

Focal Point

June 2020

Our village salutes the carers



*Serving Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,
Upton Cheyney & Beach*

KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

When it comes to moving home, you need professionals who are trained and trustworthy, with in-depth local knowledge and the technology and connections to market your property.

As exclusive Members of The Guild of Property Professionals we can meet your needs and clearly stand apart from the competition in both sales and lettings.

Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal

DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

0117 9863681

daviesandway.com

Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham

Bristol, BS31 1DP

0117 9863681

keynsham@daviesandway.com

Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford

Bristol, BS31 3BA

01225 400400

saltford@daviesandway.com

www.daviesandway.com



Your property in Park Lane

Showcase your property to the
lucrative London market



By instructing your local Fine & Country agent, your property will not only be marketed locally and regionally, but nationally and even internationally via Fine & Country's Head Office and Showroom located at one of the most prestigious addresses in the world – 121 Park Lane, Mayfair; London W1.

With over 40ft of window display on Park Lane, we not only reach a lucrative buyers' market other agents cannot, we also market all Fine & Country properties 24/7 through touchscreen technology, enabling customers to browse the details of Fine & Country properties from around the globe, even when the office is closed.

For more information on promoting your property in our Park Lane office or for a free valuation, please contact;
Homes of Bath Fine & Country, 36 Gay Street, Bath, Somerset, BA1 2NT
01225 320032 | bath@fineandcountry.com
homesofbath.co.uk | fineandcountry.com



FONTHILL
garden centre



A family run business that's been growing since 1967.

www.fonthill-lakeside.com



BATH ROAD, BITTON. 0117 932 3110
OPEN MON-FRI 8.00-5.00 SAT 9.00-5.00 SUN 10.30-4.30



Focal Point

June 2020

Cover photograph—
Saluting the Carers

By Evie Heavens

To advertise in Focal Point
please contact Roger Tilley
rogj.tiller@hotmail.com

**FOR ALL FOCAL POINT
INQUIRIES**

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the July
magazine is:*

Tuesday 16 June 2020

In this month's Focal Point:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Page 6 | A clap for our carers |
| Page 12 | Church community faces second month in lockdown |
| Page 14 | Archaeology starts in St Mary's Churchyard—but with a special plea to keep away. |
| Page 18 | Minister's Letter— <i>Susie Bishop</i> : The rainbow is a sign of God's love and His Care. |
| Page 20 | St Mary's Matters |
| Page 21 | Bishop Lee Rayfield safely back in the saddle for Christian Aid. |
| Page 24 | <i>Get snapping— for this year's photography competition.</i> |
| Page 26 | VE Day Anniversary Commemorated. |
| Page 29 | Dick Honeywell—Former church organist honoured on VE Day Anniversary. |
| Page 31 | Bob Willis remembers growing up in Hanham. |
| Page 37 | <i>WI News</i> |
| Page 40 | This month's quiz |
| Page 43 | Last Word |

Churches' news and information about acts of worship pages 12 to 15



Thursday evening in the High Street and (inset) Marlene rings the bell

Cover Story

A clap for our Carers

Every Thursday evening for 10 weeks from the end of March, people all over Britain came out to their doorsteps or leaned from windows to clap in gratitude to those working in the NHS and in other caring roles during the COVID 19 pandemic.

In the centre of Bitton, the arrival of 8 o'clock has been announced by Marlene Gallop, herself a former nurse, ringing a bell outside her house in the High Street. For those who might be distracted by other things on a Thursday evening, the ringing bell was a signal to stop for a moment and say thank you to those who were giving so much to save and look after others.

The weekly event ended on the last Thursday in May, just as some lockdown restrictions were eased, but we are still some way from the end of the emergency.

**Matt Bressington
Plastering Services
Friendly & Reliable**



All types of Plastering Rendering Pebble Dashing

Dry Lining Coving

Fully Insured Over 25 years experience

Competitive Rates Free Quotations

Tel: 0117 9830108 Mobile: 07905 474 966

Email: matt_bressy@yahoo.co.uk

Focal Point welcomes your photographs

From time to time readers generously provide photographs for Focal Point. Although cost often prohibits these from appearing in colour in the printed version, they still appear in full glory on-line and remain as a record of Bitton life for years to come.

