

CROSSROADS

The magazine for
St George's Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Sharing God's Love



Our Remembrance Services, are on Sunday 9th November

ST GEORGE'S

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

ST MARGARET'S 1st Sunday

2nd Sunday
3rd Sunday
4th Sunday
5th Sunday
Thursday

Parish Eucharist at 10.30am

Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5.00pm

Parish Eucharist at 10.00am

Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

Morning Prayer at 8.15am on Zoom

Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

Evensong at 5.00pm

Parish Eucharist at 9.00am

Evensong at 5.00pm

Parish Eucharist at 9.00am

Parish Eucharist at 9.00am

Parish Eucharist at 10.30am

NOVEMBER 2025

75p

RACHEL OUR VICAR WRITES...

November Remembering

It seems that November is the month for remembering in the Church and in our wider society. In the Church across the world, we mark All Saints and All Souls days at the beginning of the month. On these days we remember and give thanks for those who the Church has recognised as saints across the centuries, and those who we recognise as the saints in our own lives. The latter being our loved ones, and/or those who have been important in our lives and had an influence on how we live our lives. This year, in our benefice we will celebrate All Saints in the morning of Sunday 2nd November (10.30am Eucharist at St George's) and remember and give thanks for All Souls in the afternoon. St George's will host the Church in Tuffley Time to Remember service at 3.00pm (this will mean there won't be an Evensong at St Margaret's on 2nd November) which include readings, reflections and prayers to help us to give thanks and remember saints of our own lives.

The weekend later, on Sunday 9th November, will be Remembrance Sunday. The time when we remember and give thanks for all those who have served, and are serving, in the armed services. Recently, I discovered the Forces War Record website, and there was something very special to find records of both of my Grandads' service in WWII – one of whom was a prisoner of war in Japan for 3 and half years – and record of a Great-Grandad's service in WWI. We don't have Remembrance Sunday to glorify war, but to remember the service and sacrifice of many, and indeed to pray for all those serving now in the defence of our freedom of life and peace.

In the country in November there is also Bonfire Night on the 5th when we hear the rhyme, 'remember, remember the 5th November, gunpowder, treason, and plot! I'm never sure what to make of our

continued celebrations of this, with fire and fireworks – but maybe some of you can persuade me of the importance of this! It is, no doubt, often a time for bringing community together, which has got to be a good thing.

For Christians, of course, the most significant act of remembering is when we come together to remember in bread and wine the death and resurrection of Jesus. We gather as the Christian community, the Body of Christ, in the Eucharist, and we hear the story of our faith – our redemption and salvation through Christ. We hear the words:

“Do this is remembrance of me”

We gather around the altar to receive Christ, in bread and wine, and in that moment earth and heaven unites. We are surrounded by all the Saints, all our departed loved ones; everyone who we give thanks for and remember.

May we, this November, pause, be still and remember with thanksgiving and praise.

With every blessing,
Rachel

Editor's Note: You will notice (I hope) that this month's Crossroads has been produced in a larger typeface; this is following requests from readers. If there is anything else, you would like us to consider please do get in touch.



Our new time of contemplation and prayer at St George's has started... find out more from Rachel and Gioia

ALL MY JOURNEY THROUGH returns...
On Sunday 26th October at 4.00pm in St George's

All my journey through - an informal cafe style service where Rachel will share a little about her faith journey and life before coming to Tuffley, accompanied by some hymns and songs to join in with - Jonathan will be our compere! The service will last about an hour and there will be refreshments available.

St George's Tuffley

**Free Light Party
for children and families**



Be part of our Light Party on Tuesday 28th October from 4.30pm
It isn't too late to offer to help, just speak to Rachel or Gioia

TIME TO REMEMBER

Sunday 2nd November 2025 in St George's Church at 3.00pm



Each year, at about this time, we unite with our fellow Church in Tuffley members and hold a special service to remember all those who have died and whose funerals we have conducted in our Benefice. On behalf of all at St George's and St Margaret's, may I extend a warm invitation to you, your family, and friends to attend this

years' service.

As usual this will be a simple reflective service, suitable for all ages, with some favourite hymns and readings. During the service, the names of all those who have died will be remembered, and you will have an opportunity, if you wish, to light a candle in memory of your loved one(s).

There will be sheets out at the back of both churches soon so you can write the names of those to be remembered on. So, if you know of someone who might benefit from this service; please do let them have the details.

All the information you need is there, but if in doubt, as always, please speak to Rachel.



ST MARGARET of SCOTLAND

by JOAN ALDERTON



Looking at the stained-glass window depicting St Margaret in Whaddon Church, it occurred to me that perhaps we do not revere our English Saints as they deserve. Although Margaret was Queen of Scotland, she was an English princess. She was born in Hungary in 1045, granddaughter of Edmund Ironside, King of England. When Canute seized the English throne, the royal family fled to Hungary.

After Canute's death her great Uncle Edward the Confessor became King, and Margaret, her sister and brother Edgar returned to England. Here they received a thorough Christian education from Lanfranc, who became Archbishop of Canterbury. In the struggle between Harold and William the Conqueror there were fears for the lives of the royal children. Once more they were fleeing for their lives back to Hungary. A great storm drove the ship northwards and eventually they were wrecked on a rocky coast.

