

Dear friends,

Usually, this time of the year, we would be returning from holidays, catching up with people and preparing for the Autumn/Christmas term (even though I am no longer teaching, I still think in terms of school terms). But this year it is very different.

It is very difficult to plan ahead, especially as far as Christmas is concerned, simply because we don't know what is happening from one week to the next. We are in a constant state of change. Of course, change isn't a bad thing, but it can be tiring thinking on your feet all the time. A few people have said to me recently, 'I am really fed up. I wish we could get back to normal again'.

Perseverance is a quality that perhaps is undervalued. More than ever, trying times are not the times to stop trying and from what the media is saying, the pandemic could continue for some time. Perseverance is the determination to keep on going, regardless of any obstacles or circumstances. It is showing steadfastness in doing something despite how hard it is or how long it takes to reach the goal.

In the 1880's, some of the world's finest engineers were assembled to give their advice about building a railway through the Andes mountains. All of them, apart from one, said that the job couldn't be done. He was a Polish engineer called Ernest Malinowski. He convinced the advisers that he was the man for the job. The railway line was eventually built and finished. It went through 62 tunnels and across 30 bridges. One tunnel was 4,000 feet long and 15,000 ft above sea level. The work was held up twice by revolutions. On one occasion Malinowski had to escape the country to Peru. In the end he hurdled every obstacle.

Three bible verses which I find encouraging are:

*'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.'* (Hebrews 12:1)

*'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'* (Philippians 4:13)

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill  
When funds are low, and debts are high  
And you want to smile but have to sigh  
When care is pressing you down a bit  
Rest if you must, but do not quit.

Success is failure turned inside out  
The silver tint of clouds of doubt  
And you can ever tell how close you are  
It may be near when it seems so far  
So, stick to the fight when you are hardest hit  
It's when things seem worse that you must not quit.

*'If God is for us, who can be against us.'* (Romans 8:31)

Going back to the planning, we will continue with the blended approach to worship that we have at the moment. We will have our Wednesday and Sunday Holy Communion services and, as restrictions are lifted, we will respond accordingly. We will also, as far as possible, live stream these services (as long as the technology works and there are people willing to record them). In addition, we will continue with live streaming 'Peregrini morning prayer' and 'Compline' on a daily basis. We also hope to have some pre-recorded special services similar to our 'songs of praise' where people will be able to join in the singing from home until we are able to sing in church again. We are also looking to re-open St. George's Church in the near future. Please do join us for worship in whichever way is best for you.

Every blessing,  
Deborah

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### **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

*(and it is wonderful to be able to report these this month)*

### **BAPTISMS**

We welcome into our church family:

Darcy CANNON who was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at St. Margaret's Church. Her parents are Simon and Katy Cannon.

Molly CANNON who was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at St. Margaret's Church. Her parents are Simon and Katy Cannon.

Lily GETLIFFE-MALONE who was baptised on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at St. Margaret's Church. Lily's mum is Rachel Getliffe.

### **FUNERALS**

We commend into the loving hands of Almighty God:

John Kenneth GAGON whose funeral took place at Blackley Crematorium on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

Mary RAFTER whose funeral took place at St. Margaret's Church on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

We remember before Almighty God:

Ada BUCKLEY whose memorial service took place at St. Margaret's Church on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

### **WEDDINGS**

Our congratulations go to:

Sean WOLFENDEN and Ashleigh MONKS whose wedding will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at St. Margaret's Church.

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## **CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

**The calendar for September continues to be very limited whilst lockdown restrictions are gradually eased.**

Some public services have resumed at St Margaret's:

10.00am Wednesdays – holy communion

9.45am Sundays – holy communion

Please note that due to social distancing numbers attending these services are limited; places have been allocated – please contact Rev Deborah or Rev Sue if you are unsure, or if you wish to be added to one of the lists.

**Meanwhile, our digital communications and services will continue:**

The weekly service sheet will continue to be provided by email, on our website and via Facebook. It will be the opportunity to reflect on the readings.

Sermons will be on the website: <https://stmargaretsprestwich.com/blog/>, our Facebook page, and our Twitter account @StMaggieP

The magazine will continue to be produced and delivered by email as well as on paper.

We will continue to live stream on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StMaggieP/>:

- Peregrini Morning Prayer daily at 8.30am,
- Compline daily at 8.30pm,
- Wednesday services at 10am.

**For technical reasons, our Sunday services *may* be videoed in church as they happen. The recording will be uploaded to our blog, Facebook page, Twitter and Tumblr feeds soon afterwards.**

We have a WhatsApp group for any prayer requests that you may have. If you have any donations for porch boxes, please leave outside Church until 10.30am on Thursday mornings.

