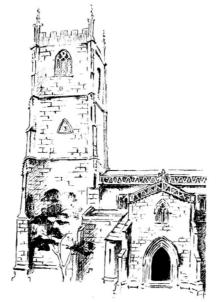
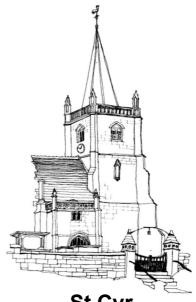
Link Magazine for St. George, Cam and St. Cyr, Stinchcombe.

(Churches within the Church of England, Gloucester Diocese)



St George, Cam



St Cyr, Stinchcombe

Both churches are closed during the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

Services and events are now on-line: Morning Prayer & Compline is said Daily. Sunday service at 9:30am



www.youtube.com Search for St George Cam

Join our email list to keep in touch from the contact page on our website <u>www.camandstinchcombe.org</u>

Contact Details:

Vicar	The Rev'd Fiona Crocker fiona@camandstinchcombe.org.uk	01453 548343
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Sophia Acland sophia@camandstinchcombe.org.uk	01453 842233
Curate	Andrew Hill revandrewhill@gmail.com	07413 278171
Diocesan Reader	Ken Hitchings	01453 543907

Table of Sunday Services and Readings for APRIL

Sunday	Readings for St George	Readings for St Cyr
5th April Palm Sunday	9.30am All Age Celebration with Holy Communion <i>First Reading: Matthew21. 1-11</i> <i>Gospel: Psalm 118. 1-2, 19-end</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Matthew 21. 1-11</i> <i>Second Reading: Isaiah 50. 4-9a</i> <i>Gospel: Matthew 26. 14-27</i>
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12th April Easter Day	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 10. 34-43</i> <i>Second Reading: Jeremiah 31. 1-</i> <i>6</i> <i>Gospel: John 20. 1-18</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 10. 34-43</i> <i>Second Reading: Jeremiah 31. 1-</i> <i>6</i> <i>Gospel: John 20. 1-18</i>
19th April 2 nd Sunday of Easter	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 2. 14a, 22-32</i> <i>Second Reading: 1 Peter 1. 3-9</i> <i>Gospel: John 20. 19-end</i>	6pm Evensong First Reading: Acts 2. 14a, 22-32 Gospel: John 20. 19-end
26th April 3 rd Sunday of Easter	9.30am Parish Eucharist <i>First Reading: Acts 2. 14a, 36-41</i> <i>Gospel: Luke 24. 13-35</i>	11.10am Parish Eucharist First Reading: Acts 2. 14a. 36-41 Second Reading: 1 Peter 1. 17-33 Gospel: Luke 24. 13-35

We hope that the table above will be helpful to our readers, enabling them to follow where we are in the church year and give them the opportunity to read and reflect on the readings.

Keep up to date with news from the Diocese!

Read AThe Messenger

which contains interesting articles and details of events taking place in the diocese - go to: <u>www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/</u> *A hard copy is also posted each month on the notice board at St George*

PLEASE NOTE:

Information in this magazine is correct at the time of going to

press. Please keep yourself updated by keeping an eye on our Church Website, updated Government Announcements on TV etc. and the NHS Website.

Editorial:

A Hope- filled Year! Happy Easter

I found myself writing on Christmas cards and new Year emails at the beginning of 2020, not Happy New Year but instead 'May you have a Hopefilled New Year.' Human beings need a sense of hope and so wishing someone a 'hope- filled New Year" seems more genuine and so I will probably carry on doing it in the years to come. In the same way that we need healthy food to eat, and we know exercise is good for us, so HOPE is important in our lives for our sense of wellbeing. Feeling hopeless is a dark place to be and with periods of isolation being imposed on some at present and others worried for their own health or their loved ones, it is easy to find ourselves in this place.

