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Editor

Phone: 0117 932 5037

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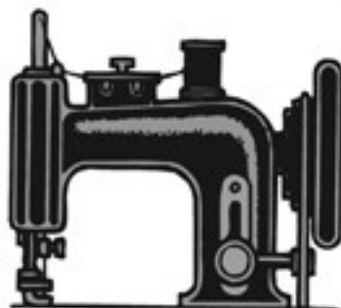


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USEFUL CONTACTS

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(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@googlegmail.com

Bitton Road Runners

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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.hetzel@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

- October 7** Harvest Special led by Meryl White
October 14 Service led by Michelle Bates
October 21 Service led by Meryl White
October 28 Service led by Margaret White

Before the Harvest Service there will be a 'Wonder Walk' starting from the chapel at 1.30pm. Graham White will lead a tour around the oldest and most splendid of the trees around Upton.

The coffee afternoon will be held on Tuesday 23rd from 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:

Pete Midgley
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
0117 932 6898

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

Message from the minister

Recently I heard an item on the news about the work of clearing up floating islands of plastic in the Pacific Ocean, and a few hours later I conducted a wedding at which we sang All things Bright and Beautiful. As we sang, I could easily imagine God looking down and saying: "What on earth are you doing to my world?"

We produce two million tons of rubbish per day; every year half a billion tons of oil are accidentally spilled, and every year six million tons of refuse - some toxic or non-biodegradable - end up in the oceans. (1)

When God made the world He saw that it was 'very good' (Gen 1:v31), and as part of that world we were created, made in His image from the very dust of Creation - (Adam comes from 'Adamah', which means 'made from the ground') . So right from the beginning, the material and the spiritual came together, and a bond was forged between God, humanity and Creation; and God delights in this relationship. He invites us to share with Him the beauty of the natural world and to fully realise the joy of being human, of being made in His likeness, so at the heart of our spirituality should be the acknowledgement that the world belongs to God, not to us - we are simply a part of the created order, albeit with a special role to play.

When He made the world, God didn't set it going and then just leave it to its own devices, and He didn't turn His back on

humanity when sin and disobedience came into the world. In fact He 'so loved the world' (Jn 3:v16) that He broke into it through Jesus to redeem not just humanity, but 'to reconcile to himself **ALL THINGS**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross'. (Col 1:v20.) So our spirituality needs to reflect God's delight in what He has made through our care of it, because He will redeem and transform it through Jesus Christ.

The Gospel that we are called upon to preach is somewhat diminished if we consider it to be for humanity alone. As Tom Wright says, "God will redeem the whole universe; Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of that new life, the fresh grass growing through the concrete of corruption and decay in the old world." (2)

What God desires for His world is 'shalom' - wholeness and wellbeing. Interdependence on the natural world is woven right through the story of God's people. Most of Jesus' teaching was done in the open, and many parables drew on images of the land and its resources - there was an intimate connection to the natural world that has been lost in today's post-modern society. Our role as disciples is to re-establish that connection, to live lives that reflect God's desire for 'shalom' and harmony across the whole of the natural world - to live in ways that not only do not disadvantage other parts of creation, but which actually work for, and even enhance them. We are building for the future, for the renewed Kingdom, and our discipleship should embody "every act of love, gratitude and kindness, every work of art inspired by the love of God and inspired by the beauty of his creation, every act of care and nurture" that "embodies holiness and makes the name of Jesus honoured in the world". (3)

Let me leave you with two quotes: "Jesus teaches us to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The thought that life on earth among all God's creatures might *(see overleaf)*

reflect the harmonious relationships within heaven is the greatest inspiration for Christians. I have come to see that the future of the earth is central to the mission of God." (*Bishop James Jones.*)

"No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy with a full repairing lease." (*Margaret Thatcher.*)

Shalom!

Richard Humphrey

1. *Bookless, D. (2008) Planet Wise. IVP (2008).*
2. *Wright, T. (2007) Surprised by Hope, SPCK (2007).*
3. *Ibid.*

Services at St Mary's in October

Sunday, October 7

10.30am: Parish Communion

Sunday, October 14
HARVEST FESTIVAL

8am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Family and Parade Harvest Festival Service, followed by a Harvest Lunch at Manor Farm, Upton Cheyney

6.30pm: Harvest Evensong with The Ammonites

Sunday, October 21

10.30am: Morning Worship

2.30pm: Board games and cake

Friday, October 26

9.30am: Celtic Communion, followed by coffee and cakes

Sunday, October 30

8am: Holy Communion

9.30am: Family Café Church

St Mary's Matters

Fete day turned out to be fine and a great day was had by all. I can't thank enough all those who put in a massive effort to make it a success.