**If we can help in any way, please contact Revd. Deborah on 0161 773 2698 or Revd. Sue on 07761 565428.**

**Please look after yourself and each other.**

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## **SEPTEMBER AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, SIMISTER**

I hope you are all safe and well and keeping in contact with everyone. Life is very different at the moment. This will change and we will get back to some normality.

Hopefully we will be able to make plans to open the church but this will take time. Revd. Deborah with the Ministry team are looking to see if it would be possible to resume services at St. George's during September.

Lady Wilton can now be used, obviously with only a few people because of social distancing. The room is small and so numbers are limited, If you want any information, please get in touch. Obviously, we are not able to have parties because of numbers and no food can be served. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I will try to help.

### **STAYCATION Week**

Thank you to Deborah, Sue and all who took part in the week's activities. The week was different and certainly a success most enjoyable.

### **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

Magnificent evening, so many members of the church families and past friends of the church. Many thanks to the ministry team, all who took part and Carol and Tom for organising the wonderful music

**The following Lists are now included on the weekly service sheet.**

**Will you please pray for those who are sick remembering especially:**

Tom Porter, Joyce Roebuck, Barbara Peeling Mary and Colin Hargreaves,  
Rita Evans, Barbara Cass,

Bob Hardy and Revd. Deborah.

All our church families, own friends, relatives and mankind.

**Anniversaries of death. There will be no flowers in church**

In September we remember:

Martha Benson, Olive Ashurst, John Stewardson, Ronald Mumford,  
Tommy Molloy, Richard Maxwell, Frederick Gould and Frank Softly.

### **Cleaning the Church**

We will have to clean the church before it opens, if you are able to help please let me know. Also we will have to tidy the memorial garden, removing dead flowers any help will be gratefully received.

**Monthly envelopes** If you wish to send them in, I have been given permission to collect them. You can give them to Carol Knaggs or myself and we will make sure it goes in the bank account.

### **Thank you**

Muriel for collecting envelopes,

Rowena and Peter for the beautiful window boxes at LWH and looking after them.

Thank you to all the church family for your support. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, it may be different but we will get there.

**Please keep safe and well much love and God bless Joan and Carol**

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### **St. Margaret's Church REREDOS FLOWERS**

There are no flowers in church at present



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### **Law and order?**

Until recent times I've been a law-abiding citizen without having to think too much about it. And when I have needed to check the rules, the highway code, say, I could be fairly confident that it wouldn't have changed by the next week. But the last few months have been very different. There has been an avalanche of government advice and regulation, which has changed on a weekly basis. Some of it I regard as vital. Some of it seems to make little sense. So, it has got me thinking about the Christian attitude to law keeping.

Jesus says that he didn't come to overturn the law, but on the other hand he wasn't very particular about keeping every bit of it. He got into trouble with the Pharisees for picking corn to eat on the Sabbath, or eating without ritual washing. He refused to let them dictate the small print of what he could or couldn't do. In contrast to Jesus' public disregard for the regulations, the Pharisees were hypocritical in the demands they made on ordinary people to comply, without having love for either God or people. They were the target of Jesus' harshest criticisms.

Further on in the New Testament we have in the letter of Peter "For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution", a passage often quoted to support the idea that Christians should obey the letter of the law. At first glance this passage seems to be at variance with the teaching of Jesus, but the letter was written to Christians in the Roman colonies of Asia Minor – a very different situation to first century Palestine. It's beginning to look as though there isn't a simple answer. In the letter to the Romans Paul gives us a clue to a more nuanced approach. He tells those who have a liberal attitude to the Jewish law to obey it for the sake of those whose consciences are troubled by breaking the rules, so as not to confuse or undermine those with a less robust faith. Paul felt that he had a mature and well thought out position, but he recognised that those newly converted to Christianity might be unnecessarily troubled by seeing him disregard the Jewish law, and be distracted from what really matters in our faith.

Paul's words have shaped my attitude to keeping the rules and regulations around coronavirus. Some of them I find unjustified. Why can I have a cup of coffee with my friend in Costa, but not in my back garden? Surely my garden is safer? But if my neighbour sees me breaking the rules, maybe she will feel it's OK to break them, too. And perhaps she will go further and have more than one person, or go indoors, or even have a party... Setting a good example, even when you don't altogether agree with the rules, is not hypocrisy. But there is a limit, in my view, as to how strict with yourself you can be. To live solely by rules was the creed of the Pharisees, not the Christians, and it led to hypocrisy and a judgemental attitude. Sometimes, there are occasions where to keep the rules leads to misery that is disproportionate to any risk taken, and if you do not follow your heart there is a danger of becoming bitter, envious and over critical of others, the Pharisaic sins which Jesus denounced more strongly than any rule breaking.

So, here's my advice: whatever you do, stay safe, and don't take risks. Be a good example, but never judgemental, even if that means not being perfect.

