

Focal Point

November 2019

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**Welcome
Regan
Mears to the
Benefice as
he trains for
ordination**

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Focal Point

November 2019

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Deadline for the December magazine is 15 November

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REMEMBRANCE 2019

Marking 75 years from the D Day landings

At the 10.30 am service on Sunday 10 November, St Mary's will welcome

- the Bitton and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion
- Councillor Roger Coales, the Chairman of Bitton Parish Council
- Cadets from the Army Cadet Force
- Members of the St Mary's Bitton Scout Group.

During the service there will be an Act of Remembrance around the Village War Memorial in the Churchyard when wreaths will be laid.

At 10.50 am on Monday 11 November there will be a short Remembrance Ceremony at the memorial and at **11.00 am** children from Years 5 and 6 at the Meadows School will lay crosses at the Memorial. All are welcome to attend.

During the month of November there will be a garlands of poppies on the Memorial – one with a poppy for each of the 32 Bitton residents who died during World War 1 and the other with a poppy for each of the 16 Bitton residents who died during World War 2.

Our thanks to Janet Ivens, June Long, Jacynth Baber and Sarah Craddock for this tribute.



From Zimbabwe to South Gloucestershire - A warm welcome to Regan Meares



The personal journey for anyone seeking ordination is by its nature challenging and difficult. Regan Meares, who has recently joined the benefice on placement as part of his ordination training, has also travelled a long way from his childhood home in Zimbabwe to Hanham where, until recently, he worked as a mechanic.

Regan took the bold decision to come to the UK at the age of 19. He says “Things were deteriorating in Zimbabwe and I had the chance to come to the UK on a two-year Visa, and my elder brother was encouraging me to come. I initially started doing factory work, which I then combined with being a lay minister when I was 28. I became inspired when I understood that God gave his son because he loved me, that Jesus loves me, and I had

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the full realisation of God's love. I started to preach the Gospel in Christ Church in Hanham, where I was licensed, and I also preached at Kingswood. "

"I started to work at Ashfield Prison," he says, "I think it is very important to speak to and support people who are very vulnerable and in difficult situations." Working in the prison strengthened his faith and his decision to seek ordination further.

It is a long process to become ordained. Regan had to go through the national selection process in July where evidence of commitment and suitability for what can be a very challenging role is collected through references, application paperwork, and a residential period known as a bishop's advisory panel. The panel then made a recommendation to the bishop, who made the final decision.

He started at Trinity College in Stoke Bishop in September where he has met many students from a wide variety of countries, backgrounds and ages. He will now be working at the three churches in the Benefice, St Mary's Bitton, St Barnabus in Warmley and St Anne's in Syston.

Regan says: "I am really looking forward to preaching, and to letting people know God loves them. It is hard for people to hear this; I want them to have the opportunity to know that they are important to God and to feel valued."

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- Churches & Services -



**ST MARY'S CHURCH,
BITTON**

Services in November

Sunday 3 November	TRINITY XX 10.30am Parish Communion
Sunday 10 November	TRINITY XXI REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Parade Service including the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial, Followed by lunch at Avon Valley Railway.
Sunday 17 November	TRINITY XII 10.30am Morning Worship
Friday 22 November	9.30am Celtic Communion <i>Followed by tea and cakes</i>
Sunday 24 November	TRINITY XXIII CHRIST THE KING 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Café Church

From the Register

29th September Baptism—Lacey Rose Radnedge



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Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained ministers:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge 0117 949 0502
Rev Susie Bishop
revsusiebishop.uk@gmail.com
07415 831488



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

2	November	No Volunteers
9	"	Remembrance Sunday Judith Butson
16	"	Judith Butson
23	"	Marlene Gallop & Pam Heyes
30	"	Advent

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UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church



Sunday services are at 3pm

Services in November :

Sunday 3rd Service led by Rev Jeremy Andrew

Sunday 10th Remembrance Service led by Ken Gibson

Sunday 17th Service led by David Jones

Sunday 24th Bible Study

In addition there will be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday 26th at 2pm

Regrettably, Stuart Turner has been indisposed this month and has not been able to produce his regular newsletter.



Family Café Church goes Camping

One of the best ways to learn about a story is to act it out, which is just what happened at September's Family Café Church. With the use of sheets, the pews were transformed into tents for the children to act out the story of Saul, his conversion to Christianity and renaming as Paul. Some of the adults would have liked to join in too, but the tents were a little low and cramped.

Family Café Church is now a regular Sunday morning event at St Mary's on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9.30. Aimed principally at families with young children, it offers a relaxed, café style approach with tea, coffee and a light breakfast with music, stories and activities. Whatever your age, you are most welcome.

Family Café Church has grown in popularity over the past year with 50 or more people attending regularly. There is still room for more, however, so whatever your age, if you want to experience a different kind of church event on a Sunday morning, why not join us?

St Mary's Matters

Harvest festival has just taken place as I am sitting writing in some weak autumn sunshine. We were reminded of the importance of caring for others as we collected food to send for distribution by the Sisters of the Church at the food bank in St Paul's. We were also reminded of the work of water aid, helping to provide water for villages where it is still scarce and difficult to come by. At St Mary's we remain committed to the biblical principles of using some of our money to help those less fortunate than ourselves and with this in mind water aid is one of the charities we support. It was a great pleasure to welcome some of the Beaver group and quite a few younger children who made good use of the play area at the back of the church. Many thanks to those who worked to decorate the church for this occasion.



