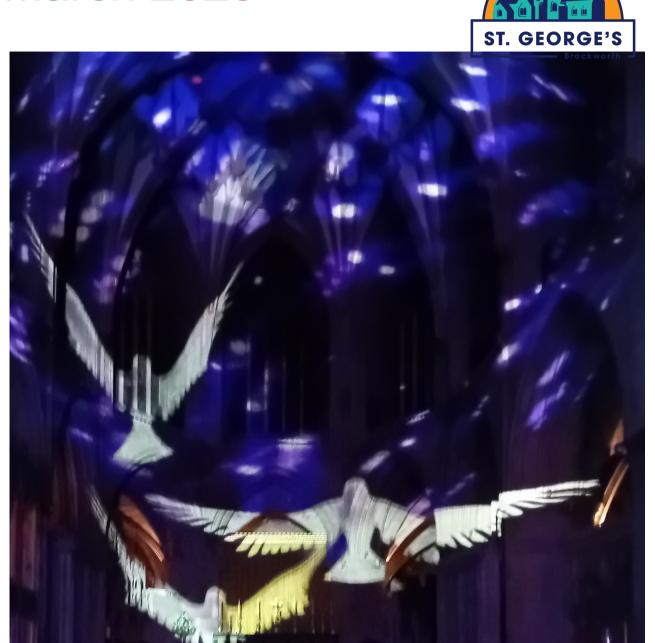
March 2025



To grow through faith, prayer and worship in Brockworth, to make committed followers of Jesus.

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, Thursday and 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

Churchwardens: Positions vacant

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732

email: treasurer@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

PCC Secretary: Mrs Elaine Marsh

email: pcc@stgeorgesbrockworth.org

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 15/02325

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: Peace doves in Tewkesbury Abbey. Photo : Jenny Farmer



.... You deserve it.

We all love a reward, whether you're a child and get a sticker for great handwriting or a grown-up redeeming club card points, we do like a reward.

When we receive an award, which can be as **simple as a word of encouragement** or a 'thank you,' our bodies respond physiologically. The reward triggers our brains to release dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with **pleasure and motivation**. We feel good about ourselves.

The idea of **rewards is hugely important to us** and rooted in both the bible and human nature. We naturally seek rewards because we are created in God's image with a desire for fulfilment, purpose, and joy. Even in everyday life, rewards (whether spiritual or material) reinforce good behaviours and perseverance. They speak to us as we journey in life, and more profoundly in faith, and help us grow in faith and deepen our trust in our God and Saviour through several ways:

God's Provision: The story of God speaks of rewards as a way to encourage faithfulness, perseverance, and obedience.

Jesus himself talked about reward in heaven for those who follow him faithfully:

"Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" – Matthew 5:12

Rewards are not merely about personal gain; they also serve as motivation to live in accordance with God's will. Jesus frequently employed parables, such as the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30, to emphasise that faithfulness results in greater responsibility and a reward. These stories help us perceive **God as a good and generous being**, eager to bestow substantial rewards.

God's Justice: God is just, and **rewards form part of His justice system**. He observes and acknowledges the sacrifices, faith, and righteousness of His people. Rewards are significant because they reflect God's justice, encourage perseverance, and align with our God-given desire for fulfilment. However, Jesus reminds us to seek the ultimate reward—eternal life with Him!

Eternal Rewards: It is easy to focus on what our culture considers important and valuable and, therefore, what a good reward would look like. However, the Bible always directs us to the **ultimate and eternal rewards**: a life with our creator and saviour in the Kingdom of Heaven.

What are your thoughts? Which rewards resonate with you most strongly: gifts, kind words, or money? How do you feel about delayed gratification—refraining from receiving your reward in this lifetime?

Come and join us as we journey together in our faith. We meet at 9 a.m. in St. George's Church for a friendly, formal communion service. Alternatively, join us at 10:30 a.m. in St. George's Church Centre for an equally friendly but less formal worship gathering—with kids' groups.



Mike Smith

Peace Doves at Tewkesbury Abbey.

It was a miserably damp evening when two friends and I drove to Tewkesbury Abbey in February. We had booked for 7pm, but arrived early & were allowed to go straight in. We were faced with well over 100 white paper doves hanging from the roof. They were floodlit with changing coloured lights. Then as we looked towards the altar there was a kaleidoscope of colours depicting the tree of life, flowers & doves flying upwards. This beautiful light display was all accompanied with haunting music. All in all a beautiful and peaceful 3/4 hour to come to after the cold damp evening of the day.





