

# The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Lent 2

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: Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22. 23-2end, Mark 8. 31-end*

### **CALENDAR**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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)

**6:00pm** – Evensong BCP at St Arilda's

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**St Mary's Closed All Day**

**7.30pm** – Bell ringing practice

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February**

**9:00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary's

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**7.00pm** - World Day of Prayer at the URC

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

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

**9:00am** – Holy Communion at St Paul's

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

**3.00pm** - Refresh! 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**

**Easter Lilies in St Mary's Church** - If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies to remember loved ones please speak to or phone Kate Teague 415837, Cath Barnard 413565 or Carole Ball 413665. Please let us have the names of those to be remembered so that they can be displayed in a frame by the arrangement near the pulpit. Many thanks.

**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.

**St Mary's Church Closure** – We are sorry but St Mary's Church will be closed for the day on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 for a survey to be carried out.

## **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 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.

**Motanka Dolls Master Class** – A special presentation about the traditional Ukrainian 'protector' dolls. Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10:30-1pm at The United Reformed Church, Chapel Street Thornbury, BS35 2BA. You will be fascinated by the history of these little Ukrainian Mothering Dolls and you will have a chance to hear about other Ukrainian traditions. Vera, who leads the morning, is a Ukrainian living in Bristol and raising funds through donations for Ukrainian refugees. Please book a space with Jacquie on jacquie.rinaldi1@gmail.com.

**Choir Concert** - On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://gac.ticketlight.co.uk) or call 0844 8889991.

**Agape Supper – Thursday 28 March at 7pm in St Mary’s Church** – A sign up sheet is available in the churches. If you wish to attend, please add your name and any allergies – to help with catering arrangements. Thank you!

**The 8th Minibus trip to Ukraine leaves Mid March** - We are again collecting essential items that are unavailable in frontline areas. With 179 Refugees living in Thornbury area there are many locals worrying about families left behind. This is a small way that we can support by providing items. Every little helps! Please drop to The Store in The Methodist Hall 10.30- 12.30 am Mon am or Fri am or The URC Ukrainian Hub Fri pm 1.30- 4.00pm or phone me 01454 602150 and I will pick up!  
*ITEMS: by MARCH 5th please.*

*Wet wipes/Savlon/Nappies/aspirin/paracetamol/vitamins/ bandages/dried soups /energy bars/ candles/batteries/old NOT Android phones/glasses/handwarmers.*  
Thank you .Jacquie

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:joyeludlow@outlook.com)) and Lizzie Jones ([lifeyvents.thornburybenefice@outlook.com](mailto: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 as normal, **Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday**, 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](mailto:thornburybenefice@outlook.com). Thank you.

### KEY LINKS – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

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

Diocesan Bulletin:  
<https://mailchi.mp/24395daec8e3/the-weekly-bulletin-20-february-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

### GOSPEL READING:

Mark 8. 31 – end

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,<sup>□</sup> will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words<sup>□</sup> in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

### **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, Sylvia Zelle, Jean Boakes, Stuart Elliott, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Roger Holliday, Betty Hayes and Hannah.

Recently departed: We pray for all families and friends who mourn a loss at this time.

**FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT** – The UK government has given a banned bee-killing pesticide the [temporary go-ahead](#) for the fourth year in a row. The neonicotinoid pesticide was banned for harming bees, other wildlife and for polluting rivers. The ban has been lifted for sugar beet, but this shouldn't be necessary. The government has had plenty of time to support the industry to find safe alternatives. The government must put nature and wildlife first. And support farmers to end the use of bee-toxic chemicals for good. Further information and a petition can be found at: [Friends of the Earth](#)

**FOR OUR WORLD** –As Ukraine enters its third year of war, the country has outstripped Afghanistan and Syria to become the most heavily mined in the world. Roughly 25,000 sq km of agricultural land are potentially strewn with mines and other dangerous debris from the conflict, which have so far killed and maimed hundreds of people. A joint demining project run by the [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

(FAO), with support from the Geneva-based NGO Fondation Suisse de Déminage are starting to clear small sections of land. Please read more on this at: **WFP.ORG**

**FOR COMMUNITY**– With our School’s Creative Art Festival this week, let’s thank God for the skills and abilities of the children and let’s ask Him for his continued love and care for the teachers, governors, head, PTA, parents and staff members of St Mary’s School.

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.