



Ch@t



The United Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine
Living God's love for all

Welcome to Ch@t

The newsletter of The United Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine

May & June 2024

This Edition is packed with reports and news of so many wonderful events over the Holy Week and Easter period. There is an excellent report on the many St Mary's School activities, and details of the approved West End reordering soon to get underway. Also regular reports on Children's work in Hopscotch, Muddy Praise and Refresh. The Mothers' Union has an account of the visit of a number of Muslim Ladies to St Mary's.

Especial thanks to ALL who have contributed articles and photographs - Please continue to keep Ch@t going with your exciting news!

*The next Ch@t will be the July/August edition deadline June 10th.
Please send articles to aj.swan1@btinternet.com*



Revd Joy Writes:

May brings Pentecost (19th), and the breath of God which transforms and inspires, as we continue our journey of Vision and Hope. This will be a Sunday filled with worship, activities and APCMs! And the following weekend (24th-26th) we celebrate with the whole diocese a weekend of Mission and Evangelism as **Archbishop Justin** comes to Gloucester. June continues the 'busyness' starting with Environment Sunday (2nd June) and culminating in our Benefice Garden Party and Community

Celebration at the Church Hall (Sunday 30th June).

By the end of this next couple of months I am also intending to share our remaining pages from the Vision Action Plan started by the community at our weekend at Hebron Hall. And then?

Then we get building... and I mean that literally!...

I hope and trust that you continue to pray for our churches and communities through the seasons. In these coming months, please do pray for the beautiful church at St Mary's as we begin work at the back of Church. It is bound to be messy, and awkward, and frustrating. But, with prayer and trust, we are building a space for our whole community to flourish.

In the rush and chaos of a busy few months, with the fire of Pentecost burning, I pray that each one of us would take time also to stop and listen trusting that, amid the carnage, we might hear together the still, small voice of God leading us onward.

Blessings,

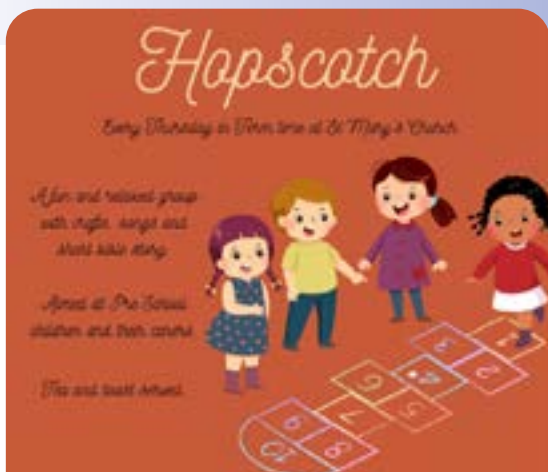
Revd Joy



Pentecost



Children and Youth



Come to Hopscotch - for babies and little ones under school-age and their parents and carers!

St Mary's every Thursday in Term-time.



“Alleluia, He is Risen!

We hope everyone enjoyed a very Happy Easter!

We have been very busy at Hopscotch hearing about the Easter story over the last few weeks but on the last day of term, we heard that Jesus was alive!

We iced Easter biscuits, made Easter egg decorations, Noah wore his brother's lovely Easter bonnet and everyone received a delicious Easter egg!

We look forward to seeing everyone back in Hopscotch on Thursday 18th April



Come along and see some great art!

As part of Thornbury Arts Festival, St Paul's The Hackett Church is 'Venue 19' on the Severn Vale Art Trail taking place Thursday, 2 May - Monday, 6 May 2024, hosting three amazing artists.

Refreshments will be available from 10.30 am-3.30 pm, in aid of church funds. The Art Trail hosts 64 artists - potters, painters, textile and upholstery.

All free to see - and great for unique birthday cards and gifts!



