

# **St. George's Church Brockworth**

**April 2021**



**To journey in faith and share  
God's love.**

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**The article deadline for the May issue is 15/04/21**

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If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church Office.

## Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

Any ecclesiastical or political views contained in this magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC or the Editor. This church promotes good practice in work with children and young people. It has a current and active Child Protection Policy that's available to view at St George's Church & St George's Church Centre. St. George's, Brockworth is a Fair Trade Parish and supports the Parish Giving Scheme.

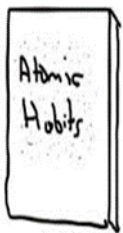
**THIS MONTH'S COVER: Dovecote, Bentham**

# HABITS

## Small changes – Massive Consequences

We all have habits, responses that we instinctively perform. Researchers at Duke's University in the USA concluded in a recent project that habits account for up to 40% of our behaviours in any given day. Our habits are a manifestation of conscious or sub-conscious thoughts and decisions. Biting our nails, swearing, stress eating, smoking, drinking too much (alcohol, coffee, tea, fizzy drinks) all say something about us, whether we are worried, stressed, craving affirmation, or just bored.

I recently read James Clear's 'Atomic Habits', in which he explores years of research and experience into the power of habits. James focuses on the power of positive habits and how we can cultivate new constructive habits. Whether you are starting out at university and want to be more disciplined and intentional about your time management, or in your one hundred and first year and want to develop good walking or reading habits, we can start pursuing positive habits which affect our mental, physical and emotional health.



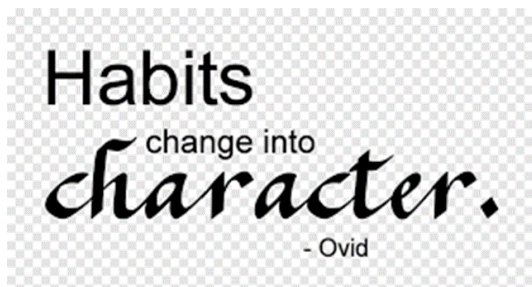
James suggests that:

*What you repeatedly do (i.e., what you spend time thinking about and doing each day) ultimately forms the person you are, the things you believe, and the personality that you portray. When you learn to transform **your habits**, you **can transform your life**.*

Whether you want to drink more water in the day, read more, build mindfulness time into your day, there are a few simple steps you can adopt

1. **Start small and realistic.** Instead of being overwhelmed and therefore setting yourself up to fail. Start with an achievable, manageable, and realistic goal. Rather than start by trying to run 5km, start by running 100m and walking 100m.
2. When you start to feel you have adopted the habit – you’ve naturally started planning your day or week around your new habit, start to **increase in a small way**: 100m run becomes 150m. Reading for 5mins becomes reading for 7mins, practising mindfulness, or praying becomes 8mins instead of 5mins.
3. If you have a bad day and miss your schedule – forgive yourself, you should expect to fail sometimes, **aim for consistency not perfection.**
4. **Make it fun and easy.** Put your shoes by the door, leave your book on the coffee table, put a post-it note to pray or practise mindfulness where you will not miss it.

We are never too old or too young to develop new habits. If you are interested in learning more let me know, I am still learning myself, but I would love to chat through how to develop new habits. Finally, and just as important, the same techniques can be used in reverse to **stop bad habits!**



Mike  
Smith

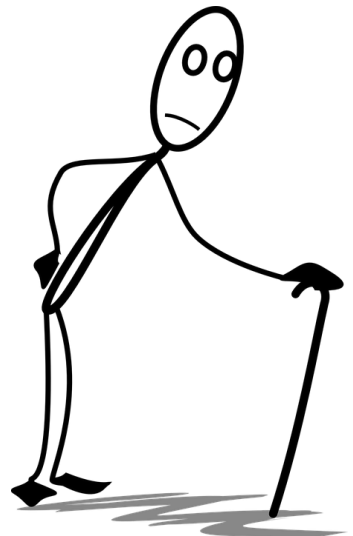


**Paraprosdokians** - figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Sadly, this is true!!! Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer, Let's be Happy, while we're here!

