

St. George's Church Brockworth

February 2021

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

Getting in touch:

Church Office: Church Administrator, St George's Church Centre,
Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4ET
Office Hours: 9.30—11.30 am, Monday—Friday
Phone: 01452 550 554
Email: churchoffice@stgeorgebrockworth.uk

Parish Website: www.stgeorgebrockworth.uk

Facebook: Search for "St George's Church Brockworth" and 'like' our page

Vicar: Rev. Mike Smith: The Vicarage, Court Road, Brockworth
Tel: 07415 089897
Email: mike.smith@stgeorgebrockworth.uk
Mike's day off is Friday

Licensed Readers :

Mr Gordon Clifford – 01452 862475; email: gordon.clifford@sky.com
Mrs Louisa Messenger – 01452 862058 email: louisamessenger@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Mrs. Linda Vogwell, Branscombe, 4, Hillview Avenue, Brockworth GL3 4AZ
Tel: 07917 610609, email: lindavogwell@yahoo.co.uk
Mr. Richard Ashenden, "Hilldown", 62 Court Road, Brockworth.
Tel: 01452 862515

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Derek Harbottle 01452 863732

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Lianne Eve

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Rita Fix 01452 550554 safeguarding@stgeorgebrockworth.uk

Magazine Editor: Mrs. Pat Hartwell : stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com

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Please email stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com

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

Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

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

THIS MONTH'S COVER: View towards Cooper's Hill from Watermead



2021 New Year Resolutions.

A New Year & a New You. Really?

Is it really that easy: the flip of a calendar day and we start a new life?

We can be lulled into that false sense of expectation, or delusion, that we can wake up and suddenly our cravings, desires, addictions, have been removed. The media also does a great job of fuelling our expectations. With the best of intentions, we know what the reality is, and according to surveys by the 2nd week of February - and for some of us January 2nd, we realise that our resolutions were too ambitious, and we retreat back to familiarity. You can tell I am speaking from experience!

Can New Year Resolutions be useful? ... OR ... Are we just setting ourselves up for another fail?

There is something healthy about physically, mentally, and emotionally examining ourselves: looking at **the direction of our lives** and assessing if it fits with our aspirations of ourselves, or our family - **if I continue on this path, will I, and my family end up where I would like to be?**

This is where annual resolutions can be helpful. Resolutions in their nature are about change: altering or removing something from our lives to bring out something better: awakening something better in us, a new start.

While the bible doesn't explicitly mention resolutions, it does encourage us to examine our lives, and with God's help become better versions of ourselves, "let us examine our ways and test them" (Lamentation 3:40). A fundamental point to highlight is that **you don't need a "New You"**. The writings, and teachings of Jesus, explicitly encourage us that **you are wonderful, creative, beautiful human beings** with great potential in need of being loved and loving others. You don't need a new you, you just need to **look at those qualities which don't fully realise that wonderful, creative, beautiful, and loving potential.**

Resolutions can help with this, but we don't need to wait for the beginning of the year. The bible says **every day brings new hope, and new beginnings**, the opportunity for those characteristics and virtues which you know in your head are so life giving.

We are all on a journey of self-discovery, from birth until death: what am I able to do, what would I like to do, what would I like to be known for. Qualities and characteristics, we want to exhibit and nurture within us, and those other qualities which we want to see gone. By examining ourselves and **being deliberate and intentional** about how we grow and develop can help us **become the person we want to be.**

*small steps
every day*

While as a community of faith we aren't fully behind the idea of New Year's Resolutions. We are fully behind **pursuing a life fully alive** with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control for ourselves, and for our friends, family, and neighbours.

We will fail, we will get it wrong, but we won't stop pursuing what is good, and the source of that goodness.

Why not join us on that journey?



Mike Smith



Listens, Observes and Acts

Well, here we are, February 2021 and going into Lent on the 17th of the month and still battling against Covid 19!!

I hope you all had the best Christmas you could have in the circumstances we still find ourselves in and hopefully with the vaccination rollout, 2021 will give us more hope for the future year to come?

