Rev Sue

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**Please remember: when wearing a face mask, it must cover your nose as well as your mouth!**

More detailed guidance on the legal requirements concerning facemasks can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



Remember: from Saturday 8 August wearing Facemasks in all places of worship is compulsory by law

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### **Canon in D – Pachelbel (1653-1706)**

Love it or loathe it (and there are many who loathe it, mainly cellists), Pachelbel's *Canon in D* is famous. Instantly recognisable, it is the processional piece of choice for countless weddings the world over.

It was not always so.

Nobody knows why Pachelbel wrote this Canon, nor why – although many scholars of ancient music have proposed theories. It is reasonable to guess that it was written sometime in the late 1600s, but there are no records of performances. The original manuscript no longer exists, and the oldest surviving copy (hand-written and dated to the 1800s) lay forgotten for at least a hundred more years.

In the 1960s the French conductor Jean-Francois Paillard recorded the Canon in D in full, which propelled it from obscurity to a well-known classic. But it still wasn't wedding music. That privilege fell almost exclusively to Wagner's "Bridal Chorus" and Mendelssohn's "Wedding March", both of which were composed for wedding scenes in operas ("Lohengrin" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" respectively). In 1980 Pachelbel's Canon in D was used as the theme for the film "Ordinary People". This made the music even more popular, but still not for weddings. However the 1981 royal wedding (which did not include anything by Pachelbel) put the spotlight on baroque composers, and by association, on the Canon in D. Written for 3 violins and a cello, it has an intimate aesthetic that has been said to transcend cultures.

But what is a canon? Musically, a canon is a piece of music in which the performers have a staggered start and loop around to the beginning again – like "London's Burning", "Frere Jacques" or "Row, Row, Row Your Boat". Pachelbel starts this piece with a sequence of 8 notes in the cello, which are repeated without deviation or embellishment 28 times over. That's why so many cellists hate it with a passion! Each of the violins are introduced at 8 note intervals, with their musical lines becoming ever more complex. Now, when we sing a round, we usually let it 'run out', that is, agree to sing it a set number of times, then each voice part stops when it get to the 'end' of the song. Alternatively, if a conductor is present, rounds can be finished at the end of any phrase, and the chord produced by all the voice parts will sound finished. And that is the beauty of the Canon in D. When no one knows when the bride will arrive, nor how long it will take her to get from the door to the altar, a piece of music is need that will sound finished even if the musicians stop playing before the 'end'.

And that is how an obscure piece of baroque music has become one of the most popular wedding tunes in western society. But its reach is even more far-reaching. If you listen carefully, you'll hear Pachelbel's Canon in D very clearly in the music of Lady Gaga, Bab Marley, John Lennon, U2, the Spice Girls, Green Day and Oasis. Just listen to the "[Pachelbel Rant](#)" by comedian Rob Paravonian,

expanded upon by Axis of Awesome in their "[4 Chords](#)" (*language alert towards the end*) – all of the songs they parody are based on the progression of four chords used in Pachelbel's canon.

Here is the version Tom and I recorded for the recent Staycation "Songs of Praise": <https://youtu.be/5NnZZtvPofQ> \*

Carol P

\*For those of you receiving this issue by post, I'll play this song to you when we're all back together again.



### MESSY CHURCH

**Our next Messy Church is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 4.00pm. Because of current regulations we are unable to have our meeting at the Lady Wilton Hall. It will be 'Messy Church at Home', which can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/StMaggieP/>.**



We are looking to re-open Sunday School but need your help.

Initially we are considering a weekly zoom session or a possible monthly outside meeting in Heaton Park. In both cases we would require parental support. If you have any other suggestions for how we can meet, please let us know.

Email [gillianmconville@uwclub.net](mailto:gillianmconville@uwclub.net)

It would be lovely to get together with our young people again.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,  
Sunday School

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## STAYCATION 2020

A big thank you to all who were involved in Staycation. Although it was very different to previous years, a good time was had by those who joined the events during the week.

The quiet day was an opportunity to spend some time with God, with the theme being 'We are not alone.' Thank you to all who were involved in putting the day together.

We had hoped to have our picnic on the Wednesday in gardens but due to restrictions that came in the weekend before, we had to have a Zoom picnic.

Our quiz on the Thursday was really enjoyable and fun. Thank you to Chaz Ginn who put it together and hosted it.

We heard about Deborah's walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, the journey so far. She has now reached Manchester. You will have to get the next few magazines to catch up with the journey.

Our 'Songs of Praise' was a real success, which can be seen from the statistics below.

42 separate video items were submitted, of which

21 required multitrack audio, video and lyric editing, and 15 were singalong items

28 people took part, including 4 children and 9 clergy/ministry team

We had musicians, singers, readings of Bible verses, poetry and prayers.