The world we live in is clearly messed up and is not the beautiful world first created 'in the beginning.' This world has become dis-eased. In the beginning all was well, all was beautiful not just in the physical world but our relationships with each other and with God. Since then many bad choices have been made. Jesus came to show us the Way back, the Way back to all that which is beautiful and peaceful....and that's what brings me HOPE...because Jesus promises that one day all will be restored because of the Easter story. There is good news in this time of uncertainty and the period of covid19, Jesus came to show us the Way. At the Last Supper Jesus told his friends that He was going to die. They were fearful, they were worried and confused. They felt they were losing their way. All that was certain has become uncertain, a future that they had dreamed about now seemed unsure but what did Jesus say, 'don't let your hearts be troubled, believe in God believe also in me'. Hope in uncertain and worrying times means digging deep into ourselves and having some serious conversations with ourselves...For me it might go something like this, Have I been in dark and uncertain times before, what really helped me find the light? When all the world is fearful, have I spent too long listening to the voice of hopelessness compared with spending time

with Jesus and what He says to me?

When Jesus says 'don't let our hearts be troubled' - that's because he knew I would be troubled because He knows me well - does this reassure me? What does Jesus ask me to do, to 'believe in Him' and 'to trust in Him' how can I do this more?

As we move through the selfreflection of Lent, we do so knowing that Easter is on the way. And Easter is our hope. Easter passes through the darkness of Good Friday where Jesus carries all the bad choices of this world, dying for all that separates us from eternity, to the silence of Easter Saturday and then takes us to Easter Sunday - death is defeated, and eternity is assured. All of our Easter story from the Last Supper through to Jesus dying and rising to new life gives me the confidence to say, 'have a hope=filled New Year.' We will sometimes live ibn the silence of God Friday or the silence and uncertainty of Easter Saturday and we need to be honest with ourselves and with others about that. However, Easter Sunday is always on the horizon ... even surrounded now by uncertainty, I can still offer a 'hope-filled' rest of the year. Jesus is my hope and my prayer is He can be your hope too.

Where are you, as you remember again our Easter story, our Easter hope? And if you have grown in hope then what hope can you offer to others in these uncertain times? Will the approaching Easter festival be a means to share your hope with others? What is your hope-filled story to tell?

To conclude, let us encourage one another, and to talk about our story and where we are in this present crisis. Let us be reminded of a God who loves us so much that He came down amongst us, Jesus, who, shows us the Way and offers us an eternal relationship with God forever - and promises a day when all will be well and where there will be no more death, no more pain and no more crving...Bishop Rachel writes, 'being people of hope is not about being cheerful optimists, it is about a living hope rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ, revealed in a place of utter agony and death. This is our God who died out of love for us and who will never abandon us. The God of resurrection who will walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23) with the promise that even death itself will not have the final word. There is a banguet of goodness which awaits us and we long for people to taste

that goodness even now. We are people of confident hope.' So, Jesus says to his friends and to each of us at this time, 'don't let your hearts be troubled, trust in God, trust also in me' Amen.

Happy Easter!

Fiona.



Who do you know who is isolated and may be missing the company they usually enjoy?

A phone call could make all the difference to their day! Talking to someone is much more personal than texting or e-mail. It allows an opportunity to explain things in a much more relaxed and detailed way. You can judge how the other person is feeling and find out how you might help them, or they could help you with a problem you may have.

So, please think about picking up the phone for a chat when you have some spare-time and brighten someone's day. Remember some people do not have access to the internet so it is very important to keep in touch with them!

PS. If you would prefer to speak to Revd Fiona, then please do give her a ring on 01453 548343 or 07817021196.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love."

Dear Friends,

These are uncertain times, but in faith and each other, we have hope.

In a joint letter to clergy today (March 17th), Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice.

But they said that far from having to, "shut up shop", the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others.

So, at St George's and St Cyr's there will be no public gatherings for worship on Sundays or at the Thursday Lent meetings until further notice. Other ways to meet are being explored, using online platforms for Bible Study and Worship. Watch this space!