If you have any photographs you would like to share, please send to the editor at jimheavens@outlook.com

S M Wilkins Electrical Services

- ◆ **FREE QUOTES**
- ◆ **COMPETITIVE RATES**
- ◆ **FULLY INSURED**
- ◆ **SIX-YEAR WARRANTY**
- ◆ **OVER 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE**

- Testing & inspection
- Landlord certs (EICR)
- Fault finding/repairs
- Fuse board replacement
- Extra sockets/lights
- Cooker/shower installation
- Smoke alarms
- Security/outdoor lighting



Mobile: 0771 218 9118



Email: smwilkins.electricalservices@gmail.com

A small and friendly practice providing
the very best care for animals and their owners

OLDLAND HOUSE Veterinary Surgery

Stephen Pullan, BVSc, MRCVS
103 High Street, Oldland Common, Bristol
Monday-Friday 8am-7.30pm: Saturday 10-12am
Tel: 0117 932 3100



E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd
Funeral Directors

Serving Bristol since 1945

Kingswood - 11 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8JX
Tel: 0117 967 3609

Hanham - 71 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3DG
Tel: 0117 935 3746

HRD Hardware

New owners Jim & Janette
look forward to welcoming you

Plumbing & electrical supplies
pet foods - paints - tools - gifts
fabric dyes - paraffin

20 Westcourt Drive, Oldland Common

- Churches & Services -



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BITTON**



Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained ministers:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge 0117 949 0502

Rev Susie Bishop

revsusiebishop.uk@gmail.com
07415 831488

Lay ministers:

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,
Bitton
0117 932 2122

David Bailey, Westover,
Bath Road, Bitton
0117 932 8949

Churchwardens:

Pete Midgley
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
0117 932 6898

Jacqui Harris
29 St Anne's Drive, Wick
0117 937 4706

Services in June

It is likely that the Covid-19 pandemic will still prevent us from entering St Mary's Church throughout June. We will continue to share worship on Sundays through video links with the Vicarage and weekly details will appear on our Website

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

This month's church calendar

Sunday 7 June	TRINITY SUNDAY
Thursday 11 June	<i>The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)</i>
Sunday 14 June	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday 21 June	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sunday 28 June	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

As public houses and other hospitality has continued to be closed during the COVID 19 Emergency, Songs of Praise in the White Hart Garden on 14 June has been cancelled.

Meanwhile our thoughts are very much with Jemma and James as they wait on news from the government; and with other businesses in the parish which have been similarly constrained.



**UPTON CHEYNEY
United Reformed
Church**

**There are no
planned services
during June**





Church Community faces second month in Lockdown

For a second full month, no public acts of worship have been held in St Mary's Church, with services and other activities moving online.

One welcome change, however, was the permission given to record or live stream services from the church itself, which enabled a service of Holy Communion to be recorded by Richard Humphrey.

Thursday 21 May was Ascension Day which, in normal times, sees the 10 days that follow up to Pentecost being celebrated with events in the three churches of the benefice. This year, and as part of a global wave of prayer entitled THY KINGDOM COME in which the Archbishop of Canterbury invited people around the world to join members of the Ministry Team provided 10 to 15 minute videos online with appropriate thoughts and prayers.

Day 10 which was Pentecost Sunday saw the journey end with a service at which the preacher was the Archdeacon of Malmesbury, The Venerable Christopher Bryan.



Previous page: Richard Humphrey celebrates Holy Communion in a service recorded in St Mary's.

Top: The St Mary's Minstrels provided a range of topical music for the month- Natalie Morton, Jenny Harris, Liz Wilson and Jane Clapp.

Right: *Thy Kingdom Come*— Susie Bishop, Les Wilcox, David Bailey and the Vicar, Jeremy Andrew provided daily prayers.

Above: The Ven Christopher Bryan, Archdeacon of Malmesbury, preaches the sermon for Pentecost Sunday

Archaeological Work to start at St Mary's – but please keep away!



PLEASE KEEP OUT

The area to the right of the church, in this picture, will not be accessible while archaeological work is carried out.

Focal Point, June 2020

As part of the preliminary work and planning for the proposed re-ordering of the church, archaeological work will be taking place in June on the south side of the church. The south is the side that is not usually seen and is the same side as the church toilet.

Work should have begun in either April or May, but has been delayed as all construction work (including archaeology), other than essential maintenance on church buildings has been prohibited. Permission to proceed has now been granted but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at St. Mary's, in drawing up the arrangements under which work can proceed, have been very careful to adhere to the government and Church of England guidelines for safety and safeguarding. They are also seeking the co-operation of anyone visiting the church yard over the next few weeks.

The archaeologist will be working alone and will require access to the whole of the area to the south of the church including the toilet (which will continue to be unavailable for public use during this period). Barriers will be erected and notices will be displayed in the church yard, requesting people to keep away.

