit!

*Ed*



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 the lives of 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?**



## Church Register

March 2024

Weddings -

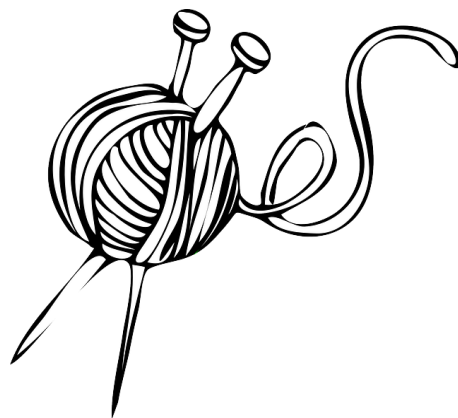
Funerals -

Baptisms

Sunday 17th

Joshua & Storm Green

## 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 21st May**

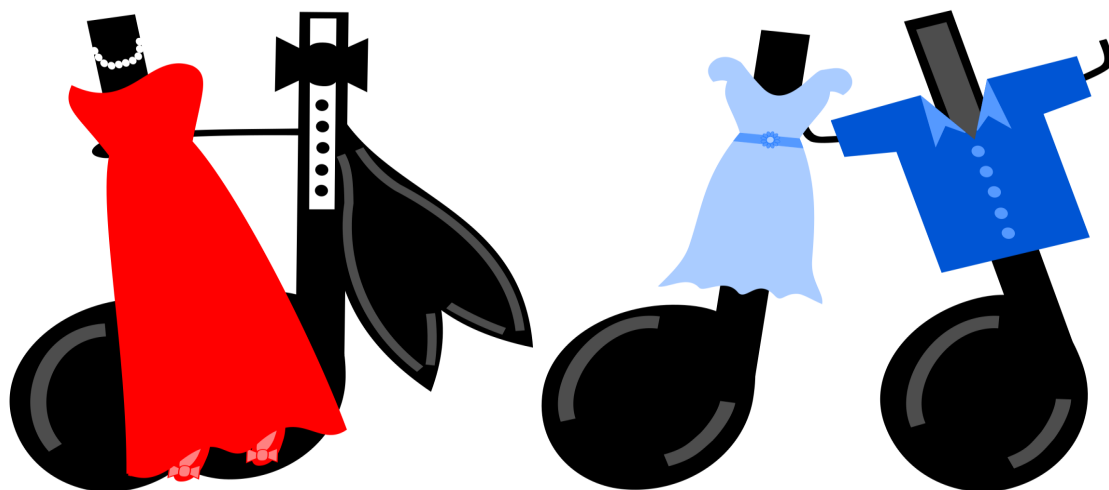
# Musical Evening

We are holding our next Musical Evening on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May in the Church Centre at 7pm. Again our theme will be 'A trip down memory lane' with the music chosen by you. We already have several suggestions and if you would like us to include your favourite piece of music or song please let us know either in church or phone me on :

01452 862840.

Tickets are on sale now for £5 and will include coffee, tea and cake, and there will be a bar for you to purchase drinks. And don't forget the ever popular musical quiz to get your brains working.

Judy



# Good News

After so many reports of accidents, I am very happy to share the news that Paul has at long last been accepted to be a Guide Dog owner. His journey began years ago when he applied for another dog, following his last dog being taken from him. He was rejected twice, due to his balance. Then, last Spring, he began Fit for Life classes at the community centre to improve his balance.

Following a phone call made by Caroline Stone at Brockworth Surgery, he had his first phone call from Guide Dogs for the Blind. This was followed by a second, longer phone call and consequently he has had training sessions with a Guide Dog trainer. Sally came every 1 or 2 weeks training Paul. Before Christmas she told Paul he was ready for his final assessment when it would be decided if he was a suitable candidate for a dog. However, having been told this would be after Christmas, it was April 2<sup>nd</sup> before this last test took place. Paul was told that his tester would go to a team meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April and a decision would be made. Then eventually at 5pm on 11<sup>th</sup> April, that phone call came and he was told that he had been accepted to go on the list for a dog. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the training of these wonderful dogs was held up and there is a year-long waiting list. But at least he is on the list now.

When his time comes, he will have to go to Leamington Spa for 2 weeks training with his allocated dog. He will stay in a hotel and training will be given from there. Then hopefully he will be able to bring his dog home and continue with another two weeks training from home. His trainer will come daily to learn the routes Paul has been walking and then he will be on his own. When he had his other two dogs, he was checked on at intervals until he was confident enough to continue alone.

