

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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Sunday 4th February 2024 – 2nd Sunday before Lent

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: Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31 Colossians 1. 15-20, John 1. 1-14

CALENDAR

Friday 2nd Feb

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Sunday 4th February

9:00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's followed by birthday celebration and private prayer!

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

3:00pm – Refresh! at St Arilda's (Christingle)

Monday 5th February

10:30 – Funeral for Rob King at St Arilda’s
Tuesday 6th February

1:00pm – Funeral for Janet Tucker at St Mary’s
7.30pm – Bell ringing practice
Wednesday 7th February

10:00am – Holy Communion with prayers for healing at St Paul’s
Thursday 8th February

9.00am – Hopscotch at St Mary’s
1:00pm – Funeral for Frances Macquire at St Mary’s
Friday 9th February

10:15am – Funeral for Mr John Fuidge at St Mary’s
7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary’s
Saturday 10th February

10:00am – Dad and Kids at St Mary’s Hall
Sunday 11th February

9:00am – Holy Communion at St Paul’s

10:15am – *All Age Service led by the Childrens team (with Pancakes!) at St Mary’s

12noon – 2:00pm – Quiz at St Mary’s Hall – All Welcome!

6:00pm - Choral Evensong at St Mary’s

6:00pm – Spoken Holy Communion 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

80th Birthday Celebration - Ian Larkin would be pleased if church members would join him in celebrating his 80th birthday with a piece of cake and a glass of fizz in the St Paul's room after the 9 am service on Sunday 4th February.

“Prayers for Healing and Wholeness” Private Prayer - This Sunday (4th Feb), at St Paul’s, there will be Private Prayer offered after the service, for anyone who would like to participate. It is planned to offer this on the first Sunday of every month.

Marmalade - thank you to all the people who bought marmalade in aid of the Mothers’ Union Charity Appeal. More will be on sale in St. Mary’s this coming Sunday.

Palm Crosses – *Last call!* Please could you return any palm crosses ready for Ash Wednesday. Please can you put them in the basket at the back of the churches.

Quiz – Sunday 11th February at St Mary's Church Hall 12noon – 2:00pm. Do come along, bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided. The quiz is for everyone, with questions for all, family, groups and individuals. Besides the quiz there will be plenty of time for a chat. We look forward to seeing you!

Film Night – 7:00pm 17th February at St Mary's Church Hall. The showing this month is 'The Hunt for the Wilderpeople'. Rated 12A. Reclusive country folk, Bella and Hector become foster parents to Ricky, a problem child from the city. After some adjustment, things go reasonably well. However, Bella's death means that Hector must now look after Ricky himself and they haven't been getting along. Child Services decide to send Ricky back to the orphanage. Ricky refuses to go back and runs away, ultimately sparking a national manhunt for him and Hector.



World Day of Prayer - Friday 1st March at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church Compiled this year by Christian Women in Palestine! Everyone is welcome.

Lent Soup Lunches – If anyone is wondering the Lent Soup Lunches have been cancelled for 2024. We are organising a programme for all churches to help with the soup lunches for 2025!

Lent Groups – your chance to share - Thornbury Churches

Together are organising a series of weekly inter-denominational discussion groups during Lent.



Act on Poverty

The sign-up sheet is in on the table at the entrance of St Mary's Church. When signing up please note your preferred day to attend.

This 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.

Community Roadshow – If you or a loved one is finding life more difficult or isolated in recent months and you are struggling to find resources or activities to help. Please drop in and meet the charities and organisations who may be able to help and support you. They will all be at Memorial Hall, Camp Road, Oldbury, BS35 1PR on Wednesday 21st February 2024, 1pm-3pm.

2024 Swimathon –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 Swimathon 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.

Motanka Dolls Master Class – A special presentation about the traditional Ukrainian ‘protector’ dolls. Saturday 9th March 10:30-1pm at The United Reformed Church, Chapel Street Thornbury, BS35 2BA. Donations on the day will cover the costs and towards the next Van Trip to Ukraine. Please book a space with Jacquie on jacquie.rinaldi1@gmail.com.