Muddy Praise - Palm Sunday

We had a great time on Palm Sunday when, with permission, we marched around the Glebe Field – with 2 donkeys, not of the live variety – singing “we have a King who rides a donkey And His name is Jesus”. If you don’t know the song – it is a catchy tune – “What shall we do with the drunken sailor “,so we soon all joined in. You try it! The chorus goes “Jesus the King is with us” early in the morning!!

At the top of the daffodil cross we sat down to hear about characters in the Easter story, Peter included, and afterwards had hot cross buns for our snack.

Muddy Praise is held every month on the 4th Sunday – but it is not always at St Mary’s so keep watch on the newsletter to find out where we will be.



A Special “Refresh” at St Arilda’s

On March 3rd the children attending “Refresh” busied themselves planting sunflower seeds in decorated pots as had those attending “Muddy Praise” the week before. This was to celebrate World Downs Syndrome Day on March 28th. Meanwhile the adults had an open discussion with Revd. Joy on the values and caring ethos promoted within Oldbury C.of.E. School and how

we could implement them into our own lives. The subjects were Friendship, Care and Community,, Respect, Growth and Joy.

The mosaic picture in the Children’s Corner was blessed at the school Easter Service, at “Refresh” and in fact may be blessed again when Mary Jennings’s family can visit from a lot further away than Oldbury. Mary generously financed the school to enjoy a project with “Tomato Jack” artists at Berkeley who came into school to complete the picture. This was themed “Love One Another” and was recently shown in the St Mary’s newsletter. It shows the sun shining on the Severn, St Arilda’s church and some children outside amongst flowers with grapes overhanging.

We extend our gratitude for the generous contribution by the late Mary whose gift made this beautiful addition to our church possible.



Meg Adnams



In March this year we were very grateful to Mair

Vaughan, Lead Volunteer at Thornbury Foodbank, and Rhona Allgood for standing in at short notice to be our speakers. It was very interesting to hear the inside “workings” of the Food-bank from dating all the donations which come in and stacking them neatly in the storeroom to meeting clients and ensuring that they have the items which will be of most use. This is over and above the basic packs which are ready made for a single person, a couple, a family with varying numbers of children – and not forgetting the dog or cat.

With Easter coming up there were going to be special “extras” of the chocolate variety!

We are grateful to our Committee as they have had to be very “nibble” this year with changes to each of our meetings up to now. Hopefully from our April meeting onwards everything will be plain sailing. On the 16th April we will be hearing about Ukrainian Culture from Catherine and Friends, and then in May Vena Clifford is our speaker and her subject is “My Life as a VIP” (a visually impaired person).

Our Committee is always pleased to hear from potential new members – please contact Monica, Angela, Ruth, Anne, Pippa, Rosemary Keavey, Sandra and Sue if you want to know more. Our Church Office can put you in touch (01454 281900 or thornburybene-fice@outlook.com).

Jenny Owens

Holy Week and Easter



TCT Good Friday Walk of Witness

The Walk of Witness began at Christ the King RC Church with pauses for prayers and meditation at the Methodist Church, Thornbury Town Hall, and St Mary's Shopping Centre. It ended at the United Reformed Church with hot crossed buns.



Easter Morning Service and Holy Week washing of hands at St Mary's



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

On February 12th we welcomed Sumbul and friends from a Bristol Mosque to a coffee morning in St Mary's Church. It was a beautifully sunny morning and we all had a very enjoyable time.

Monica gave a tour of the church pointing out the significant parts in the Christian Faith and we all had lots of interesting questions especially from the children. They loved the carpet of snowdrops in the churchyard and some were particularly interested in the castle.

We ended with prayers after a lovely morning.!

Pippa Davey

Holy Week and Easter



Easter Vigil at St Arilda's

The lovely and meaningful flower arrangements and the Easter garden were much appreciated afterwards. A huge thank you to Val and her sister Mandy who undertook this task on the Saturday after

much planning beforehand. We warmly thank the helpers – Thomas and Paul – in training – and Matthew our Lay Reader and our churchwardens. We also thank Alex for coming out to play the organ.