Our youngest singer brought tears to the eyes with her rendition of 'the sun will come out tomorrow'.

We met old friends, Debby and Jeremy, Pam (who was on placement with us), Caroline and Aiden and had a letter from Father Martin.

The running time was 1:35.

We had 417 views on Friday and 169 views on Saturday!

A big thank you to all who were involved and a special thank you to Tom (our organist) and to Carol Porter for their music and singing, and to Carol Porter for her technological skills in putting it altogether. A different staycation week but well worth doing.

## DEBORAH'S WALK/JOG FROM LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS – VIA THE GARDEN

### STAGE 4 – (Wells to Gloucester)



#### **Glastonbury to Wells 6.1 miles**

Only six miles away is Wells, England's smallest city. It only qualifies as a city because of its magnificent medieval cathedral in the heart of the town. Medieval buildings and cobbled streets radiate out from the cathedral green to the main marketplace.

The wells (in Anglo-Saxon 'wella') to which Wells owes both its name and its origins, still bubble up in the garden of the Bishop's Palace. From them, four million gallons of water flow every day and the water makes its way from the Bishop's Eye down the High Street. The most northerly spring and the largest of the four, now found in the Bishop's Palace, was held to be a holy well and dedicated to St. Andrew. It is likely that Native British tribes worshipped at the wells, as they often dedicated shrines near rivers, streams and springs to nature spirits. Whether they worshipped here, we do not know, though it

Wells' cathedral is well worth a visit. It was built in stages between 1180 and 1508. The west front is an immense gallery with over 300 figures. Highlights inside include a pair of scissor arches separating the nave from the choir, a mechanical clock in the North transept, a 15<sup>th</sup> century chained library and a glorious chapter house. Surrounding the cathedral is a cluster of ecclesiastical buildings dating from the Middle Ages.

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I loved Wookey Hole, 2.5 miles away on the Southern edge of the Mendips. It is a series of caverns and caves carved out by the River Ex. There are dramatic natural features, including a subterranean lake, stalagmites and stalactites. One of these is supposed to be the legendary 'Witch of Wookey Hole' who was turned into stone by the local priest.

A bit further away is Cheddar Gorge, a spectacular series of limestone caves. I didn't have time to visit but have been before.

I really enjoyed the Street/Glastonbury/Wells and Cheddar Gorge area. It excited me just as much as the first time I visited, and I would definitely go back and re-visit in reality.

### **Wells to Midsomer Norton 12.5 miles**

I am a bit cautious about reaching my next destination – Midsomer Norton (of Midsomer murders fame). I hope that nothing untoward happens whilst I am there.

Midsummer Norton is one of the best preserved coal mining towns in England, nestled near the Mendip Hills. It has existed since the Iron Age, but the settlement boomed in the 1700s when the town's coal mine opened. Much of the town's historical exhibits are housed in Midsomer Norton Museum, the former market hall. The railway routes that used to service the mining town are now lush greenways - stretching all the way to Frome and beyond.

Several Nursery rhymes are thought to have originated here, including Jack and Jill, Little Jack Horner and Ring o' Roses.

St. John's Church is a place of worship, prayer, friendship, challenge, music, social action. They are a lively parish in the catholic tradition of the Church of England, and they exist to be a community of people who worship together and grow in faith and friendship.

An E-mail from St. John's Church, MSN

*Dear Deborah,*

*Thanks for your email and your greetings and blessings. You have a great task ahead of you and I hope you will enjoy your travels. What a brilliant idea!*

*Blessings and greetings from us at MSN.*

*Sincerely*

*Carol  
Churchwarden*



### **Midsomer Norton to Bath 11.7 miles**

I have decided to follow part of the Limestone Link for this section of the journey. This joins the Mendip Hills with the limestone of the Cotswolds and the walk is main It is flat, not strenuous and takes me all the way to Bath. Perfect!

Bath is an architectural icon, cultural trend setter and fashionable haunt. It is one of Britain's most attractive cities with its grand Georgian terraces, Palladian arcades and lofty town house of honey coloured stone. Bath boasts of more listed buildings than almost anywhere else in the country.

Legend has it that King Balbud, a Trojan refugee and father of King Lear, found the town some 2800 years ago. He was supposedly cured of leprosy by a bath in the muddy swamps. The Romans established the town of Aquae Sulis in AD44 and built the extensive bath complex and a temple to the goddess Sulis-Minerva. Long after the Romans departed, the Anglo-Saxons arrived and in 944, a monastery was formed on the site of the present abbey. Throughout the Middle Ages, Bath was an ecclesiastical centre and a wool trading centre. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Ralph Allen and Richard 'Beau' Nash made Bath the centre of fashionable society. However, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Bath had become unfashionable.

