

April 2024



To journey in faith and share
God's love

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The article deadline for the May issue is 15/04/24

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: Church porch Easter flowers

An exciting opportunity ...

The Diocese of Gloucester is just about to begin a **pilot for its pioneering project, the 10:10 Circle** – an interactive programme aimed at helping members to explore their ideas and test concepts for achieving lasting outreach in their worshipping communities.



In January 2024 **our application to join this programme was successful**. This is a **significant opportunity** to learn and share in **faithful, imaginative, and strategic** ways with leaders to develop the work of St. George's in **manifesting and growing the Kingdom of God** in our community.

The Revd Tim Hastie-Smith, Diocesan Missioner, explains more about this exciting programme.

Tim says, *"**The 10:10 Circle is inspired by our LIFE Vision** – how we as a diocese are putting everything we do through our vision of Leadership, Faith, Imagination and Engagement.*

"It's stating, let's be bold and let's do things creatively, and let's not be afraid to do it. The 10:10 Circle is about getting people together who are saying – 'We think we've got sort of an idea but are not sure what it might look like. And we're not sure if we're allowed to do it, or if we ought to' – and helping them realise that idea into something tangible. Let's try this and see if this works, and if it doesn't then it doesn't matter. But if we don't try it, we'll never know.

"We're often tempted to play safe because we're afraid of getting things wrong or being considered a failure.

*But this isn't about numbers, it's about **seeking to make the Kingdom of God known, to do 'church' in totally new, creative ways.** We need to be confident that from the work we do now, the outcome might not be seen for 10, 20 years and that's okay – it's about thinking and working for the long-term, even if it outlives our part in it."*

What's involved?

The 10:10 Circle is a pilot project that brings applicants together through five half-day discussion sessions, led by Will Mansell (the Grace Network) and the Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar, Director of Mission and Ministry.

Tim says, "It's all about **being curious about our ideas** and feeling we have 'permission' to explore them. By being in a group, members can listen to others, find out what someone else is doing and how that might work, and become excited about trying things out and taking risks."

Claire Sandys has offered her skills and experience to work with me on getting the most out of this opportunity. Please pray for us both as we seek to represent our local community and discern how God might be steering us.

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

More info and dates visit:
www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org/worshipnights

April 30th



Gloucester Film Makers

Present

Gloucestershire Memories

10 Decades of Gloucester and Surrounding
Locations on Film from our Archives



1920's Gloucester complete with trams,
St Barnabas Church Foundation Stone Laying,
Ceremony 1938, King George VI & Queen
Elizabeth, 1947 Floods, Glorious Glosters,,
Kings Square over the decades,
Churchdown Village in the 1950's,
Royal Visit in 1955, 1960's Carnivals,

Elver Eating, Woodchester Pavement, 2007 Floods, Dick Sheppard,
Gloucester Goes Retro plus lots more.....

Monday 8th April 2024

At 7-30pm

**St George's Church Centre, Court Road,
Brockworth. GL3 4ET (adjacent to Brockworth Library)**

Tickets £5 (including refreshments)

Please contact Mike Morris on 01452 617713

or John Greene on 01452 531838

or visit www.gloucesterfilmmakers.org.uk for further information.

Easter Quiz

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?
3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken as a prisoner?
5. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple and subsequently reattached by Jesus?
6. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?
7. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
8. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
9. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests that he was given as the price of betrayal of the Lord and then did what?
10. The priests took the money that Judas had returned to them and did what with it?
11. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified?
12. What did Pilate's wife counsel him to do concerning Jesus?
13. A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In Mark 15 we are told the names of Simon's two sons. What were their names?
14. What was the inscription above the cross?
15. Can you quote 4 of the 7 statements recorded in the Bible that Christ said from the cross?
16. Following the statements of Jesus on the cross, there was a statement by a Roman soldier concerning Christ. What was it?
17. What happened in the Temple as a sign that the death of Jesus had made way for the individual believer to approach God?
18. When Jesus died there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
19. In John 19 two men helped prepare the body of Christ for burial. One is said to have been a secret disciple and another secretly came to Jesus early in His ministry to ask questions. Who were these men?
20. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