We are however looking at different ways of communicating with you via video and even live streaming.

Please keep looking at your emails to find out more and keep up to date with an everchanging situation.

It is even more important that we are Jesus' hands and feet in serving our wider community and please do not underestimate the power of a phone call or even FaceTime / Skype / Google Hangouts / WhatsApp Video / Facebook Live, etc. If you need help setting up a tablet / smartphone or laptop, please let us know.

Do stay in touch with Fiona and each other.

If you need any help, a chat, reassurance, a doggy walk, mail posted, some shopping collected or whatever it might be, please do not hesitate to contact Fiona on 07817 021196 or 01453 548343, who can coordinate Call, e-mail, text or direct message via the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/StG eorgeCam/

Church may look different for a little while, but we are still church.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Fiona Crocker

Psalm 3 Trust in God under Adversity

1. O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

2. many are saying to me, "There is no help for you in God."

3. But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

4. I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill.

5. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

6. I am not afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

7. Rise up, O Lord! Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

8. Deliverance belongs to the Lordmay your blessing be on your people!

In one of my recent Morning Prayer times, we were asked to read Psalm 3. If you take the virus to be included in 'the enemy' and we are all God's people, could this be what we want to cry out to our God? In our battle with this virus, let us not forget our weapon of prayer.

Do join us if you can on 'facebook Live' on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings at 9am, and in the evening for Compline at 8pm. If you are not on facebook the link to this page is <u>www.facebook.com/st</u> <u>georges church cam</u>

Fiona.

Covid-19, Church and Community

We are taking precautions in Church regarding Coronavirus and will be following the advice from the Church of England at <u>https://www.churchofenglan</u> <u>d.org/more/media-</u> <u>centre/coronavirus-covid-19-</u> <u>guidance-churches</u> The advice is constantly being updated so we will communicate any changes as and when they happen. So please keep looking at our website.

Keeping in touch

I wonder if this is the time for you to ask to be put on an email list so that we can contact you directly and quickly if you have an email.

What can we do?

We can pray, praying for all those who are directly affected by the virus and for our leaders to guide us well. We want to play our part so please follow the latest up to date guidance information which can be found at

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ coronavirus-covid-19/

If you fall ill, need to selfisolate and need a helping hand please do ring Fiona on 07817021196.

God made us to be sociable beings so the effects of isolation should not be ignored. How can we all be the good neighbours to each other at this time, as well as keeping safe? We want to help individuals and maybe offer food delivery or a chat on the phone to maximise the sense that we are all here for each other, and we all matter. *Fiona*

God is able to forgive

'Jesus said to the man, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.' (Matthew 9:2).

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, 'Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?' One small boy spoke up, 'Sin'!

If sin is our greatest problem, then forgiveness is our greatest need. This story of the healing of the paralyzed man reminds us that God *is able* to forgive our sins.

Jesus' first words to the paralytic focus on forgiveness, even though his friends lowered him through the roof to be healed by Jesus. Matthew is making the point that forgiveness precedes healing, as Jesus came first to restore our relationship with God as Father. Like the man, we too can be paralysed by past actions, hurtful words and unforgiveness, that leave us quilty and ashamed. Jesus offers us forgiveness and acceptance to enable a fresh start in our lives.

Jesus was aware of the criticism of the teachers of the

law, who believed that only God could forgive sins. As Jesus says, 'Which is easier: to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up and walk".' Jesus secured forgiveness on the cross, which secures transformation from the inside. It gives us power to forgive others and ourselves from past hurts and actions.

Finally, Jesus says to the paralysed man, '*Get up, take your mat and go home.'* The man's trusting obedience enables him to be completely healed and go home. Where do we need to know forgiveness in our lives and relationships? Are we ready to receive what God promises in our lives?

'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9).

From Parish Pump.

How long could you make £60 last?

That is a challenge from Children's Society, as they seek to highlight the plight of many poor people. Children's Society says: "Imagine the worst week. Your car needs repairs, your boiler has broken, you need to get the groceries in, but you have only £60 left until you get paid next week. Can you make it last?"

