

# CROSSROADS

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



## ST GEORGE'S

**Sunday**  
**Monday**  
**Tuesday**  
**Wednesday**  
**Thursday**

**Parish Eucharist at 10.30am**  
**Evening Prayer on Zoom at 5.00pm**  
**Parish Eucharist at 10.00am and**  
**Evening Prayer at 5.00pm**  
**Morning Prayer at 8.15am on Zoom and**  
**Evening Prayer at 5.00pm**  
**Evening Prayer at 5.00pm**

## ST MARGARET'S

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**Thursday**

**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**

**JANUARY 2026**

**75p**

## **RACHEL OUR VICAR WRITES...**

Looking for light and joy in 2026...

I write this just after the third Sunday of Advent, which is also known as Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete being Latin for rejoice). It is the Sunday in Advent when we light the rose coloured candle on our Advent wreath, reminding us that the Advent time of waiting and watching is pierced through with joy. As Christian people we know the truth of Jesus being the light of the world in our lives. Advent encourages us to be alert and awake to where the light of Jesus shines in our lives, where we know the joy of the God's Kingdom being present here on earth.

Of course, as we celebrate Christmas and enter into a new calendar year, St Paul's words in Philippians 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always" are no less relevant to us as they were in Advent. Indeed, as we look around our world in 2026, and maybe in our own lives too, we don't have to look far to see darkness and difficulty. We constantly need to remind ourselves that we live in the light and hope of Jesus. As we read in St John's Gospel, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Whether you are a person who makes new year's resolutions or not, why not go into 2026 resolved to look for light and joy in your everyday life and in the lives of those around you. We have much to be thankful for collectively as God's family at St George's and St Margaret's, not least each other. Let us encourage one another in hope and be always on the lookout for joy – in the conversations with friend or stranger, in music, in art, in nature, with family... wherever you experience the light of Jesus.

Hopefully we will soon appoint a Youth and Families Enabler who will help to lead our mission and ministry amongst children, young people and families. Hopefully we will soon be united together as one

parish, celebrating our uniqueness and our common belonging together in Jesus. Hopefully we will continue to further strengthen our relationship and bond with the other churches in Tuffley, as we look forward to a joint mission weekend with Bishop Rachel in September 2026!

Let us go into 2026 looking for light in the darkness, and rejoicing in the Lord, always!

With every blessing to you all for a new year for of joy and hope!  
RACHEL

### **ST MARGARET'S 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

# Refresh

We had a lovely time joining together with some of our friends from the Church in Tuffley at St Margaret's in November for our monthly ecumenical service 'Refresh'. Our service this time followed the traditional pattern of night prayer known as 'compline'.

Coming from the very old Christian monastic tradition of praying several different times a day, compline is intended to be the final gathering of communal prayer in the day. The service follows a gentle pattern of some Bible readings and prayers, and all held together with plainchant singing. It is a peaceful and lovely form of service to end the day, and it was a joy to share in this with a good number of people from both St Margaret's and St George's, as well as with some of our ecumenical friends. St Margaret's looked absolutely beautiful with lots of candles lit, and we've had some lovely comments back about how calming and peaceful a service it was. I'm extremely thankful to all who worked to make it possible.

Our ecumenical partnership is such a gift and a delight, and our services of 'Refresh' (which are hosted by a different church each

month) are always engaging and uplifting. 'Refresh' can take all sorts of different forms but there's always some time of prayer and some time of fellowship together, and it's well worth going to. Do keep an eye on signpost for details of the next Refresh on 20<sup>th</sup> January and consider whether you might like to go along!



### **CHRISTMAS HAMPERS**

Once again, a massive thank you to everyone who was able to donate to the Church in Tuffley Christmas Hamper appeal. Between the churches, we have provided 35 hampers (with 26 items in each hamper!) for families in need in our local schools. Pastor David dropped all the hampers off in the last week of term and the schools were very appreciative.



### **EXPLORE CHRISTMAS**

It was fabulous to welcome into St George's nearly 550 children over the week, in 18 classes, from Grange Primary, Harewood Infant, and Harewood Junior schools. This was our fourth year of offering Explore

Christmas with our friends from across the Church in Tuffley, with Pastor David from Grange Baptist using his wonderful storytelling talents to share the Christmas message with class after class (and Rev Rachel and Rev Gioia telling the story a few times too!) This week is only possible though thanks to the generosity of so many with their time, talents and energy - with 8 activity tables around the church for the children to explore the meaning of the story for themselves, for example: making a badge with their name and description on remind them that they are uniquely made by God; a Christmas bauble with love, peace, joy and hope on each side, remind them of the wonderful world God created for us all; a fluffy sheep reminding them that the shepherds were the first people God chose to tell the good news of Jesus' birth showing God loves everyone no matter if they are well regarded or not; a transparency with Nativity scene to colour, reminding them that Jesus is the light of the world. Let us continue to pray for all the children, school staff and parent helpers that came in during the week, that they would know the love and hope of Jesus in their lives.