“Breakfast” refreshments were on offer for anyone wanting to stay a bit longer in the sunshine. *Meg Adnams*

It was an effort to arrive at 6.30 for everyone because we had already missed an hour of sleep due to putting the clocks forward this Easter! However it was well worth it as the sun rose and the birds sang their dawn chorus. Revd. Joy began the service outside with a small fire near the north porch from which we lit our Easter candles and individual ones before walking into church, after a reading, to Easter Communion with incense which made the event very special. In spite of the early hour we enjoyed welcoming a congregation of 55 from various local churches and certainly at least one couple who visit us quite regularly from north Bristol.

Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

*Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!*

Christ has conquered!

Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church!

Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!

*Let this place resound with joy, echoing the
mighty song of all God's people!*



St Paul's at Easter

With a good turn out for the traditional display
of Easter Bonnets



The last few terms, at St Mary's Primary, have been filled with great happiness, enthusiasm and bundles of joy! Jesus once said,

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." **Matthew 19:14**

And hinder have we not - our children have shone in many ways; flourished as individuals, and as a collective community, creating radiant smiles and lasting memories for all to enjoy. Together, as one, we are determined to prove that *"For nothing will be impossible with God"* **Luke 1:37** and each day our children validate this biblical quotation. We are immensely proud of them and feel honoured to share an insight into school life with our wider community.



Over the course of a week-and-a-half, we unpicked our values, prepared a concert of celebration, recorded our very own album and put on a concert to be remembered. St Mary's Church was alive with the sound of music, energy, love and community spirit. The joy was infectious and our community united in song, celebration and dance – the church was full to the brim.

Rev'd Joy commented that our children bring a spirit to Thornbury, and that the path we carve through their education will shape their lives and journeys for evermore. This concert embellished our vision for the children whom we serve and the school that we wish to grow.

iSingPOP

Recently, you might have witnessed the church illuminated in pink, heard heavenly harmonies flooding through the church doors and observed joyful children, who were the colours of the rainbow, celebrating our Christian Vision and Values. Our young people worked in partnership with iSingPOP, an "innervation trust", who encourage children to grow spiritually through contemporary pop songs, while also exploring the relevance of faith and community values.



World Book Day

At St Mary's we aspire to be avid readers and imaginative writers therefore, we thoroughly enjoyed embarking on a week which illustrated our love of reading. The children became writers, dressed up in a range of eye-catching costumes

and met well renowned authors – even the staff had to pose for a selfie. Literature is so important for childhood development and listening to children talk so passionately about books that they were reading (or would recommend) was an opportunity not to be missed!





Active citizens

Being inclusive and supporting children to flourish in a range of different ways underpins the work that we do, and wish to achieve at St Mary's. As a result, we have been delighted to promote and engage with a range of sporting events over the last few terms – representing our school and local community. Our wonderful grounds have hosted an interschool football tournament; we have attended tag rugby tournaments across the local area and most recently, some of our students challenged themselves competing in a cross-country event. It is not about winning but we are so proud of our children for achieving top positions in each of the above sporting events.

Inspiring growth and high aspirations are incredibly important to us; thus, we were delighted to welcome Jack Rutter, a GB Paralympic Footballer and former

Captain of the England Cerebral Palsy Football team, into school to talk about his motivating factors. He had some impressive skills and led us all in a tiring but energising workout.

Our Wider Community



Recently, we hit the headlines within the Thornbury Gazette as we opened our doors to our first community creative arts festival. We were lucky enough to work in partnership with Olivia Riddiford, who cast a magical and creative energy throughout our school. United, we spread our passion for the arts and encouraged children (and adults) to pursue their hidden talents. Our school became a hub within the community and we



embraced the talent across Thornbury – again, recognising that all of our children have unique and wonderful skills.