Pete Midgley

At the same time we are eagerly anticipating our next event in church – a concert by Adrian Snell. I have been aware of Adrian as a Christian singer/songwriter from my early twenties. He is a prolific musician and also a music therapist. Proceeds will be going to The Life Project charity based in Bath. This charity supports people with learning disabilities and their carers.

Early November will be marked by our annual Remembrance Sunday service on 10th of the month. Everyone is welcome at this and all our other services. We look forward to seeing you.

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*Minister's Letter
by Susie Bishop*

**Can
vulnerability
be a special
gift?**



Recently, I've been thinking a lot about vulnerability.

And wondering...

What if vulnerability were a really special gift?

A gift that could hold within it, the potential for living life to the full.

The following is just some of the reasons why I'm pondering this idea.

'You what? 18 hours? Oh my goodness, that's terrible, poor Mum, is she alright?'

This was pretty much what I said to my sister when she last phoned. She phoned to say that Mum had got stuck in the bath for 18 hours! At 87 she found herself lacking the strength to stand up, after pulling the plug. Shouting and knocking on the walls had brought no help.

Continued overleaf

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Until eventually someone heard Mum's cry from along the road!

This doesn't sound like a gift does it?

And yet in the hands of someone of faith, like my Mum, even a traumatic event can be seen through the eyes of gift:

1. The window was open. Yet not once did Mum feel cold. In her eyes that was miraculous.
2. That someone walking by should hear her, 'simply must have been God', says Mum. The house is at least 15 metres away from the road.
3. Mum had wounds, pressure sores and bruises all down her back, which all healed remarkably well, Mum found this amazing!
4. 'I've been so blessed,' says Mum as she recounts the medical help and support given.
5. Again another refrain...'People have been so kind'. So many people have come to visit, given flowers and many have shared their stories of hazardous baths!
6. Finally, Mum tells anyone who will listen, that she can't believe how good God was to her!

The fruits of Mum's 'bath story' have been multitudinous.

So what are these fruits/gifts?

The gift of Mum's vulnerability led to greater connection with others, with deeper friendships formed.

Vulnerability offered her the gift of having to trust God.

Pretty much everything was outside of her control. But, in turning her face towards God, rather than away, her eyes were opened to see His grace.

And in that grace, she became a gift to others.

- Jesus is the forerunner of vulnerable living!
- Jesus chose to make himself vulnerable.
- Chose to come as a baby

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- Chose to be with those on the margins
- Chose to challenge the Pharisees, thereby opening himself up to misunderstanding and abuse.
- Chose to share his anguish in the garden of Gethsemane.

And why on earth choose a cross?

Why?

- So Jesus could come near.
- Jesus wanted, and wants, to share in our humanity.
- Jesus chose a life that would show us all about trust.
- Jesus lived the life he wants to gift to us.
- That's why he said: 'I am the way the truth and the life.'

So, when we next find ourselves in that vulnerable place.

Needing to say yes to something that takes us well out of our comfort zone.

Or equally needing to say no to something, because deep down we know it's not right.

Or, like my Mum, simply finding ourselves in the deep end of vulnerability where we have no choice.

Next time, what if we saw it as gift?

An opportunity to lean into God sustaining grace which truly is sufficient for all our needs.

What if the gift was, finding ourselves even more fully alive!

I was reminded the other day that, 'the glory of God is man fully alive' (St Irenaeus). Amen to that!

Oh, and yes Mum does now have an alarm system!

But she's still surprisingly not keen on the idea of a bath!

The picture on the title page
is not of Susie's Mum

Susie Bishop

Benefice Events

St Barnabas Autumn Festive Fayre

9th November 11am -1pm Warmley Community Centre

Please do support us if you can. Donations needed for Bottle/tombola, cakes (on the day) quality gift items, pickles and preserves.

Please contact Nicola (01179 616629) for further info.

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Saturday 16th November 7pm St Barnabas Church. £2 entry. Refreshments available.

Please contact Jane (07500 900 002) for more info.



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in the
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Our speaker at this meeting is
Dr Michael Jones
former lecturer at
Newman University, Birmingham.

The title of his seasonal talk is

Mistletoe

Who would have guessed that Mistletoe can be found worldwide and there is much more to Mistletoe than Christmas! During this evening's talk Michael will reveal so much more.

For more information
contact Bridget Hetzel - b.hetzel@btinternet.com or
just come along to the meeting

New members and guests always welcome

“We will remember them” - new link to support Memorial

If you have walked past the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard recently you may have noticed a small addition. There is now a small stump with a notice and a QR code. If you are not familiar with QR codes, they are a bit like bar codes, but square and operate in the same way. If you have a smart phone you may already have a QR reader or can download one. This QR code is itself dedicated to our memorial and links to information about the people whose names are inscribed.

South Gloucestershire Council has identified all of the memorials on the area and linked each one to national databases that are available online.

There are so many war memorials in Great Britain that the sight of one hardly gives any thought. Almost all of them were raised by public subscription to commemorate huge losses in a war that all hoped would provide an end to war, only to have a second set of names inscribed only 25 years later. Linking names to details of individuals makes the memorial in many ways more real. Just scrolling through the names of those from the First World War there are surnames of families still living in the village. In most instances there is an address and even an occupation and in some even the names of wives and mention of children. Of course, many of those who died in both conflicts were young, often under 21 and unmarried, such as the first name on the memorial, that of Charles Ashmore of the Somerset Light Infantry, who died of his wounds in 1916 aged only 17 in what is now Iraq. He was the son of Richard Ashmore, the head gardener to Cannon Ellacombe. There is a photograph of Richard with the Canon on page 36 of this edition, but we have no picture of Charles, who could only have been in the army for a matter of months before facing his first conflict.