The patronal festival service on the following day was also well attended and a fitting tribute to our annual celebratory weekend.

As the summer comes to an end, our midweek house-group season has begun again. These groups have a long-standing place in the life of St Mary's and have been meeting for as long as I have been part of the church (about 35 years!). They are a great way of getting to know each other a little better as well as exploring an aspect of the Christian faith. They are not exclusive – anyone can join in.

There are two evening groups (Wednesdays and Thursdays) and a morning group (Wednesdays). If you would like to know more you can contact Ken Gibson, David Bailey or myself.

The new houses in Bitton are beginning to be occupied and we are endeavouring to welcome newcomers to the village by delivering a 'welcome pack' to each household as it becomes occupied. This gives information about all local community services which they may find useful.

The next concert in church is to take place on Saturday 20th October at 7.30pm. We will be welcoming the Bath Gilbert & Sullivan Society for an evening of 'Ballads, Songs & Snatches'.

For details of how to get tickets see overleaf.



Pete Midgley

**Pete Midgley
Churchwarden**



'Ballads, Songs & Snatches'

A musical evening with Bath Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Saturday 20th October 2018 at 7.30 pm

St Mary's Church, Bitton



TICKETS £8 - Contact Jenny Harris on 07970 325927



St. Mary's Church
Bitton

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER

8.00 Holy Communion

**10.30 Harvest Festival
Family Parade Service**

You are invited to bring a gift of produce or non-perishable food (tins and packets are very acceptable especially tuna), or tin openers, toiletries and larger size nappies - for distribution in St Paul's by the Sisters of the Church

**12.30 Harvest Lunch at Manor Farm
Upton Cheyney**

Tickets £12.50 are available
from the Midglens 932 6898

6.30 Choral Evensong

Led by members of the Ammonite Choir



St Mary's Family Café Church

Sunday 28 October at 9.30am

A new, relaxed and informal service on the fourth Sunday of each month. 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.

In our October story we hear about
'The Sheep that got lost'

St Mary's flower rota

6 October	Wedding
13 October	HARVEST
20 October	Marlene Gallop & Pam Heyes
27 October	Jean Hook & Ros Knight



From the parish register

25th August <i>Wedding</i> Jemma Wiggins & James Smith	2nd September <i>Baptism</i> Reggie Andrew Robert Miller
---	---

Fete raises record amount

Team Bitton worked tirelessly to stage a perfect village fete, *writes Ann Willis*. The event opened with a re-enactment of the ancient ceremony of the Shooting of the Meadows, when our queen for 2018 was crowned.

The event raised around £7,875 for St Mary's Church, which is £75 more than 2017. The best result to date!

As St Mary's dates from 1089 and is Grade I listed, these funds are much needed.

A huge thank you is extended to the 'heavy gang' who prepared and cleared the Glebe Field; the signage team; all the stallholders and their helpers; the 'tea & cake' team in the church and the musicians who entertained during the afternoon; Somerset Morris with their quintessential English dancing display; the much-treasured Oldland Brass and the Companions of the Longbow who feature each year at our fete, and to our hosts at Church Farm for delicious cream teas, accompanied by fine music from the Jazz Beanz.

And lastly to the fete committee for their commitment to the church, and all their efforts, year on year, to stage a perfect fete.



So many helpers made the fete such a success - here are some of the cream teas team!



Graham Downing from the Royal British Legion had a stall at the war exhibition in church

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Time and tide wait for no man, woman, child or builder. Maybe the latter is an exception. We now have a public private privy. Apart from some decoration, all it needs is a door. Even the building inspector is happy. Well done Graham for managing this.



Time and tide? Oh yes, I forgot. Graham is now sorting out the quotes to get our heating completed. The obvious objective is to get this finished before the really cold weather hits us. So then both the chapel and the school room will be more welcoming. It is not so long ago that the chapel used to close entirely for three months over the winter.

Time and tide? Our 184th anniversary service went off really well. We had a joint service with our old friends from Oldland URC and some new ones. Then everyone adjourned to Manor Farm for tea and cake.

Time and tide! At the time of writing we're building up to our annual Buffs Service once again. Brilliant to see them all. Then on to our 'Quiet Day, the harvest auction at the Upton for the Royal British Legion and then our harvest service on Sunday 7th October at 3pm. This year we will be doing Cafe Church.