Answers overleaf

Answers to Easter Quiz

1. Passover.
2. A young donkey.
3. When Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of the Passion week, the people welcomed Him as king and Messiah. They covered the road with their garments and palm fronds as a symbol of their worship and acceptance of Him as king.
4. Peter.
5. Malchus.
6. Three times.
7. 30.
8. By giving Him a kiss.
9. Hanged himself.
10. Bought the potter's field with the money which is where strangers were buried.
11. Barabbas.
12. To leave Jesus alone because He was a just man. She had a bad dream concerning the Lord and she probably felt it would bring bad luck on the household of Pilate).
13. Alexander and Rufus.
14. "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" It was written in three different languages according to John 19:20; Hebrew, Greek and Latin.
15. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
"Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."
"...he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother."
"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?")
"I thirst"
"It is finished."
"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"
16. *"Truly this was the Son of God"*.
17. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom.
18. Three hours. From noon to 3 pm.
19. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Interestingly, these two men did not follow Jesus as He travelled through the region, but they were there when all the outspoken disciples had abandoned the Lord.
20. Mary Magdalene.

Church Register

February 2024

Weddings

Funerals

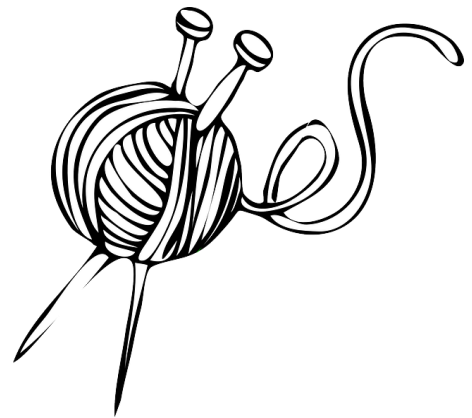
Baptisms

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 16th April**

Message from Bishop Robert

The ministry of a Bishop, like that of all Church of England ministers, is never just about what happens in church, but by its nature shares a calling to connect our faith and worship with the wider life of the community, the places where God in Jesus Christ comes to dwell and for which Jesus dies and rises.

That's why I am especially pleased as part of my calling as Bishop of Tewkesbury to be a member and Vice Chair of the Council of the University of Gloucestershire. The university has campuses in Cheltenham and in Gloucester, and a new City Centre Campus which is currently being built in the old Gloucester Debenhams building.

It is, I believe, one of the jewels of our county, although sometimes overlooked, which is why I would love us to celebrate it more. It contributes to growing our economy, forming our communities and shaping our future, as well as being a gift to all those places from which our students come and to which they will go.

The University has both civic roots, notably the Mechanics Institutes in Cheltenham and Gloucester, and Church roots, in teacher training. Today, it is very much a multi-disciplined, modern university, with a diverse community of some 12,500 students from our local region, across the UK and across the world. The University offers a range of qualifications from undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to apprenticeships. These are served by some 1,500 staff, led with extraordinary inspiration by our newly appointed Vice Chancellor Clare Marchant, and including a small chaplaincy team led by one of our clergy, Simon Witcombe.

The University's vision is '**Changing your world, so you can change ours,**' with the intention to:

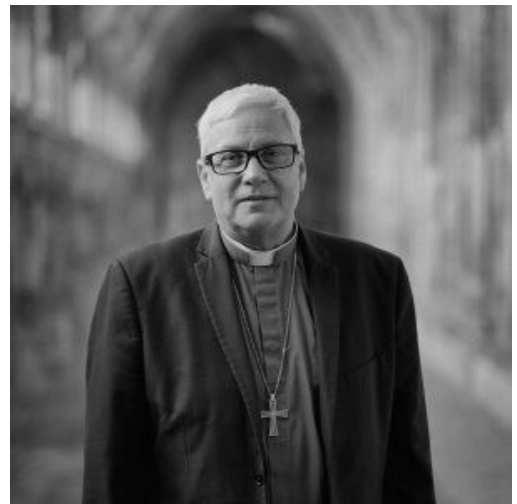
- transform the lives of students so they are ready to be a force for good in the world
 - make the community and world a better place
- be leaders and pioneers for sustainability.