Ever since the Romans arrived, life in the city has revolved around three natural springs that bubble up near the abbey. The Romans constructed a complex of bath houses above the springs to take advantage of their natural hot water (46 degrees C). They were left to decay until 17<sup>th</sup> century that Bath's restorative waters became fashionable again.

A great place to visit is Bath Abbey, a former Benedictine monastery. Founded in the 7th century, it was reorganised in the 10th century and rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries. Major [restoration work](#) was carried out by [Sir George Gilbert Scott](#) in the 1860s. Bath Abbey has lots of history which can be seen from the beautiful building but it also has an eye to the future too.

Plans include preserving the beautiful space they have and opening it up in new ways for the community, harnessing Bath's hot spring waters to power eco-friendly underfloor heating, preserving community spirit, building a new Discovery centre to tell the story of the Abbey's history and creating a new learning space and new song school, a home for the Abbey choirs and where visiting musicians can rehearse and be made welcome.

The royal crescent, another 'must see', is a semi-circular terrace of majestic houses built between 1767 and 1775, overlooking Royal Victoria Park. Not far away is the 'Circus', a magnificent circle of 30 houses. Plaques on the houses commemorate famous residents such as Thomas Gainsborough, Clive of India and David Livingstone – I presume!

Now it is time to take the map out and plan the next section of the journey.

### **Bath to Gloucester**

I am going to travel along the Cotswold Way, which is 102miles long and runs from the front of Bath Abbey in the South to Chipping Campden in the North. It passages through many picturesque villages. I am not doing all off it though. I

intend to stop at Old Sodbury, Cam and Painswick prior to the cathedral city of Gloucester.

### **Old Sodbury**

Old Sodbury is a small village in the valley of the [River Frome](#) just below and to the west of the Cotswold escarpment. It lies on an old coaching trading route and is much more ancient than its westerly neighbour, [Chipping Sodbury](#), hence the name 'Old' Sodbury. St. John the Baptist Church is a Norman church, 900 years old. It has two effigies of knights, one which is late 14<sup>th</sup> century carved in wood and one dated 1240 carved in stone.

Hi Deborah

*Greetings from the Sodbury Vale Benefice!*

*Apologies for the delayed reply as our administrator, Michelle, is furloughed at the moment and I am trying to deal with the admin!*

*Many thanks for your prayers and I wish you every success with your long-distance run in the garden - a wonderful idea. I was particularly interested to hear from you as I am originally from Salford and began my ministry (for the first 14 years) in the Manchester Diocese, working at St Michael and All Angels in Wythenshawe, Christ Church, Walmsley in Bolton and St James Milnrow in Rochdale. My home church, before ordination training, was St Paul's, Kersal Moor and we lived in Sedgley Park. I have been in the Gloucester Diocese since 1998 and have been at Chipping Sodbury for the last 4 years.*

*I hope all is going well in Prestwich, and we shall, in turn, pray for you and your ministry, especially in these very strange times. Many thanks indeed for getting in touch.*

*Every blessing*

*David (David Bowers, Rector)*

### **Cam**

Cam is a village with several shops which are loosely based around the church of St. Bartholomew and three primary schools in the Woodfield, Hopton and Everland's districts of the village. Nearby are the sights of Woodchester Valley Vineyard, Kingshill Hall, Woodchester Park and Berkeley Castle.

## **Painswick**

Painswick is a gorgeous Cotswold village which is largely untouched and uncommercialized. It is a maze of narrow winding streets lined with picture perfect cottages, stone town houses and medieval inns. You can wander around the back streets and feel genuinely lost in time. At the centre of the village is St. Mary's Church, surrounded by tabletop tombs and clipped yew trees. Legend has it that should the 100<sup>th</sup> yew tree be allowed to grow, the devil would appear and shrivel it. They planted it anyway to celebrate the millennium but there hasn't been a sighting. Painswick Rococo Garden, to the north of the town, is a flamboyant pleasure garden designed by Benjamin Hyatt in the 1740's and have been restored to their former glory.

## **Gloucester**

Gloucester began life as a Roman settlement for retired soldiers, built its wealth on profits from river trade and its reputation during a period of medieval piety. For a while, the good times rolled but as trade shifted to Bristol, the city fell into decline. In modern times Gloucester prospered on the back of heavy industry.

One of the main reasons to visit Gloucester is the Gothic cathedral. Originally it was the site of a Saxon Abbey, then a Norman church was built here by a group of Benedictine monks in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The church was the burial place of Edward 2<sup>nd</sup> when he was murdered in 1327. It then became a centre of pilgrimage where the income generated financed the church into the cathedral it is today. Inside is a combination of Gothic and Norman design. Inside the cathedral the whispering gallery is worth a visit, as is Lady Chapel and the Great Cloister (this was used in the first two Harry Potter films in the corridor scenes around Hogwarts).