Work of this kind is usually very interesting and the PCC had planned for much greater community involvement in the work, which, sadly, is not possible. The archaeologist will, of course, be documenting and photographing the dig and any findings will be published in future editions of Focal Point.

Unfortunately, this work does not signal that the church buildings will be open soon for public prayer and worship but the PCC is working hopefully towards that day. It continues to follow Government and Church of England advice and remain in lockdown. Everyone is urged to avoid the site of the work which will be obvious through safety notices and barriers and in this way ensure the safety of contractors and the general public.

Susie Bishop:



The Rainbow is a Sign of God's Love and His Care

I've been thinking a lot about covenant. Probably something to do with all those brightly coloured rainbows around! Symbols of shared joy and hope, helping to lift our virus weary spirits.

The rainbow is also a biblical sign. A sign of God's love and continued care. However, in the face of suffering, loss and fear, it is all too easy to wonder where God is. To doubt his love and his care.

The 'problem of suffering' has been a very real stumbling block for many generations. Generations of both believers and non-believers. And the questions suffering raises will I'm sure will be with us for many more generations to come!

Suffering doesn't come with a list of helpful answers, with easy solutions or responses. That is, after all, part of the suffering! There are wonderings, and sometimes there are also perplexing silences from God.

And then inevitably there can come doubts, doubts that arise on the back of unanswered questions.

And yet!

The rainbow that reaches right across the skies is a symbol that has the ability to draw our attention upwards. Up and away from the events of our present circumstances to shine as a beacon of hope that there is something, someone, who is committed to us.



Stay Safe: The rainbow has become a symbol of hope and of thanks during the COVID 19 emergency. This one, on a path in the Piple Valley was created by Ava and Erin of Piple Bottom Farm

The rainbow can be a vivid reminder, that roots us back into the truth of God’s loving commitment and his covenant, to never leave us; to never forget about us. To always be with us, before, during, and also post sorrow and suffering.

Focal Point, June 2020

We need only to look back a couple of months, and remind ourselves of the Easter story, to see how deeply God is committed to sharing in our suffering. God didn't just create a rainbow in the sky to stretch out across the heavens. He chose also to stretch out his physical hands and suffer the depths of pain personally, embracing us in his sacrifice of love. But I don't think this came easily to Jesus, after all, he had laid aside his divinity to share in our humanity. Jesus asked many questions in prayer, unafraid to wrestle with God the Father!

He asked twice in the garden of Gethsemane if his cup of suffering could be taken from him. He, like us, would rather not suffer. He, like us, questioned why. As he wondered where God was, in the depths of his pain, crying out 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me?'

Like for so many of us, it would seem that Father God chose, at that time, to be silent; right at the point at which Jesus's suffering was most acute. Unlike the time when Jesus was baptised, there was no voice affirming and encouraging Jesus. There was no dove to show his presence. And yet into the silence of his lonely sojourn, Jesus does something remarkable, he shows us the depths of his trust; and the true nature of what unconditional love is.

Jesus does not receive the answer to his question. He does not receive the deleting or ending of his suffering. And yet, into the mysterious silence, he chooses to trust the mystery that is God. As he says, 'Into your hands I commit my spirit.'

Jesus showed us an alternative way to respond to suffering and silence. That instead of closing down towards God, there is another way. A way that turns us towards God, that teaches a letting go of our own hopeful desire for ease, and instead trusts our mysterious God, with our own, very real mysteries.

However, when we look again at Jesus and see what happens after committing his spirit to God, we must note, It is not all over! You've got it! Yet more tragedy! No grand immediate relief. But rather yet more silence, and even more darkness.



There is often a wait before the beginnings of hope. A waiting period before the beginnings of transformation ... and eventual resurrection.

Our present sufferings and darkness are hugely felt, in communities and countries around the globe. It is very real and very tangibly felt. Just as were the sufferings of Jesus. But, I truly believe that one day in the mysteries of time and in God's mysterious way there will be transformation, and indeed resurrection. This is, after all, God's covenantal way. Redeeming, rescuing and reviving his people!

May we dare to trust in God's often silent, but always covenantal, love!

St Mary's Matters

Time goes on and life continues to change.

As I write, lockdown is beginning to be eased but there is no sign that public buildings such as churches will be allowed to open anytime soon. Nevertheless, St Mary's is taking the opportunity to develop its online presence and it is likely that we will continue to develop this even after we are able to meet again for worship.

Although the website looks a little old-fashioned it has been an excellent way of communicating and it is clear that we will need to modernise and have an up-to-date and fresh-looking presence on the internet.

