



The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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Sunday 27th August – TRINITY 12

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: Isaiah 51. 1-6, Romans 12. 1-8, Matthew 16. 13-20

Sunday 27th August

9.00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's

10.30am – *Holy Communion at St Mary's

4:00pm – Muddy Praise at the Vicarage

6.00pm – BCP Evensong at Shepperdine

Tuesday 29th August

7.30pm until 9.00pm- Bell ringing practice

Friday 1st September
2.30pm - Funeral Service at St Paul's
Sunday 3rd September
9.00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's
10.30am – *Holy Communion at St Mary's
4:00pm – 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

An Afternoon of Home-baked Cakes and Ice cream - Come and support The Alzheimer society and Fund raising for the United Reformed Church chair fund. Sunday 27th August. 3-5pm at United Reformed Church on Rock Street, Thornbury. There will be arts and a wonderful raffle available.

Heritage Open Day –Heritage Open day is on the 9th September, please keep this date in your diaries! Invite your friends and neighbours!

St Mary's Church Tower will be open and available to visit. We need 1 more person to help 'man the tower'. If you feel you could spare a few hours on Saturday 9th September afternoon and are confident enough to traverse the stairs and look after the tour groups from the ringing room please do let the office know. Thank you for any help.

We are opening the Tower so everyone physically able to climb the 133 steps and over the age of 8 can view the town and surrounding area from such a unique viewpoint. Please do contact Alice at the office to book a time slot.

thornburybenefice@outlook.com

Dads and Kids – please keep a note of the following dates for Dad's and Kids. 9th September, 14th October, 11th November and 9th December.

Every session runs a different theme and is great fun with lots of activities.

Bacon rolls, tea and coffee on offer for all adults attending, children are offered snacks.

Friday 29th September 2023 – save the date join us at St Mary's Church for a Macmillan Coffee Morning from 10.30am. Please follow the link for donations to Macmillan <http://www.justgiving.com/cm23030838>.

Friday 6th October 2023 – save the date join us at Naite Farm, Oldbury-upon-Severn, at 7.00pm for the Harvest Festival Line Dancing and a delicious Ploughman's supper will be on offer. We will be releasing the tickets soon.

Sunday 8th October 2023 – save the date – Harvest Lunch will be at St Mary's Hall on the 8th October. There will be a list available in the church to sign up if you would like to come and if you could contribute a seasonal dessert such as apple crumble.

Church Action Plan – The latest part of the Church Action plan will be coming out in November which will incorporate the Eco Church initiative.

New welcome flag – If you are hosting any outside activity for the church and would like a flag to grab people's attention, the church has invested in a welcome flag for all to borrow. It is easy to assemble, you will need a soft surface to push the flag into. Please contact the office and we can reserve it for you.

Church Library Box - We are starting a book borrowing scheme in both St Paul's and St Mary's. It's a form of library of "good reads". Many folk have inspirational books which they have enjoyed reading and might be willing to share with others. Each book will have a 'library card'. The owner can fill in the title, author and recommendation and this will be in the book. The borrower will complete their name and the date of borrowing and leave the card in the box. Books will thus be trackable and the owner will know where their book is and reclaim it if required. The library box will be in the Stafford Chapel in St Mary's and on a windowsill in St Pauls room.

Water Guardians - Thornbury Orchard Group is working with Wessex Water and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) to get the Water Guardians programme launched in our area. Our Eco Church team support this idea. Specifically, volunteers are being recruited to log online monthly pollution and wildlife biodiversity related information at part of a Thornbury stream that they frequently visit and cherish; or

possibly an area that they are concerned about. This can be done e.g. while walking the dog. There will be no need to enter the water or take water samples.

BART will shortly (September /October) commence training individuals. The training is mostly online covering biodiversity, pollution, health and safety. Once set up there will also be the facility to network with other Water Guardians in Thornbury.