On Remembrance Sunday, 10 November, a special Service of Remembrance will be held at St Mary's including the laying of wreaths at the memorial and the reading of the last verse of Laurence Binyon's poem *To the Fallen* "We will remember them". As the personal memories of those listed is diminished by time, links to these records provide a much richer picture and understanding of those who lost their lives and the families who were affected.



The War Memorial at St Mary's Church with the new information and QR code. Inset is the QR code itself.

This year's Service of Remembrance will take place on Sunday 10th November at 10.30 am at St Mary's



St Mary's Future & Past

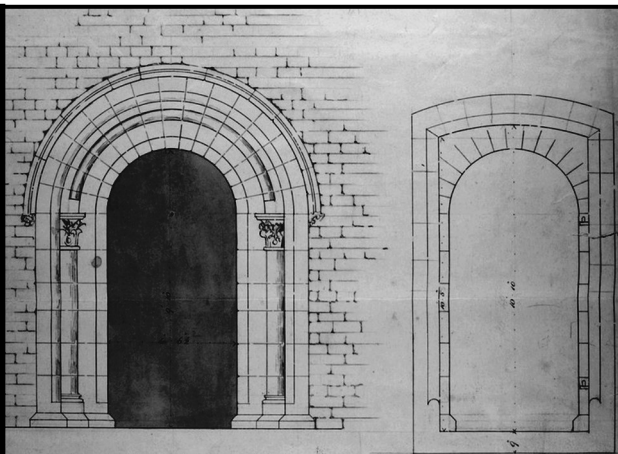
The church has been open daily during the past six or so months of British Summertime, as it has been for the past few years, and has welcomed a small but constant flow of visitors from near and far. Opening the church by leaving the main door unlocked was one of the first actions that was taken when the Parochial Church Council started to look at the future needs of St Mary's six or seven years ago. The initiative has been a great success, thanks to a group of local volunteers who unlock and lock up the church morning and evening.

During this year's opening, visitors have also been able to view a display showing a number of changes that have been proposed for the longer term future of the church including some significant changes to the way it is set out and the facilities offered. Just like the original decision to open the church daily, the intention of the plans is to make the church more accessible and celebrate its history.

The new proposals also set out to increase its use by the community and to provide better facilities for modern worship, and providing the means for this historic building to generate an income to keep itself in good order and repair. In addition to general upgrading of electrical and other services, it is proposed to build a small kitchen and improved lavatories on

Right—The South Door to the nave, shown in a nineteenth century drawing prior to the infilling.

Overleaf—the revised plans. The new buildings to the south, at the bottom of the plan, also replace a number of existing buildings. The area shown in red is the area of a new floor.