Jeremy has continued to develop ways of presenting worship online and the whole ministry team have been able to make use of this new-found medium. Richard has been able to record communion services and others on the team have been able to record sessions for "Thy Kingdom Come" – nine days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. These are developments which probably would never have taken place without the enforced lockdown we have endured.

Lockdown is indeed beginning to ease, and one consequence is that the archaeological dig needed before we proceed with any alterations to the church will now be able to take place – within strict social distancing guidelines. This is not an indication that the church will be opening soon, and the site will unfortunately have to be fully isolated from the public.

"Doing church online" is definitely not for everyone and meeting together for worship is a vital part of our church life together. I hope and pray it will not be too long before this is possible.



Pete Midgley



Bishop safely back in the saddle

Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon and keen cyclist, was back in the saddle in May, cycling 120 miles around the Bristol Diocese to raise money for Christian Aid Week – but this time from the safety of his garage.

In January, Bishop Lee was involved in a serious cycling accident, which broke his femur and required his replacement hip to be replaced again. Five hours of surgery were required followed by months of physiotherapy. Fortunately, cycling is a form of prescribed physiotherapy and using a stationary bike connected to a turbo trainer, he travelled a route virtually, through the diocese's seven deaneries and Bristol Cathedral, easily surpassing his target of £1000.

Since the accident, Bishop Lee has been overwhelmed by the messages of support. A letter he sent to all parishes is printed overleaf.

Bishop Lee's Letter

Dear friends, colleagues and sisters and brothers in Christ

I have been overwhelmed by the cards, letters and messages of support which I have received, and continue to receive, since my accident in January. It has made such a difference, knowing your care, kindness and prayers for me and for Liz.

My latest appointment and x-rays took place at the end of April. Yesterday I received a letter from the orthopaedic surgeon who saw me, confirming that I am now fit enough to return to ministerial duties. As some of you will know, I have been assisting the Bishop's Staff Team since the Covid-19 crisis took hold but have still been in rehabilitation mode.

The latest x-rays showed that my femur is in its correct anatomical position but that the bone is likely to take another three months or so for the break to fully heal. The surgeon said this is to be expected, and was very pleased with how I had recovered in terms of wound healing and movement, though I will need to continue working on the latter for a while yet.

I would have loved to have written more personally to each of you and your congregations but trust that what I have written here will convey how grateful I am to each of you. I feel very blessed to serve you as a Bishop.

In these days of journeying where the route and endings are still so unclear, perhaps these images from Israel's history will strengthen our faith and confidence:

May the One who led the people by the cloud in the daytime and pillar of fire by night, continue to guide and go before us in these days of change and uncertainty.

Yours, as ever

+Lee

Christian Aid Week 2020

Nicola Bennetts writes:

I know that a lot of people gave to Christian Aid Week but, this year, I have no way of knowing or publishing the total amount raised. Thank you to everyone who gave, thank you to those who told me they had given, and thank you to those who gift aided their donation. You've made a difference – not least to thwarting the spread of Covid-19.

If you meant to give but have not yet got round to doing so IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Give online

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation>

or by telephone 020 7523 2269 .

Mid-week groups

The evening Virtual House Groups continue to meet at 7.30 on Wednesday and on Thursday through Skype or Zoom.

We have postponed the series on the Parables of Jesus until September. The Wednesday Group uses the Wednesday evenings to exchange news and encourage each other. The Thursday Group add to this some Bible Studies from the Acts of the Apostles.

If you wish to join either group you will be very welcome. Please contact the hosts below and assistance will be available to bring you online.

Wednesdays at 7.30

Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122 kenandjillg@gmail.com

Thursdays at 7.30

Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898 petermidgley57@gmail.com

Get snapping—for this year's Photography Competition



Above—Last year's overall winner by Carolyn Russell



Left—Visitors to last year's fete view the entries

Focal Point, June 2020

The St Mary's Church Fete, Bitton due to take place on Saturday August 29th will once again include a Photography Competition, open to all. The photographs must be printed and be a maximum size of 200mm x 200mm, it must be your own work and been taken within the last two years. There are six categories (see below) and two sections, one for adults (entry fee of £1 per picture) and one for juniors under 16 (entry fee of 50p per picture). Colour or black and white photos accepted.

