

March 2023



**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

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

Churchwardens:

Mrs Linda Vogwell Hillview Avenue, Brockworth, GL3 4AZ
07917 610609, email: lindavogwell@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Chris Sandys 07958 281984

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732
email: treasurer@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

Hon. Secretary: Position vacant

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Liz Hopkins 01452 550554,
email: safeguarding@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

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

The article deadline for the April issue is 15/03/23

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: Snowdrops at Colesbourne

LENT

What's it all about? What are the rules?

Christmas has Advent and Easter has Lent, but Lent doesn't have the same sparkle as Advent, although it serves a similar purpose: preparing the way and laying the foundations for a significant religious festival.

Poor Lent has the **gloom of self-denial** looming over it, we give up chocolate, sweets, or biscuits, because we know it's good for us, but it certainly takes a little joy out of our day! Or, we choose to read the bible. Then we start to look more closely at the rules, does Lent actually include Sundays? So, we can practice self-denial Monday – Saturday, but Sunday is a day of rest, rest from striving therefore I can rest from self-denial.

Self-denial is hard and with willpower in short supply it seems good to take Sunday off – I am, of course speaking from experience!

If we think of **willpower** not as some shapeless behavioural trait, but as a **muscle**, one that can atrophy or **grow stronger** depending on how it's used. Neurologists and behavioural psychologists generally think of willpower as what's known as "domain general," which means that the more you practice it to control one behaviour — say, over indulging in chocolate — the more it starts to apply itself to other parts of your life like exercising more or drinking less. So, just like going to the gym or exercising can help our physical and mental health, practising self-denial can help us grow as individuals.

Maybe Lent is our friend!

When Jesus was asked what the most important thing for us was to do he replied

"The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

We can get so focused on doing things; giving up chocolate, rushing around keeping busy, fighting for things we think are important and we lose sight of the **importance of being in relationship**. God's invitation to us is to love him, as he loved us, to love our neighbour – not just the house next to ours, but our neighbour at work, in the supermarket queue, in the traffic jam, then finally to love ourselves – a simple thing as to look in the mirror and like what you see can be really difficult, but is **a good starting point to loving yourself**.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is a relationship based on mutual love, caring, and honour. The relationship model for us to be inspired with, and then go and practice **loving, caring, and honouring** ourselves and those around us, and in that process, we love, care, and honour God's creation. Faith in God is **not about the rules** but **about relationship**.

Why not make this Lent about building relationships? Be the hands to show love, care, and honour to your friends and neighbours. Be the voice of love, care, and honour to your friends and neighbours. Practicing putting others first, starting the journey to love yourself – and maybe even God. It's really hard, but it might be a change from the usual Lent practice. Whatever you do we pray you would grow in a deeper relationship with God, with your friends and neighbours, and yourself.

You are very welcome to try us out:

9am Worship in the St. George's Church – friendly and formal act of worship.

1030am All Age Worship in the Church Centre – more relaxed, family friendly worship.

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



Mike Smith

A message from Bishop Rachel

It feels somewhat ironic to be writing this letter on Valentine's Day, just as it is uncomfortable to be writing this letter against the backdrop of so much pain and division in our world, not least the agonising situation in Turkey and Syria. Yet all of it is about people's lives, love and relationship, and our desire to see the coming of the kingdom of God on earth as in heaven.

By now, many of you will have seen and heard various things about the 8+ hour debate in General Synod last week regarding the motion brought by the House of Bishops and which was agreed. The text is below this letter so that everyone has easy access to the exact wording. It should be noted that (g) was added by an amendment which was carried by all three Houses (Bishops, Clergy and Laity) on the floor of Synod. No other amendments were agreed (and there were a lot of them).

Please do read the motion carefully rather than relying on newspaper headlines and social media to understand what has and has not been agreed. On this note, I want to be very clear that at no point was there a vote on same-sex marriage. Furthermore, in the coming weeks there will be much work undertaken as new pastoral guidance is developed.

The debate in General Synod was preceded by some group work, which refocused us on the Pastoral Principles as we interacted with one another, and also provided the opportunity for people not only to voice their thoughts and perspectives on the issues being raised, but also to write down their immediate feelings. We repeated this exercise at our own Diocesan Synod last Saturday, and it was no less poignant than the group work at General Synod, and indeed captured the same range of emotions. These included hope, devastation, joy, confusion, relief, fear and a number of expressions of disappointment across the spectrum of perspectives, i.e. disappointment that the proposals have not gone far enough, and disappointment that the proposals have gone too far. As was said in the Bishops' Response to Living in Love and Faith, those differences exist among the bishops. Sadly, I cannot adequately convey the depth of emotion in my voice or being through these words on a page or screen.

enough, and disappointment that the proposals have gone too far. As was said in the Bishops' Response to Living in Love and Faith, those differences exist among the bishops. Sadly, I cannot adequately convey the depth of emotion in my voice or being through these words on a page or screen.