Because of the Lockdown we will still not be able to gather together for meetings but we must all hold each other and our joys and sorrows in our hearts.

Please keep Jean Corless in your prayers, her son's wife Bridget has died suddenly after battling cancer for a long while, she was far too young with a young family of 3 boys!

RIP Bridget and may the Lord uphold Jean, and all her family in his loving care and give them strength at this difficult time.

I hope you will all stay well and keep safe








Many blessings, Rona.
























Not the Christmas Fair

Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets, bought Christmas cards, made donations of cash and donated prizes for the raffle.
A total of just over £720 was raised for church funds.

Thanks Derek







Message from Bishop Robert

For so many it is quite clear that this, lockdown 3, is the hardest. In part I suspect this is because we are approaching a year since the beginning of the pandemic and know the reality of living with the restrictions on our lives and our freedoms and just how tiring this is. I suspect also, this time it is because there is the promise of something better with the roll out of the vaccine, but even while it is happening around us we are being told, very clearly, with the pressure on our hospitals, with so many ill and indeed dying, we must wait, keep to the guidance, maintain distancing, and live with the social and economic implications for a bit longer. The future looks better and indeed is here in the vaccine, but it is also not yet. It's really tough,

As Christians we are in many ways used to living with this paradox. Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom, God's reign is one of justice, mercy and peace, and yet this also is not yet. We are to be Kingdom people, people of deep hope and confidence in the power of God made visible in the love of Christ yet engaged in the reality life. Life in all its fullness is to be lived in the midst of the mess of life into which Jesus Christ is born, and lives, and dies, and rises, conquering the darkness.

It's OK therefore for us to acknowledge to ourselves and others how hard this time is, recognising that doing so also sets us free to look with expectancy to what is to be and then to live well, abundantly, now.

I therefore suggest we have a vitally important role to play as Christians gathered in the church for our nation and world, to weep with God's people, to encourage each other, to run the race. We know how easily negative words sow doubt and distrust, but as Kingdom people, we are called to speak positively and point to the places it breaks through, in the care and service we see in others, in hospitals, schools, the places of our daily lives. This is especially important in encouraging others to accept the gift of the vaccine. My 82-year-old father in law has received his with enthusiasm and delight. You will know others who have had theirs. I will patiently wait my turn and when it comes, take it with deep thankfulness for those who have enabled it. We need to tell, indeed it is vital that we tell this story of light in darkness, to our friends and our neighbours especially those who may be nervous or afraid.

Encourage one another, build each other up Paul reminds us. Kingdom people with a purpose

who know life. The Life I, and Bishop Rachel, give thanks for in you, that we share in our Diocese.

With prayers and every blessing,

+ Robert



Ann Hutchings

With great sadness, we learned that, in the week before Christmas, Ann had lost her long, brave battle with cancer and the stroke which had robbed her of her mobility throughout 2020. She died peacefully at home in the company of her family who had cared for her with total devotion.

Ann, for many, many years had been a talented and dedicated member of the flower arranging team. She was also its treasurer and kept a firm rein on any of our excesses!! Her last signed cheque paid for our Church flowers last Christmas.



Many of the shrubs in the border near the War memorial were donated and planted by her.

Ann had been a volunteer at G.R.H for many years, looking after the flowers on the wards in the days when they were permitted, and was on the rota for providing and arranging the flowers in the hospital Chapel until two years ago.

Richard and Ann worked together to create a garden at the Hospital, in which nurses could snatch a quiet break in off- duty moments.

Ann was tiny, but a bundle of energy who lived life to the full. Every year saw her setting off with Richard on an exciting foreign holiday. She leaves a big gap in our lives, both as a flower arranger and as a dear friend. Hopefully when this awful pandemic permits, we will be able to say a proper farewell, but in the meantime we can just say "Thank you so much, Ann. Rest now. Jobs well done."

