

Sunday 17th March 2024

Lent 5

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow

Email: joyeludlow@outlook.com / thornburybenefice@outlook.com

Phone: 01454 419 229 / 01454 281 900



St Mary's C of E VA School, Headteacher Mrs. S Gillman

Email: stmarysthornbury@gmail.org.uk

Phone: 01454 866 760

CALENDAR

Friday 15th March

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 16th March

7.00pm - Film Night at St Mary's Hall

Sunday 17th March - Passion Sunday

9:00am – All Age at St Paul's

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

2:00pm - St Paul's Open Afternoon

4:00pm - Harlequins at St Mary's Music

6.00pm - Evening Prayer at St Arilda's

Tuesday 19th March

7.30pm - MU Talk on Food bank at St Mary's Church Hall

7.30pm – Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 20th March

10:00 - Mid Week Communion at St Mary's

11:30 - Memorial for Geoff Fison at St Mary's

Thursday 21st March

9:00am – Hopscotch at St Mary's

6:00pm - Eisteddford Concert

Friday 22nd March

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 23rd March

2:30pm - Visiting Bell Ringers

4.00pm - Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir

Sunday 24th March - Passion Sunday

9:00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's

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

3:00pm - Muddy Praise at St Mary's

6.00pm - Evening Prayer at St Arilda's

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

Livestreaming – If you are unable to make it to church, please do use the link below so you can be part of our worship. The camera records the person speaking, with some wider shots of the church.



Exciting News from St Arilda's Church!

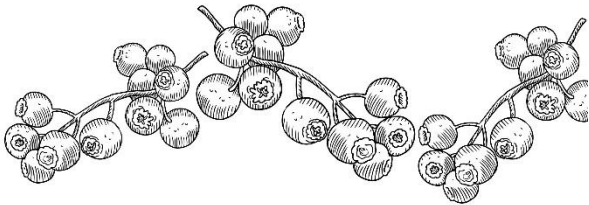
We're thrilled to announce the recent installation of a stunning mosaic in the south aisle of St Arilda's Church. Crafted by the talented students of Oldbury School, this magnificent artwork draws inspiration from the schools' Bible verse: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). The mosaic will be blessed at Oldbury School Easter Service on the 28th March 2024. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous contribution made by the late Mary Jennings, whose gift has made this beautiful addition to our church possible.

NOTICES AND EVENTS



Afternoon Concert Series
3rd Sunday of the Month

ST MARY'S CHURCH THORNBURY BS35 1HQ
SUNDAY 17 MARCH 4PM



Harlequin Singers

REFRESHMENTS
stmarysmusic.org

FREE ENTRY
Retiring collection

Sunday Afternoon Concert at St Mary's

Join us for an enchanting musical journey presented by The Harlequin Singers. Our diverse programme spans from the Renaissance era to the lively tunes of Fats Waller, with a special tribute to the renowned Charles Villiers Stanford, commemorating the centenary of his passing this year. Immerse yourself in the sumptuous melodies of Brahms and the spirited folk songs by Dvorak. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served with a retiring collection. Come and enjoy an afternoon of musical delight at St. Mary's!

Geoff Fison Memorial - Please follow the link below to view the service on the 20th March at 11:30am.

[You Tube - Geoff Fison Memorial](#)

Electoral Roll – It is the time of year when we begin to prepare for our APCM in May. If you are not yet on our Electoral Roll and would like to feel part of the Church family please complete a form. There is a supply at the back of St Mary's and St Paul's. Please hand completed forms to a Churchwarden. Thank you.

MU - 19th March - Mair Vaughan speaking - is the lead volunteer for Thornbury Foodbank and she will tell us about this excellent organisation and how they use the donations so generously given by the people of Thornbury. St Mary's Hall at 7:30pm. We ask that anyone attending bring an item for the Foodbank. Entrance is free and refreshments are served.

Easter Lilies in St Mary's Church - If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies to remember loved ones please speak to or phone Kate Teague 415837, Cath Barnard 413565 or Carole Ball 413665. Please let us have the names of those to be remembered so that they can be displayed in a frame by the arrangement near the pulpit. Many thanks.

Flowers for Easter at St Paul's - If you would like to donate money for flowers to decorate St Paul's for Easter in memory of a loved one, please add your name and the name of your loved one to the list at the back of St Paul's. Thank you.

2024 Lent Appeal for Christian Aid: Everyone is Equal in the sight of God -

The 2024 Lent Appeal is in aid of Christian Aid who are supporting us with the Lent course, 'Act on Poverty'. Christian Aid believes every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives, demonstrating the power of people coming together in faith. They raise awareness of suffering, tackle injustice and champion people's rights. "Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale." Please collect an envelope from the back of church and return it to church, during a service, at Easter. Many thanks. Christine Dadd, Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern.

Film Night – 7:00pm start. **16th March** at St Mary's Church Hall. The showing this month is 'Son of Rambo'. Rated 12A.

Set in the early 1980's during a long British summer 2 little boys with a video camera try their hand at a home movie. It is a comedy about friendship, faith and the tough business of growing up.



Choir Concert

On **Saturday 23rd March** there will be a charity concert at St Mary's Church. The Bath male Choir will be teaming up with the Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir to raise money for Thornbury & District League of Friends.