These goals make the university a powerful expression of our vision as the Church in this diocese, as together we seek to promote 'Life in all its fullness'. I am deeply grateful for the many expressions of partnership we enjoy, including the Foundation Fellows and those between the university, the Cathedral and education, with plenty of potential for more.

The University provides many opportunities where people of many different backgrounds can play a part in service to the communities we care for.

Perhaps it is time to take a fresh look both at the University and at what new ministries God might be calling you to explore?

+ Robert



Save the Date!

On Saturday 25th May there will be a Spring Fair at 2pm in and around the Church Centre with plants, produce, pre-loved items, treasures and refreshments for sale.

Donations of plants for sale will be much appreciated.

Thank you.



**Our next meeting is on Monday, 22nd April
2.30pm in St George's Church Centre.**

Speaker: Reverend Judy Howard

“Stories of My Childhood, Through Objects”

Judy has suggested that we might like to bring an item of our own, on this theme, to share at the meeting.

Many of us will remember that when Judy came last year, she spoke about the Marsh Arabs and their situation. She had a beautiful textile to show us and we were able to contribute some stitches to help repair the damage it had.

Once again, Judy will lead us in an entertaining and thought-provoking afternoon.

All welcome.

In February, Virginia and David Adsett treated us to memories of the Fighting Forties, bringing many objects we could explore and reminders of items from that era. We are very grateful for their time and enthusiasm and willingness to share it with us.



ST. GEORGE'S

Brockworth

Churchyard Tidy Ups

If you enjoy gardening - we need you!
Everyone welcome.

Saturday 27 April 2024

9:30am-12:30pm

(Meet at the front of the church building)

The garden around the church needs a regular tidy up 2-3 times a year, so we're always looking for willing people from the community to join our cheery team.

Volunteers are requested to bring their own tools, but don't let that stop you joining us if you don't own any.

Wheelbarrows and brooms are especially useful.

Children must be supervised at all times,
and all jobs are undertaken at your own risk.

A rough idea of who is turning up is helpful, so if you're planning on joining us, please let either Pat Hartwell or Claire Sandys know or email garden@stgeorgesbrockworth.org. 😊





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 2nd Tuesday of the month 10am-1130am?

Church Diary April 2024

2nd	10am	Friendship Club—Café : Lounge, Church Centre
	7.15 for 7.30pm	Worship Nights : Church
3rd	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Hall, Church Centre
4th	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
5th		Church Office Closed
7th	9am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
	5pm	Prayer Meeting : Hall, Church Centre
8th	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
10th		<u>NO</u> 9.45am Communion
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Hall, Church Centre
11th	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
14th	9am	Morning Worship Service : Church
	10am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
15th	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
16th	10am	Friendship Club—Knit & Stitch : Lounge, Church Centre
17th	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Hall, Church Centre
18th	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
20th	9am	Men's Breakfast : Café Royal
21st	9am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
	12pm	Baptism : Church
22nd	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Meeting : Hall, Church Centre
24th	9.45am	Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
25th	10am	Flower Arranging Team : Church
	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
27th	9.30-12.30pm	'The Big Spring One' (Churchyard Tidy Up) : Church
28th	9am	Communion Worship Service : Church
	10am	Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
	12pm	Bring & Share Lunch : Church Centre
29th	10am	Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre
	7pm	APCM : Hall, Church Centre
30th	7.15 for 7.30pm	Worship Nights (Contemplative music) : Church