*Contributed by David Sutch*



## Message from Bishop Rachel

In this past week I have particularly noticed the lengthening days and the change in birdsong, and that sense of spring emerging was certainly helped by the weekend's sunshine. Yet we still have some way to go to emerge into a new season regarding the ending of lockdown and the lifting of restrictions due to the viral pandemic. In your own contexts you will no doubt be wondering exactly what it will look like for you, families, communities and beyond, as we live the road map which the government has laid out for us. And as we all tentatively pencil things into the diary and think about the future, we know we can only live it one step at a time even as we lift our eyes to the horizon.

Once again, be assured that as we walk the road map, Bishop Robert and I, along with the archdeacons and the staff team, will keep you informed of any significant changes along the way.

It is indeed important that we lift our eyes as we ponder what the future might look like, what we have learned, and what we hope to live differently, yet all held with provisionality as we simply take the next step, firmly and with hope, even amid pain, loss, and weariness.

I have been reminded of this as Guy and I have undertaken local walks recently. I have needed to keep glancing downwards so as to navigate water, mud, and unseen tree roots as I place my feet securely, and yet we have needed to keep looking up to discern the path to take, and

there have been frequent glances at the map, sometimes amid weariness, whilst also taking time to notice the small things around us – the buds appearing, the bird song in overhead branches, the smell of freshly mown grass, as well as the plastic bottle lying in the hedgerow or the graffiti on the wall.

When Jesus Christ was on earth, he urged his disciples to notice, to look, to listen, and to hear and see deeply as they lived the present. They were to notice not only their brokenness but also their beauty as well as that of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air. They were to recognise God's care and not to be anxious in the present (Matthew 6:25-34). Yet at the same time they were to keep on lifting their eyes to see the big picture of the Kingdom of God and to join in with its coming. It all requires a noticing as well as a taking of the next small step, and all lived with prayer.

So, in these days of Lent I want to encourage us to enter into a deep and prayerful noticing as we take the next step – a noticing not only of what is going on within us and around us as spring emerges, but also to learn more deeply that way of living in which we keep on taking the next step of the present moment while keeping the future in our sights, rooted in prayer.

Often the noticing of the small things is the most enlightening, and the steps which lead to the greatest discovery are the small ones.

In all of this please do go on **sharing your stories** of things which have emerged from the soil of LIFE, as



together we look back and notice what God has been doing and we continue to keep our eyes on shaping the future to the sights and sounds of the kingdom of God.

Finally, thank you to all those who are responding to our **partnership with Christian Aid**. The multiple small acts of giving are adding up to something significant and life-giving for brothers and sisters across the world as we ensure we notice and respond to our own vaccinations with thanksgiving.

This comes with gratitude and continued prayer for the small steps we are taking together in the present as we continue to look up and pray 'your

kingdom come on earth as in heaven'.



+ Rachel

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm**

**The Lord is my Shepherd - That's Relationship!**

**I shall not want - That's Supply!**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures - That's Rest!**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters - That's Refreshment!**

**He restoreth my soul - That's Healing!**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness - That's Guidance!**

**For His Name sake - That's Purpose!**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley**

**of the shadow of death - That's Testing!**

**I will fear no evil - That's Protection!**

**For Thou art with me - That's Faithfulness!**

**Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me - That's Discipline!**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the**

**presence of mine enemies - That's Hope!**

**Thou annointest my head with oil - That's Consecration!**

**My cup runneth over - That's Abundance!**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

**all the days of my life - That's Blessings!**

**And I will dwell in the house of the Lord - That's Security!**

**Forever - That's Eternity!**

JERUSALEM  
PRAYER TEAM



### **Listens, Observes and Acts**

As the wonderful golden season of Easter is upon us,  
may I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Loving Father God, we praise your Holy name this joyful Eastertide,  
fill us with new life so that we may love one another,  
and do what you want us to do. Amen.

and let us pray for members of

### **Mothers' Union**

#### **in our community and around the world**

O God, our heavenly Father, we ask you to bless the work of  
the Mothers' Union throughout the world,  
especially in these difficult times of the Coronavirus,  
Bless our members in their lives and in their homes,  
that they, being strengthened in love to you and to each other,  
may serve you faithfully to your glory,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

This year is advancing fast!

