**Priest in Charge:** Joy Ludlow (01454 419 229)

**Email:**joyeludlow@outlook.com

**Email:** Thornburybenefice@outlook.com

**Website:**www.thornburybenefice.org

**Church Office Tel:** 01454 281900

**St Mary's C of E VA School, Head teacher**: Mrs S Gillman (01454 866 760) **Email:**stmarysthornbury@sgmail.org.uk **Website:**www.stmarysthornbury.com

**Sunday 14th January 2024 – Epiphany 2**

Services are held within our churches and livestreamed via YouTube, see below.

Shepperdine is open as a place of pilgrimage and private prayer.

If you know or hear of anyone who is not online but needs pastoral support or contact do let clergy or wardens know. Wardens Tel: Jenny Ovens (01454 414727), Robin Gupta (01454 413650), Mike Dennett (01454 419082),Andrew Gazard (01454 412153) and Sandra Grey (01454 260316).

**Please follow our 'Thornbury, Oldbury and Shepperdine United Benefice' page on Facebook, and make friends with 'Thornbury Benefice.' If you wish to add to these pages, then send photos and notices to**

**Pat Duru: patduru50@yahoo.co.uk**

**Please use our Church YouTube page to watch future livestreamed and recorded services from St Mary’s:**

**https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA**

## (\*live streamed)

*Readings 7th January: 1 Samuel 3. 1-10, Revelation 5. 1-10, John 1. 43-end*

**CALENDAR**

 **Friday 12th January**

**12noon –** Funeral for Susan Keedwell at St Arilda’s

**7.30pm** – Choir Practice at St Mary’s

**Saturday 13th January**

**10am –** Dads and Kids at St Mary’s Hall

**Sunday 14th January**

**9:00am –** Holy Communion at St Paul’s

**10:30am** – All Age Service and Baptisms at St Mary’s

**2:30pm** – Games Café at St Mary’s Hall

**6:00pm** – Choral Evensong at St Mary’s

**6:00pm** – Holy Communion at St Arilda’s

**Monday 15th January**

**8.00pm** – Bible Studies on Zoom

**Tuesday 16th January**

**7.30pm** – Bell ringing practice

**Thursday 18th January**

**9.00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary’s

**Friday 19th January**

**7.30pm** – Choir Practice at St Mary’s

**Sunday 21st January**

**9:00am –** All Age at St Paul’s

**10:30am** – Holy Communion at St Mary’s

**2:30pm** –St Paul’s Open Afternoon

**4:00pm** - St Mary’s Afternoon Concert

**6:00pm** – Evening Prayer at St Arilda’s

**\****Please note: most services at St Mary’s will be live streamed*

\*Live streaming – If you are unable to make it to church, please do use our Church YouTube page for the live-streamed services which are filmed from St Mary’s: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA so you can be part of our worship. The camera records the person speaking, with some wider shots of the church.

 **NOTICES AND EVENTS**

**Ch@t** – Jan-Feb edition of Ch@t is available. The print copies can be picked up from the churches and you can download a copy from the Benefice website here: <https://www.thornburybenefice.org/chat>

**Dads and Kids** - To All the congregation at St Mary's, I want everyone to be aware that as part of my vicar training, I have to be sent on a placement to a different parish for three months. I will be fully involved in the parish with leading services etc. Please note I will be away from the parish until the end of April. Please pray for me as I join a different congregation for this short period of time. Any help with Dad's and Kid's would be much appreciated as I am not allowed to do any work in the parish during my placement.  Thomas Powe

Dads and Kids will be at St Mary’s Church Hall this Saturday at 10am. The theme this week is pull back cars! Roxanne is very much needing some extra help to run the group over the next few months. Please could you let her, or the office know if you were able to lend a hand.

**Games Café** – Sunday 14th Jan - St Mary’s Hall 2:30pm – 4:00pm. Refreshments will be served. Open to all! We have a selection of games to play but if you want to share your Christmas games, please do bring them along!

**Bible Studies** – The Bible Studies course will continue this **Monday 15th January at 8pm**. All are welcome to join even if you have not been able to make the other sessions.

*Join Zoom Meeting:* [*https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82433712346?pwd=Y1h4aHhEbk9rVUJTNyt1bE44N09sdz09*](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82433712346?pwd=Y1h4aHhEbk9rVUJTNyt1bE44N09sdz09) *Meeting ID: 824 3371 2346 / Passcode: 692258*

**Afternoon Concert Series** – Sunday afternoon concerts are starting up again.  Everyone is invited, please tell your friends and neighbours.  Sunday 21st January 4:00pm at St Mary’s Church. Chris Hall, bass baritone and Robert Burgess on the piano. No admission fee, refreshments served. Please come and enjoy the music!

**MU** - Monday 22nd January 3:00pm at St Mary’s Church Hall – Mothers Union are hosting Jo Wright to talk about the Organic Blooms organisation. All are welcome to attend.

# **Lent Groups – your chance to share** - Thornbury Churches Together are organising a series of weekly inter-denominational discussion groups during Lent.

# The sign-up sheet is in on the table at the entrance of St Mary’s Church and will shortly be delivered to St Paul’s and St Arilda’s. When signing up please note your preferred day to attend.