Time and tide and trees. Do you know where the biggest and best trees are in Upton and the surrounding area? There was a survey some years ago and they were plotted on a map. They are shown as trees, groups of trees or hedgerows. But it's somewhat out of date and in some instances we know of serious trees not on the map at all. Graham is putting together a 'Wonder Walk' to lead folks round parts of the village to reveal what we know and don't know (see page 15 for more information).

Stuart Turner

*Review of
2017/18 in
Bitton*

All residents of Bitton

*Free entry and
free wine*

*You are invited
to*

**Bitton Village Residents Association
Annual General Meeting**

and

**Illustrated Talk by Pete and Jacqui
Sayers**

about

**Walking Offa's Dyke for Bristol Area
Kidney Patients Association**

and

Socialise with a free glass of wine

at

*Election of
committee*

**The Church Hall
Church Lane, Bitton**

*All residents
welcome*

Thursday 11th October 2018 19:30

Any AGM questions in advance to Andrew

07809-761538

andrew@wardandrew.com

See you there!



Bitton Parish History Group news

Why was it that everyone failed to guess the strigil in the quiz 'Guess the Artefact' at the History Group stall at the fete? Now when you next get home from the amphitheatre after a gladiatorial battle, what better can your slave use to scrape off the caked-in mud, blood and perspiration from your skin?



The quiz winners were Daisy Jackson (junior prize) and Jon Heyes (adult prize). There is a link to the full answers sheet on our website - <http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk>

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be a film and talk by David Noble, author of 'An Oldland Boy Looks Back': an insight into aspects of life in Oldland Common in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, with residents recalling happy childhood days, local industry and where locals supped their ale. Our venue is North Common Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm on 5th October. Entry is free, open to all, and there will be refreshments.

Future Meeting

Bill Douglas will introduce us to the history of the world-famous Douglas motorbikes. Our venue will be Kingswood Heritage Museum on 6th November at 7pm for 7.30pm, so that we can also see their fine display of Douglas bikes.

First manufactured in Kingswood from 1907, some 25,000 were constructed for military use in the First World War. Anybody who thinks these machines were solely the preserve of men would be wrong. Before the Second World War World War the firm had a race-winning women's competition team, led by Irene and Rosina Douglas and their cousin Margaret.

Mike Gates
Secretary, Bitton Parish History Group

Bitton WI report

On September 4th Bitton WI members were taken on a federation trip to Sherborne Castle in Dorset, built by Sir Water Raleigh in 1594.

First we had a coffee stop in the tea rooms garden, then a tour of the castle , beautifully preserved and clean with lots of fine arts, furniture and porcelain. After lunch we took a tour of the gardens by Capability Brown with a walk alongside the lake to the ruins of the old castle and sat on the seat that Sir Walter Raleigh sat on to watch his new castle being built before his imprisonment for treason. The castle was returned to the crown and in 1617, Sir John Rigby acquired it. In 1620 he added the four distinctive wings to the house which was further extended in 1787.

Our president Ann Coles started our meeting by thanking everyone for their help at the Bitton Fete and saying how they enjoyed last month's outing to Barrington Court. After telling us of forthcoming events, she introduced speaker Jan Plenty who worked as a children's nurse for 40 years before crafting full time. She handed out cards and envelopes which she made earlier and we had to decorate them.

Our next meeting on Monday 8th October will be a talk and demonstration on growing in containers, and the flower class is on Tuesday 16th. Do join us.

Jean Hook

Information day for carers

The Patient Participation Groups at Hanham Health, Close Farm Surgery, Kingswood Health Centre and Cadbury Heath Healthcare have organised an information day for carers on Thursday 1st November at Hanham Methodist Church Hall.

The free event runs from 10.30am to 3pm.

Nature watch

Planet earth provides our food, our clean water and the air we breathe into our bodies, creating our energy and our lives. When nature suffers, we all suffer. And the bees, the multitude of bumblebees I see swarming over the lavender flowers each summer are a vital and intricate part of our world.

Interestingly the individual bees we see collecting nectar and pollen are unable to survive without being a member of a larger colony of bees. In a colony of honey bees each bee has its own role in the whole and they change their role as they mature. Starting out as house bees keeping the larvae clean and fed, they may then keep the hive cool in hot summers by fanning their wings to provide air conditioning or cluster around the queen to keep her and themselves warm when the temperature is icy cold.

When more mature, they move on to collecting nectar and pollen and also defending the hive entrance against intruders - wasps were especially aggressive this summer and have destroyed one of my hives.

So what we see as an individual bee collecting pollen is an illusion, the whole colony works together as one organism with the queen as its vital centre.

