



The United Benefice of Thornbury with Oldbury and Shepperdine



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Sunday 30th JULY – TRINITY 8

Services are held within our churches and live streamed 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: 1 Kings 3: 5-12; Romans 8: 26-39; Matthew 13: 31-33,44-52

Sunday 30th July

8am – Holy Communion at **St Paul's**

3pm – Bring 'n share Garden Party at St Mary's moving into a Praise Service in the church at **5.30pm**

Tuesday 1st August

7.30pm until 9.00pm - Bell ringing practice

Wednesday 2nd August

10am – Holy Communion with prayers for healing at St Paul's

Sunday 6th August

9.00am – Holy Communion at St Paul's

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

4.00pm – Refresh! at St Arilda's for Praise and a picnic
(Bring your own picnic, St Arilda's will supply the praise!)

**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

Bring n' Share Garden Party – The garden party will be on Sunday 30th July at 3pm in the churchyard. There will be some chairs but please bring a chair if you can; or a picnic blanket. There will be some shading but please remember to bring a hat in case the sun does come out!

If you decide at the last minute that you would like to come please do. Bring a little something with you if you can to add to the tea, but if this is not possible, just come.

It would be very helpful to the Catering Team if quiches and cakes for the Garden Party could be cut into slices ready to be served. Please bring your food item with you in the afternoon.

Facebook – We would very much like to utilise the Thornbury Benefice Facebook page more often and we are asking if you could all send us some details of any events for our churches etc that you would like to promote. Please contact Pat Duru at patduru50@yahoo.co.uk. Photos and write-ups after events very much welcomed; do remember to get permission for photos.

Bell Ringers – There will be a visiting group of Bellringers on Saturday 5th August at St Mary's church. They will be ringing a continuous full peel starting from 10am and finishing at 1pm. Quite a feat!

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.

Heritage Open Day – We are starting to plan for the Heritage Open day on the 9th September, please keep this date in your diaries!

This year there is a nationwide theme of 'creativity', and we will be showcasing some local artistic and crafting talents. Also, Mothers' Union will have a plant and craft stall and the Catering Team will be serving refreshments all afternoon.

St Mary's church tower will be open for pre-booked tours. Please contact the office for more details. Come take a look at the clock, see how the bells are rung, and hopefully the weather will be kind and you will be able to see the beautiful vista from the top of the tower! There are 133 uneven, large steps to climb and there is no disabled access and all participants must be 8+.

Ride and Stride participants are welcome from 10am.

The Office – The office emails will be checked most days for the next couple of weeks. If you send an email or leave a voicemail, we will get back to you. 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 13.31-33, 44-52

31 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

33 He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

44 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 52And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

KEY LINKS – Sunday 30th July

Services at St Mary's Livestreamed at:

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

Diocesan Bulletin:

<https://mailchi.mp/652ec1826e93/the-weekly-bulletin-25-july-2023?e=fa9b105bbd>

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, Jean Beaven, Gill and Chris Platt.

Pleased to report that Jane Parfitt is home from hospital and building up her strength. She hopes to see us in church soon.

Those for whom we regularly pray: Betty Hayes, Diana Jarvis and Sheila Jones.

Recently departed: Angela Parnham. Please pray for her family as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR WORD - Europe is on fire. The newspapers have been full of sweltering temperatures across Europe. Communities in Spain and Greece – including holiday homes and summer camps for children – have been evacuated because of wildfires, and danger warnings have been issued in Italy, where temperatures are forecast to reach 48 degrees. Southern Europe is in the grip of an anticyclone.

The USA and China have also both reported temperatures of over 50 degrees.

Such high temperatures put lives in danger from fire as well as medical risks, and The World Meteorological Organization states that: 'Heatwaves are amongst the deadliest natural hazards with thousands of people dying from heat-related causes each year.'

Meanwhile, in other parts of the world, such as Pakistan and India, extremely heavy rains have caused deaths and brought destruction through flooding and landslides.

Large swathes of East Africa are still facing severe hunger due to extended droughts followed by sudden flash floods in the region.

The climate is in crisis. Ask our creator God to help us to put things right.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY – We thank God for the amazing work that the Foodbank does week in and week out – families with children who have free school meals may be having an even tougher time than usual and the Foodbank will be there to help.