As we left the Abbey everyone was given a card on which was printed the following prayer.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

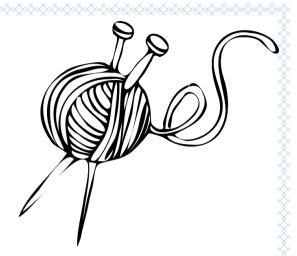
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you.

Jenny Farmer

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. Free of charge.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18th March

MARCH

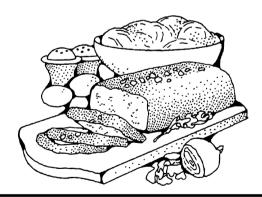
Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at arocha.org.uk/ connect-with-gods-creation-over lent/

The Food Larder

The Brockworth centre is based in Court Road GL3 4ET. We have a Facebook page and a WhatsApp page and posters in the doctors' surgery. The local schools can refer families for food parcels. Service users can refer themselves for food and hygiene products when available. We help people living in the community to have access to food that they cannot afford to buy - this may be because they are living on benefits etc, or have lost their jobs, or are single parents or pensioners who are finding it hard to budget.

Contributions to the food larder are accepted in the Community Centre whenever it is open.

Thank you.





The next meeting is on Monday 24th March 2.30 pm at the Church Centre

Rev'd Liz Palin

Lady Day Service

A day early for the Feast of the Annunciation but we will welcome Liz to lead us in a service. She is particularly welcome as bad weather and motorway closure prevented her from visiting us last year.

All welcome.

We ask you, Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts.

As we have known the incarnation of your son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel, so by his cross and passion may we be brought into the glory of his resurrection.

Amen

Our prayer and worship is central to our work. We believe that prayer can be transformational and can make a huge difference to lives on an individual and community basis.

Mothers' Union worldwide work in partnership with churches to serve God in local communities, and to support clergy with our faith and worship resources - as well as with practical help such as supporting baptismal families. We have a network of diocesan chaplains supporting the faith of our members as well as acting as a link between the Church and Mothers' Union. Our Central Chaplain supports both members and staff as well as being our advocate within the wider Church.



More photographic treasures from the archives. This is apparently what Mothers' Union members used to get up to. If anyone can put names to faces, we'd love to know!



CHORUSES CONTINUED

Continuing my series on Choruses, most of which I learnt and sung at Sunday School and were a single verse from a popular American Gospel Hymn. This composition is no different - "Bringing in the Sheaves" is a popular American Gospel hymn used almost exclusively by Protestant Christians (though the content is not specifically Protestant in nature). The lyrics were written in 1874 by Knowles Shaw, who was inspired by Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him". Shaw also wrote music for these words, but they are now usually set to a tune by George Minor, written in 1880.

Knowles Shaw (1834-1878), a name familiar in many US households--was born near New London, in Morgan Township, Ohio, on the 13th of October 1834. His mother's maiden name was Huldah Griffin, and by both of his parents he was of Scottish extraction. His early life was spent in Rush County, Indiana, where he first began to play the violin, furnishing the music for many a dance. While the ball was going on he was converted, ceasing to play in the middle of the piece he was performing. Very soon thereafter he entered the ministry of the Christian Church. On the 11th of January 1855, he married Miss Martha Finley. Most of his time after entering the ministry was spent in the West and South, and we are told he had wonderful vocal powers

Bringing in the Sheaves is more appropriate to our Harvest Festival. In Yorkshire when the crops were gathered in, we as children would take a few remaining stalks and cut, fold and bend them to make a corn dolly. A corn dolly is an emblem or figure created from plaited or braided straw. Corn Dollies are made by either plaiting around a core, usually made from a tightly bunched groups of straw stems or plaited freehand so they are hollow. Different amounts of straw stems make different designs and patterns.

They are connected to harvest time and the preservation of the corn spirit to ensure a successful harvest the following year.

Bringing in the Sheaves

We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves
Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves



Finally, the National Farmers Union logo or emblem is a bunch of corn This appears on all their correspondence. On September 13th 2023 MPs including Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer wore wheat-sheaf badges pinned to their lapels.

The National Farmers' Union encouraged electoral representatives to support Back British Farming Day by fixing ears of wheat to their lapels.