We are blessed here at St Mary's. We have such a wonderful body of parents and wider community, who share our vision of greatness, and want to encourage our inclusive beliefs and support our children to flourish. But we wish to extend our thanks and warmth to one particular member, Carly Rocyn-Jones. Carly has chaired our PTFA for a number of years and has undoubtedly touched our school community with her dedication and commitment. She has energised a body of parents who actively support our school and work tirelessly to ensure we can provide remarkable experiences for our children. We will be forever indebted to your service – thank you!



We hope this gives you a flavour of life in school over the last few terms. We are proud of what we do, proud of the children we educate and proud of the community we serve! Every day is a day of learning and our doors are always open. Blessings to all, Team St Mary's.

Lent Activities at St Arilda's.

Having enjoyed the results of the long delayed interior decorating at St Arilda's due to the pandemic and temporary closure of our church, Sandra Grey and Christabelle Tymko decided we would get together a team of volunteers to undertake specialist cleaning and polishing of the pews and wooden furnishings. We managed to complete in time for Easter! Our thanks to Janet Astle who advised us on the treatment of antique seating and furniture which included the altar, pulpit etc. We got through a large amount of specialist cleanser, polish, wire wool, rags and dusters not to mention coffee and biscuits halfway through! Our church looks so much better that we are thinking of doing the same in Sheppertine next year!

