October 2024





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—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: 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 November issue is 15/10/244

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: View from Watermead towards Cooper's Hill

St George's Friendship Club extends the hand of friendship to everyone, irrespective of faith, race, age or gender. We meet at 10am on the first Tuesday of the month, we meet for around an hour and enjoy a cuppa or coffee and a biscuit, and occasionally we get a home make cake!

We chat about everything and anything, I was recently educated on what Forced Rhubarb is and that Yorkshire is famous for growing it – and I'm from Yorkshire! We also chat about what the grandchildren are up to, TV shows, films that we love, and how my granny cooked on an open range cooker because she didn't have an electric cooker until the early 1990's and there was no gas to the village.



Do you have any stories you could come along and share?

You are welcome to pop in for a quick cuppa or come for an hour whatever you can manage. There is no charge. We love meeting new people and hearing your stories.

Why not come along and try us out. The next few dates are 1st October, 5th November, 3rd December, and 7th January in St. George's Church centre.

THE FIRST CORDLESS PHONE WAS CREATED BY GOD

HE NAMED IT
PRAYER

IT NEVER LOSES IT'S SIGNAL
AND YOU NEVER
HAVE TO RECHARGE IT.

USE IT ANYWHERE

From Patrick Reynolds

ST. GEORGE'S Brockworth

WORSHIP NIGHTS

7:20pm for 7:30pm start 8:10pm finish

Join us in the Church Centre for 30 minutes of contemporary (aka loudish!) worship, followed by 10 minutes for silent, or requested, prayer.

Feel free to sit and be still, sing, pray, walk around, 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

Brockworth Children's Summer Programme.

For the first time St. George's joined forces with Brockworth Link and the United Reform Church to provide a Children's Summer Programme; safe, fun, and inclusive activities for the lies of Brockworth.







The summer programme gave us the opportunity to reach out to our local community and share God's love by offering activities to engage, entertain, and feed our young people free of charge.

The programme was a great success building relationships and connections within the local community.

During the month of August, we offered ...

15 events; activity sessions, face painting, forest school, donkey rides, art and craft sessions and a Glow in the Dark disco (a significant achievement for the middle of summer!)

14 volunteers helped and loved meeting and reconnecting with local friends and families.

We welcomed **226 children 4–11 year olds** from Brockworth & **16 young adults 10-15 year olds**.

And we couldn't ignore the stars of the show **donkeys**!



2

The donkey rides and forest school were by far the most loved events with all guests saying they would love to do it again.

It is wonderful and rewarding to see the excitement and joy from all our guests and children, but even more rewarding to see **children grow in confidence** throughout the Sportily games.

A massive thank you to all the people and organisations that made this happen.

Raise FREE donations for

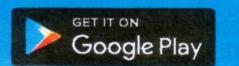
St George's Church - Brockworth

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https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgeorgebrockworth/

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2.30 pm From Darkness to Light In the Church Centre

At our October meeting, Rev'd Meg Heywood will be our speaker.

Meg is an experienced educator, serving in parishes in Oxford Diocese.

When living in Cheltenham, over thirty years ago, Meg started a group at the church she attended, aimed mainly for women. That group still meets and many friendships that flourished there are still enjoyed. On retirement, Meg and her husband David, another clergy person, chose Gloucestershire as their retirement home.