This year's categories are:

1. Bitton Scenes
2. Architecture
3. Animals/Wildlife
4. Life in lockdown
5. Weather
6. Holidays

Entries must be supplied in a sealed envelope together with the entry fee, your name, contact number, date the photo was taken and whether it's entered into the adult or junior section. Entries can be supplied directly to 2 Ceres Close, Longwell Green, BS30 9AR (by 6:30 pm on Friday August 21st at the latest).

It is proposed to hold the photography competition irrespective of whether the fete takes place or not.

All winning entries will be posted on the church website and a selection in the printed version of Focal Point.

David Harris



Jon and Pam Booth with three Union Flags, one of which belonged to Basil Guy VC. Martin Hetzel takes in the atmosphere at a suitable distance.

VE Day Commemorated— in spite of Lockdown

Although the planned festivities for the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day were put on hold, the event was nonetheless still celebrated in Bitton as elsewhere in the country. Lockdown and the constraints of social distancing meant that the event was much quieter, but ultimately more dignified with Union Flags unfurled and on display.

Some of the flags themselves had their own history. Pam Heyes proudly displayed 2 original VE day flags outside her house. She remembers VE Day when one was put on a tree outside her house and the other was pushed up the chimney to flutter. Marlene Gallop had a much cherished



Focal Point, June 2020

flag on display, that had belonged to Christopher, her late husband's family.

Undoubtedly the most historic and revered was that displayed by Jon Booth in Church Road. Jon displayed his grandfather's flag. His grandfather, Basil Guy, was only 18 when he took part in the navy's defence of the British and other Europeans in the Boxer Uprising in China in July 1900. In the attack on Tientsin city, Guy, then a young midshipman of only 18, showed remarkable courage in attempting to save the life of an injured seaman while under concentrated fire and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Eric Cooper, who was a teenager in May 1945 had a particular memory to share of the joy and relief that day. "We tore down all the black-out curtains from the windows and used them to light an enormous bonfire" he said.

Sarah Heavens



Jon & Pam Heyes. Jon's *Otter Stick* is exactly 2m long so effective in maintaining social distancing—you never know how useful such things can be!



Scenes from the commemorations:

Above— Outside the Feathers’ house in Church Road.

Left: The High Street where the Rayner talk (socially distanced) to their neighbours, Sam Papuca



Not just tea and sandwiches . Some people opted for more of a continental flavour to the day—*well, it was the liberation of Europe!*



**Dick
Honeywell:
Former St
Mary's
Organist and
Wartime
pilot
honoured on
VE Day
anniversary**



Saltford Support Hub made cakes and sandwiches and delivered them to 180 residents born 75 years or more ago to mark the anniversary of VE Day.

Saltford Community Association asked Cllr Phil Harding to present the first package, along with a bottle of whisky, to 96-year-old Richard Honeywell, who served as an RAF pilot during the Second World War.

Cllr Harding said: "I told him we would always be grateful to his generation for what they did. He was quite touched by the kindness shown to him by

the Saltford Support Hub and very grateful. Richard was piloting flying boats in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) on VE Day 75 years ago."

Richard, also known Dick, is well known in Bitton where he played the organ at St Mary's Church for more than 50 years.

Becky Feather



**Above: Cllr Phil Harding making the delivery (Photo by Pam Harding) .
Left: Dick at the St Mary's organ in 2013**

Acupuncture with Alison Pickering

(BSc LicAc MBAcC)

Five Element Acupuncture, Ayurveda treatments, Nutrition advice, Reiki

Please contact: Alison@theleafclinic.co.uk
Or text 07775 854341 to make an appointment

Covering Bath, Keynsham, Bitton, Kelston, North Stoke and surrounding areas

Fully insured through the BAoC



Graduated from the
College of Integrated Chinese Medicine,
one of the leading colleges in the country.



Soot n Sweep

For all your chimney sweeping needs

All types of chimneys flues &
AGAs swept and cleaned

Contact Nick Wilcox

07983 215312 or 0117 949 2258



NACS qualified & certificates issued



Absolutely Feet

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

Professional treatment of corns, callus, fungal
infections, painful or thickened nails, diabetic
foot care, nail trimming etc.

Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP

Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600

absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Bob Willis— Growing up in Hanham



Bob Willis has played a prominent part in the community both of the village and the church in Bitton. As part of a project to record personal experiences and memories of local life for the Bitton History Group, Stephanie Bailey recorded an interview with Bob Willis. In this extract, as Bob approaches his 86th birthday, he recalls his early life growing up in his father's shop in Hanham in the 1940s and early 50's.

