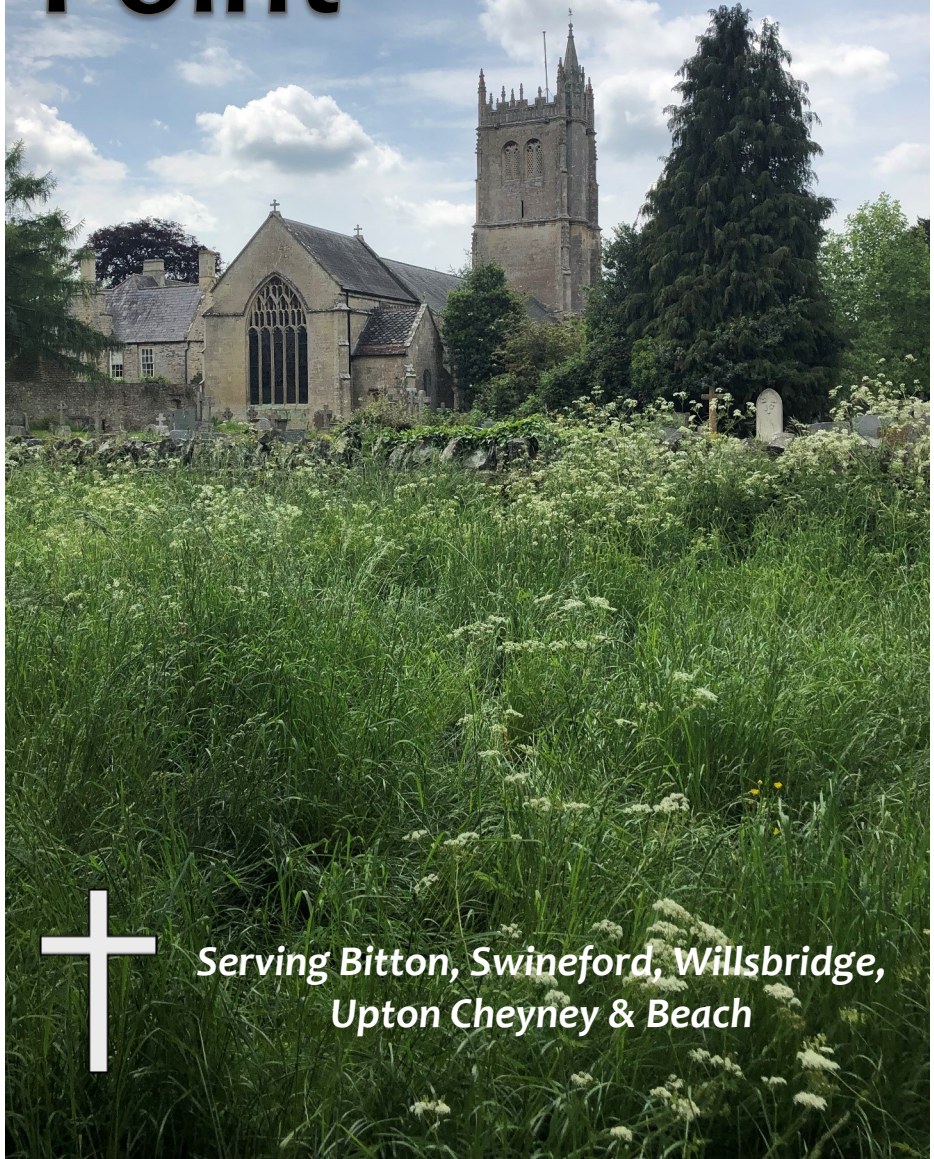


July 2019

£1

Focal Point



*Serving Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,
Upton Cheyney & 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

July 2019

Cover photograph—
St Mary's from the Glebe Field, taken by Becky Feather

To advertise in Focal Point please contact the editor.