Unique Quiz: Abbreviations Part Two

- 1.NASA
- 2. NSPCC
- 3. HI-FI
- 4. WI-FI
- 5. BLT
- 6. N.B.
- 7. RADAR
- 8. I.B.I.D
- 9. ETA
- 10. FTSE
- 11. CV
- 12. DIY
- 13. P.S.
- 14. RSPCA
- 15. CEO
- 16. HIV AIDS
- 17. RAC
- 18. MS three possible answers
- 19. LASER
- 20. SOS
- 21. UFO
- 22. ECG
- 23. FAQ
- 24. ATM
- 25. IOW

Allan Delves

Message from Bishop Robert

Both Bishop Rachel and I find that one of the delights of our ministry is visiting parishes and communities, Sunday by Sunday and week by week, joining with communities, sometime large, often small, in worship and in service. So far this year I have travelled from village to market town, from the Cotswolds to the Forest of Dean, delighting in our common life, so grateful to be rooted in the communities that together make us the Diocese of Gloucester.

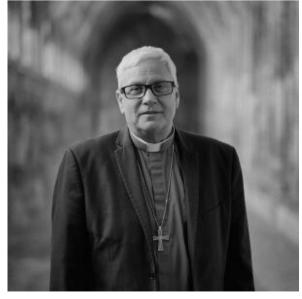
This week the Church of England's General Synod is meeting, and they have important business to do, not least in making decisions on the future organisation of safeguarding. Please do hold in your prayers not simply the Synod but especially our own representatives, clergy and lay, elected and chosen by us, that they may have wisdom and insight, and that they may know God's abiding presence with them in these days. I suspect that their discussion and decisions will get much coverage and much comment. Yet while the Church is fully present at Synod, we know that is not the full story, for the Church is also fully present in the communities where we worship and where we serve right across our diocese and each of the dioceses that make up the Church of England, and beyond in the Anglican Communion and the worldwide Church. There is not just one story of the Church, there are many stories that together make our life.

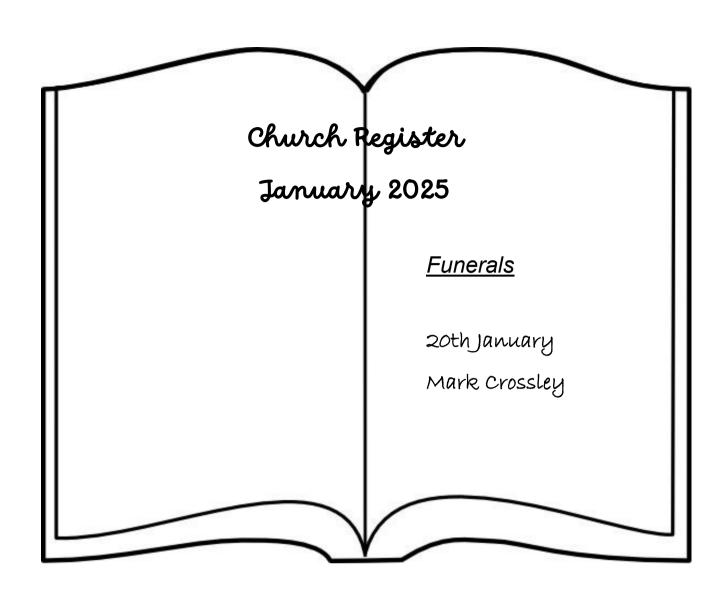
We will tell of ways in which those in need are cared for, supported and encouraged by our communities of hospitality and friendship. We will tell of the work of the Church, often in partnership with others, providing support through foodbanks, bereavement care, supporting children and families, the elderly and vulnerable. Nationally we will tell of our work tackling the housing crisis, combating the climate crisis and speaking for those on the margins of society. Beyond our own shores we see, in our own partnerships in Africa, India and Sweden, the Church, diverse, full of life, seeking to share the love of God, working for the Kingdom. Each story we tell is important.

We must also tell the challenging stories, for it is only in doing so, as we see with our safeguarding practice, that as a Church we can face our failures and make necessary change. As we address our failings as a Church, we pray that those other stories of God at work may shine even brighter with the light of Christ and the Kingdom of God might grow in and through us.

I know, and Bishop Rachel knows, from our engagement with you and the communities of our diocese how much good news there is to tell, the good news of our God in in Jesus dwells in the mess of life. Thank you for the life in which we share, for your encouragement, for all you are and all you do.

+ Robert





Support the work of St George's church in Brockworth.

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

THANK YOU



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



PRESS RELEASE



"I made you wonderful"

Kia Orana!

Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'.

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world; their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast, the service begins with the writing country and theme being chosen a number of years earlier. Once written it goes to the International Committee in New York for translation and dissemination to the National Committee in each participating country. The service is then discussed and edited before being presented nationally, regionally and then locally for branches to make their plans. Finally, at a church near you, on Friday 7 March 2025, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of The Cook Islands.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world — through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. A worldwide wave of prayer...

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk

This year's service will be held on Friday 7th March at 10am and St George's are hosting it in the Church Centre.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be available.

Daily Bible Readings March 2025



Saturday	1st	Ecclesiastes 17. 1-15	Mark 10. 13 -16
Monday	3rd	Ecclesiastes 17. 24-29	Mark 10. 17-27
Tuesday	4th	Ecclesiastes 35. 1-12	Mark 10. 28-31
Wednesday	5th	Isaiah 58. 1-12	Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21
Thursday	6th	Deuteronomy 30. 15 - end	Luke 9.22-25
Friday	7th	Isaiah 58. 1-9a	Matthew 9.14-15
Saturday	8th	Isaiah 58. 9b-end	Luke 5. 27-32
Monday	10th	Leviticus 19. 1-2, 11-18	Matthew 25. 31-end
Tuesday	11th	Isaiah 55. 10-11	Matthew 6. 7-15
Wednesday	12th	Jonah 3	Luke 11. 29-32
Thursday	13th	Isaiah 55. 6-9	Matthew 7.7-12
Friday	14th	Ezekiel 18. 21-28	Matthew 5. 20-26
Saturday	15th	Deuteronomy 26. 16 - end	Matthew 5. 43 -end
Monday	17th	Daniel 9. 4-10	Luke 6.36-38
Tuesday	18th	Isaiah 1. 10, 16-20	Matthew 23. 1-12
Wednesday	19th	Isaiah 11, 1-10	Matthew 13. 54 - end
Thursday	20th	Jeremiah 17. 5-end	Luke 16. 19-end
Friday	21st	Genesis 37. 3-4, 12-13, 17-28	Matthew 21. 33-43, 45-46
Saturday	22nd	Micah 7. 14-15, 18-20	Luke 15. 1-3,11-end
Monday	24th	2 Kings 5. 1-15	Luke 4.24-30
Tuesday	25th	Isaiah 7. 10-14	Luke 1. 26-38
Wednesday	26th	Deuteronomy 4. 1, 5-9	Matthew 5. 17-19
Thursday	27th	Jeremiah 7. 23-28	Luke 11. 14-23
Friday	28th	Hosea 14	Mark 12. 28-34
Saturday	29th	Hosea 5. 15 - 6. 6	Luke 18. 9-14
Monday	31st	Isaiah 65. 17 - 21	John 4. 43 - end

Church Diary - March 2025

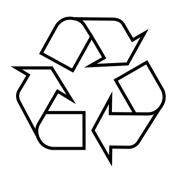
Hello, I am Rachel, the new church administrator. It is lovely to be part of the magazine. Please be in contact with any questions

Sunday	2nd	9am - Communion Service: Church	
		10am - Church Family gather for coffee and biscuits: Church Centre	
		10.30am -Communion and Brunch Service	
		5pm - Engine Room: Prayer Meeting - Church Centre	
Tuesday	4th	10am - Friendship Club Cafe: Church Centre Lounge	
Wednesday	5th	9.45am - Communion: Church Centre Chapel	
		7.30pm—DASEL course: Church Centre Lounge	
Thursday	6th	7.30pm - Bell ringing practice - Church	
Friday	7th	10am - World Day of Prayer - Church Centre	
Sunday	9th	9am - Communion Service: Church	
		10am - Church Family gather for coffee and biscuits: Church Centre	
		10.30am - Family Worship Service	
		5pm - Engine Room: Prayer Meeting - Church Centre	
Wednesday	12th	9.45am - Communion: Church Centre Chapel	
		12pm - Lent Lunch - Church Centre	
		7.30pm—DASEL course: Church Centre Lounge	
Thursday	13th	7.30pm - Bell ringing practice - Church	
Sunday	16th	9am - Communion Service: Church	
		10am - Church Family gather for coffee and biscuits: Church Centre	
		10.30am - Family Worship Service	
		5pm - Engine Room: Prayer Meeting - Church Centre	
Tuesday	18th	10am - Knit and Stitch group: Church Centre Lounge	
Wednesday	19th	9.45am - Communion: Church centre Chapel	
		12pm - Lent Lunch - Church Centre Hall	
		7.30pm—DASEL course: Church Centre Lounge	
Thursday	20th	7.30pm - Bell ringing practice - Church	
Sunday	23rd	9am - Communion Service: Church	
		10am - Church Family gather for coffee and biscuits: Church Centre	
		10.30am - Family Worship Service	
		5pm - Engine Room: Prayer Meeting - Church Centre	
Wednesday	26th	9.45am - Communion: Church centre Chapel	
		12pm - Lent Lunch - Church Centre Hall	
		7.30pm—DASEL course: Church Centre Lounge	
Thursday	27th	7.30pm - Bell ringing practice - Church	
Sunday	30th	9am - Communion Service: Church	
		10am - Church Family gather for coffee and biscuits: Church Centre	
		10.30am - Family Worship Service	
		5pm - Engine Room: Prayer Meeting - Church Centre	

