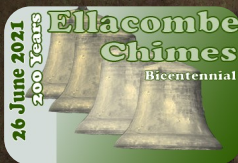


Focal Point

July 2020



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bi-centennial
celebration of
Ellacombe's Chimes
in 2021



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Focal Point

July 2020

Cover photograph—
Portrait of Rev H T
Ellacombe from the
Chancel of St Mary's.

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magazine is:*

Friday 17 July 2020

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Ellacombe's Chimes sound around the world next June



**Rev H T Ellacombe in
1817, the year he arrived
in Bitton, aged 27, with a
mission to reform**

When the Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe arrived as the new curate in Bitton in 1817, he was appalled at the behaviour of the church bellringers. He already had a low opinion of bellringers, but he particularly took against those in Bitton who, he complained, were drunk, failed to attend the church services and would ring the bells for no good reason and often at

the whim of those who had paid them. Not least, there appear to have been two rival teams of ringers in Bitton who would try to outdo each other.

It took him a few years to gain control, but in the end his knowledge of bells and his engineering skills enabled him to outwit the ringers, seizing control of the keys to the ringing chamber and installing, with the help of a Mr Watts, a chiming device. Through a system of ropes and pulleys, this apparatus could be operated by one person from the church porch.

Not only does this apparatus remain in use at Bitton, but devices based on his design were installed in many churches in Britain and around the world, some of which remain in use to this day.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the installation of the chimes, a major event is planned in Bitton on Saturday 26 June 2021, when Ellacombe Chimes will be rung around the world at 12 noon in the time zone where they are located.

Focal Point, July 2020

Starting at noon in Timaru, in New Zealand, (1am in Bitton) over the next 17 hours, bells will be chiming at noon local time in each of the major time zones, working their way across the world and arriving at their birthplace at Bitton, at 12:00 BST on Saturday 26th June. The event will then cross the Atlantic and be heard across the Americas finishing in Vancouver, on the west coast of Canada.



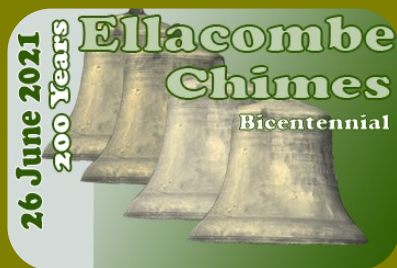
The Sacred Heart Basilica in Timaru, New Zealand, where the chiming will begin

All forms of chiming, with carillons or full-circle towers will also be participating in this celebration of Ellacombe's contribution to the world's bellringing heritage. In Bitton, it is hoped to have a live stream of the ringing as well as a special performance based on the Ellacombe Chimes.

It is clearly a date not to be missed and after the restrictions on public activities in 2020, we hope that the event will be able to attract a wide degree of interest from around the world.

The event is being organised jointly by the church and the Bitton History Group under Mike Gates. who has been in contact with a number of highly committed Ellacombe Chimes enthusiasts and is contacting churches which are identified as having these chimes.

**A date for your
diary—
Saturday 26
June 2021**



Why are the Chimes Special?



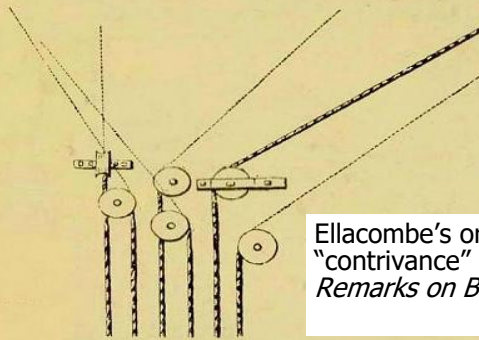
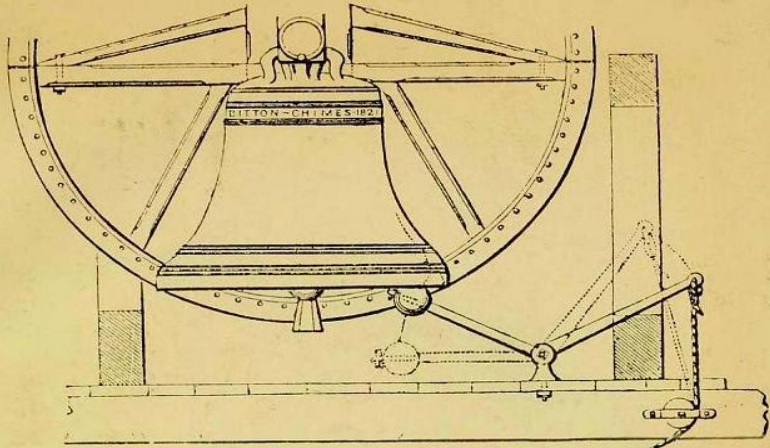
The chiming apparatus in the church porch