## **The BISHOP of GLOUCESTER WRITES...**

I want to begin by thanking you for the life we share in this diocese – children, young people, adults, all with different stories, and inhabiting different contexts and experiences. As always, it has been a privilege for me to visit parishes and chaplaincies, deaneries, schools, Sportily, the Grace Network and so much more across our communities — and to notice how people of all ages are joining in with those LIFE Together commitments where the spotlight is shining: people being advocates for the flourishing of people and the earth, and worshipping communities committed to developing diverse leadership.

I'm encouraged by the courageous ways people are initiating new ways of worshipping which connect with more people in different places. I'm also encouraged by the greater commitment to young people. And my heart is always lifted when I see people of all ages and backgrounds discovering more of what it means to live out their faith amid the stuff of messy daily life.

Yet amid all the encouraging stories, I'm really aware of all that interrupts and disrupts, and throws us off course, whether personally, politically, in the church, or in our local contexts and communities – those unexpected events; unforeseen decisions; sudden loss and grief; unwanted happenings and news, the tragedy. And so it goes on.

Of course, further afield there are people whose lives are interrupted by war and conflict; as we shine a light on Bethlehem this Christmas... I will be remembering my visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and continuing to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters amid their struggles and disrupted lives, even in simply trying to travel and go about their daily lives.

On a very different matter, diocesan staff, education teams, bishops and archdeacons, have been living a very different disruption – that of moving. But it's good news, and we are now in our new Church House in Denmark Road. I wonder how well you cope with disruption, and I wonder if you are the sort of person who says or thinks 'if we can just get through this, then we can get on with life...'.

But the truth is that the interruptions and disruptions — they are all life.

The first Christmas was certainly a major interruption with plenty of disruption. First there was that angel interrupting Mary's life – announcing a holy pregnancy, and then there was the disruption of a national census and all that inconvenient travel to Bethlehem. Then came the disruption of labour and birth at an inconvenient time and in an inconvenient place.

As for those shepherds their night routine and sheep-watching was disrupted big time. They were terrifyingly interrupted by angels.

And I wonder if that first Christmas there was a huge sense of "we just need to get through this, deal with this, and then we can get on with life..." Yet, strangely there in the disruption of God coming to earth as a tiny baby, is the offer of LIFE in all its fullness. Many years later, Jesus Christ's life on earth was interrupted by cruel death – but then the grief and bewilderment of friends and followers was interrupted yet again but now by inexplicable and glorious resurrection. In this is revealed the mystery of life in all its fullness: The mysterious love and life of God, ever with us with a love stronger than even death itself.

That first Christmas also points to the truth that one day a disruption will come to end all disruptions – Jesus Christ will come again. God will make all things new, and God will dwell with us in a fullness of life beyond our imagining...

Yet even now we walk in that kingdom of God light.

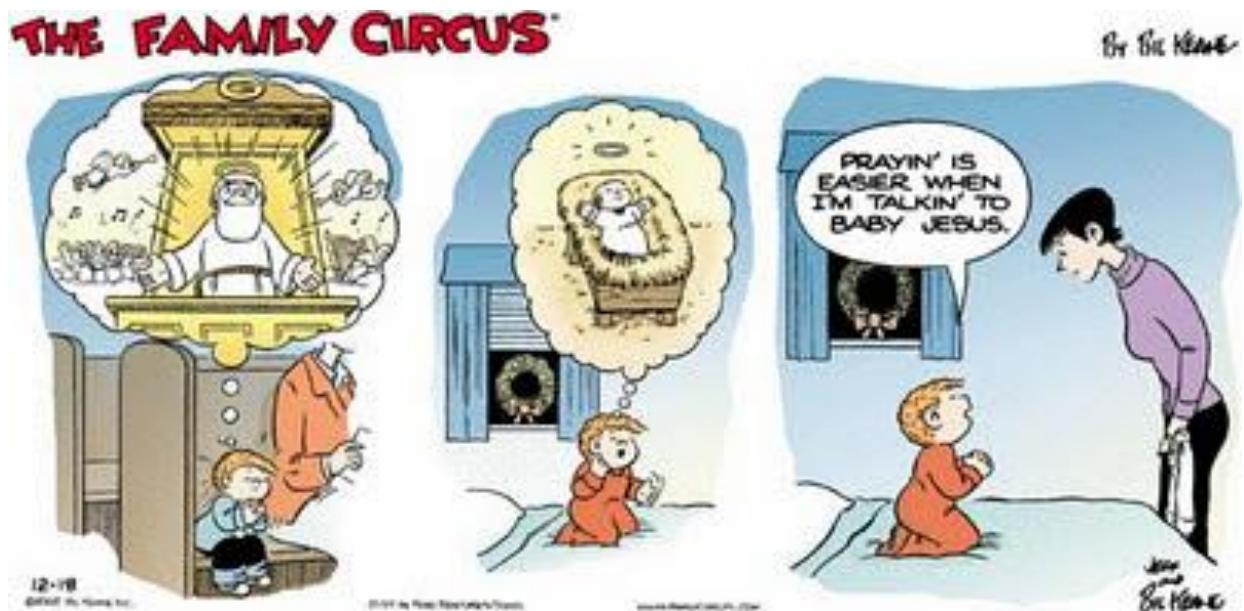
Now in all the interruptions, in all that disrupts, in our personal lives, our daily contexts, our worshipping communities and beyond, the call is to continually open ourselves to that mystery of God's unchanging love amid the mess of life with all its disruptions and interruptions.