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 will go to The Charity Bristol Aid to Ukraine. Several of our local Ukrainian Guests will also be appearing.



St Mary’s Churchyard – Please do visit St Mary’s to see the beautiful snowdrops in the churchyard. The undergrowth was cleared in the autumn and has ensured the wonderful display is as good as it is!

St Mary’s School – lunch break supervisor – St Mary’s School is looking for a part time/permanent lunchbreak supervisor Monday-Friday 11:45am – 1:20pm. If you are a caring, friendly person who can communicate effectively with children in a calm

and positive manner and who would enjoy being part of our Play Team, we would love to hear from you. Further details can be found on our website www.stmarysthornbury.org.uk. To arrange a visit or consultation, contact Lisa Williams, School Business Manager on 01454 866760 or by email stmarysthornbury@gmail.org.uk.

Help needed with weddings and funerals at St. Mary's and/or St. Paul's -

Weddings and Funerals are undoubtedly important events in each of our lives, full of emotion and love. For us as a Church they provide a unique opportunity to spread the message of God's love and to show our wider community the welcome and support on offer in our Churches. We strive to ensure that each service we give is personal and tailored to the family involved, that each person who attends is made to feel welcome and that everything happens as planned with no hitches. To do this we need the help of our congregation, to support as vergers at the services. The role of a verger is to set up the Church reserving pews, operate the music system/microphones, greet people as they arrive and give out Orders of Service. It can't be overstated what an important job this is and that we are endlessly grateful to those who give their time to our Church in this way. If you feel you could maybe help as a verger, even if just once or twice a year, please speak to Reverend Joy or Lizzie Jones (Funerals Minister and Life Events Coordinator for the Benefice) either after a Service or you can contact Lizzie directly at LifeEvents.ThornburyBenefice@outlook.com with any questions about the role. You would be given training and support before helping at a service.

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 (lifeyvents.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. Thank you.

KEY LINKS – Sunday 4th February 2024

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/42275e283483/the-weekly-bulletin-30-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 Jones, Jean Boakes, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Joan Cole, Dorothy Long, Jean Thompson, Emma Stuart and Venetia Grant.

Recently departed: We pray for the families and friends of Rob King, Janet Tucker, Frances Macquire, John Fudge and Sheila Jones, who mourn their loss.

GOSPEL READING:

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – West of England coal mines being mapped to see if there is any renewable energy potential. Public officials are hoping disused mines could be used as a potential source of renewable energy. The catalyst for this has been the success in Gateshead, where the council-owned Gateshead Energy Company is using warm water from the extensive network of old mine workings 150 meters below the town to supply heat and hot water. Historically water in the mines was pumped out so the miners could access the coal. When they were closed the mines flooded again. The water in the mines is then heated by geothermal energy and in some places is recorded to reach 20°C. The hope is that some of the 100+ mines in Somerset and South Gloucestershire will be able to provide a renewable source of heat too!

FOR OUR WORLD – Gaza and the West Bank - the UN World Food Programme (WFP) reports that they have been able to put supply chains in place so that food is on trucks, and they are doing everything they can to reach people who are most at risk from hunger, disease and malnutrition. So far this year WFP have provided food assistance to more than 720,000 vulnerable people across Gaza and the West Bank – this includes delivering parcels with food enough for 10 days to 484,000 people who have been forced from their homes and now live in camps and shelters. The supplies going into Gaza over the past 10 weeks amount to what would have previously been sent in over a period of just 10 days. WFP urgently needs new entry routes to open; and more trucks allowed through border checks. Humanitarian workers need to be able to operate safely and with fewer restrictions on their movement. That is why, WFP along with their partners, continue to call for a ceasefire.

FOR COMMUNITY– Tree planting is happening on the 4th Feb 10am – 1pm. At the Thicket Walk. Thank you to all who are dedicating their time to help keep the environment flourishing. Further information at <https://www.thornburycouncil.gov.uk/tree-planting-day-4th-feb-2024/>