I cannot praise Guide Dogs enough, and hopefully in a year or so, you will spot Paul walking with confidence around Brockworth with his dog.

Jenny and Paul Farmer



# Please can you help?

We are holding a Spring Fair on 25<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for our church and community.

Anyone who thinks they may like to lend a hand, please have a look at the **list at the church or church hall** and sign up for a task.

Maybe you can help by providing items for stalls such as the Tombola stall?

**Cakes** are needed for the cake stall and likewise **jams** and **pickles** for the produce stall and **Prizes** for the Raffle and Tombola.

Contact Dave Hopkins via Church office (01452 550554) or at church.

Please give generously of your help and time for your church.

Thank you.

*Dave Hopkins*

# 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.

## A WRETCH LIKE ME

Dear Readers, you will recall my dissertation on John Newton and his very popular hymn Amazing Grace in the April Magazine. The opening lines of the Hymn, "how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me". are the subject of today's essay.

You may not have heard of Lauren Tally, a southern gospel singer, who was the lead soprano in the Tally family trio composed of Roger and Debra Talley, and their daughter Lauren Talley. Performing over 20 years, they have made appearances all over the world. At the end of 2020 Roger and Debra retired as singers and Lauren began singing full time as a soloist at the start of 2022.

Lauren took the line "A Wretch like me" and composed her own hymn, a gospel song. With its heartfelt lyrics and soul-stirring melody, the hymn speaks of the transformative power of God's grace and redemption.

"A Wretch Like Me," reflects the humble realisation of the singer that she was once lost and undeserving of God's mercy and forgiveness. However, through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, she believes that she has been redeemed and set free from the chains of sin and shame.

The lyrics of the song convey a profound sense of gratitude and awe for God's amazing grace. It acknowledges that we, as human beings, are flawed and sinful, but despite our shortcomings, God extends His love and forgiveness to us. It is a reminder that no matter how unworthy we may feel, God's grace is sufficient to save and transform us.

The song's message aligns with the central theme of Christianity – the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The lyrics capture the essence of the Gospel, emphasising the undeserved nature of God's grace and the transformative power of his love.

## **A Wretch Like Me by Lauren Talley**

I heard the crowd cry crucify,  
I saw the blood pour from his brow,  
I felt the chains fall from my hands,  
oh but I know I don't deserve a second chance.

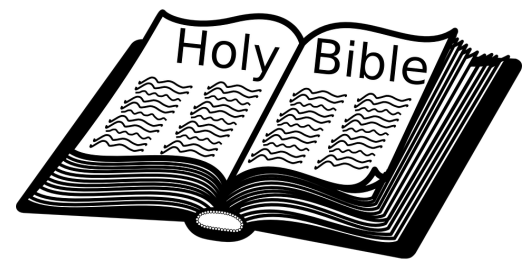
I watched the guards spit in his face,  
I knew he stood there in my place,  
I walked away a prisoner freed my pardon signed by blood and  
sealed eternally.

I once was lost but now I'm found.  
I traded shame to wear a crown, my eyes were blind but now I  
see,  
praise God for grace that saved a wretch like me.

My guilt and shame died on the tree,  
the man of sorrows bore my grief,  
and now I stand in victory saved by his grace I am one of his  
redeemed.

Amazing grace no sweeter sound the sinners saved and lost  
souls found,  
to him alone the endless praise my soul will sing for all my days