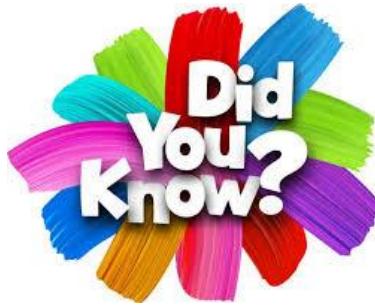
This IS life here on earth, and Jesus Christ is with us through the work of the Holy Spirit within us and around us.

Thank you to each and every one of you for adding your story to our LIFE Together and joining in with God's work of transformation where YOU are.

So, amid the expected and all that interrupts, I wish you a hope-filled Christmas.

The Rt Revd RACHEL TREWEEK





In Yorkshire tradition there's an unexpected appearance of furry creatures at New Year. Just as the clock is about to strike midnight on New Year's Eve, the legend goes that you should say "black rabbits, black rabbits, black rabbits". And then, as the clock chimes 12, say "white rabbits, white rabbits, white rabbits". This is said to bring good luck.

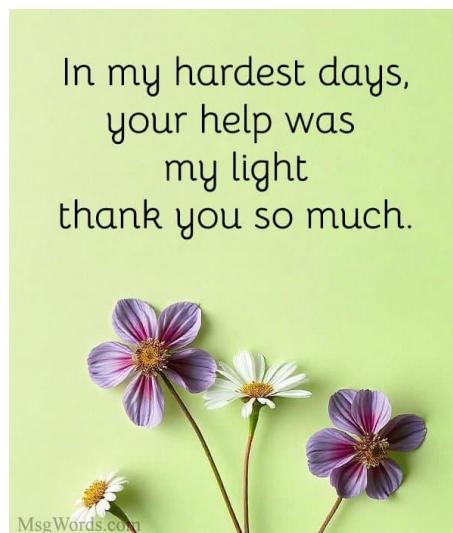
In Scotland New Year is passionately welcomed with "Hogmanay" celebrations that start on 31<sup>st</sup> December and can go on for another two days. No-one knows for sure when Hogmanay first started but it's believed the celebrations became really popular when the Vikings invaded Scotland and fires were lit to keep away evil spirits and to celebrate the winter solstice. These days fire festivals and fireworks play a big part in Scottish celebrations - the idea is that fire, like the Sun, purifies and destroys evil spirits.

In Wales, "calennig" means New Year's gift, and according to tradition, children would call from door to door bearing good wishes for the year to come. This was symbolised by skewered apples, stuck with cloves and sprigs of evergreen, which they carried in their hands. This becomes a decoration and is considered a symbol of luck for the home. Children would sing and receive small gifts of food or money for their troubles.

In some South American countries like Mexico, Bolivia and Brazil, your fortunes for the year ahead are all decided by your underpants! People who want to find love wear red underwear for New Year, whilst people who want to get rich should go for yellow, which it's believed brings wealth and luck. If you'd like a bit of peace and quiet for the New Year, then white pants are the way to go.

This sounds a bit like the Scottish fire celebrations we mentioned earlier - to banish any ill fortune or bad things that happened in the past year, people in Ecuador in South America set fire to scarecrows filled with paper at midnight on New Year's Eve. They also burn photographs of things that represent the past year as a way of putting the past to one side and looking forward.

*Should you need to contact the Crossroads editors  
You can at [ds52604@gmail.com](mailto:ds52604@gmail.com)  
Or on 01452 410507*



I just wanted to say an enormous thank you to all of this wonderful Church family as it has been difficult to get around to each individual in person.

Thank you for your prayers love and support following the death of our beautiful and brave daughter-in-law, Sarah, and for Andy and children and Barry and I, Richard and Ha.

We have felt totally surrounded and supported by your love throughout what has been an incredibly painful and difficult time. God bless you all for all that you are and do in God's name.

With much love,  
Linda and Barry



What a terrific time our Christmas Craft Fayre was; St George's was so busy from the time we started preparing until we had finished putting everything away for another year. Everywhere I looked there were individuals, family groups and others all with smiles on their faces. The queue to see Father Christmas was long, everyone had happy, smiley faces even the stall holders!