Anne Banting

SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY—February 2021

These services are **subject to change** due to the government's ongoing announcements regarding worship guidelines.

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.

3 rd	9.30am	Communion: Church Centre
7 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service: YouTube
10 th	9.30am	Communion: Church Centre
14 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service: YouTube
17 th	9.30am	Communion with imposition of ashes: Church Centre
21 st	9.00am	Communion Worship Service: YouTube
24 th	9.30am	Communion: Church Centre
	1.30pm	Lent Course: Online (further details to follow)
28 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service: YouTube

We hope to return to our normal pattern of worship (Sunday—9.00am in Church, 10.30am in Church Centre) as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please be assured that we will continue to operate within Government and Church of England guidelines when we worship together.

We have all the necessary precautions in place for worship: sanitiser, socially distanced seating, safe procedures for distributing communion wine and bread etc.

In order for us to be safe and socially distanced, we can only manage a certain number of people in the Church Centre. In order for us to operate within this boundary we need to know who intends to be at **EACH** service.

If you would like to be at the service, could you email (churchoffice@stgeorgebrockworth.uk) or phone (01452 550554) the Church Office to reserve seats and await confirmation from us.

Please can we emphasise, in order to keep everyone safe, do not arrive at the Church Centre if you haven't received an email or phone confirmation.

Please remember you will need to wear a face covering

1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
 2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
 3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
 4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
 5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
 6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
 7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
 8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
 9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
 10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
 11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
 12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
 13. I run like the winded.
 14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
 15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
 16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
 17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
 18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
 19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
 20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
 21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.
- Which one is YOUR favorite?

Contributed by Joy Curzon

Biblical Cities, continued:

Lystra

Dear Readers those of you who have good memories will recall my previous article in the December issue of the little known Biblical City Iconium. You will also recall my interest in St Paul's missionary journeys. So a natural follow up to Paul would be "Where did he go to from Iconium"? The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Paul and Barnabas travelled from Iconium to Lystra, This is a journey of 19 miles. Paul, Barnabas and Silas visited the Jewish city of Lystra several times in spite of Paul being stoned there and meeting up with Timothy and preaching the Gospel there. Timothy was a native of Lystra. 5 references appear in Acts and 1 in 2 Timothy. Although no city by the name of Lystra exists today it was an important city in Roman and Paul's times and was made a colonia by Augustus because of its strategic importance as a city of education and enlightenment. For interest A colonia was the highest rank of a Roman city. Normally all citizens of a colonia were also Roman citizens. ... The first colonia established in Britain was at Camulodunum (Colchester), around 49 AD. Camulodunum was followed by Lindum (Lincoln), and Glevum (Gloucester) at the end of the first century Unlike other cities Paul visited, Lystra apparently had no

synagogue, although Timothy and his mother and grandmother were Jewish. Lystra appears to have been the first location where the apostles reached the Gentiles with the goal of preaching the Gospel of Christ without approaching them through common ground with Judaism. When Paul and Barnabas first visited Lystra Paul healed a person crippled from birth, leading many of the inhabitants to accept his teaching. When he returned a few years later with Silas, Timothy was already a respected member of the Christian congregation, as were his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice, both Jews. In 2 Timothy 1:5, his mother and grandmother are noted as eminent for their piety and faith. Timothy is said to have been acquainted with the Scriptures since childhood. In 1 Corinthians 16:10 there is a suggestion that he was by nature reserved So, Readers, referring to the ancient city of Lystra what we do know is that it was a city in central Anatolia, now part of present-day Turkey The site of Lystra is believed to be located south of the city of Iconium north of the village of Hatunsaray and some 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) north of a small town called Akoren. A small museum within the village of Hatunsaray displays artifacts from ancient Lystra. Ruins can be seen near Klistra, including a church with a big cross marked on the wall, a winery, house-like buildings, and the ruins of the city located over the top of a hill which is locally called

Allan Delves
05.01.2021

BIBLE PUZZLE, Answers

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is **a most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john-boat**. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truthfully**, **from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or a scholar to see some of the **men at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new record. The local newspaper, The **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel**

Armana **humbly** puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". **Those able** to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. A **chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**; there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Thank you, Jenny Farmer



**The Hopes and Fears of all the Years.
A Reflection for New Year's Day by Archbishop Stephen
Cottrell, Archbishop of York**

Every New Year's Day I acquire the same skill.