If you would like to test yourself, to see how you would manage, take the quiz at <u>https://www.childrenssociety.o</u> rg.uk/news-and-blogs/ourblog/difficult-decisions-in-acrisis?

Behind the quiz, however, the Childrens' Society is deadly serious. "Low wages, poor housing and public service cutbacks have left many families struggling. They have to make impossible choices every single day. One bit of bad luck quickly leads to families not being able to afford the basics.

"To make matters far worse, the council-run emergency funds that used to be there to support vulnerable families are at risk, and have disappeared altogether in some areas, leaving people with nowhere to turn."

If you can help, please go to <u>https://www.childrenssociety.o</u> <u>rg.uk/</u>

For your prayers

Please pray for peace and justice for all people, For all affected by poverty, hunger, natural disaster and conflict, and for those who seek to help them,

For all those around the world affected by the coronavirus and those seeking solutions to control its spread and to find a cure.

For the mission of our churches and an increase of God's people in our parishes.

For Fiona, Sophia, Andrew and Ken. For our Churchwardens and the members of our PCCs, together with those recently baptised, married or bereaved.

Recent Baptisms:

We welcome into the Lord's family: Oletta Suki Clementine Carter Elsie Jane

Recent Marriages:

We wish the following couples a long and happy marriage: *Matt and Ana*

Recent Funerals

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of: *Douglas Workman Joyce Jones*

A message to the people of the Diocese of Gloucester from Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert regarding COVID-19

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification ... ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from ... the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first ... But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory

The wedding at Cana: John 2:1-11

At a time when we are being encouraged to move away from large social gatherings, it might seem strange to begin this letter with Jesus' presence at a wedding. Yet, at this party, Jesus took what was ordinary and transformed it into something extraordinary and generous, such that people tasted God's goodness, whether or not they recognised God's glory. It is pertinent that in this miracle of water being turned into wine, the jars were most likely there for the Jewish ritual washing of hands and utensils. We also know that there were similar rituals of purification for those who were deemed unclean and with whom Jesus' interaction was radical and full of care and compassion.

Of course, there are no direct parallels to be drawn here with our current situation as we face the rapid spread of COVID-19, but there are resonances with our desire to be people of transformation and our longing that people would taste the goodness of God as we choose to participate in sharing Jesus' radical love and compassion.

As more and more people have to live in isolation, and indeed experience bereavement, it is likely that anxiety will continue to grow, which in itself may well provoke people to react from a place of inner fear leading to a sense of panic and action which is in direct contrast to the generous love of neighbour to which the abundant love of God calls us. It is therefore crucial that amid the painful disruption of the coming weeks and months, while we rightly pay attention to the many practical issues and questions coming our way and the actions we must take, we place an even greater focus on how we care for one another and for our local communities. This is a time to share Christ's love and hope with renewed confidence as we join in with the work of the kingdom of God.

Such a renewed emphasis on acts of love and kindness towards our neighbour goes hand in hand with our established focus this lent on the climate crisis and our care of creation. We are created to live in relationship with God and neighbour and all of creation, as we seek to 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength; and to love our neighbour as oneself'. (Mark 12:30)

We are already seeing the many ways worshipping communities across the Diocese are promoting emotional contact and connection at a time of increased physical separation. Thank you for all you are doing. The phone, FaceTime, Skype etc are increasingly going to be a gift to us and we want to encourage every worshipping community to think about how best to reach out as widely as we can in local communities. It is essential that we ensure that those who are vulnerable and isolated are receiving what they need. We also need to think about how we reach out to those who may not naturally speak their fears but who will be severely anxious about the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and their livelihoods. Some of us will have to self-isolate, none of us should have to live in isolation.

We must also be particularly aware of the need to be showing care and concern for our health workers, our schools and colleges and those who work in institutions such as prisons. They and those they serve need the assurance of our prayer and support at this time.