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 0117 932 5376

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

Deadline for the August magazine is 15 July 2019

In this month's Focal Point:

Page 7 **White Hart Songs of Praise—***Music and Meerkats*

Page 12 *Rev Anika Gardiner: The Earth our most sacred relative*

Page 20 *Bitton Open Gardens 2019*

Centre Section

Useful Contacts

Updated list of local contacts

Page 26 *Fundraising for a Village Defibrillator*

Page 28 *Our Charites CMS working in Uganda—* a look back at the work of Corrie Verduyn

Page 31 *Fete Photography Competition*

Page 35 **WI News**

Page 36 **Bitton History Group**

Page 37 *RUH benefits from Afternoon Teas*

Page 39 *Monthly Quiz*

Page 45 *Last Word*

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





White Hart Songs of Praise for Music with Meerkats

Photo and story—Sarah Heavens

James and Jemma Smith have been landlords at the Bitton White Hart for six years now, working hard to make the White Hart the hub of the community. James has lived in the village all his life and they were married last year at St Mary’s Church. The Songs of Praise which they are hosting on 7th July with Oldland Brass and a barbeque 4– 6pm will link the church and the pub, the two traditional centres of village life.

Student bar and broken foot

James trained as a plasterer but unfortunately a broken foot put paid to this career. Jemma had managed the student bar at Lackham College in Chippenham so decided to take on the lease of the White Hart from Enlighten Inns. Two years ago, they bought the lease outright and are now completely independent. James says: “It has been tough, three pubs a day are closing now in the UK, but we are working very hard to build up business here. Enlighten was not set up for food at all, and we do have

Focal Point, July 2019

plans to expand the kitchen, but not to become a gastropub. We currently sell snacks at the weekend and do barbeques in the summer. It will take a long time to save up to do the kitchen, but this is in our plan.”

Bitton Bird Lady

Jemma continues “We have really revamped the garden, by putting in some colourful borders, shrubs and new benches. We have installed the meerkat enclosure – now we have six! We put in the aviary and we have two parrots, Bobby and Blue and 40 -50 birds altogether including canaries and quails. I’m now known as ‘the Bitton Bird Lady’! The birds and the animals have been a big draw and lots of families come to see them and sit in the sunny garden.”

Community

James says: “Bitton is a lovely village. My mother has lived here 42 years, and everyone is very friendly. People like to come to the pub after work for a gossip. It is a great place to meet up, to listen to music, or for occasions like the darts matches, jewellery making, PTA meetings or to come and watch the football. It is a traditional village pub and a great place to meet people – we have been pleased to welcome several people from the new houses as well. The pub encourages people to get to know their neighbours, and everyone to feel part of village life.”

Jemma adds: “We have started to organize a charity quiz every couple of months and our customers generously bring in prizes for the raffle. We have raised money for RUH Forever Friends, Air Ambulance, St Peter’s Hospice and Marie Curie –for which we raised £450. We want to thank everyone so much for their support - we really appreciate it. We have signed the lease for 20 years, so we are really enjoying being in Bitton and playing a key part in the community here”.

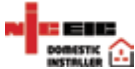
Songs of Praise at the White Hart takes place on Sunday 7 July between 4.30 and 6pm. There is a Barbecue available from 4pm. All are welcome

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

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

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

Rev Anika Gardener

The Earth— our most sacred relative



I am sure we have all heard of David Attenborough (if not, where have you been the last few decades?) and probably also Greta Thunberg. If not, look her up - she is a Swedish teenager who is campaigning for the environment.

We are trying as a family to live a more sustainable life, to buy second hand rather than new, or to not buy at all. Use less plastic. Campaign. But we still have a way to go. Who can fail to be impressed with 93 year old David Attenborough or the passion of Greta Thunberg and like minded young people, willing to make a stand; to change their practices, to safeguard our planet?

Revd Jim Bear Jacobs' speaking from an Indigenous perspective corrected this already convincing statement 'The earth is our greatest natural resource and it is incumbent upon us to protect it' to the even more powerful 'The earth is our most sacred relative and it is incumbent upon us to protect her.'

Whether you agree or not with this statement, it made me reflect on this: if something is more personal to us - relatable even, we are more likely to do something, to take action.



Generations united in their concern for the planet's future - The broadcaster and naturalist, David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg, school strike activist. *Photos—Shutterstock*

I think that for too long, we have not given enough thought to our planet, and how it is affected by our choices - which is in part why we are at this point.

