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FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES:

Becky Feather

Editor

Phone: 0117 932 5037

Email: bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk

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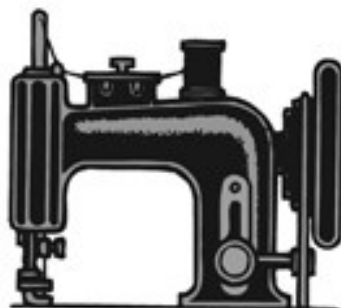


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USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Every Tuesday & Thursday - everyone welcome!
www.bittonroadrunners.co.uk

Bitton Sports & Social Club

Tel: 0117 932 3222

(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.hetzal@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

Churches & services



UPTON CHEYNEY URC

Elder: Muriel Williams
0117 961 6843

Minister: Meryl White
0775 914 6645

Sunday services are at 3pm

June 3 Bible study led by Meryl White
June 10 Service led by Neville Lintern
June 17 Service led by David Jones
June 24 Service led by Ken Gibson

Our coffee afternoon will be held on Tuesday June 26 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

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

Churchwardens:

Barbara Merritt,
32 Bath Road, Bitton
0117 932 3926

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

Message from the minister

I am fascinated by the idea of time. While thinking about the sermon stories I write to preach, I have to live with at least part of my head in another place and time in order to help me draw out meaning from the words in the Bible that I am writing about.

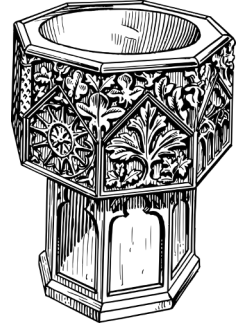
Yet I am also living and working in the present, visiting patients in the hospital and listening to the stories of their pasts. I share my life with my patients and work colleagues, family and friends, living my story out alongside them.

It is amazing the things that you can learn from listening to Radio 4. The other week on Start the Week, one of Andrew Marr's guests was Italian theoretical physicist Carlo Corelli who has spent his life measuring time. It appears that he has proved what scientists have known for quite some time, and a lot of us have always known, and that is that time passes at different speeds in different places.

So, for example, time passes faster on the top of a mountain than it does at the bottom of the ocean. Apparently, time passes slightly faster at your head than your feet, so your head is older than your feet. Make of that what you will! We live in a multi-speed world, in a universe where the concept of time apparently has no meaning or reality.

Anyone who has ever just stood in a church and looked

around will see evidence of the passing of time all around them. It is in the differing styles of architecture, it is in the memorial stones. It is in the pews and chairs that have seated generations of church-goers. It is in the words we read in our service books and in the hymns that we sing, some going back to the early days of the Christian Church, others being written in our generation or that of our children and grandchildren.



I sometimes stand and look at the Norman font at Syston and wonder about the thousands of babies that have been baptised in it over nearly 1,000 years. What are their stories; all those men and women who lived and worked and loved and died and are buried in our churchyards. I have been spending some time researching the eight men whose names are on the war memorial board at Syston. It is amazing what you can find out on the internet when you search. Some of the families I have spoken to have been quite surprised by what I have been able to dig up, and I have been touched by the family stories of these men.

History is not an irrelevant subject to do with long times past. It is all around us. In particular, as we reach the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, to quote the poet John Maxwell Edmonds writing a memorial for the soldiers who died in the Battle of Kohima: *'For their tomorrow we gave our today.'* In reading the names each year of those from our parishes who gave their lives in the various conflicts around the world, their stories are still interacting with ours, their sacrifice still influencing us.

We believe in a God who is timeless and beyond time. We believe that he is with us here and now watching over us, guarding us, guiding us, sharing our moments of hope and of despair, of joy and of sorrow.

Time has no meaning for him, and we are as immediate to him as were our parents and grandparents and our forefathers and mothers before them.

Our God intervened in time, he took time to himself when he came to earth in the form of a little human baby and lived among us experiencing all that it means to be human. He took time and died on the cross, ending his human life on earth. He could have ended his interaction with us there, but he chose to shatter our concept of time in the form of inevitable death, and break loose from time to rise again, bringing us hope that no matter what we experience in the here and now, with God there is eternity, and an eternity with him.

