

The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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Sunday 21st January 2024 – Epiphany 3

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: Psalm 128, Revelation 19.6-10, John 2.1-11

CALENDAR

Friday 19th January

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 20th January

6:00pm – Film Night at St Mary's Hall

Sunday 21st January

9:00am – All Age at St Paul's

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

2:30pm – St Paul's Open Afternoon

4:00pm - St Mary's Afternoon Concert

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

Monday 22nd January

3:00pm – MU- 'My life as a church warden' Talk at St Mary's Hall
(Bible Studies Zoom call now 29th Jan. Details below)

Tuesday 23rd January

7.30pm – Bell ringing practice

Thursday 25th January

9.00am – Hopscotch at St Mary's

12:00 noon – Funeral for Mrs Madelene Williams at St Mary's

Friday 26th January

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Sunday 28th January

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

Calendar Change – MU talk has changed to 'My Life as a church warden' by Robin Gupta. It will be held on 22nd January at 3pm in St Mary's church hall. (Organic Blooms Talk has been moved to the 18th November).

Afternoon Concert Series – Sunday afternoon concerts are starting up again. Everyone is invited, please tell your friends and neighbours. Sunday 21st January 4:00pm at St Mary's Church. Chris Hall, bass baritone and Robert Burgess on the piano. No admission fee, refreshments served, retiring collection. Please come and enjoy the music!

Bible Studies–Change of plans: To our online bible study group please note that following our past session the plans for the end of this study have been amended. There will now not be a study on Monday 22nd January. There will be one more meeting of the group at 8pm on Monday 29th January. All are welcome to this (whether you have joined before or not)! This will be a catch-up session to ask the question; "Which one are you? Hero or villain?" and should be good fun. As ever the

easiest way to join the meeting is to open your newsletter email and click on the link given here: *Join Zoom*

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

Meeting ID: 824 3371 2346 / Passcode: 692258

Provided your Zoom app/online browser is up to date then this should take you straight in to the right room. Online bible study will then return with a short course for Advent 2024!

Fundraiser -Home-made marmalade, (sold in aid of AFIA, Away From It All holidays, an MU initiative, to give the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life). Will be available from Sunday 21st at St. Paul's after the service.

Palm Crosses – Please could you return any palm crosses ready for Ash Wednesday. Please can you put them in the basket at the back of the churches.

Julian Trust Night shelter for the Homeless: Thank you very much from the Night shelter and their guests for the amazing 264 gift bags, bedding, coats, clothes, woolly hats and coffee. The need has been great this winter and your support is greatly appreciated.

Children's Society Boxholders: A huge 'thank you' to Children's Society boxholders who raised £850.86 during 2023. It is amazing how much can be raised from 'small change'! If you would like to have a collection box, please contact Christine Dadd on (01454) 414396.

Lent Groups – your chance to share - Thornbury Churches Together are organising a series of weekly inter-denominational discussion groups during Lent.



Act on Poverty

The sign-up sheet is in on the table at the entrance of St

Mary's Church and will shortly be delivered to St Paul's and St Arilda's. When signing up please note your preferred day to attend.

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.

Pastoral Assistance training- Christine Butler from Sodbury Vale Benefice is running training for anyone interested in helping with pastoral assistance. The course would begin after Easter. Please contact the office for further information.

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.

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.



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 I’m sure all of our clergy would agree 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 do speak to Reverend Joy or Lizzie Jones (Funerals Minister and Life

Events Coordinator for the Benefice) either after a Sunday Service or you can contact Lizzie directly at LifeEvents.ThornburyBenefice@outlook.com with any questions about the role. You would, of course, 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 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 14th January 2024

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/346d1a5133cc/the-weekly-bulletin-16-january-1355657?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 and Sheila Jones, 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 Madelene Williams, Lillian
Perry and Mike Chappel who mourn their loss.

GOSPEL READING:

John 2.1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT – UK water industry's "urgent" plan to tackle sewage pollution delayed by 4 months. Government ministers last year demanded water executives send them a "plan for urgent change" to tackle outflows which spill untreated human waste into rivers and seas. Dr Lucinda Gilfoyle, the head of environmental strategy at Water UK, also promised last May that there would be a national overflow plan published in the late summer which focuses on how investments will be used to deal with overflows and excess rain water. The plan was projected to cut the number of spills.

FOR OUR WORLD –You will have seen that Yemen was in news headlines again over the weekend. In the last eight years, devastating conflict in Yemen has seen millions of children, women and men forced to flee their homes in search of safety. Yet, media coverage of this humanitarian crisis is sporadic, and the emergency remains critically underfunded.

FOR COMMUNITY– Thank God for the "welcome places" and "warm packs" which are available to help those in need of support in this cold weather. (Do you need help? Check at your local library.)