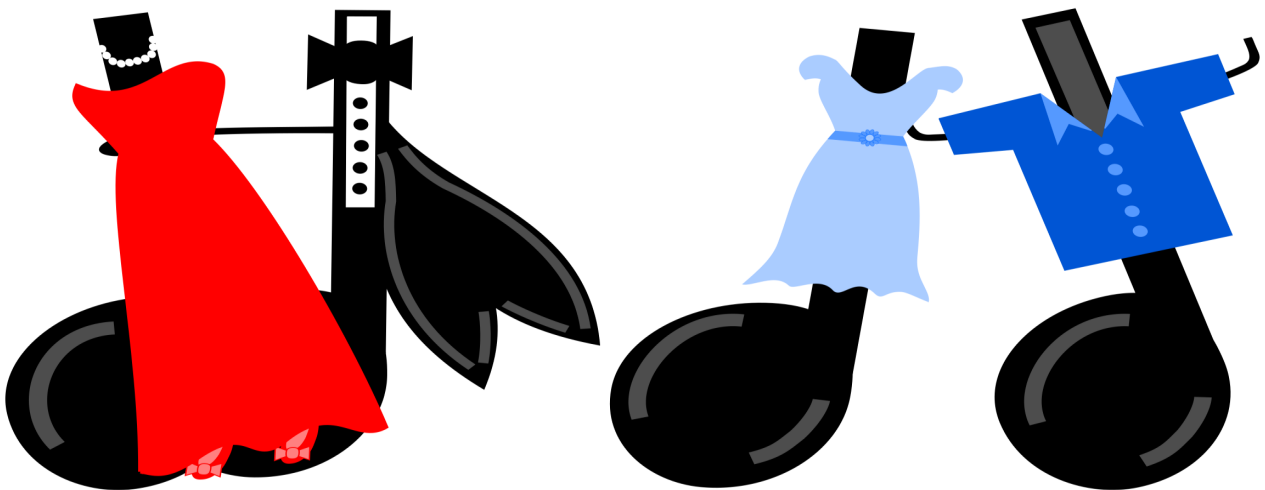
Musical Evening

We are holding our next Musical Evening on Saturday 4th 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



FASTING

I've been thinking about Lent, which is the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The Bible contains over 70 references to fasting, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Christian fasting involves abstaining from food or drink in order to focus on prayer and seek God's will. Let's explore some of these verses:

Matthew 6:16-18: Jesus teaches about fasting, emphasizing that it should be done privately, without seeking attention from others. When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that your fasting is seen by your father in secret, who will reward you.

Joel 2:12: The Lord calls for a return to him with fasting, weeping, and mourning. It's a way to seek God wholeheartedly.

Daniel 10:3: Daniel abstained from delicacies, meat, and wine during a three-week fast.

Ezra 8:23: The people fasted and implored God, and he listened to their entreaty.

Isaiah 58:6: God desires a fast that breaks the bonds of wickedness, sets the oppressed free, and brings justice.

Acts 13:2: While worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit directed the setting apart of Barnabas and Saul for a specific work.

Psalms 69:10: The psalmist humbled their soul with fasting.

Exodus 34:28: Moses fasted for forty days and nights while receiving the Ten Commandments from God.

Nehemiah 1:4: Nehemiah fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

These verses highlight the spiritual benefits of fasting, including drawing closer to God, gaining wisdom, and seeking His guidance. If you're considering fasting, remember that it's a personal journey, and there are various ways to approach it. May your fasting be a time of seeking God's presence and understanding His will¹.

Let us explore other religions and their approach to fasting:

Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan each year. The fasting includes refraining from consuming any food or liquid and worldly pleasures from sunrise until sunset. It is considered an obligation for all Muslims unless they are children or are physically unable to fast. It is one of the pillars of Islam.

Roman Catholics: Besides Lent, there are other penitential times customarily accompanied by fasting or abstinence. These include Advent, the Ember Days, the Rogation Days, Fridays throughout the year, and vigils of some of the important feast days.

Mormons, known as The Church of Latter Day Saints, fast each month (on the first Sunday) by going without food or drink for two consecutive meals. They give the amount of money they would have spent for the meals to the church (they can give more if they wish). This offering is called the fast offering. On that particular Sunday the local Mormon community comes together for a fast and testimony meeting. Fasting is preceded, accompanied, and followed by prayer. Without prayer the fast doesn't have much, if any, spiritual value. Mormons believe that fasting and prayer together make them more receptive.

Jews. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the year. For traditional Jewish people, it is primarily centred on atonement and repentance. The day's main observances consist of full fasting and asceticism, both accompanied by extended prayer services (usually at synagogue) and sin confessions. Fasting lasts from dawn until nightfall and therefore length varies depending on the time of the year.