As family, we went along to an event organised by Extinction Rebellion in Bristol a few weeks ago. The aim of that event was to help people realise what impact fashion has on our planet and also on our global neighbours.

Research this area if this is of interest to you.

So what can we do as families and individuals? I came across an article on a blog which was helpful so I'm going to share some ideas and thoughts from it:

1. Sharing delight and thanksgiving

God's creation is amazing! We live on an amazingly beautiful, abundant and diverse planet, set amidst a cosmos of staggering size and of awe-inspiring age. We are thoroughly dependent upon the creative and sustaining work of God, mediated through these myriad blessings. Let's be grateful for His creation.

Focal Point, July 2019

2. Nurturing wonder and curiosity

Love and knowledge are two sides of the same coin. We only truly know what we love, and cannot truly love without knowing. Thus, the natural complement of delight and thanksgiving is curiosity and wonder.

The world is a fascinating and mysterious place.

3. Living simply, so that others can simply live

Jesus said that life does not consist in the abundance of possessions, and to beware of greed. For the sake of our soul, then, as well as to reduce our planetary impact, we seek to live with less of the things that matter less, to gain more of the things that matter more. Walking lightly means not demanding a lifestyle that will cost the Earth. There is indeed more than enough for everyone's need, but not to satiate everyone's greed.

4. Getting our hands dirty

Whether that is gardening, recycling or litter picking. It is good to be doing something, even if the dirt is metaphoric and you rather get involved by campaigning or signing petitions.

5. Grounding it all in the good news of God with us

In a backwater of an empire, amidst violence and lies, God showed up in a baby born to a peasant girl. The incarnation meant God was with us amidst the mess: guiding, teaching, healing, dying, rising.

In Jesus, the story of God and creation reached a climax, a decisive turning, a new day. When we seek to understand ourselves and our time, it is in light of Christ's coming and cross, his resurrection and promised return.

We love our climate neighbours because God first loved us.

Just before Jesus ascended he said 'A new commandment I give to you, to love one another, as I have loved you.'

The Christian life is a simple one, to love God and to love one another, just as we are fully loved by God. And now I need also to extend that love to the earth; the diverse, beautiful, existence we share life with.

Churches & services



UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church



Sunday services are at 3pm

Services in July:

Sunday 7th Service led by Janet Donnell

Sunday 14th Service led by Norman Palfrey

Sunday 21st Service led by Des and Hilary Colechin

Sunday 28th Service led by Veronica Jackson

In addition there is a coffee afternoon at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd July



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 July

Sunday 7 July

TRINITY III

10.30am Parish Communion
4.30pm *Songs of Praise at the White Hart*

Sunday 14 July

TRINITY IV

8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Parade Service
followed by a Barbecue in aid of Scout funds

Sunday 21 July

TRINITY V

10.30am Morning Worship

Friday 26 July

9.30am Celtic Communion
Followed by coffee and cakes

Sunday 28 July

TRINITY VI

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church

We welcome everyone to cream teas served at the church on Sundays between 3 and 5, during July and August. Have a look around the church, tea and a chat, except on the 7th July when we have Songs of Praise at the White Hart.



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

6	July	Anne Carrington
13	July	Janet Ballinger
20	July	Judith Butson
27	July	Helen Pugsley

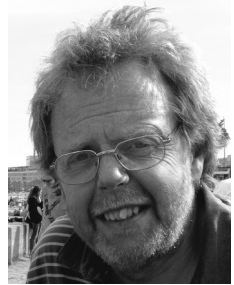
From the Register

8th June Wedding Michael Somerton and Victoria Bessell
15th June Wedding Andrew Morrison and Sarah Stenner



St Mary's Matters

As I write this I'm aware that June has not turned out to be particularly warm. I'm hoping that this will have changed for the Songs of Praise in the White Hart garden on Sunday 7th. Thinking about these things has made me aware of the many things to do with St Mary's that happen outside the church, particularly, but not exclusively, at this time of year.



Pete Midgley

Cream teas on a Sunday afternoon are now in full swing and we will be barbecuing in aid of scout funds after the family service on Sunday 4th July. On Palm Sunday we have a small parade through the village (sometimes with a donkey!). Later in the year the annual church fete will see many people walking through the church yard, and the remembrance service in November finds us gathered around the war memorial. (The observant amongst you may have noticed that this now has a QR code next to it which can be used find out further information - if you have the necessary technology and know how to use it!). In addition to all this the churchyard is of course enjoyed by many casual visitors as they walk through (with or without a dog!).