Here we are in April, a time when the lambs are gambolling around  
the fields if you are lucky enough to see them,  
although I expect you, like myself, are missing being able  
to see family and friends and the very human feeling of wanting to  
give children and grandchildren a hug.

We are lucky in this age of technology that we can see each other on  
Facetime and Zoom etc. but it is not the same as physically  
being able to see them so we all hope that the restrictions  
will be able to be lifted for us to get together soon!

We will all wait with bated breath to hear what  
Boris our Prime Minister has to say!!

Enid is hoping to be able to organise something for July!  
So, let's look forward to a brighter future.

Many blessings, Rona.



## An ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN REFLECTION

God, help me to live as the rock set in rushing waters,  
Buffeted, worn, cleansed, caressed,  
lying easy at last in your waiting hand  
as a smooth pebble in the hand of a child.

Help me to see the world with eyes that refuse  
to carve the wisdom of trees into board feet of timber.

Help me to listen to the world with ears  
that strain to learn the language of the river  
before its flow of words is stopped by concrete walls,  
its voice drowned in the roar of turbines.

Help me to touch the world with fragile hands  
knowing that only the rocks will remain to hold our stories  
when the sun has gone out  
and the earth drifts dark and empty through the void.  
God, I have walked miles from the innocence of your garden.

Help my heart find the teaching that will always  
guide me back to where the forest floor  
yields gladly beneath my feet  
and your smile dances on the waters of my soul.

This is part of a reflection by Mothers' Union member  
Linda Adams of Vancouver, Canada.  
Rona.



## **BIBLICAL CITIES CONTINUED : THESSALONICA**

Dear Readers, continuing my series on Biblical cities, especially those associated with St Paul's missionary journeys, we now come to Thessalonica. What a change from my recent chapters on cities that have disappeared off the map and are merely ruins.

Today, Thessalonica, situated 20 km. north of Athens in the region of Macedonia, is the second largest city of Greece and the most important centre of the area. Built near the sea (at the back of the Thermaïkos Gulf), it is a thriving Macedonian port and a modern metropolis bearing the marks of its stormy history and its cosmopolitan character, which give it a special beauty and charm. So, dear readers we look at St Paul's visit to Thessalonica travelling from Philippi accompanied by Silas and Timothy. This was a visit from Philippi to Thessalonica on his second missionary journey, stopping in Amphipolis and Apollonia before arriving there (Acts 17). He preached in the city's synagogue, the chief synagogue of the region, for at least three weeks. His ministry was strong, and he established a Jewish-Gentile church, although it was more heavily Gentile (1 Thess. 1:9). When Paul faced great persecution at the hands of the mob, he fled to Berea, but Thessalonians eventually forced him to leave there also (Acts 17:13-14). We are fortunate to be able to read his messages to the Thessalonians as

two epistles of Paul are recorded in the New Testament.

The history of Thessalonica goes back to 315BC when it was founded by Macedon's King Cassandra, on or near the ancient site of Therma. The king named the city after his wife Thessaloniki, who was Alexander the Great's half-sister. Then in 168 B.C. it became a city of the Roman Republic. It soon grew to be a critical trading hub for the Roman Empire by facilitating the exchange of goods between Europe and Asia. Thessalonica eventually became the capital city of the Roman district it was located in. The city contained an amphitheatre where entertainment in the form of gladiatorial shows were held for the local citizens and also a circus was exhibited for the amusement of the citizens, and a circus where games for the public took place.

Following the Roman occupation, the city became the wealthiest city of the Byzantine Empire. It was later conquered by the Ottomans in 1430 and remained an important seaport and multi-ethnic metropolis during the nearly five centuries of Turkish rule. It passed from the Ottoman Empire to Greece on 8 November 1912. It is now the Hellenic Republic of Greece

Finally, Thessalonica is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Allan Delves

## **It Couldn't Be Done**, By Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it;"  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure,  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM will take place on Monday 19th April via Zoom. Further details and reports will be sent out to all those on our mailing list in due course, along with the Zoom meeting link. If you are not on our mailing list, please contact the office for further information. At this fairly brief meeting, Churchwardens are elected and an overview of the past year is presented. All welcome.

