



The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine

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## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent

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: Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25: 14-30*

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.00am** – Prayer training at St Mary's Church

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

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**9am** – All Age at St Paul's

**10.30am** – \*Holy Communion at St Mary's

**6.00pm** – Evening Prayer at St Arilda’s

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November**

**2.00pm** – Mothers’ Union AGM and speaker at St Mary’s Church Hall

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

**7.30pm** – Bell ringing practice

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**9.00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary’s

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**9am** – Holy Communion at St Paul’s

**10.30am** – \*Holy Communion at St Mary’s

**3.00pm** – Muddy Praise at St Mary’s

**6.00pm** – Evensong BCP 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**

**Congratulations** – Revd Joy and Mike Vaughan on the announcement of their engagement. We wish them all the best for their future together!

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

**Independent Safeguarding Audit** - Gloucester Diocese is working with an independent Safeguarding Group conducting an audit across the Church of England to assess the extent to which the church is doing all it can to create an environment in which all can feel safe, valued and respected. As part of this, members of parish communities are invited to comment. This is anonymous and confidential. The responses go directly to the independent audit team, not to the CofE. It is a box-ticking, multiple-choice survey that takes but a few minutes. There is no obligation, but if you feel you have something to contribute to this exercise click on <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/gloucester/#surveys> and choose between “Parish Workforce” (effectively anyone whose role requires a DBS check) or “Parish

Community" (everyone else) to be taken to the questionnaire. The survey will close on 5 December. Chris Verey

**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 first sessions will start this **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm**. Zoom link is below.

*Join Zoom Meeting*

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

*Meeting ID: 824 3371 2346*

*Passcode: 692258*

**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](mailto:thornburybenefice@outlook.org) or tel 01454 281900.

**Film Night** – **18<sup>th</sup> November 7pm** at St Mary's Church Hall. The showing will be 'Living' by director Oliver Hermanus and featuring Bill Nighy. In 1950's London, a humourless bureaucrat decides to take time off work to experience life. A new interpretation of the Kurasawa film 'Ikuru' that will leave you reflecting on the things you appreciate in your own life. Parental guidance – 12.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Save the Date – St Mary's School Fete on 2nd December** - St Mary's School fete will take place spread between the church and the school. We have some lovely local independent stalls as well as fun games for the children. There will also be festive pop-up cafe with lots of homemade bakes. We hope you and your families can join us.

**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!

**Save the Date – 16<sup>th</sup> December** 2023, 7pm Film Night. The showing will be "Christmas Chronicles". This film night is strictly 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?



**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.

**Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless:** Helps homeless and rough sleepers 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](http://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.

**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.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/f2d3164b6979/the-weekly-bulletin-14-november-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

### **GOSPEL READING:**

#### **Matthew 25:14-30**

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



## **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, Phil and Sheila Jones, Gill and Chris Platt.

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

Recently departed: We pray for the families of Martin Curtis who mourn the loss of their loved one at this time.

**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** – Climate change is threatening every part of our natural world. The landscape is being destroyed. Plants and wildlife are disappearing at an alarming rate. Our very survival on Earth is at risk. But if we look just below the surface, we'll find a powerful solution: **soil**.

Healthy soil not only gives us 95% of our food, it stores billions of tonnes of carbon – 10 billion tonnes in the UK's soils alone! – helping to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Plus it absorbs vast amounts of water, helping to defend us against flooding and drought. Yet every day in the UK, we lose the equivalent of 30 football pitches of soil, mainly because of intensive farming. By working with farmers to foster nature-friendly methods that protect our soil and everything that lives in it. For example, by planting more trees on farms we can produce healthier soil, boost wildlife and tackle climate change.

**FOR OUR WORLD** –With hundreds of earthquakes being recorded each day in Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula. The fishing town of Grindavik has been evacuated, asking more than 3,000 residents to leave their homes and businesses. Authorities identified an underground river of magma under the town. There is a long history of volcanic activity in Iceland, with fewer than 400,00 people and 130 volcanoes, most of which are active. We pray for the people of Iceland and the scientists and government working hard to keep people safe.

**FOR OUR COMMUNITY** – **South Glos Council has launched a consultation on waste and recycling**. SGC is proposing some changes to its recycling and waste collection services and is seeking your views on this. The consultation closes on 7 January. For more information and to respond: [SGC Waste and Recycling Consultation](#)