Thank you to all who helped in any way, or came along to support the day, without you all it wouldn't have been the success it was.



We had our final meeting of the year on 9<sup>th</sup> December which was a social where we had poems and readings, finishing our social with a buffet. Our January meeting will be our AGM so, can I remind members that subscriptions will be due in January the sum is now £38.00. Please see me if you have any problems regarding our Mothers' Union meeting in January 2026.

Merry Christmas to you all  
GERALDINE





## **GOSPEL TRUTH BIBLE QUIZ**

**Questions based on the Gospel readings for October**

- 1 Jesus looked up at his disciples and said, "Blessed are you who...". In which other New Testament book and in which chapter will you find these statements?
- 2 In the same passage of scripture Jesus also mentioned a number of 'Woes'. Can you name any?
- 3 Which religious group claimed there was no resurrection?
- 4 A group of these people approached Jesus. How did they address him?
- 5 Talking about future events Jesus said, "nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great \_\_\_\_\_. What word is missing?
- 6 Jesus went on to tell his disciples, "You will be betrayed even by \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Who would betray them?
- 7 Scripture states, 'When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus'. What is the missing word?
- 8 The people stood by, \_\_\_\_\_; but the leaders scoffed at him. What were the people doing?
- 9 About that day and hour no one knows.....only the father. For as the days of \_\_\_\_ were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Whose days does the scripture refer to?
- 10 Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an \_\_\_\_\_. Hour. What word describes this hour?

***The answers are printed later in Crossroads***

## OUTDOING OPIE: OAKHAM TREASURES

Here's a suggestion for a little outing, perhaps to cheer up the bleak days of January or February.

Now, you will only enjoy this if, like me, you have a strong streak of nostalgia. Perhaps you remember the Robert Opie packaging museum when it was in Gloucester Docks? It's now in London and no doubt heaving with tourists. Well, just thirty-five miles down the M5, we have something which is far not only far bigger, but I think in some ways better. It's called Oakham Treasures, at Portbury.

It was founded by Keith Sherrell, a local farmer, and it's run by very much as a family concern. It includes his collection of old tractors, cars, and motorcycles, which may or may not be your thing. But it is mostly a VAST treasury of packaging and bygones of every description.

I went with a friend on a quiet weekday in November and it was just perfect. There is refreshingly little 'interpretation' material, and no tedious notices apologising for the prejudices of our great-grandparents' generation. You can just walk around and soak it up. The collection is arranged in categories: sweet shops, groceries, photographic, hardware, tailoring, chemists, off licence, and so on. The sheer scale was what amazed me. My friend and I spent three hours looking around, not counting lunch in the very pleasant refreshment area. Eventually, we just felt that we had taken in enough for one day ... but that we must return, as there was so much more to see.

The necessary information is all on their website, but the photos hardly do it justice. It is a truly massive collection. If you like this sort of thing, then I really recommend a visit.

JONATHAN



A range of ancient chocolate bars



Hardware at Oakham



5 shilling, 1950's Christmas lights



Our final draw of 2025 took place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. The lucky winners in the draw were: - Roger Meadows who won the first prize of £100.00; second prize of £50.00 went to Erna O'Connor and third prize of £25.00 went to Kim Westcott. Congratulations to our winners this quarter and earlier in the year.

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 draws in the future. Our first draw of 2026 will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March.



### **I ALWAYS PLAY THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

by Mark Bird

Every Christmas since Year 3, when we do Nativity why does every teacher see, I'm only good for playing trees. Never had a single line, draped in crepe to play a pine, wound in tissue-paper twine, my painted face, a shade of slime

Loo roll angels on my head, ping pong baubles dangle red, no one ever hears me beg, oh can't I play the cow instead. Now though, made of sterner stuff, I'm Year 6, I've had enough; got a plan, I'm

really chuffed, tonight I'll be a cut above, play the part I want to be, that in all Nativities, I often hear but never see, tonight that part belongs to me ...

On the stage, I stand and wait, grinning, I anticipate how the crowd, I'll captivate, how teachers will all gasp, he's great! Entering from stage left, they stir, two wise men, without a word bearing gifts of gold and myrrh and I'm about to play the third...

Shuffling to the front, I tear, loo roll angels from my hair, throwing crepe into the air until at last, I'm standing there. Stitches scarred across my brow glaring with a green-faced scowl, shepherds scream beneath tea towels my bolted neck makes Mary howl. Finally, I say my line: Baby Jesus so divine guided by a star that shines, I come here bearing Frankenstein!



## **W is for...**

### **Wildlife? Weetabix? Warthogs?**

Although I confess to having a soft spot for Warthogs, none of the above are Ruth Valerio's choice for the letter W. In her book "L is for Lifestyle" W is for Water and Ruth begins her chapter by recounting a special holiday she had enjoyed in India, only to find out when she returned to the UK that the area she had visited was suffering from

drought. Suddenly the showers she had enjoyed each day seemed on reflection a little self-indulgent.