Bishops' Response to Living in Love and Faith

Throughout this process, archbishops and bishops have continually spoken about unity, and unity is not about an amorphous middle space but rather it is about how we walk together, 'standing in different places – and finding a point that each of us, by stretching out our arm, can touch and reach the fingertips of the other' (words from the Bishop of London's Living in Love and Faith presentation to the General Synod debate). The Archbishop of Canterbury in his powerful presidential address to General Synod spoke of the unity we desire as "not one based around agreeing in everything. It can never be of our making or imposing. It can never be by forcing, it is always a gift of God's redemption."

I have repeatedly used the image of the vine from Christ's words as told by John (John 15) and emphasised that our unity only ever emerges from our abiding in Christ. We cannot choose the branches even if we do not agree with them. If we belong to Christ, we belong to each other. Likewise, as members together of the body of Christ, the eye does not need to agree with the hand on all things, but neither can it say to the hand, 'I have no need of you' (1 Corinthians 12:21). I would also suggest that neither the eye nor the hand can claim a God-given monopoly on the truth into which the Spirit leads Christ's body on these matters. As the Bishop of London said:

"Our call is and always will be to seek the face of Christ – yes, in each other, but above all in searching the Scriptures, examining the Church's tradition, and exercising our reason as we strive to make sense of how truth is to be lived out with grace in our 21st century context. The reality is that as we have done all these things – even among ourselves as bishops – our conclusions about the 'clear teaching of Scripture' and the trajectory of the Church's tradition diverge. We see God at work in each other's ministries and are forced to acknowledge that somehow, mysteriously, the people of God who seek God's face and who want to see the Church flourish, disagree."

And here I want to reiterate very clearly what was written in the letter from myself and Bishop Robert on 18 January 2023 in which we expressed our commitment to ensuring that 'communities and individuals, not least our lay and ordained leaders, can live and express different views as a matter of conscience, whilst always treating one another with love respect and humility.'

When we come to that time when the final version of the Prayers of Love and Faith are commended, there will be pastoral guidance which, amongst other things, will be clear that using the prayers and resources is optional. Those who in good conscience wish to use the commended prayers can do so joyfully; and those who in good conscience do not wish to do so can freely decline without pressure. As your bishops, we are committed to living this well and ensuring that no one is penalised or ostracised for holding different theological views and using or not using the Prayers of Love and Faith. We will support everyone in the same way.

I am saddened by some of the fear that is being fanned into flame by some individuals in the Church of England across the spectrum of perspectives, and both Bishop Robert and I stand ready to meet with groups to listen and to reflect further together.

May we be thankful for each other, and pray for God to give us grace to notice where lives rooted in Christ are bearing fruit, and where the love of Christ is being revealed as the signs of the kingdom of God are increasingly evident, even among those with whom we profoundly disagree. And finally, in our interactions with one another and the wider world, may we pray earnestly for the fruit of the Spirit: '... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control' (Galatians 5:22-23).

This comes with heartfelt thanks for our partnership in the gospel, as together we seek to live and share the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

+ Rachel





Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by our founder Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries.

As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality and stopping injustice. Our members work at grassroots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

Our meeting this month at the Church Centre is on

Monday, 27th March at 2.30 pm

We look forward to welcoming our vicar, Mike Smith who will give us reflections on this time of Lent.

In January we held our AGM which was well attended. I'm sure that had nothing to do with the puddings we enjoyed following the meeting!

*"I arise today, through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness, through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation"*

Saint Patrick



From the Church Registers

January 2023

Weddings

Friday 20th January April Tyas & Kyle Hodgetts

Funerals

Wednesday 25th January Neville Mace

Friday 27th January Lavinia Cross

100 Club

January 2023

WINNERS

1st — Enid Lovell (56)

2nd — Jeni Archer (95)

3rd — Liz Ashenden (18)

100 Club

February 2023

WINNERS

1st — Derek Harbottle (83)

2nd — Patrick Reynolds (52)

3rd — Gill Dugdale (6)

The Ring

I have to confess that I was never particularly enamoured with my engagement ring. Hoping I was going to be proposed to I had my eye on an antique topaz ring in the jeweller's window. Unfortunately my boyfriend would not entertain the thought of me wearing someone else's second-hand ring, so we trawled the jewellers until we found one that appealed to him. It was flower shaped with a central diamond surrounded by rubies. It was a very small size and the metal from which it was made was platinum, which also meant finding a matching wedding ring quite difficult in those days. However, the ring was duly purchased and altered and we became engaged.

