

April 2019

£1

Focal Point

Beth & Tom on moving into their new home at Bitton Mill



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

KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

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

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

Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal

DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

0117 9863681

daviesandway.com

Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham
Bristol, BS31 1DP

0117 9863681

keynsham@daviesandway.com

Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford
Bristol, BS31 3BA

01225 400400

saltford@daviesandway.com

www.daviesandway.com



Your property in Park Lane

Showcase your property to the
lucrative London market



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

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

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

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

*188 High Street
Oldland Common
Bristol
BS30 9QQ*

Tel: 0117 932 3539



HRD Hardware

New owners Jim & Janette
look forward to welcoming you

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

20 Westcourt Drive, Oldland Common
Tel: 0117 932 3068



Mark Walker Dip GD (Inst GD)
*Garden designer, horticulturalist
and landscaper*

07886 185853
woodcuttersgarden.com

*Sustainable gardening
Chemical free*

Focal Point

April 2019

*Cover photograph
courtesy of Linden
Homes*

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 0117 932 5376

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

Deadline for the May

magazine is 15 April 2019

In this month's Focal Point:

Page 7	Cover article: Beth and Tom on moving to Bitton Mill
Page 20	Water Aid—Can you spare a drop for Lent?
Page 21	Out & About <i>with Brenda Claxton</i>
Page 24	Susie Bishop: Coventry a place of reconciliation
Page 27	New season for local historians
Page 28	Family in the Store—How Kandeepan and Shyamala run Bitton's Convenience Store
Page 31	Bitton WI News
Page 32	Monthly Quiz
Page 34	Recipe of the Month
Page 41	Last Word
Centre Pages	SUPPLEMENT—Proposals for the Future at St Mary's

**Church Services and information
pages 15 to 19**



FONTHILL
garden centre



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

www.fonthill-lakeside.com



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



Cover Feature: Beth and Tom on moving to Bitton Mill

It seems like a long time since work first started on the former Intier site, but after extensive groundworks, the new estate of houses at Bitton Mill is now really taking shape. The planned 125 new dwellings are now being occupied, with the project planned to complete within the next year.

One new couple, Beth Collins, 26, and Tom Purdon, 33, used the part exchange scheme to exchange their one bedroom flat in Bedminster for a three bedroom new house at Bitton Mill and decided to get engaged!

Tom is a research and development chemist for an agricultural company in Warminster. Beth is

construction secretary at Linden Homes' head office in Clifton;

that meant she was able to see the designs for Bitton Mill at an early stage. The couple liked the design and layout so much that they decided to move in themselves.

One advantage with a new home is that both Tom and Beth are not fans of DIY. "Having everything new and shiny with nothing to fix is ideal. We've gone from city living to rural living and we just love it! Bitton has so much to offer – there's a steam railway nearby, a park, a cycle path to Bristol and Bath, a village shop and school. From the bell ringers group to the local historian who kindly held an event to tell us all about the history of Bitton – there is real community spirit here and everyone has



**Beth and Tom loving their new home
in Bitton Mill**

Focal Point, April 2019

been so welcoming. We're more active and life has definitely changed for the better!"

All new residents are given a welcome pack from the church giving useful information about local contacts and activities as well as forthcoming church events. During 2019 we hope to be welcoming many more new people to Bitton Mill.

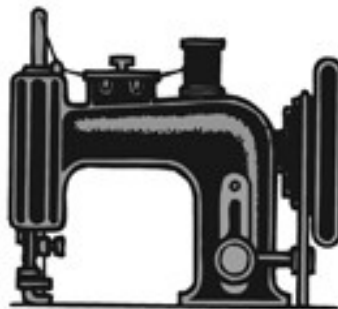
Beth and Tom meanwhile are definitely enjoying life in a more rural location and exploring the local landscape, foraging for fruits and berries when in season "We spend our weekends going on long walks to pubs – it's our new hobby! We've even invested in some Ordnance Survey maps and as well as The White Hart and The Swan near us, we've found a further 10 pubs in walking distance."

Parker's Sewing Services

Clothing alteration
and repairs

Soft furnishings

Specialist projects
and commissions
undertaken



Telephone Lizzie : 0117 9326662

Mobile : 07837126945

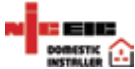
Email : parkerssewingservices@yahoo.co.uk

S M Wilkins Electrical Services

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

- Testing & inspection
- Landlord certs (EICR)
- Fault finding/repairs

- Extra sockets/lights
- Cooker/shower installation
- Smoke alarms



Mobile: 0771 218 9118



Email: smwilkins.electricalservices@gmail.com

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

OLDLAND HOUSE Veterinary Surgery

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



Absolutely Feet

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

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

Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP

Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600

absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647

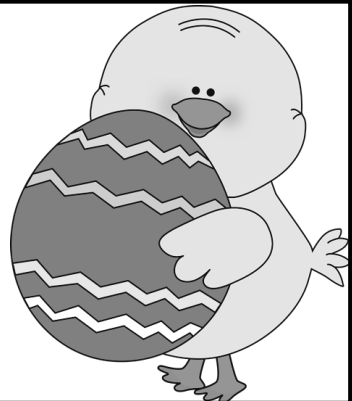
Email: martin@hanneywelding.co.uk

Don't miss the Great Bitton

EASTER EGG HUNT

**Easter Sunday—straight after the
St Mary's Easter Service at 11-30am**

Mainly for children!