*Allan Delves.*



**May 2024**

**Daily Bible Readings:**

Wednesday 1st	Isaiah 30:15-21; John 14:1-14
Thursday 2nd	Acts 15:7-21; John 15:9-11
Friday 3rd	Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17
Saturday 4th	Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21
Monday 6th	Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4
Tuesday 7th	Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11
Wednesday 8th	Acts 17:15,22-18:1; John 16:12-15
Thursday 9th	Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-end
Friday 10th	Acts 18:9-18; John 16:20-23
Saturday 11th	Acts 18:22-end; John 16:23-28
Monday 13th	Acts 19:1-8; John 16:29-end
Tuesday 14th	Isaiah 22:15-end; John 15:9-17
Wednesday 15th	Acts 20:28-end; John 17:11-19
Thursday 16th	Acts 22:30;23:6-11; John 17:20-end
Friday 17th	Acts 25:13-21; John 21:15-19
Saturday 18th	Acts 28:16-20,30-end; John 21:20-end
Monday 20th	James 3:13-end; Mark 9:14-29
Tuesday 21st	James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37
Wednesday 22nd	James 4:13-end; Mark 9:38-40
Thursday 23rd	James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50
Friday 24th	James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12
Saturday 25th	James 5:13-end; Mark 10:13-16
Monday 27th	1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27
Tuesday 28th	1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31
Wednesday 29th	1 Peter 1:18-end; Mark 10:32-45
Thursday 30th	1 Peter 2:2-5,9-12; Mark 10:46-end
Friday 31st	Zephaniah 3:14-18; Luke 1:39-49



**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. Thank you!



# 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 :

May 7th

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!

# THE MIND OF GOD

Dear Readers, you will have read the much-published articles concerning the Gloucester Rugby Player, Ed Slater and his diagnosis of Motor Neurone disease that follows Scottish Rugby Player, Dodie Weir dying from the same disease. But, the most famous case of MND has got to be Stephen Hawking who was an English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author who was director of research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at the Cambridge. Between 1979 and 2009, he was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, widely viewed as one of the most prestigious academic posts in the world.

In 1963, at age 21, Hawking was diagnosed with an early-onset slow-progressing form of motor neurone disease that gradually, over decades, paralysed him. After the loss of his speech, he communicated through a speech-generating device initially through use of a handheld switch, and eventually by using a single cheek muscle living to 75 years of age.

Today's essay is based on a famous quotation from Stephen Hawking: "If we do discover a theory of everything it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason—for then we would truly know the Mind of God."

So, what does the Bible say about the Mind of God? We must go to 1 Corinthians 2.16 I quote "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him, but we have the mind of Christ". No one can know the thoughts of God except God's own Spirit. To know the mind of God, one must fully understand God's word. The Holy Spirit is also of immense help in knowing the mind of God. The one who knows a man best is his spirit, and in the same way, the one who knows God best is His Holy Spirit.

How can we have the mind of God? How can we think with God in relation to our life and situations?

In Isaiah 55:8-9 it says "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts." "For to us God revealed these thoughts through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For whom among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Paul explained that the only way for man to know the mind of God is for the Holy Spirit to reveal it. Today, that revelation is found in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16).

Finally, and back to Stephen Hawking, will we ever know the theory of everything? If so, we may then know the mind of God.

*Allan Delves*

# Diary: May 2024

1st	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Hall, Church Centre
2nd	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
4th	7pm	Musical Evening : Church Centre
<b>5th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Communion Worship Service : Church</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; biscuits : Church Centre</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</b>
	<b>5pm</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting : Hall, Church Centre</b>
7th	10am	Friendship Club—Cafe : Lounge, Church Centre
of	1-2.30pm	Informal drop-in canvassing meeting re: development land at the Church Centre (open to the public) : Lounge, Church Centre
8th	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
of	7-8.30pm	Informal drop-in canvassing meeting re: development land at the Church Centre (open to the public) : Hall, Church Centre
<b>9th</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>	
	7am	Ascension Day Service : Cooper's Hill
	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
<b>12th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Communion Worship Service : Church</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; biscuits : Church Centre</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</b>
	<b>12pm</b>	<b>Baptism : Church</b>
13th	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
14th	7.15 for 7.30pm	Worship Nights (contemplative music) : Church
15th	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Hall, Church Centre
16th	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
18th	9am	Men's Breakfast : Café Royal
<b>19th</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Communion Worship Service : Church</b>
	<b>10am</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; biscuits : Church Centre</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</b>
20th	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting : Hall, Church Centre
21st	10am	Friendship Club—Knit & Stitch : Lounge, Church
Centre		
22nd	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
23rd	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church

# The Messenger, May 2024

Big Mission Weekend, with the Archbishop of Canterbury

Over the May Bank Holiday, Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will be coming to the Diocese to join in with our mission and vision.

Friday 24 May

Archbishop Justin will start by having breakfast with farmers in the North Cotswolds. They will have some big conversations about issues affecting farmers, environmental considerations and care for creation.

He'll then meet children at two of our Gloucestershire schools, answering their questions and joining in with singing and worship on an environmental theme.