They were captured by wild looking men, armed with shields and swords. One, who seemed more refined, stepped forward and disclosed the fact that he was King of Scotland – King Malcolm. He offered them food and shelter for as long as they wished. This was a very happy time for Margaret. Sometime later she agreed to marry the King. She became the best and greatest Queen Scotland ever had.

Although the people were meant to be Christian, many of the old heathen customs and superstitions were mixed up with their religion. Many of the nobles lived by robbing their neighbours. King Malcolm along with his courtiers could neither read nor write. Margaret wrote to Lanfranc to send somebody to help her remedy the people's ignorance. A wise and holy priest, Turgot, Prior of Durham was sent to be her chaplain. He was with her until her death, and wrote of her life of prayer and help to her people.

The rough King Malcolm became a true believer as Margaret often read to him from her most precious book of the Gospels. One day she thought the book had been stolen, but the King had had it recovered with gold and jewels. This book is in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, though its jewelled cover has gone.

Margaret herself ministered to the poor and sick daily. She fed and clothed them, and none went away without some gift. Each day at the castle poor people were fed. She founded schools and adopted orphan children even though she had eight children of her own. These she brought up to be wise and good Christians. Three of her sons, Edgar, David, and Alexander became good rulers of Scotland. Her daughters were sent to the convent at Romsey. Matilda, the elder daughter married Henry of England. In this way a long line of English kings traced their descent back to St Margaret.

When she died, her body was taken to the abbey of Dunfermline, which she and Malcolm had built not far from the spot where she had landed, a young, frightened girl. She was made a Saint in the year 1250 and her tomb became a shrine visited by pilgrims. We are very lucky to have a church dedicated to such a remarkable lady!

MORE ABOUT ST MARGARET

From April 2006 by Jonathan McKechnie-Jarvis

At the end of my piece in the March Crossroads about our trip to Edinburgh in the footsteps of St Margaret, I mentioned a precious volume which resides at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

This priceless manuscript belonged to St Margaret herself, and I thought it was high time to go and see it. An e-mail to the Western Manuscripts department at the Bodleian produced a reply to the effect that the manuscript was not on public display, but in view of my special interest, a brief examination could be laid on.

Carol and I visited Oxford in March, and were taken up to the heart of the ancient library - a fascinating privilege in itself. The book had been laid out ready for us, and Dr Martin Kauffmann, who is Keeper of Western Manuscripts, explained its features and significance. It is a small volume, only about 7 inches by 4½, comprising 38 pages of vellum or animal skin. Four pages are pictures of the evangelists, four are ornate title pages, and the rest are in quite plain script. It probably dates from between 1025 and 1050.

My first question to Dr Kauffmann, naturally, was "how do we know this book actually belonged to St Margaret of Scotland?" The answer lies in the first page, which was written slightly later on a blank sheet, and which records in Latin verse how the book was accidentally dropped into a stream, but was recovered soon afterwards by a passing soldier, and – miraculously – survived with little damage. This ties up with an account of the same incident in the biography of St Margaret by her chaplain, Turgot, and there is no serious doubt that this is one and the same volume.

It was indeed breathtaking to be inches away from a book which belonged to our patron saint. How many people have that

opportunity? I am afraid there is not much chance in the case of St George: the facts of his life are pretty sketchy, and none of his books survived, that's for sure.

The amazing thing was the clarity of the little book. The script was clear and easily legible. Abbreviations (which can make the reading of old literature much harder) were few, and with a bit of schoolboy Latin, it was not hard to grasp what we were looking at. The picture and title pages are exquisite, with vibrant colours and gold decoration. I had not expected such sophistication in a book that is nearly a thousand years old.

The probable date of between 1025 and 1050 makes it unlikely that it was actually written for Margaret (she was not born until c1045), so perhaps she received it as a gift a little later. The important thing is that it corresponds closely with a description of the book in Turgot's account.

It is far from being a full set of the Gospels, but is a selection of readings for different days. All the passion narratives are included, but no parables, miracles nor the Beatitudes. So, was it intended as a service book, or for private devotion or both? We can't say with certainty the volume is small and simple, as I have already described, but it is clear from Turgot that Margaret was very attached to it.

We were astonished to learn that the Bodleian acquired the manuscript in 1887 from Sotheby's for a mere £6! It had been previously owned by a parish library in Suffolk. This was quite definitely a snip even in those days, and no doubt its true significance was not realised at that stage. Even more astonishing is that the pages were then rubber stamped by the Bodleian (can you believe it?) in case of theft! Luckily, the title pages were spared this indignity.

We came away with a great sense of privilege, for having been allowed to see this treasure in its hallowed surroundings. It made me resolve that my next task must be to research our highly unusual dedication to Margaret. When was Whaddon church dedicated to the Scottish saint, and what clues can be found as to why? What other English churches share her dedication, and is there a pattern in their distribution?

Some research on this was actually done by the late Elizabeth Vowles, who referred to it in her history of Whaddon church, but what were her sources? If only I had discussed this with her whilst she was still alive. Luckily, my very scholarly friend Michael Hare has given me some advice on where to start, so I hope to report more in due course.

I have obtained some slides of the Bodleian manuscript, and hope to show these, with other Margaret-related material in a talk to the Mothers Union before too long. Watch this space!