A year after we were married in St. George's, we set off on a two week holiday to Spain, accompanied by friends we had previously met on honeymoon. The hotel in which we were staying had four hundred rooms, so as you can no doubt imagine, it was pretty huge. With an adventure day planned involving scooters and water activities I decided to leave the ring behind on the dressing table, wrapped in a tissue. Changing for dinner later that day, I realised the tissue-wrapped ring had disappeared and panic ensued. There was little or no sympathy from my husband who deemed it a stupid place to leave it and surmised that the maid had accidentally thrown it out with the rubbish.

Next morning, my London friend suggested we try and look for it. Words like needles and haystacks were bandied about by our better halves who considered it a fruitless errand and refused to get involved. Reception staff guided us girls to the back yard where all the general waste from the hotel was deposited. Looking with dread at all the trash-filled skips, the words of Matthew 7:7 "seek and ye shall find" did little to boost my confidence. We got stuck in, searching through piles of stinking rubbish in the scorching heat of the Spanish midday sun. We were about to give up when we experienced a eureka moment. There, at the very bottom, on a pile of dust, sat the ring, sparkling in the sun. Safely restored to my finger we returned to England and life resumed as usual.

Back home, when making pastry, I always removed the ring and put it in an egg cup in the cupboard. I would often forget to put it back on and people sometimes got a surprise when eating a boiled egg.

Ironically, some years later we took a family holiday to Greece and on this occasion I decided to leave the ring at home. Unfortunately, whilst we were away we were burgled and sadly all my jewellery was taken and never recovered. However, where was the engagement ring? Why, it was safely in the egg cup out of sight in the kitchen cupboard! The ring may not have been my first choice, but I think it has proved its worth as a survivor.

The ring now has a namesake in the form of my granddaughter Ruby and one day the ring will be hers. Long may its charmed life continue!

Chris Carswell

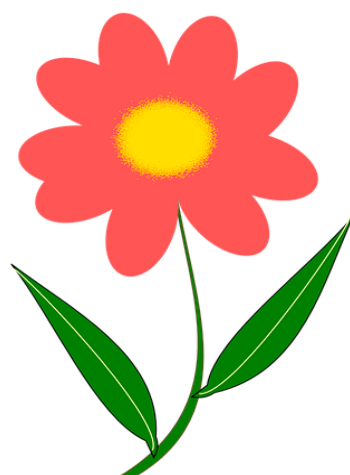


Plant Sale



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

Judy Baldwin tel. 862840



FAMOUS HYMN WRITERS

Dear Readers, continuing my series on Hymn Writers, for this issue I have chosen Isaac Watts. He was born in Southampton on 17th July 1674 and died on 23rd November 1748. Isaac Watts was an English Congregational Minister, hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. His works include "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", "Joy to the World", and "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past". He is recognized as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages

Isaac Watts was brought up in the home of a committed, religious nonconformist; his father, also Isaac Watts, had been incarcerated twice for his views. Watts had a classical education at King Edward VI School, Southampton, learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Watts could not attend Oxford or Cambridge because he was a nonconformist and these universities were restricted to Anglicans—as were government positions at the time. He went to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in 1690. Much of the remainder of his life centred on that village, which is now part of Inner London.

Following his education, Watts was called as pastor of a large independent chapel in London, Mark Lane Congregational Chapel, where he helped train preachers, despite his poor health. He held religious opinions that were more nondenominational or ecumenical than was common for a nonconformist

He had a greater interest in promoting education and scholarship than preaching for any particular sect.

Watts took work as a private tutor and lived with the nonconformist Hartopp family at Fleetwood House on Church Street in Stoke Newington.

What a difficult choice of Hymn to publish.

I have chosen "When I survey the Wonderous Cross"