All of this means that the maintenance of the churchyard is always a high priority. Responsibility for this is currently being taken by Jacqui and Barbara but this is supposed to be a temporary arrangement and it would be good to have someone permanently in charge - any volunteers?! Funding for this is becoming increasingly under pressure and any contributions towards this will always be gratefully received. I think I've previously mentioned the continued work to restore the table tombs to make them both safe and visually appealing.

So there's lots going on over the summer. Do enjoy something of what's on offer.

News from Upton Cheyney URC

God loves you more than you know. And there ain't nothing you can do about it. So said Phil White whilst leading our service last Sunday. In a packed church we heard the story of a tradesman whose tools were stolen. All his fellow workmen donated some of their tools to enable him to continue working. One carpenter gave a whole set of chisels. We were also treated to an organ rendition by Sue and a solo by Tom of "what a friend we have in Jesus". Simply delightful and heart warming.



Stuart Turner

As Meryl led her final service in Upton, to yet another full church, we met up with many friends new and old. We will really miss both Meryl and her husband Graham. Hopefully we will be able to entice them back for "guest appearances". Before the service we had an Upton first, or at least a first for a very long time. Meryl conducted a Christening of Ava and Erin. However not in the chapel as you might expect but in Pipley brook. With the green backdrop from the trees, the sun and the babbling water it felt like getting back to nature and made us feel even closer to God.

Barbecue on Sunday 14 July

After the Family Parade Service on 14 July we will be holding a Barbecue in aid of our Scout Troop's Funds at which everyone will be very welcome.

Could you be a Scout Leader?

If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming a Scout or Beaver Leader, David Harris, would be delighted to hear from you as without new leaders it may be difficult for the group to continue in September.

Contact djacharris@hotmail.com





Bitton Gardens Open to the Weather

There were some lovely gardens and some sunshine as Bitton Open Gardens took place on 16th June for the tenth year running. Even though the month of June this year was one of the wettest on record, spirits were not dampened as visitors toured the village and stopped of at the seven gardens on view or enjoying a delicious tea at Church Farm.

Most of the gardens had been open in previous years, and in spite of the effects of a week of rain had been arranged in excellent condition for the visitors.

Focal Point, July 2019

Opening for the first time was the delightful river side garden of Penny and Mark Cox in Swineford. The scent of the roses and foxgloves was delightful, and the garden is beautifully sighted overlong the lock. Mark has constructed an impressive oak shelter and having screened off the noise of the road with a hedge, can enjoy the more relaxing and natural sound of the weir.

The second new opener, Jo and Keith Smith, described theirs as “garden design in progress—Year 2”. This is an extensive project to restore what may have once been a large and pleasant garden to its former glory. Thus far, work has had to concentrate on clearance, but Jo and Keith have some ambitious development plans for the years ahead.

Thank you for all those who opened their gardens for this annual event that is a joy to visit.



Above— A well maintained kitchen garden by Jeanne and Alan Aldous.
(Photo—Jim Heavens)

Below—,Garden openers had a chance to preview all the gardens, when the weather was at its worst.
(Photo—Carolyn Russell)





**Sunday 7 July
4.30 to 6.00**

**James and Jemma invite
everyone to join them for
Songs of Praise in the White
Hart Garden**

**with Oldland Brass and
the St Mary's Music Group**

**Barbecue available
from 4.00pm**





Bitton

Useful Contacts

July—December 2019

Photograph—Carolyn Russell

Useful Contacts

Bitton AFC (Western League Premier Division)

Tel: 0117 932 3222

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

Email secretary@bittonarchers.co.uk

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 www.bitton.play-cricket.com

Email: paulmansfield10@gmail.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

www.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: Kelly Fry Tel: 01454 868 102

Email: bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Councillors, South Ward: Sue Hawking, Erica Williams, Pete Collins and Kim Scudamore