Linden Homes

THE OLD CROWN INN

FISH, CHIPS AND A PINT

Fish & Chip
FRIDAYS

FOR JUST £12

T&Cs APPLY

THE OLD CROWN INN
Kelston
Bath
BA1 9AQ
01225 423 032
info@oldcrownkelston.com
www.oldcrownkelston.com

OldCrownKelston

UNWIND WITH PROSECCO

PROSECCO
Tuesday

HALF PRICE BY THE BOTTLE

ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

We are at your service 24 hours a day
We will help and guide you every step of the way
We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans
We can help and advise you choose a memorial
We are members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051
TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774
Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188
R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954
R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039
R. Davies & Son - Bishopsworth (0117) 9641133
Whitchurch FS - Whitchurch (01275) 833441



Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company

Matt Bressington Plastering Services Friendly & Reliable



All types of Plastering Rendering Pebble Dashing

Dry Lining Coving

Fully Insured Over 25 years experience

Competitive Rates Free Quotations

Tel: 0117 9830108 Mobile: 07905 474 966

Email: matt_bressy@yahoo.co.uk

You've got the skills to **foster...**

you may not know it yet



"I WISH WE'D DONE IT YEARS AGO"

Fatima, Foster Carer

Become a foster carer with South Gloucestershire Council and make a real difference.

We're looking for foster carers for children of all age groups. If you have a spare room, childcare experience and the time, we'd love to hear from you.

☎ 01454 866423

✉ fostering@southglos.gov.uk

www.fostersouthglos.org.uk





UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

Elder: Muriel Williams
0117 961 6843

Minister: Meryl White
0775 914 6645



Sunday services are at 3pm

April 7th Service led by Jenny Clarke
April 14th Palm Sunday Service led by Steve Britten
April 21st Easter Sunday Service led by Meryl White
April 28th Bible Study led by Meryl White
March 31st Mothers Day. Kathleen White talking about our collection for children in Romania.

In addition there will be a coffee afternoon at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd April



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON

Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained minister:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters
Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge
0117 949 0502

Services at St Mary's in April

Sunday 7 April

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 14 April

PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion

10.15am Palm Sunday Procession

Meet at Church Hall

10.30am Family Parade Service

Followed by a sale of cakes for Scout Group funds and a bring and share lunch

Thursday 18 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Benefice Communion of the Last Supper at St Barnabas Church Warmley

Friday 19 April

GOOD FRIDAY

2.00pm Service remembering the last hour before Christ died

Sunday 21 April

EASTER DAY

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Easter Communion Service *followed by*

11.30am Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 26 April

9.30 Celtic Communion

Sunday 28 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 Holy Communion

9.30 Family Café Church



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

St Mary's flower rota

No flowers in church during Lent
Easter decoration takes place on 20 April

From the Register

21st February Funeral—Douglas Moyes MacDonald



St Mary's Matters

On Tuesday 5th March an open evening was held in church to publicise the plans for reordering the church. The intention is to make the church a building which remains viable well into the 21st century both as a place of worship and as a valuable asset to the village.



Pete Midgley

The number of people attending was very encouraging and included representatives from the church, immediate neighbours and those from a little further afield. The atmosphere was relaxed (possibly helped by the availability of wine and pancakes!) and the overall response seemed largely positive and supportive. The opportunity to look into the crypt and see the remains there was something many found fascinating.

Written feedback was also largely positive and constructive although some concerns were raised. We will be considering these concerns carefully and responding to them as we feel most appropriate. If you are aware of the changes that are taking place but haven't yet taken the opportunity to respond you can do so by emailing stmarysbitton@gmail.com. Further information is provided in the special supplement.

This year's **Annual Parochial Meeting** will be held in the Lady Chapel on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30. This meeting is open to everyone, not just the PCC so please make every effort to attend if you are able. As many of you will now know Jill Gibson has decided to stand down as PCC secretary after many years of devoted service. Alison Wride has agreed to stand for election as her replacement. A big thank you to Alison for agreeing to this and of course a huge thank you to Jill for all that she has done.

Every six years the electoral roll has to be completely overhauled. This is the year that this process is taking place. Whether you have already been or would like to be on the electoral roll of the church you will need to complete a form at the back of the church and put it in the box marked "electoral roll forms". This needs to be done in advance of the APM on 9th April.