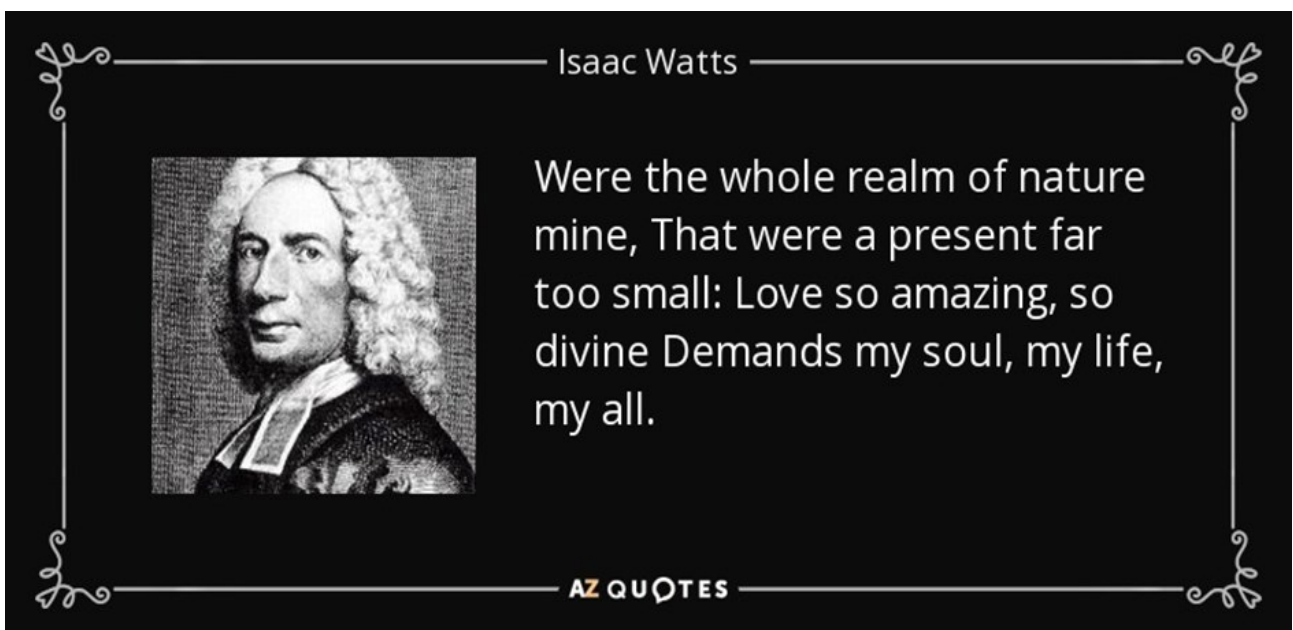
When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Allan Delves



Recycle and raise money for our charities.

Update – we can now collect plastic milk bottle tops for the Cobalt Unit.

Along with:

Greetings cards for the Cobalt Unit

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

Old or broken jewellery for The Alzheimer's Society

Old spectacles for Sightsavers

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

Ink cartridges for LINC

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

Thank you for your support.

The Messenger, March 2023

OneDiocese blog: “All children should have access to Jesus.”

Ahead of the ‘Under five and flourishing’ conference on 18 March, Sarah Major, Education Administrator for Jumping Fish Ltd at the Diocese of Gloucester, shares her calling to work with schools and churches to support children in their spiritual growth and development.

“Looking at Matthew 19:14, Jesus says, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’ He said let the little children come to me, determining all children. He didn’t invite only those that excelled in their Early Years Foundation Stage neurological markers, he said all.

“My career started in the education field. I chose to dedicate my time working with families and their young people to assist them with accessing an education – that was often tailor-made for them and their needs. It was through this work that the family as a ‘whole unit’ was highlighted, alongside how this ‘unit’ was unable to ‘unite’ themselves with pre-determined sociological and environmental markers.

“I felt a passion burning inside me to learn more about our young people who experience neurological uniqueness and I developed in this area at postgraduate level. With this wider learning, I felt empowered to apply myself within this field, ensuring that all children under my care could access education in a safe and appropriate manner.

“I was able to transfer these skills, powered by the desire to encourage all children to have access to Jesus and the remarkable work that we hear about in the Bible.

“I feel churches often struggle with knowing where to start with welcoming a family which includes diversity. Our brains are as unique as our fingertips and the task of incorporating this uniqueness into our churches is vast.”

Under five and flourishing is a day conference aimed at anyone who has contact with under fives, or any churches that want to learn more about ministry among this age group. The day offers bite-sized theory and a handful of ideas to take away to use within your setting.

There’s still time to book your place: www.gloucester.anglican.org/under-5s-and-flourishing

St James the Great Church wins award for wall paintings conservation The church in Stoke Orchard was delighted to be selected as one of the winners in the 2022 CPRE Gloucestershire Awards.

The medieval paintings are devoted to the life of St James. Of the £90,000 conservation project, Adam Klups says, “The Award recognises the direct role Gloucester DAC played in the planning and delivery of this important conservation project and our positive collaboration with the parish and accredited conservators Perry Lithgow Partnership. The project was an astonishing success, despite that both the fundraising and conservation work happened during the COVID crisis.”

Read more at gloucester.anglican.org/st-james-the-great-wins-award-for-wall-paintings-conservation-project/

Lent 2023 resources

Lent offers an opportunity for individuals and worshipping communities to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth, as we live LIFE Together.