I look backwards as well as forwards. I remember what has gone, as well as looking forward to what will be.

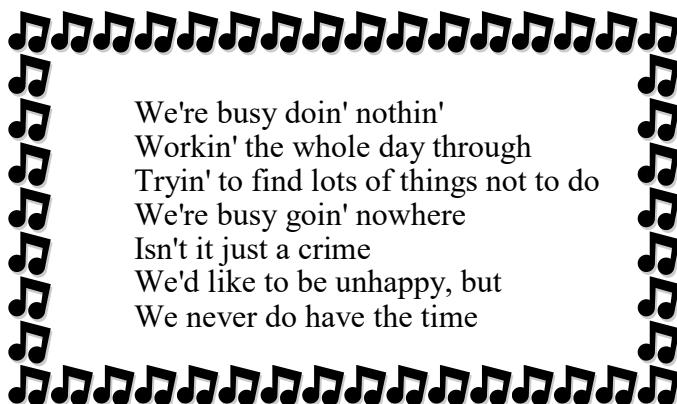
This year more than most. I look forward with sadness at the hurts and challenges of 2020, but with great hope that 2021 might be different. And I do it with the God who, in Christ, gives light to those who dwell in darkness, even those in the shadow of death. God's eyes and heart behold the hopes and fears of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Christ is always the light in the darkness. In him we make sense of our place in the journey of the passing years. He holds out to us a lantern, lighting our path through whatever lies ahead.

This reflection is taken from a little booklet called Comfort and Joy, issued by the Church of England, comprising Nine lessons and carols for Christmas.

Liz Ashenden

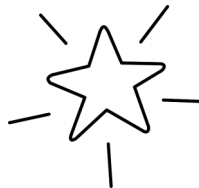
A song for our times



Christmas limerick competition

And the winner is.....

There once was a bright Christmas star,
Which guided wise men from the afar,
It stopped by a door,
And inside they saw
A baby, who's best king by far.



Pat Hartwell

All the limericks entered were sent anonymously to Allan Delves for judging and rather to my embarrassment, the one he picked as the winner was mine!

A fun one, based on an incident in St George's Church that happened a few years ago, was submitted by Judy. Here it is, dedicated to all you choir members out there!

Choir practice was going a treat
'Till a spider appeared by their feet.
It was big, black and hairy
And looked rather scary.
So the ladies all jumped on the seat.

Judy Baldwin



The Children's Society.

Judy aimed to collect all the Children's Society boxes in JANUARY
so if you have a box which has not been emptied yet, please
phone her on 862840 to arrange delivery and/or collection.

THANK YOU

Poem by Sue Cook in Australia

January 2020 BC

Before the great coronavirus lockdown
We would both go forth to forage
For essential and delectable fodder
In supermarkets overstocked with foodstuff.
Amid teeming aisles of overabundance,
Spoilt for choice we'd amble at a gentle dodder.

April 2020 DC

Now from "isolation" I send out my hunter-gatherer
Very early to seek our sustenance:
Empty shelves are rebuff enough
To hoarders who exceed the allowance
Of staples: flour, rice and that paper stuff
Yet home from the hunt he returns in triumph

Last line??? My canny fodder plodder.

AC 2021

Perhaps?!

*Sent to Liz Ashenden by Sue Cook. We taught together in South Australia.
Sounds as if their experience is very like our own!*

**From the Registers—
November/December 2020**

Baptisms

No baptisms during November and December

Weddings

Wednesday 30th December: Maxine Towers & Paul Hamblett

Funerals

Friday 13th November : Norman Holland

**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*

Points to Ponder as 2021 begins

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner
2. 2019 : Stay away from negative people; 2020 Stay away from positive people
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their children are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought it understood her. I came in and told my dogWe had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try on your jeans to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6 foot barge pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practice social- distancing. from the refrigerator.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the bins!
10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money!