Recycle and raise money for our charities.

We collect::

Used greetings cards for the Cobalt Unit



Used postage stamps for The James Hopkins Trust. (special thanks to the lady who brings so many!)

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, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 – 11.30am

Thank you for your support.



Brockworth

Churchyard Tidy Ups

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

DATES FOR 2025:

Saturday 26th April - 9:30am-12:30pm (big spring tidy-up!)

Saturday 19th July - 9:30am-12:30pm (summer tidy-up!)

Saturday 4th October - 9:30am-12:30pm (autumn tidy-up!)

Saturday 6th December - 10am-11am (one hour leaf clear)

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

If you'd like to sign up, receive reminder emails, or know more, please visit:

stgeorgesbrockworth.org/tidychurchyard



Customer service?

A little old lady tried to phone her local bank but was put through instead to the bank's call centre.

"Is that the High Street branch?" she asked.

"No madam," replied the voice at the other end.

"It is now company policy to deal with telephone calls centrally."

"Well I really need to speak to the branch," said the old lady.

"Madam, if you just let me know your query, I'm sure I can help you."

"I don't think you can, young man. I need to speak to the branch."

The call centre operator was adamant.

"There's nothing that the branch can help you with that can't be dealt with by me."

"Very well then," sighed the old lady.

"Can you just check on the counter? Did I leave my gloves behind when I came in this morning?"

Mervyn Watts



Quiz Answers

- 1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 2. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- 3. High Fidelity
- 4. Wireless Fidelity
- 5. Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato sandwich
- 6. Nota Bene, Note well
- 7. Radio Detection and Ranging
- 8. Ibidem, Latin for in the same place
- 9. Estimated Time of Arrival
- 10. Financial Times Stock Exchange
- 11. Curriculum Vitae
- 12. Do it Yourself
- 13. Post Scriptum
- 14. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- 15. Chief Executive Officer
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- 17. Royal Automobile Club
- 18. Master of Science, female title, Multiple Sclerosis
- 19. Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
- 20. Save Our Souls
- 21. Unidentified Flying Object
- 22. Electrocardiogram
- 23. Frequently Asked Questions
- 24. Automated Teller Machine
- 25. Isle of Wight



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:

March 4th

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 Messenger, March 2025

Cheltenham Street Pastor volunteers urgently needed

Street Pastor patrols in Cheltenham are being reduced or even cancelled due to falling numbers of volunteer pastors. Over the last few years volunteer numbers have halved, and the scheme is urgently looking for new volunteers to serve Cheltenham's nighttime streets.

Street Pastors patrol in teams once a month on either a Friday or Saturday night from 10pm to 4am, helping people who might need it and offering a listening ear. Without new recruits, the Pastors may have to further scale back their work, leaving gaps in support for those who rely on them.

It has been running in Cheltenham for 15 years, helping to keep the town safer and more supported during busy night-time hours, but a recent squeeze on volunteer numbers has led to many people prioritising their local church, above volunteering for wider ranging schemes like Street Pastors.

Jenny Bartlett, a Prayer Pastor and member of Trinity, Cheltenham, said: "Street Pastors offers a practical way for Christians to demonstrate their faith in action while continuing to serve within their own churches. The time commitment for a Cheltenham Street Pastors is just once a month on a Friday or Saturday night.

"At the recent commissioning service, we were reminded that Jesus was the first Street Pastor. Cheltenham Street Pastors aim to follow His example of meeting people where they are. All teams are supported by a group of Prayer Pastors and there are many reports of Street Pastors being in the right place at the right time while they are out."