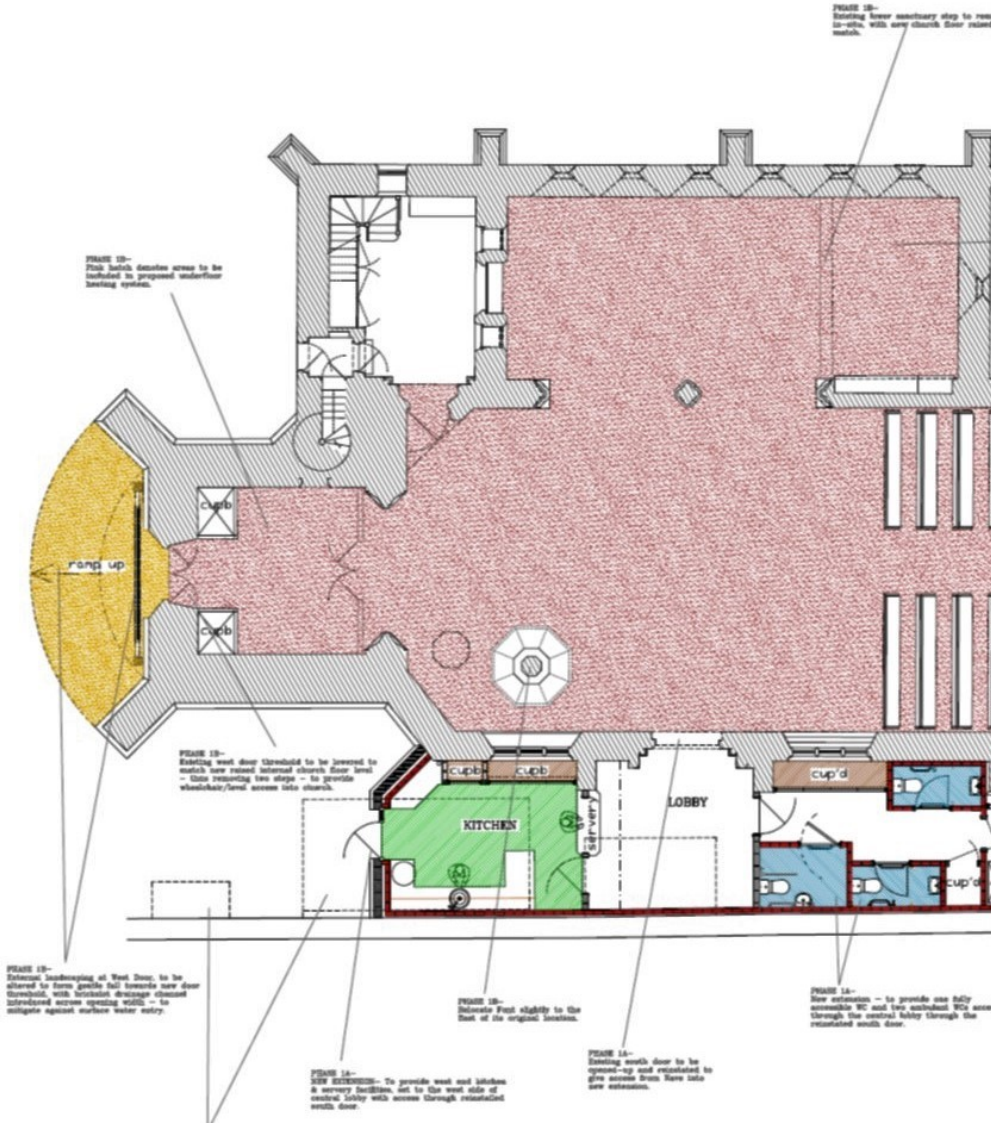


Martin Palmer, the renowned church historian who is joining the Future Committee. His book **Sacred Land** sets out to unlock the meaning, stories and history in our landscape, buildings and sacred places.

the south side of the church accessed through a Norman door that was bricked up in the nineteenth century and will be reopened. The floor of the church will be remade to a consistent level allowing for better access, particularly by people with a physical disability and the pews are to be made mobile. It is also proposed to install a glass screen between the Lady Chapel and the main part of the church; and, if money allows, at a later date, to reinstall a balcony at the west end of the church (the current entrance) enabling the opening up of access to first floor rooms and providing more meeting space.

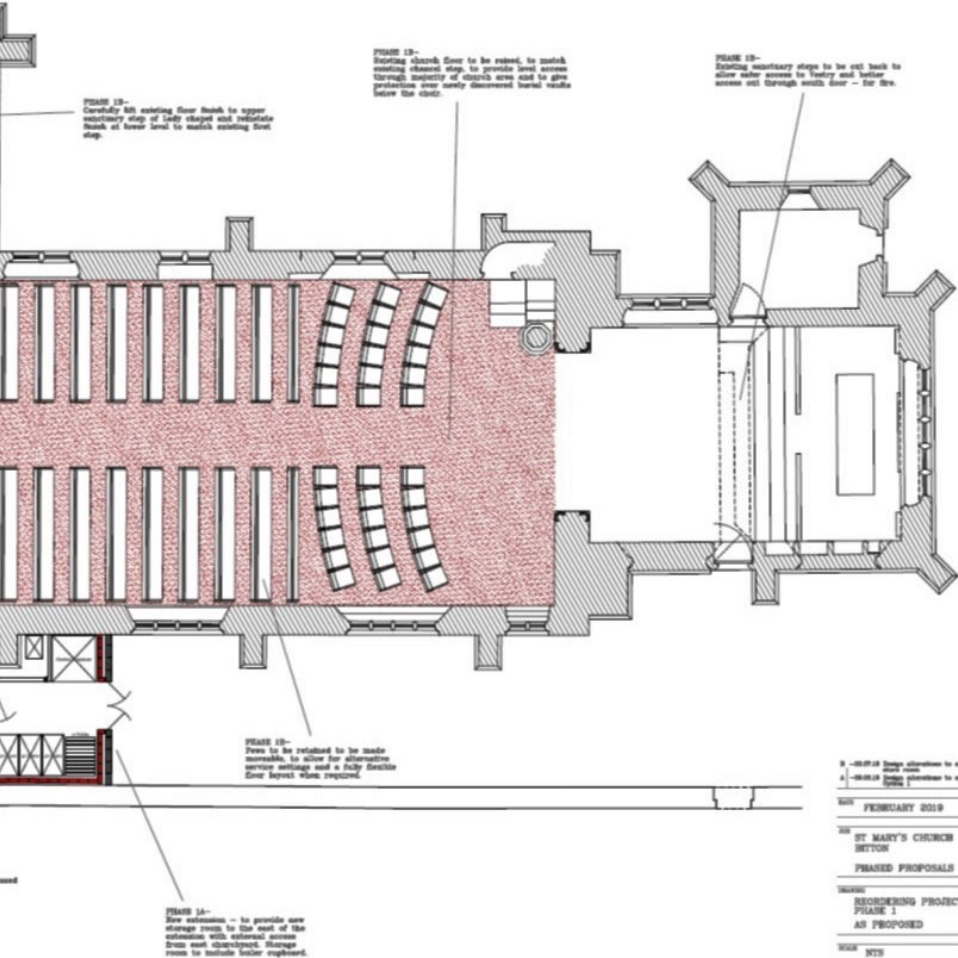
The display has been in place since March, when an open consultation evening was held in the church to set out the plans and invite comments. Many people have commented, either at the meeting or afterwards and most were positive, although some had reservations about the impact of increased use and some aspects of the design. The St Mary's Future Committee has been able to take some of these into account already and made some changes to the plans, increasing the number of toilets and improving the design of a lantern window to be installed above the reopened south door. A revised plan of the proposals is printed overleaf. The committee is most grateful to all those who have shown an interest or have commented on the proposals.

