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# Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

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*Deadline for the May  
magazine is:*

**Monday 19 April 2021**

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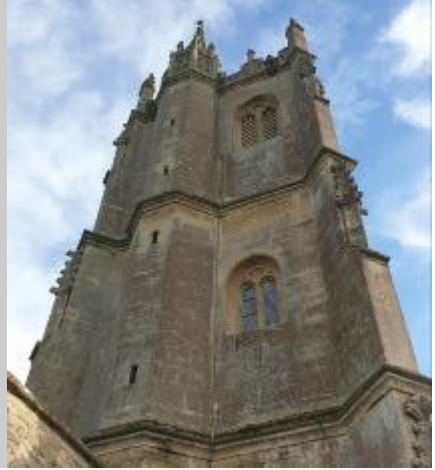
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**- Churches & Services -**



**ST MARY'S  
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[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)



**Vicar:**

Rev Jeremy Andrew  
The Vicarage, Warmley  
**0117 967 2724**

**Ordained minister:**

Rev Richard Humphrey  
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive  
Willsbridge **0117 949 0502**

**Lay ministers:**

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,  
Bitton  
**0117 932 2122**

**Churchwardens:**

Pete Midgley  
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge  
**0117 932 6898**

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

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



# Services for Holy Week & April

## Services at St Mary's

*Numbers are limited so if you intend to be there please send an email with the number attending from your family group to Jacqui Harris at [timjaqui@aol.com](mailto:timjaqui@aol.com) or phone 0117 937 4706*

<b>Sunday 28 March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> 10.30 Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 4 April</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> 10.30 Parish Communion
<b>Sunday 11 April</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> 10.30 Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 18 April</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> 10.30 Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 25 April</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> 10.30 Morning Worship

## Online services

Links to the services will be posted at [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)

<b>Sunday 28 March</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Morning Worship
<b>Thursday 1 April</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Communion of the Last Supper
<b>Friday 2 April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> Reflections upon the Final Hours
<b>Sunday 4 April</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Benefice Communion
<b>Sunday 11 April</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 18 April</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 25 April</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Morning Worship

## ***Palm Sunday to Easter Day — a note on church services***

On Sundays 24 March and 4 April at our first two 10.30 services back in St Mary's we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Thereafter 10.30 Sunday services in St Mary's will take place each week. Initially these will continue to be limited to an attendance of 30 so please let Jacqui Harris know if you plan to be there.

We look forward to the day – probably sometime in the summer – when these restrictions on numbers are lifted and we can once again enjoy singing and staying for coffee after the service.

In Holy Week there are to be two online midweek services.

On Maundy Thursday we are invited to share in the Communion of the Last Supper.

On Good Friday a service lasting three hours will enable us share in Reflections upon the final hours of Jesus' Passion. Traditionally this takes place from Noon until Three but by using the link we will be able to share in the service, or any part of it, at a time of our choice. The service will begin and end with prayer and every half hour a member of the ministry team will lead a short meditation. In between these meditations there will be music and pictures as we reflect.

*Ken Gibson*

### **From the Register**



#### ***Funeral***

4th March Funeral

Stephanie Rosina Winnifred Watkins



# UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church



No services are planned to take place during April due to Coronavirus restrictions and the need to maintain safety. It is intended to resume services two weeks before Pentecost. As soon as possible, information will be provided.

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# St Mary's Matters



**Pete Midgley**

As I write we are approaching the anniversary of the start of the first lockdown. Last April the church was completely closed and no Sunday services could take place. Soon after the closure Jeremy made his first foray into the world of virtual church services, the first I think delivered from his kitchen table. We began to share these with the congregation and publish them on our website. With the development of his skills and the work of Richard with the support of the ministry team and others we are now proficient at producing online services twice a week which, it must be said, have a pretty professional look to them.

During the year we have discovered a new means of communication – the Zoom meeting. Although they have their limitations they have been a lifeline for some, and have allowed so many activities to continue which would have been impossible without them. We have been able to maintain our prayer meetings, house groups, PCC meetings and meetings of the Future group committee, to name but a few.

One aspect of church life which has been severely hit is the ringing of the bells, and I know that the ringers have been frustrated that they have been very limited in what they can do. It is very appropriate that they can help express two aspects of the pandemic. On Tuesday 23rd of March they tolled a bell, following the one minute silence at midday to remember those who have died. On Sunday 4th April they will ring the bells for an Easter service which will be held in church. A reminder, as we gradually emerge from the pandemic, of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope which is found in Him.

