

APRIL 2018

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Picture:
Carolyn Russell



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Becky Feather

Editor

Phone: 0117 932 5037

Email: bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk

Website: www.stmarysbitton.org.uk





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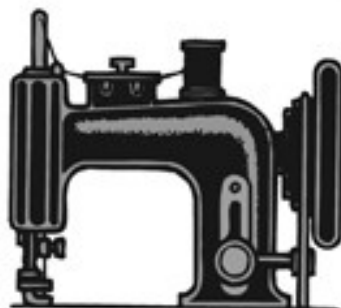


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NOMINE

The choir supporting the Children's Hospice South West
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plus 'The Easter Hymn' etc.

at

St. Mary's Church, Bitton

on **Saturday 21st April at 3.00 p.m.**

Entrance is free!

**Retiring collection in aid of
Church Funds**

(Refreshments available)

Further details of programme on website
www.webjam2.com/nomine_bristol

USEFUL CONTACTS

Bitton AFC

(Western League Premier Division)
www.pitchero.com/clubs/bittonafc

Bitton AFC Juniors

Contact: Dave Fletcher
Tel: 0117 932 2521
Email:
fletchandcarol@btinternet.com

Bitton Archers

Shoot at Bitton AFC
www.bittonarchers.com

Bitton Bellringers

Practice night Mondays
Tower captain: Sue Jay
Tel: 0117 932 2424

Bitton Combined Charities

Contact: Ken Gibson
Tel: 0117 932 2122

Bitton Community Choir

Contact: Nicola Bennetts
Tel: 0117 932 4696

Bitton Cricket Club

Bitton Recreation Ground
3 Saturday senior teams, 1 Sunday senior team and 5 youth teams
bitton.play-cricket.com

Chairman: Tim Dyer
Tel: 0117 985 9139

Bitton Flower Arranging Club

3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month at St Mary's Church Hall
Contact: Janet Ballinger
Tel: 0117 932 4728

Bitton Gardening Club

St Mary's Church Hall, 3rd Monday in the month (plus garden visits)
Email: b.hetzel@btinternet.com

Bitton Ladies Football Club

Bitton Recreation Ground
bittonlfc.weebly.com/

Bitton Lunch Club

Last Thursday of each month
Contact: Jill Gibson
Tel: 0117 932 2122

Bitton Parish Council

www.bittonparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk: Sharon Robbins
Tel: 01454 868 102
Email: bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk

Bitton Parish History Group

www.bittonhistory.org.uk
Secretary: Mike Gates
Tel: 0117 932 8777
Email: mg122@btinternet.com

Bitton Pre-School

www.bittonpreschool.com/
Tel: 0117 932 6042
Email:
bittonpreschool@googlemail.com

Bitton Road Runners

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Bitton Sports & Social Club

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(More overleaf)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Bitton Village Residents' Association

www.bvra.uk

Contact: Andrew Ward

Email: andrew@wardandrew.com

Bitton WI

Second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall

Tel: 0117 932 2059

Flicks in the Sticks

Free film nights in St Mary's Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of the month, September to April (not December)

Email: b.hetzl@btinternet.com

Girl Guide HQ, Cherry Gardens

Guides, Brownies & Rainbows

Contact: Gill Boyes

Tel: 0117 970 8056

Email: gill.boyes@blueyonder.co.uk

Kingswood MP: Chris Skidmore

www.chrisskidmore.com

Tel: 0117 908 1524 (Constituency)

Tel: 0207 219 7094 (Westminster)

Email: chris@chrisskidmore.com

Royal British Legion (Bitton & Oldland branch)

Contact: Jeff Dando

Tel: 0117 932 2608

Email: jeffjeffdando@gmail.com

Scouts: 34th Kingswood/1st St Mary's

Beavers meet Monday evenings at St Mary's Church Hall. Cubs & Scouts Thursday evenings at The Meadows Primary School

Contact: David Harris

Tel: 0117 932 7755

Email: djaharris@hotmail.com

South Gloucestershire councillor for Bitton: Erica Williams

Tel: 0786 018 1215

Email:

erica.williams@southglos.gov.uk

St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group

(Wednesday mornings at St Mary's Church Hall)