Standing rather innocuously in the corner of the porch in St Mary's Church, is the visible part of the ringing apparatus designed by the Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe for the chiming of bells. The Ellacombe apparatus was devised for performing the English tradition of change ringing on church bells, but by striking stationary bells with hammers.

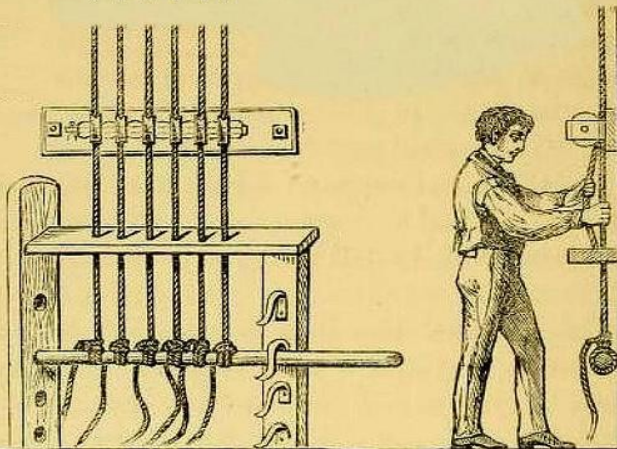
It requires only one person to operate, unlike the traditional method, where the bells are rotated through over 360 degrees (full circle ringing) to sound them and one person is needed for each bell. Instead, the bells are kept static (or "hung dead") and a hammer is struck against the inside of the bell. Each hammer is connected by a rope to a fixed frame in the bell-ringing room. When in use, the ropes are taut and pulling one of the ropes towards the player will strike the hammer against the bell. To enable full circle ringing to also take place in the same tower, the Ellacombe Chimes' ropes must be slackened, to allow the hammers to drop away from the moving bells. In reality, it was a poor substitute for full change ringing but gained popularity in many parts of the British Empire where churches were established but few had the ability or even the resilience to perform the traditional form of ringing.

Ellacombe's apparatus also differed from the "Carillion" chimes popular in many parts of Europe where the tradition is to mark out tunes on smaller bells rather than to change ring.

Nevertheless they proved popular in the nineteenth century and were installed in many churches in Britain including Bath Abbey. Ellacombe could also be described as the first scholarly campanologist. His *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, first published in 1849, drew on his experience of reforming bellringing at Bitton.



Ellacombe's original "contrivance" as published in *Remarks on Belfies and Ringers*



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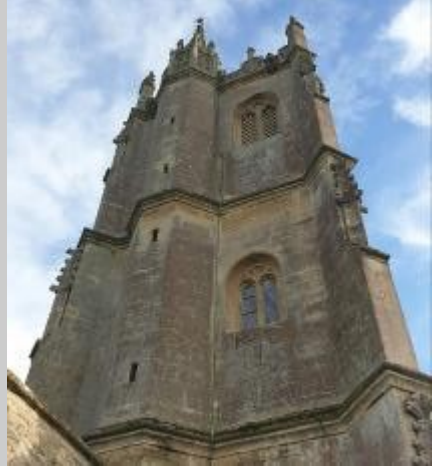
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Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
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Ordained ministers:

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 July

Following changes to Government regulations for the COVID-19 Emergency, public church services may recommence from 5 July. While we plan to start church services as soon as possible we need to make sure they can take place safely and allow social distancing to be managed through proper risk assessments. We will continue to share worship on Sundays through video links and notices for any services will appear on our Website

This month's church calendar

Saturday 3 July

St Thomas the Apostle

Sunday 4 July

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 11 July

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 18 July

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Wednesday 22 July

Mary Magdalene

Sunday 25 July

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sr James the Apostle



**UPTON CHEYNEY
United Reformed
Church**

**There are no
planned services
during July**





Church reopens for private prayer

While no public acts of worship have been held in St Mary's Church, restrictions were relaxed during June to allow limited access for private prayer on Saturday mornings only between 10.30 and 12.00.