**100 Club**

**March 2021**

**WINNERS**

1st — Christine Bartholomew (11)

2nd — Karen Whitfield (64)

3rd — Joy Curzon (23)

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## Baptisms

## Weddings

## Funerals

*I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. '*

**Please also remember all who are sick or bereaved and who need our prayers:** *Heavenly Father, giver of life and health; comfort and restore those who are sick and bereaved, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



## Happy Easter

With the promise of warmer weather in the air and the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, this Easter feels like it is heralding in dramatic change.

Stories of how Christian generosity and initiative is making a difference in the world are everywhere. Over

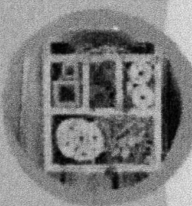
1,200 Easter meals were sponsored and delivered to people across the Diocese through our Comfort and Joy Easter project. Delicious shepherd's pies or gardener's pies cooked by The Long Table, with a freshly baked hot cross bun were delivered to doorsteps across the area, as a way of showing our neighbours that they are cared for and loved.

Huge amounts of money are being donated to Christian Aid in thankfulness for vaccinations—at the time of writing, in early March, over £7,000 had been given in this Diocese, in collaboration with the local Methodist Circuit. This money will be used to support those for whom Covid restrictions have had other significant impacts.

In this month's edition we're including an extract from a special edition of Growing Together which you can share with your worshipping community. To download the full edition and lots more family friendly resources to share locally, please visit [www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together)

## Courageous Advocacy

Have a go at making the world better – for bees. Could you make a bee hotel or plant a bee friendly flower or shrub in a tub or a part of your garden? Find out where it's possible to buy local, sustainable honey and share the information with your friends and family. For further ideas go to [www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-bee-friendly](http://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/how-bee-friendly)



## Family Fun

Go for a 'honey' hunt. You could search the kitchen and see how many food items you can find that include honey. You could walk in the garden/park and see how many bees on flowers you can count. You could even do a web engine search and hunt to see how many things you can discover that are made using beeswax.



## Prayer Ideas

*Kind words are like honey—sweet to the taste and good for your health. (Proverbs 16:24 GNT)*



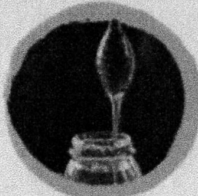
For this prayer space activity you will need something sweet to slowly eat, perhaps a piece of honeycomb, a milk and honey cookie or even an Easter egg.

Find a quiet moment and a quiet place to enjoy your sweet snack and see how slowly you can eat it and how long you can make it last.

As you do this consider the words of Proverbs 16:24. Think about how kind words could be like honey. Did you know honey has been used as a medicine for over 5,000 years and is particularly good for healing wounds? Do you think kind words can heal?

Savour the taste of your sweet snack. How good does it taste? Think again about those kind words. Can you think of any times when someone has said something kind to you?

Pray that you will make the most of any opportunity you have to say kind words to people and your words will be like honey – able to bring sweetness and healing.