Contact: Ali Smith

Email: alismsith241@gmail.com

St Mary's Church

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk/

Vicar: Rev Jeremy Andrew

Tel: 0117 967 2724

Curate: Rev Anika Gardiner

Tel: 0117 932 5305

Churchwardens:

Barbara Merritt

Tel: 0117 932 3926

Jacqui Harris

Tel: 0117 937 4706

St Mary's Church Hall

Bookings secretary: Jill Gibson

Tel: 0117 932 2122

Email:

kenandjill@gibsonuk.freemove.co.uk

The Meadows Primary School

Tel: 0117 932 2203

Upton Cheyney URC

Minister: Rev Meryl White

Tel: 0775 914 6645

Email: Meryl.white@btinternet.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON

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and**

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Churches & services



UPTON CHEYNEY URC

Elder: Muriel Williams
0117 961 6843

Minister: Meryl White
0775 914 6645

Sunday services are at 3pm

April 1	Easter Sunday service led by Meryl White
April 8	Service led by Norman Palfrey
April 15	Service led by Meryl White
April 22	Service led by Margaret White
April 29	Service led by David Vowles

On Monday 23rd there is a Quiet Morning. Please contact Meryl for more info and to book a place.

There will be also be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday 24th at 2pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained minister:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters
Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge
0117 949 0502

Continued overleaf



Lay ministers:

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,
Bitton
0117 932 2122

Churchwardens:

Barbara Merritt,
32 Bath Road, Bitton
0117 932 3926

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

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

Message from the lay minister

Have you seen *The Crown* yet? It's a lavish, Netflix-original drama depicting the life of Queen Elizabeth II (Claire Foy) & Prince Philip (Matt Smith), and the series takes us through from 1940s to modern times.

It's compelling viewing and you will get hooked immediately! In Episode 6 of the present (second) series depicting life in the Royal Family in the 1950s, the Queen is shown a secret war document revealing damning correspondence of her dear uncle, the Duke of Windsor. The letters reveal his fascist views and his strong support for appeasement prior to the Second World War. The Queen's knowledge of these papers is made all the more poignant by the Duke asking the Queen for her permission to re-enter British politics. On the one hand the Queen feels revulsion to his fascist views and on the other hand she feels love and loyalty towards a family member. There is a touching scene where the Queen, having listened to a sermon in Royal Windsor chapel, asks Billy Graham about forgiveness.

Did you see Billy Graham when he came to Bristol in May 1984? His message was clear and uncomplicated. He talked about a personal relationship with God, mediated through Jesus Christ, and he spoke, refreshingly, in a language everyone could understand. At each of his rallies, he invited each of
(Continued overleaf)

his audience to “get up out of your seat and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour”. More than 3.2 million people (over 58 years of crusades) accepted this offer. Billy Graham’s team worked with local churches to guide new converts in their early Christian faith.

Billy Graham had boundless energy and preached at annual crusades spanning 1947 to 2005. His largest live audience was in 1973 to 1.3 million in Seoul, South Korea. His largest televised broadcast was in 1996 to an estimated 2.5 billion worldwide. He was unafraid to give a Christian view on political and social issues. During the Cold War he was the first evangelist to speak behind the Iron Curtain, addressing large crowds throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, always calling for peace.

During the apartheid era he consistently refused to visit South Africa until integrated seating for audiences was introduced. In his first crusade in South Africa he openly denounced apartheid. He corresponded with Nelson Mandela during his 27 years in jail. He was spiritual adviser to 12 presidents from Harry Truman (33rd) to Barack Obama (44th).

Billy Graham died at the age of 99 and 2,000 family and friends attended his funeral. It was Billy Graham’s express wish that the funeral service reflect and reinforce the gospel message he preached for more than 60 years.

David Bailey

From the Parish Register

9 March

Thanksgiving for the life of Muriel Constance Williams



Services at St Mary's in April

Sunday, April 1
EASTER DAY

8am: Holy Communion
10.30: Easter Communion
11.30am: Easter egg hunt

Sunday, April 8

10.30am: Family Parade Service followed by lunch at Manor Farm

Sunday, April 15

10.30am: Morning Worship

Sunday, April 22

8am: Holy Communion
9.30am: Family Café Church

Friday, April 27

9.30am: Celtic Communion, followed by coffee and cakes

Sunday, April 29

10.30am: Benefice Communion at St Anne's, Syston, followed by a Bring & Share lunch in their church hall



St Mary's Matters

Always expect the unexpected. Instead of clearing up the churchyard, we were digging through the snow to clear a path to the church. Hopefully, the next churchyard clearing on 7th April will not be a repeat performance.