After lunch, he'll visit a church where the community have set up a thriving café and shop and get to know some of the team who volunteer there, as well as being trained up to make a delicious latte.

At 5pm, Archbishop Justin will be joining Evening Prayer at St John Baptist Church in Cirencester. All are welcome to this service.

Dinner will be at The Grace Network, which supports social enterprises that reinvest profits into their local communities. Guests will have the chance to put their questions to the Archbishop and find out more about how his faith has shaped the person he is today.

Saturday 25 May

The day begins with a service of morning prayer and a Messy Church session in Gloucester. The Archbishop will have a go at some crafts, singing and chatting with the children and families who worship here.

He'll set off on a prayer walk through Gloucester, stopping for an ice cream on the way to chat to some local Christian business owners and see how their faith plays out in their business. He will be popping into a not-for-profit community café, before getting a steam-punk angle on Gloucester's Tall Ships Festival.

At 1pm to 3.30pm, the Archbishop will be involved in a community fun day run by Sportily, full of lots of sports and activities, at Longford Skate Park. Come along for a coffee and an ice cream and practise your map-reading skills in our treasure hunt.

As a diocese, we believe that people deserve to live in homes that are safe, stable, sustainable, social and satisfying. The Archbishop will find out more about how the Diocese is locally supporting better housing provision.

Young people in Cheltenham have invited the Archbishop to come and join in their regular worship session and then he will end the day with a meal with partners from across the diocese. Bishop Rachel will interview Archbishop Justin and there will be a question-and-answer session about Christian faith and mission.

Sunday 26 May

Archbishop Justin will travel to Tidenham in the Forest of Dean to join in worship, which is open to the local community.

The weekend ends with a celebration diocesan Eucharist (Holy Communion) service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm. Please do come and join us for this joyful service of celebration and thankfulness.

Read more: [gloucester.anglican.org/big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury](https://gloucester.anglican.org/big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury)

Light up the world in prayer: Thy Kingdom Come, 9–19 May New resources and tools are available for the Church of England's annual 11-day prayer initiative. How will you be joining in this year?

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Every person, household and church in the Diocese of Gloucester are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

Last year, Churches Together in Lydney invited people to drop-in prayer sessions. Christ Church School in Cheltenham created a dedicated prayer space for children during SATS week. St Catherine's Gloucester led a prayer walk around the area, praying for every street in the parish, St Michael and All Angels in Bishop's Cleeve put on a Prayer Breakfast, while Trinity Cheltenham provided resources on their social media channels to inspire people to 'Pray for 5'.

There are so many ways to take part. Download the Journal and other resources to join in as a church, group or individually.

Visit: [thykingdomcome.global/new-2024](https://thykingdomcome.global/new-2024)

We'd love to hear the ways you are praying for Thy Kingdom Come this year. Share with us by emailing [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk)

Get the latest news from the Diocese Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events. Visit: <https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>

Events and training More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)  
Branch youth worship event Forest of Dean Community Church, Cinderford 4 May, 7.15pm to 9pm  
A monthly worship for secondary school-aged people. [gloucester.anglican.org/event/branch-youth-worship-event-may24](https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/branch-youth-worship-event-may24)

West End musicals by candlelight Gloucester Cathedral 17 May, 7.30pm

An evening of musical theatre with live orchestra London Concertante joined by some of West End's greatest singers for a spectacular musical concert. [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/west-end-musicals-by-candlelight-17-may-2024](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/west-end-musicals-by-candlelight-17-may-2024)

FireWatch Pentecost youth event St Mary deCrypt Church, Gloucester 18 May, 6pm to 7.30pm An alternative youth worship night with candles and contemplative prayer, aimed at those from more Anglo-Catholic traditions. [gloucester.anglican.org/event/firewatch-pentecost-youth-event](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/firewatch-pentecost-youth-event)

Wanted: people to do a short training to become Rural Domestic Abuse Champions Hairdressers, publicans, parish councillors and priests wanted to target rural domestic abuse. The aim is to improve understanding of domestic abuse and ensure participants are able to respond appropriately when victims confide in them. No previous knowledge needed. Contact Clare Joynes on [Clare.Joynes@greensquareaccord.co.uk](mailto:Clare.Joynes@greensquareaccord.co.uk) for more information.

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)

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Nails varnished (each set) £5

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Hand & arm massage £5



 **Have you got new neighbours?** 

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 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.**



# 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)**