It has been encouraging to see the toys at the back of the church being put to good use, including at the open meeting. Hopefully we are sending out the message that children and young families are welcome in church (as well as everyone else of course!).

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Well the first of three of the highlights of the month was the return of John Creech to lead one of our services for the first time in two or three years. The gap having been caused by land line and mobile problems with the result that neither worked. His subject on his return was healing. It could have applied to healing of our communication. We look forward to a second service later this year. He has a lot of time to make up.



Stuart Turner

Second highlight was the return of Peter. He is one of our most popular regulars despite whispering in my ear every Sunday about Bristol rugby being so much better than Bath. We will have to find a long list of jobs to keep him even more busy as a punishment. However we are genuinely delighted that he is back with us once more.

The third highlight this month was David Jones leading a service at short notice. Short notice being measured in minutes rather than days and hours. His subject was God is love. There was talk of whether a glass was half full or half empty, of saying "Good morning Lord or was it good Lord its morning" and a specialist subject of how to grow a cucumber in a glass bottle. Always a joy to listen to him.

Also this month we were once again joined by Bath Central URC for our communion service. Always refreshing to exchange ideas and tea with old friends.

Finally, as one door slams shut another opens. We have finally received sign off from the council for our new toilet. You may remember this was completed sometime last year. Well now that's done, dusted and the door is closed. One new door then opened in that we have received planning permission to restore the external staircase from the kitchen, install a ramp to a restyled patio area. To put this in perspective, I know there was a staircase some years ago but I have never actually saw it! Hopefully we can get it back for the warm Summer weather we hope to have.

Spare a drop for Lent

Have you given up alcohol for Lent? In modern times it is a popular option that has benefits not only for the soul but for the body. Alcohol, we are frequently told by doctors is not good for us other than in moderation.

We do of course have alternatives and a fresh and safe supply of water and sanitation are things that we give little thought to in first world countries.

By contrast, some of the world's poorest and most marginalised people don't have clean water to drink, decent toilets or hygiene. Without these basics, overcoming poverty is just a dream. Today one in nine people are still living without clean water close to home.

Each year, in Lent, St Mary's makes a collection for **Water Aid** by asking for any small change you have and donating it into the large jar at the rear of the church. WaterAid has teams in 34 countries across the world, working with partners to improve access to clean water, toilets and hygiene. Since 1981, when the charity began, over 29 million people have benefited from this work.

People like those in Tombohuaun in Sierra Leone, with whom Water Aid is currently working to install a safe water supply and toilets. Previously they have had to rely on a small waterhole just outside the village. One of the women, Mayama, knows the reality of it. "The water is so dirty. Sometimes it is yellowish or even black. But we have to drink it. We don't have any other water."

This means that children and adults face a constant battle with illness – vomiting, diarrhoea, fever and malaria. And illness is expensive. Parents in Tombohuaun can spend over 50% of their income on healthcare for their families. The villagers have been investing in better education and development, but without safe water and sanitation these works are thwarted.

If you have spare change, please give it to this worthy cause. If you have given up alcohol, perhaps you would like to think of making a larger donation with the money you have saved.

You can read more about Mayama and Water Aid's work by visiting their website - wateraid.org/uk.



Out and about

with Brenda Claxton

Apart from the early morning mist the sun has been shining all day giving a tender warmth. Even though it is still late February the warmth and light has felt like April. The sunshine encourages

me to sit in the garden and watch the birds flitting back and forth between the bird feeders and surrounding bushes. Blue tits, long tailed tits, and sparrows predominate, with two crested doves sitting in their habitual place on the birdbath. From time to time a bullfinch appears, or a robin. Suddenly I spy the tiny wren collecting dried grass to build her nest.

A large bird now catches my attention. A beautiful sparrowhawk is sitting entirely motionless on top of the post holding the bird feeders. Needless to say, the garden is now devoid of all small birds. He is perfect, without any blemish and his beautiful colours glow in the sunlight.

Sometime later I catch sight of the sparrow hawk chasing two blue tits across the garden where they are confronted by an 8ft stone wall. They lose their sense of direction but somehow manage to fly up and over the wall, eluding the sparrow hawk who gives up the chase and flies off into the sky and away.

The last time I saw the sparrow hawk it was sitting on the tree where the sparrows like to cluster. This time I watched as he chased a sparrow across the garden towards the same tall wall, where he caught it in his claws and flew away with his dinner.

We have been feeding the garden birds throughout this past winter from our four feeders. Two contain peanuts, one mixed seeds and one is full of Nyjer seeds for the goldfinches. From early morning the hungry birds start feeding from the newly filled feeders. Some mornings the feeder containing bird seed needs replenishing after just a few hours. The birds do seem to be more in need of feeding than I can remember in the past.

Since early January there has been an abundance of snowdrops, and daffodils have flowered alongside them this year, though usually they do not appear until April. Really surprising is the purple iris which has been in flower for about a month. It does seem incredible that an iris bulb could be in flower so early in the year. Only yesterday, our lovely post lady asked what flower it could be.