All welcome, do come along

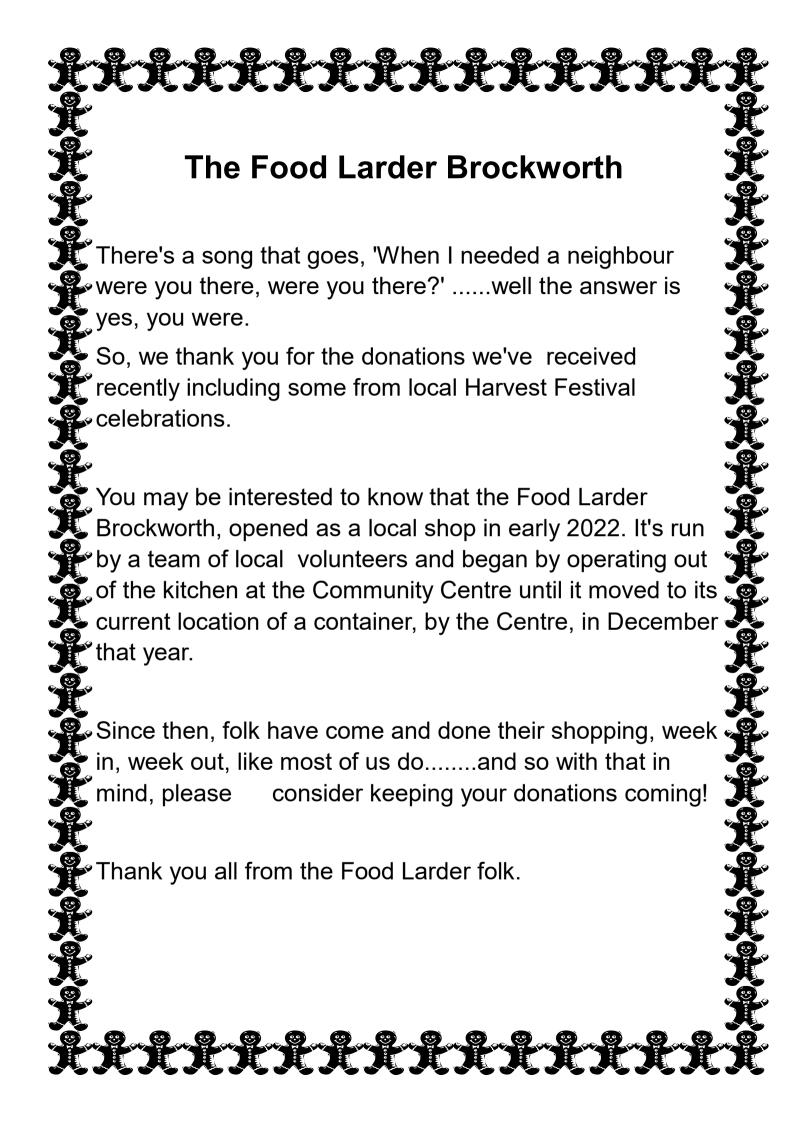
Empower Her Literacy

This is the Mothers' Union new campaign, aiming to work towards enabling many people to become literate.

480 million in the world are illiterate, many women are unable to register their children's births or read health instructions.

Merciful God, grant people the opportunity to learn to read and write. Give thanks for those who help support those wishing to learn and soften the hearts of those who prevent people accessing education.

"Your Word is a lamp to our feet." Amen





Do come and join us for our next Ladies evening which will be held on Friday

1st November
(not 26th October as previously advertised)
from 6.30pm

In the Church Centre

It will be a very informal Bring and Share supper

We look forward to another happy evening and hope you can come along and enjoy it with us.



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Knit and Stitch



Our Knit and Stitch group is steadily growing, but is still small enough for everyone to chat to each other whilst knitting, crocheting or sewing.

Some members have on-going projects for charity, but we are all going to knit or stitch decorations for a tree at the Christmas Treefest which starts this year on December 6th.

****************** We'd love you to come and join us. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, so the next one is on October 15th at 10am. We enjoy a coffee, tea and a biscuit or two, all free of charge, and a good ***** old natter. Hope to see you!

PS. If anyone has unwanted buttons, we can use them on twiddle muffs for folk with dementia. Thank you.



Friendship club

@

St. George's Church Centre.

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

Next meeting:

October 1st

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!

ST. GEORGE'S

Churchyard Tidy Ups

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

Saturday 26 October 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, and we're desperate for willing people from the community to join our cheery team.

Tools are helpful to bring but not essential.

No gardening experience needed.

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. •





Prayer

O God, help us today to think of the feelings of others as much as we think of our own. If we know there are things which annoy those people with whom we live and work, help us not to do them; if there are things which would please them, help us to go out of our way to do them.

Help us to think before we speak, so that we may not thoughtlessly or tactlessly hurt or embarrass anyone else.

If we differ with anyone, help us to do so with courtesy; if we argue with anyone, help us to do so without losing our tempers. If we have to find fault with anyone, help us to do so with kindness; if anyone has a fault to find with us, help us to accept it with good grace,

And so, help us through this and every day to treat others as we would wish them to treat us, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Contributed by Liz Ashenden A prayer her mother lived by.



