

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



Priest in Charge: Joy Ludlow (01454 419 229)

Email: joyeludlow@outlook.com

Email: Thornburybenefice@outlook.com

Website: www.thornburybenefice.org

Church Office Tel: 01454 281900

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

Email: stmarysthornbury@sgmail.org.uk **Website:** www.stmarysthornbury.com

Sunday 18th February 2024 – Lent 1

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 9. 8-17, 1 Peter 3. 18-22, Mark 1.9-15

CALENDAR

Friday 16th February

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 17th February

10:30am – TCT Peace Vigil outside Tesoro Lounge

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

4:00pm – St Mary's Music Afternoon Concert – Nigel Davies playing the organ

6:00pm – Evening Prayer at St Arilda's

Tuesday 20th February

10:30am – Funeral for Sheila Jones at St Paul's
(Our apologies MU Quiet Hour is cancelled)

7.30pm – Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 21st February

10:00am – Mid Week Communion at St Mary's
Thursday 22nd February

9:00am – Hopscotch at St Mary's

Friday 23rd February

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 24th February

10:00am – 2:00pm – St Mary's School Creative Arts Festival
at the School and at St Mary's. All Welcome.

Sunday 25th February

9:00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's

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

3:00pm – Muddy Praise at St Arilda's (We will be planting Sunflowers)

**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

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.



St Mary's Music Afternoon Concert – St Mary's Church will be hosting Nigel Davies playing the Organ this Sunday at 4pm. The concert will include pieces by Bach, Handel and Percy Fletcher. No admission fee, refreshments served, retiring collection. Please come and enjoy the music.

Hopscotch – Is returning this week, 22nd February, with school also back.

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.

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.

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 Lent Appeal for Christian Aid: Everyone is Equal in the sight of God



The 2024 Lent Appeal is in aid of Christian Aid who are supporting us with the Lent course, 'Act on Poverty'. Christian Aid believes every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives, demonstrating the power of people coming together in faith. They raise awareness of suffering, tackle injustice and champion people's rights. "Loving our neighbours means living out our faith on a local and global scale." Please collect an envelope from the back of church and return it to church, during a service, at Easter. Many thanks. Christine Dadd, Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern.

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 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.

Choir Concert - On Saturday 23rd March there will be a charity concert at St Mary's Church. The Bath male Choir will be teaming up with the Thornbury Good Afternoon Choir to raise money for local charities. Tickets cost £10 and can either be purchased on the door or at gac.ticketlight.co.uk or call 0844 8889991.



Can you help? - A young couple who fled Ukraine with their 2 x daughters aged 9 + 12 are desperately looking for new hosts in Thornbury area. 2 x rooms min. Would be ideal. Even a short time would be wonderful so that they can get sorted and then move on. Please contact : Jacquie Rinaldi 01454 602150

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@sgmail.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 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. The office will be back to normal hours week commencing 19th February.

KEY LINKS – Sunday 18th February 2024

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>

Diocesan Bulletin:
<https://mailchi.mp/b28dc5d2c3ee/the-weekly-bulletin-13-february-2024?e=56d437cfb1>

Diocesan March Messenger :
<https://mailchi.mp/c3cdb19af7a8/the-march-messenger?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, Stuart Elliott, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Mick Spiller, Aileen Acton, Dilys Cockerell, Elaine Stanlake and Kevin Tweehuysen.

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

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1. 9-15

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – Delhi’s towering rubbish dumps are referred to as ‘trash mountains’ loom large. Several miles wide and more than 200 feet high these mountains on the outskirts of Delhi can be seen from across the capital. 10,000 tonnes of Delhi’s waste end up here each day and are viewed as apocalyptic places. Delhi has not implemented a waste segregation system so the 10,000 tonnes includes vegetable peelings, plastic packaging, batteries, toys and clothes. It is the ‘wet waste’ such as food scraps and vegetable peelings which account for more than 50% of the waste. As this decomposes it creates a lot of methane gas which rises free to the atmosphere. And according from Kayrros, an environmental intelligence agency has been the location of at least 124 methane ‘super emitter’ leaks since 2020. The consequences of this is a large contributing factor to greenhouse gas emissions but there is also a local impact. In the hot summers, typical of India, this highly flammable gas regularly catches fire turning the mountains into toxic burning infernos. We hope the local authorities can help get this increasingly difficult and polluting problem under control and start new rubbish solutions by their target of the end of 2024.

FOR OUR WORLD – We pray for political, military, and religious leaders involved in the conflict in Gaza, to show genuine willingness to work towards a better future for all Palestinians, Jews and others living in the region. We long for dignity, mercy, justice, peace and love to triumph so please grant wisdom and courage to those with authority across the world working to end this war. Amen.

FOR COMMUNITY– For those going back to school after half term.

God of the ages,
you are the beginning of our journey
and our strength as we pause along the way.
Hold us by the hand as we grow,
show us where to seek you,
and guide our steps that we may find you.
Give us devoted hearts that we may love you,
and your peace when we reach our journey's end.