"I was born in Hanham, in 15 High Street, which at the time was a newsagents' shop and is now a motor cycle repair shop and a rather rundown building now, unfortunately. My grandfather helped build it; he was a carpenter and my grandmother bought it afterwards because my grandfather wasn't given long to live. He did live well into his eighties, so that was his pension, effectively. Anyway, I was brought up in this newsagents' shop and because of that I got to know the other people living and working, running shops in Hanham.

At that point Hanham was quite a rural sort of area. It was considered to be well out into the country and as a teenager I used to go into Bristol to dances and so on a Saturday, and the girls would say "where do you live?" and I'd say "Hanham" and they'd say "Why do you live all the way out there in the wilds?" Of course, it's changed a lot now. In Longwell Green, where there were market gardens, there is the ring road and other housing, and the city has gradually spread out. I know that Kingswood Council (the old Kingswood Council before Avon) were very worried that Hanham and Kingswood and Bristol would all join up. The boundary was the old brook at the bottom of Bryants Hill. I think it's turned into a park now, but that was always the boundary, and Kingswood Council guarded that very carefully.

Until I got married, I lived in Hanham. In the 1940s and 50s, and indeed after, there were lots of shops: the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker. Only Goldings remains. Next to us was this newsagent confectioner which my grandmother started as a general store, open all hours, and then my father took it over, made it a bit more specialist as a newsagent and tobacconist and he had a big business.

We employed about 30 newspaper boys and very often I bump into someone who says "Remember how I used to do a paper round for your father". They did go on strike once, saying they weren't being paid enough, so my father settled it by sacking them all. It was settled by them going back when they realised they weren't going to get any money.

Employing paper boys wasn't an easy thing: they were unreliable, in wet weather they wouldn't turn up, they put the paper in the wrong house. I seemed to end up doing it myself; in fact, I knew most people in Hanham more by their house number than by their name. Then you had to get the



Bob with his mother and father in 1940

His father kept the shop at 15 High Street Hanham that his grandparents had started

money, and my Grandmother used to go round Monckton Avenue and Launceston Avenue collecting the money. Not that anyone was a bad payer, but it was a convenient place to drive as my grandfather had a car, a Rover. He bought it before the War, and it had been on a stand during the war, and when he tried the engine, it started first time! My grandmother kept the accounts meticulously, but as she had arthritis she sat in the car and told my grandfather how much was owed. This was often disputed, but my grandmother insisted. "You didn't pay, yes we did..."

You learned who to trust. There was petty pilfering, often from people who could afford to pay. We didn't do anything about it; a hard stare or

Focal Point, June 2020

shout but nothing more. We wouldn't go the police.

The Police Station was opposite the Maypole Pub at the corner of Tabernacle Road. There was one sergeant, I think Sergeant Walker, he did the patrolling for the whole of Hanham. I recall that there was a drunk whom he grabbed by the arm and pulled down Bryants Hill and left him there. He had pushed him into Bristol, where they could deal with him!

Working up the High Street, next to my father's newsagent there was Fricker, the greengrocer, and her husband had flat feet so never went into the army. He died young, and Mrs Fricker used to come in to our shop to use our coin-operated phone as there were no public phones. On occasions she rang Cosham Hospital saying she felt unwell, and was admitted for 2 weeks' convalescence. There was nothing wrong with her. She just wanted a break! She may have had some sort of insurance as it was before the NHS.

Next was Bateman's the milkman. The milk was in churns and from an aluminium scoop he would measure a pint of milk on your door step. Our bathroom was next to where he used to clean out the churns, and it made a dreadful clatter. They also sold confectionery, and we never did. My father said no as Bateman sold sweets. In those days you wouldn't infringe on someone else's product, unlike today. They sold the sweets and chocolates, and were upset when others started. They were the milkmen, but there was another one at the top of Conham Hill, Hartnell, a vague relation of my mother. Trouble was, he was so slow. You didn't know whether he was delivering today's milk late or tomorrow's early. He'd be delivering at midnight.

We rented next door as a garden centre. I'd read in a magazine about garden centres, an American magazine. We also sold dog biscuits, poultry food, parrot food, cat food, any pet food, seed potatoes. Behind the shop the big building where we stored everything is still there. The garden centre didn't go very well; in August no-one bothered with growing, and in the winter it was dead. We did this at the same time as the shop, open at 5.00am and closing late. We went to get the newspapers from Temple Meads off the train so people could get the paper on their way to work. I'd got married by then and Ann was helping in the shop. We had to close on a Wednesday afternoon, and all you could sell then was newspapers and I think toilet rolls! At 3.00pm you had to go back to sell papers, and sort the



Bob in younger days

paperboys.