Lament for Creation

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

The purple headed mountains
The rivers running by
Are filled with deadly toxins
Cascading from the sky.
All things bright and beautiful...

Each little flower that opens

Each little bird that sings

Is tainted with the plastic

We've thrown into our bins.

All things bright and beautiful...

The typhoons in the winter

The burning summer sun

The changes in the climate

Have only just begun

All things bright and beautiful...

The rich man at his castle
The poor man at the gate
All humans high and lowly
Will suffer the same fate.
All things bright and beautiful

Contributed by Patrick Reynolds

Just for fun

A man goes into a cinema with his dog to watch a film. It's a romantic comedy and when there's a funny scene the dog starts laughing. A little later on there is a sad part and suddenly the dog starts crying.

This goes on throughout the film, laughing and crying in all the right places. A man sitting a few rows back has witnessed the entire thing and decides to follow the man out. In the foyer,

he approaches the dog owner and says,

"That dog is truly amazing!"

"It certainly is" the dog owner replied, "He hated the book!"

Mervyn Watts

Can you give Ellie a loving home?

Ellie needs someone to look after her for several months, starting sometime soon.

She is 10 years old, very quiet, loves company and enjoys a wander in the garden where she loves to sit and to sleep.

Ellie is up to date with all her vaccinations and we will be happy to help financially with her keep and will take care of any unforeseen veterinary expenses.



If you think you may be able to help or would like to know more about Ellie, then please call Phil on 01452 690936.

My Favourite Hymns: Calon Lan (Pure Heart)

Listening to Songs of Praise at the beginning of August, the singing of the famous Welsh Hymn Calon Lan brought back many memories of hearing this Hymn always sung in Welsh before the start of Rugby matches at the Millenium Stadium

"Calon" is the Welsh word for "heart", while "glen" means clean. The overall meaning of "Calon lân" refers to a heart that is pure – so, basically, "A Pure Heart" The meaning of the song Calon Lân is about the desire to live a pure, honest life and not to live a life of luxury or material wealth. As the lyrics of the hymn clearly express, the meaning of life is thought to be an honest heart, full of joy, that is much more fulfilling than a life of worldly possessions. The hymn could be seen as an expression of the desire to live a virtuous life, free from the temptations and trappings brought by capitalism.

The final verse mentions God, which connects the song with its original incarnation as a hymn. During the Welsh Christian Revival of 1904-5, the song was thought to express a spiritual desire and longing for personal holiness or salvation.

Wales is often known as the Land of Song so the lyrics about "singing the day and singing the night" might be particularly important to the Welsh, who find a great source of joy and community from singing.

So, dear readers what do we know about the author? It was originally written as a hymn in the early 1890s.by Daniel James who wrote the Calon Lân lyrics and John Hughes the tune. Daniel James was one of five children and was born on 23rd January 1848 and lived in Llangyfelach_Road, Trenoeth Swansea. John Hughes was born in 1872 in Pen y Bryn, Pembrokeshire and he composed and harmonised the tune at the invitation of Daniel James.

Although Calon Lân has been translated into English (and many other languages) it is almost always sung in Welsh, so for non-speaking Welsh here is the English translation:

I do not ask for a luxurious life, The world's gold or its fine pearls, I ask for a happy heart, A truthful heart, a pure heart.

Chorus:

A Pure Heart, that's full of goodness, Fairer than the delicate Lily:
Only a pure heart can sing,
Sing the day and sing the night.

Chorus

If I desired worldly riches, It would swiftly go to seed: The riches of a virtuous, pure heart, Will reap eternal profit.