So no matter how fast the various bits of us are getting older, all of them are moving closer to the eternity of God, to a place where we will be welcome for all time.

Jillianne Norman

(Apart from occasional services I take around the parishes, I work as a Hospital Chaplain for University Hospitals Bristol)

Family Café Church

Sunday June 24 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 story this month is entitled 'The girls who ran out of oil!'

Services at St Mary's in June

Sunday, June 3	10.30: Parish Communion
Sunday, June 10	8am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Family Parade Service followed by lunch at The Upton Inn
Sunday, June 17	10.30am: Morning Worship
Friday, June 22	9.30am: Celtic Communion, followed by coffee and cakes
Sunday, June 24	8am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Family Café Church

St Mary's flower rota

2 June	Ann Willis
9 June	Ann Carrington
16 June	Wedding
23 June	Wedding
30 June	Janet Ballinger



From the Parish Register

16 March

Funeral service of Robert Demmery

St Mary's Matters

It is a principle of St Mary's that a churchwarden retires after six years. If you want to count, I've done seven, so it is time for a change!

Pete Midgley will be stepping into the role and I know everyone will give him the help and support you have given me and Jacqui Harris. Thank you very much for all you have done, but it is not goodbye because I'm now deputy warden and happy to help.



We are still working on St Mary's future and more fabulous events are taking place to show off our new space. In June there will be a play produced by the Riding Lights Theatre Company and a Cabaret Evening with Ben Stock, who has a devoted local fan club. Less ambitious meetings included a visit of 53 from the University of the Third Age in May, and on Saturday 16th June at 2pm there will be a lap of an Organ Crawl. There will be a short talk and music on the organ.

The reordering also helps our usual services almost without realising it. We are using the extra space for Family Café Church, coffee after church and Celtic Communion, and don't forget the Board Games afternoon. All we need now is the faculty, and members of St Mary's Future Committee have been working hard collecting photos, reports and statements of need, etc. for our application.

The hearing loop which enables those with deaf aids to tune into the microphone system is now working again.

If you are taking a stroll around the village, don't forget to drop in for a cream tea. Cream teas start again on 24th June and we look forward to seeing you for a chat.

**Barbara Merritt
Churchwarden**



Diocese of Bristol
Creating connections

Giving to God workshops

Giving to God workshops provide inspiring teaching and discussion on Christian generosity, as well as updating parishes on the impact and ongoing challenge of Parish Share.

While parish officers and clergy would particularly benefit from attending, the invitation is also open to congregation members.

GIVING TO GOD WORKSHOP FOR **LARGER CHURCHES:**

Redland Parish Hall, Bristol, BS6 7HE Monday 11 June, 7-9pm

GIVING TO GOD WORKSHOPS FOR **ALL CHURCHES:**

St Andrew's, Chippenham, SN15 3HT Thursday 28 June, 7-9pm

St Paul's, Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 1DG Thursday 5th July, 7-9pm

St Stephen's, Bristol City Centre, BS1 1EQ Tuesday 11 Sept, 7-9pm

St Michael's, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8PD Thursday 13 Sept, 7-9pm

Christ Church, Swindon, SN1 3HG Wednesday 19 Sept, 7-9pm

St Giles, Lea, North Wilts, SN16 9PB Thursday 20 Sept, 7-9pm

Book your place by visiting
www.bristol.anglican.org/giving-events
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on 0117 906 0100



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“An effortlessly eclectic evening of great songs”
Mark Shenton

St Mary’s Church, Bitton
Saturday 30 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £12 - available from bittontickets@gmail.com
or 0117 932 4696

CREAM TEAS AT ST MARY'S

Starting on 24 June and continuing through July and August, Cream Teas will be served in St Mary's Church from 3pm to 5pm.

Enjoy a perfect stop-off on your summer Sunday afternoon walk



Board games fun

Sunday 17th June from 2.30pm to 5pm will be the third afternoon of board games in St Mary's.