I got fed up with the shop, and got a job selling animal feed in Somerset. My father carried on although my mother wanted to sell. My father told me he dreaded old age and poverty as he remembered the 1930s. There was no pension, so he wouldn't sell. But South Glos decided to put the ring road and put compulsory purchase on the shop where there was a roundabout planned. That was a good thing as my mother became ill with lung cancer, and he sold in 1972. They went on one or two cruises and he died in 1991. Ann and I used to look after the shop while they went



Willis' Shop in Hanham—now a motorcycle repair shop

away. They had taken holidays but not together. I remember going to Switzerland on different occasions with each of them. For all the hard work my mother had put in she did not benefit. I think that as my father was a heavy smoker she may have suffered from passive smoking. He used to blow smoke rings for me.”

Bob has recently moved to a nursing home, but the recording of his memories was made some months ago before lockdown. Thanks to Ann Willis for the photographs.

News from Bitton WI

It does not seem a month ago that I was writing that there was no news to report from Bitton WI. I am in isolation on my own, as I expect many of you are, and when I get up in the in the morning I wonder how I am going to fill my day, but with keeping in touch with people by way of the telephone or iPad, watching television, doing jigsaw puzzles and my hobby of knitting, I find before I know it, it is time to go to bed. I have enjoyed watching the VE Day celebrations on television, unfortunately we did not have a street party, but I expect many of you enjoyed the celebrations, whilst social distancing.

At the moment because there is no WI news Jean thought it may be a good idea to include a recipe for you to try whilst on lockdown. Most of you know that I am not a cook, so I have Mary Smale(a really good cook) to thank for this recipe. Mary's recipe is a Hot Trifle, as although there is not much cooking involved, it is a talking point.

Hot Trifle

Ingredients

1 swiss roll
1 tin of apricots
custard powder
1 pint of milk
sugar
2 eggs

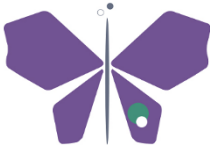
Method

Layer the sliced swiss roll in an oven proof bowl, pour some of the apricot juice over the Swiss roll, tip the rest away, then put the apricots on top of the Swiss roll. Make up a pint of custard including the 2 egg yolks, reserving the whites for the meringue, pour the egg custard over the apricots. Now make the meringue using the egg whites and sugar, place over the cool custard and bake in a cool oven until meringue is crisp. Serve warm with cream, it is delicious!

I hope a lot of you will try this recipe and enjoy eating it. I hope you will all stay safe until we can meet again.

Lyn Coles





collingwood
care home for the elderly

“Home from home”

Our new bedrooms have underfloor heating, large fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower rooms

Make an appointment with Wendy or Lizzy and they will be delighted to show you round

Collingwood Care Home
78A, Bath Road
Longwell Green
BS30 9DG

0117 932 4527

www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk

Just **KIM**
*Unisex Hairdressing with
Beauty Room & Solarium*

*188 High Street
Oldland Common
Bristol
BS30 9QQ*

Tel: 0117 932 3539



Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Timber Claddings
- Fast Local Delivery Service, or collect from our yard

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:
9.00am - 12.00pm

www.bendreybros.co.uk

☎ 0117 9674382

The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgegate, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW



Nathan Ugoji
Rubbish & Removals
07468 382 143

Bristol, Bath
& surrounding
areas

Environment
Agency
licensed

May's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about colours or shades. The correct answers are:

1. Amber; 2. Blood; 3. Blue; 4. Blush; 5. Burgundy; 6. Cobalt;
7. Cream; 8. Denim; 9. Flamingo; 10. Fuchsia; 11. Indigo; 12.
Magenta; 13. Mint; 14. Mustard; 15. Navy; 16. Olive;
17. Orange; 18. Peacock; 19. Ruby; 20. Salmon

Correct answers were received from Ken & Jill Gibson,
Jan Wookey & Diane Stinchcombe.

This month's winners are Jan Wookey & Diane Stinchcombe.