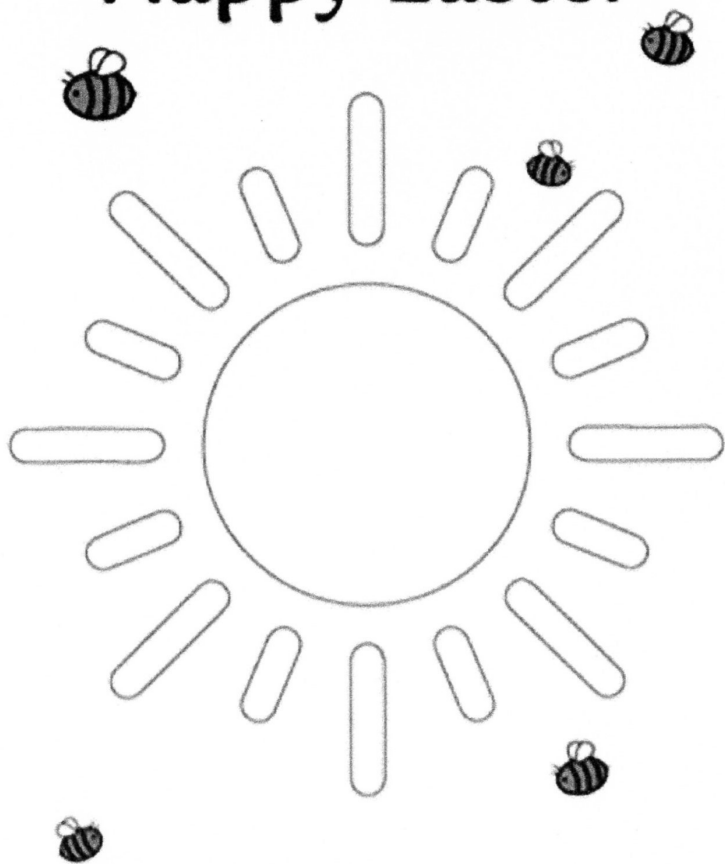


## You are my Sunshine

Sunrise on Easter Morning is the time when lots of Christians celebrate Jesus rising. Bees and flowers need the sun to bring warmth and long days so they can grow and thrive – perhaps you could give a sunshine to someone this Easter to say thank you for the way they have made your community work really well and brought sunshine into your life, especially during lockdown.



# Happy Easter



You are my sunshine

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## Events and training

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

**Churches across the Diocese of Gloucester will be worshipping together for Easter, whether online or in person. If you want to find out the latest information from your local church, visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)**

### **Maundy Thursday Eucharist (Live stream only from Gloucester Cathedral)**

**Thursday 1 April, 11am**

Open to all. This service will see members of the clergy from across the Diocese of Gloucester renew their ordination vows. The oils for use in services will also be blessed for the coming year. Got to [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/) to join.

### **Easter Day Eucharist (Live stream from Gloucester Cathedral)**

**Sunday 4 April, 10.15am**

This is a traditional Easter morning service with Bishop Rachel, the

Bishop of Gloucester. All are welcome via Zoom.

### **EcoChurch Zoom Seminars – The Next Steps**

**Thursday 22 April, 11am to 12:30pm and again at 7pm to 8pm**

If you're working on your EcoChurch award, either Bronze or Silver and are not quite sure how to progress things, this seminar will be helpful to you. Visit [shorturl.at/bxK39](http://shorturl.at/bxK39) to book.

### **The Language of Spirituality Saturday 15 May, 10am to 12 noon**

The disciples understood there was something in Jesus' relationship with God that they couldn't grasp. They needed a new language, a new approach and so they asked Jesus how to pray. Debbie Helme and Jo Wetherall have developed a language of Spirituality to help describe our understanding of who God is and how that effects our everyday lives – to people who don't have an experience of faith. Book at [gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-language-of-spirituality](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-language-of-spirituality)

### **Have your say**

Visit Facebook **f/Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website [gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)



## **April 2021**

### **Daily Bible Readings:**

Maundy Thursday  
Good Friday  
Easter Eve

Exodus 12:1-4,11-14; John 13:1-17,31b-35  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; John 18:1-19:37  
Job 14:1-14; John 19:38-42

Monday 5th April  
Tuesday 6th April  
Wednesday 7th April  
Thursday 8th April  
Friday 9th April  
Saturday 10th April

Acts 2:14,22-32; Matthew 28:8-15  
Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18  
Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35  
Acts 3:11-end; Luke 24:35-48  
Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14  
Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Monday 12th April  
Tuesday 13th April  
Wednesday 14th April  
Thursday 15th April  
Friday 16th April  
Saturday 17th April

Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8  
Acts 4:32-end; John 3:7-15  
Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21  
Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-end  
Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15  
Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21

Monday 19th April  
Tuesday 20th April  
Wednesday 21st April  
Thursday 22nd April  
St George's Day  
Saturday 24th April

Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29  
Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35  
Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40  
Acts 8:26-end; John 6:44-51  
1 Maccabees 2:59-64; John 15:18-21  
Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69

Monday 26th April  
Tuesday 27th April  
Wednesday 28th April  
Thursday 29th April  
Friday 30th April

Proverbs 15:28-end; Ephesians 4:7-16  
Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30  
Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-end  
Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20  
Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6

## Deanery Synod prayers...

### Psalm 90

12 Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

13 Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Reflection** John Bell (Iona Community)

You keep us waiting.