Bitton Parish History Group

www.bittonhistory.org.uk

Secretary: Mike Gates Tel: 0117 932 8777

Email: mg122@btinternet.com

Bitton Road Runners

Every Tuesday & Thursday - everyone welcome!

www.bittonroadrunners.co.uk

Bitton Sports & Social Club

Tel: 0117 932 3222

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

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

Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine
Editor – Jim Heavens
Email: jimheavens@outlook.com
Tel: 07720 248534

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 Councillors for Bitton

Erica Williams Tel: 0786 018 1215
Email:
erica.williams@southglos.gov.uk
Email: paul.hughes@southglos.gov.uk

St Mary's Baby & Toddler Group

(Wednesday mornings at St Mary's
Church Hall)
Contact: Ali Smith
Email: alismith241@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
Ordained Minister: Rev Richard
Humphrey Tel: 0117 949 0502
Churchwardens:
Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898
Jacqui Harris Tel: 0117 937 4706
St Mary's Church Hall
Bookings secretary: Jill Gibson Tel: 0117
932 2122

The Meadows Primary School

Headteacher: Joy Mounter Tel: 0117
932 2203
Email: enquiies@themeadowsprimarieschool.org.uk
www.themeadowsprimarieschool.org.uk

Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church

Email: stuart_turner@hotmail.com

The next edition of **Useful
Contacts** will be in the December
or January edition, depending on
space. Please forward any
amendments or additions to the
editor by 15 November 2019.



Dates for your diary

Saturday 7 September	Annual Church Fete
Saturday 21 September	Comedy Evening
Sunday 13 October	Harvest Festival
Saturday 19 October	Adrian Snell- piano evening concert
Sunday 22 December	Advent Carol Service

During July and August, Cream Teas will be served each Sunday in the church between 3 and 5 pm



St Mary's Family Café Church

**Fourth
Sunday of
the
month at
9.30 am**

An informal café style event with time to relax and music from keyboard and flute aimed at families with primary and pre-school children. A Bible story is followed by a craft session and refreshments are available throughout.





The defibrillator will be stationed at the White Hart.

Inset —Carolyn Russell, Claire Thorogood, Anna Palmer, Becky Feather and Sue Wakefield.

Group seeks funds and support for Village Defibrillator

Following the tragic death of a customer at the White Hart from a heart attack, five Bitton Ladies have set themselves the task of raising money to install a defibrillator in the village and to have a number of people trained.

According to the British Heart Foundation, 30,000 people suffer from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests every year in the UK and unfortunately only 1 in 10 survive. Two of the big reasons for such a low survival rate are people's confidence in intervening to give CPR and the availability of defibrillator.

A defibrillator costs £1170 plus £750 for a cabinet. A course of training is £45. The group plan to run a number of fund raising event over the course of the next few months, but donations can be made at any time on line through Just Giving—details below or use the QR code above.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Bitton-Village-Defibrillator>



For the past seven years, through the Church Mission Society, St Mary's has been contributing towards the sponsorship of a gynaecologist, Corrie Verduyn who has been working in Kiwoko, a Christian community in Uganda, managing and developing maternity services. During her time in Africa, Corrie provided a regular newsletter about her experiences in a part of the world where having a baby is a very different and far more frightening experience than in the west.

Looking back over these newsletters – there were 17 in all during these years – Corrie provided some unique insights into the provision of healthcare in Uganda, and in the context of a Christian working to bring about change and relying on a strong faith and sense of mission.

Corrie is Dutch by nationality but worked in England and in Tanzania for some years before her mission to Uganda began. The hospital to which she was assigned opened in the 1990s, but the maternity unit was newly built in 2010 and had the capacity to grow and manage an upsurge in births that was then expected; and happened.

Uganda is a young country and growing fast both in its population and economy, but average life expectancy is still only about 42 – similar to that in Great Britain in the nineteenth century. It is also still poor. Even those who are educated and in work struggle to earn enough to bring up a family and meet all their needs. Consequently, people often have two jobs and usually, in rural areas depend on what they can grow in a smallholding.