I find the warmth in the air and what a relief it is to feel the seasons change. But I do worry about the climate and its effect its changing will have on the future of our planet. I read only yesterday that insects are dying out at a rate 8 times greater than animals. Insects are so small and insignificant yet in their millions they support all life on earth. Insects are the birds' main source of food, of course.

To enjoy our natural world uplifts our spirits and gives us the courage to do our best to keep the planet safe. We can each one of us care for our own plot of garden soil, planting flowers which nurture bees and other insects and refraining from using pesticides and herbicides whenever we can.

BITTON
PARISH
HISTORY GROUP



John Cennick

The Forgotten
Kingswood
Evangelist

talk by Gary Best
the distinguished
Methodist Historian

8th April

7:00 for 7:30pm

Unity Oldland Methodist Church
West Street, Oldland Common
Everyone welcome



WesterlyWinds

and guests present

A Night at the Proms

Saturday 11th May

7:30pm

St Mary's Church

42 Church Rd

Bitton

BS30 6LJ

Tickets - £5.50 (Children Free)

For more information and tickets



Facebook page:

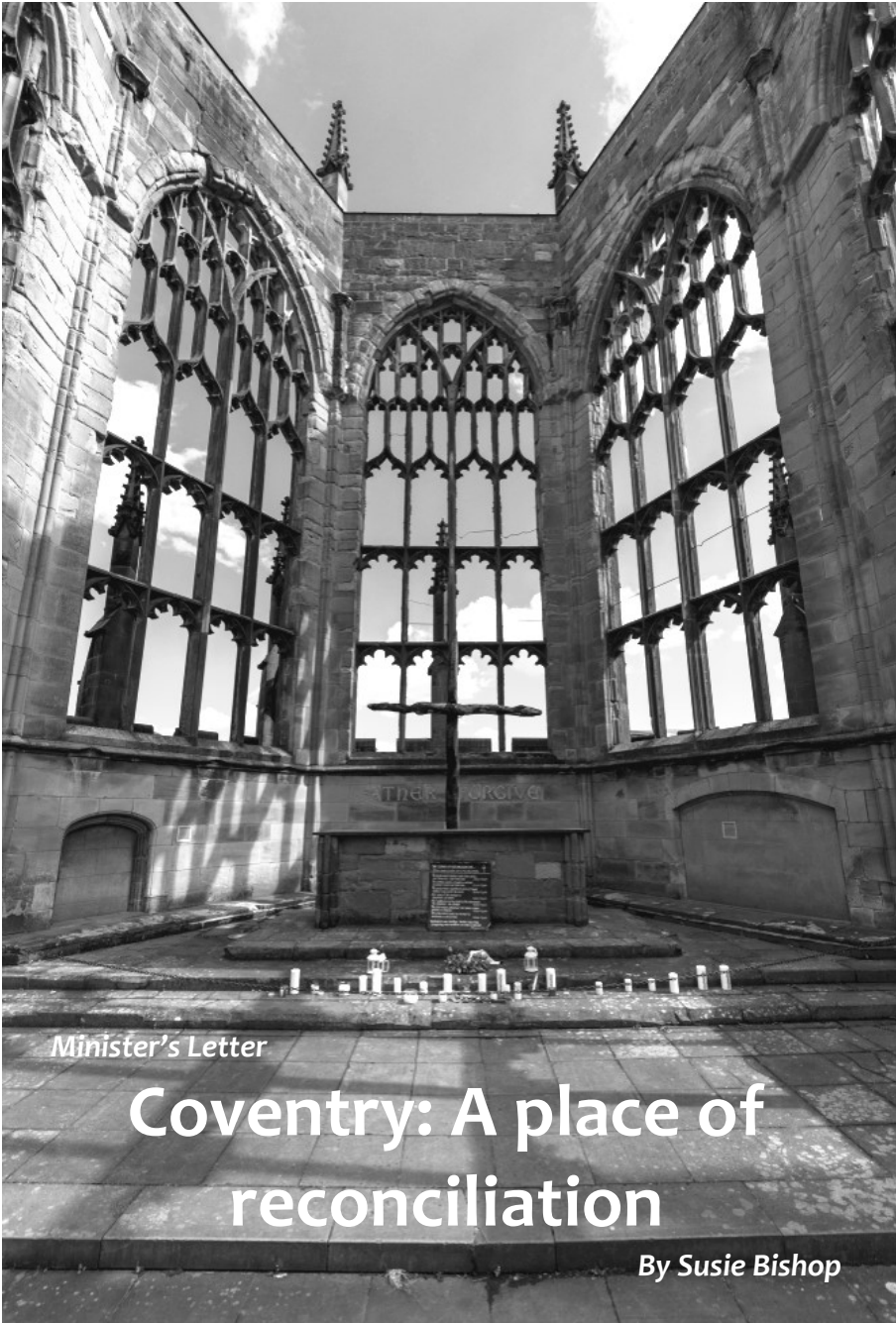
www.facebook.com/westerlywindsstaplehill/



Website: www.westerlywindsstaplehill.com



Email: westerlywindssh@gmail.com



Minister's Letter

Coventry: A place of reconciliation

By Susie Bishop

Steve and I recently paid a visit to our son Jack, and his wife Megan. They have just moved to Coventry to work as children and youth ministers. We really wanted to see the church they work at and also Coventry Cathedral which just happens to be right next to their church.