Continued on page 28



**ST MARY'S CHURCH
BITTON**

Unfortunately, the size of the pages in the print Focal Point do not allow the plan to be presented in the version as we would have liked. The online version will provide much clearer detail if needed and will be available in the middle of November on the St Mary's website.



B - 08.07.18 Design alternatives to external door finish
A - 08.08.18 Design alternatives to extension stage

DATE FEBRUARY 2019

PROJECT ST MARY'S CHURCH
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1 PHASE ONE - REVISED OPTION 1

Focal Point, November 2019

The Future Committee has also been pleased to welcome two new members: Mike Gates, Secretary of the Bitton History Group; and, Martin Palmer, a church historian who has a long connection with St Mary's and hopes to give a talk on the subject in the new year. As plans progress through 2020, it is intended to focus on the history of the church and to improve our understanding of its significance and developments before further work commences.

The next big step, however, is to seek planning permission, both from the local authority and from the church. As a part of this next stage, archaeologists will need to be called in to inspect the area where it is intended to build new facilities. This area is particularly interesting as it includes the site of a south transept, a building that was attached to the main aisle where the choir now sits. Earlier excavations in the churchyard, in Victorian times, found evidence of structures dating back to the Romans, as well as parts of the Anglo Saxon Rood screen (a stone depiction of the crucifixion) that once stood between the main aisle and the chancel.

Fundraising to support the initial planning phase and the archaeology has already started by applying for funding to charities and trusts who are interested in funding such developments. The church website will also soon be including information about the proposed changes and provide an opportunity for donations.

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Bitton Village Residents' Association
Invites you to

Flicks in the Sticks
on
Friday 15 November
when we will be screening
Green Book

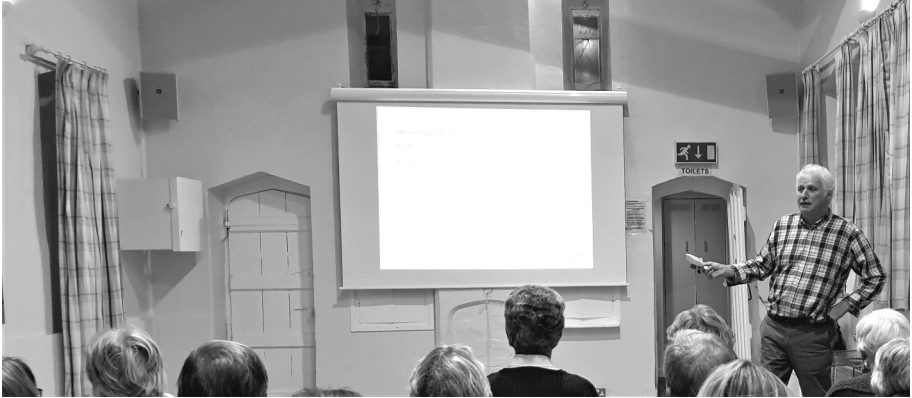
starring
Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen

Based on a true story, Don Shirley is a world-class African-American pianist, who is about to embark on a concert tour in the Deep South in 1962. In need of a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony Lip, a tough-talking bouncer from an Italian-American neighbourhood in the Bronx. Despite their differences, the two men soon develop an unexpected bond while confronting the issues of the day.

***This is one of the best films that we have seen recently. it is entertaining, funny and simply wonderful in its portrayal of humanity and the people we need in our lives.
We loved it and we hope you will to.***

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.
The Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton
Drinks will be available from the Licensed Bar, Choc Ices will be served in the interval and there will be time to chat with friends
Admission £2.50
Everyone is welcome**

BVRA holds its Annual General Meeting



Bitton Village Residents' Association held their Annual General Meeting at St Mary's Church Hall on 10 October. The BVRA has an open membership for all residents of the parish and the meeting was well attended with generous hospitality. The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Andrew Ward, who ran through the general business of the association which had had another successful year, including those organisations under the BVRA umbrella of the Bitton History Group (led by Mike Gates and Stephanie Bailey) and the Gardening Club and Flicks in the Sticks (organised by Bridget Hetzel). John Booth gave a brief report on the finances.

The BVRA had continued to raise its concerns about noise coming across the river from the Avon Valley Park and unsocial parking, particularly in Church Road. It was pleased that a proposed river crossing by Wessex Water is no longer in their plans. The Association had continued in its efforts to make Bitton a better place to live in its litter campaigns and collections and in providing flowers on the bridge – recently winning a Bitton in Bloom prize.

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Having served eleven years as chairman, Andrew was keen to see a new chair elected and Becky Feather will be joining the committee for next year. Committee meetings are open to all residents to attend, although in the rare event of a vote, only committee members can participate.

The meeting then heard from its first speaker, Mark from South Gloucestershire Council. The meeting was told that the council had an excellent record in recycling and the management of waste. Very little is now sent to landfill other than certain types of mattress and soft furnishings. What cannot be recycled is now burnt to produce energy with high rates of carbon capture. The use of separate bags for plastics, paper and glass was being phased out in favour of additional boxes for kerbside collection.



Sorting waste makes a huge difference to recycling outcomes. South Gloucestershire now asks residents to separate their recycling in two green plastic boxes.

Much of the sorting, particularly of plastics from metals was undertaken mechanically. Unfortunately, black plastic cannot be recognised by the laser that identifies each item which is why we are asked not to try to recycle it. The council can also provide additional services such as blue bags for nappies and special collection arrangements for people with physical disabilities. All information is available on the website, which is well worth a look to see the extent of current recycling available.