Contributed by Anne Banting

100 Club December 2020 WINNERS

1st — Kath Worcester (50)
2nd — Sue Boulton (78)
3rd — George Cook (99)

100 Club January 2021 WINNERS

1st — Enid Lovell (57)
2nd — Ken Holbrook (20)
3rd — Karen Whitfield (64)

February 2021

Daily Bible Readings:



Monday 1st February
Tuesday 2nd February
Wednesday 3rd February
Thursday 4th February
Friday 5th February
Saturday 6th February

Hebrews 11:32-end; Mark 5:1-20
Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-end
Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15; Mark 6:1-6a
Hebrews 12:18-19,21-24; Mark 6:7-13
Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29
Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21; Mark 6:30-34

Monday 8th February
Tuesday 9th February
Wednesday 10th February
Thursday 11th February
Friday 12th February
Saturday 13th February

Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-end
Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Mark 7:1-13
Genesis 2:4b-9,15-17; Mark 7:14-23
Genesis 2:18-end; Mark 7:24-30
Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-end
Genesis 3:9-end; Mark 8:1-10

Monday 15th February
Tuesday 16th February
Wednesday 17th February
Thursday 18th February
Friday 19th February
Saturday 20th February

Genesis 4:1-15,25; Mark 8:11-13
Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10; Mark 8:14-21
Joel 2:1-2,12-17; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
Deuteronomy 30:15-end; Luke 9:22-25
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Isaiah 58:9b-end; Luke 5:27-32

Monday 22nd February
Tuesday 23rd February
Wednesday 24th February
Thursday 25th February
Friday 26th February
Saturday 27th February

Leviticus 19:1-2,11-18; Matthew 25:31-end
Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15
Jonah 3; Luke 11:29-32
Esther 14:1-5,12-14; Matthew 7:7-12
Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26
Deuteronomy 26:16-end; Matthew 5:43-end

My Favourite Poems, Land of my Fathers.

Continuing my series on my Favourite poems it seems appropriate that I should tell you Dear Readers about the Welsh National Anthem after my article on the unofficial Anthem of Scotland, Flower of Scotland. I am sure that most of you will have heard this Anthem sung at sporting events and other Welsh festivities. But like me I guess that you will always have heard it in the Welsh language and do not know the translation except possibly the title "Land of my Fathers". With working in Pontypool for a number of years I can just get by in some of the Welsh Language. I will leave it there and tell you about the Anthem in English.

Although we know the title as "Land of my Fathers" it translates in Welsh as "Old Land of my Fathers" The words were written by Evan James and the tune composed by his son, James, both residents of Pontypridd, Glamorgan, in January 1856. James, the composer, was a harpist who played his instrument in the public house which he ran, for the purpose of dancing. The song was originally intended to be performed in 6/8 time, but had to be slowed down to its present tempo when it began to be sung by large crowds.

The earliest written copy survives and is part of the collections of the National Library of Wales which is not in Cardiff as you may expect but in Aberystwyth which is the national legal deposit library of Wales and is one of the Welsh Government sponsored bodies. It is the biggest archive library in Wales, holding over 6.5 million books and periodicals, and the largest collections of archives, portraits, maps and photographic images in Wales. The Library is also home to the national collection of Welsh manuscripts, the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, and the most comprehensive collection of paintings and topographical prints in Wales. So, back to my theme. the Anthem was first sung in the vestry of the original Capel Tabor, Maesteg (which later became a working men's club), in early 1856, by Elizabeth John from Pontypridd, and it soon became popular in the locality. Its popularity rapidly grew when it was sung at the Bangor Eisteddfod of 1874 by Robert Rees a leading Welsh soloist of his day. Tradition has established "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" as an unofficial Welsh anthem since 1905, when it was first sung by fans at rugby games, although the official anthem at the time was "God Bless the Prince of Wales". "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" slowly established itself as the more popular anthem over the next four decades, and was sung along with "God Bless

the Prince of Wales" and "God Save the Queen" before sporting events until 1975, when sports officials decided that "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" should be sung alone. Like other British anthems, it has not been established as a national anthem by law, but it has been used as a national anthem at official governmental ceremonies, including the opening of the Welsh Assembly, and at receptions of the British monarchy

since the 1970s.