Wow! I was not expecting such a rich time of symbolism, and for my heart to be so '*strangely warmed*' as John Wesley would say. Here the old bombed out Cathedral and the new Cathedral sit side by side with Holy Trinity just a short step away. A trinity of holy spaces, where the ongoing ministry of prayer and reconciliation is profoundly worked out.

My heart was strangely warmed because here was a living example of the prayers that I seek daily to pray from the ordination service. The invitation to prayer in the ordination service comes directly after these words, " You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God."

I believe these words are so true, not just of a priest's calling to ministry but to all of our callings. After all, can any of us bear the weight of being a parent, teacher, farmer, painter, care worker, widow, church warden on our own strength?

Pray therefore....

- ***that your heart may daily be enlarged;***
- ***and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened;***
- ***pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

Coventry spoke profoundly to me of these prayers in action. The hearts of the praying people of Coventry must have been so enlarged. There is an ongoing ministry of reconciliation that reaches far and wide. Each day prayers of reconciliation are said in the bombed out Cathedral. Each Sunday at Holy Trinity Church the blessing is said outside the church, declared over the city as well as the congregation.

Amazing things can happen when hearts are enlarged by God and I saw the effects of how hearts enlarged by God can encompass suffering, welcoming the work that God can do in and through brokenness.

The grace and power of God breathing through weakness has brought

Continued overleaf

something of God's resurrection life to Coventry.

Evidence of the second prayer from the ordination service is equally visible here in Coventry. 'Understanding of Scripture enlightened ' The heart beat of Coventry Cathedral is peace and reconciliation. In 1940, just weeks after the bombing, Provost Dick Howard said, on the radio, that his vision was to work with those who had been enemies. " To build a kinder, more Christ like world."

With this in mind he had the words '**Father Forgive**' inscribed on the wall of the ruined Cathedral. The words of Jesus on the cross became enlightened across the centuries to be a prayer for Coventry's *enemies* in the face of injury and hurt. A vivid example of how the word of God, when enlightened, brings understanding for present day implications.

And lastly...

" Pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit" Could any of this profound work have happened without the Holy Spirit?

Would hearts have been set on fire with love, or would the chard embers rather bring rage and revenge in their wake?"



FAMILY CAFÉ CHURCH

Sunday 28 April at 9.30 am

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.

***We look forward to seeing you at St Mary's on
28 April 9.30***

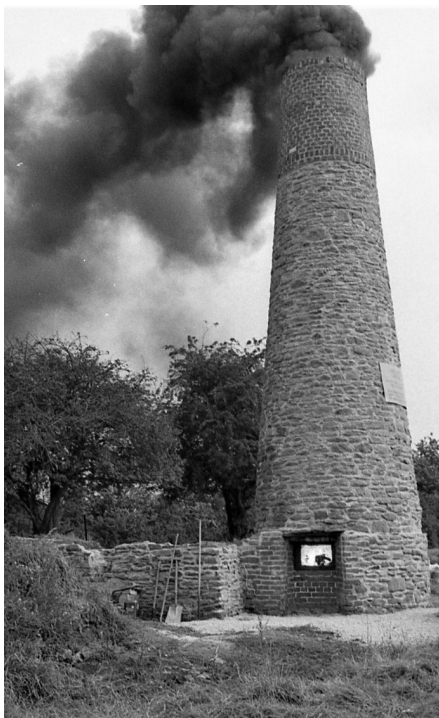
New season for local historians

Those interested in local history have much to look forward to in coming months as **Kingswood Heritage Museum** is gearing up for its new season. Volunteers have been at work for weeks, creating new exhibits for 2019 and refurbishing last year's displays, as well as improving access to the Museum itself.

Two new major exhibits for 2019 are being prepared. The first is a display created by Kingswood District Scouts, with photos of the activities of many of the local troops over the years. The other is entitled "Spotlight on Bitton and Oldland", with pictures covering the development of the area through the twentieth century.

Alan Bryant, Joint Museum Curator, says: "We welcome contributions from local people to add to our knowledge of the Bitton area. Anyone with a story to tell, or artefacts for display, is encouraged to contact us at kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com."

The Museum will open on 2 April, and then on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays until 28 November from 2.00pm until 5.00pm, and on Bank Holidays between 11.00am and 5.00pm.