I must close by recording our thanks to Dr Kauffmann at the Bodleian Library for his kindness in providing a viewing of the document and for bringing it to life for us.

Refresh

**on Tuesday 18th November
will be at St Margaret's
Church at 7.30pm**

**This will be a service of Compline
with Gioia. Compline is a short,
contemplative service of night prayer performed at the end of the day**

**Church in Tuffley Litter Pick 22nd November
at 11.30am from St George's Church**

SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER
from 12.00noon until 3.00pm



We've talked and planned and planned and talked and hopefully covered everything that we would like to take place on the day. However the Christmas Craft Fayre group will meet for a final time, this year on Wednesday 5th November in case there are any last-minute thoughts. If you've offered help with preparations and running stalls, thank you for your offers; but we could always do with more, even if it were just as a stand in whilst a stallholder gets a coffee or some lunch. Please don't wait until you are asked; offer your help and assistance for our/your Christmas Craft Fayre **now!**

A number of crafters have hired tables in the main hall so we will be quite busy. We'll also have tables in the church too! Should you know of someone who might be prepared to have a table to sell Christmassy gifts on the day, it's not too late, please let Darrell know and he will send a table booking form and hire terms and conditions.

Have you been keeping an eye on our weekly Signpost? You have, great! so you are aware of our requests for donations of **bottles** and **prizes** for the Grand Raffle and tombola. Your donations can be brought to church with you on a Sunday or on a Tuesday during Coffee Pot or at any other time when the church or centre are open. Our Mothers' Union would like donations of **cakes** for the Cake Stall, please speak to Sylvia Chamberlain directly re cake donations.

We have had offers, but we are **not** running a Bric-a-Brac stall this year. Help promote our Fayre by picking up a poster from the back of church and displaying it where people can see it. It isn't long to go now so please make sure that **Saturday 29th November** is in your diaries or in your phone reminders.



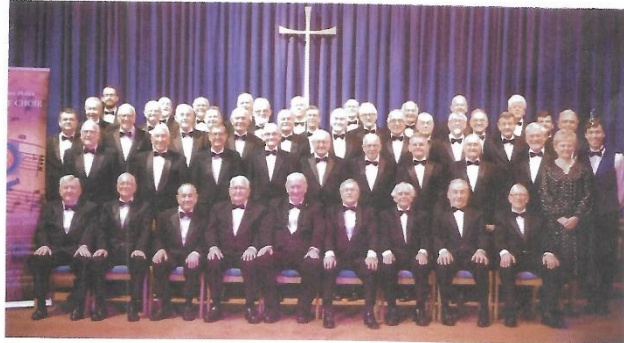
Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir



St George's Church,
Grange Road, Tuffley

On: Friday 21st November

At: 7.30pm



Guest Singer Lori Weber - Soprano

Tickets available on the door.



RAFFLE



Bar

Tickets £10 - Children free



St George's Church,
Tuffley GL4 OPE



**Christmas
Craft Fayre**



Sat 29th Nov
12-3pm



Craft stalls, jacket potatoes,
grand raffle, mince pies,
children's activities,
Santa's Grotto!



ST GEORGE'S
SHARING GOD'S LOVE





Christmas Church Services

ST GEORGE'S AND ST MARGARET'S ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 2025

Sunday 30th November; 5.00pm Darkness to Light Service at St Margaret's

Saturday 13th December; 3.00pm Christingle at St Margaret's

Sunday 14th December; 3.00pm Quiet, reflective time at St George's

Friday 19th December; 6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service at St Margaret's

Sunday 21st December; 4.00pm Carols and cake...

... a relaxed service at St George's

Wednesday 24th December; 10.00am Christmas Family Fun at St George's

Wednesday 24th December; 11.30pm Christmas Eucharist...

... (Midnight Mass) at St George's

Thursday 25th December; 10.00am Christmas Eucharist at St Margaret's

... for a relaxed, informal all age focussed worship

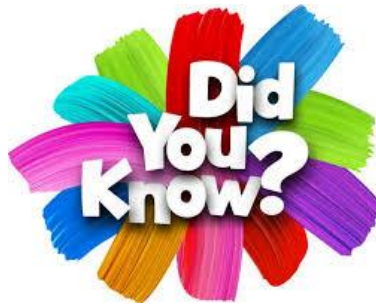
David Crunkhurn is arranging for Carols at the Pike for Church in Tuffley

There may be changes to the above list if there is they will be publicised in Signpost or Crossroads as soon as they are known.



CHURCHILL QUOTE:

In 1943 Winston Churchill sent Anthony Eden to Turkey to try to persuade them to come into the war. After no success, Eden sent this telegram: 'Progress slow. What more can I tell Turkey?' Churchill's reply was: 'Tell them Christmas is coming!'



- French was the official language of the England for about 300 years, ending almost 700 years ago.
- Football, rugby, golf, boxing, and cricket were all invented in the UK.
- Stonehenge is older than the pyramids!
- There are approximately 45,350 pubs in the UK alone (as of 2023!)
- Throughout the UK there are as many as 482 festivals per year (2025). There are over 192 music festivals in London alone!
- Northern Ireland is one of the Game of Thrones Territories
- Scotland's national animal is the Unicorn
- London was the first city in the entire world to have an underground subway system.