Please will anyone with an interest in volunteering contact John and Eileen (and Marian) at thornburyorchard@sustainablethornbury.org as soon as possible so they can indicate numbers to BART. Please include your name and e-mail to send to BART and if you have a particular stretch of the streamside you would like to cover that would also be useful.

Home Study Groups - There is provision for new home groups for those who are looking to join one. Please talk to Revd Joy or drop her an e-mail if you are interested. Also, **to leaders of existing home study groups**, please contact Revd Joy as she would like to visit your group when it is meeting, so as to encourage you. 01454 419229 or joyeludlow@outlook.com

Ride and Stride for Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)- is on Saturday September 9th and Revd Tom will be doing a sponsored walk to raise funds for GCHT. All are invited to walk with him either all or part of the way. We will be starting from St. Mary's Shepperdine at 10:00am with a short act of worship before setting off for St Arilda's where we will stop for lunch (please bring your own packed lunch). We will have another short act of worship and will leave there at about 1:00pm, walk across the fields to St. Mary's, Thornbury arriving at about 2:30pm and then walking up to St. Paul's to finish with a shortened Evening Prayer at about 4:00pm. Both St. Paul's and St, Mary's will be open for visitors and walkers and cyclists taking part from other groups. Attendance sheets at any of the four churches will be signed by a representative at each church.

If anyone who is intending to join Revd Tom for any part of the walk could let him know in advance. Please make your own transport arrangements.

If anyone could offer Revd Tom a lift either to Shepperdine in the morning or to take him to pick up his car in the evening he would be very grateful.

Thanks to all who have already offered sponsorship - it is not too late to do so.

Either visit the Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/thomas-keates6> which is the preferred method of giving but if you would rather donate by cash or cheque please make cheques payable to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and get them to Revd Tom. If you can gift aid please also leave your name, first line of

address and post code with your donation. Half the money raised will be returned to our benefice and be divided between our two PCCs.

Treasurer Required- We do still need to find and train a new Treasurer to take over from Gill Young, who has indicated that she will be standing down at the next APCM. If you have accounting or book-keeping skills and would be willing to consider the role please speak to Gill or to Revd Joy. We may be able to share the role by dividing up the various tasks. All offers of help seriously considered.

The Office- The office will be open in St Mary's 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 ensure any items that you would like to appear in the newsletter are received in the office by 10am on the **Wednesday** of the week when you wish your item to appear. Send to: thornburybenefice@outlook.com. Thank you.

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.

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 16 13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock^[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was^[d] the Messiah.^[e]

KEY LINKS –Sunday 27th August

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/edb50bc168/the-weekly-bulletin-22-august-2023?e=56d437cfb1>

BENEFICE PAGE OF PRAYER

Those who have asked for our prayers at this time:

Gareth Mullinex, Pam Latimer, Phil Jones, Joan Shipp, Angela Swan, Hughan Welch, Joyce Barge, Stuart Elliott, Gill and Chris Platt.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Roger Holliday, Barbara Howell, Geoff Fison, Betty Hayes, Diana Jarvis and Sheila Jones.

Recently departed: We pray for the families of Joan Hemmings, Jean Beaven and Roger Smith as they mourn the loss of their loved one at this time.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – 'The Ocean Clean Up' project is an organisation extracting plastic from the Pacific Ocean. This week in one collection they picked up 11,353kg plastic out of the ocean. They return the plastic to land and sort it to find value in the garbage. They even make recycled plastic into sunglasses!

<https://theoceancleanup.com/oceans/>

FOR OUR WORLD – Pray for Ethiopia where there is conflict in the region of Amhara. Deadly clashes between government forces and Amhara nationalists have prompted the central government to declare a state of emergency. This violence comes just nine months after a truce came into effect in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region ending two years of bloody conflict between government forces and Tigray Defence Forces.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY – congratulations to The Swan Pub, it has been listed as a finalist in the 'Stonegate Group Pub Partners Pub of the Year' category. Thornbury's 'oldest pub' is a Grade I listed coach house pub dating back to 1633.

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.