Dust and Glory ‘Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness’ offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a practical challenge, as well as a weekly themed prayer.

“Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.” ~ Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

An accompanying children’s version is also available to help families explore how we can live well together, offering a simple daily activity designed to explore the weekly themes. Order from www.chpublishing.co.uk/lent

Journeys The Clewer Initiative’s Journeys aims to help us reflect on what really matters in our world now and how our lives might reflect the priorities of God’s Kingdom of love, compassion, justice and hope.

Journeys consists of five mini films and two accompanying resources – one for Lent and one that is suitable for anyone, at any time of year. The films include interviews with church members, experts and community leaders who have done significant anti-slavery work. <https://theclewerinitiative.org/resources/journeys> For other Lent resources, visit: www.gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/lent/

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events Drop-in café session for Children, Family and Youth Ministry 8 March, 12.30pm to 2.30pm The Bank Cafe, 80 Parsonage Street, Dursley GL11 4AA Chat over a cuppa about what's going on in your ministry with Jo Wetherall and the Youth Connect Team. For anyone involved in children's and families' ministry. <https://bit.ly/CFMcafeDursley>

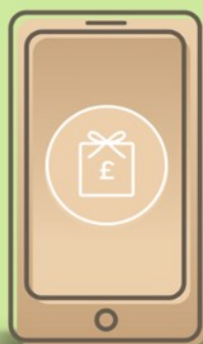
Raising awareness of domestic abuse 16 March, 7pm to 9.30pm Online or face-to-face The aim of the module is designed to equip participants to engage thoughtfully and proactively with the issue of domestic abuse and those affected. gloucester.anglican.org/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse-mar23/

Everyday mindfulness day of practice 18 March, 11am to 4.30pm The Glebe Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton, Cheltenham GL53 0QJ A quiet day of mindfulness practices for those who are on a course or have done a mindfulness course before. The day is largely in silence with very little verbal teaching or discussion – allowing you to fine tune your skills of noticing and being present in the moment. gloucester.anglican.org/everyday-mindfulness-day-of-practice

Growing young leaders 22 March, 7pm to 9pm Is your PCC talking about getting young people involved? Would you love to see young people engaged in the full life of the church in meaningful ways? In this workshop we'll look at how we recruit, encourage and grow young people as leaders – and how we need to create a church culture of standing aside to let them have a go. gloucester.anglican.org/growing-young-leaders

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](https://gloucester.anglican.org)

**MAKE A ONE-OFF GIFT TO OUR CHURCH
OR SET UP REGULAR GIVING ONLINE AT
www.parishgiving.org.uk**



**GIVE BY
A GIFT
FORM**

You can pick up a gift form from your PGS parish representative. Simply fill in the details and we'll do the rest.

**GIVE
BY
TELEPHONE**



Between Monday and Friday, 9am - 5pm, you can give to your local parish by calling the PGS team on:

0333 002 1271

A message from our treasurer

The Parish Giving Scheme can now accept one-off donations to St George's, as well as the regular donations scheme.

The QR code links to our page on the PGS system and you can select "Regular Giving" or "One-off gift".

If you select Regular Giving, this is collected by direct debit, therefore you will need to provide the appropriate information to PGS for this to be set up. One-off gifts can be made by debit or credit card.

If you are able to gift aid your donations, the PGS will handle this as well.

Thanks, Derek



From Gordon and Rona

We made our visit to Warwick towards the end of January to see our second great granddaughter Jessie Clifford. She is beautiful, (but we would say that), putting on weight but has her days and nights mixed up. She sleeps most of the day but awake most of the night, trying times for Harry & Georgia, but we have all been there, haven't we? Elsie (her sister) now 20 months is very maternal with her. We have some lovely photos.

Church diary—March 2023

1st	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
2nd	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
5th	9.00am	<i>Communion Worship Service : Church</i>
	10.00am	<i>Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre</i>
	10.30am	<i>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</i>
	5.00pm	<i>Prayer Meeting : Church Centre</i>
6th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
8th	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
9th	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
12th	9.00am	<i>Communion Worship Service : Church</i>
	10.00am	<i>Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre</i>
	10.30am	<i>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</i>
13th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
	7.00pm	APCM : Church Centre
15th	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	7.30pm	Mid-Week Church : Church Centre
16th	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
18th	10-12pm	Open Church Morning (for our wedding couples) : Church
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>		
19th	9.00am	<i>Communion Worship Service : Church</i>
	10.00am	<i>Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre</i>
	10.30am	<i>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</i>
20th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
22nd	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
	12.30pm	Lent Lunch : Church Centre
23rd	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church
25th	Time TBC	Messy Church : Church Centre
26th	9.00am	<i>Communion Worship Service : Church</i>
	10.00am	<i>Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre</i>
	10.30am	<i>Family Worship Service : Church Centre</i>
27th	10.00am	Parent and Toddler Group : Church Centre
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union meeting : Church Centre
29th	9.45am	Communion : Church Centre
30th	7.30-9pm	Bell ringing practice : Church



years on and blue sky and
happiness all the way!