Clergy (and churchwardens where there is currently no incumbent) are being kept updated with major developments, particularly around gathered worship. However, it is important that people continue to look at the regularly updated advice on the Church of England website <u>www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-</u> <u>guidance-churches</u>. In the coming months, we all need to be making sensible decisions at a local level whilst never operating from a place of fear. Please be assured that members of the senior staff team will be meeting weekly and will communicate any decisions or information which need dissemination. Archdeacons Hilary and Phil will continue to be a key point of contact for worshipping communities.

Being people of hope is not about being cheerful optimists, it is about a living hope rooted in the love of God in Jesus Christ, revealed in a place of utter agony and death. This is our God who died out of love for us and who will never abandon us. The God of resurrection who will walk with us through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23) with the promise that even death itself will not have the final word. There is a banquet of goodness which awaits us and we long for people to taste that goodness even now. We are people of confident hope

This comes with our continued love, thanks and prayers. Bishop Rachel.

Benefice Lent Blog For our Website: 'God in the Arts'

Is there a particular `work of art' that has helped you learn something new about God or given you a new insight?

- A painting, piece of music or a poem that has made you see God in a new way?
- A time when you have been looking at a piece of art or listening to a song and God has seemed to speak through it?

If so, please do still send a contribution to the Benefice Lent blog, which this year is focussing on finding God through the arts. a painting, a piece of music, a sculpture, a poem, a novel, a play, or a film, any other artistic medium- the more diverse the better!

The arts can be a really helpful way of deepening our faith and of expressing things about God that words alone cannot.

Please write around 200-300 words about your chosen 'artwork' and what it means to you and send it to Sophia (<u>sophiaacland@gmail.com</u>) together with a copy of (or link to) the piece of art you are describing.

Please note: Our churches are closed ..."Let us continue to pray , to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated" There are also many other ways to worship and pray: See other articles in this magazine and the Church of England website. There will also be a 9.30am Benefice Service on Sundays on Facebook Live. If you are not on facebook the link to this page is www.facebook.com/st -georges church cam



FRIENDS OF ST CYR

At our recent AGM, Friends Chairman Russ Legg welcomed everyone and gave a review of the previous year's activities. This included a fund-raising lunch, an open garden event, upkeep of the churchyard and repair and refurbishment of 6 of the tabletop tombs. He paid tribute to the work of the committee and also the wonderful response from the Village community whenever help was sought. This was highlighted at the recent very successful Safari Supper which had only been possible with all the outside help we received, and it demonstrated what a

wonderful space we have in the Church for such events.

He highlighted the Open 2 All Project which will be seeking grants and will involve serious fund raising to provide disabled access into the church and installation of toilet and kitchen

Treasurer Roger Batty gave a very clear explanation of the accounts which show a healthy balance and put us in a good position to kick start the Open to All project, as well as having a good reserve for any other smaller projects which may arise.

It was agreed unanimously that the current committee would continue for another year. Chairman Russell Legg. Vice Chairman John Pinch. Treasurer Roger Batty. Secretary Jill Holloway. Committee Members. Richard Bartlam, Cherry Brown, Russ Holloway, Pippa Leggate and Charlie Oakhill. Fiona Crocker attends our meetings.

John Pinch with input from Derek Crocker showed us detailed plans and excellent drawings of our project. These were much appreciated, and John and Derek were thanked for all the painstaking work they had done on our behalf.

A sub-committee chaired by Pippa Leggate is planning a Clay Pigeon Shoot at Church Farm and neighbouring land. on Saturday 5th September. Further details will be available at a later date.

