

Sunday 28th April 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow

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

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

CALENDAR

Friday 26th April

7.30pm – Choir Practice

Saturday 27th April

9.30am - Carbon Neutral Training day at St Paul's

Sunday 28th April

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 - Evensong BCP at Shepperdine

Tuesday 30th April

7:30pm - Bell ringing Practice

Wednesday 1st May

10:00am - Holy Communion with prayers for healing at St Paul's

Thursday 2nd May

10:00am onwards - Art Trail on at St Paul's until 6th May
9:00am - Hopscotch at St Mary's

Friday 3rd May

7.30pm – Choir Practice

Sunday 5th May

9:00am - Holy Communion at St Paul's
10:30am - *Holy Communion at St Mary's
3:00pm - Refresh! at Shepperdine

*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>

NOTICES AND EVENTS

Electoral Roll – The Electoral Roll revision has commenced. Please hand any completed forms to a Churchwarden as a matter of urgency. Thank you.

Church Hall - We wonder if you have a piece of kitchen worktop in your garage or shed that you do not need? We need a piece about 625 to 650 mm long - we don't mind what the design is like! If you have a base unit that the worktop fits on to that would be even better! We can collect. Please let Jenny O know.

Ukrainian Families - We are expecting a family of 7 more Ukrainians arriving in Thornbury shortly. Does anyone have a child's bed we could borrow or have as they will initially need to sleep in with their parents. Thankyou. Jacquie Rinaldi 01454602150

Christian Aid Lent Appeal - Raised £612.74(plus £100+ online donations). Thank you very much for your generosity. If you have not already done so, you can still return your red Christian Aid 'Act on Poverty' envelope by putting it on the collection plate at any church service. Please don't leave the envelope in the back of church. You can find out more about Christian Aid at www.christianaid.org.uk. "Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale." Thank you

Carbon Awareness Training Course - 27th April, **9.30-3.15pm** at St Paul's Church.

Join Cate Williams and Julie Nelson for a day of Carbon Awareness Training. Carbon Awareness is a short 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 can we 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.

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](#).

Community Energy Workshop at Turnberrie's Community Centre Saturday 27 April, 11am to 1.30pm. Arranged by Sustainable Thornbury.

What is community energy? Why do we need community energy? How would it benefit our community?

Our workshop aims to answer these questions, and help steer us towards a future with lower fuel bills, reduced carbon emissions and increased energy security.

To book your ticket and for more information about what to expect on the day, go to: shorturl.at/ckoP5

We want to hear from as many people from Thornbury and the surrounding areas as possible. Cake and free lunch. We'd love to see you there.

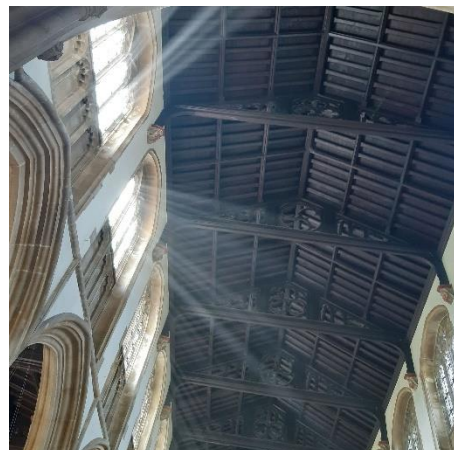
Ascension Day - this year falls on Thursday 9 May. Because it always falls in midweek, 40 days after Easter, it is frequently sidelined. Yet it is one of the four Principal Feasts of the Church alongside Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Indeed Pentecost finds its fullest meaning only in the light of the Ascension. There will be a sung Eucharist in **St Mary's at 7.00pm on 9 May** to celebrate the Ascension.

Vision Action Plan 2024 - Life Events.

Please visit the Thornbury Benefice website, to view the latest section, Life Events, of the Benefice Vision Action Plan. <https://www.thornburybenefice.org/news>

CHURCH RE-ORDERING

The first week of dismantling has gone well. Hessian fencing has been put up to help to disguise the work area. The wooden flooring has been removed from both sides of the font and the concrete flooring from the north west corner is slowly being drilled away. The dust has not been too bad! Just a little dust in the air creating lovely sunrays in the church when we occasionally get the sun shining!



The old post box by the servery is now unavailable and a new post box for paperwork only (not money) can be found at the bottom of the office stairs in St Mary's. There is also the post box outside behind the main gate.

The Cleaning Team is seeking volunteers to help prepare the church for Sunday Worship and weddings, particularly in the first few weeks of the re-ordering. If you can spare some time on weekends, we would greatly appreciate your assistance. Please reach out to Jenny O if you're able to lend a hand. Thank you for your support!

Please do speak to any of the Church wardens if you have any questions or concerns about the works. We will continue to keep you updated as work continues at St Mary's, please do follow the Benefice Facebook page.

ST PAUL'S

Whilst St Mary's is undergoing the reordering works St Paul's will be hosting more events. Please see here for the highlights.

Saturday 27th April - 9:30am - Carbon
Neutral Training Day
Sunday 19th May - Open Afternoon - Plant
Swap
2nd May - 6th May - Thornbury Art Trail



CHURCH FAMILY

St Mary's School Contact:

St Mary's C of E VA School, Headteacher Mrs. S Gillman
Email: stmarysthornbury@sgmail.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 vergers 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(liffevents.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, Janet Morrish, Joyce Barge, Verity Barker, Phil Jones, Sylvia Zelle, Jean Boakes, Stuart Elliott, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Roger Holliday, Betty Hayes, Diana Jarvis, Hughan Welch and Hannah.

Recently departed: We pray for all those who mourn their loss of friends and loved ones.

Readings: Genesis 22. 9-18, Acts 8. 26-end, John 15. 1-8

GOSPEL READING

John 15. 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes[a] to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples.

FOR OUR

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT - Estuaries – the place where a river meets the ocean – are often called the “nurseries of the sea”. They are home to many of the fish we eat and support vast numbers of birds, while the surrounding salt marsh helps to stabilise shorelines and absorb floods.

However, a new study shows that nearly half of the world’s estuaries have been altered by humans, and 20% of this estuary loss has occurred in the past 35 years.

Using satellite data, researchers measured the changes that had occurred at 2,396 estuaries between 1984 and 2019. The results, published in the journal ‘Earth’s Future’, found that over the past 35 years more than 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) of estuary have been converted into urban or agricultural land, with the majority of the loss (90%) having occurred in rapidly developing Asian countries.

FOR OUR WORLD – In recent weeks the world has watched the security situation in Haiti deteriorate, charred corpses of murdered people in the middle of the street.

In the first three months of this year, 1,660 people, including 40 children were killed by gang violence in Haiti. Thousands have fled their homes to find shelter in schools, churches and health centres. Since the latest wave of violence kicked off in March, with the support of the tireless staff from Haitian partner organizations, the World Food Programme (WFP) has served around 655,400 hot meals to more than 88,623 people in Port-au-Prince. They set up a central kitchen, partnering with two local associations serving thousands of meals daily – using rice and beans supplied by WFP, and fresh local products such as sorghum and vegetables.

FOR COMMUNITY – News from South Gloucestershire Council "Residents taking part in the next phase of the trial for recycling plastic bags and wrappers should have received notification through the post over the last few days. The expansion of the trial means that around 23,000 households on selected collection routes will soon be able to put ‘soft’ plastics out for collection with their other recycling. While the trial now covers several areas across South Gloucestershire, only households on the selected recycling collection routes are included."

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.