Chorus

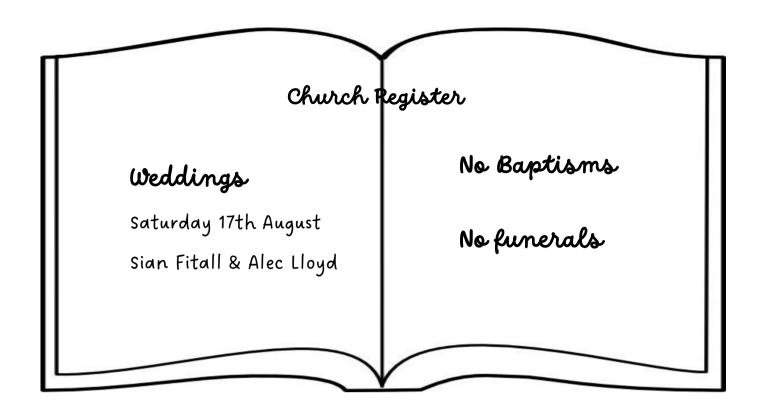
Late and morning my wish, Rising to heaven on the wing of song, So to my God for the sake of my saviour, Give to me a pure heart.

Another translation worth looking at, which might more accurately capture the original time and formality of the hymn as well as its rhyming nature, is written by Rees Harris.

Allan Delves

P.S. Rona and Gordon any comments? Have you sung this hymn in Welsh? Mwynhau!





OCTOBER

Contribute to wildlife conservation. Clean bird feeders to prevent diseases spreading to winter migrants. Install a nest box well before breeding season to provide a cosy retreat for small birds during cold winter nights. Prepare to support more birds next year, with more tips at arocha.org.uk/give-a bird-a-home. As you observe the local birds reflect on this verse, 'I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.' Psalm 50:11.



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

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

Church diary—OCTOBER 2024

1st 10am Friendship Club—Cafe: Lounge, Church Centre

2nd 9.45am Communion: Chapel, Church Centre

7.15 for 7.30pm Worship Nights : Church Centre
3rd 10am Flower Arranging Team : Church
7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice : Church

Harvest Festival

6th 10am Family Worship Service : Church 11.15am Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre

12pm Bring & Share Harvest Lunch : Church Centre

5pm Prayer Meeting: Church

7th 10am Parent and Toddler Group: Hall, Church Centre

9th 9.45am Communion : Chapel, Church Centre
10th 10am Flower Arranging Team : Church
7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice : Church

13th 9am Communion Worship Service : Church

10am Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre

10.30am Family Worship Service : Church Centre

12pm Baptism: Church

14th 10am Parent and Toddler Group: Hall, Church Centre

15th 10am Friendship Club—Knit & Stitch: Lounge, Church Centre

16th 9.45am Communion: Chapel, Church Centre

7.15 for 7.30pm Worship Nights : Church Centre

17th 10am Flower Arranging Team : Church
7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice : Church

19th 9am Men's Breakfast : Café Royal

20th 9am Communion Worship Service : Church

10am Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre

10.30am Family Worship Service : Church Centre

12pm Baptism: Church

6pm All Souls' Service: Church Centre

21st 10am Parent and Toddler Group : Hall, Church Centre

7pm Standing Committee Meeting : Lounge, Church Centre

23rd 9.45am Communion: Chapel, Church Centre
 24th 10am Flower Arranging Team: Church
 7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice: Church
 26th 9.30-12.30pm Churchyard Tidy Up: Church

6pm Ladies' Night—Bring & Share Supper: Church Centre

27th 9am Communion Worship Service : Church

10am Coffee & biscuits : Church Centre

10.30am Family Worship Service : Church Centre
 28th 2.30pm Mothers' Union Meeting : Hall, Church Centre

30th <u>NO</u> 9.45am Communion

7.15 for 7.30pm Worship Nights (contemplative) : Church Centre

31st 10am Flower Arranging Team : Church
7.30-9pm Bell ringing practice : Church

October 2024

Daily Bible Readings:

Tuesday 1st Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Luke 9:51-56

Wednesday 2nd Job 9:1-12,14-16; Luke 9:57-end

Thursday 3rd Job 19:21-27a; Luke 10:1-12

Friday 4th Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5; Luke 10:13-16

Saturday 5th Job 42:1-3,6,12-end; Luke 10:17-24

Monday 7th Galatians 1:6-12; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday 8th Galatians 1:13-end; Luke 10:38-end

Wednesday 9th Galatians 2:1-2,7-14; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday 10th Galatians 3:1-5; Luke 11:5-13