Tickets cost £10 and can either be purchased on the door or atgac.ticketlight.co.uk or call 0844 8889991.

Thornbury and District League of Friends exists to support community health and wellbeing within Thornbury and the surrounding villages.

Since the closure of Thornbury Hospital at the end of 2018 we have continued to support the Henderson Rehabilitation Unit at Grace Care Centre and the Outpatients in St Mary Centre, however our main focus is now as a grant-giving body whereby we accept applications (on an annual basis) from any local organisation or charity which requires funding for a specific health/wellbeing-related project. All such applications are carefully considered each November.

Agape Supper – **Thursday 28 March** at 7pm in St Mary's Church – A sign up sheet is available in the churches. If you wish to attend, please add your name and any allergies – to help with catering arrangements. Thank you!

Carbon Awareness Training Course - 27th April, 9.30-3pm at St Paul's Church.

Join Cate Williams and Julie Nelson for a day of Carbon Awareness Training.

Carbon Awareness is a short 4 hour course, enabling participants to explore questions around engaging with climate change in church life.

It covers four key questions:

Why does reducing our use of fossil fuels matter so much?

What changes can we make that make the most difference?

How we can encourage others to get involved?

How does this fit into the whole of church life?

Participants will leave the course better equipped to make positive changes in their own household as well as feeling more confident to engage both with church, and others to encourage more people to take this seriously.

As a short 4 hour course, Carbon Awareness can either be delivered as a whole or split into two or more sessions.

Participants will need to spend 20 minutes before the course completing a simple carbon footprint tool: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/>

Please note that participants will need to bring their own lunch, but drinks are provided.

This training is free of charge, but spaces are limited so please sign up here by [clicking the booking form here](#).

CHURCH 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.

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.

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.

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. Please do speak to any of the Church wardens if you have any questions or concerns about any of the above.

CHURCH FAMILY

Church Wardens - If you need any help the church wardens are always contactable.

Tel: Jenny Ovens (01454414727), Robin Gupta (01454 413650), Mike Dennett (01454 419082), Andrew Gazard(01454 412153) and Sandra Grey (01454 260316).

Help needed with weddings and funerals at St. Mary's and/or St. Paul's - Join us in supporting our community during important life events like weddings and funerals. Your help as a verger ensures each service is personal and seamless. Assist with setting up the church, greeting attendees, and more. If you can spare even a little time, please reach out

to Reverend Joy or Lizzie Jones for more information on how you can contribute. Training and support provided. Contact Lizzie at lifeevents.thornburybenefice@outlook.com.

Bereaved or need Pastoral Care? - As a church community we always try to be there for any person who is in need or has experienced a loss. We would hope that someone from the church family would be round to visit you following a bereavement within the first few days. This might not always be Revd Joy but could also be a visit from Revd Sheila Fisher or another member of the ministry team, or friends from within the Church community. We are lucky to have a wonderful church team and family to help each other through difficult times. This also makes it possible for our vicar to visit all in need that are not yet part of the family. Please do let Revd Joy (joyeludlow@outlook.com) and Lizzie Jones (lifeevents.thornburybenefice@outlook.com) know as soon as possible following a bereavement and we will do all that we can to help. If you specifically want a visit from a member of the clergy, please do get in touch. We are never too busy, but not all people need the same things, and it helps for us to hear from you. 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. All messages will be dealt with as soon as possible. Please send newsletter items to the office by 10am on the Wednesday. Email: thornburybenefice@outlook.com. Thankyou.

PAGE OF PRAYER

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Gareth Mullinex, Angela Swan, Hughan Welch, Joyce Barge, Verity Barker, Phil Jones, Sylvia Zelle, Jean Boakes, Stuart Elliott, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Mick Spiller, Aileen Acton, Dilys Cockerell, Elaine Stanlake and Kevin Tweehuysen.

Recently departed: We pray for those who mourn for their friends and family.

Readings: Jeremiah 31. 31-34

GOSPEL READING

John 12. 20-26a

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain;

but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.

FOR OUR

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT - Our rivers are dying – and factory chicken farming is fuelling the crisis. Millions of birds are crammed into industrial units near our rivers producing huge volumes of polluting chicken manure. Spread as fertiliser on nearby fields, the phosphate in the manure can leech into rivers, causing algal blooms which starve the river of oxygen, killing precious habitats for wildlife like otters and kingfishers. The situation is dire: the Environment Agency reports ‘unacceptable levels’ of phosphate in over half of English rivers.

The Soil Association are asking the UK Governments for:

A ban on new intensive poultry units

Support farmers to exit this damaging industry

Action to reduce chicken consumption to more sustainable levels

FOR OUR WORLD – We pray for the safe return of the hundreds of school children taken in Nigeria. Nigerian security forces continued to search forests and set up roadblocks in the north-west of the country. Observers said combing the woodland expanses could take weeks.

More than 280 children aged between seven and 18 were taken from a school in Kuriga on Thursday in one of the biggest mass-abductions in recent months in Nigeria’s turbulent north-west. A further 15 children were taken in another raid on a school in Sokoto on Saturday.

FOR COMMUNITY – For St Patrick’s Day

Almighty God,

who in your providence chose your servant Patrick

to be the apostle of the Irish people:

keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled

and strengthen us in our pilgrimage towards the light of everlasting life;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

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.