

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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Sunday 11th February 2024 – 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: 2 Kings 2. 1-12, 2 Corinthian 4.3-6, Mark 9.2-9

CALENDAR

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
Monday 12th February
10:30am- MU Visitors at St Mary’s
2:00pm – Funeral for Jerry Lynden at St Arilda’s
Tuesday 13th February
7.30pm – Bell ringing practice
Wednesday 14th February
6:00pm – Service of Ashing at St Arilda’s
7:00pm – Service of Ashing at St Mary’s
Friday 16th February
7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary’s
Saturday 17th February
7:00pm – Film Night at St Mary’s Hall
Sunday 18th February
9:00am – All Age at St Paul’s
10:30am – *Holy Communion at St Mary’s
6:00pm – Evening Prayer 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

Dads and Kids - St Mary’s Hall, 10am – 12noon, Saturday 10th February. This week’s theme is catapults. Please bring along as many milk bottle tops as you can as you will need them to build your catapult!

Hopscotch – There is no Hopscotch this coming week as it is half term. They will be starting back on the 22nd February.

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!

Calling all mowers! - Would you like to help St Mary's Churchyard and become a Holy Mower? We are a band of mowers who cut the grass and we need someone to join the team. Two mowers share cutting one side of the Church on a monthly rota (no pun intended!). The cutting season runs from April to September, so only three times a year. Not too onerous a task! We currently cut three sides of the Church and have 5 volunteers, hence the vacancy. If you would like to join us please get in touch with the office (thornburybenefice@outlook.com). Thank you. Guy Rawlinson.

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 Groups – your chance to share - Thornbury Churches Together are organising a series of weekly inter-denominational discussion groups during Lent. 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. If you missed the launch please contact the office for information on how to join.



Act on Poverty

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.



St Mary's Church Closure – We are sorry but St Mary's Church will be closed for the day on 27th February 2024.

2024 Swimarathon –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 Swimarathon 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.



United Reformed Church
Chapel St.
Thornbury
BS35 2BA

ARMSTRONG
ARTS
GROUP

Lunchtime concert, 1.00pm Friday 22 March
With celebrated Ukrainian virtuoso
Khrystyna Mykhailichenko

Proceeds from the
concerts will go to
Bristol
Aid to
Ukraine

Programme
Beethoven - Piano Sonata No 4 Op. 7 in E-flat Major
Borys Lyatoskytsky - Shevchenko Suite

Tickets Adults £12, Under 18 Students £5, Under 12 Free



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 (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 half term (12th – 18th Feb) but slightly different days of **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**, 10am and 2pm. 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 11th February 2024

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/c30f170487ac/the-weekly-bulletin-6-february-2024?e=56d437cfb1>

Diocesan Children, Young People and Families Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/014ded9b2a1c/children-young-people-and-families-newsletter?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: William Martin, Liz Humphries, Theresa Holliday, Margaret Woodford and Suzanne Elliott.

Recently departed: We pray for the families and friends of John Fuidge, Jerry Lynden and Sheila Jones, who mourn their loss.

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 9. 2-9

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' 6He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' 8Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – New IPCC report about global warming says 'Driving greenhouse gas emissions from the world's energy sector to net zero and limiting global warming to 1.5 °C remains possible due to the record growth of key clean energy technologies, though momentum needs to increase rapidly in many areas, according to a new edition of the IEA's landmark *Net Zero Roadmap*'.

FOR OUR WORLD – Wildfires have ravaged central Chile for many days and the death toll has risen to 131 with a further 300 people missing. At last the blazes appear to be lessening. This has been Chile's deadliest disaster since the earthquake in 2010. Fires began on Friday on the mountainous eastern edge of Viña del Mar, a beach resort known for its Latin Music festival. The Viña del Mar festival has cancelled its opening gala as a mark of mourning.

FOR COMMUNITY– Judith Hurford a former tree warden of 20 years has been granted the prestigious honour of Freedom of the Parish by the Thornbury town Mayor James Murray. Over the 20 years Judith has planted 230 trees across Thornbury town. Cllr Helen Harrison, chair of the open spaces committee has been quoted in the Gazette Series Newspaper as saying ' The planning and thought that Judit put into the positioning of each tree and which species was to be planted, underpinned the beautiful way in which the trees have fitted into and improved existing landscapes for all the parishioners of the town, both now and in years to come'. On behalf of the benefice we would like to also thank Judith for her hard work.