Meg Adnams



West end Reordering

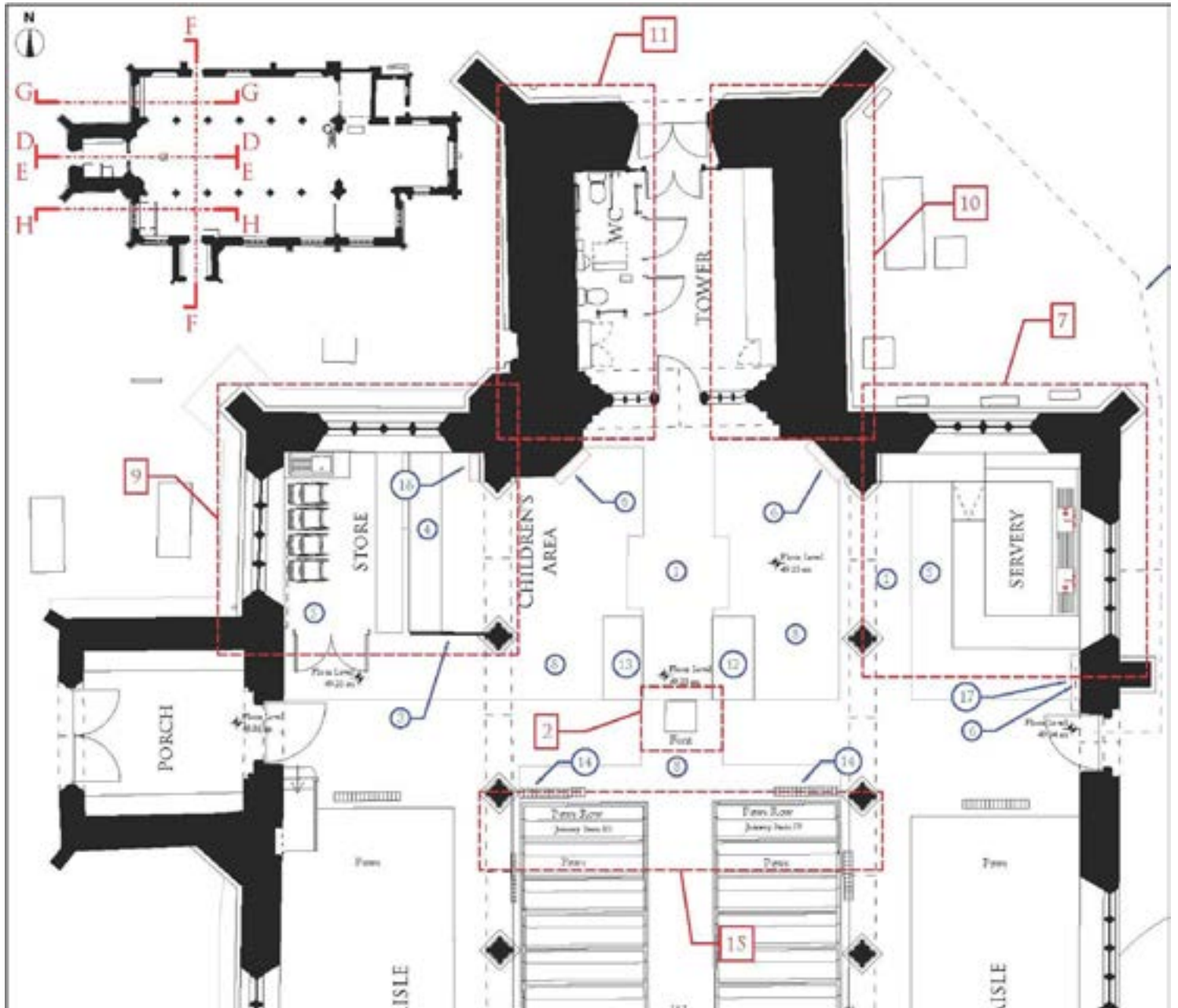


Diagram Notes

1. Existing flooring, potentially to be relaid; paving pattern purely indicative.
2. Font relocated into the centre of the nave on the door to door axis
3. Low level barrier for children's area; formed up from redundant pew fronts, refer to drawings 330-334.
4. Low level cupboards for children's toy storage,
5. New quarry tile paved flooring over new limecrete slab; paving pattern purely indicative;
6. New radiator [T90/465].
7. New severy,
8. New stone paved flooring over new limecrete slab; paving pattern purely indicative. Some paving reused, some new;
9. New store room.
10. New timber finished west end vestry cupboards,
11. New WCs and enclosure.
12. Possible location for the two relocated stone ledger slabs;
13. Possible location for the two relocated stone ledger slabs;
14. Radiators from in front of tower relocated to behind the last row of pews.
15. Rear row of pews shunted eastwards; bases adapted correspondingly;
16. Victorian cast iron column radiators removed to make space for the moved war memorial and servery units; new radiator [T90/465] fitted to side of pier.
17. William Osborne Maclaine monument adjacent to the servery; this is to be well protected
18. Trench for kitchen waste, this is to connect the existing extenal manhole to the immediate west of the tower.

West end Reordering

St Mary's West End Re-Ordering

We are pleased to say that we have now received the Faculty (permission) for the reordering works to the west end of St Mary's Church. The work will start immediately after Easter and will take at least 6 months to complete.

We are very excited about the upcoming works which, we believe, will significantly enhance the look and use of our Church.

In case you are not aware, the work will involve the whole of the back area of the Church, in other words the raised carpeted area, being closed off. The carpeted floor is being replaced with stone paving at the same level as the body of the Church.

There will be a large, dedicated storage area in the corner where the kitchen is now, and a new, much larger, servery will be built in the north-west corner which is currently the children's area. There will still be a children's area, but it will be in a more central position in the back of the Church, with purpose-built cupboards.

The font will be moved eastwards so that it aligns with the south and north doors.

In the west end vestry, the current toilet will be replaced with a fully compliant disabled toilet and a second toilet constructed. The existing choir robes and books storage will also be replaced with a purpose built storage unit.

The Church will remain in full use throughout the works, with all the normal services, but there will no access to the rear of the Church. Whilst the works are ongoing, there will be a temporary fully accessible toilet unit outside. This will not be a chemical toilet, but a fully plumbed in disabled toilet unit. There will also be a temporary storage unit to accommodate stored items displaced from the work area. The local authority have allowed us to place this on the grass outside the churchyard .

Unfortunately, whilst the works are ongoing, we will not be able to have our usual refreshments and social time after services. However, this might well be a time when you could consider inviting a few people home for a chat and a cup of tea / coffee after the service.