*Dear Deborah*

*What a lovely email to receive on opening up after my day off! Congratulations on your run – and what a brilliant idea to stop off virtually along the way. I am so glad you enjoyed your 'visit' to Gloucester Cathedral and thank you for your encouragement for all we are attempting to do.*

*We opened the Cathedral doors again on Monday and it was so moving to see people coming into the building again after such a long while. For the previous 3 weeks one of the clergy at a time went in to say Morning and Evening Prayer*

*each day and it was a mixed experience. The building itself felt bereft and forlorn, and it made me realise over again how its life is utterly dependent on the people who inhabit it day by day. We'll be open for longer hours after 5 July, but who knows when we will be able to hold services again?*

*I do hope you and your community are keeping safe and well in these strange times, and that in this time of 'waiting upon the Lord' you are renewing your strength and continuing in faith, hope and love.*

*With very best wishes,*

*Celia (Canon Chancellor, Gloucester Cathedral)*

*Dear Deborah,*

*Reception has passed me your email. I hope you enjoyed your virtual visit – great idea!*

*If you are in the Diocese of Manchester, I spend a lot of time working with your Bishop David. You are very fortunate to have him.*

*Every blessing, Stephen The Very Revd Stephen Lake*

Beatrix Potter's story of the good-hearted mice saving a Gloucester tailor from ruin was based on a local legend about a real-life tailor, John Pritchard. As in Beatrix Potter's tale, he left the garment at cutting stage on a Friday evening and returned on Monday to find it finished. Commercially minded Mr. Pritchard was soon encouraging people to come in and see where 'waist coats were made at night by the fairies.' In reality, his two assistants had slept off a Saturday night bender at the workshop and hoped to make amends by finishing the coat.

Not far from Gloucester is Cheltenham (8 miles away) and as much as I wanted to go and visited the thought of an extra 16 miles put me off. Maybe, once we are back to the 'new normal', I will enjoy a day at the races in Cheltenham.

Before leaving Gloucester, I decided to visit St James and All Saints and Christ Church and was very encouraged by the response that I received from Revd, Juliet

*Thank you so much for your prayers. We have started having conversations about the evil of racism, the ways in which people have been afraid to speak truthfully for not wanting to cause hurt or discomfort to others and are beginning to expose some of our unconscious biases in how we relate to one another - so prayers are very much appreciated!*

*I have a friend who is a respiratory consultant in Bury and have been praying for her, I guess that she may have treated some of your parishioners. We will pray for you at St Margaret's Church Prestwich and St Georges Simister.*

*Enjoy the rest of your run!*

*God bless*

*Juliet (Revd Juliet Jensen, Vicar, St James and All Saints and Christ Church, Gloucester)*

*I also managed to contact Abby, Martin and their family, friends of Andrew who live in Gloucester and worship at Abbey Church.*

*Dear Deborah,*

*Thank you very much for your email and Zoom invitation; we'd love to say Hello and Happy Birthday to you and Andy this evening. We've sent Andy a birthday card (to Rugby) so are hoping he got it.*

*Thank you also for your prayers for Christian ministry in Gloucester. There are a lot of churches here - from a variety of denominations - seeking to encourage congregation members much as your church are doing i.e. by prayer/phone/letter/conversations on doorsteps/delivering gifts/virtual meetings, and to continue to reach out to the community in these ways, too, and in taking up the many opportunities for serving isolated residents during lockdown. At Abbey Church, we have been greatly encouraged by 2 mums who attended our parent and toddler group and Christianity Explored coming to faith, and others who have been exploring the faith continuing to engage with Zoom services or one-to-one Bible reading.*

*Since we own no building but hire a school hall for our main services and a nearby church building for our very popular mother and toddler group, and smaller community rooms/buildings for other activities, we have no prospect of face-to-face meetings indoors for the foreseeable future since we will be unable to use either the school or the other church building due to ongoing COVID*

*restrictions so we'd value your prayers for us to be able to meet outside safely (subject to local park byelaws) and continue to encourage one another.*

*May God bless you all at St Margaret's and St George's as you continue to serve Him by encouraging one another and serving your communities during these trying times,*

*Love from Abbey*

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This year our coffee morning we will be a virtual one as we can't all meet together in person but I'm sure it will be just as good.

It will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September; 10 am – 12 noon and hopefully we will be able to meet up via Zoom.

It's easy to donate to Macmillan, either bring your contribution to church in a labelled envelope or follow this link to make an easy-peasy cash free donation which will be added to our fundraising total – <https://thyg.uk/BUU004204791>

There are lots of scrummy ideas and recipes for cakes on <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/> if you fancy baking something nice to have with your coffee. I like the sound of vegan peanut butter and banana cupcakes and avocado brownies!