There are games to suit players of all ages. If you or your family have a favourite game, why not bring it along.

Tea, cake, squash and biscuits will be served to bolster energy levels!

Everyone is welcome.

Free lunchtime concert

There will be a lunchtime concert at St John's Church in Keynsham at 1pm on Friday 1st June featuring flautist Jenny Harris and pianist Natalie Morton.

Admission to the concert is free.

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St Mary's Fete
Saturday 1st September
2pm – 5pm

Traditional Village Fete
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If you wish to help with the fete,
please call Ann Willis on 0117 431 0270.

Also items are needed for all stalls.
Ring the stallholder or leave items in the
church porch.

The church is open every day.

BOOKS	Sarah Heavens	932 5376
BOTTLES	Sarah Craddock	932 8644
CAKES & JAMS	Janet Ballinger	932 4728
HANDICRAFTS	Barbara Merritt	932 3926
NEARLY NEW	Annette Vowles	932 6352
TOMBOLA	Ann Willis	431 0270
TOYS	Anne Carrington	935 3475
WHITE ELEPHANT	Nicola Bennetts	932 4696

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Upton Cheyney Chapel continues to welcome all in the local and extended community. We have had a variety of interesting speakers at our regular Sunday services. It is nice to have an hour in the hectic week as a haven to focus on God and Jesus and what they mean to each of us.

We had another Quiet Morning which was well attended and remains very popular. Having lunch afterwards at the farm shop is always a delight.

We await the Synod approval of our plans still. We are down to one last item again. The latest drawings went off in the post this week. If we get their consent, then we will be springing into action within days on some of the items. We will still need planning consent from the local authority for one or two items. All very frustrating; however, if nothing else we are persistent, and to a use business term, we are completer finishers and it will happen, eventually.

Stuart Turner

Bitton WI report

On a glorious day we set off from the White Hart on a trip organised by Sue Stirling to Aerospace Bristol, the new home of Concorde, writes *Jean Hook*. With its pointed nose and sleek frame, it looks as futuristic as ever. The last one ever built made its last flight in November 2003, flying over the Clifton Suspension Bridge, and is now in the new £19m museum.

May's meeting was chaired by Janet Ballinger. We're organising an outing to Barrington Court on August 13, leaving Bitton at 9am and returning by 6pm. If you are interested, phone me on 932 2050 - you don't have to be a member.

Then Frances Benton who lives in Burgundy, gave her talk - A Passion for Pearls. This love started as a young child with her grandmother's pearls, and she has travelled around the world several times, collecting pearls and learning to string and knot using silk.

There are four categories of pearls, firstly flux (fake in English), secondly, real natural pearls, which are very rare; thirdly, there are seed pearls from mussels and sea oysters, which are very large, not like the ones we eat. The fourth is cultured pearls. Mr Mikimoto in Japan first cultured pearls in 1895, the same year as the WI started in Canada.

Frances brought a huge collection of jewellery with her and we were able to purchase items.



All kitted out!

Linden Homes, who are building the new estate on the old Intier factory site in Bitton, have become the sponsor of one of the village football club's youngest teams.

Bitton AFC have thanked Linden for the under 10s team who are thrilled with their new kits.

BITTON GARDENING CLUB

Invites you to
our garden visit
to
HANHAM COURT

Monday 2nd July at 2.30pm

To book contact Marlene Gallop on
0117 932 3560 or email Chrismar162@talktalk.net

Alternatively contact Julie Scudamore on 932 7603 or by
email at family.scudamore@hotmail.co.uk

We will be met by Danny Johnson, who will give us a talk
on the history of the house and the garden's design.
Then Julia Boissevain, the owner, will join us and they will
take us on a tour of the garden, possibly splitting us into
two groups depending on our numbers.

Afterwards we will be served tea/coffee and cakes.

Price: £15 each, which includes the introductory talk,
garden tour and the refreshments afterwards.

