



The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2

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](mailto: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: Isaiah 40. 1-11, 2 Peter 3. 8-15a, Mark 1. 1-8*

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

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

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am** – Dads and Kids at St Mary's Hall

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.00am** – Holy Communion at St Paul's

**10.15am** – \*Children's All Age Service at St Mary's

**6.00pm** – Holy Communion at St Arilda's

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**12:30pm** – Funeral of Martin Curtis  
**8.00pm** – Bible Studies on Zoom  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
**7.30pm** – Bell ringing practice  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary's  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**7.30pm** – Choir Practice at St Mary's  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**7.00pm** – 'Christmas Chronicles' Film Night at St Mary's Hall  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.00am** – All Age at St Paul's  
**10.30am** – \*Holy Communion Service at St Mary's  
**6.00pm** – Evening Prayer at St Arilda's  
**6.00pm** – \*Lessons and Carols at St Mary'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**

**Readers at St Paul's Carol Service 6pm Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** If you would like to read at St Paul's Carol Service on Christmas Eve please add your names to the list at the back of St Paul's or contact Monica 413975 email [Alamo.23@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Alamo.23@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Christmas Services** – Please can you let the office know if you are able to help steward for the 4pm Crib Service on the 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. We would be very grateful for all volunteers.

**Private Prayer** - It is planned to re start "Prayers for Healing and Wholeness" ("Private Prayer") once a month after the service at St Paul's, in the New Year. Subject to the availability of two members of the team, this will be on the first Sunday of the month starting with January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Vigil for Peace in Thornbury** – TCT (Thornbury Churches Together) are holding a 30minute silent vigil at 10.30am on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** outside the Tesoro lounge. We would like to invite local church members and others concerned for the

peace in Israel and Gaza, the Ukraine and other areas of conflict in the world to join in silence to pray for peace.

**Gospel Concert** – The Gospel Generation Community Choir Christmas concert will be held on **9<sup>th</sup> December** at 7pm at Thornbury Baptist Church. No need to book in advance! Suggested donations (£5 adult / £3 OAP/student / U16 goes free) for arrival on the door. All are welcome!



**Bible Studies** – The online bible studies will be held on Zoom on Monday evenings in two halves from 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and from 8<sup>th</sup> Jan – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. The fourth session will continue this **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm**. Zoom link is below.

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82433712346?pwd=Y1h4aHhEbk9rVUJTNyt1bE44N09sdz09>

*Meeting ID: 824 3371 2346*

*Passcode: 692258*

**DON'T FORGET - The 'Pack and Wrap' Party:** to make up gift bags for Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless will take place on Monday, **11 December 2023** from 6.30 pm at 22 Siband Road, Thornbury. All very welcome to come along!

**Save the Date – 16<sup>th</sup> December** 2023, 7pm Film Night. The showing will be "Christmas Chronicles". This film night is for Children with their families - bring your own bean bag or comfy blanket, bring your teddy to hug, wear your pjs.

Two siblings in Lowell, Massachusetts, Kate and a blackmailed, skeptical Teddy, lay a trap for Santa Christmas Eve to get him on video camera. How many kids get to ride with Santa on Christmas Eve? They sneak on board the sleigh and hide. As a result, it becomes a bumpy ride - crash landing in Chicago with reindeer, (magic) hat and presents missing. Will half the continent's kids miss out on presents or can Santa, with help from the two kids, get the sleigh running within the next two hours?



**Save the date Christmas Carol Singing** - Please make a note in your diary and invite others to come along to our annual traditional **Christmas carol singing on Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm**. We gather at the church hall and then sing carols in the area around Eastland Road, returning to the hall for hot drinks and

mince pies. All ages are welcome. Please wear warm/'seasonal' clothing, bring a torch and some smiles, and be ready to spread some Christmas cheer!

**Library Box** - At St Paul's and St Mary's there are 'library' boxes for the congregation to share books that are inspiring in some way. If you have a book you are willing to loan for a while, please place it in the box and write out a 'borrowing card' to go inside. Recently I read an amazing book in the St Paul's box called "*90 Minutes in heaven*" which tells the story of a man who was killed in a traffic accident and who experienced heaven before coming back to life. It sounds impossible but his account is inspiring, comforting and encouraging, and I found it difficult to put the book down. My thanks to the lender. Anne Ellis

**Hats for the Homeless:** Knitters of Thornbury we need your help. Can you knit a hat for an adult - any design, style, colour you wish - to help keep a homeless/rough sleeper warm this winter? Please place finished items in the Julian Trust box at the back of church or at 22 Siband Road. Many, many thanks in anticipation.