I was surprised to read in 'Guide to Bees of Britain' that there are more than 250 species of bee in the British Isles. Bees use pheromones to communicate with each other, a chemical odour of which scientists are discovering many variations. We humans are normally unaware of these odours as we cannot detect them with our everyday senses. Communication through sharing pheromones enables the colony to work together as a whole, passing on information between individual bees - the house bees may need to ask the flying bees to collect more nectar or pollen to feed the young

larvae; It is through sharing pheromones that all the bees in the hive know their queen is alive and well in the centre of their colony.

The main difference between bumblebees and honey bees is in the colony's life span. Honey bee colonies go on from one year to the next, using their honey stores to get them through the cold winter when they are unable to fly and collect nectar.



Bumblebee colonies die out at the end of summer with only the newly fertilised young queen surviving, hibernating somewhere safe and warm until spring. When early spring arrives and she emerges from her hibernation, she will first feed herself on early flowers to regain her strength. Then she searches out a new home, possibly a disused mouse hole or a large tuft of grass, to create her nest. Once she has found a suitable home she goes on to collect pollen and nectar which she stores in little wax pots she has newly created. Thus she slowly builds a nursery where she can lay her eggs and rear her young.

So the huge early bumblebees you see in spring are the queens and her smaller companions are her early brood. The various colour markings define the type of bee and their size denotes how well or otherwise they were fed as young larvae. The buzz on the lavender brings such joy to our world and these are the same bumblebees I see pollinating my runner beans and tomato plants. Our lives are dependent on the world in which we live and the very hot weather worldwide this summer brings this home to us all.

So thank you bees, we need your presence to give variety and abundance to our food. And thank you nature for providing us with a beautiful world in which to live.

Brenda Claxton

Bitton Village Residents' Association

Invites you to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

Friday 19 October

when we will be screening

The Post

**starring Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks
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Directed by Steven Spielberg, this is based on the true story of the Pentagon Papers and how, in 1971, the new editor of the Washington Post takes on the US government. After receiving leaked top-secret documents about the US involvement in the Vietnam War and the decades of cover-ups, Katharine Graham has to decide: should she publish and let the truth shine on the nearly 60,000 lost-in-action Americans? Should she put in jeopardy not only her status, but also her paper?

This is a really edge-of-your-seat movie.

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.
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Public meeting

A public meeting has been called for Wednesday 10th October to discuss ongoing concerns with the volume and speed of traffic using the lanes around the Golden Valley.

The meeting, which has been called by villagers in Upton Cheyney and Beach, will be at the chapel in Wick Lane, Upton Cheyney, and local councillor Erica Williams is due to attend.

Many residents campaigned for years for a reduced speed limit in the largely derestricted lanes between the A420, Bath Road at Wick, the A4175 through Oldland Common and the A431 through Bitton, and earlier this year a 30mph limit was introduced.

However, some feel the reduced limit has only helped a bit and that further traffic calming measures are needed, with some calling for the speed limit to be lowered still further to 20mph in the residential areas.

September's quiz answers

The answers (with alternatives that were allowed in brackets) are: **1.** Double Gloucester, **2.** Red Leicester, **3.** Le Petit Suisse, (Little Napoleon, Babybel), **4.** Dolcelatte, **5.** Yarg (Gray backwards, its inventor), **6.** Cheshire (cat), **7.** Port Salut, **8.** Edam, **9.** Gruyere, **10.** Parmesan (par-miss-an), **11.** Boursin (Bourse = French Stock Exchange; also allowed are Cashel Blue and Comté), **12.** Gorgonzola, **13.** Sage Derby, **14.** Stilton, **15.** Wyfe of Bath (as made at Kelston), **16.** Cheddar, **17.** Bel Paese, **18.** Pont L'Eveque, **19.** Wensleydale (as described by Wallace), **20.** Ricotta (Rick + Otter).

Well done to the following who got them all correct: Jan & Diane, Jon & Pam Booth, Alan & Sue Murtagh, the Wards and Mary Younie. The Wards are this month's winners!

The October quiz

This month's quiz, gives first letters to famous British scientists and inventors, past and present.

The deadline for entries (also adverts/copy) is **15th October**.

Send to The Editor, 18 Church Road, Bitton, BS30 6HH or email *bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk*

1. J----- P-----
2. C----- B-----
3. T----- B-----
4. R----- T-----
5. E----- H-----
6. B----- W-----
7. B----- C--
8. J----- D-----
9. I----- P-----
10. R----- T-----
11. C----- S-----
12. A----- D-----
13. W----- C-----
14. J----- D-----
15. W----- H-----
16. A-- L-----
17. C----- M-----
18. P----- M-----
19. J----- L-----
20. H----- F-- T-----

Name:

Contact:

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