As we look forward to a freeing of restrictions over the coming months my hope is that we will be able to worship in church with a new freedom and openness. Everyone, as always, will be most welcome.

## Poetry Corner

Brenda Claxton has selected this poem to share with you. She hopes it will raise your spirits in these difficult times.

### **New Every Morning**

Every day is a fresh beginning.  
Listen my soul to the glad refrain.  
And, spite of old sorrows  
And older sinning,  
Troubles forecasted  
And possible pain,  
Take heart with the day and begin again.

Susan Coolidge  
1835 - 1905

Taken from: Nichola Albery & Peter Ratcliffe (1996) **Poem for the day: 366 poems, old and new, worth learning by heart.** London Sinclair-Stevenson



## **Help at Hand**

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# PCC meets online

The latest meeting of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was held online on 15 February, via zoom.

Jeremy had circulated a letter to PCC members before the meeting setting out his thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing us over coming months and years. He expanded his thoughts on future discussions and direction for the Church, both locally in the St Mary's area and also in the wider Diocese. In particular, the Bishop's initiative of Transforming church seeks consultation on the new vision and priorities for the Diocese in moving forward. The matter was due to be discussed at the forthcoming Deanery Synod, but wider conversations and consultation as also sought. An online survey was available on the diocese website. Strategic funding was also likely dependent on the outcome. PCC members wanted to undertake more discussion, which has now been planned to take place later in March.

A number of reports were received by the PCC. The Physical Resources committee reported on the church heating which had failed in November, leading to a lengthy closure of the church after Christmas. On investigation it was discovered that a pipe running under the path between the boiler house and the church was leaking and the cold water feed from the header tank was blocked. Access to the leaking pipe was awkward as the church kitchen stood over the pipe's path and its fittings had to be partially removed. The work was however completed satisfactorily, and the heating is working again. The cost of the repair is estimated at just over £3000 plus VAT.

The Futures Committee reported that it was frustrated that due to Covid some fundraising efforts had to be curtailed, although it had been decided to go ahead with the Ellacombe chimes event in June. Dan Miller, the archaeologist had completed the first stage of his work but would like to take things further if possible involving the local community when pandemic restrictions allow. Martin Palmer, the church historian had also joined one of the Future Committee meetings and had suggested that the church should be promoted as a place of pilgrimage. Further work was taking place to install Wi-Fi and to place QR codes next to interesting

## **Focal Point, April 2021**

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church objects so that visitors could find out about them.

There was further discussion about the installation of Wi-Fi and investigation will now take place to see if a 4G system can be installed avoiding the need for a telephone connection.

As a result of the pandemic funds are not at their best. The church hall committee is particularly concerned about income as little was received during 2020. Fortunately, there are funds from previous years and there was also repayment. Church funds have been supported by continuing giving by direct debit and standing order which has held up well.

It was agreed that two trees in the churchyard should be pollarded.

Permission is to be sought for a bracket to be fitted to the south wall to allow for the projector to be permanently installed

Alison Wride was working on a fund raising project using photographs for a quiz. This could be undertaken safely, even if social distancing were required.

The next meeting would be held on 19 April, at 7.30p, which would be the annual parish meeting.

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*From the Vicar*

# Who is my neighbour at Easter time?







*Dear Friends,*

In these last weeks I have been pondering the question again who is my neighbour? The question asked, whether genuine or not, of Jesus. It's a question that led to the telling of that famous story of the Good Samaritan by which Jesus was able to subvert the cynical and tricky question and made people think about the barriers and prejudice we all put up as we engage with others who are different from us.

This week I had cause to ask that question again as social media timelines remind us of events of the past; on this day four years ago you were doing this and here is a photo of it. The question was prompted by a reminder of the news of Mark Zuckerberg's renewed mission for global communication. Globalisation has become a new paradigm in the way that we think about who our friends are. Zuckerberg's *Facebook* as well as *Twitter*, *Instagram*, *Snapchat*, text, *Instagram* and email have made communication across the globe instantaneous so that we hear about news that is happening across the world as it happens. Some people have hundreds of 'friends' without ever meeting them face to face.