If anyone would like to see a copy of the full minutes, please contact me on 542159 or at jillandruss9@gmail.com

Jill Holloway

Anniversaries of death in February for St Cyr

5th John Luff 7th Jessie Holloway 9th Peter Woodward 9th Daniel Edgar Granger 11th Florence Wyatt 20th Rev Canon Russell Acheson 22nd Gabriel Constant Jean Larroucau 24th David Andrew Townend 28th Michael Mildmay



SOUP LUNCH

Five years ago, we felt there was a need for a parish lunch which over time we have enjoyed catering for, bringing people together, getting to know you, sharing your highs and lows, and most importantly supporting one another.

We now feel it has run its course and will therefore not be running a regular lunch. Up until the current situation we intended running ONE OFF events which will now go on the back burner until the situation improves.

We always emphasised the lunch was free but through your generosity of donations we have contributed to the church coffers and latterly to the Food Bank a very creditable amount.

Thank You all for your support Love, Prayers and Many Blessings Hazel & Chris.

Foodbank

Thank you for those who support Foodbank on Sundays.

During this time of no services in Church, please can I encourage you to continue to support the Foodbank by giving into the bins at Tesco if you are shopping.

Fiona.

Children's Society Boxes Time flies and I am gathering in our collecting boxes again. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our nine boxholders for their contributions this year.

I have sent £108.00 to the society. Most boxes contain 1p. 2p and 5p coins so a splendid effort by all concerned.

Hazel Tomkins.

Men's Breakfast

Until further notice this meeting will be held remotely via. a video/audio conferencing system called Zoom see: (<u>https://us04web.zoom.us/</u>).

If you would like to participate in these meetings Please speak to Andrew Hill, Peter Smout Tel 542619 or Peter Ashman for more information.

Thursday Social Group

We might meet on-line, keep an eye on emails. If you do not have email speak to Alex Reeves, James Irvine or Francis Jones – Tel. 546950.

Poems and Prayers etc.

SUNSHINE

How nice to see the sun! Am I the only ones? To feel the joy Like every girl and boy? To celebrate And instigate An inner glow God's own warm flow!

© Robinette Deere 2020

Thought for the times

No matter what the world throws at us Spring and blossom are a welcome plus.

Robinette Deere

BLESSINGS

What do you do, on the last day of your 80's? But count your many blessings! Your Family, The neighbours, Your many friends! Those who help you! Your house and garden, Your long life and country! Your faith and spirit, Those talents to write and draw. Amen. Robinette wrote this and sent it to me on the day before her 90th Birthday. God bless you Robinette. (Bob Robson)

A BEAUTIFUL POEM WHICH I FOUND AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP US ALL AT

THIS DIFFICULT TIME TO REFLECT ON IT.

(Alora was 98 years old when she wrote this and has recently turned 100)

(Bob Robson)

His Presence

(By Alora M. Knight)

A friend of mine once asked me Just how could I believe In someone I never saw, Nor spoken words received.

I thought, perhaps, I should explain Just why I have no doubt That it was God's creativeness That brought this world about.

I only have to look around To know that He is there. I see and feel and hear Him. That's why I'm so aware.

I see Him in the raindrops That nourish trees and flowers. I see Him in the rainbows That sometimes follow showers.

I see Him in a mother's love When looking at her child. So thankful that this miracle Is pure and undefiled.

I see Him in the wrinkled face That's seen so many years, Knowing it was faith in Him That overcame all fears.

I hear Him when a meadowlark Trills out its joyful song. I hear Him when the thunder Comes forth so loud and strong.

I see the beauty of Him In the butterflies on wing. The feathers of the peacock Are the colours He can bring.

I feel Him when a playful breeze Blows gently through my hair. When the sun shines warmly on my face, I know that He is there. His strength shows in the

mountains And the ever pounding seas. A kitten's purred affection Shows how gentle love can be.

It's true I have no pictures To hang upon my wall. I do not need a portrait, His presence to recall.

For those who wish to listen, It is played throughout the land. The symphony of life itself, Directed by His hand.

Source: https://www.familyfriendpoems .com/poem/his-presence Published: April 2018

LATE NEWS

Now on YouTube: - use <u>This Link</u> or Search for "St George's Cam" on YouTube.