Continued overleaf

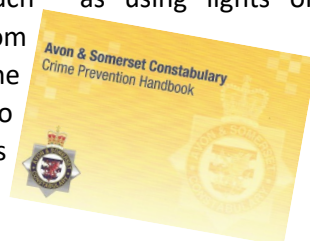
Focal Point, November 2019

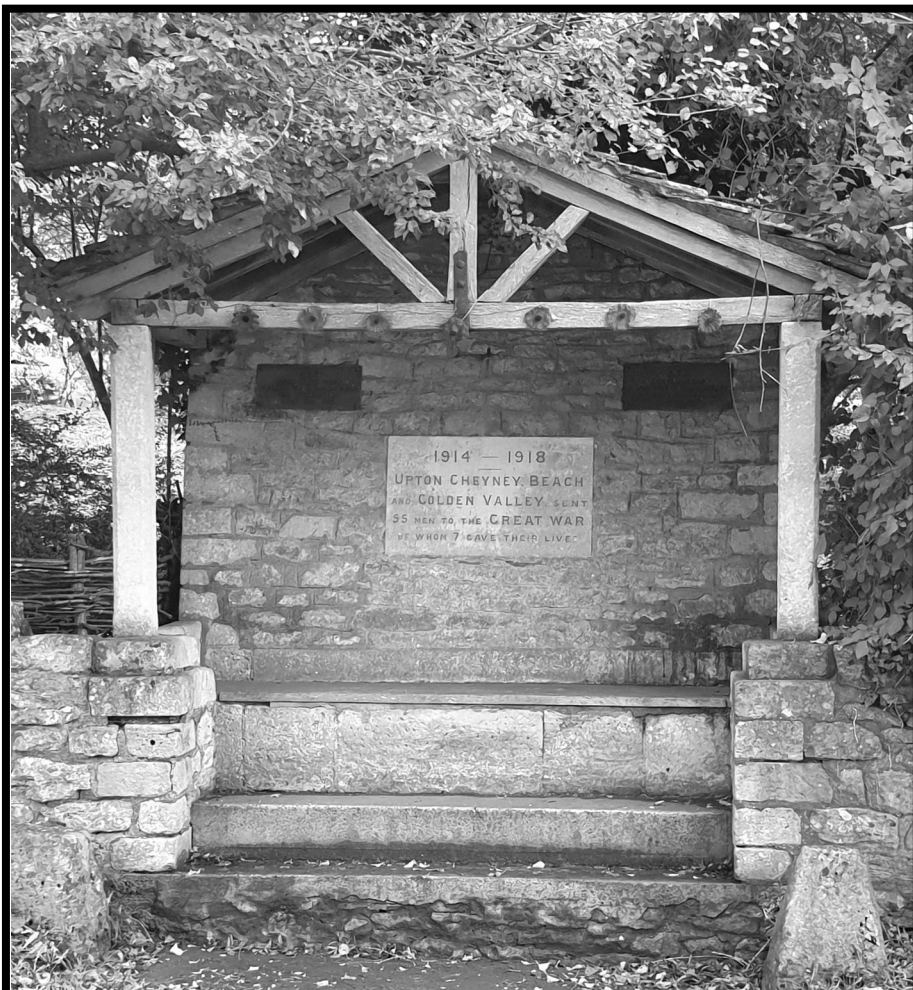


The Parkwall & Bitton Neighbourhood Beat Team

The meeting then heard from Phil Busvine and Jason Green the Parkwall & Bitton Neighbourhood Beat Team from Avon & Somerset Police. The beat covers a large area including Cadbury Heath as well as the civil parish of Bitton, but now has two police constables and two Community Police Support Officers dedicated to it (instead of just two officers previously) and their beat lines up with the council ward boundaries which helps to inform local decision making. And they also have been issued with electric bikes to assist on their beat.

The officers were reluctant to talk about parking issues (although the meeting was not). The police feels that it has done all it reasonably can on the matter but did urge people to report any criminal activity (some of which was alleged at the meeting) and it would be looked into. In an emergency people should ring 999, but to report a crime or other matter 101 was the right number or through *Crime Stoppers* if people preferred. As nights get longer it is often the case that burglaries increase and residents are encouraged to take precautions such as using lights on timers to switch on and off if they are away from home. They had some timers available at the meeting, a handbook and some marker pens to mark property so that if it was stolen its owners could be more easily traced.





Th memorial on Brewery Hill remembers all 55 of the men from Upton Cheney, Beach and Golden Valley who served in the Great War, 1914-1918. Although the population may then have been a little larger in three hamlets than it is today, hardly a household could have had no-one engaged in the conflict. Seven of the men did not return.

In addition to the Parade Service at St Mary's in the morning, a dedicated service of remembrance will be held at the Upton Cheney Chapel at 3pm on Remembrance Sunday.

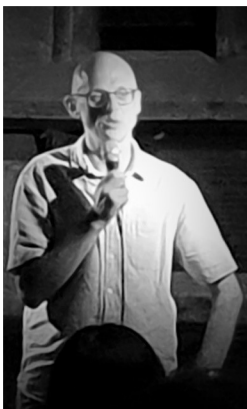
Rolling in the Aisle at Comedy Evening



St Mary's first stand-up comedy evening proved a sell-out success in September as those attending settled down for an evening of not so PC entertainment headlined by Harriet Beveridge.