Hinduism, each day of the week is devoted to one or more of the faith's deities. Special rituals, including prayer and fasting, are performed to honour these gods and goddesses. Each day also is associated with a celestial body from Vedic astrology and has a corresponding gemstone and colour. There are two different types of fasting in Hinduism. Upvaas are fasts made to fulfil a vow, while *Vratsa* are fasts made to observe religious rituals. Devotees may engage in either kind of fast during the week, depending on their spiritual intent.

In summary fasting is a common religious practice where one voluntarily abstains from food or drink or worldly pleasures for a set period of time to focus on God and prayer and his work in our lives.

So, dear readers did you fast for Lent? If so tell us about it for inclusion in the next magazine.

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.

(Charlene Spackman from JHT has been in touch to say "Thank you for another huge delivery of stamps for James Hopkins Trust. I really appreciate you collecting them.")

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.

HYMN WRITERS CONTINUED: JOHN NEWTON

Dear Readers I assume that you all know about Sir Isaac Newton FRS who was an English polymath active as a mathematician physicist, astronomer, alchemist, theologian, and author who was described in his time as a philosopher. But have you heard of John Newton, no relation? John Newton was an 18th century English evangelical Anglican cleric and slavery abolitionist. He had previously been a captain of slave ships and an investor in the slave trade. He served as a sailor in the Royal Navy (after forced recruitment) and was himself enslaved for a time in West Africa. He is noted for being author of the hymns *Amazing Grace* and *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*. *Amazing Grace* is a Christian hymn published in 1779, written in 1772 by English Anglican clergyman and poet John Newton. It is an immensely popular hymn, particularly in the United States and Scotland (bagpipes), where it is used for both religious and secular purposes. Newton wrote the words from personal experience; he grew up without any particular religious conviction, but his life's path was formed by a variety of twists and coincidences that were often put into motion by others' reactions to what they took as his recalcitrant insubordination. He was pressed into service with the Royal Navy, and after leaving the service, he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, a violent storm battered his vessel off the coast of County Donegal, Ireland, so severely that he called out to God for mercy. While this moment marked his spiritual conversion, he continued slave trading until 1754 or 1755, when he ended his seafaring altogether. Newton began studying Christian theology and later became an abolitionist.

Ordained in the Church of England in 1764, Newton became the curate of Olney, Buckinghamshire, where he began to write hymns with poet William Cowper. "Amazing Grace" was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773. It is unknown if there was any music accompanying the verses; it may have been chanted by the congregation. It debuted in print in 1779 in Newton's and Cowper's *Olney Hymns*, but settled into relative obscurity in England. In the United States, "Amazing Grace" became a popular song used by Baptist and Methodist preachers as part of their evangelizing, especially in the American South, and later Scotland during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century. It has been associated with more than 20 melodies. In 1835, American composer William Walker set it to the tune known as "New Britain" in a shape note format; this is the version most frequently sung today.

Finally, this spiritual autobiographical hymn 'Amazing Grace' remains the favourite hymn for so many people. The powerful lyrics remind us that because of Jesus, none of us are ever lost because God is with us always. This hymn expresses John Newton's personal experience of conversion from sin as an act of God's grace. At the end of his life John Newton said "There are two things I will never forget: that I was a great sinner, and that Jesus Christ is a great Saviour. The truth it affirms is that we are all saved by grace alone is one that all Christians may confess with joy and gratitude.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

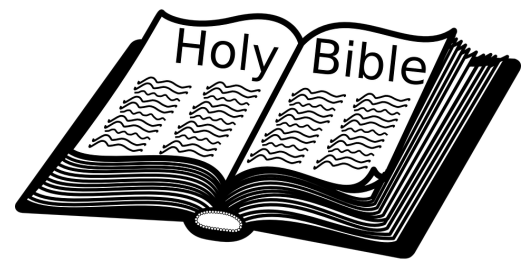
The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

ALLAN DELVES



April 2024

Daily Bible Readings:

Monday 1st	Acts 2:14,22-32; Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday 2nd	Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18
Wednesday 3rd	Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35
Thursday 4th	Acts 3:11-end; Luke 24:35-48
Friday 5th	Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14
Saturday 6th	Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15
Monday 8th	Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday 9th	Acts 4:32-end; John 3:7-15
Wednesday 10th	Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21
Thursday 11th	Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-end
Friday 12th	Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15
Saturday 13th	Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21
Monday 15th	Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29
Tuesday 16th	Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35
Wednesday 17th	Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40
Thursday 18th	Acts 8:26-end; John 6:44-51
Friday 19th	Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59
Saturday 20th	Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69
Monday 22nd	Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10
Tuesday 23rd	1 Maccabees 2:59-64; John 15:18-21
Wednesday 24th	Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-end
Thursday 25th	Proverbs 15:28-end; Mark 13:5-13
Friday 26th	Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6
Saturday 27th	Acts 13:44-end; John 14:7-14
Monday 29th	Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26
Tuesday 30th	Acts 14:19-end; John 14:27-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 meetings :

April 2nd, 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!

Christian charity brings carers in the Diocese together

A free online resource provided by a Christian charity is enabling carers from in and around the diocese to meet together for encouragement, support and prayer. Carers Connected is available nationwide online and brings people who are caring for adult loved ones together.

Carers Connected was set up by the Christian charity Embracing Age as a way to offer encouragement, support and prayer to carers via online gatherings. It has been particularly useful for those who struggle to get to church services or to a small group due to their caring commitments.

The Carers Connected online meeting is led by facilitators and lasts for one hour with time to chat and share experiences, a short time of reflection usually with a Christian poem or song, and a short time of prayer at the end. It has been described by carers as 'a lifesaver', 'the highlight of my week', 'a gently welcoming oasis', 'something just for me'.

Rod, who lives in Cheltenham and worships at Trinity Cheltenham, joined Carers Connected when he was caring for his wife, Pearl. He says he was delighted to join a group of Christians who "knew the score, who were facing the same issues, where we could share insights, support each other and pray together".

Pearl died three years ago but, with empathy for carers and strong friendships forged among the group members, Rod became a volunteer facilitator. Even now as a host, he feels it is a "two-way street" and that he receives from the group as well as contributing.

Linda, from Frampton Mansell near Stroud who attends Minchinhampton Baptist Church, joined Carers Connected when she was caring for her husband, Maurice, and then her sister. "The gentle, supportive leadership and fellowship with others in a similar situation was just what I needed and I made friends for life. The balance is just right with opportunity to share one's difficulties and problems, some appropriate spiritual input – often a poem or song, and time to pray for one another."

Linda's husband died in December 2021 and her sister in April 2023 but she remains a valued member of the group. "Their support is still appreciated and I can empathise with those going through the same difficult circumstances as I did."

Living in Gloucestershire, Rod and Linda meet up from time to time, and Rod has now joined a prayer group run by Linda. Through Carers Connected, they gained new friendships and now offer support to others experiencing similar experiences to their own.

If you know a carer who might be interested in finding out about Carers Connected, visit www.embracingage.org.uk/for-carers or email Sarah at ku.gro.egagnicarbme@srerac

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EMBRACING AGE

Later life in all its fullness

The Messenger, April 2024

“People are surprised to see a DJ in a clerical collar”

A vicar from Tetbury is using his love for music to share God’s love through DJing at festivals and events. The Revd Steve Bullock shares how he developed his ‘musical ministry’ and the reactions he gets from listeners.

The Revd Steve Bullock was ordained priest in June 2023 and is serving his curacy in the benefice of Tetbury, Long Newnton, Beverston and Shipton Moyne. Steve is also a trained DJ, who goes by the name ‘Rev Steve’.

Steve says, “I have a musical background, classically trained as a clarinet and piano player from an early age and a member of a high-performing church choir, I appreciate all this genre has to offer. However, over the years I have found that other genres of music have helped me connect with God also, especially different styles of dance music.

“This eventually drew me into exploring how I could get hold of such music and play around with it, to help me and others connect with God, through the spirituality which is often found in such music. This led me to get hold of my first DJ decks and I have been steadily developing my skillset, undertaking courses and being mentored by Mark Spence from DJ Gym, Birmingham, to get to the standard I’m at today.”