At our latest meeting, our speaker was Caroline Meek; she has written a book entitled 'Memories of Quedgeley'. She told us that she had traced the history of Quedgeley back to roman times. She also spoke of the selling of farms and land over the years for housing. In her book she mentioned the munitions factories where the girls working there were called the **Canary Girls**. This was a most interesting talk, and the book must be just as interesting.

We don't have a meeting in the small hall in November as we are taking a trip out to Highfield Garden Centre in Whitminster.

GERALDINE

Editors' Note: The nickname 'Canary Girls' was a direct reference to canaries, birds which historically were used by miners to detect toxic gas in mines because they would show signs of distress before humans did. The women's yellow-tinged hair and skin from handling the explosive, TNT, was a visible sign of the danger they faced during their working day.



GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ

Questions based on the Gospel readings for September

- 1 Jesus said, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my _____. What couldn't they be?
- 2 Jesus went on to ask. "Which of you intending to build _ ____, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it. What might they be looking to build?
- 3 Ending this passage Jesus said, "So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your _____. What word is missing?
- 4 Scripture tells us, 'No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, _ _ _ _'. Which four words complete this statement?
- 6 Who lifted up the serpent in the wilderness?
- 7 When Jesus saw Matthew, where was Matthew sitting?
- 8 While Jesus dined at Matthew's home, he spoke to the Pharisees saying, "I desire ____, not _____. For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Which two words complete the statement?
- 9 Who did Jesus see under a fig tree?
- 10 Jesus went on to say, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see _____ and see the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." What are the two missing words?

The answers are printed later in Crossroads

THE ROBINSWOOD GOATS

In the June Crossroads I wrote a short piece about the handsome Longhorn cattle which look after the vegetation on Hartlebury Common, in Worcestershire.

Much nearer home, here is a picture of the wild goats which do a rather similar job at the quarry on Robinswood Hill. Like Hartlebury Common, this is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, or SSSI. Without the goats, it would become uncontrolled scrub, which is bad news for the endangered wildlife which is found there.

The goats have been there since 2005, and have proved very successful, looking after themselves in the main. At present there are seven goats (or at least that's how many I have counted at any one time). They are quite friendly and don't seem to mind people walking near them.

They have an amazing ability to move around on the narrowest of ledges, with a frightening drop below them, and to trot back up a ferocious slope. I'm told that they don't need either fencing or electronic devices to stop them from roaming.

Elsewhere on the Hill are some small Dexter cattle which also do a good job with their grazing. These I believe have special collars which become uncomfortable if they stray beyond their allotted area. That is a brilliant bit of technology, which avoids the need for expensive fencing.

Speaking personally, I would love to see many more animals on the Hill, and much less impenetrable scrub, which is not good for wildlife, and which deprives us of the lovely views which the Hill should offer. Anyway, here's to our splendid goats, which give a touch of alpine wildlife to our much-loved Robinswood Hill.

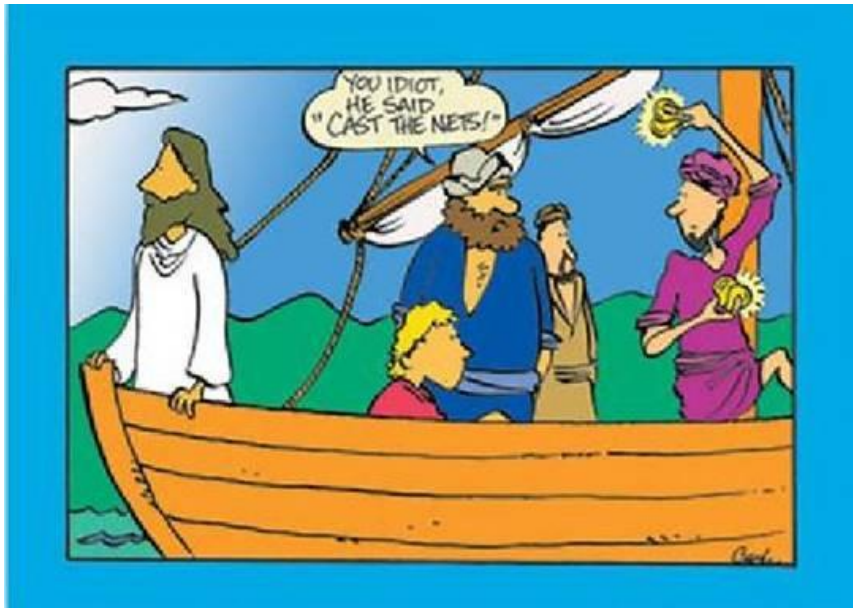
JONATHAN



Come along to our **COFFEE POT** in the small hall on a Tuesday at 9.30am. Tea/Coffee and a light breakfast, and plenty of chat! Old friends meet new friends. What more could you want?



Our final draw of 2025 will take place on Sunday 14th December. I've had a couple of enquiries asking how to be a part of this fundraiser, so, of course, if you would like to know more about this draw, please speak to Darrell as soon as possible. Good luck to all participants in our last draw for 2025.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH CLEANING CREW
Saturday 1st NOVEMBER from 10.00am
onwards



Well, the first Saturday in October has been and gone and St George's Cleaning Crew did what they could, sweeping, vaccing, dusting, light bulb changing in church and Lady Chapel, window cleaning and generally tidying up. We even changed the tatty St George's flag!