Water sustains life. For we who are privileged to live in the UK water of good quality, for drinking and other purposes, is generally available on demand 24/7 simply by turning on a tap. For approximately, 2/3rds of the world's population this is not so. When the available water supplies in an area cannot sustainably meet demand then it is said to be an area of water stress, the consequences of which lead to problems of food production and economic development.

Ever increasing global demand and climate change are major contributors to water insecurity and inequalities of access to this necessity of life. As with many environmental issues, the poorest countries and peoples suffer most whilst at the same time being those who are least responsible for the problems.

Even in the UK, water is a limitless resource that we can take for granted. The Environment Agency predicts that by 2050 areas of this country, particularly in London and the Southeast of England, will be areas of water stress. The problems may seem huge, but we can all play our part by being more aware of our use of this precious life resource. The average person in the UK uses an estimated 980 litres of water a week, showers account for 25%, flushing toilets 22%, personal hygiene 16%, washing machines 9%, dish washing 5% and the remaining 23% drinking, cooking, cleaning cars, gardening, etc. Meanwhile, continue to pray for charities such as Water Aid, Practical Action, Charity: Water, Living Water International and UNICEF.

Make a note every time you use water today, try to think about how you could use less. (If you're on a water meter cutting your water usage will also benefit your finances). If possible, be aware of your 'virtual water' usage, if you have access to the internet see [www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org)

Love and blessings, LORRAINE



- 1 Portuguese navigators discovered 'The river of January' on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1502. What is 'The river of January'?
- 2 The bestselling record in the world in 1956 was recorded on New Year's Day in Nashville. What was the name of the song?
- 3 On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1907 US President Theodore Roosevelt shook a record number of hands in one day. How many hands did he shake? Plus or minus 1,000.
- 4 Traditionally, what do the Dutch eat to usher in the New Year? Raw Herring; Gouda Cookies; Oliebollen (donuts); or Frikadellen (Hamburger patties):
- 5 Which two European countries declared their independence on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1993?
- 6 Which man led the offensive against French troops in Indo China that began on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1950?
- 7 The US Congress prohibited the importation of what into the USA on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1808?

8 The first mobile phone call in Britain was made by which comedian on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1985? Spike Milligan; Billy Connolly; Benny Hill; Ernie Wise:

9 On New Year's Day 1925 Norway changed the name of its capital city to Oslo. What was the previous name?

10 Which 1972 film and mega box office success took place between New Year's Eve and New Years Day?

11 What announcement did Emperor Hirohito of Japan make on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1946?

12 The European Economic Community (EEC) was first established on January 1<sup>st</sup> of which year? plus or minus 1

13 In which film did Mickey Rourke appear with the word 'Year' in the title?

14 The Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed on New Year's Day in which year? plus or minus 5 years

15 Traditionally, what do people in Portugal eat when the clock strikes 12 on New Year's Eve? Is it 12 grapes; 12 sardines; 12 oysters; or 12 almonds:

16 A BOAC turboprop Bristol Britannia flew from London to New York in record time on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1958. Plus or minus 1 hour, what was the record time?

***The quiz answers are printed later in Crossroads***



## **THROUGH THE WINDOW**

Hello everyone,

I am sorry I didn't fill my obligations last month but there was such a lot going on in my world. My mum didn't leave the pad and pen out and I don't know where she keeps it. She hides it from me or it's so

high up and I can't jump that high. On to my mum's bed is about all I can manage. When it's so cold I stay indoors where it is warm. By golly it has been cold recently and wet and I don't like my fur coat getting wet never mind my paws!

When it's wet outside my mum tells me to wipe my paws when I come in and I do sort of. There's a mat at the door and I have to cross that to get inside so I do wipe my paws, don't I? This weekend my mum had her son visit her and guess what he brought, his dog with him. I was shut up in my mum's bedroom so it couldn't get at me. My mum and Auntie Jill were in raptures when she came in. I can hear her running around, so I hide under my mum's bed. When they have gone my mum lets me out and I go very gingerly down the stairs. I have a good look round and a sniff, just checking you understand then I ask for the door to be opened so I can do what a girl has to do, then it's back into my cosy place. I will be glad when it gets a bit warmer. I like being outside, I wander around my patch, a sniff somewhere else. It's nice just to keep an eye on things. When my mum goes out, I greet her at the gate just to welcome her home. I think she's pleased that I do. My paw is a bit sore, so I'll sign off.

'til the next time, love from your feline friend  
JoJo.

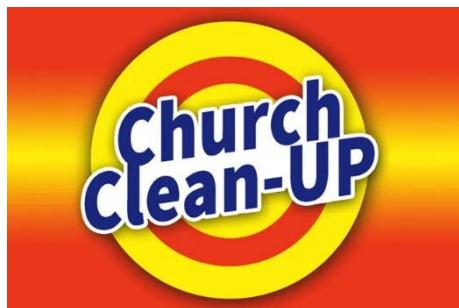
### **ST GEORGE'S CHURCH CLEANING CREW**

Thank you to everyone who help clean St George's Church during 2025. We did lots of cleaning and had lots of laughs too (and eaten lots of cakes). We've decided not to meet to clean in January so our first cleaning session of 2026 will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February.