# A black text on a white background  Description automatically generatedThis year we are using a Christian Aid course called “Act on Poverty”. The Launch meeting is at St Mary’s Church Hall in Thornbury at 7.30 for 7.45pm on Thursday 8th February. Come along and find out more and meet other participants before sessions start the following week.

**Pastoral Assistance training** - Christine Butler from Sodbury Vale Benefice is running training for anyone interested in helping with pastoral assistance. The course would begin after Easter. Please contact the office for further information.

**2024 Swimarathon** – March 1st and 2nd.  (No Sunday this year.)

Rotary Club of Thornbury have generously taken on Butterfly Space as one of their 2 main charities this year.  The other is St Peter’s Hospice.  Thornbury Rotary have supported Alice in Malawi all the 17 years she has been there.  Her very first Nursery School was helped financially by them.  Up to press she has 5 Nurseries, a full Primary school, a workshop for physically disabled adults, a vocational training centre for young adults, a huge community library and many other smaller projects supporting the local community.  Any money raised by the 2024 Swimarathon will help fund a dormitory for students who are studying for their government exams and those who are travelling from afar to attend the vocational workshops and also staff housing on the Primary School site.

Our vicar, Revd Joy, choristers Ruth Piolle(and her brother Neil), Jenny Powell, Gill Spiller and Gill Leaper are making up one team.  We need to sport as many teams as we can. Can YOU join a team? Please contact Gill Leaper or the office if you would be interested in joining a team.

If swimming is not for you please sponsor us generously.

**Flower Arranging in St Mary’s –** The flower arranging team would like a few new members to be included on the Rota.  We arrange flowers on a Friday morning and always work in pairs.  Even if you have no experience of flower arranging, we can help by showing you how it is done and putting you to work with someone who has experience.  If you are interested or want further information please speak to either Kate Teague, Cath Barnard or Carole Ball.  It would be lovely to have a few more members on the team to arrange the flowers. Many thanks.

**Concert** - 22nd March at 1.00pm **and** 23rd March at 7.30pm the very talented Professional Ukrainian, Khrystyna Mykhailichenko is playing the piano in Thornbury at The URC . She studies at The Royal School of music.  All funds raised with go to The Charity Bristol Aid to Ukraine. Several of our local Ukrainian Guests will also be appearing.

**Food bank** - We are in need of some stock items which are detailed below. Items in bold are in short supply. It is a much shorter list this month due to your amazing generosity over Christmas. Thank you for your on-going support!

Donations can be placed in the basket in Tesco, the Coop at Thornbury Fields or left on the Baptist church steps on Wednesdays between 9.30am and 11am

**Long Life Fruit Juice**

**UHT Milk**

**Instant meals**

Tins of custard

Tins of vegetables

Tins of tomatoes

Pasta sauce

Male & female deodorant

Toilet rolls

Dog food

**Library Box –** Please do not forget about the Library boxes at St Paul’s and St Mary's!

**If you are recently bereaved or need pastoral care** - Please contact the clergy. We offer the opportunity to share your concerns. Or, if you or someone you know is in hospital, struggling in isolation or has cause for concern, please let the office know and we can pass on information as appropriate.

**The Office**- The office in St Mary’s will be open during the hours of 10am and 2pm, **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday**. Do please leave a message or send an email on other days and they will be dealt with as soon as possible. Please send any items for the newsletter to the office by 10am on the **Wednesday** of the week when you wish your item to appear. Send to: thornburybenefice@outlook.com. Thank you.

**KEY LINKS – Sunday 14th January 2024**

Services at St Mary’s Livestreamed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/68a4a53d0488/the-weekly-bulletin-9-january-2024?e=56d437cfb1>

**BENEFICE PAGE OF PRAYER**

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Gareth Mullinex, Angela Swan, Hughan Welch, Joyce Barge, Verity Barker, Phil and Sheila Jones, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: William Martin, Liz Humphries, Theresa Holliday, Margaret Woodford and Suzanne Elliott.

Recently departed: We pray for the families and friends of Madelene Williams, Lillian Perry, Sue Keedwell and Mike Chappel who mourn their loss.

**GOSPEL READING:**

*John 1. 43-end*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT –** Copernicus Climate Change Service (CCCS) datahas been recently released andstates that the planet was 1.48 degrees Celsius hotter in 2023 than ever before. It is believed that the record level of cardon dioxide emissions and the return of the natural phenomenon, El Nino are the primary causes in the global rise in temperatures.

**FOR OUR WORLD –** Good news to start the year.Three cheers for the malaria vaccine, our best shot in the war against a disease that kills more than 500,000 children every year. The World Health Organization started distributing one in Africa last year, and just approved another, cheaper version that is rolling out as you read this!

**FOR COMMUNITY** – Did you know that the local area, including Thornbury High Street and the Malthouse pub, was mentioned by the Harry Potter author in The Running Grave, the seventh instalment of her detective series Cormoran Strike! Read more about it here: <https://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/24027145.thornbury-features-jk-rowlings-book-running-grave/>

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine consists of the ecclesiastical parish of Thornbury and the ecclesiastical parish of Oldbury-on-Severn with Shepperdine.  The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Thornbury is registered charity no. 1137265.