We were short on helpers owing to illness and having to be elsewhere, but we are willing to tackle everything you point out to us. So, with Christmas on the horizon if you would like to point out to us something which needs attention before then, please let us know.

We, your Church Cleaning Crew will be back on **Saturday 1st November at 10.00am** when we will continue our cleaning etc. ... you could come along and help us, that would be great. We can always find a job for willing spare hands, and of course there are rewards of tea, coffee, and cakes for all helpers.

CHURCH CLEANING CREW!

U is for...

When I read this month's chapter title, it didn't seem appropriate to begin this article in my usual fashion. According to Ruth Valerio in her book 'L is for Lifestyle', U is for Unwanted Peoples.

Surely this is the saddest subject she focuses on. A subject as relevant today as it was when she first published her book over 20 years ago.

In 2004, it was estimated that there were over 25 million refugees around the world, more than half of which were under 18 years of age. At that time, Syria was the largest country of origin (about a quarter of the total), followed by Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Somalia. These 5 countries accounting for over two-thirds of all refugees.

These figures did not include those already recognised as asylum seekers or Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

To illustrate the type of situations which can force people to become refugees, (War, Ethnic conflicts, Famine, Floods, Persecution, etc.) Ruth Valerio introduces us to Kalim, Tamba, Amoru and Mandelena; their stories being modern day parallels to those of Moses, Jacob, David, and Naomi in the Bible.

Compassion is a key theme in the Bible, just as God shows great compassion for us, so we are to show compassion to others.

The problem is vast and increasingly relevant. In Britain today the subjects of legal and illegal immigration are political hot topics. Many potential Asylum seekers die whilst attempting to enter 'our' country. It is easy for us to feel helpless, overwhelmed and to suffer from 'compassion fatigue'.

However, there are notable examples of Christians and Churches stepping up to welcome and support Refugees and Asylum seekers in their communities.

Locally, we have the Charity GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and many individual fellowships in the county which aim to be known as Welcome Churches.

Whilst we continue to pray for environmental issues and 'Unwanted Peoples', we can find out more by signing up to receive newsletters from those organisations involved in refugee issues. (UNHCR, Tearfund, Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD, Refugee Action, etc.)

We could go one step further and contact our local council to offer practical help and support for refugees living in our area. (Other practical action advice can be found at www.welcomechurches.org)

Love and Blessings,
LORRAINE



Editors' note: *As always there are many requests for your help and your support in Crossroads again this month so, please consider offering your help at any of the following: - Church Cleaning Crew, Secretary to the joint PCC, Christmas Craft Fayre donations for Raffle and Tombola. Your help would be very much appreciated.*

*Should you need to contact the Crossroads editors
You can at ds52604@gmail.com
Or on 01452 410507*



That to have your
DECEMBER 2025 CROSSROADS
ready for publication by **SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2025**

...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY BY EMAIL
BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN...
...Thursday 13th November 2025

Crossroads will be printed on Tuesday 18th November

Articles for Crossroads can be received by the editors at any time
and will appear in the first Crossroads after receipt.

ARCHDEACON HILARY'S FAREWELL SERVICE

In July, Bishop Rachel wrote the following to all parishes in the Diocese:

"I write to share with you the sad news that Archdeacon Hilary will be leaving us in November. This is painful news and yet this timing seems so right for Hilary.

Since the death of her husband, Richard, Archdeacon Hilary has continued to fully engage with individuals and communities with love and care as she has supported mission and ministry across the Gloucester archdeaconry and wider diocese, as well as in her ministry as a residentiary canon at the Cathedral. Hilary is clear that now is the time to pause, to rest, to pray and to reflect, as she discerns the right next chapter in life and ministry.

Archdeacon Hilary has loved well and is much loved, and it will be hard to say farewell to her, yet I hope we will all enable her to end this chapter well as we send her on her way with our love and prayers.

On that note, I hope you will come and be part of a diocesan farewell service in the Cathedral on Sunday 23 November at 3pm"

Archdeacon Hilary was very helpful and supportive to our parishes in the vacancy period and has continued to be so over the subsequent years - it would be wonderful if St George's and St Margaret's were well represented at her Farewell Service. If you would like a lift (or to offer a lift) please speak to Rachel.

NOVEMBER



1. What was the title of the last play written by Shakespeare?
2. Which country is the largest producer of saffron, the world's most expensive spice?
3. Which two of The Beatles have children who were born on September 13th?
4. In an alphabetical list of US States, which comes last?
5. Who tells the first tale in Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales"?
6. What is the name of the coffee produced from beans that have been eaten and excreted by civet cats?
7. Who wrote the play "The Madness of George III"?
8. Which artist had periods named Blue, Rose, and Crystal?

9. According to the nursery rhyme, who found Lucy Locket's pocket
10. What element's name comes from the Greek for "light bearing"?