Therefore, we will be in St George's Church from 10.00am on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am** should you forget to put that date in your new 2026 diary I'll remind you in my February Cleaning Crew article. I'd better remember to get some cakes made though! Happy New Year!

## CHURCH CLEANING CREW!



### JOTTINGS From St Margaret's



Well hello people; it's me that certain person who with her mates Marilyn and Dianne do the cleaning at St Margaret's Whaddon. You may have noticed that I didn't get round to writing anything for the

November Crossroads, so I made sure that I got this one written in plenty of time for December.

We have now found out that St Margaret's has bats in her belfrey, long eared ones at that. I don't know much about bats, but I do know that they are protected, so we can't kill them off; we will just have to live with them and look after them now that they have made themselves comfortable in our church .



Jonathan has had a word with me about getting a Christmas tree, I told him not to get a great big one, just one we could manage to get into its allotted space. He was going to reserve one from Pound Farm and we will decorate it on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December which is perfect for us.

This is always something we like to do with the help of Jonathan, Mike and Nuala. Mike being 6ft 6ins can reach to the top of the tree without any problems, unlike us girls who stick to putting the baubles on the lower branches.

I went shopping in November and had to buy some lovely baubles I had seen. Jonathan thought that we already had loads and loads; but on checking them some were old and damaged and the new ones the colours are smashing. Well my friends that's about all for now, so it's goodbye from me and best wishes and here's hoping you all have a lovely Christmas.

## JILL PONTER

Ps: I hope that you enjoyed our Darkness to Light service on November 30<sup>th</sup> it is one of the loveliest services at St Margaret's.



*Your help would be very much appreciated whenever you can offer it*



That to have your  
**FEBRUARY 2026 CROSSROADS**  
ready for publication by **SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

...ARTICLES NEED TO BE WITH THE EDITORS' PREFERABLY BY EMAIL  
BEFORE, BUT NO LATER THAN...  
**...Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Crossroads will be printed on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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



**OVER THE GARDEN FENCE**

It was all your fault Maya. What on earth are you talking about Trixie? You know Maya, you know. What am I supposed to know Trixie? It was you who hid the pen and the paper so we couldn't write our bit for that magazine that our mum sends our bits in. What magazine is that Trixie? The church magazine Maya, the church magazine and our bit is not in it and neither is our mum's jottings from that other church as well. What on earth did you do to the pen and paper Maya? I don't know what you are talking about. Yes, you do Maya, you are always

hiding things and then I can't find them, so where did you put the pen and paper? I can't seem to recall where I put those things Trixie, ah but wait a minute I seem to remember our mum picking up those things and putting them on a shelf somewhere. What shelf Maya, what shelf? I don't know Trixie I just don't know, wait a minute I think she put it on the shelf next to the fireplace. I don't think that she knew what she was doing because she had that far away look she sometimes gets, you know the one when she's not quite with it. You know what I mean Trixie don't you? Yes, I do Maya, I think it's when she is very tired and you know she has been up to her armpits with marzipan she has been putting on those cakes she made.

There seemed to be loads and loads and I heard her telling Auntie Marg she had to get some roll-on icing. What's roll on icing Maya? I haven't a clue Trixie, but our mum uses it at this time of year. Maya what's this time of year mean? It's when everyone goes crazy buying all sorts of things and they go to the church a lot and then they take a tree into the church and dress that up because they say it's at a place called Christmas. I know what you are going to ask me Trixie, but I don't know what that is either. Trixie you look a bit befuddled. I am befuddled Maya, because I haven't understood a word you have said and all that just because you lost the pen and paper. I know that look Maya, so I'll just say tata for now people until next time and it's a very happy tata from me Maya. Just stay warm until next time.

That's all for now folks  
From Maya and Trixie Ponter (Miss)





## Looking Ahead...

**Snow White pantomime at St Barnabas Church Hall: 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Palm Sunday donkey** once again a donkey has been booked to walk from English Martyrs to St George's and hopefully there will be an Easter Play at St George's by Harewood Junior children.

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

**Proposed APCM date** for St George's and St Margaret's is **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Summer Fun Day 2026: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026** is the provisional date for next year's Summer Fun Day.

**CiT Mission weekend with Bishop Rachel from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
we will be joined by eight curates (not Gioia sadly!) – likely to be a celebratory community event on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and joint worship on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>.



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?

### **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



The moment we've all been waiting for is here. Tickets are now on sale for BADCo's 2026 pantomime, Snow White, and we could not be more excited to share this one with you.