We are not sure yet as to whether it will be possible, for safety reasons, to leave the Church open when the workforce are not present. We are looking to possibly have a rota of volunteers at weekends so that the Church can be open for at least parts of the day.

If you have any questions or concerns over the proposed works, do please speak to one of the Churchwardens.

Robin Gupta



Now some History

Here for younger members, and older ones with failing memory, are the West End arrangements soon both to be history. The 1848 position of the Font was dictated by the ecclesiastical requirement that it should be adjacent to the main entrance to the church, being the first item of sacramental significance encountered on entry to the building when the West Door was the principal entrance. The revised position now envisaged reflects the reality that the principal entrance is now the South door as it has been for very many years



1848 arrangement



2013 arrangement



International Fairtrade Day Event - Thornbury is a Fairtrade Town and on 11th May will be celebrating with an event in St Mary shopping centre. This is a joint sponsored event by the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce and St Mary Shopping Centre with input from the Churches.

It's 30 years since the first Fairtrade certified products hit supermarket shelves in the UK. Fairtrade is about fair terms of trade for farmers and workers -better prices, safe working conditions and local sustainability (and delicious food for us). The event will run from 10am -2.30pm - join us to watch short films about the growers, displays of Fairtrade goods and find out where Fairtrade items may be purchased in our town.



We are a Fairtrade Church currently updating our status. Does your Church group use Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate, honey, dates, bananas or any of the many Fairtrade Mark products? Please let Jenny or I know. If anyone could volunteer for an hour on our stall on 11th that would be marvellous but if not don't worry, please come along anyway to join the celebration.

What are you doing for Big Green Week? - During the week Sustainable Thornbury will be holding a Speaker Event on Thursday 13th June in the Slymbridge Room at the Chantry. It will start at 7.00 p.m. and there will be 2 speakers; one from Shift Bristol (Laura) and someone who will talk about heat pumps and sustainable energy (details in news sheet later). The talks will be about 20 mins each with a break in the middle for refreshments and chat and will finish about 8.30. Its free but there will be a voluntary donations box to cover costs. As Eco Church members please come along and if you would also like to make a cake please let me know.

Marian Stephens

Bees and Renewal

At this time of year, as you look out at your garden or a park in the late afternoon, with the sun slanting across, you cannot help but notice how many insects are on the wing. Too many to identify or even count. If, like me, they all look the same to you then it is time to consider why they are there! They form one of the building blocks for nature. Whilst we feed birds with our bird feeders, in nature they rely on insects and other invertebrates to survive. Swallows hardly touch a branch, apart from to nest, they fly around with their mouths open, catching insects on the wing. However, there is a conundrum with how we consider insects. Certain insects can damage the crops that provide our food, or nibble at our flowers. To protect the seeds the practice has been to 'crop spray' with, amongst other sprays, insecticides. This helps protect the crop, but the spraying does more than protect the immediate crop, the insects it kills diminishes the food for birds and invertebrates that rely on smaller insects. We are at the top of the food chain! But if insects are removed from the chain, then ultimately, it will impact us. There is another way, organic farming does not use man-made insecticides and is helping to restore



nature. Spring is a time of renewal; we all need to reflect on this tale and consider how we can help nature. Cut the grass with the blade a little higher, or not at all in May, and certainly do not spray it with weedkiller. This will allow the low flowering plants, such as birds foot trefoil and the humble daisy, to name but two, to provide food for insects. Thinking of our own churchyards, they are wonderful spaces for nature. Bees rely on the nectar from flowers and thus assist in pollination. We can help in our own gardens by growing flowers with open heads, such as cosmos and most perennial flowering plants.

May is a wonderful month; Spring is in full swing and the promise of warm, sunny days fills our spirits. If you feel that way, as I do, then I am sure birds and insects feel the same way! Young birds will fledge from their nests, the promise of new life can be seen everywhere in nature. Rejoice in the Lord's creation, so that all creatures they can flourish.