You, the God of all time;  
want us to wait for the right time in which to discover who we are, where we must go, who will be with us, and what we must do.

*So, thank you...for the waiting time.*

You keep us looking.

You, the God of all space,  
want us to look in the right and wrong places  
for signs of hope,  
for people who are hopeless, for visions of a better world which will appear among the disappointments of the world we know.

*So, thank you...for the looking time.*

You keep us loving.

You, the God whose name is love,  
want us to be like you –  
to love the loveless and the unlovely and unloveable;  
to love without jealousy or design or threat; and, most difficult of all, to love ourselves.

*So, thank you...for the loving time.*

And in all this, you keep us.

Through hard questions with no easy answers;

through failing where we hoped to succeed and making an impact when we felt we were useless;  
through patience and the dreams and the love of others; and through Jesus Christ and his Spirit,  
You keep us.

*So, thank you.... for the keeping time  
and for now,  
and for ever.*

**Prayers for the nation** attributed to St. Augustine

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

### A further prayer

Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

**Blessing from the Northumbrian Community**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors. Amen.

*Contributed by Liz Ashenden, one of our Deanery Synod representatives on the PCCr*

## There is a time for everything.

Dear Readers, did you see and listen to the Lent Worship on BBC1 on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February? The first lesson was taken from the lesser-known book of the Old Testament, namely Ecclesiastes.

Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes is one of my favourite Chapters in the Bible. For many years Ann and I had this on a tea towel which we had mounted on the kitchen wall and now it is in everyday use as its drying purpose.

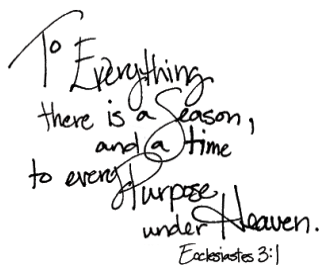
One thing that we have found with Lockdown is that we all have “down” time and have had to find other occupations to fill in the time. It reminds me of the proverb “Idle hands are the Devils workshop”. I am convinced the prevalence of depression in our society is causally related to the gross amount of free time that people are unable to enjoy and thence become bored.

So, to avoid this influence think about the Biblical quotation below and make the most of your “down time”.

Here it is from the NIV version:

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.



To Everything  
there is a Season,  
and a time  
to every Purpose  
under Heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Finally, allow me to tell you about this book. It is by an unknown Author but many biblical scholars believe it was written by Solomon in 350BC

Allan Delves  
02. 03. 2021.

## MY FAVOURITE POEMS: ODE TO AUTUMN by JOHN KEATS

A radio programme on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of February about John Keats' tragic life triggered my thoughts into which of his poems I enjoyed. Of course, it had to be nearly everyone's favourite "Ode to Autumn". It is 200 years ago this month (February) that he died at the age of 23 in Rome from Tuberculosis.

After his studies to become a Doctor he decided that Poetry was what he wished to do and turned out to be one of the most acclaimed Romantic Poets of his era. Even Tennyson quoted that he was the best.

Dear Readers, you may question an Autumn poem when we are just looking forward to Spring. I have included it because of the anniversary of his death.

ODE TO AUTUMN by John Keats.

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For Summer has o'er-brimmed their clammy cells.

Allan Delves  
02.03.2021



### Childhood memories.

Thinking back to the time I was at school, many, many years ago, I recalled some of the hymns we used to sing. Two of them are etched in my mind – "Fair Waved the Golden Corn in Canaan's Pleasant Land" and "There's a Friend for Little Children Above the Bright Blue Sky".

I've looked through a number of hymn books but can find no reference to them except in Hymns Ancient and Modern.

I wonder if any readers of the magazine remember hymns from their childhood which are never heard these days?