Steve is mindful of the songs he plays and that his music brings joy.

“I prefer not to play at parties and weddings, as the music is usually dictated by the audience rather than the DJ and it is harder to keep watch of the content of the messages in the songs. This is important as I want my mixes to be positive and pointing towards joy and hope. In fact, at one of my gigs last year, I was playing in a back room, with another DJ playing in the other space. It was noted there was a difference between what we played. Someone noticed that there was a contrast between light and dark, which I thought proved what I try to do with the music.

“So far, I’ve had some great feedback to my mixes and mini gigs. People are usually surprised to see me wearing my clerical collar, which immediately gets people’s attention. I’m one for trying to debunk stereotypes and if I can use it to make people think more about Christ, wherever they are, that is great.”

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/people-are-surprised-to-see-a-dj-in-a-clerical-collar

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>

The Great Big Green Week (8-16 June) Organised by The Climate Coalition, of which A Rocha UK is a member, the week aims to show decision-makers that people from all walks of life are stepping up to take action on climate change – and that we need decision-makers to step up too. We'd love to hear your stories about how you are taking part during Great Big Green Week. Send them to kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk

Take time out at a Christian retreat or quiet day A Christian retreat is ideal for anyone looking to step out of the routine of a busy life, spend time with God and be spiritually renewed. With a choice of venues to choose from in and around Gloucestershire, there is a retreat or quiet day for everyone – to suit all budgets and needs. Take a look: gloucester.anglican.org/retreat-centres

Bream C of E celebrating 'good' results for first time in 22 years

Bream Church of England Primary School, near Lydney, has been awarded a 'good' rating across all areas in its latest Ofsted inspection. Under new headteacher Nicky Brice, it's progressed rapidly since the last inspection in 2019 where the school was rated 'inadequate'. This is the first time in 22 years the school has been judged to be 'good'.

In 2021, the school joined the Severn Federation Academy Trust, led by Trust CEO Rachel Dare, with Louisa Davies as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Nicky Brice took on the post of headteacher, coming to the role from Aylburton Primary. Since this time the school has rapidly improved in all areas.

She said, "We are all so proud of our children who show such a love for this school and enthusiasm for their learning, the staff who have worked tirelessly and for all of our families for their ongoing support and backing throughout this rapid journey of improvement."

Jane Borgeaud, the Diocesan Director of Education, said, "The transformation that has been achieved for this school, as a result of the staff's dedication and ambition, enables its pupils to live out the school's vision, being the best that they can be and growing from acorns to oaks, flourishing in God's love."

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/bream-cofe-celebrating-good-results-for-first-time-in-22-years

Events and training

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

Easter through the ages Gloucester Cathedral 2, 3 April, 11am-3.30pm
Discover how the Easter festival has been celebrated throughout history. Crafts, cookery and more to make and take home, including: Medieval easter egg decorating, making a Victorian Easter Card and taking part in a Tudor feast. gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/easter-through-the-ages

Little Lamb Adventure Trail Gloucester Cathedral 23 March – 7 April (excl. Good Friday) Take part in this fun trail this Easter, while discovering the history of this beautiful space. The trail is free to take part in and there is no booking required. gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/little-lamb-adventure-trail

Keep calm and arrange flowers Apperley Village Hall, Gabb Lane GL19 4DP 4 April, 7.30pm Floral art demonstration at Apperley Village Hall GL19 4DP. Whether you're a seasoned arranger or a flower enthusiast just starting out, this event offers both fun and learning opportunities. gloucester.anglican.org/keep-calm-and-arrange-flowers

Dvořák: Mass in D and Fauré: Requiem St Mary's Church, High Street, Fairford 13 April, 7.30pm Fairford & District Choral Society is an amateur group performing choral music from the 15th to the 21st century. Tickets £15, under 18s £5. Call 01285 713681 or pay on the door. fairfordchoralsociety.org.uk

Have your say Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at 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

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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 
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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

**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

**Or see our website,
www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org**