Guy Rawlinson



General Synod backs action to tackle biodiversity crisis

The General Synod has backed a series of measures to promote biodiversity on C of E land, from churchyards as havens of wildlife and plants, to the stewardship of agricultural and forestry land. The Synod welcomed progress already made by the Church Commissioners, the National Church Institutions, dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage their land for climate and nature.

The Synod approved further action to increase biodiversity including work towards drawing up environmental policy and land management plans for Dioceses and the recording of biodiversity in church green spaces.

Introducing the debate at the Synod, the C of E's lead Bishop for the Environment, Graham Usher, said: "We are one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world - 2% of species are already extinct - 41% of species have declined since 1970, 26% of our mammals are at risk of extinction and 97% of UK's wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s. "We need to act now to help the diversity of life on this single island planet home we share."

Bishop Graham said that churchyards are home to a range of wildlife. In many parishes the churchyard is the only remaining 'species-rich' grassland untouched by post Second World War cultivation and development. He added that in urban areas, churchyards are often the only green space. He added:

"Our churchyards should be places of the living, not just the dead," .

Parish Pump

Church Army - Being The Light of Hope

Life can be tough. The current cost-of-living crisis is hitting families nationwide, especially those already finding it a struggle. The NHS is still recovering from the pandemic, with services stretched, particularly in mental health. Communities across the country are grappling with poverty, hardship and tough times. Church Army are there to help. They believe no one is ever beyond reach. Every day, countless people feel overlooked and forgotten by society. They feel unseen, isolated and unloved - lost in the shadows. Amid their despair Church Army reaches out and makes a difference. They shine the light of God's love into the darkest corners, proving support and hope.

Amy leads a 'breakfast and Bible' group; Nick works on an estate beset by knife crime, gangs and drug dealing, guiding residents on a path away from crime and violence; Bridge the Gap have set up sports groups for young people; Church Army and STAR (Steps to Active Recovery) have set up a faith-based addiction recovery centre; and the Marylebone Project is a beacon of hope for homeless women, the largest and longest serving centre in the UK. Find out more at www.churcharmy.org.



*Christine Dadd,
Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern*



Christian Aid Week – 12th – 18th May

Christian Aid is urging its supporters to “push back against poverty” this Christian Aid Week by bearing in mind the coming General Election. The charity says that “people hoping to represent us” in the next UK Parliament will soon be on our doorsteps, “vying for our vote”.

Christian Aid says that these would-be MPs will: “be in listening mode, keen to hear what makes the voters in their community tick.” And so, urges the charity, Christians can use this opportunity to “show them that your church cares about poverty, and tell them that you expect them to act on poverty too, if they are elected.”

This year the charity has launched the ‘70K Challenge for May’, encouraging its supporters to do a sponsored “Move 70km during May. Walk, run, cycle, however you move is up to you.” Details at: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk>

Parish Pump



Recent concerts held in St Mary's Church

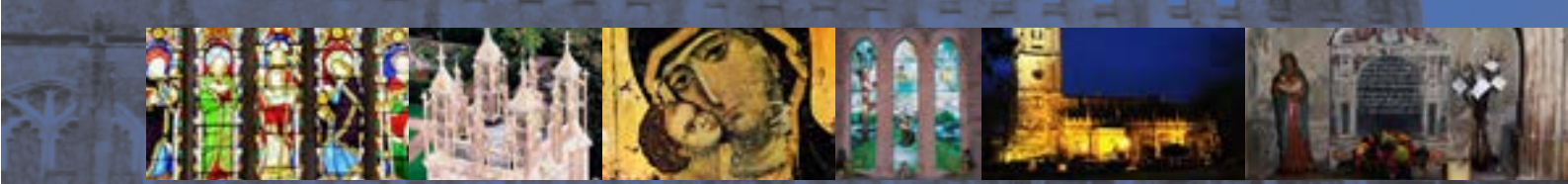
The Sunday Afternoon Concert on 17th March (see photo on right) featured the Harlequin Singers conducted by Fabian Huss (Angela & David Hughes' son Edward sings with them).