The Welsh version is generally preferred, but the song's powerful imagery translates well, making it one of the best known, and some would say best, national anthems in the world, even though similar sentiments can be found in many other national anthems.

So here it is in English:

Verse translation by W.S. Gwynn Williams

The land of my fathers is dear to me,
Old land where the minstrels are honoured and free;
Its warring defenders so gallant and brave,
For freedom their life's blood they gave.

Home, home, true I am to home,
While seas secure the land so pure,
O may the old language endure.

Old land of the mountains, the Eden of bards,
Each gorge and each valley a loveliness guards;
Through love of my country, charmed voices will be
Its streams, and its rivers, to me.

Though foemen have trampled my land 'neath their feet,
The language of Cambria still knows no retreat;
The muse is not vanquished by traitor's fell hand,
Nor silenced the harp of my land.

A.K.Delves

05.01.2021

An excerpt from Rev Frank Topping's book, 'Splinters of Light'

Contributed by Jenny Farmer

I couldn't add up the number of years I have been making and breaking New Year's resolutions. I can't count the things I have been going to do, or the good intentions I have failed to do. So this year, instead of drawing up a list of honourable intentions and brave resolutions, perhaps I should make up a list of all the things I am *not* going to do in the new year: I am *not* going to screech, 'You Raving lunatic!' the next time someone cuts me up on the North Circular road. I shall just take a deep breath and say, 'Such suffering, such stress, such pain. God bless you, friend! and that's another thing I'm not going to do : I am *not* going to drive on the North Circular road!

I am definitely *not* going to watch any more late night movies, for two good reasons: They are on too late, there are very few good ones and then-I've seen them all -actually, that's three good reasons! I am certainly *not* going to ask anyone again for road directions, I'll buy a map. I'm convinced that terminal brain damage will set in if I hear someone say, just once more, 'You take the second left after The Black Horse, No, I tell a lie - it's the Dun Cow.

But, come to think of it, when Jesus reduced the ten commandments to one new law, it wasn't negative, but very positive. 'A New Commandment I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you,' Now, that would be a good New year's resolution.

Now, where was I with that list of nots?
I am definitely *not* going to buy an exercise bike...
or a rowing machine and certainly not a skipping rope
I am just going to walk tall and think thin.

Lord
Help me to stop thinking about the future,
To enjoy the present moment
To devote each day
To loving those I have been given to love
And to remember
That I'm always in your presence.
Amen

What have they done to my King James Bible?

Dear Readers I was very interested to read Judy Baldwins article in the December magazine entitled "What have they done to my hymn" namely, "Hills of the North rejoice" I share her abhorrence of those who feel they must make change attempting to convince people it is for the better. So I thought that I would share with you my aversion to a few changes made from the 1611 King James version of the Bible and the new English Standard Version of 1952 and 1971 (Revised Standard Version) to the now most commonly used version that of the New International Version. The latest being published in 2011 making 300 changes. This was an attempt to produce a contemporary simplified version.

Firstly, I go to St John's Gospel Chapter 10 verse 10 I quote "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" That was changed to "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

I wonder how many of you remember a quiet day at The Monastery of Our Lady and St Bernard at Brownshill when Jane had the theme of her sermon emphasising the word abundantly and not the word full. I was impressed.