Friday 11th Galatians 3:7-14; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday 12th Galatians 3:22-end; Luke 11:27-28

Monday 14th Galatians 4:21-24,26-27,31; 5:1; Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday 15th Galatians 5:1-6; Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday 16th Galatians 5:18-end; Luke 11:42-46

Thursday 17th Ephesians 1:1-10; Luke 11:47-end

Friday 18th Isaiah 35:3-6; Luke 10:1-9

Saturday 19th Ephesians 1:15-end; Luke 12:8-12

Monday 21st Ephesians 2:1-10; Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday 22nd Ephesians 2:12-end; Luke 12:35-38

Wednesday 23rd Ephesians 3:2-12; Luke 12:39-48

Thursday 24th Ephesians 3:14-end; Luke 12:49-53

Friday 25th Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 12:54-end

Saturday 26th Ephesians 4:7-16; Luke 13:1-9

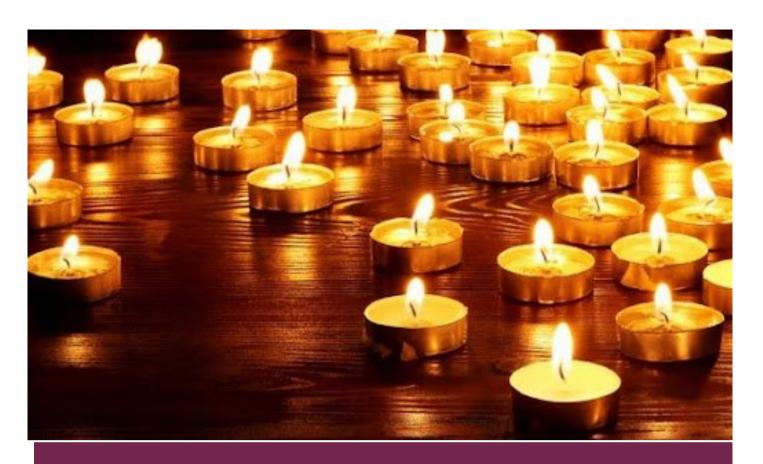
Monday 28th Isaiah 28:14-16; John 15:17-end

Tuesday 29th Ephesians 5:21-end; Luke 13:18-21

Wednesday 30th Ephesians 6:1-9; Luke 13:22-30

Thursday 31st Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-end





ALL SOUL'S DAY

is a day traditionally set apart by the Christian Church as a time to pause and remember those who have died.

<u>On</u>

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER at 6PM

in St George's C/Centre we will be holding our traditional

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

During a time of prayer, we will mention by name all those whose funerals have been conducted by our Clergy in the last year, together with any other names given.

Later in the service, everyone present will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved ones and leave it burning as a visible sign of remembrance.

We hope that the service will be a fitting tribute to those we love, but see no longer.

All are welcome to attend.

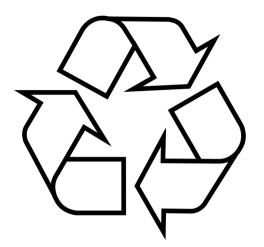
If you wish for any names to be read out during this service, there is a list in church to complete or please email or phone the church office by

Monday 14th October.

Recycle and raise money for our charities.

We collect::

Used greetings cards for the Cobalt Unit



Used postage stamps for The James Hopkins Trust.

Old or broken jewellery for The Alzheimer's Society

Old spectacles for Sightsavers

Ink cartridges for LINC

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

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

Thank you for your support.