Health services in Uganda are still dependent on charity and western aid to deliver anything more than very basic treatment, so monies provided to CMS in supporting Corrie's work have been used to excellent effect in



developing gynaecology and midwifery services. At one point she was invited to cover in the local training school and discovered that the information being supplied to the student was outdated and, in some instances just wrong. There were very few books, so students copied by hand notes made by a previous teacher and appeared to have recopied them with the result that things were missing or wrong. She set herself the task of putting some of this right and providing new information that the students could use.

(Continued overleaf)

Focal Point, July 2019

HIV was also a significant issue, but the hospital initially had a good funding stream from USAID fund. channelled to the various health facilities via the Inter-religious council of Uganda, known as IRCU. The IRCU would supply all faith based health facilities, both Christian and Muslim, with the necessary funds for the HIV care.

This funding ended abruptly in 2014 as USAID and other US based charities decided they could no longer work with the IRCU due to its support for an anti-homosexuality bill in the Ugandan Parliament. While the charities themselves sought new partners, it meant that for some time, the treatment that had been available and some of the funding for the doctors treating patients stopped. Such situations create acute moral dilemmas for all charities and for the churches working in other parts of the world. Such funders cannot be seen as the partners of organisation that seeks to reduce liberties that we, in the west, take for granted. But taking away funding (the only tool they have) inevitably results in suffering.

Reflecting on her time in Uganda recently she rejected the idea of achievement as a very western concept. “What I do know” she wrote,” is that the maternity and gynaecology units are now very different from seven years ago. That is not only attributable to me but something that the whole of Kiwoko Hospital can take pride in.”



Corrie in the Maternity Unit at Kiwoko

“Some people have asked what I achieved (a very western question indeed!) while others asked “have I done what I came to do?” It is not easy to answer such questions. What I do know is that the maternity and gynaecology units are now very different from seven years ago.

Some of the biggest changes have been in personnel; in 2012 there were only two or three midwives on duty at any given time but now it is six or seven. That means a much better quality of care. All staff are now midwife-trained – not just nurses – and Kiwoko Hospital now has its own midwifery training school. The local economy has also grown reflected in the fact that most mothers now arrive by car rather than on the back of a motorbike.

Corrie left Kiwoko in March this year for the last time and is now retiring from medical practise. She hopes to stay in Britain if Brexit allows. We hope to see her soon in Bitton and look forward to some first-hand reflections on her work.



Above— a patient is prepared for a spinal anaesthesia before an operation.

Below— For hot water, find an oil drum and light a fire



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.

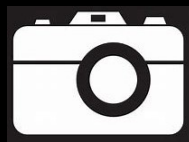
Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP

Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600

absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Photography Competition



It has never been easier to take a photograph. Most of us now walk round with a mobile phone in our pocket or bag, ready in an instant to record a moment. So if you are just a snapper or someone who takes photography more seriously, here is a competition just for you.

This year's annual fete, will include a photographic competition, open to all and like most of the fete competitions it is intended to be fun and inclusive. How you take the picture, doesn't matter, but it must be your own work and have been taken within the past two years..

The entry fee is £1 per picture. The photograph must be printed and be a maximum size of 200mmx200mm. Entries should, if possible, be supplied in a sealed envelope, and must have attached your name, address, contact number and when the photo was taken. Entries should be received by 6pm on 6 September at the church (further details to follow). There are six categories: for which prizes will be given for the best photo:

There will be a junior section for those under 16 (entry fee 50p), but all

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Happy | 4. Architecture |
| 2. Bitton Scenes | 5. Animals / Wildlife |
| 3. Mad Moment | 6. Food |

entries on these themes will be welcome in colour or black and white.

So what are you waiting for?

Highgrove Fortnum & Mason Hamper to be Raffle 1st Prize

Raffle tickets for the annual summer draw are now on sale. This year's first prize will be a special Fortnum and Mason Hamper packed with Highgrove foods and wine. Many other prizes will be awarded to the lucky winners.

The raffle will, as usual, be drawn during the St Mary's Fete on 7 September. Tickets, priced 50p each are available from Barbara Merritt.

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



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**

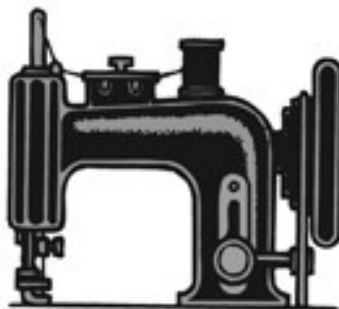
The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgeway, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW

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

News from Bitton WI

The June meeting is usually taken over by the members. As there were no offers the Committee arranged the evening.