Harriet, daughter of John and Nicola Bennetts, attended St Mary's as a child explained those who knew here then that she no longer does *Fuzzy Felt*, but has nonetheless built an international reputation as a stand up comedian, including three solo runs at the Edinburgh Fringe, was semi finalist in the Funny Women Award and recently featured on Radio 4.

The audience was able to enjoy a glass of wine while a succession of comedians from near and far provided a stream of entertainment. The event raised £1,001 for St Mary's funds.



An Advent exploration

Looking at the biblical basis of three favourite carols

As we prepare for Christmas our Midweek evening groups are going to have a look at three carols to see if we can spot which parts of the Bible the writers drew on when penning their verses. If you would like to join one of the groups for this short course then here are the details :

Wednesday evenings at 7.30

at 8 Church Road, Bitton

on 20 November and 4 and 11 December

Contact Ken Gibson on 932 2122

Thursday evenings at 7.30

at 30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge

on 21 and 28 November and 12 December

Contact Pete Midgley on 932 6998

**You will be very welcome at either of these informal groups
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The Clergyman Gardener

The name Ellacombe is virtually synonymous with Bitton, father and son having served as vicars to the parish for almost a century between them. Both were keen gardeners, as were many clergymen in those days.

The role of gardening cleric had evolved from monks in their physic gardens, through the country parson ministering 'simples' to his parishioners, to the 19th century vicar for whom gardening was more of a hobby, the joint role of physician and botanist having separated as knowledge in both spheres increased.

The next History Group meeting will be a talk by Wendy Smale on Bitton's famous clergyman gardener, Canon Ellacombe.

The talk will look at Canon Ellacombe within this timeline of clergymen gardeners and discuss the exceptional standing he achieved in horticultural circles and the contributions he made to the world of plants and plantsmen.

Entrance, is free. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be available.

Canon Ellacombe: Bitton's famous clergyman gardener

21st November, 2019; 7:00 for 7:30pm

St Mary's Church, Church Rd., Bitton BS30 6LJ



Canon Ellacombe with Head Gardener, Richard Ashmore, in the vicarage garden 1909

For further information contact Mike Gates, Secretary Bitton Parish History Group—<http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk>



Teddies for Southmead

A small group in Bitton have been knitting Teddies for Southmead Hospital. They have been most gratefully received and are used in various wards to comfort all ages from children to the Elderly.

We have knitted a wide variety of other items: twiddle muffs for people with dementia, school jumpers for children in Africa, pure wool beanies for UK troops overseas, dog coats for the RSPCA shelter and earmuffs for dogs during the Firework Season.

Donations of knitting wool are always welcome as are ideas for items we can knit for Charities....c/o Sarah Craddock Tel 9328644.



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 listen to music from keyboard and flute. Café Church is designed for families with primary and pre-school children. A Bible story is followed by a craft session and refreshments are available throughout.



**Join us on
Sunday 24
November
at 9.30 am**



***At the November
Café Church we
will be hearing of
the day when
Paul was
shipwrecked.***



**Recipe
of the month**

A Fiery Dish for Bonfire Night

You don't need a fire or fireworks to enjoy this seasonal recipe. Serve this fiery dish of orange and red with your favourite bangers on bonfire night. For vegetarians this recipe works equally well with rice or pasta.



Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons of rapeseed or olive oil
- 1 large onion, roughly chopped
- ½ butternut squash, peeled cored and cut into 1 inch chunks
- 2 medium sized sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 inch chunks
- 2 red chillies, finely chopped (if you are a real chilli lover you can add more or some additional chilli flakes for a more powerful mix)
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped or crushed
- 2 red peppers cut into long strips
- Bunch of sage leaves, roughly chopped

Optional Extra:

Cheese to crumble and scatter. The choice is yours as is the quantity—Gorgonzola goes well as do other blue cheeses.

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180°C (Gas Mark 4/ 350°F/160° Fan)
2. Place all the ingredients other than the cheese and half of the sage into a roasting dish. Mix well to ensure that the oil has good coverage of everything. Cover with foil making a good seal around the edge.
3. When oven is up to temperature, place the roasting dish in the middle of the oven and bake for about 35 minutes or until the vegetables are soft. (The longest time will be needed for the squash, so make sure you can insert a fork into it easily.)
4. Remove the foil and give the ingredients a good stir. If you are intending to use the cheese now is the time to add it by scattering it across the top. Return the dish to the oven uncovered and bake for a further 8 to 10 minutes until there is a slight browning on the corners of the orange vegetables and the cheese has melted.
5. Remove from oven, scatter the remaining sage over the top and serve.

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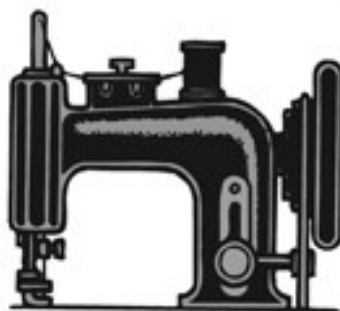
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News from Bitton WI

The Winter Gardens at Weston-Super-Mare was taken over by the Avon Federation for its annual meeting last month. A warm welcome was given by the chairman, Jean Sims.

