



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@gmail.org.uk **Website:** www.stmarysthornbury.com

Sunday 26th November – Christ the King

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: Ezekiel 34.11-16, Ephesians 115-end, Matthew 25. 31-end

Friday 24th November

7.30pm – Choir Practice at St Mary's

Saturday 25th November

7.30pm – Choral Society Concert at St Mary's

Sunday 26th 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
Monday 27th November
- 8.00pm** – Bible Studies on Zoom
Tuesday 28th November
- 7.30pm** – Bell ringing practice
Thursday 30th November
- 9.00am** – Hopscotch at St Mary's
Friday 1st December
- 7.30pm** – Choir Practice at St Mary's
Saturday 2nd December
- 11am** – St. Mary's School Christmas Fete at School and St Mary's Church
Sunday 3rd December
- 8am** – *Holy Communion at St Mary's
9am – Holy Communion at St Paul's
12.00noon – Wedding at St Mary's
3.00pm – Refresh at St Arilda's
6pm – *Advent Service of Light with Baptism at St Mary'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

Eco Church Thanks - A big thank you to everyone who completed and returned the recent Lifestyle Survey. This has helped enormously. Particular thanks to those who added really useful comments. Approx. 11% of Church members responded but some were completed as families or couples. The results were collated anonymously. 100% of participants are using Energy saving light bulbs, reducing, reusing and recycling as much as possible, cutting down on food waste by freezing or reusing leftovers plus taking their own reusable bags when shopping. The comments indicated that Environment Champions need to publicise things, such as where to buy produce free from packaging and how to check our Carbon Footprints. A fuller report will be in the next edition of Ch@t and a Lifestyle results display will be produced in the coming weeks.

The Children's Society: £108.00 was raised for the Children's Society at our recent coffee morning. Thank you for your generosity. Valerie and Helen

Thank you – Thank you to all the film goers from last week. Your contributions raised £60 for Children in Need.

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 10th December.

Christmas Services – Please can you let the office know if you are able to help steward for the 4pm Crib Service on the 24th Dec. We would be very grateful for all volunteers.

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

Thornbury Choral Society – The Choral society are hosting a concert **at 7.30pm on Saturday 25th 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.

Bible Studies – The online bible studies will be held on Zoom on Monday evenings in two halves from 20th Nov – 18th Dec and from 8th Jan – 12th Feb. The second session will continue this **Monday 27th 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

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.

Christian Books - Thornbury United Reformed Church will be selling new and second hand Christian books at the Church on the first Saturdays of each month. **2nd December 10am – 12.00**. Books for seasons in the Christian year, personal devotions and reading, greeting cards and seasonal gifts as part of the church's weekly coffee morning.

Armstrong Hall - Invitation to public dissemination meeting, **7th December 2023, 7pm – 9pm** at Thornbury Baptist Church (BS35 2EG). All members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting to inform people of the recent, current and future works. The meeting will include a presentation from the trust, Q&A session and an opportunity for members of the public to voice any input. Space is limited so we kindly ask the user group members refrain from attending and allow space for the wider public to attend.

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 – 16th December 2023, 7pm Film Night. The showing will be "Christmas Chronicles". This film night is 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?



Save the date - Please make a note in your diary and invite others to come along to our annual traditional **Christmas carol singing on Tuesday 19th December at 7.00pm**. We gather at the church hall and then sing carols in the area around Eastland Road, returning to the hall for hot drinks and mince pies. All ages are welcome. Please wear warm/'seasonal' clothing, bring a torch and some smiles, and be ready to spread some Christmas cheer!

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.

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 26th November

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/52264d908880/the-weekly-bulletin-21-november-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 25:31-end

31 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." 37Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" 40And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." 44Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" 45Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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: Roger Holliday, Geoff Fison, Betty Hayes, Matthew Watson and Diana Jarvis.

Recently departed: We pray for the families of Martin Curtis and Mary Howell who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – Brittany “Cole” Bush is the founder of [Shepherdess Land & Livestock](#), a ranch in the Ojai Valley that uses grazing animals to reduce the risk of wildfires in southern California. Ruminants have become [an increasingly common sight](#) on land primed to burn across the US west, and Bush says there’s been a growing demand for her services. She and her team have put their hundreds-strong herds to work chewing down parched plants for landowners, government agencies, housing developments and detention centers.

The ancient practice is taking on new significance in an era of climate uncertainty – and there’s lots of work to go around.

FOR OUR WORLD – Myanmar is gripped by the worst escalation in violence since the military seized power in a coup almost three years ago, the UN has said, with intense clashes taking place across a number of states and regions.

The UN said an escalation in the fighting that began late in October was “the largest in scale and most extensive geographically” since the military coup, and has affected swathes of the country.

More than 286,000 people have been displaced as a result of the recent surge in violence, it said, while 187 civilians have reportedly died and 246 have been injured. More than 2 million people have been internally displaced across Myanmar, according to the UN.

FOR COMMUNITY – Rev Roland Barnes of Garreg near Shrewsbury said: “We pray for the four youngsters tragically killed, taken from their loved ones in the prime of life. We know the slenderness of the thread that separates life from death and the suddenness with which that thread can be broken.” He asked for prayers for the families: “Lord be with them, cry with them, hold them close.”