



## Sunday 31st March 2024

**EASTER SUNDAY – CHRIST IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED – HALLELUJAH!**

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow

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Phone: 01454 419 229 / 01454 281 900



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), AndrewGazard (07831 849 742) and Sandra Grey (01454 260316).

## CALENDAR

### Thursday 28th March - Maundy Thursday

**9:00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary's

**7:00pm** - Agape Meal at St Mary's

### Friday 29th March - Good Friday

**10.30am** – Thornbury Walk of Witness from CtK

**2:00pm** - Service of Reflection at St Mary's  
When I survey the wondrous cross, what do I see?

**3:00pm** - Walk of Witness at Oldbury from the Pound to St Arilda's

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

### Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

**6:30am** - Dawn Holy Communion at St Arilda's

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

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

### Wednesday 3rd April

**10.00am** – Holy Communion at St Paul's

### Friday 5th April

**7.30pm** – Choir Practice

### Sunday 7th April

**8.00am** - \*Said Holy Communion in St Mary's

**3.00pm** – Benefice Refresh! at St Mary's Church Hall – all welcome

**\*\*\* Please remember the clocks go forward one hour at 1am on Sunday 31st March, marking the start for British Summer Time\*\*\***

\*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.

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

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## NOTICES AND EVENTS

**Dawn Service** - Our Easter morning service this year will run again at St Arilda's at the slightly later time of 6:30am (because of the clock change). This will still be the traditional Dawn Service with an Easter fire **and incense** and the singing of the exultet. Some members of the Thornbury community may like to join us for this but struggle with the journey to Oldbury. If you would really like to attend this service but might struggle with the journey please let the office know if you are driving from Thornbury already and willing to take someone with you please do let the office know too. We will help as much as we can.

**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.

**Christian Aid Lent Appeal Envelopes** - If you have not already done so, please return your red Christian Aid 'Act on Poverty' envelope by putting it on the collection plate at any church service. If you put the envelope in the wall donation box by the office, please ensure it goes completely through the slot. If you prefer to make a donation using the card payment machine at the back of St Mary's Church, please let the office know that your donation is for Christian Aid. Please don't leave the envelope in the back of church. Many thanks. Christine Dadd, Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern

"Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale."

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

**St Mary's Easter Prayer stations** - This Easter at St Mary's Church, 3 temporary Prayer stations have been set up. Contemplation spaces that have been inspired by a wall frieze by Emma Yarlett, 'The Big Frieze' which is part of the RE curriculum at St Mary's School.

**Litter Pick** - Saturday 6th April at 9.30am run by Plastic Free Thornbury and Thornbury Litter Busters.

Do you like to keep Thornbury tidy? If so please come along for this useful event. Equipment will be supplied. Meet at The Swan.

**Hopscotch** - Please note that there is no Hopscotch whilst the schools are on Easter break. Hopscotch will return on 18th April.

**Peace Vigil** - The next Peace Vigil supported by Thornbury Churches Together, will take place on Saturday 20 April from 10.30 to 11.00am outside Tessoro lounge in the High Street. Thanks. Rev Kingsley Fulbrook (Christ the King parish).

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# 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.

We will continue to keep you updated as work continues at St Mary's. For more updates please do follow the Benefice Facebook page.

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## CHURCH FAMILY

### **St Mary's School Contact:**

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

Email: [stmarysthornbury@gmail.org.uk](mailto:stmarysthornbury@gmail.org.uk)

Phone: 01454 866 760

**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 [lifeyvents.thornburybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:lifeyvents.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](mailto:joyeludlow@outlook.com)) and Lizzie Jones([lifeevents.thornburybenefice@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:thornburybenefice@outlook.com). Thankyou.

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## PAGE OF PRAYER

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

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

Those for whom we regularly pray: Hannah, Joan Cole, Dorothy Long and Hughan Welch.

Recently departed: We pray for the family and friends of Nanette Smedley who mourn their loss.

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**Readings: Isaiah 25. 6-9, Acts 10. 34-43, Mark 16. 1-8**

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## GOSPEL READING

### **Mark 16. 1-8**

16 The day after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body. 2 Very early on that day, the first day of the week, the women were on their way to the tomb. It was soon after sunrise. 3 They said to each other, "There is a large stone covering the entrance of the tomb. Who will move the stone for us?"

4 Then the women looked and saw that the stone was already moved. The stone was very large, but it was moved away from the entrance. 5 The women entered the tomb and saw a young man wearing a white robe. He was sitting on the right side, and the women were afraid.

6 But the man said, "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, the one who was killed on a cross. He has risen from death. He is not here. Look, here is the place they laid him. 7 Now go and tell his followers and Peter, 'Jesus is going into Galilee. He will be there before you. You will see him there as he told you before.'"

8 The women were confused and shaking with fear. They left the tomb and ran away. They did not tell anyone about what happened, because they were afraid.

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# FOR OUR

**FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT** - How polluted are our rivers? The Guardian reported that raw sewage discharges had increased by 105% in 2023. Following on from this article The Guardian has analysed data released from the Environment Agency and has created maps for you to see how many spillages have occurred in specific areas across the UK. One river in the south of England features in the worst 10 rivers identified by the Guardian — the River Avon, as it makes its way through Bath and Bristol. The river suffered 6,573 sewage spills in 2023, or 74 spills per mile, making it the third most polluted in England!

**FOR OUR WORLD** – Since the beginning of the Israel-Gaza crisis, the number of people facing catastrophic hunger in Gaza has doubled, reaching 1.1 million – the highest number ever recorded. Children are already dying of hunger-related diseases, and malnutrition is spreading rapidly. In the North Gaza governorate alone, one in three children below the age of two is acutely malnourished, putting their lives at risk. The UN World Food Programme (WFP), are dedicated to saving lives and ending hunger. They are on the ground in Gaza, working every day to provide food to families. Access to the north is difficult, but their teams persevere: just last week, they delivered 18 truckloads of food supplies to Gaza City using a new coordinated route along the border to transport wheat flour, food parcels and ready-to-eat rations. Please visit [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org) to find out how to help.

**FOR COMMUNITY** – We wish everyone of you a blessed and peaceful Easter – and to those taking time off, a restful week.

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A HAPPY EASTER!**

Thank you God,  
for new life in the springtime, for flowers and birds, for bright green  
new leaves. Thank you God, for new life at Easter, for Jesus who is  
with us, right now and every day. Amen.



*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.*