Published guidance requires the church to maintain social distancing and only 6 people have been allowed in church at any one time for 15 minutes each. The Lady chapel has been used for this and no other part of the church has been opened, with a one-way system in place to ensure a flow of people. All those accessing the church are being asked to wash their hands as they enter and leave the church. Unfortunately, there is no access to toilet facilities.

Meanwhile other services and activities have continued online with a benefice Sunday service conducted by the Vicar and a midweek service by Richard Humphrey and house groups have met on zoom. Music has also been provided by the St Mary's Minstrels circulated on YouTube.



TRINITY SUNDAY

Main photograph—Jeremy celebrates Holy Communion in an online service from St Barnabas, Warmley, assisted by (top left) Stephanie Bailey. The service also had some live organ music.

Below—Richard Humphrey in a midweek communion service recorded at St Mary's



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

News from Upton Cheyney URC

The Flora and Fauna of Upton Chapel

At the chapel we have become used to lovely bright flowers, some in the quiet garden and some in the graveyard.

We also have regular guest appearances from deer, badgers, foxes, moles and even the odd hare that has wandered down from up Lansdown Lane. However since the chapel has been closed we have noticed several differences. The combination of scorching sun and rain storms have enabled the plants to become a little swamped with weeds and wild flowers. In practice, now they are in flower



Stuart Turner

they are providing a wonderful and colourful back drop. We have also noticed that the number of people visiting the graveyard has significantly increased as well. Despite this there are still fewer people around than normal. That has encouraged the wildlife to spend more time at the chapel. Even the delivery of two tons of top soil to smooth the entrance at the bottom of the ramp doesn't seem to have fazed them. And right now its a stunning view over the valley especially as the sun sets in the West.

Inside the chapel the wildlife has been equally active. I have never seen so many harvest spiders and their webs. That's one reason we have decided not to consider opening the chapel for another month. We conducted a quick risk assessment and with majority of people over seventy and several shielding we decided to wait. Its too risky plus the increased amount of regular cleaning load on fewer people isn't fair. And finally most of the preachers we invite are over seventy themselves. They would feel honour bound to come but we feel we can't ask them yet. So we will look at this again later in July to see whether August opening is a realistic option.

In the meantime we are keeping in touch with one another to ensure everyone remains as safe as possible. And that's our message to you as well. We are thinking of you and hope you all keep safe.

Archaeology Update

Thank you to all those who overcame their curiosity to leave the archaeology on the south side of St Mary's undisturbed. More information will be published in later editions, but initial indications are that the dig has been useful not least in that most of the area seems to have been undisturbed for some centuries and has revealed a rich treasure of artefacts though no real treasure that might actually fund developments—at least not yet.

Most fascinating was the revelation that the foundations of the wall sit on stones fashioned in the Roman era.

Further work is likely so please keep clear for the time being.

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JOYCE SELMAN

Readers will be saddened to learn that Joyce Selman of Knights Folly Farm died on 22 June. Joyce had been unwell for some time.

Our thoughts, sympathy and prayers are with David, Victor and Hartley and all the family.

Joyce's funeral will take place at St Mary's on 7th July, but due to Coronavirus restrictions will be limited to family members only, by invitation. Opportunities are being made for these who knew Joyce to pay their respects from the Glebe Field.

CAROL BRYANT

We have also learned of the death of Carol Bryant. Carol often attended services at St Mary's. Carol was very generous and gave her time & resources to the poor & homeless.

Carol died from ovarian cancer in May and leaves 2 daughters, Angela ('Ange') and Jenny, and 4 grandchildren, all living locally. Please keep Ange, Jenny and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



Carol's funeral was held at Westerleigh Crematorium on 15th June.

Vicar's Letter

**“This Lime -
Tree Bower,
My
Prison”**



Dear Friends,

The COVID -19 pandemic has given us all a little more time to ponder. For me it has ignited a dormant but not forgotten interest in poetry and the way that this form of communication can speak to us in a different way and at a deeper level. I have been delighted to rediscover remembered poems that in the light of present circumstances have much to offer us in reflection. As Christians we should not be surprised at this, as much of the Bible is written in the form of poetry and much can be interpreted in this way. (E.g. The seven days of creation in Genesis 1 and 2. For a brilliant and fascinating exposition of this have a look at Rob Bell's You Tube video which you can find here https://youtu.be/i2rklwkm_dQ).