The Golden Valley pit ventilation shaft in use until the early 20th century

Photo—Kingswood Heritage Museum

Meanwhile **Bitton History Group** continues to organise fascinating talks about the past and with the reopening for summer if the Kingswood Heritage Museum this month.

The next History Group talk, to be held on 8 April, will be by the distinguished Methodist Historian, Gary Best, who will provide a fascinating account about the Methodist preacher John Cennick and the shocking reception he received when he came to preach locally.

Cennick preached in Upton Cheyney in 1741, staying at the cottage of a farmer. This infuriated Edward Parker, the owner of most of the land in and around the village. Parker hired people to drown out the sound of Cennick's voice by beating on pots and pans.

Family in the Store



Kavin, Kandeepan and Shyamala behind the shop counter

"Listening to the customer is the most important. It takes time to learn what they really want."

Little else is valued more in Bitton than the village store, which for the past two years has been under the cheerful management of Kandeepan and Shyamala, plus the vital contributions of their son Kavin who can put a smile on everyone's face.

Both were born and raised in Sri Lanka but did not meet until they were in England. Shyamala came to London with her family in 2007 to run a large shop and post office, while Kandeepan was in Sheffield, studying for an engineering degree. He met Shyamala at her sister's birthday party. The wedding was in Sri Lanka, but Kandeepan's father was rather unhappy as he had hoped his son would take on his wholesale business there. This was not to be, and the happy couple returned to London. They worked together in Shyamala's family business, but when Kavin was born they decided to make the move out of London so that they would have more space and time to raise him. A family friend suggested the Bristol and Bath area.

They liked Bitton. It is a good village with a good community and access to good schools. They thought it would be an ideal place to raise a family.

Kandeepan describes the challenges and opportunities of the move: “The shop had been closed for 2 months when we first arrived,” he explained, “so many customers had moved online to do their shopping and we had to work hard to establish the business again. We also had to find out what people want. In London, Polish beer was very popular, here it is cider. In London people preferred Benson and Hedges, here it is Lambert & Butler. I want to put in new fridges, but that is expensive, and we have to save for it. We have changed the board outside the shop to Premium – a very powerful brand that people recognise rather than just putting my name outside the shop.”

He is clear about the most important qualities of a good shop keeper: “Listening to the customer is the most important. It takes time to learn what they really want, and many are great experts on wine! Looking for offers is key, I spend a lot of time searching for the best deals and price marks. Being friendly makes a big difference; my wife and I have made many friends here and we are very happy. Sometimes some-one may be angry if for example there is a newspaper strike, but we keep smiling and it all gets sorted out.”

“In London, Polish beer was very popular—here it is cider.”

The robbery, last year, was very distressing, especially for Shyamala. The couple are grateful for all the local support they received. The village collection of £3000 made a huge difference but Shyamala is still nervous and feels it will take a long time to get over. “The local people have been very supportive and that makes a huge difference. We have also installed really good CCTV, including three cameras outside so that will really help.”

Kandeepan brings a rich and varied heritage from Sri Lanka: “I am a Tamil, raised in a Hindu family, but I have lived in the Buddhist part of Sri Lanka. My school was a Christian school, so we celebrate Christmas, and visit some Buddhist temples.”

Both Shyamala and Kandeepan feel very supported by the community. When they first moved to Bitton they could not rent anywhere in Bitton; they lived in Emerson’s Green, but are very grateful to Ken Gibson who arranged for

Continued overleaf

them to move in to a house within walking distance of the shop.

Everyone was very welcoming when they first arrived, especially Andrew Ward who introduced them to many people. They feel the community has made many opportunities for them. When asked if the community could do more Kandeepan said: "I know there are many supermarkets close by, but if we became a part of everyone's daily life with people buying their milk, bread and papers from us that would be excellent."



Article and picture by Sarah Heavens

Marlene and Pam are holding an

Afternoon Tea

**at St Mary's Church, Bitton on
Saturday 18th May 2pm to 4pm
in support of**

The Forever Friends Appeal
at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

Offers of cakes welcome.

**Call in for a chat, a drink, a cake and make a
donation.**

Hope to see you there.

News from Bitton WI

President Ann Coles welcomed everyone to the March meeting. After announcing forthcoming events, she introduced the speaker, Hellen Mackie, the Events' Officer for the Jessie May Children's Hospice.

The Jessie May charity provides hospice at home care for terminally ill children in Bristol and surrounding areas and was set up, 23 years ago, by the parents of Jessica May Purrington, a little girl who died at home aged only 4 months, surrounded by her family and a nurse.

Most of the children require round the clock attention, so for the nurse to go to the family home for 3 hours means that the carer can do things we take for granted like house work and food shopping.

They also provide pamper days for the teenage girls and the boys like VR (virtual reality) experiences through which they can go on a roller coaster, swim in the ocean or walk on a beach; things they could not do in reality. The charity also try to get the families together. The Holiday Inn Filton let them take over the whole floor at Christmas where a grotto was built as a treat for the parents as well as the children.