The grass-cutting starts again this month and we will remember Gordon Grimster, *pictured right*, who worked so hard to maintain the churchyard as a place for peace and reflection. If you would like to continue his work come and help with the churchyard tidying or send a cheque to 'St Mary's Bitton Churchyard Fund' in his memory. Gordon's funeral service at St Mary's is at 12.30pm on Tuesday 3rd April. There will be a tribute to Gordon in next month's *Focal Point*.



Our thanks to the Richards family who gave the daffodils for Mothering Sunday, in memory of Hazel and Christopher.

The church is open again for the summer months during daylight hours. Meanwhile Saturday, 21st April at 3pm is a date for your diary. The Nomine Choir are singing the Faure Requiem in the church (details on page 12).

The council have supplied our new black bin and as it is much smaller than before, please do recycle. We should be getting new bins for plastic and glass.

Barbara Merritt
Churchwarden

Mid-week meetings

Between Mid-April and Mid-June, our three Home Groups will be studying a small book written by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, entitled 'Being Disciples'.

The Wednesday Morning Group meets at 10.30 at Westover, the home of Stephanie and David Bailey, and there are evening groups at 7.30 on Wednesdays at the Gibsons at 8 Church Road and on Thursdays at the Midgleys at 30 Kenilworth Drive.

All three groups aim to be relaxed and informal and will be very happy to welcome new members. If you are tempted to give it a try, have a word with one of the hosts who can give you more details, including the date upon which each group will start.

There will be a pause partway through the series from 10-20th May during the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost when our focus will be on prayer. More details of this will be in May's *Focal Point*.

Ken Gibson

Family Café Church

Sunday 22nd April at 9.30am

A relaxed and informal service on each fourth Sunday.

It is aimed at families with primary school and pre-school aged children although everyone is very welcome. There is a café feel to it with refreshments available throughout.

The April story is entitled 'I can see!'

Jazz & blues at St Mary's



Picture: Carolyn Russell

The 'Jazz a l'église' night held in the new space in St Mary's in February raised £375.54 for church funds.

It was a great night, with local band The Jazzbeanz playing their favourite jazz and blues. Encore!

St Mary's flower rota

7 April	Jean Hook
14 April	Janet Ballinger
21 April	Sandie MacKay
28 April	Judith Butson



Barn dance makes £570

The annual fundraising barn dance at Bitton Rec on 10th March made a profit of £570, *writes trustee Paul Cooney*. Funds raised by the trustees is used to pay insurance and support improvements at the Rec.

New Board Game Café

Over the past few years, there has been a rise in board game cafes, places where people who enjoy them can go, buy a drink and play with a friend or stranger.

We would like to make a go of it at St Mary's. So if you like playing games, why not come along to our first Board Game Cafe on Sunday 15th April between 2.30pm and 5pm in the church.



Anika

There will be coffee, tea and maybe even cake.

There will be some games provided, but if you have a favourite game you really want to play, bring it along.

The café will be open to all ages, and there will be no charge. Our hope is for this to take place once a month.

Rev Anika Gardiner

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Last month I was commenting that spring had sprung. Well, we went back to deepest winter again. We had to cancel our service at the beginning of the month as getting up the hills and lanes was too tricky. Then of course we had a selection of frozen and then leaking pipes to content with. Hopefully that is all behind us again and we go back to spring again. Listening to the birds around the chapel, they seem to think so.

Mothering Sunday was different at Upton Cheyney Chapel this year. Instead of a normal service we had a 'Café Church' event. We sat around tea tables in the old school room and were served team from proper teapots into proper tea cups on a proper table cloth. We also had scones, jam and cream or scones, cream and jam depending whether you are from
(Continued overleaf)

Cornwall or Devon. At the same time there were songs, a story and bubbles. It was a big hit with the young people. Us older ones had a quiz to do in which every answer included the word 'mother'. It was trickier that you might think.

Now we are building up to the next Quiet Morning on Monday 23rd April. To book a place contact Meryl.