One of the consequences of this is that community as we have known it has changed. More and more people meet online in a virtual world to the neglect of their immediate neighbours and some with many cyber friends still admit that they are lonely and feel isolated. As I write we have reached the one-year anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic and the view of such connectivity to others through social media has changed. These different circumstances mean that the value of social media and virtual connection has risen and, in some cases, has been literally a life saver for some whose mental health has plummeted and most of us who have suffered with poor mental health in varying degrees. A few years ago,

## **Focal Point, April 2021**

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there was the threat to Zuckerberg's empire because people were choosing to use their social media less and saw it as harmful. More and more people were culling their friends on Facebook in order to reclaim time and simplicity, more and more people are getting involved in community projects and volunteering because they actually meet people face to face and begin new relationships. How times and circumstances have changed.

It is my contention that human beings were made for relationship, we need, crave even, for one to one, face to face communication and we are the poorer in life if we are denied it. Over this past year or so we have come face to face with the truth of this statement. The desert fathers speaking and writing centuries ago suggested that no one could find spiritual growth in isolation but only when they are subject to relationship with their neighbour. The fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, self-control cannot be achieved on your own but only when we live with our neighbour. Jesus' teaching takes this even further when he suggests the summary of the law is love: love of God and love of neighbour and love of self. For me these three things are not just the summary of the law but the essence of the Christian life because it is these three that bring freedom and hope.

In many places in scripture, human beings are caught in captivity, whether physically or mentally, by their own doing or by the actions of others and in these circumstances Our relationship as Christians with God brings freedom and hope. This of course is ultimately seen in the Easter story and on Easter day when God shows that he loved the world, that he loved us so much, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Love, freedom and hope encourage us as we climb up out of the pit of our pandemic days and we truly recognise the value of God and of our neighbour.

*With thoughts blessings and prayers*

*Jeremy*

# Thanks for Christmas Gifts

At the beginning of December, I took two car-loads of gifts to the Sisters in St Pauls and the Salvation Army in Staple Hill. I received 'thank you' letters for the generosity shown by people from the benefice but with the restricted possibilities of attending church since then many people who gave won't have seen those letters. So below is the text from each of them for you to read.

## **From the Sisters of the Church:**

*Dear Friends*

*Thank you so much for your very generous delivery in response to our Christmas Appeal. We are so grateful to you all for contributing to our work. The continuing kindness of our supporters at this challenging time is quite amazing!*

*We hope your families, friends and church communities will keep safe and well. On behalf of those we help, thank you once again for your support and encouragement - it is greatly appreciated.*

*With our love and very best wishes for the Christmas season.*

**Sister Teresa Mary    Sister Rosina**

## **From the Salvation Army:**

*Good Morning,*

*I am writing to thank you for your practical help over the Christmas period, which enabled us to help many families, adults and children who would otherwise have had a very difficult time. You will be pleased to learn that locally, we were able to provide gifts and hampers for over 2,000 children and adults and deliver a hot Christmas Dinner and goodies on Christmas Day itself to over 30 people.*

*This would not have been possible without your support and assistance, so on behalf of these families and individuals, thank you. Your generosity is much appreciated.*

*If you would like to know any more information concerning either our work at Christmas or throughout the year, please contact me or visit our website [www.staplehillsa.uk](http://www.staplehillsa.uk), thank you.*

*With every blessing for the coming year.*

**Nicola Hylton-Jones (Major)  
Corps Officer, Staple Hill Corps**

The Sisters of the Church have struggled since Christmas and haven't been

able to work as they would have wished. One of the key volunteer workers caught Covid 19 and died. He will be much missed. Also Sister Teresa Mary contracted the disease. She has recovered but is still regaining her strength. These two upsets has meant the loaves and fishes project has been on hold till April 12th. Please keep the Community and its volunteers in your prayers.

Thank you,  
Leslie Willcox

# A Message from Pam



Many readers will know that Pam Hacker, popular local figure and the Meadows School Lollipop Lady has been in hospital for some weeks while receiving treatments for a serious illness. We are pleased to see Pam around the village once more and wish her a continued and speedy recovery.

**Pam's message is:**

*"A big thank you for all the kind words, cards, gifts, flowers and donations following my stay in hospital. I feel blessed to know so many wonderful people."*

*Pam*

# Minstrels out-take causes amusement



**It was the cat—Laughs all round for our talented Minstrels in their latest collection. Clockwise from top left: Jenny Harris, Liz Wilson, Jane Clapp and Natalie Morton.**

You've seen it in some great films like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but now it is our very own Minstrels ending their monthly playing with their own recording out-takes.

