



The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine

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Church Office Tel: 01454 281900

St Mary's C of E VA School, Head teacher: Mrs S Gillman (01454 866 760)

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Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Day

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: Wisdom 6.12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end, Matthew 25: 1-13

Friday 10th November

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 11th November

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

Sunday 12th November

9am – Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30am – *Remembrance Service at St Mary's

6.00pm – Remembrance (with choir) at St Arilda's

Tuesday 14th November
7.30pm – Bell ringing practice
Thursday 15th November
9.00am – Hopscotch at St Mary's
Friday 16th November
7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's
Sunday 19th November
9am – 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

Christmas Messages – We are planning on helping members of our congregation reach out with their Christmas greetings to other members of our church communities. Please send your wording across to the office and we will send out the greetings on the 10th December.

Drivers – Please could you let the office know if you would be able to help others of the congregation with transportation to Sunday services or other various church events. Likewise, if you find yourself unable to attend church due to difficulty with transport, please do let us know and we can see if we are able to help in anyway.

Volunteers Needed – We very much need some extra help with the refreshment rota for St Mary's. The rota currently has 6 pairs therefore if you could spare some extra time once every 2 months, we would be most grateful. Many hands make light work! If you would be able to donate some time to help, please contact the office on thornburybenefice@outlook.com.

Bible Studies – The online bible studies will be held on Zoom on Monday evenings in two halves from **13th Nov – 18th Dec** and from **8th Jan – 5th Feb**. We will be sending out the zoom link on Monday. Please do email the office to register your interest and get the link.

Mariposa Trust and a service at Malmesbury Abbey – On the **11th November at 4pm**, Malmesbury Abbey are hosting a special service for Baby loss remembrance and support. The service is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. The service is also welcome to any who are grieving the fact that they haven't had children for any reason. Babies and children are also invited as this will be a family event. All are welcome. For more information, please visit <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/>

Sustainable Thornbury – Walking the Biodiversity Ring

Sunday 12th November: "Eight Varieties of Wood". Meet at 1.30 p.m. in the Leisure Centre car park. This walk is also roughly 5km and is entitled "Eight Varieties of Wood". It explores the impact of ancient and modern tree planting. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing and bring your own refreshments. If you would like more information about the walk please contact me via cats@sustainablethornbury.org

Mid-week Holy Communion 15th November – Our sincere apologies, the Holy Communion on Wednesday 15th November is cancelled.

Coffee Morning in Support of The Children's Society: All are invited to a Coffee Morning to support The Children's Society taking place 10.00 am - 12.00 noon on Thursday, **16 November** at 3 Hillcrest, Thornbury. Please bring your Children's Society collection box with you, if you have one. If you would like a collection box, find out more at the coffee morning or contact Christine Dadd on (01454) 414396. Thank you!

Intercessor Refresher and Private Prayer Training - Intercessors and members of St Paul's team who have agreed to take private prayer times, have been invited to a refresher training morning on **Saturday 18th November 2023 at St Mary's Church**. The first session will start at 10am with intercessor refresher training; break at 11am for refreshments and then cover private prayer from 11.15am on, in the second session. If you would like to come to training, (either session or both sessions) even if you do not yet take intercessions or have not yet volunteered for private prayer cover, please do. Please let Alice know if you would like to attend. thornburybenefice@outlook.org or tel 01454 281900.

Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless: Helps homeless and rough sleeps by providing a hot meal and a bed for the night. Warm clothes are needed as the weather changes. If you have clothes, suitable for younger people, there are collection boxes in the back of St Mary's and St Paul's churches. You can find out more about their very valuable work at www.juliantrust.org.uk.

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.

Save the Date - 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!

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 1.00p- 3.00p) 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.

Thornbury Christmas Lights Association – The annual switch-on event will be **Tuesday 21 November at 7pm**. There will be a community market on the High Street from 5pm.

Thornbury Choral Society – The Choral society are hosting a concert **at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th November** at St Mary's Church. Tickets are available to prebook or pay on the door. Please go to <https://www.thornburychoralsociety.org.uk/> for more information.

Church Library Box - We have started a book borrowing scheme in both St Paul's and St Mary's. It's a form of library of "good reads", we felt many folk have inspirational books which they have enjoyed reading and might be willing to share with others, here is your opportunity!

The library boxes are at the back of the church at St Mary's and on a windowsill in St Paul's room.

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. Thank you.

KEY LINKS –Sunday 12th November

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/2a157a0019b6/the-weekly-bulletin-7-november-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 25. 1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this.

Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

BENEFACTIVE 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, 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 of Richard Cornock, Florence Rugman and Maureen Mann as they mourn the loss of their loved one at this time.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – Litter is blighting the UK's footpaths, with an average 41 pieces found a kilometre, according to a major study. Particularly frequently found brands included Lucozade, Coca-Cola, Red Bull, Monster and Walkers. The report inferred people litter partly because they feel disconnected from the landscape, so "we believe that outdoor education can no longer be an optional frill alongside the mainstream curriculum. The time has come for students, pupils and educators to be in, with, and for nature as part of their journey through the system."

FOR OUR WORLD – Please pray with us that the killing will stop, that a ceasefire across the whole of the Gaza strip will be brokered, and that humanitarian aid will reach the hundreds of thousands of innocent women, children and men whose lives are in great danger.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY – Are you a hiker or just need a new fitness goal. Macmillan have launched a campaign 'Mighty Hikes', with a new route set just a little way away in Monmouthshire. If you want to raise some money and get moving maybe one of these challenges can help. <https://mightyhikes.macmillan.org.uk>

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.