On Saturday 19th January 1963 Sheila & Nigel Metcalfe were married at St George's with snow on the ground and some lovely sunshine!

60 years later, on Thursday 19th January 2023, they returned to St George's with their son and daughter and what a lovely visit they had! Their daughter, Michelle, wrote to us that day and said...

"Just wanted to say we had an amazing visit today.

Mum and Dad met the flower arranging team, who were lovely, Ann...think that was her name took some amazing photos for us and they spoke with another lady (*Anne Banting*) who was married around the same time - they were made up!! Please if you see those ladies can you say a big thank you they really made their day.

We stayed to write in the book - Mum and Dad had written in it in June 22 too...and then another fabulous lady arrived (*Liz Ashenden*) whom they chatted with, she was connected to Davis family... lived at Cooper's Hill farm...she had remarried at Brockworth...sorry don't know her name but I'm sure you know who she is..she again made my parents day

talking about old times and people and places they knew honestly they were so happy when they left couldn't have been more happy and so pleased they came back for the day.

Please could you if you see/or know the people they met say a massive thank you".

Thank you to our lovely, hospitable Flower Guild and to Liz Ashenden for making their visit so memorable!





60



Congratulations

Sheila & Nigel
on your
Diamond Wedding
Anniversary!

Women's Cheese and Wine Evening



Many thanks to Sarah and Leigh for a really lovely evening. They provided the cheese on the beautifully decorated tables and we brought and shared our own drinks. Ages ranged from a tiny baby to a 102 year old. We enjoyed each other's company, sang some great worship songs and were inspired by a short talk from Marie. I don't think any of us will forget orchid moments in a hurry! Thank you—and please can we do it again?

Pat Hartwell



My favourite Poems

Dear Readers for my contribution in this issue I have chosen another nonsense poem called Two Dead boys. It is generally believed that it was written by Tyler Ragers. But there is one school of thought that this poem was written around 1850 by an unknown Author.

The whole appeal of this poem lies in the fact it makes absolutely no sense, but it rhymes and is humorous, so it is appealing to young children that are just beginning to make sense of words and language. Two Dead Boys is full of a series of oxymorons. An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. Also called nonsense verses. Such as, "If you doubt my lies are true, ask the blind man,

Two Dead Boys

Ladies and gentlemen skinny and stout
I'll tell you a tale I know nothing about
The admission is free so pay at the door
Now pull out a chair and sit on the floor

On one bright day in the middle of the night
Two dead boys got up to fight
Back-to-back they faced each other
Drew their swords and shot each other

The blind man came to see fair play
The mute man came to shout hooray
The deaf policeman heard the noise
And came to stop those two dead boys

He lived on the corner in the middle of the block
In a two-story house on a vacant lot
A man with no legs came walking by
And kicked the lawman in his thigh