Step into the magical world of Snow White, where fairy-tale fun meets full-blown panto chaos. It's Snow White's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but her wicked stepmother Queen Muriel has other plans. She has banned parties, punished villagers, and hatched a fiendish plot to get rid of Snow once and for all. Fortunately, Snow has a gang of loveable if slightly hopeless miners on her side, plus the fabulous Cora the Cook, the poetic Man in the Mirror, and his hilariously over-it apprentice Julian. Throw in a prince with a forgotten past, enchanted rhymes, woodland surprises, and a generous helping of pie-in-the-face humour, and you have a tale packed with heart, mischief, music and magic.

This retelling is full of catchy songs, outrageous characters, and all the sparkle you expect from a family panto. Expect laughs, boos, cheers and a few surprises along the way. We are also fundraising this year for TalkWell, a local charity providing vital

mental health support to children and young people. Your ticket helps us put on the show and support a brilliant cause.

Dates: 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026

St Barnabas Church Halls, Stroud Road, Gloucester GL1 5LJ

Tickets: available now at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/badco](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/badco)

See you at St Barnabas. Let's make some magic.

### **WINTER WORDSEARCH**



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

Blankets, Coats, Cold, Dark, Fireplace, Freezing, Frost, Gloves, Ice, Mittens. Snowing, Snowman, Windy, Woolly Hat.

***The answer is printed later in Crossroads***

**Editors' Note:** Your Crossroads magazine in 2026 will remain at 75p a copy and £7.00 for the year. Don't forget you can view Crossroads on the Church website for free; and it's in colour too.

*If you decide to go down this route, please tell us so we don't continue printing more copies than we need to. Thank you.*

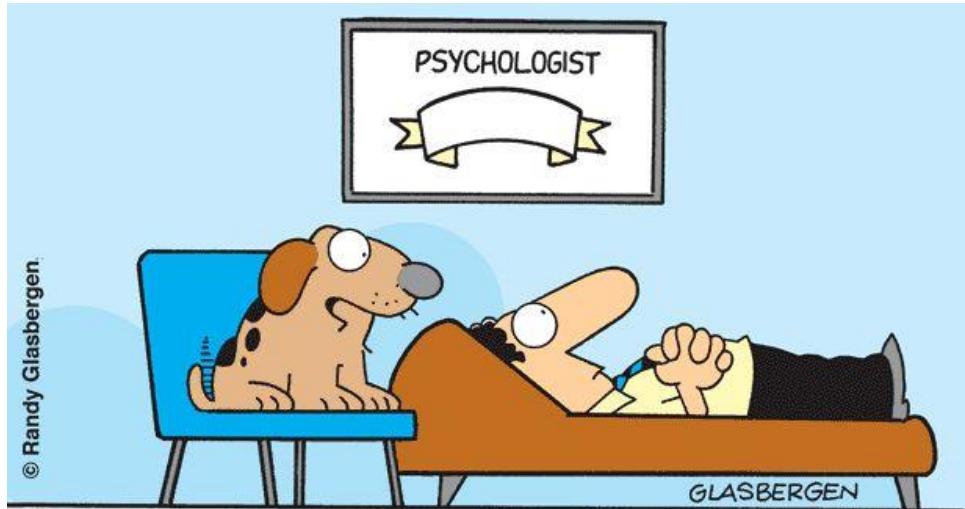
*GLENDY and DARRELL*

**NEW YEAR QUIZ ANSWERS**

1 Rio de Janeiro: 2 Heartbreak Hotel: 3 8,513 hands: 4 c. Oliebollen (donuts): 5. Czech Republic and Slovakia: 6 Ho Chi Minh: 7 Slaves: 8 Ernie Wise: 9 Christiania: 10 The Poseidon Adventure: 11 That he was not a god: 12 1958: 13 The Year of the Dragon: 14 1901; 15 12 grapes; 16 7h 57m:

**GOSPEL QUIZ ANSWERS**

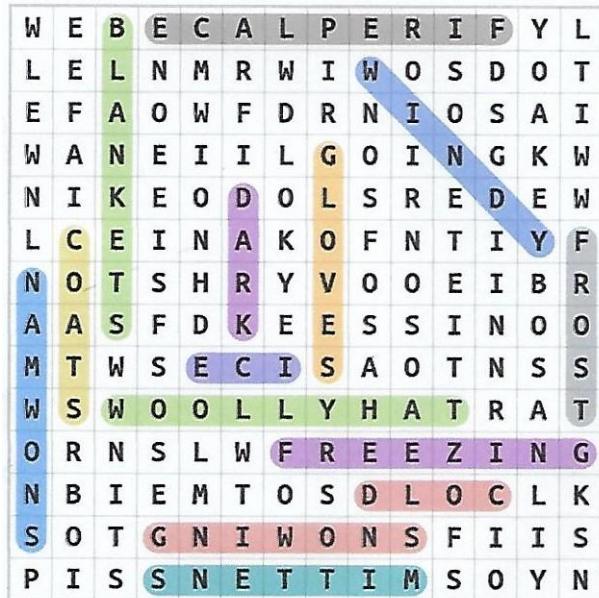
1 Matthew Ch 5: 2 Rich, full, laughing, spoken well of: 3 Sadducees: 4 teacher: 5 earthquakes: 6 parents and brothers: 7 crucified: 8 watching: 9 Noah: 10 unexpected:



**"My therapy is quite simple: I wag my tail and lick your face until you feel good about yourself again."**



## WINTER WORDSEARCH ANSWER



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS  
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
DOING LAST YEAR

Please don't forget to let Laura in the Church Office know if you are arranging anything special in St George's, St Margaret's or St George's Centre or if there is a change to your normal let of St George's Centre.  
Thank you

# WHAT'S GOING ON? IN THE BENEFICE

## DECEMBER

Sunday 28	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	4.00pm	IGBO Meeting in small hall
Monday 29	1.00pm	Slimming World in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
Tuesday 30	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
Wednesday 31	8.15am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	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

## JANUARY

Thursday 1	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
<b>Church Office Closed</b>		
Friday 2	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
	7.30pm	GAGS in main hall
Saturday 3	10.00am	Karate in main hall
Sunday 4	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's Church
Monday 5	<b>Schools New Term</b>	
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall

	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 6	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer in St George's Lady Chapel
	6.30pm	Cubs & Beavers in main hall
	8.00pm	Karate in main hall
Wednesday 7	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 8	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in small 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 9	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
Saturday 10	10.00am	Karate in main hall
Sunday 11	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
Monday 12	10.30am	Say Aphasia in small hall
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 13	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	2.30pm	Fun and Free in main hall
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union AGM in small 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 14	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 15	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in small 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 16	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
Saturday 17	10.00am	Karate in main hall
Sunday 18	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 19	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 20	<b>Church Office closed</b>	
	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	2.30pm	Fun and 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 21	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

	6.30pm	G.A.G.S. Committee in small hall
Thursday 22	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in small 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 23	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
Saturday 24	10.00am	Karate in the main hall
Sunday 25	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	4.00pm	IGBO Meeting in small hall
Monday 26	10.30am	Say Aphasia in small hall
	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 27	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	2.30pm	Fun and 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 28	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 29	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in small 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 30	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
	7.30pm	G.A.G.S. in main hall
Saturday 31	10.00am	Karate in the main hall
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Sunday 1	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church
	5.00pm	Evensong at St Margaret's Church
Monday 2	5.00pm	Brownies in main hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rainbows in small hall
	7.15pm	Guides in main hall
	7.15pm	Youth Group in small hall
Tuesday 3	9.30am	Coffee Pot in small hall
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist in St George's Lady Chapel
	2.30pm	Fun and 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 4	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 5	10.30am	Thursday Club in small hall
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	2.00pm	Art Group in small 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 6	6.00pm	Christ Mandate Fellowship in main hall
Saturday 7	10.00am	Karate in the main hall
Sunday 8	9.00am	Parish Eucharist at St Margaret's Church
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist at St George's Church

## **A LITTLE BIT OF NEW YEAR'S HUMOUR TO FINISH WITH...**

Jack went to the doctor's just before Christmas as he had been feeling a bit under the weather. After a brief examination, his GP announced that Jack had Ham Flu. "I've never heard of that!" "Well," said his GP, "You know that you had Swine Flu some weeks ago. Well now you've been cured".

Jack and Jill were in their local when a man and his pet alligator came in and go over to the barman. "Do you serve solicitors?" the man asks. "We certainly do, sir!" replied the barman, "Then I'll have a pint of beer, and my pet alligator will have a solicitor."

Jack was away on business, and he needed to book a room for the night somewhere near his meeting's venue. He saw a sign which said cheap rooms for the night. So, he thought "I'll have some of that!" and pulled into the carpark. The receptionist told him, "The room is £15.00 per night; buts it's £5.00 if you make your own bed." Jack couldn't believe it, so he told the receptionist, "I'm more than happy to make my own bed." "Good. I'll get you some nails and wood," replied the receptionist.

Jack got tasered picking up his friend from the airport today. Apparently, Security doesn't like it when his friend shouted out, "Hi Jack!". Jack and the friend he had picked up were talking as Jack drove home, "I haven't seen you for almost a decade, what are you doing these days?" asked Jack "Well PHD," was the reply. "Wow! You're a doctor!" said Jack "No, Pizza Home Delivery," said his friend.

Three elderly men were sat in a corner of Jack's local. The first one says, "Windy, isn't it?" The second one says, "No, it's Thursday!" The third one says, "So am I. Let's have another beer."

A Vicar asks a group of schoolchildren, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

St George's Church and Centre, Grange Road, Tuffley, Gloucester GL4 0PE

St Margaret's Church, 2 Church Lane, Whaddon, Gloucester GL4 0UE