The quiz answers are printed later in Crossroads



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST

P	U	D	D	I	N	G	N	E	E	T	T	P	I
L	C	N	E	M	A	H	U	Y	S	P	P	R	Y
E	F	R	O	D	Y	G	E	I	R	O	N	U	C
C	L	U	N	E	P	K	I	F	R	P	O	S	I
A	O	T	P	U	R	G	O	R	E	L	C	G	I
G	N	U	G	U	S	E	N	U	G	T	E	E	E
O	I	R	T	C	E	E	T	I	G	D	U	C	K
S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	T	N	D	D	N	G
R	A	A	U	G	F	G	P	C	O	N	U	E	F
C	E	E	N	P	E	S	F	A	G	E	G	I	F
S	E	G	F	I	L	A	E	K	T	N	M	K	G
A	D	C	C	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S	O
E	C	E	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	E	D
G	E	M	F	C	G	O	L	E	L	U	Y	Y	A

Find the following words in the above puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Candy Cane, Duck, Egg Nog, Fruitcake, Goose, Ham, Mince Pies, Pudding, Stuffing, Turkey, Yule Log.

The answer is printed later in Crossroads

JOTTINGS

From St Margaret's



Well, my friends, it's me again; you know the one who with her mates, Dianne and Marilyn cleans our little church, St Margaret's. It seems as though we are always there, but we aren't, we do like to do a good job when we are. Dianne is on coffee duty, I'm on bag sorting duty and by the time Marilyn gets here Di and I have drunk our coffee and are raring to go...

We still, have a mice problem and I think it's getting worse! We just can't seem to eliminate them; Jonathan has tried with some plug-in things, but they're not working. I just think that the little creatures like our church and have decided to stay. I know that the Lord looks after all his creatures and blesses them; perhaps the recent Pet Service at St George's when all pets, animals (and fluffy toys) were blessed the mice liked what they saw and decided to stay; just a thought!



We've had a number of people in our churchyard of late, we didn't bother them, but it is nice when they do speak to us and tell us that they enjoy being in our churchyard and how wonderful the view of the countryside is from there. How long they will continue to say that with the proposals to build houses spreading out as far as we can see. We've known about these plans for some years but as the final decision what to build gets ever closer, we pray that the impact won't be as severe as we anticipate. Only time will tell and we'll take it in our stride. So until the next time...

Best wishes from
JILL PONTER, Deputy Churchwarden



THROUGH THE WINDOW

Hello friends, it's me again, so sorry I didn't write last month, it's my mums fault. She puts things away or hides them from me; why? your guess is as good as mine but I love her really. I've been out and about chatting to whoever. My mum lets me go when I ask nicely. The weather hasn't been too bad. We've had a bit of rain so I didn't go out, I hate getting my feet and fur wet. My mum tells me to lick my fur dry or wipe my feet when I come in.

Honestly you can't win, every day my Auntie Jill comes and I scoot upstairs incase she's going to grab me and put me in that box and take me to that torture place.

When they go out anywhere I go up to my bed and look out of the window just to make sure they're gone and then I can relax without any hindrance. I love my mum but she does tell me off when I try to bring her a present. It isn't very often these days as I'm not as fast as I used to be! I do try though, I enjoy the chase. Never mind I'll get there one day. I haven't seen anything of my mum's son, you know the one with the d-d-d-dog. I'm in my mum's bedroom but it still comes up to see where I am. Luckily the door is shut so it can't get at me. When it's gone my mum opens the door to let me out. I have a good sniff around just to make sure.

I can go outside to do what a girl has to do and then I can have my tea. I go outside for a little while then my mum lets me in and I snuggle down on her lap for a quiet snooze while she gives me a cuddle. This is all I can think of right now, I'll do better next time (I hope). Ta ta for now, your feline friend, Jo Jo



OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Oh, oh, Trixie what have you been up to? Our mum has been running around everywhere looking for you. I don't know what you mean Maya, I really don't. Don't know what I mean Trixie, you have had our mum in tears, she has been so upset. You went out yesterday afternoon, and you haven't been home since! When you get home our mum won't half give you what for, Maya!

I don't know what you are going on about, I only went up the cul-de-sac then when I came home, I couldn't get back in. Well, you ninny, I think our mum went backwards and forwards to the back door and the front door all night. She called your name time after time; you turned a deaf ear to everyone Trixie. Well, I didn't hear anyone call me at any time so I just decided to stay out but when it came to the next day, I still couldn't get in. That's because mum goes to that thing she calls 'Coffee Pot', and you know that she doesn't miss that for anyone. Oh, I didn't realize she did that every week Maya.

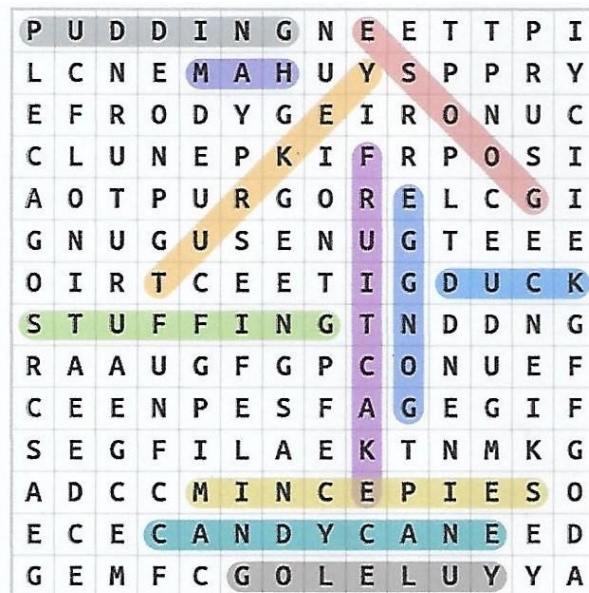
Trixie you just didn't want to come when you were called. Well, I just thought I would let her know I could do things on my own and I didn't have to have her looking over her shoulder to make sure I was alright. I was alright Maya; I can do things by myself when I have to. I just wanted to prove to her that I could. Trixie you are so incorrigible. Just go off and find mum, she's still looking for you.