The Messenger, October 2024

Bishop Rachel on prison reform – an exclusive for The Messenger

- "Prisons have been in the headlines a lot this summer. The criminal justice system is on its knees with overcrowding. Victims of crime are not being well served by this system and prisoners are leaving jail without having been rehabilitated.
- "Most people simply see prison as punishment and accept the popular narrative that locking people up will make our streets safer, even though the evidence does not support this.
- "I do not believe we are asking the right questions. We need to consider what prisons are for, and how we build stronger communities.
- "People often talk about the revolving door of prisons because those serving short sentences for often non-violent crimes, often return to custody within a year. Going to prison for less than a year rarely offers rehabilitation but does huge damage to family ties, housing and job prospects.
- "We've seen so called 'swift justice' following the riots and unrest in many communities this summer. While people do need to bear the consequences of their actions, we surely want to be enabling the creation of stronger communities and I don't believe that sending many of the offenders to prison will achieve this, but will simply lead to greater fracture, which will not be good for victims, offenders, families and wider society.
- "Neither will it address many of the underlying issues. We need to be much more creative and put resources into more and better community sentencing as well as looking upstream.
- "As Anglican Bishop for Prisons, I hope for a better system, and it is a privilege to visit prisons, hear people's stories, and thank committed chaplains and prison officers who make such a big difference. Many faith communities and charities already help resettle prison-leavers into the community as well as facilitate alternatives to custody which tackle addiction and help people turn their lives around.
- "If we believe that at the heart of the gospel is reconciliation and transformation, then Christians are well placed to get involved with prison and probation work, including welcoming prison leavers to our worshipping communities. There is much more that can be done."

The Welcome Directory

When people are released from prison, they often find themselves in need of community. While many people are able find or renew their faith while they are in prison, sadly only 1 in 5 people go on to join a faith community when they are released.

The Welcome Directory helps worshipping communities to safely connect with prisoners who are released and offer a safe space without judgement or rejection. Being welcoming, accepting and safe can transform people's lives and help them to build confidence as they rebuild their lives.

If your worshipping community is interested in applying to be part of the Welcome Directory, visit www.welcomedirectory.org.uk.

Consider getting involved with the work of Prison Fellowship https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/.

Holding the key podcast: Marc Conway shares how IPPs take away hope

Bishop Rachel has released the third episode of her podcast series, which discusses the purpose of prison sentences and the possible alternatives.

Bishop Rachel is the Anglican Bishop for HM Prisons in England and Wales. In this podcast she spoke with Marc Conway about serious issues with the criminal justice system, and outdated IPP laws.

Marc Conway is the CEO at Fair Justice, an organisation which aims to get the voices of those who live and work within the criminal justice system, out and into the public.

He tells us, "I've been speaking with someone who got a two-year IPP [type of open-ended prison sentence] for stealing a mountain bike, because they pushed the person off, it was classed as a robbery; and they've been in prison for 18 years."

He continues, "When I explain this to people who are naive about it and I say, 'What country do you think that happens in?', they all say 'America' or 'Russia', and I say, 'Actually no it's happening here in the UK'.

"Ninety-one people who are serving that sentence have died by suicide. What that does to someone, when you're serving that [open-ended] sentence, is it takes away hope."

Listen to the podcast episodes by visiting https://gloucester.anglican.org/2024/podcast-holding-the-key-a-series-of-conversations-to-unlock-the-door-to-doing-prison-differently-2/n.org or visit our Spotify or Apple Podcast channel by searching 'In conversation... Diocese of Gloucester'.

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

Ageing gracefully – a practical theology of later life St Lawrence Parish Centre, Church Lane, Barnwood, GL4 3JB, 1 October, 2pm to 4.30pm A course for those who are ready to face up to the reality of ageing, using biblical themes try to understand God's purposes in a long life. https://gloucester.anglican.org/event/ageing-gracefully-a-practical-theology-of-later-life/

An evening with Rowan Williams and Pete Atkin St Andrew's URC, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham, GL50 1SP, 4 October, 7pm to 9pm Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, writer, theologian and poet, in conversation and performance with Pete Atkin, one half of the critically acclaimed song writing partnership with the poet Clive James. https://pipandjims.churchsuite.com/events/6v8onto9

Journey to planet Mars at Gloucester Cathedral Gloucester Cathedral, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY, 15 October to 3 November Experience Luke Jerram's incredible artwork, Mars: War and Peace, within the sacred walls of Gloucester Cathedral. https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/mars

Tewkesbury Abbey autumn spectacular concert Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5RZ, 19 October, 7pm to 9.30pm An evening of performances showcasing two renowned male voice choirs, who together mark 175 years of choral tradition. The event is hosted by Gloucestershire's DJ-turned-author Mark Cummings and features special guest soloists Jessica Robinson and local tenor Gregory Steward. https://www.visittewkesbury.info/whats-on/tewkesbury-

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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 November issue is 15th October 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