Non-members will pay an extra £4

Guided footpath walk

The next footpath walk organised by Bitton and Hanham
Abbots parish councils is on Sunday 24th June at 2.30pm,
meeting in the car park by Keynsham Lock.

This is a beautiful walk via Londonderry Farm and continuing
riverside towards Hanham. Walks are led by Clive Brett who
can be contacted on 07434 869429.

**Bitton Village Residents Association
Invites you to
BITTON OPEN GARDENS
on Sunday 10 June**

Gardens will be open to view from noon to 5pm when we hope the sun will be shining and the gardens will be looking their best. There will also be a plant stall and cream teas serving from 2pm in the garden at Church Farm.

Programmes with a list of 11 open gardens and a map will be available from the end of May at the village shop, the White Hart, the hairdressers and church, plus Fonthill Garden Centre, The Swan at Swineford and The Upton Inn. We will also email the programme to you if you are on the BVRA mailing list.

**For more information contact
Gabriel Frankcom on 932 6158
Email gabriel01.wood@gmail.com
or
Sue Murtagh on 932 6232
Email Sue.murtagh@btinternet.com**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME SO DO BRING YOUR
FRIENDS.**

THIS EVENT IS FREE

Looking Back..to June 1971

Wrote vicar Harold G Wood in the Bitton parish magazine of June 1971: "When the number 6 bell and the renovated organ were re-dedicated by the Bishop of Malmesbury, a great many people must have felt delighted that their efforts had been brought to so successful a conclusion.

"As one who only came into the scene at the end, I can appreciate that in one way or another, everyone in the parish and a good many outside it have done something to make the work possible....the Flower Festival...a multitude of coffee mornings and afternoon tea parties., a few wine and cheese parties, much correspondence and not a few hours of committees and councils."

Also in this month in 1971: Norway began oil production in the North Sea

May's quiz answers

Last month's quiz gave you cryptic clues to popular current TV shows - i.e. on normal terrestrial channels, not Sky, Netflix, etc, that have aired within the past year. The answers (with the alternatives that were allowed) are: **1.** Call the Midwife, **2.** Antiques Roadshow (Coronation Street), **3.** Pointless, **4.** MasterChef, **5.** Only Connect, **6.** The One Show, **7.** Countryfile, **8.** Eggheads (Broken), **9.** Casualty, **10.** Mock the Week, **11.** Top Gear, **12.** Mastermind, (The Big Bang Theory, Endeavour, Grand Designs, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?), **13.** Hollyoaks, **14.** Escape to the Country, **15.** Strictly Come Dancing, **16.** Blue Planet II (II = too), **17.** University Challenge, **18.** The Apprentice, **19.** Gardeners' World, **20.** EastEnders (Points West).

Only two entries scored 20/20 - Sue & Alan Murtagh and Mary Younie. Mary won the draw and therefore the prize.

The June quiz

This is another links puzzle. One common word links the other three - for example, SPIRIT level, Team SPIRIT, White SPIRIT. The number of letters in the link word are in brackets.

The deadline for entries (also adverts/copy) is **15th June**. Send to the Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HH or email *bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk*

1. Dance, Set, Town (6)
2. Hold, Bridge, Loose (4)
3. School, Air, Shelter (3)
4. Clean, Music, Bed (5)
5. Count, Beach, Girl (4)
6. Fast, Down, Tight (4)
7. Book, Off, Save (4)
8. Up, Dream, Water (4)
9. Side, Mountain, Leg (5)
10. Law, Ship, Grass (5)
11. Head, Centre, Hand (3)
12. Time, Top, Street (7)
13. Open, Gun, Hat (3)
14. Speed, Time, House (4)
15. Open, Time, Mark (8)
16. New, Ship, Down (4)
17. Stop, Way, Next (4)
18. Lord, Half, Line (4)
19. End, Bird, Board (4)
20. Bank, Board, Yellow (4)

Name:

Contact:



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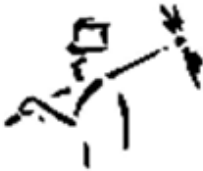
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