Prayer Pastors and there are many reports of Street Pastors being in the right place at the right time while they are out."

Bishop Robert joined the Cheltenham Street Pastors back in September for their regular community patrol https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/bishop-roberts-night-on-the-town-with-cheltenham-street-pastors. On BBC Radio Gloucester, he said: "It was the most wonderful evening. It was joyous to be out with those clubbing who were just having great fun and full of life, and it was equally joyous to be with the team of Street Pastors – a different age group to those clubbing, but also full of life.

"These are Christians who are really working out what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, in a way that isn't just about being in church, but about practical care and service, and being there for everyone."

If you are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, you can sign up for an hour-long try-out session through their 'come and see' campaign. More information

at https://streetpastors.org/locations/cheltenham/, or you can email cheltenham@streetpastors.org.uk.

Ash Wednesday – what's it all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period in the lead up to Easter. Lent is a chance to slow down and be more intentional about your time and priorities, making time to put God first whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or giving something up.

Ash Wednesday itself started in the early Church, around 1st to 4th century as a form of public repentance, through sprinkling of ashes.

In services today, priests mark people's foreheads with ashes – a symbol of humility and a reminder of human mortality. Priests will say the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return", originating from Genesis 3:19 when God tells Adam that his life, like all human life, is temporary, but turning back towards God offers something eternal.

Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, where he fasted, prayed, and resisted temptation (Matthew 4:1–11). Just as Jesus withdrew to focus on God, Lent invites us to step away from daily distractions and reflect on our lives – what's going well, where we need growth, and how we can deepen our faith.

In medieval times, Christians followed strict fasting rules, like giving up meat, dairy, and sometimes fish. These days, it's more flexible; some choose to give up something they love, like sweets, caffeine, or social media. Others choose to take on something positive, such as daily prayer, volunteering, or acts of kindness.

Ash Wednesday falls on 5 March this year. Whether you're a lifelong Christian, someone rediscovering faith, or just curious, you're welcome to attend a service and experience this tradition for yourself. To find your nearest church, visit www.achurchnearyou.com.

If you decide to participate in Lent, remember that Lent isn't about self-denial, but about renewal and a chance to reset, refocus, and prepare for the joy of Easter. We have lots of resources on our website to help guide you through Lent – visit https://gloucester.anglican.org/living-faith/everyday-faith/lent.

Uniting Gloucester in prayer

2025 is the year for every street in Gloucester to be united in prayer. Pray for Gloucester is an ecumenical, Gloucester city-wide initiative, with a free app to track physical and virtual prayer walks.

The Revd Jo Pestell, Vicar at St Catharine's, formed this initiative to bring churches together in prayer for all of Gloucester. If you aren't keen on using an app, you can use a paper map to track your route and have someone log it for you.

Be part of this mission. Download the app and start prayer walking today at www.pray4gloucester.uk or start your own local prayer walk in your home area.

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

Family pancake party 4 March, 3.30pm to 5pm at St Michael and All Angels Church, Gloucester GL2 8BN For primary school children and their families to do activities and crafts, listen to a story and eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW33B1SIPn1sNJwJyYSOll5f6qMiIyzgzqHtn6O3Yl9kG42Q/viewform

Holocaust Memorial Day – Remembering Srebrenica

8 March, 7pm at St Mary's Church, Wotton Under Edge, Gloucester, GL12 7LS

A Holocaust Memorial Day service with guest speaker Sheila Osmanovic, who will share her experience of the siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica genocide. https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/holocaust-memorial-day-remembering-srebrenica/

Spring craft fayre

29 March, 10am to 1pm, St Stephen's Church, Belle Vue Road, Cinderford GL14 2AA

Showcasing a range of stalls by local artisans, along with Fairtrade food and gifts from global sources. Free entry, with hot food, drinks, and cakes. https://allevents.in/gloucester/spring-craft-fayre/

Professional hands, feet, and nail care services.
Fully qualified, trained and contracted by Birmingham Podiatry.
Insured - CRB checked.
Telephone Germaine on 07738 020426

Menu of services

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

Foot treatment £25

Extra services in addition to toenail treatments above if conducted at the same appointment

Hand treatment £7

Foot and lower leg massage &5

Hand and arm massage £5

Nails varnished (each set) £5



Don't forget

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 £22 per hour, or £80 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