The June Quiz

This months quiz concerns words that start with a silent letter e.g. The joint where the leg bends (K) Knee

No. Clue

1. A walkway in a Theatre, Church or Train (A)
2. A written order from a court enforcing certain action (W)
3. Pen name used by an author (P)
4. A fragrant resin used in perfumes (B)
5. Title of a Russian Emperor (C)
6. A legendary small creature supposed to guard treasures (G)
7. Work a dough in bread making (K)
8. A pattern of words that helps in remembering something (M)
9. A position where the body is supported by the joint in the middle of the leg (K)
10. Adjustable tool used for gripping and turning nuts and bolts (W)
11. An arrangement of flowers or leaves used for decoration (W)
12. Lung inflammation caused by infection (P)
13. Where the hand meets the arm (W)
14. A sacred song or hymn (P)
15. The science of the mind and behaviour (P)
16. To bite or chew on something (G)
17. A circular flour based bread substitute used as an alternative to a sandwich (W)
18. The act of making pen marks on paper (W)
19. Generally unwanted, lines on a face (W)
20. To quarrel noisily or angrily (W)

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email mrscussell@icloud.com by 15 June



Based in Keynsham

Fully trained and registered member of the
Guild of Master Chimney Sweeps

Contact Hugh on 0117 9868936
or 07824 508758
www.bristlesweep.co.uk



Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience
plumbing in the local area



RJ PEARCE PLUMBING
PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

Available for
general plumbing
and repairs

Tel: 07814 607974

Email: robsuep@btinternet.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647

The last word

With the start of June, we enter our third full month living under more restriction than has been seen in peacetime for many centuries. For a second month, this magazine is being produced solely in electronic form and distributed either directly or through the church website. It seems likely that will be the position for the next edition too.



Reading on screen, whether on a pc or a tablet is different experience than a printed magazine, and while I have continued to use the templates and format for a printed version, I have tried to bear in mind that people are now reading the magazine in different ways and have made attempts to make it more easy to follow while scrolling, avoiding references to photographs on “the opposite page” and increasing the use of colour.

What had concerned me was that with so many events being cancelled or postponed there would be little to include this time, so I am grateful to all contributors.

These remain very difficult times with a growing realisation that it will take a very long time for things to return to what might be described as normal. Every day we hear sad stories about people who have been directly affected by the pandemic and others who have been left in difficult circumstances through the constraints on business activity. While for some the good weather and restrictions on movement have been minor inconveniences for many of us, for others the effects of the present emergency have been, or have the potential to be, devastating.

If there is one thing, however, I have noticed, it is that people have become more considerate of each other. Whether it is the cheery greetings your receive when passing (at a distance) on the street, or the people who have volunteered to make supplies for the NHS or provide support and care for others, something seems to have shifted for the good. If nothing else, let us hope that such a spirit continues.

Jim Heavens



- Design and build
- Building Maintenance
- Renovation
- Refurbishment
- Roofing

K P Wilton & Son Ltd

11/12 Brighton Place, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QY

Tel: 0117 967 1207

Email: info@kpwilton.co.uk



ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

2 Cossham Street, Mangotsfield BS16 9EN (0117) 9562834

We are at your service 24 hours a day

We will help and guide you every step of the way

We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans

We can help and advise you choose a memorial

We are members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051

TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774

Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188

R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954

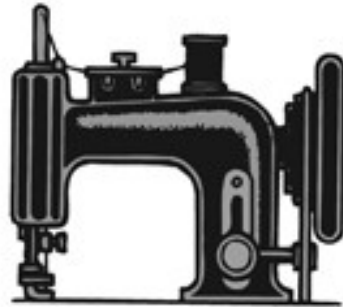
R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039

R. Davies & Son - Bishopsworth (0117) 9641133

Whitchurch FS - Whitchurch (01275) 833441

Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company

Parker's Sewing Services



Clothing alteration
and repairs

Soft furnishings

Specialist projects
and commissions
undertaken

Telephone Lizzie : 0117 9326662

Mobile : 07837126945

Email : parkerssewingservices@yahoo.co.uk

Steve Painter Decorating Services

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- ❖ Traditionally trained
- ❖ Quality workmanship
- ❖ Paperhanging specialists
- ❖ Friendly and reliable
- ❖ Competitively priced
- ❖ No VAT added

Contact Steve on 07853 250035

or 0117 956 5190

M.C AUTO REPAIRS

★MOTs ★SERVICING

★CLASSES 4 + 5 + 7

★REPAIRS ★WELDING

★BODYWORK

Telephone: 0117 947 7405

Unit 4d Kingsfield Lane

Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 6DL

NORTON TAX SHOPS LTD

ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS

Are you.... Self Employed?
A Company Director?
A Landlord?
An Investor?

Then we can help!

We offer: Accurate high quality work
Competitive fees
Up to date advice
Friendly qualified staff
Local offices in Keynsham & Kingswood
Help to reduce paperwork
Help with 'Making Tax Digital'

Please call us on **0117 9860960** to arrange a free appointment.



Website: www.nortontaxshops.co.uk

Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686