**FINAL CALL FOR Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless Advent/Christmas**

**Appeal:** We would like to provide gift bags for their guests. Please can you donate any of the following items:

- \* 1 small bar of soap
- \* 1 small bar of chocolate (100 g only, no large bars please, they won't fit in the bags!)
- \* 1 toothbrush
- \* 1 tube of toothpaste (100ml)
- \* 1 pocket sized pack of paper tissues
- \* 1 small bottle of hand sanitiser/hand gel (100ml)
- \* 1 face mask/covering

There are boxes in St Mary's, St Paul's and St Arilda's churches for donations and at 22 Siband Road, Thornbury. For more information, please contact Christine Dadd on (01454) 414396. Thank you in anticipation.

**Ukrainian Christmas Delivery** – "The Store" in Thornbury is working with "From Bristol to Ukraine with Love" Charity to deliver essential items to those who have been left behind. The refugees living with hosts in Thornbury are writing notes and Christmas Cards to be included in our delivery. The minibus will leave for Ukraine in the middle of November. It will return with 10 refugees and those who have been injured. Your help to fill the minibus would be MUCH appreciated - items to be delivered to "The Store" at The Methodist Hall on Mondays 10.30 - 12.30 or Friday's

10.00 - 12.00 (1st Friday in month 1.00pm- 3.00pm) or phone Jacquie Rinaldi for collection 01454 602150. Thank you for the donations so far!

Items needed: Dry and tinned food. Cold and flu medicine. First Aid kits. Wet wipes and toiletries. Hand and feet warmers. Portable generators, power stations, power banks. Mens underwear and socks. Fleeces and coats. Baby food and nappies. Incontinence pads. Sleeping bags and ground mats. Pet Food, pet carriers. Candles, torches, batteries. Water treatment tablets, mould treatment, plastic water containers. Walking boots.

**Second hand toys** - With Christmas Fast approaching and people on the lookout for jigsaws, new bicycles, scooters, new CDs and books to keep children entertained it might be timely to remind everyone of the local Tip shop. There are some real bargains. We have picked up a children's painting table with tiny chairs, swing ball and lotsa games up there. If you intend to walk on up please note that you now have to book 4 x days in advance to let them know you will be onsite!

1. email [streetcare@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:streetcare@southglos.gov.uk)
2. call 01454 868000
3. leave a message on [www.facebook.com/sglosstreetcare](https://www.facebook.com/sglosstreetcare)

**Eco – Recommendation** - For those who are fed up with lugging large plastic bottles of laundry liquid home from supermarkets, I would thoroughly recommend [www.thegreencompany.online](http://www.thegreencompany.online). Based in Scotland they will deliver laundry sheets in biodegradable packaging direct to your door by the postman! Pop one in the washing powder drawer or dissolve in water if handwashing. We have used them for about a year they even cope with Grandboys dirt! We do not miss liquid at all. No more plastic bottles, lightweight, easy to use and no mess or spills. We also use their washable dish clothes and lots of other lovely items. Give it a go. Jacquie Rinaldi.



**If you are recently bereaved or need pastoral care**-Please contact the clergy. We offer the opportunity to share your concerns. Or, 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**. Do please leave a message or send an email on other days and they will be dealt with as soon as possible. Please send any items for the newsletter to the office by 10am on the **Wednesday** of the week when you wish your item to appear. Send to: [thornburybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:thornburybenefice@outlook.com). Thank you.

## KEY LINKS –Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/14a579883aee/the-weekly-bulletin-5-december-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

### GOSPEL READING:

*Mark 1. 1-8* John the Baptist Prepares the Way

**1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"<sup>[c]</sup>—

<sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with<sup>[e]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with<sup>[f]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

### BENEFICE PAGE OF PRAYER

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Gareth Mullinex, Angela Swan, Hughan Welch, Joyce Barge, Hannah, Stuart Elliott,  
Verity Barker, Fleur Tweehuysen, Phil and Sheila Jones, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: William Martin, Liz Humphries, Theresa Holliday,  
Margaret Woodford and Suzanne Elliott.

Recently departed: We pray for the families and friends of Bob Griffin, Martin Curtis  
and Mary Howell who mourn their loss.

**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** – Watchout about the meaning of your recycling! You may believe you are making the right choices in regards to disposing of household waste but the ASA, Advertising Standards Authority have found a misunderstanding on the terminology that brands are using. Terms such as 'biodegradable', 'compostable' and 'recyclable' are being mis-understood. For example 'biodegradable' packaging does not have a specified time limit to break down and could produce toxins whilst breaking down. 'Compostable' products have to be taken to a specialist waste centre, they can't necessarily be composted at home. The ASA are saying they will be taking a close look into all advertising around the environmental claims.

**FOR OUR WORLD** – New Zealand's sparsely populated country lends its self to trial a new method of distribution, with letters and parcels being carried between airports by an all-electric 5 seater cargo aircraft. In the countries ambition to decarbonise its reliance on aviation a "new age of propulsion" will be started. Air New Zealand will be using the aircraft for the postal service starting in 2026.

**FOR COMMUNITY** – Pray that our schools' nativities and carol concerts will bring the "real" joy of Christmas to the children and families who attend.

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.