Happy Baking

Gillian

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## **The Company of Heaven**

They will all be there  
Generations past  
A welcome like no other  
We meet again at last

In the midst is our Lord  
Welcoming all  
The saints and angels all on board  
We all have had the call

Such happiness we all can share  
No one is left alone  
One thing we are all aware  
Together at last as one

We have walked the road with our Saviour  
Which has led us home  
To sing his praises forever more  
All our worries are gone.

*Carol Olive*

*Written during reflection time on Quiet Day – Staycation Week.*

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Dear Lord, we ask you the students who will be returning to school, college, university this month. Some not having been there since March due to COVID19. Be with them and guide them as they begin a new year. Amen. bless all teachers and

**1<sup>st</sup>**

On waking, let us Focus on God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and ask him to be part of our day, Walking with us every step of the way. When going to sleep let God be the last word on your lips.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:**

Thank You, Lord! How good You are! Your love for us continues forever.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Praise the Lord for He is good. Sing His praises always. Sing out loud and clear for all to hear!



**4<sup>th</sup>:**

There's a song of joy that God puts into the hearts of those who believe. *Let all who take refuge in You be glad: let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You.* **Psalm 5:11.**

**5<sup>th</sup>:**

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything." —**Muhammad Ali**

**This week's reading Psalm 130**

**6<sup>th</sup>:**

Today is God's gift to you – shine!. Live one day at a time. **Matthew 6:34.**

**7<sup>th</sup>:**

He knows, He loves, He cares, nothing this truth can dim. He gives His very best to those who leave the choice with Him.

**8<sup>th</sup>:**

Dear Father, help us today to embrace all that You have given us in Your Son – forgiveness, hope, encouragement and power to a new life. Amen

**9<sup>th</sup>:**

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God. **1 John 4: 16**

**10<sup>th</sup>:**

In stillness, in chaos, in the extraordinary and the mundane, God is there, and a lifetime is not enough to explore all the different ways to respond to him.

Amen

**11<sup>th</sup>:**

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We pray that we may share in all these.

**12<sup>th</sup>:**

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **1 Corinthians 15:10**

### **This week's reading Psalm 131**

**13<sup>th</sup>:**

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. **Ecclesiastes 9:10**

**14<sup>th</sup>:**

Let us all take time to appreciate God's creation above us, below us, all around us.

As we go through life take time to stop, to stare and to smell God's creation everywhere you go.

**15<sup>th</sup>:**

May the Spirit of the living God flow into you this day. Healing where there has been harm, strengthening where there is weakness, and lifting your heart to reflect His glory. Amen **(Healing Prayer)**

**16<sup>th</sup>:**

The Lord delights in those who put their hope in His unfailing love. **Psalm 147:11**

**17<sup>th</sup>:**

How good is a timely word! **Proverbs 15:23**

**18<sup>th</sup>:**

It's important to slow down and enjoy the little miracles around us – the petals on a flower, a bird on the wing, or a gentle breeze rustling the leaves on the trees – all little things that God uses to say how much He loves you. *Stop and consider the wonderful miracles of God.* **Job 37:14**

**19<sup>th</sup>:**

Be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today – tonight - and for ever. **St. Columba (c 521-597)**

### **This week's reading Psalm 132**

**20<sup>th</sup>:**

Each day God grows a beautiful flower of His love in the garden of our hearts for us to enjoy. *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.* **1 Timothy 1:14**

**21<sup>st</sup>:**

**Circle Prayer** – Circle me Lord. Keep hope within, Keep fear without. Keep peace near, Keep conflict far. Lord bring healing, wholeness of heart, mind and body. Restore strength, renew hope. In your mercy Lord, deliver us.

**22<sup>nd</sup>:**

In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28**

**23<sup>rd</sup>:**

As we walk in the power of the Spirit transform us into the likeness of Christ, to the glory of your name. Amen (**Peregrini Prayer**)

**24<sup>th</sup>:**

Dear Lord, we pray today for all those who have non-one else to pray for them. Bless them, guide them and keep them safe, today, tomorrow and always. We pray for all who are sick and need your loving arms around to know that are protected. We pray for all who mourn a loved one and need your loving care to dry their tears. Amen

**25<sup>th</sup>**

“Ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened unto you.” **Matthew 7:7**

**Ask** – God to be your Lord and Saviour

**Seek** – Him and His righteousness

**Knock** – on the door that God has ready to open for you. It’s only through Jesus that we can know which door that is.

**26<sup>th</sup>:**

Creator God we make nothing from nothing, but only from what you give us. You are the source of all good things, and on you we depend.