Stuart Turner

Jacqui & Pete's charity walk

Pete & Jacqui Sayers from Bitton are preparing to set off on a two-week walk along Offa's Dyke at the end of this month.

They had to postpone it twice last year because they both suffered accidents, but now they are looking forward to following the English/Welsh border and hope people can support them in some way.

This might be by joining them for some sections of the walk, by signing up to the organ donor register, or by making a donation to their chosen charities.

The impetus for the walk was Pete marking 30 years of his kidney transplant, while Jacqui recently had a corneal transplant.

"So, not that we needed any more reason to do the walk, but with two transplants between us we are even more determined to raise the profile of 'opt-out' organ donation in whatever way we can," the couple say.

Pete is raising money to help Bristol Area Kidney Patients Association - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-sayers>

And Jacqui is supporting the Bath Eye Unit Association of Friends (BEUAF), which requires a form to be completed and returned if a donation is to be made. Jacqui has the details - email pete_sayers@hotmail.com



Village pre-school has vacancies

Bitton Pre-School, which welcomes children from a wide area, has vacancies now and from September.

Based at Bitton Sports & Social Club for the last two years, having previously been

in the church hall for more than 40 years, the pre-school takes two to four-year-olds and is rated as Good by Ofsted.

Manager Lorraine Vowles and deputy Jackie Holder are highly qualified and experienced in childcare and management and have a team of very well-qualified staff.

The pre-school is open from 9.15am to 4pm five days a week during term time and there is plenty of off-street parking. Children make the most of the adjoining playing fields and get out in the fresh air every day. They can bring a packed lunch, and snacks are provided. Hourly fees are £3.99, and the 15 and 30 hours Nursery Education Funding and Tax Free Child-care vouchers are accepted. Families are welcome to visit. Find out more at bittonpreschool@googlemail.com



BEN STOCK

AND THERE WAS MUSIC

with Inga Davis-Rutter on piano



Saturday 30th June
St Mary's Church, Bitton

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30 start to this one-man cabaret.

Following sell-out performances in New York, London, across the UK and in the Far East, Ben's acclaimed show '...AND THERE WAS MUSIC' is coming to Bitton.

This "sparkling and charming" (*The Stage*) performer celebrates his career and life through witty anecdotes and fabulous music by Jerry Herman, Noel Coward, Tom Lehrer, Meredith Wilson, David Friedman, Charles Strouse, Amanda McBroom & many more.

**Tickets are £12 each from bittontickets@gmail.com
or ring 0117 932 4696**

Bitton Village Residents' Association

invites you to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

FRIDAY 20th April

when we will be screening

Paddington 2

starring

Ben Whishaw, Hugh Grant, Hugh Bonneville,
Julie Walters & many more guest stars

You might have thought Paddington was a children's story but this film is a delightful treat for the young and old and everyone in between. It has a fast-moving plot, amazing characters, awesome animation and the comedy moments are incredibly funny. See if you can spot the hidden jokes in the background, like the 'To Do' list in the Browns' kitchen - there are many

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.
The Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton.
Drinks will be available from the licensed bar,
choc ices will be served in the interval and
there will be time to chat with friends.**

Admission FREE

Gas plant plans are withdrawn

Controversial plans to build a peaking gas generation plant at Beach have been dropped. There had been over 75 objections.

Beach resident Rob Deverell said: "It just shows how powerful local opinion can be, especially when backed by well-founded dispassionate arguments."

Connie Williams

8th Sept 1915 - 14th Feb 2018

Connie remained in her own home in Ludlow Close, Willsbridge, until December but then moved to Charterhouse, the new nursing home at The Chocolate Quarter in Keynsham.

She remained very much with it and even entertained their Christmas party with a recitation. It was just five days before she died that she developed a chest infection and sadly this time she could not shake it off and she passed away peacefully on 14 February.



Connie

Connie had a close friend in the Rev Sarah Williams who was the curate in Bitton a decade ago. It was Sarah and her husband Rocyn who organised the collection of 50 gin miniatures and 50 tonics for Connie's 100th birthday in 2015.

Long ago Connie and Sarah had planned the funeral between them with instructions that Sarah, who now lives in Kent, was to lead it.

That plan was nearly thwarted because on the day Connie died Sarah and Rocyn were in Singapore, but thanks to the wonders of email, choosing a date after Sarah's return for the funeral was no problem.