After the minutes were read and president Ann Coles told us of forthcoming events (including our 80th Birthday party), Lesley Brain took the floor as quiz master. It was a very relaxing and joyous evening. The one question I can remember is, "Did Charlie Chaplin win a look alike completion? Most said yes but in-fact he came third."

We were taken on a group outing to Oxford. On arrival we were met by a tour guide and taken to New College. Founded in 1379, it is one of the thirty eight constituent colleges of the University of Oxford. The hall is the oldest dining hall in either Oxford or Cambridge, and remains in daily use for students meals and normally seats 200. The garden features an Elizabethan mound, and part of the city wall which is considerably older than the college. Oh! and some of Harry Potter was filmed there. We also recognised places where Morse and Lewis was filmed. As we were taken to the Bodleian libraries a film was in the making with lots of Victorian gentlemen. It was all very interesting and we had a super day.

Our next meeting is on Monday 8th July The speaker is Trevor Carter, Storyteller of the year.

Jean Hook



Bitton Parish History Group: The lost industry of hat- making in Oldland Common



The July meeting of the Bitton Parish History Group looks at the local hat industry. In the early nineteenth century, half of the population of Oldland Common were engaged in hat making.

The felt makers of Oldland Common and Bitton became the admired princes of the 'rough' trade.' Their hats largely served

the Bristol and London demands as well as a large market in the West Indies for hats for slaves. The industry here endured for three hundred years and finally after continual fights against non-union workers, innovation, and mechanization it died out when silk hats became the fashion. Through all this time, the men had a determined commitment to unchanging craft skills.

The talk by Mike Gates will discuss why the industry grew locally, how the hats were made, the lives of the hatting families and the many buildings that still survive from that time.

History Group talk
23 July, 7:00 for 7:30
URC Church, High Street,
Oldland Common BS30 9QN

Team Effort -

The full line up of helpers on the day: Merle Demmery, Gwynne Clark, Pam Hacker, Marlene Gallop, Zena James, Judith Butson and Barbara Merritt.



Afternoon Teas raise £1313.88 for RUH



Above— Marlene and Pam with Senior Sister Lynne Howes and Loveday Thomas.

Left— Marlene and Lynn Howes, donations and prizes

All photos courtesy of **The Week In**

Marlene and Pam would like to thank everyone who came to their *Afternoon Tea*. *“What a wonderful afternoon! A special thank you to all the lovely helpers: Judith, Barbara, Gwynne Merle, Zena and to our musicians: Jenny, Natalie and Lizzie. Also, for the amazing donation of cakes. A fantastic total of £1313.88 was raised. We could not have done it without you.”*





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

June's quiz answers

The June Quiz asked you to identify Prime Ministers. The correct answers were:

1. William Pitt the Younger; 2. Margaret Thatcher; 3. Arthur Wellesley; 4. Clement Attlee; 5. George Canning; 6. Robert Peel; 7. Winston Churchill; 8. Spencer Perceval; 9. Lord Melbourne; 10. Theresa May; 11. David Lloyd George; 12. Anthony Eden; 13. Benjamin Disraeli; 14. Harold Macmillan; 15. Stanley Baldwin; 16. Lord Palmerston; 17. Henry Campbell-Bannerman; 18. Henry Pelham; 19. Lord North; 20. Gordon Brown.

Three of the entries had all the correct answers: Sue and Alan Murtagh,; Sue and Rod Nethercote; and, Pam and Jon Booth.

This month's lucky winners are Sue and Rod Nethercote.