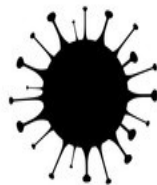
Sheila Watts



## Covid Craving

To the tune of “wouldn’t it be lovely”

All I want is a beach somewhere, far away from this Covid  
scare, with sea and clean fresh air  
Oh, wouldn’t it be lovely.  
No more lockdowns or threats of fines  
No more flipcharts to blow our minds,  
Just sand and waving pines,  
Oh, wouldn’t it be lovely.  
Lovely just to go out and eat  
Even a Costa would be a treat  
Warm face warm hands, warm feet  
Oh, wouldn’t it be lovely.  
To see a smile without a mask.  
To walk together, sit on the grass.  
Let’s hope this comes to pass.  
Oh. wouldn’t it be lovely.



God bless my church family.  
*Louisa Messenger*

### **Beware! Always read the label!**

Superman Outfit "wearing this does not enable you to fly"  
Pushchair "remove child before collapsing buggy"  
"Do not iron (shirt) while wearing."  
Jigsaw box "contents will need assembly"

## How Mums Were Made

By the time the Lord made mothers, he was into the sixth day working overtime. An Angel appeared and said, "why are you spending so much time on this one?" And the Lord answered and said, "have you read the spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have 200 moveable parts, all replaceable; run on black coffee and left-overs; have a lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up; have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart; and have six pairs of hands."

The Angel was astounded at the requirements for this one. "Six pairs of hands! No Way!" said the Angel. The Lord replied, "Oh, it's not the hands that are the problem. It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers must have!" "And that's on the standard model?" the Angel asked. The Lord nodded in agreement, "Yep, one pair of eyes are to see through the closed door as she asks the children what they are doing even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of the head, are to see what she needs to know even though no one thinks she can. And the third pair are here in the front of her head. They are for looking at an errant child and saying that she understands and loves him or her without even saying a single word."

The Angel tried to stop the Lord. "This is too much work for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish." "But I can't!" The Lord protested, "I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my own heart. She already heals herself when she is sick AND can feed a family of six on a pound of hamburger and can get a nine-year-old to stand in the shower."

The Angel moved closer and touched the woman, "But you have made her so soft, Lord." "She is soft," the Lord agreed, "but I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish." "Will she be able to think?" Asked the Angel. The Lord replied, "Not only will she be able to think, but she will also be able to reason and negotiate."

The Angel then noticed something and reached out and touched the woman's cheek. "Oops, it looks like you have a leak with this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one." "That's not a leak." the Lord objected. "That's a tear!" "What's the tear for?" asked the Angel. The Lord said, "The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her pain, her loneliness, her grief, and her pride."

The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything for this one. You even created the tear!" The Lord looked at the Angel and smiled and said, "I'm afraid you are wrong again, my friend. I created the woman, but she created the tear!"

*Contributed by Jenny Farmer*

## Message from Bishop Robert Telling the story

Stories really matter. We have a deep desire to hear them and to tell them. Love or loathe it, this is one of the key attractions of social media. It is the place where I can share 'my story' and be invited into other people's lives and stories. Our social media has been full of stories these last weeks. Stories of lockdown, and vaccines, children returning to school, and especially, in these last days, of the murder of Sarah Everard and the right to protest it. Sarah's murder has rightly brought anger that this should happen on our streets, a wave of sympathy and love for her and her family, and then with it, a cry of pain and anguish. Like Rachel, we are weeping in anguish for our children and cannot be comforted (Jeremiah 31).

The scale of the affront of this horrific event is such that words are at first hard to find. Whatever is said or written can so easily be superficial, or self-serving, especially if you are a man. Yet the scale of the affront is such that we cannot go speechless. As a husband, a father of daughters, a believer in the dignity and worth of every individual, I too must cry out. My cry must also acknowledge the responsibility I bear, both for how we are, and how we will be. I cannot say simply, "This is not me", because it is, and it asks me what stories I have told. Have I sufficiently told the stories of human dignity, of responsibility, of the care one must have for the other? Have I played my

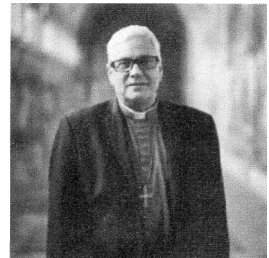
part in sharing the stories that together will shape a culture in which this tragedy is, as it should be, unthinkable?

