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Sunday 17th September – TRINITY 15

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: Genesis 50. 15-21, Romans 14. 1-12, Matthew 18. 21-35

Friday 15th September

10am – Funeral for Ruby Jenkins at St Paul's

Saturday 16th September

11.00am – Baptisms at St Mary's Church

4.00pm – Wedding at St Mary's Church

7.00pm – Film Night at St Mary's Church Hall

Sunday 17th September

9.00am – All Age at St Paul's

10.30am – *Holy Communion at St Mary's

6.00pm – Evening Prayer at St Arilda's

Tuesday 19th September

7.30pm until 9.00pm- Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 20th September

10.00am - Holy Communion with prayers for Mothers Union

Sunday 24th September

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 – Harvest Evensong BCP at Shepperdine

**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

Heritage Open Day – The Mothers' Union stall at St Mary's on Saturday was very well supported. Many thanks go to everyone who made items, grew plants, helped run the stalls and prayed for our efforts. People donated generously and we collected a wonderful total for MU projects, about £215 (a few more plants have yet to be sold). Well done everyone!

To everyone who came for a look around and to all those who helped on Saturday for Heritage Open Day, a huge thank you for all your time and dedication to making the day a great success. We couldn't have hosted the event without you all and your wonderful contributions. We hope you enjoyed your time at the event. We look forward to hosting again for 2024!

Best wishes, Revd Joy, Jenny and Alice

Ride and Stride for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)-

A huge thank you to all who have donated, walked, and helped in any way with Ride and Stride this year. It has been challenging for many reasons, especially with the unseasonably hot day for the walk. Three hardy souls walked all the way with me,

and others joined for part of the way. Attached is a photo of us at Shepperdine at the start of the day. Over £1200 has been pledged or donated so far. The Just Giving page will remain open for a few weeks or any further donations can be given to me.

Thanks again all for a great effort. You always rise to the occasion. Blessings Rev Tom.



Birthday Thank you - Thank you to all who sent cards and messages of goodwill on my recent birthday. They were all very much appreciated. I was able to enjoy the whole weekend with all my family and the late September sunshine was a real bonus. How blessed I am. Aurella Edwards.

Film Nights Coming Soon! - Saturday 16th September 2023 at 7pm will be the return of Film nights at St Mary's Church Hall. The first movie will be 'Little Miss Sunshine' (2006, rated a 14).

A family determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant take a cross-country trip in their VW bus, unaware of what the journey has in store for them.



Hopscotch – returning on the 21st September. Baby and Pre-school play group. Each week has a different theme and craft. Tea, Coffee for adults, toast for the children are provided.

Line Dance – Friday 6th October – The tickets are now available! Please speak to the following people at each church regarding tickets.

St Pauls – Gill Spiller, St Marys – Ruth Piolle, Oldbury/St Arilda's – Sandra Grey.

Tickets are £10 per adult, children are free and families are most welcome!

Harvest Lunch – Sunday 8th October - Harvest Lunch will be at St Mary's Hall. The sign-up sheet for attending is in St Mary's Church and there is a separate sign-up sheet to notify us if you would like to contribute a seasonal dessert such as apple crumble. For Puddings please NO NUTS of any type to be used.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - I hope very much to see lots of you at this coffee morning which is planned to take place on Friday 29th September starting at 10.30am in St Mary's Church, Castle Street, Thornbury.

If you are a good cook and would be able to make a cake for sale, I will be very happy to pay for the ingredients - it is just that I am hopeless at cooking! Please let me know, I would be very grateful.

If you have any small items which you think would be good to sell on a bring and buy table, again I would be very grateful to receive them. If you are not able to bring them with you to the coffee morning, please let me know and I will call to collect them at a time convenient to you.

Looking forward to a happy morning, with lots of proceeds to go towards the wonderful work carried out by Macmillan.

Jenny Ovens (01454 414727 or jennyovensbb@tiscali.co.uk)

Sustainable Thornbury - www.sustainablethornbury.org As part of our Eco Church journey we link with other local environmental organisations sharing similar concerns. Some Church members are also Sustainable Thornbury members. Membership is free. If you would like to find out more about what they do you are very welcome to attend the quarterly business meeting being held on Zoom on Monday 18th Sept at 7.30pm. To request the Zoom link please email Secretary Melinda <cats@sustainablethornbury.org>

Treasurer Required- We do still need to find and train a new Treasurer to take over from Gill Young, who has indicated that she will be standing down at the next APCM. If you have accounting or book-keeping skills and would be willing to consider the role please speak to Gill or to Revd Joy. We may be able to share the role by dividing up the various tasks. All offers of help seriously considered.

The Office- The office will be open in St Mary's 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 ensure any items that you would like to appear in the newsletter are received in the office by 10am on the **Wednesday** of the week when you wish your item to appear. Send to: thornburybenefice@outlook.com. Thank you.

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.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 18. 21-35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." 29 Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

KEY LINKS –Sunday 17th September

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/98eae325b7da/the-weekly-bulletin-12-september-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

BENEFACTICE PAGE OF PRAYER

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Gareth Mullinex, Phil Jones, Angela Swan, Hughan Welch, Joyce Barge, Hannah, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Mick Spiller, Barbara Howell, Geoff Fison, Betty Hayes, Diana Jarvis and Sheila Jones.

Recently departed: We pray for the families of Joan Shipp and Ruby Jenkins as they mourn the loss of their loved one at this time.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - The situation in Derna, the Libyan port city where two dams burst over the weekend, has been described as “disastrous beyond comprehension” by the Libyan national communications officer for the World Health Organization, Rami Elshaheibi. The Red Cross and local officials said at least 10,000 people were missing after the devastating floods. Desperate citizens were appealing on social media for information about missing relatives. Many were angry at the slow pace of the relief effort, and of local authorities’ failure to warn that the dams were at risk of bursting. Drinkable water is in short supply. Whole families have been wiped out by the storm and with the remoteness of some villages and the rudimentary nature of municipal government, it will take time for the death toll to be confirmed.

FOR OUR WORLD – A wedding celebration saved all the people of a Moroccan village during Friday’s deadly earthquake, which destroyed their stone and mud-brick houses while they were enjoying traditional music in an outdoor courtyard. The marriage of Habiba Ajdir, 22, and Mohammed Boudad, 30, an apple farmer, was due to take place at his village of Kettou on Saturday, but by custom the bride’s family held a party the night before the wedding. Standing beside his wife on Tuesday, and still wearing their wedding clothes nearly four days after the quake buried their possessions in rubble, Boudad said the tremor had overwhelmed him with fear for her as he waited in his own village.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY – South Gloucestershire council are asking to share your views on being active. They want to find your views on leisure and being active in South Gloucestershire to help them plan services to support the community’s needs and goals. Please take the time to complete the survey online (it should take 5 mins) orlo.uk/h36KA