The end of life nurse knows what to say to support the family and continues to be available to support them for five years after death. What special people they must be!

The next meeting is on Monday 8th April, when the speaker will be Ann Freeman whose subject will be Plants, Gardening and Herbal Medicine.

You are all Welcome to join us.

Jean Hook





Soot n Sweep

*For all your chimney
sweeping needs*

All types of chimneys, flues &
AGAs swept and cleaned

Contact Nick Wilcox
07983 215312
01179 492258



NACS qualified & certificates issued



March's quiz answers

The answers to March's quiz on popular music are as follows:

(1) Stay Another Day; (2) Papa Don't Preach; (3) Dancing Queen; (4) I'm a Believer; (5) How Much Is That Doggie In The Window; (6) Thank U, Next; (7) Oops! I Did It Again; (8) He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother; (9) Bridge Over Troubled Water; (10) Hello Goodbye; (11) Great Balls of Fire; (12) Thinking Out Loud; (13) Dirty; (14) Men in Black; (15) Congratulations / From me to You; (16) Band of Gold; (17) Crashed The Wedding; (18) Surrender; (19) Call Me Maybe; (20) I Can't Get No Satisfaction.

Nobody got all the entries correct, but the following people came close:

Sheila Reis, Alan & Sue Murtagh, Bryan Garlick, Pam & Jon Booth, Mark Young, Jan & Diane

The April quiz

This month's quiz is all about countries, along with the clue I have given the number of different countries that share a land border, and the number of letters in the answer. Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell, at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email mrscussell@icloud.com by 15th April.

Clue	No of Borders	No of Letters
1 Looks like a large island, but officially it's a continent, not an island	0	9
2 A country without armed forces, and it has a peace constitution	0	5
3 The most socially isolated country on earth	3	5, 5
4 The world's largest island is part of this country	1	7
5 Has the world's longest land border between 2 countries	1	6
6 Largest country in South America	10	6
7 Joined the UN in 1955, after being denied membership for not supporting the Allied cause in WWII	1	7
8 Has the world's most northern capital city	0	7
9 Has all 5 vowels in its name occurring only once each	6	10
10 Has the busiest passenger seaport in the world	3	7
11 Country with the most volcanoes in the world, 173	2	6, 6, 2, 7
12 Has the world's highest capital and a Pacific coastline	2	7
13 Country with the largest population	14	5
14 The smallest country in mainland Africa	1	6
15 Has over 6,000 islands, but only 136 of these are permanently inhabited	1	6, 7
16 Came 1st out of 140 countries in the Happy Planet Index, with a score of 44.7	2	5, 4
17 The world's largest landlocked country	5	10
18 Country with the most time zones (12), 11 of these are for the country's overseas territories & dependencies	8	5
19 Country with the deepest lake in the world, which contains over 20% of the world's fresh water	14	6
20 Has the largest canal lock in the world, measuring 500m length, 68m wide, 17.8m deep	4	7

Name:

Contact:

Quick Coleslaw

With better weather, and the approach of early summer, there may be the chance of some outdoor eating and even a barbeque. What BBQ would be complete without sausages, beans and coleslaw. But if you are not keen on the slimy shop version of coleslaw, yet can't be bothered with the pain of making your own dressing, this recipe may be for you.

Coleslaw is apparently Dutch in origin, from the Flemish word *koolsla* (meaning a cabbage salad). While mayonnaise is a relatively new invention, the salad dressing was more a vinaigrette originally, the salad entered Anglo Saxon menus by way of the Dutch settlers in New York eventually becoming a staple of the American diet and particularly the barbeque.

There are many variations and apart from the cabbage almost anything vegetable has been mixed with it. American/British tastes usually require carrot to be included probably for colour, but also as it is cheap. As an alternative to plain white cabbage a red cabbage makes a more colourful dish.

Ingredients

For the slaw

1/2 small white or red cabbage
2 medium carrots
1/2 red onion
1/2 bulb fennel
Celery is an acceptable alternative to fennel and some people like to add apple

For the dressing

1 tbs olive oil
1 tbs white / cider vinegar
2-3 tbs mayonnaise

(The leading brand of mayonnaise may not be the best for this. Try the slightly looser own brand types or those in budget supermarkets)

Salt and pepper to taste

Method

1. Chop the cabbage and fennel to the size you prefer.
2. Finely chop the red onion.
3. Shred the carrot using the largest holes on a grater.
4. Place all the vegetables in a large bowl and toss together to obtain an even distribution of each.
5. In another bowl mix the oil, vinegar and mayonnaise to form a fluid dressing. (if you like a creamy slaw, add more mayonnaise).
6. Pour the dressing over the vegetables and toss rigorously until all parts are well covered.
7. Serve and use within a few hours. It will keep in the fridge for a couple of days.