In these coming weeks, as followers of Jesus Christ, we will tell the story of betrayal and death, and hear again the words Jesus speaks from the cross of abandonment, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" as we see before us the pain of the world and its people. From this we will go on to tell more, of how from darkness and despair, through the action of God, love triumphs over hate, life over death. We will tell the story of hope even in the darkness. The scale and audacity of this story is such that here too words are at first hard to find. The story takes time, and we cannot rush it. We must stay in the garden, linger at the foot of the cross and wait.

We will be convicted, and that may be almost unbearable, but we will be redeemed, as from the deepest darkness we find the brightest light, and we will tell the story of the world as it was intended to be, the world as it can be.

With every blessing,

+ Robert



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—April 2021**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b><i>Good Friday</i></b>	
	10.00am	Stations of the Cross : Church Centre Car Park ( <i>Contact Church Office to book a place</i> )
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>Easter Day</i></b>	
	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Zoom
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>		Worship E-Service document to be emailed No service in church or online ( <i>Contact Church Office if you're not on our emailing list</i> )
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>		Worship E-Service document to be emailed No service in church or online ( <i>Contact Church Office if you're not on our emailing list</i> )
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	7.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting : Zoom
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre ( <i>Contact Church Office to book a place</i> )
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church ( <i>Contact Church Office to book a place</i> )
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre ( <i>Contact Church Office to book a place</i> )
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre ( <i>Contact Church Office to book a place</i> )

**For 'Zoom' details, please contact the Church Office.**

For the latest updates, please check any of the following:  
the diary on our website, Facebook, the noticeboard outside  
St George's Church Centre or alternatively phone or email the  
Church Office.

Please remember, if you would like to be at any service, you **must**  
contact the Church Office by email or phone to request a place; we will  
then confirm to you that your place has been booked.

Please ensure you wear a face covering to all services.

**Please can we emphasise, in order to keep everyone safe, do not arrive  
at a service if you haven't received confirmation that you have a place.**



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## Future events

The Events/Fund Raising Committee has been considering dates for possible events.

Due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to meet indoors until June.

We may be able to hold a Spring sale outside in May. Meanwhile if anyone has plants, preserves or other items to sell please advertise them in the Parish magazine, including a contact phone number or email address.

Liz and Dave Hopkins have planted up some baskets of tulips, which they are selling for just £5 each, and kindly donating all profits to St George's Church funds. Please telephone or text Dave on 07505425065 or email [dave.hopkins@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dave.hopkins@blueyonder.co.uk) to order. He is happy to deliver to you.

Some provisional dates have been reserved in the Church Centre diary:

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June Social evening- Beetle Drive

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 7pm Music evening

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August from 2pm Ice Cream Sunday

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 7pm Music evening

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September Morning Harvest Market

Further details of these events will be available in due course

Lizbeth

## Calling all writers!

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

All contributions will be gratefully received by the church office or, preferably, please email:

stgeorgesbrockworthmag  
@gmail.com

**The DEADLINE  
for the May issue  
is 15th April  
Thank you!**

**Thank you!**

## Help Guide Dogs for the Blind

Please save your plastic  
milk bottle tops  
(they can be any colour,  
but **only milk bottle tops**)  
and pass them to

Jenny Farmer or into the Church  
office  
to help

raise money for  
Guide Dogs for the Blind

Thank you!





## For Sale

Cheerful red futon, makes into double bed, needs new home. Only occasionally used. Originally from Argos. Good condition, some wear and tear. Looking for £25.00 ono, all money to St George's Church.

Please contact Ann on 01452 865786 for further details



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<i>Additional services in addition to toe nail treatments above if conducted at the same appointment:</i>	
Routine fingernail cut	£5
Nails varnished (each set)	£5
Foot & lower leg massage	£5
Hand & arm massage	£3

# We look forward to welcoming you back into Church!

We will open up again for worship as soon  
as regulations allow.



Please keep checking our  
**website: [www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk](http://www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk)**  
and our  
**Facebook page: St George's Church Brockworth**  
during April for all the latest information.  
We look forward to seeing you soon!