I could write pages about different poems but perhaps my first choice of a poem during lockdown would be 'This Lime - Tree Bower, My Prison', written in 1797 by Samuel Taylor Coleridge as a response to his own personal lockdown after he suffered an accident. The accident is made little of in my copy of his collected poems but in reality, it was quite serious, his wife spilling a skillet of boiling milk on his foot which rendered him disabled and in pain for some time.



Samuel Taylor Coleridge by Peter Vandyke, painted in 1795 , two years before he wrote the Lime Tree poem, which is printed in full on the following pages.

Or click on the link to listen to Sir Ralph Richardson read it aloud <https://youtu.be/Xlmb6sVP72s>

It is clear from the poem that Coleridge is used to walking in his locality and familiar with the details of the surrounding countryside as he sends his visiting friends out walking and suggests what to look out for. The poem is then his response, as all poems are, to his present predicament, his imprisonment in the lime- tree bower due to his accident, his lamenting of the situation and eventually the realisation of the beauty and joy he can feel by being present here and now in this moment and this place. Paying attention and being present here and now rather than concerning ourselves with the past and what might have been, can, like Coleridge, help us to live with gratitude for what we have rather than concern for what is out of reach.

As I have been reading the poem again in recent days its phrases echo uncannily my thoughts and what I have been saying to others as I have responded to my own imprisonment because of Covid-19. I too have 'lost beauties and feelings, such as would have been most sweet to my remembrance'. That is to say I had plans, different plans, during these last three months that will now not be completed. There are people who very sadly, 'I never more may meet again' and was not able to be present at their final farewell. As Coleridge urges his friends to press on in their walk, he voices our own longing for freedom and to 'emerge beneath the wide, wide heaven and view again the many steeped tract magnificent of hilly fields and meadows and the sea...'

And then, the realisation of what has been good and positive and even preferable in Lockdown, the opportunity to reflect, to pause and actually see and notice our environment and most of all for me, the pleasure of every day and yet profound glories of the creation that is around us. 'Pale beneath the blaze hung the transparent foliage; and I watched some broad and sunny leaf and loved to see the shadow of the leaf and stem above dappling its sunshine.' These have been the music of life against the background of the dissonance of all that COVID -19 has brought. This is surely the abundance of a life that Jesus promises us against the backdrop of worldly cares, and I have to agree with Coleridge that 'no sound is dissonant that speaks of [that] life'.

With thoughts and prayers

Jeremy

This Lime Tree Bower My Prison

Well, they are gone, and here must I remain,
This lime-tree bower my prison! I have lost
Beauties and feelings, such as would have been
Most sweet to my remembrance even when age
Had dimm'd mine eyes to blindness!
They, meanwhile,
Friends, whom I never more may meet again,
On springy heath, along the hill-top edge,
Wander in gladness, and wind down, perchance,
To that still roaring dell, of which I told;
The roaring dell, o'erwooded, narrow, deep,
And only speckled by the mid-day sun;
Where its slim trunk the ash from rock to rock
Flings arching like a bridge;--that branchless ash,
Unsun'd and damp, whose few poor yellow leaves
Ne'er tremble in the gale, yet tremble still,
Fann'd by the water-fall! and there my friends
Behold the dark green file of long lank weeds,
That all at once (a most fantastic sight!)
Still nod and drip beneath the dripping edge
Of the blue clay-stone.

Now, my friends emerge
Beneath the wide wide Heaven--and view again
The many-steepled tract magnificent
Of hilly fields and meadows, and the sea,
With some fair bark, perhaps, whose sails light up
The slip of smooth clear blue betwixt two Isles
Of purple shadow! Yes! they wander on
In gladness all; but thou, methinks, most glad,
My gentle-hearted Charles! for thou hast pined
And hunger'd after Nature, many a year,
In the great City pent, winning thy way
With sad yet patient soul, through evil and pain
And strange calamity! Ah! slowly sink
Behind the western ridge, thou glorious Sun!
Shine in the slant beams of the sinking orb,
Ye purple heath-flowers! richlier burn, ye clouds!
Live in the yellow light, ye distant groves!

And kindle, thou blue Ocean! So my friend
Struck with deep joy may stand, as I have stood,
Silent with swimming sense; yea, gazing round
On the wide landscape, gaze till all doth seem
Less gross than bodily; and of such hues
As veil the Almighty Spirit, when yet he makes
Spirits perceive his presence.