The July Quiz

This month quiz has a numbers theme. E.g. 7 D ___ of the W ___ is 7 Days of the Week. Initial and Spacing

1. 7 S _____ on a 50 P _____ C _____
2. 12 M _____ of the Y _____
3. 5 O _____ of the W _____
4. 20 F _____ T _____ in the P _____ L _____
5. 6 C _____ in W _____
6. 7 S _____ of a H _____
7. 8 C _____ of the R _____
8. 195 C _____ of the W _____
9. 14 L _____ in a S _____
10. 16 L _____ in the L _____ D _____
11. 6 W _____ of H _____ the E _____
12. 27 B _____ of the N _____ T _____
13. 5280 F _____ in a M _____
14. 4 G _____ in a P _____
15. 22 P _____ in S _____ M _____ ' C _____
16. 20 F _____ O _____ in a P _____
17. 5 R _____ on the O _____ F _____
18. 16 O _____ in a P _____
19. 8 S _____ on a M _____
20. 650 S _____ in the H _____ of C _____

Name:

Contact:

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



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

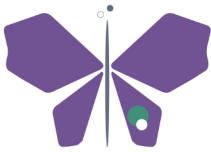
Email: robsuep@btinternet.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647



collingwood
care home for the elderly

“Home from home”

Our new bedrooms have underfloor heating, large fitted wardrobes and en-suite 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 382 143

Bristol, Bath
& surrounding
areas

Environment
Agency
licensed

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ACCOUNTANTS

Norton Tax Shops Ltd (page 47)

BUILDERS

Wilton Building Contractors (page 44)

CARE HOMES

Collingwood (page 41)

CHILDCARE

South Glos fostering (page 33)

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Bristle Chimney (page 40)

Soot n Sweep (page 38)

CHIROPODIST

Absolutely Feet (page 31)

DECORATING

Steve Painter Decorating Services (page 46)

ELECTRICAL

SM Wilkins Electrical Services (page 9)

ESTATE AGENTS

Davies & Way (page 2)

Fine & Country—Homes of Bath (page 3)

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Alderwick (page 42)

Roy Preddy (page 11)

GARDEN CENTRES

Fonthill (page 6)

GARDENERS

Mark Walker (page 4)

GENERAL STORES

HRD Hardware (page 4)

HAIRDRESSING

Just Kim (page 4)

MOTORING

Bitton Motor Company (back page)

MC Auto Repairs (page 46)

PLASTERERS

Matt Bressington Plastering (page 11)

PLUMBING

RJ Pearce Plumbing (page 40)

PUBS

Crown Inn (page 10)

TAILORS

Parker's Sewing Services (page 34)

TIMBER

Bendrey Bros (page 34)

VETS

Oldland House (page 9)

WASTE REMOVAL

K1 Klearance (page 42)

WELDING

Hanney (page 40)



- 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

The *Third World* is a term we have become so used to hearing one wonders if anyone stops to think what it means any more. Nothing can demonstrate it more clearly than life expectancy both for a mother and baby during maternity, but equally in the expectation of life span overall. In Uganda, where St Mary's has been part contributing through the Church Mission Society (CMS) to the costs of a gynaecologist, Corrie Verduyn, life expectancy is a little over 42. In western countries, with access to first class medicine, better food and sanitation, life expectancy is now double that figure.



Equally, the contrast between the first and third worlds cannot be more clearly shown in the matters covered by this edition. We are disappointed when rain comes on day when we are opening our gardens, we raise money for a high end cancer treatment unit in a Bath hospital. In Africa, if the rain does not come, the effects can be devastating and far from requiring specialist cancer services what many countries need is good facilities and their own trained medical staff to provide essential services.

There are some positive signs, of course. Many parts of Africa are seeing economic growth, one of the benefits of globalisation, without which charity and aid can so easily become the route to dependency and money is not always the key element. Without her sense of mission and desire to serve God it is very doubtful that Corrie would have taken the uncomfortable step of leaving Europe to live and work in a small community in a remote part of East Africa, something very few of us would willingly do. While she is dismissive of the term "achievement" she has very clearly left a legacy of improved services and people with the ability and confidence to carry on her work.

None of this in any way denigrates activities close at home, that seek to raise money for good causes locally or simply provide a greater sense of community or neighbourliness. But neighbourliness is not a question simply of closeness. When Christ was asked "Who is my neighbour?" he told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our neighbours are not just those who live close by but can include anyone, near or far. Targeted and well directed aid such as that provided through CMS seems in this instance to have provided not only help but sustained benefits.

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

NORTON TAX SHOPS LTD

ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS

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