A quiet service at Westerleigh was followed by a thanksgiving at St Mary's on 9th March. Connie's family then invited us all to share in refreshments in the new space at the back of the church.

We send our sympathy to Connie's children, Merilyn and Peter, and to all the family.

We will all greatly miss the remarkable Connie.

Ken Gibson

BITTON GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting
is for members only
on

**MONDAY 16th April
at 6.30pm**

when we are invited to
Fonthill Garden Centre

for a special presentation, refreshments
and time to 'shop till we drop' using our 10% discount.
If you wish to become a member of the Gardening Club,
contact membership secretary Karen Smith
on 932 3104 or email karensmithupton@me.com

Looking Back...to April 1995

In this issue of *Focal Point*, churchwarden John Underwood thanked Bill Jones for making a beautiful new hymn board.

There was this recipe for Easter Spring Lamb. Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, the juice of 1 lemon, 2 tablespoons of sesame seeds, 1 tablespoon of coriander seeds (crushed), 2 garlic cloves (crushed) & 2 pinches of cayenne pepper.

Take 4 lamb neck fillets (6oz each) and place in a roasting pan. Rub in spice mix and cover with foil. Keep in a cool place and rub in the spices several times for a few hours. Heat the oven to 475F, remove the foil and cook the lamb at the top of the oven for 15-20 minutes. It should still be slightly pink inside. Serve with new potatoes, minty peas and the pan juice.

Also in this month in 1973: The Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people and injured more than 680 others

Next month: Bitton in May 1973

Bitton WI report

After a warm welcome, our president Ann Coales introduced speaker John Spencer, from the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company, *writes Jean Hook*.

He explained that cheese is one of the three oldest foods - the other being bread and beer. It was first produced in Switzerland 500BC and in Egypt in 200BC and is mentioned in the Old Testament. Cheddar cheese is made by hand and you are able to see it being made and visit the shop to sample and buy, as we did on a lovely day out.

The next meeting is on April 9th when there will be a demonstration of making woven baskets, and on April 17th it's our Flower Club, both at St Mary's Church Hall. Come and join us.

The March quiz answers

Last month's quiz gave you first letters of well-known British novelists. There were some alternative suggestions but most weren't allowed as they didn't match the number of letters, or were for authors who weren't British, or were not well-known.

1. Evelyn Waugh, 2. Kazuo Ishiguro, 3. Agatha Christie, 4. Emily Bronte (Emery Bonett), 5. Martin Amis, 6. Hilary Mantel, 7. Ken Follett, 8. Iris Murdoch, 9. William Boyd, 10. Henry Fielding, 11. Frederick Forsyth, 12. William Golding, 13. Zadie Smith, 14. Nick Hornby, 15. John Galsworthy, 16. Doris Lessing, 17. Anthony Trollope, 18. Iain Banks, 19. Douglas Adams, 20. George Orwell.

Well done to those who got them all correct: Alan & Sue Murtagh, Jan Wookey & Diane, Sarah Craddock, Jon & Pam Heyes, Ken & Jill Gibson, Bryan & Margaret Garlick, the Perrett/Godwin team, Anne Burmester, Jenny & David Harris and Mary Younie. The winners this time are Ken & Jill.

The April quiz

Here are cryptic clues to High Street stores. The deadline for entries (also adverts/copy) is April 15. Send to the Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, or email *bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk*

1. Innovative appearance
2. Main attraction with US currency
3. Eve's downfall
4. Environment
5. Portable bed for weight
6. Bull seeks French wife
7. In pursuit of the Daily Mail, perhaps
8. The ultimate merchandising outlet
9. Parisian link?
10. Tree covering on pastures
11. A farming clan?
12. Hardy heroine with small organisation
13. Boy band in arid land?
14. We have just one type, the Eskimos have more
15. Associated with Spanish holidays
16. Admittance with alternative viewing organs
17. Hot food?
18. Conserve small particles
19. Puzzle
20. Silver or black, perhaps

Name:

Contact:

Riverside and woodland walk

The next footpath walk organised by Bitton and Hanham Abbots parish councils is on Sunday April 15th at 2.30pm, meeting in the Chequers Inn car park, Hanham Mills. This will be a riverside and woodland walk to Conham with an optional climb to Panorama Walk.



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