To me abundantly is a much more emotive description of excessively plentiful whereas full implies "filled to capacity"

Now, moving on to one of the most

popular Chapters in the Bible and one that is very popular at Wedding Ceremonies is Corinthians Chapter 13 where Charity has been replaced by Love. Here are the two quite different meanings

love: any object of warm affection or devotion; a deep feeling of sexual desire and attraction; a strong positive emotion of regard and affection

charity: an activity or gift that benefits the public at large; a kindly and lenient attitude toward people. Much more meaningful than just love. Of course the NIV version quoting love is more applicable to Weddings but not, in my opinion, the correct translation.

Revelations Chapter 21 warns us about adding things to the Bible therefore why did the amenders feel it necessary to add "for profit" I quote from 2 KJV 2 Corinthians Chapter 2 verse 17 "For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ" This has been changed in NIV to. "Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity..

Surely, why else would you travel about peddling goods and materials if it was not for profit?

That Dear Readers that is 4 changes, only 296 to go! But I will leave it there. Do any of you have a "gripe" that you would like to share with us in the next issue?

Allan Delves



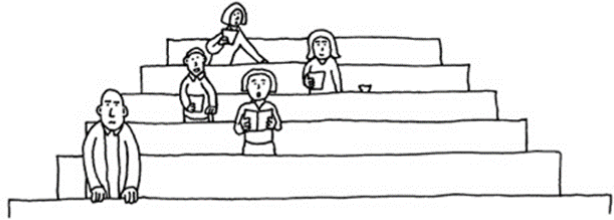
Paul Hamblett and Maxine Towers who were married (after much disruption to plans) in St. George's Church on 30th December by Rev. David Sutch. We send them congratulations and all best wishes for their future life together.



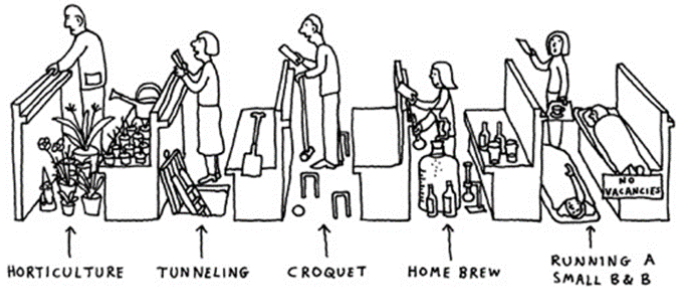
IN THE PEWS

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WHAT THE VICAR SEES →



ACTUAL ACTIVITIES →



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Contributions please!

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 March issue
is 15th February
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!



Hanging on to love at Valentine's Day

With lockdown in full swing, putting festivals and celebrations on our calendars has never been so important: Little islands of normality and opportunities for fun that we can hang on to while everything changes around us.

Traditionally, St Valentine's Day has been seen as a day for couples, but there's so much more to it. It can also be a chance for self-care, and love for your neighbours. It can be a focus for our hearts, our minds and our hope and for recognizing God's love.

This Valentine's Day, whether you are single or part of a couple, choose love. We're challenging you to do one thing to show love to yourself, one thing to show love to your neighbour and one thing to show love to your community as a whole.

You could take a bubble bath, pick some cheerful daffodils for someone who finds themselves alone at the moment, and pick up an extra few items in the supermarket for the foodbank. Or put on some beautiful music and sip a hot cup of tea, send up a quick prayer for someone having a tough time, and smile broadly at everyone you meet. Try to use February to make a difference.

Five ways to help you find and renew faith online in lockdown

1. Podcasts

Try listening to some podcasts to hear what real life Christians have to say about their faith and about the world. These are some of our top picks

- **In Conversation with Bishop Rachel**—Bishop Rachel talks to different groups of people about current issues.
- **Ask NT Wright anything**—Tom Wright answers listeners' questions on faith in a simple and easy to understand way.
- **The Profile**—interviews with Christians from all walks of life. Previous guests include politician Caroline Spelman, CBeebies' Gemma Hunt, former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams and World Champion Paralympian Stef Reid.