A delight

Comes sudden on my heart, and I am glad
As I myself were there! Nor in this bower,
This little lime-tree bower, have I not mark'd
Much that has sooth'd me. Pale beneath the blaze
Hung the transparent foliage; and I watch'd
Some broad and sunny leaf, and lov'd to see
The shadow of the leaf and stem above
Dappling its sunshine! And that walnut-tree
Was richly ting'd, and a deep radiance lay
Full on the ancient ivy, which usurps
Those fronting elms, and now, with blackest mass
Makes their dark branches gleam a lighter hue
Through the late twilight: and though now the bat
Wheels silent by, and not a swallow twitters,
Yet still the solitary humble-bee
Sings in the bean-flower! Henceforth I shall know
That Nature ne'er deserts the wise and pure;
No plot so narrow, be but Nature there,
No waste so vacant, but may well employ
Each faculty of sense, and keep the heart
Awake to Love and Beauty! and sometimes
'Tis well to be bereft of promis'd good,
That we may lift the soul, and contemplate
With lively joy the joys we cannot share.
My gentle-hearted Charles! when the last rook
Beat its straight path along the dusky air
Homewards, I blest it! deeming its black wing
(Now a dim speck, now vanishing in light)
Had cross'd the mighty Orb's dilated glory,
While thou stood'st gazing; or, when all was still,
Flew creaking o'er thy head, and had a charm
For thee, my gentle-hearted Charles, to whom
No sound is dissonant which tells of Life.



Bristol Diocese

Bishop speaks out on Racial Justice and the Work to be Done

Following the publicity given to the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol during the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests, last month, the Bishop of Bristol, Rt Rev Vivienne Faull, made the following statement:

Alongside our response to COVID-19 and the easing of the lockdown we have seen a crying out for racial justice across the world. The Black Lives Matter protests locally in Swindon and nationally had a particular focus in Bristol when on 7th June the 19th century statue of Edward Colston was toppled.

As many of you will be aware, on 8 June I made a series of public commitments as Bishop of Bristol highlighting what I think we need to do in Bristol Diocese to tackle racial injustice, namely:

Focal Point, July 2020

- Acknowledge and repent of the Church's past involvement in and benefit from the slave trade;
- Challenge and address institutional racism, listening to and learning from the experiences of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people;
- Recruit and support more Black, Asian and minority ethnic clergy, staff and volunteers;
- Make our churches truly welcoming to everyone, taking responsibility for the need for profound cultural change in our Church.
- Work with others in the Diocese of Bristol and the Church of England to bring these things about

Our record in this area in the Church of England is not good and I begin by acknowledging past failures in this Diocese to implement Church of England initiatives requiring us to make changes. This has simply not been a priority. For me, racial justice (alongside care for our planet and care for those who are poor) goes to the very heart of the gospel. Jesus died on the cross for all. If we limit God's love, fail to be a church for everyone, we betray the gospel. It is that simple.

So, I want you to know that working for racial justice is at the very top of my agenda, and that of my Staff Team. We will move quickly where we can (for example appointing a Bishop's Advisor for Racial Justice, embedding unconscious bias training, working hard to increase the diversity of our clergy and staff teams). You will have seen some of the changes made already with the removal of 19th century references to Colston at Bristol Cathedral and St Mary Redcliffe.

But this is a long-term commitment in which we will need to look more carefully at our history, admit our past failures, and examine ourselves individually and institutionally in a spirit of repentance, trusting in God's forgiveness and promise of new life in Christ who draws all people to himself. I will share further and more detailed plans when we have them.

The changes which are happening are deeply unsettling to many. I am committed to listening to all voices and communities, especially those on the margins of society or who are feeling ignored.

Local History from a Different Perspective

While there have been no meetings, members of the Bitton History Group have been well supplied with regular articles on local history. In June, due to recent events, two articles looked directly at the local contribution to the slave trade.

Brass Making

In the eighteenth century, the Avon Valley was the centre of Britain's brass manufacturing. The Mill at Saltford still survives as a museum and derelict mill buildings can also still be seen on the river close to Kelston.

While most of the brassware was used domestically, it was also traded on the west coast of Africa for slaves, who were sent to the Americas or the Caribbean and grew the tobacco and other products that was sent back to Bristol in the notorious triangle of trade. (The mill and its part in the slave trade was also featured in the BBC series Civilizations Stories:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b19v6v>

Hat Making

Hat Making was an important industry locally, particularly in Oldland Common where over half of the population were involved in hat making. Hats made in Oldland were often exported many of them going directly as hats or caps for slaves, although a significant amount were bartered for human cargo in West Africa.