**Got a recipe to share?
Please send to the editor.**

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ACCOUNTANTS

Norton Tax Shops Ltd (page 43)

BUILDERS

Wilton Building Contractors (page 40)

CARE HOMES

Collingwood (page 37)

CHILDCARE

South Glos fostering (page 14)

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Bristle Chimney (page 36)
Soot n Sweep (page 32)

CHIROPODIST

Absolutely Feet (page 10)

DECORATING

Steve Painter Decorating Services (page 37)

ELECTRICAL

SM Wilkins Electrical Services (page 9)

ESTATE AGENTS

Davies & Way (page 2)
Fine & Country (page 3)

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Alderwick (page 38)
Roy Preddy (page 13)

GARDEN CENTRES

Fonthill (page 6)

GARDENERS

Mark Walker (page 4)

GENERAL STORES

HRD Hardware (page 4)

HAIRDRESSING

Just Kim (page 4)

HOUSE BUILDERS

Linden Homes (page 9)

MOTORING

Bitton Motor Company (back page)
MC Car Body (page 42)

PLASTERERS

Matt Bressington Plastering (page 13)

PLUMBING

RJ Pearce Plumbing (page 36)

PUBS

Crown Inn (page 12)

TAILORS

Parker's Sewing Services (page 8)

TIMBER

Bendrey Bros (page 39)

VETS

Highcroft (page 39)
Oldland House (page 9)

WASTE REMOVAL

K1 Klearance (page 38)

WELDING

Hanney (page 810)



Based in Keynsham

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

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



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



RJ PEARCE PLUMBING
PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

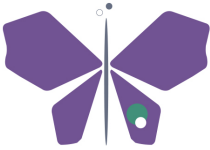
Available for
general plumbing
and repairs

Tel: 07814 607974

Email: robsuep@btinternet.com

**INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN
FOCAL POINT?**

**CONTACT JIM HEAVENS ON 0117 932 5376
TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR
VERY REASONABLE RATES**



collingwood
care home for the elderly

“Home from home”

Our new bedrooms have underfloor heating, large fitted wardrobes and ensuite shower rooms

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

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

0117 932 4527

www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk



E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd
Funeral Directors

Serving Bristol since 1945

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

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



k1 klearance
Quick call and its gone!

Nathan Ugoji
Rubbish & Removals
07468 382143

Bristol, Bath
& surrounding
areas

Environment
Agency
licensed

Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Trade & D.I.Y. welcome
- Fast Local Delivery Service, or collect from our yard

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:
9.00am - 12.00

www.bendreybros.co.uk ☎ **0117 9674382**

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

Outstanding care for Very Important Pets

- ♥ Open 6 days a week, plus evening surgeries
- ♥ 24-hour emergency service
- ♥ Specialist services and facilities
- ♥ Over 60s Club and 10% off day
- ♥ Home visits
- ♥ Free nurse clinics

Longwell Green Veterinary Centre

formerly known as Lucas Vets

1 Court Farm Road, Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 9AA

Call 0117 932 3660

www.highcroftvet.co.uk

AN INDEPENDENT VET-OWNED PRACTICE





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

K P Wilton & Son Ltd

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

Tel: 0117 967 1207

Email: info@kpwilton.co.uk



The last word

Thank you to all of those who responded to last month's **Last Word** about what you would like to see in Focal Point in the future and for comments about the changing layout. Please keep them coming.



One thing I received from Becky when she handed over the role was a large box of ancient Focal Points dating back to 1950. How things have changed from the printed cover over duplicated sheets of information, largely about forthcoming church events, to today's colourful cover and professionally printed version covering a much wider view of community happenings.

Since the last issue, St Mary's has held its open evening to reveal what is proposed for the development of the church in the future; the result of long and often quite painful considerations about what is needed to enable the church to have a much wider role within the community without compromising its role as a place of worship. How to respond to the future needs of churches is widespread. In France, ancient churches are maintained by the state (which may explain why they tend to look rather similar and have a cold Ministry of Public Works feel). In Britain, despite the established position of the Church of England, no such funding exists and, apart from some central grants, it is largely up to local church communities to maintain such buildings.

What is being proposed is in line with general advice from the Church of England about maintaining churches and worship into the future. While most of the comments received after the open meeting were positive, it was also clear that others had concerns about its impact and whether the proposals were the right course. It is important that such views are known and reflected.

Jim Heavens

Steve Painter Decorating Services

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

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

**Contact Steve on 07853 250035
or 0117 956 5190**

M.C AUTO REPAIRS

***MOTs *SERVICING**

***CLASSES 4 + 5 + 7**

***REPAIRS *WELDING**

***BODYWORK**

Telephone: 0117 947 7405

Unit 4d Kingsfield Lane

Longwell Green, Bristol BS30 6DL



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

Then we can help!

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

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



Website: www.nortontaxshops.co.uk

Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686