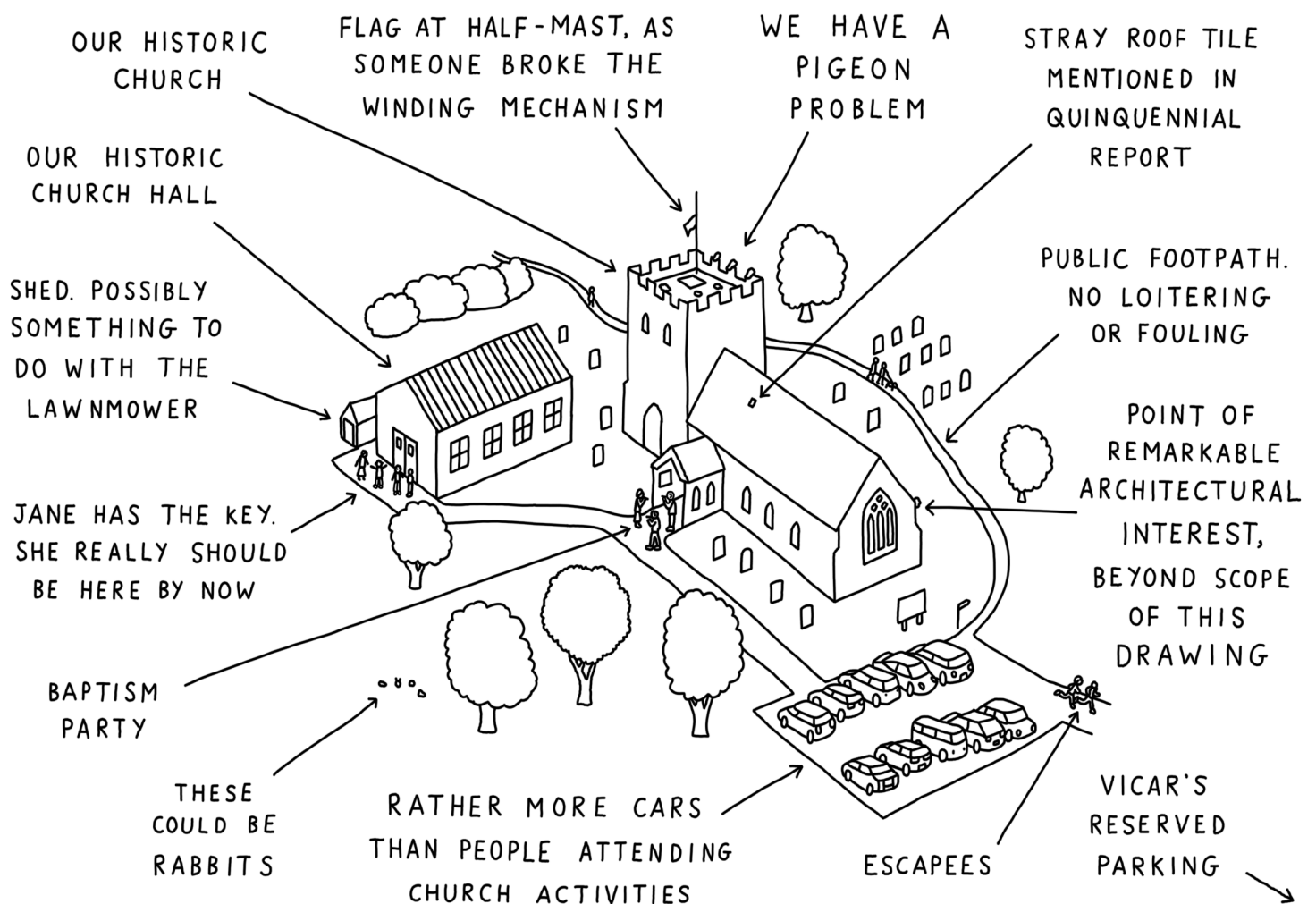
He crashed through a wall without making a sound
Into a dry creek bed and suddenly drowned
A long black hearse came to cart him away
But he ran for his life and is still gone today

I watched from the corner of the table
The only eyewitness to facts of my fable
If you doubt my lies are true
Just ask the blind man, he saw it too

Allan Delves

THE PARISH CHURCH

SEEN FROM ABOVE





The Knife Angel

The Knife Angel, which was situated in front of Gloucester Cathedral during February is a very powerful and thought-provoking piece of art.

The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour whilst solidifying our critical need for social change. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.

Winter in Weston-Super-Mare

We arrived at our hotel, The Lauriston, on the sea front at 11.30 am, parked the car, having asked permission first as we couldn't check in until 4pm, then set off to walk the entire length of the promenade. When we reach the end, we returned via the town & found a nice little café where we had our lunch. The only problem with going on holiday in January, there are not many places open, so we were very restricted.

The hotel rang me at 2pm to say our room was ready if we wanted to check in early, which we did. When we had unpacked we set off again walking round the Marine Lake to the old pier where we sat & enjoyed a cup of tea & a cake. Returning to the hotel for the evening, having walked 9 miles.

Day 2 we woke to another beautiful day & walked along the promenade again, but this time we continued across the beach to Uphill, passing the golf club & little harbour we found a café & had a coffee before returning to Knightstone Island & through to the park to see Jill's garden, A garden landscaped & dedicated to Jill Dando, who was murdered years ago. Having worn our legs out after 11.7 miles we retired to the hotel for the rest of the evening.

Day 3 A dull day & overcast so we caught the bus to Burnham-on-Sea. Again more walking from one end of the promenade to the other & then on to Highbridge along the English heritage Trail, & of course Back again. We had intended walking along Brean Downs, but as it was so misty & having promised my daughter I would be more careful, we decided to play it safe & have lunch in a café & return by bus to Weston. We clocked up 10.5 miles that day.