2. Make your Personal Shape for Living

There's a new initiative called **Personal Shapes for Living** starting where you can sign up to have a chat with a trained 'encourager' every few months. You can talk about your Christian journey so far and get some tips and pointers about where you could go next to learn more about God. To find out more, visit gloucester.anglican.org/2020/personal-shapes-for-living

3. The Bible App and The Bible Recap

*Get started: Download **The Bible App** and sign up to **The Bible Recap** reading plan. Then find **The Bible Recap** on your podcast provider (Spotify / Amazon Music / Apple Tunes etc).*

Each day, **The Bible Recap** will give you the chapters of the Bible for the day (with a handy audio option for those of us with vision challenges), plus a prayer. It will take you through the whole Bible in a year. Once you've read the Bible chapters for the day, you can listen to Tara Leigh Cobble who talks through what you've just read, explains anything complicated, and shares one thing she has learnt about the character of God that day. It's a great introduction to the Bible and takes you through the whole story in an easy and accessible way.

4. How to pray

We've put together some **Pocket Prayer Guides** on the diocesan website that help you to try different ways of praying. If eyes down and hands folded just doesn't speak to your soul, you could try out Pray Your Day, Prayer Journeys and Lectio Divina. Take a look at <https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/your-prayer> for inspiration.

If you want some help with reminders to pray, try the **Inner Room app**. You can add people and situations that you want to pray for,

and it will set a reminder and a timer to help you pray more regularly.

4. Streaming worship songs

Lots of us use music streaming services, internet radio or even an old style radio to listen to music. There are lots of places to get free church music which can lift your soul. YouTube is great for favourite hymns and worship songs as they usually have the words on the screen so everyone can sing along. Or to keep things really simple, **Songs of Praise** is still on at 12.25 each Sunday on BBC One—go on, belt out those familiar words from your school days!

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events
Monday midday mindfulness

A half hour of mindfulness every Monday at 12 noon. Open to all. If you would like to get the Zoom link to join, please email rcameron@glosdioc.org.uk

Our rural future

23 February, 10am to 12 noon on Zoom, open to all

Bishop Rachel hosts a webinar exploring some of the key issues facing our rural communities at this time. Keynote speaker is Mark Betson, National Rural Officer for the Church of England.

Other speakers include Katie Jarvis, National Farmers Union County Advisor, Gloucestershire, Rachel Howie, Director of Education and Roger Mortlock, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Visit <https://bit.ly/38zAgVD> to sign up.

Sharing Faith with Children 27 February, 10am to 12.30pm

How do you share your faith with the children in your life? Jennifer Fellows will help us demystify sharing faith. Encouraging us to use everyday language and examples of what our faith means to us she will show how this can enable our children to grow in their own relationship with God. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y53cdssb> to book your place.

Being a Christian in your school community

March 4, 7.30pm to 9pm Led by Barry Voyce with Jo Wetherall and others

Whether a pupil, parent, teacher, governor, or associated with a school, living a Christ-centred life every day within and around the community of the school brings God's love, hope and blessing into the life of that community.

Questions answered, situations explored, dilemmas discussed. This session is primarily aimed at primary schools and the next will be for secondary schools. Book at <https://tinyurl.com/y5yx13hl>

Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese of Gloucester**, email Katherine kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website glouceter.anglican.org

Parish notes February

Firstly, a very big thank you to all those who helped make our Christmas services as good as they could be with all the limitations in place. All very much appreciated.

The business of running the Church is still mostly taking place via Zoom. The Church centre committee and the whole PCC met in January, but it's difficult to make firm plans when no-one knows what lies ahead. However, we hope for the best and make tentative plans accordingly. Clearly, like businesses and charities across the world, our income was much reduced last year, but we still have bills to pay. Any ideas for fundraising in these restricted times would be very welcome!


We hear of local friends and neighbours being vaccinated, which is great news, but please all stay safe and take care.

Pat Hartwell



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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
and our

Facebook page: St George's Church Brockworth
During February for all the latest information.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