### **This week’s reading Psalm 133**

**27<sup>th</sup>:**

“I ask only one thing Lord: Let me live in your house every day of my life to see how wonderful you are and to pray in your temple.” **Psalm 27 v4**

**28<sup>th</sup>:**

**The Lord's Prayer in Bible Scriptures:**

**Matthew 6:9-13** - "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

**Luke 11:2-4** - "He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' "

**29<sup>th</sup>:**

**Michael & All Angels:** Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth. Amen. “Give your angels charge over us, O God, to keep us in all our ways”. **Psalm 103**

**30<sup>th</sup>:**

O Lord since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me **Psalm 31 v3**

**A Prayer for Autumn**

*Lord of the crystal blue sky bless us with the clarity of vision. Lord of the lengthening evening lighten our burdens. Lord of the biting breeze sharpen our response to your spirit. Lord of the falling leaf lift our hearts heavenwards. In our autumn, may we seek your spring. Amen*



**Maggie's Music Makers**

For fairly obvious reasons, we are not physically meeting at present. Instead we are meeting via Zoom for weekly singing practices every Wednesday from 5.30-6.30pm in the comfort of our own homes. Please contact Carol P if you would like to join in.

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Articles for future editions of our parish magazine should be emailed as an attachment (Word doc, A4, portrait, no columns) to [stmargaretsprestwich@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretsprestwich@gmail.com) no later than:

October Magazine	27 September
November Magazine	25 October
December Magazine	22 November

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Large print version of the magazine. We are planning to produce a larger print version of the magazine. If text this size easier for you to read, let whoever brings your magazine know.

No **TOP TIPS** this month. Instead we have

### **Six Little Stories with Lots of Meanings**

1. Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of the prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

**That is faith.**

2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

**That is trust.**

3. Every night as we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but we still set the alarms to wake up.

**That is hope.**

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

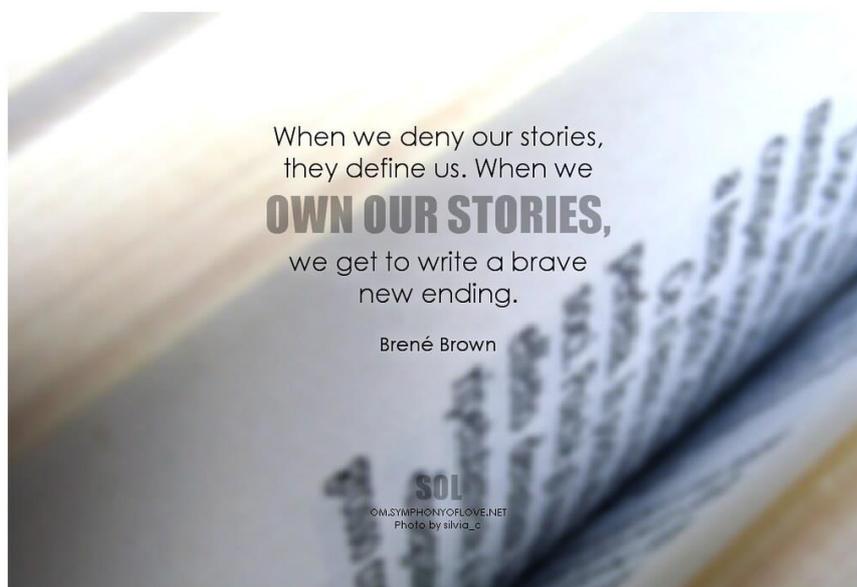
**That is confidence.**

5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children.

**That is love.**

6. On an old man's shirt was written, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience."

**That is attitude.**



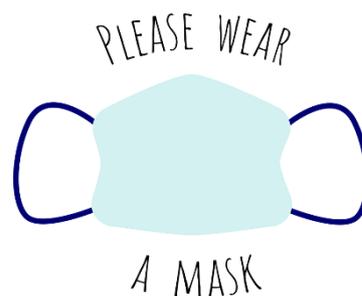
**Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.  
Remember, good friends are the rare jewels of life,  
difficult to find and impossible to replace.**

*Submitted by Carol Olive*

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## Face Coverings

As you will know, fabric face-coverings are now legally required in public spaces such as shops, when using public transport, ***and in our churches***.



Under my trading name of JeaniusBags I have been making and selling these in all kinds of colours and prints. As I have no wish to profit in any way from the pandemic, every penny raised from the sales of these items is donated to Porch Boxes (<https://porchboxes.wordpress.com/>).

**£1000 has been donated so far! Sincere thanks to all who have purchased masks and helped with this fundraising effort.**

Please take a look at my website (<https://jeaniusbags.com/ppe/>) or facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/pg/JeaniusBags/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=690675425061916](https://www.facebook.com/pg/JeaniusBags/photos/?tab=album&album_id=690675425061916)) and contact me if interested.

Carol P