Day 4. I woke up on my birthday to another fairly dull day & decided to catch the bus to Sand Bay. Again we walked the full length of the bay & back, had a coffee & found a seat on which to eat our lunch. Then caught the bus back, getting off at the old pier & walking back to the hotel. We revived after a drink & walked back along the sea front to have our dinner at The Brewers Fayre as a birthday treat. 11.6 miles today & another year older.

Day 5. Our last day, so after breakfast we loaded the car & checked out. We once again walked the length of the promenade & the sea was in up to the wall, which was quite a novelty for Weston.

Home, then having clocked up another 5.8 miles.

We are now back to reality & only walking 4 to 5 miles around Brockworth.

I do hope you have enjoyed a winter outing to Weston with us.

Jenny & Paul.



Brockworth Food Larder

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

Please could you consider donating long life or tinned food, drinks or toiletries.

All items can be taken to Brockworth Community Centre whenever it is open.

Thank you

BIBLE JOKES

What's a dentist's favourite hymn?

Crown him with many crowns.

What kind of car does Jesus typically drive? ...

A Chrysler.

What kind of man was Boaz before he got married? He
was Ruth-less.

If Goliath would come back to life today, would you like to tell him
the joke about David and Goliath? ...

No, he already fell for it once.

In the beginning, God created the earth and rested. Then God
created Man and rested. Then God created Woman.

Since then, neither God nor Man has rested.

A teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of
their favourite Bible stories.

She was puzzled by a boy's picture which showed four people
on an aircraft, so she asked him which story it was meant to
represent. 'The flight to Egypt,' he replied. 'I see...And that must
be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus,' she said. 'But who's the
fourth person?'

'Oh, that's Pontius – the Pilot!'

At what time of day did God create Adam?

Just before Eve.

Why did the hawk sit on the church steeple?

Because it was a bird of pray.

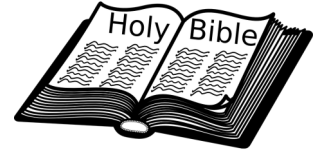
What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

I hope you enjoyed this collection of Bible jokes!

Allan Delves

Daily Bible readings March



Wednesday 1st	Jonah 3; Luke 11:29-32
Thursday 2nd	Esther 14:1-5,12-14; Matthew 7:7-12
Friday 3rd	Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday 4th	Deuteronomy 26:16-end; Matthew 5:43-end
Monday 6th	Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday 7th	Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday 8th	Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday 9th	Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-end
Friday 10th	Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Matthew 21:33-43,45-46
Saturday 11th	Micah 7:14-15,18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-end
Monday 13th	2 Kings 5:1-15; Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 14th	Song of the Three 2:11-20; Matthew 18:21-end
Wednesday 15th	Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 16th	Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
Friday 17th	Hosea 14; Mark 12:28-34
Saturday 18th	Hosea 5:15-6:6; Luke 18:9-14
Monday 20th	2 Samuel 7:4-16; Matthew 1:18-end
Tuesday 21st	Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 22nd	Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30
Thursday 23rd	Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-end
Friday 24th	Wisdom 2:1,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday 25th	Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38
Monday 27th	Susanna 1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; John 8:1-11
Tuesday 28th	Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30
Wednesday 29th	Daniel 3:14-20,24-25,28; John 8:31-42
Thursday 30th	Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-end
Friday 31st	Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-end

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

Shopping

Household washing

Ironing

Domestic Duties



I can assist you with the above and have experience of this, particularly with elderly persons and can supply references.

Contact: Pjemma@live.co.uk 07904 211845

Don't be shy!

This is *your* magazine. We need your interesting stories, facts, jokes, poems, quotes, recipes, brain teasers, photos, notices or anything else that others would enjoy reading.

All contributions will be gratefully received by the church office or, preferably, please email:
[stgeorgesbrockworthmag](mailto:stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com)

@gmail.com

**The DEADLINE for the
April edition is 15th March
Thank you.**



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



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
<i>Additional services in addition to toe nail treatments above if conducted at the same appointment:</i>	
Routine fingernail cut	£5
Nails varnished (each set)	£5
Foot & lower leg massage	£5
Hand & arm massage	£5

LAWNMOWERS

SERVICED – SHARPENED – REPAIRED

***ALSO:- RIDE-ON MOWERS, CHAINSAWS,
ROTAVATORS, STRIMMERS, HEDGETRIMMERS ETC.***

COLLECTION & DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Tel : CHELTENHAM MOWERS LIMITED

Tel : 01452 616169

Unit B3, Nexus, Hurricane Road, Gloucester Business Park, Glos. GL3 4AG

Visit and Buy On-Line at www.mowers-online.co.uk

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A VENUE

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

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

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

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

For further details, call the Church office on **01452 550554**

Email: hire@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

Or see our website:

www.stgeorgesbrockworth.org