Alright Maya I think I heard her over the road calling, where shall I go? Go and look for her by next door's back gate, I think I heard Rhea's mum talking to Luna. Oh, alright I'm off, here's our mum now. Maya, she's all upset and crying, blimey Maya I didn't think that she

was so bothered. Trixie you don't know our mum as well as you think you do. Just go and give her lots of cuddles. I will Maya I will right now, but I must say I'm flaming starving as I haven't eaten for days. Trixie you have just missed breakfast and dinner. I know, but it feels like I haven't eaten for a week, but I will give extra lovin's to our mum because she did try to find me. Yes! she did and don't forget it. Anyway, it's about time we said cheerio to everyone Trix. Oh yes cheerio for now everyone, until the next time so it's cheerio from me Maya until next time. Just keep cheerful and stay bright.

MAYA AND TRIXIE PONTER

WORDSEARCH ANSWER



NOVEMBER QUIZ ANSWERS

1 The Two Noble Kinsmen: 2 Iran: 3 Ringo & Paul: 4 Wyoming: 5 Knight: 6 Luwak coffee: 7 Alan Bennett: 8 Picasso: 9 Kitty Fisher: 10 Phosphorus:

NOVEMBER GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS

1 His disciple: 2 a tower: 3 possessions: 4 the one: 5 the Son of Man: 6 Moses: 7 tax booth: 8 mercy sacrifice: 9 Nathanael: 10 Heaven opened:



OCTOBER

Sunday 26

November Crossroads available this morning

2.00am Clocks go back by one hour

9.00am Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St George's Church

2.00pm Private Let in main hall

4.00pm IGBO meeting

4.00pm 'All My Journey Through' in St George's

Monday 27

10.30am Say Aphasia in small hall

5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 28

9.30am Coffee Pot in small hall

10.00am Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel

4.30pm Light Party at St George's

5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel

8.00pm Karate in main hall

Wednesday 29

8.15am Morning Prayer on Zoom

2.00pm GAGS Committee in small hall

3.30pm Slimming World in main hall

5.00pm Slimming World in main hall

5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel

6.30pm Slimming World in main hall

Thursday 30

10.30am Thursday Club in small hall

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church

2.00pm Art Group in main hall

5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel

6.30pm Clubbercise in main hall

7.30pm Charter Band in small hall

Friday 31

NOVEMBER

Saturday 1	10.00am	Karate in main hall
	10.00am	St George's Church Cleaning Crew
Sunday 2	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	3.00pm	Time to Remember at St George's Church
Monday 3	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 4	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	1.30pm	Fun & Free in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers in main hall
Wednesday 5	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
	8.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg in main hall
	2.00pm	GAGS Committee in small hall
	3.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
Thursday 6	7.00pm	Craft Fayre meeting in the Vicarage
	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Clubbercise in main hall
	7.30pm	Charter Band in small hall
Friday 7	7.30pm	Gardening Club in main hall
	7.30pm	Entertainers in small hall
Saturday 8	10.00am	Karate in main hall

Sunday 9	Remembrance Sunday
	9.00am Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.20am Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
Monday 10	10.30am Say Aphasia in small hall
	5.00pm Evening Prayer on Zoom
	5.00pm Brownies in main hall
	6.00pm Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm Guides in main hall
	7.15pm Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 11	9.30am Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	1.30pm Fun & Free in main hall
	2.30pm Mothers' Union trip to Highfields
	5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm Cubs & Beavers in main hall
	7.00pm Joint PCC in small hall
	8.00pm Karate in main hall
Wednesday 12	8.15am Morning Prayer on Zoom
	9.30am Phonics with Robot Reg in main hall
	3.30pm Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm Slimming World in main hall
Thursday 13	Crossroads article deadline
	10.30am Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm Art Group in main hall
	5.00pm Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm Clubbercise in main hall
	7.30pm Charter Band in small hall
Friday 14	7.30pm Entertainers in main hall
Saturday 15	10.00am Karate in main hall
Sunday 16	St Margaret of Scotland Patronal Sunday
	10.30am Parish Eucharist at St George's Church

	1.00pm	Private Let in main hall
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's Church
Monday 17	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 18	Crossroads printing morning	
	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	1.30pm	Fun & Free in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers in main hall
	7.30pm	Refresh at St Margaret's
	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
Wednesday 19	8.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg in main hall
	3.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Slimming World in main hall
	6.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
Thursday 20	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Clubbercise in main hall
	7.30pm	Charter Band in small hall
Friday 21	7.30pm	Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir Concert in St George's Church
Saturday 22	10.00am	Karate in main hall
	11.30am	CiT Litter Pickers meet at St George's
Sunday 23	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church