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~~Closed~~ Bitton Open Gardens



It is a tradition of only a few years but each June for the past ten years, Open Gardens in Bitton has been a eagerly anticipated event. Unfortunately, Coronavirus meant that the event had to be cancelled, this year. To compensate, the Gardening Club put photographs of the gardens that would have opened on line—and very beautiful they were too. Looking forward to June 2021 and a return to more normal times.

Thank you to all those who made such an effort but whose gardens, this year will only appear on screen.

(Photo above of the garden at Church Farm)

Fete cancelled due to Coronavirus



The fete usually attracts a large crowd, which would make social distancing impossible to manage. Please support the church by organising your own tea party on the bank holiday weekend. You don't have to serve tea— other drinks may be available!

Although planning has taken place, it has now been decided that it will not be possible to hold the St Mary's Church Fête in 2020. The Fête Committee had hoped that by the end of August restrictions would have been lifted sufficiently to allow the event to go ahead, but without a clear decision by the end of June, it is not possible to organise the event this year.

By its nature, the Fête aims to collect a large crowd and the Committee felt they would not be able to regulate the event even with the reduced distancing. Bitton has been blessed with a low incidence of the pandemic and holding the fete would create significant risk.

Nevertheless, the Committee do hope with your support to raise money for St Mary's by staging various events on Saturday 29 August, when the fete should have taken place.

1. The Photographic Competition

The Photographic Competition will go ahead, as planned. Details were published in the June Focal Point and are set out again overleaf and on the website stmarysbitton.org.uk . We hope to be able to display the photographs in the church hall for viewing over the Bank Holiday weekend in a managed way according to the safety regulations at that time.

2. The Summer Draw

The popular raffle that is drawn at the Fête will take place as usual and it is hoped that as there will be less spending at the Fête itself there will be generous support. Tickets will be £1 and available in books of 5. The top prize is a *Merry Heifer Hamper* from the Bath Soft Cheese Company of Kelston. The hamper contains not only their award winning cheeses but cider and a range of scrumptious delights.

Please let Barbara Merritt know on barbaramerritt49@talktalk.net or 0117 932 3926 how many books you would like for selling to yourself and your friends?

3. Organise a Fête Tea Party

On the afternoon of the 29th August when we were all meant to be meeting our friends at the Fête, we are hoping that a series of private tea parties can be held around the village. Hosts will invite their own guests with a donation of £5 each or whatever the guest chooses. If you are willing to host such a tea party can you please let Sarah Heavens know on bathprint@aol.com 0117 932 5376 and further details will be sent to you.

The Committee are really keen to keep community spirit of the Fête going this year and into the future despite world events and all help in doing this is much appreciated.

Keep snapping—for this year's Photography Competition



Clockwise from top left, some of the many varied winners from last year's competition:



Architecture 1st prize, Andrew Harris;
Bitton Scenes 2nd prize, Kandeepan;
the photographs on display at last year's fete;
and **Food**—Junior 1st prize, April Russell.

Focal Point, July 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).

The photography competition is taking place even though this year's fete has now sadly been cancelled.

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

David Harris

News from Bitton WI

It does not seem a month ago that I was writing that there was no news from Bitton WI. I have now been in self isolation for 12 weeks and I honestly do not know where the time has gone.

I am not sure who received Ros's email, so I am sorry if members have already received this information. The speakers up to, and including September have been cancelled, and hopefully rebooked for 2021. We have to wait for government directions as to when we can resume meetings, because it will be difficult to social distance in the church hall.

We have had to cancel the Christmas meal at a local restaurant as this was booked for the same day as the carol service at St Mary Redcliffe, we do not know at the present time if this will now take place.

Many of you know that Bitton WI should have hosted the group meetings during 2020, this will now be postponed until 2021, when hopefully the situation will have improved. We will have some enjoyable meetings to look forward to, so please keep your tickets.

This months recipe comes from Sheila Jennings another good cook, unlike me.