Once the main business was over, she introduced the first guest speaker, Steve Loader, from the *Mission to Seafarers*, who is based at Avonmouth docks. When ships come in, he will go on board to help the seaman with any problems they might have. They mostly come from hot countries and find the cold difficult to bear. Steve takes knitted hats (lots of them made by the W.I.) chocolates and also sim cards to help them keep in touch with their families (they can often be away for up to nine months at a time). At Christmas, they are given shoe boxes made up by volunteers with toiletries, hats and knitted toys for their children. The ships they work on can be enormous. We were shown a picture of a container ship with thirteen floors and asked how many cars would it hold? The answer was eight and a half thousand; no one got it right.

The afternoon speaker was Amanda Owen, the Yorkshire Shepherdess, well known to Chanel Five viewers. She told us of her life as a hill farmer at Ravenseat. This is a hill farm of two thousand acres, which she shares with her husband, 900 sheep, other animals and 9 children; the last child was born on a rug in front of a big fire, while every one was asleep—*well, after the last eight and all that lambing it was a doddle!*

Our October meeting was held at Fonthill Garden Centre. After browsing around and making our purchases we made our way to the cafe for refreshments before Luke and Matt gave a talk and demonstration. They always manage to come up with something new. Well done chaps and big thanks to Fonthill for looking after us so well.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th November and will be our Annual meeting.

Jean Hook





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October's quiz answers

Last month's quiz was on games played in the home without the need of a computer or screen. The correct answers are:

1. Draughts;
2. Monopoly;
3. Risk (Hazard);
4. Donkey;
5. Othello;
6. Battleship (Marengo);
7. Cluedo;
8. Operation;
9. Carcassonne;
10. Articulate;
11. Sorry;
12. Mastermind;
13. Mah-jong;
14. Backgammon;
15. Chess;
16. Old Maid;
17. Snakes & Ladders (Dungeons & Dragons);
18. Solitaire;
19. Rummikub;
20. Ludo

There were three entries with correct answers from:

Anne Burmester
Mary Younie
Pam & Jon Booth

This month's winner is Anne Burmester

The November Quiz

This month's quiz is all about the 50p piece, which celebrates 50 years in circulation this year

Question

1. How many sides on the 50p?
2. How many different portraits of the Queen have been used on the 50p?
3. In which year was the new lighter & smaller coin introduced?
4. Who designed the first reverse of the coin?
5. In what year did the 50p value first appear on the heads of the coin?

The following questions are all about the reverse of the coins

6. What is Britannia holding in her left hand on the original design?
7. Scientist who became the master of the royal Mint in 1699?
8. Student who first broke the 4 minute mile in 1954?
9. Composer of 'The young person's guide to the orchestra'?
10. Character shown surrounded by the names of all the books about them?
11. The 300th anniversary of who's Gold-Standard Report is celebrated on a coin?
12. What is Paddington holding whilst standing outside the Tower of London?
13. What organisation is celebrated on the coin which has a hexagon of 6 shamrocks?
14. Which dictionary is celebrated on a coin?
15. What does the coin showing the Scottish flag celebrate?
16. What is celebrated on the coin depicting the dates 1759 and 2009?
17. Which author has had the most different designs credited to their work?
18. The 150th anniversary of which Act of 1850 is celebrated on a coin?
19. Which character is shown raising his hat in front of a famous cathedral?
20. What is the inscription on the coin which (at time of going to press) is due to be released on 31/10/2019?

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 November



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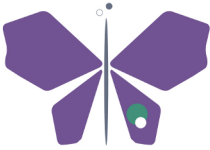
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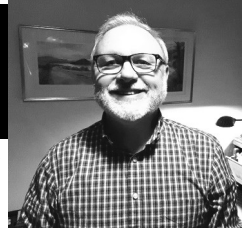
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The last word



Remembrance Sunday 2018 fell exactly 100 years after the day the armistice came into effect. This year marks two very different anniversaries: the first, of a century since that first Remembrance Day, when as a nation that had suffered so many casualties started to find a means to commemorate and reconcile its grief; and the second, that of the 75th anniversary of the D Day Landings in 1944. In Bitton we will be marking both, through the services in both St Mary's and the Upton Cheyney Chapel on Remembrance Sunday and on the next day by children of the Meadows School who will lay crosses at the War Memorial.

The format of the commemoration that we enact around the memorial in St Mary's churchyard and the much grander one in London where the Prince of Wales will lay a wreath on behalf of the nation have changed little from those first few Remembrance Days in the years after 1918. Not least are the words of the poem by Laurence Binyon *For the Fallen* that **"we will remember them"**.

For those attending those first commemorations those words must have been painfully real as they were for the next generation after another war added to the names on the memorials. But as the years pass, increasingly those attending will have little memory of those who actually gave their lives in either conflict those words need to take on a different meaning. For the children who lay their crosses, the two wars are matters of history in much the same way, as the battles of Waterloo or Trafalgar were to the men who fought in the First World War. There can only be a very few people who have any personal memories of any of the people named on our war memorials, so we remember not so much a person but a deed and, on this 100th anniversary of that first remembrance, we reflect on how those who had survived such a war felt that the huge sacrifice that had been made could only be justified if it meant that the futility of war itself was recognised.

War is not always futile but should always be a last option. One of the problems with history is always that one can see the inevitability of actions taken, often years beforehand, that have led inexorably to war. If we are to honour those who gave their lives in two world wars, and in more recent conflicts, then we should remember not only their sacrifice but the lesson they provide that war can be awful and devastating; that the institutions that have been set up in the post war era to enable countries to settle their disagreements amicably are the only means we have to prevent a war more catastrophic and more terrible than either of the two great wars of the twentieth century.

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