3.00pm Farewell Service for the Venerable Hilary Dawson, Archdeacon of Gloucester in Gloucester Cathedral

Monday 24	10.30am	Say Aphasia in small hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 25	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	1.30pm	Fun & Free in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers in main hall
	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
Wednesday 26	8.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg in main hall
	2.00pm	Gardening Club committee in small hall
	3.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Slimming World in main hall
	6.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
Thursday 27	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Clubbercise in main hall
	7.30pm	Charter Band in small hall
Friday 28		Christmas Craft Fayre set up commences
Saturday 29	10.00am	Christmas Craft Fayre prep and Fayre
	12.00noon	Christmas Craft Fayre at St George's
Sunday 30	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	4.00pm	IGBO meet in small hall

	5.00pm	Darkness to Light Service at St Margaret's
DECEMBER		
Monday 1	10.30am	Say Aphasia in small hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 2	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	1.30pm	Fun & Free in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers in main hall
	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
Wednesday 3	8.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	9.30am	Phonics with Robot Reg in main hall
	2.00pm	Gardening Club committee in small hall
	3.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
Thursday 4	6.30pm	Slimming World in main hall
	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Clubbercise in main hall
Friday 5	7.30pm	Charter Band in small hall
	1.00pm	Gardening Club Christmas Party
Saturday 6	7.30pm	Entertainers in small hall
	10.00am	Church Cleaning Crew
Sunday 7	10.00am	Karate in main hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's Church



Christmas Gift Fair at English Martyrs on 8th November: The Gift Fayre will take place from 12.00noon until 4.00pm with the draw for the raffle taking place at 3.30pm. They will have several stalls selling all sorts of crafts/gifts plus a cake stall and a parish stall. The Cafe will be open for lunches or tea with cakes. This is a lovely parish event that brings the community together so put the date in your diary.

Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir: Will be singing in St George's Church on **Friday 21st November at 7.30pm**. See poster for more information.

There will be a **farewell service for the Venerable Hilary Dawson, Archdeacon of Gloucester** on Sunday 23 November at 3.00pm in Gloucester Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend this service.

Christmas Craft Fayre: Saturday 29th November 2025 from 12.00noon until 3.00pm. See the article earlier in this Crossroads. The organising group will meet again on Wednesday 5th November so please pass your suggestions onto Rachel, Gioia, Dawn, Helen, Sylvia E, Jonathan T or Darrell before that meeting.

St Barnabas (not so much a Christmas Fair, more a 'build your own Nativity'): 29th November from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

Grange Baptist Church Christmas Fair: 6th December from 11.00am until 3.00pm. Local crafts, light lunches, sweet treats and more...

Wedding Fayre / Celebration of Marriage: Sunday 25th April 2026 (and/or Saturday 24th TBC) More information to follow.

Summer Fun Day 2026: Saturday 11th July 2026 is the provisional date for next year's Summer Fun Day.

Please make sure that you have the above dates in your diary and where you can please offer your help and your support.

DO DOGS GO TO HEAVEN?

"A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them. After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it, he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side. When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?' 'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered. 'Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked. 'Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up'. The man gestured, and the gate began to open. 'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveller asked. 'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.' The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?' 'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in.' 'How about my friend here?' the traveller gestured to the dog. 'There should be a bowl by the pump.' They went through the gate, and, sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveller filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree. 'What do you call this place?' the traveller asked. 'This is Heaven,' he replied. 'Well, that's confusing,' the traveller said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.' 'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?' 'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.' Dogs are family.

...Anonymous Author

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TO FINISH...

Jack and Jill went to the British museum where they saw a dinosaur which they were very impressed with. The attendant who was sat by the exhibit asked, "Do you have any questions?", Jack asked, "How old is the exhibit." The attendant said, "It's precisely 60,000,011 years 6 months and 12 days. Jill said, "Crickey! How can you be so exact?" The attendant said, "Well when I joined the museum staff, they told me that the dinosaur was 60,000,000 years old and I've been here for 11 years 6 months and 12 days".

Jack was in his local talking to one of the bar staff who said, "My boyfriend's decided to get a face tattoo of his favourite Star Wars character". Jack said, "Was it any good?" She replied, "Well I told him that I didn't like it, you should have seen the Luke on his face!"

Jack was working in the garden when his 8-year-old daughter came out and asked him, "Daddy, what is sex?" Jack was surprised that she would ask him such a question, but decided that if she is old enough to ask the question, then she is old enough to get a straight answer. He proceeded to tell her all about the 'birds and the bees.' Once Jack had finished explaining, the little girl was looking at him with her mouth hanging open. So, he asked her, "Why did you ask this question?" His daughter replied, "Well, mummy told me to tell you that dinner would be ready in just a couple of secs."

Jill was talking with her son, and he said, "Mum, when I grow up, I think that I would like to become a politician". Jill asked him, "And what are you doing to become one?" "Nothing, Mum." To which Jill replied, "Good, you're halfway there then."

Jack was setting up his new laptop and needed a password eight characters long, so he picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

St George's Church and Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0PE
St Margaret's Church, 2 Church Lane, Whaddon, Gloucester GL4 0UE