Cornish Fairings

4oz flour

Pinch of salt

1 level teaspoon of baking powder

1 level teaspoon bicarbonate soda

1 level teaspoon ground ginger

2oz butter

2oz sugar

3 tablespoons golden syrup

Melt golden syrup and butter until slightly warm, add dry ingredients, mix well then form into small balls, using a teaspoon. Place the small balls onto a greased baking sheet 4 inches apart, bake at 200 degrees centigrade for 8 minutes. When cooked remove from baking sheet and place on a rack to cool, you should have 15-16 delicious biscuits.

Focal Point, July 2020

I hope you will enjoy the biscuits and thank you Sheila. If anyone has a favourite recipe they would like to share please email me on Lyn.coles@blossomhill.co.uk, until next month stay safe and well.

Lyn Coles



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June's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about words that start with a silent letter. The correct answers are:

1. Aisle; 2. Writ; 3. Pseudonym; 4. Bdelium; 5. Czar; 6. Gnome; 7. Knead; 8. Mnemonic; 9. Kneel; 10. Wrench; 11. Wreath; 12. Pneumonia; 13. Wrist; 14. Psalm; 15. Psychology; 16. Gnaw; 17. Wrap; 18. Write / Writing; 19. Wrinkles; 20. Wrangle.

Correct answers were received from:

Jill & Ken Gibson, Sue & Alan Murtagh, Pam & Jon Booth and Jan & Diane

This month's winners are Jill & Ken Gibson

Very close with 19/20 correct answers were received from:

Anne Burmester and Sue & Rod Nethercote

The July Quiz

This month's quiz is about fruits.

No. Clue

1. Full of red seeds (P 11)
2. From the Myrtle family (G 5)
3. This took it's name from the colour (O 6)
4. An extra person with a couple (G 10)
5. Very smelly fruit, banned from many hotels in the far east (D 6)
6. Large tropical tree produce (J 9)
7. Used to make a very popular alcoholic beverage (G 5)
8. Heavy fruit with black seeds (W 10)
9. Fleshy drupe from trees and bushes of the genus Prunus (C 6)
10. Juicy stone fruit, native to South Asia (M 5)
11. Long curved fruit with yellow poisonous skins (B 6)
12. Even one of these sounds like two (P 4)
13. Little Jack had one of these (P 4)
14. Older than other types of berry (E 10)
15. Orange fleshed fruit (P 6)
16. Often turned into jelly (Q 6)
17. Large, sour citrus (G 10)
18. Small, fuzzy, brown fruit (K 4)
19. Small, sour, purple plum (D 6)
20. Each fruit is the product of over 100 flowers which join into the large, compact multiple fruit (P 9)

Name:

Contact:

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



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The last word

Reflection then change?

The experience of the last 100 days of lockdown will be well remembered. Whether we return to “normal” (by which it is meant things are very much as before) or emerge with changed values and priorities is yet to be seen; but I expect it will be something of both. People seem to have become more reflective and more caring about others, expressing a level of courtesy and consideration and we have seen how much we rely on those who provide health, social and essential services.



It has also been the first time for most people that they have faced a disease that is very contagious but which medicine cannot easily treat. It has exposed the fragility of life and how our wellbeing and wealth (or lack of it) are so closely connected. It is therefore, perhaps, not surprising that this time has heard voices raised about equality through the Black Lives Matter protests which came close to us with the protests in Bristol.

Toppling the statue of Edward Colston was a criminal act, but it was symbolic. A symbol of a sense of frustration with a lack of action (there had been wrangling over the statue for years) but also about how the treatment of black people has been, for so long, one of indifference. The name Colston is born by many organisations reflecting the money that he poured into the city; but there is little mention that a significant portion of his wealth came from his investments in slavery.

Over the years we have received a sanitised version of history that so often forgets about the impact of Britain’s past on its own people and those in the rest of the world. But it is not just the few rich men such as Colston. As the History Group has been reminded, brass and hat making, two of the staple industries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and employing large numbers of people locally, were closely connected with the slave trade.

In her response to these events our Bishop has set out her plan to place racial equality at the top of the agenda, recognising that some of the action that will need to be taken may be discomfoting to some, but are nonetheless necessary. It is, as she says, a long term commitment, a signal in some ways, at least, there needs to be change not just a return.



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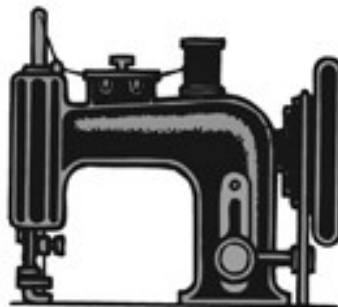
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