The Charity Concert on the evening of 23rd March (below right) featured two choirs- Bath Male Voice Choir conducted by Laurie Jones, and Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir conducted

by Brendan Casey.



St Mary's Music will be continuing with the Sunday Afternoon Concerts during the reordering as planned and with refreshments.



Contact details:

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Oldbury: 01454 412153 01454 260316

St Mary's C of E School Head Teacher: Samantha Gillman E: Samantha.Gillman@sgmail.org.uk

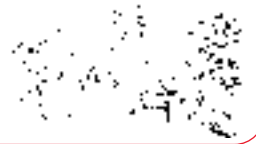
Benefice Office E: thornburybenefice@outlook.com (New email address)

Link to Streamed Services from St Mary's

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

Important dates for May and June below.

Please double check venues/times with weekly Newsletter!



May 2024

Wednesday 1st

10am Midweek Communion at St Paul's

Sunday 5th

9.00 am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

3.00pm **Rogation Refresh** at Shepperdine

Sunday 12th

8.00am Said Communion at St Arilda's

9.00 am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30 am **All Age Service** at St Mary's

6.00pm **Choral Evensong** at St Mary's

Wednesday 15th

10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Sunday 19th Pentecost

9.00am **All Age Service** at St Paul's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

12.00 noon APCM. At St Mary's

2.00pm to 3.30pm St Paul's

Plant swap & refreshments

4.00pm Afternoon Concert - **Schola Cantorum**

6.00pm Evening Prayer Evensong at St Arilda's

Sunday 26th

9.00 am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

3.00pm **Muddy Praise**

6.00pm BCP Evensong Shepperdine

June 2024

Sunday 2nd

9.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

3.00pm **Refresh!** At St Arilda's

Wednesday 5th

10.00 am Holy Communion at St Paul's

Sunday 9th

8.00am Said Holy communion at St Arilda's

9.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30am **All Age Children's Team** at St Mary's

6.00pm **Choral Evensong** at St Mary's

Sunday 16th

9.00am **All Age Service** at St Paul's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

4.00pm Afternoon concert - **Steve Kings Piano**

6.00pm Evening Prayer Evensong at St Arilda's

Wednesday 19th

10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Sunday 23rd

9.00 am Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's

3.00 pm **Muddy Praise and Baptisms** at St Arilda's

Sunday 30th

8.00 am Holy Communion at Mary's

3.00pm **Garden Party at St Mary's Church Hall**

5.00pm Benefice Service to **Commission ECO**

Champions at Church Hall

Mothering Sunday at Oldbury.

Following an All Age Service at St Mary's, Thornbury on March 10th, St Arilda's held a Mothering Sunday service at 6 p.m. led by Rev. Chris Verey. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Thornbury as well as Oldbury – 40 adults and 12 children.

The children helped Chris light 4 candles. The first signified God as the light in our darkness, a 2nd for mothers – in good and difficult times, a 3rd for mothers mourning the loss of children through disease, famine or war and a 4th



for those who are sad because they have not known the joy of motherhood.

Special prayers followed to thank God for the love of mothers and to remind us all to show our love to families and friends and those we meet. We all enjoyed the singing by adults from the Oldbury-on-Severn village choir and the new mini-choir of local children formed and led by Marg, with assistance from Amelia and others. Following the reading and a talk from Chris we declared our trust in God and received a blessing before our final song.
Meg Adnams.

If Ch@t magazine is delivered to your home, and you no longer wish to receive it, please contact the church office to let us know: 01454 281900, or thornburyparish@btconnect.com.

Ch@t

The Editorial Committee of Ch@T is: Angela Swan (Editor)
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