Four lovely hymns including the introit hymn *Be Still* and *I will walk with you alone* were beautifully played by the St Mary's Minstrels who have charmed and entertained us over the months of lockdown and have mastered the art of quartet playing on Zoom.

In spite of the music, Jane Clapp's cat decided to make its own entrance – much to the amusement of all.

Keep playing please.

If you want to hear the latest Minstrels pieces, there is a link on the St Mary's website: [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)

*Ellacombe Chimes Bicentenary—26th June 2021*

**Bitton  
anniversary to be  
celebrated around  
the world.**

Plans are coming together for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Ellacombe Chimes on 26 June, So far 33 churches in Great Britain and a further 21 around the world have volunteered to take part in this special global event, centred on St Mary's, Bitton.

It is hoped that the relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions by 26 June will enable an attractive event to be held in and around the church, but , at the very least, it should be possible to run an online celebration.

The churches taking part are many and varied both in age and denomination. One, in this country, St George's in Clyst, near Exeter. It was to this parish that HT Ellacombe, the inventor of the chimes "retired" in 1850. The church was badly damaged during the Second World War, but was restored and has a working set of chimes available.

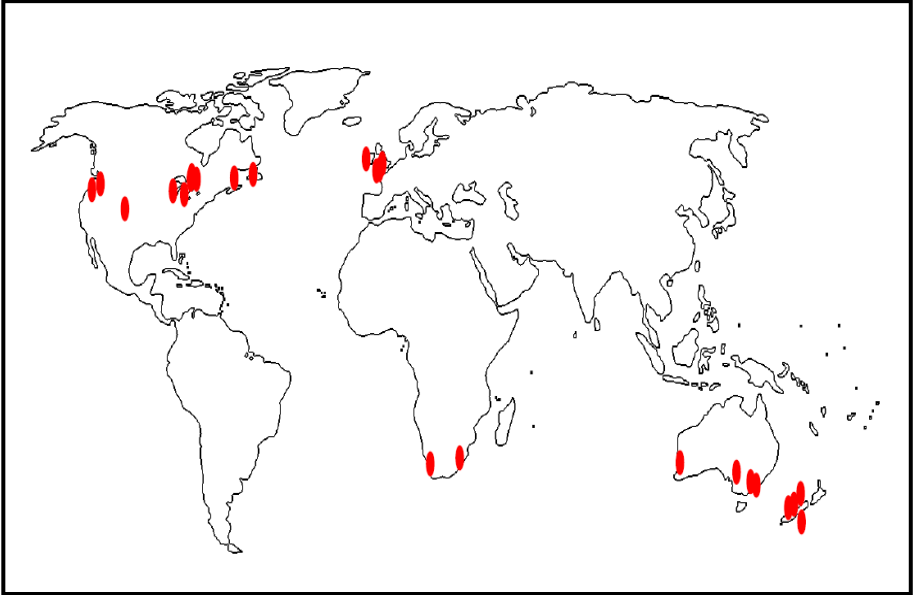


**Tower Captain, Sue Elliott,  
checks out the chimes**

The chimes were devised and first installed in St Mary's by its then curate and later vicar, HT Ellacombe enabling all the bells to be chimed by one person rather than rung by a team of bell ringers. The story goes that Ellacombe got into a dispute with the bell ringing teams at Bitton, and the chimes were a means to outwit them.



**H T Ellacombe  
in 1817**



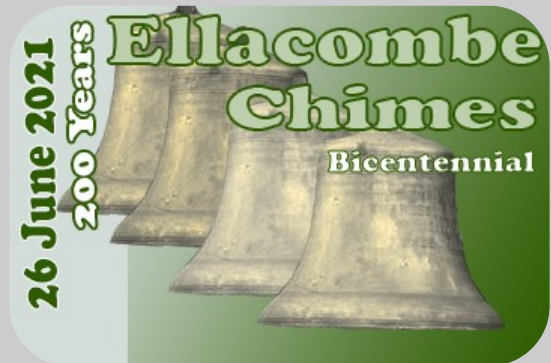
## **Chimes around the world**

The first chimes will sound in at the Sacred Heart Basilica in Timaru and three other churches on New Zealand's southern island at noon in New Zealand, which is 2300hrs on Friday 25 June in the UK.

At noon on Saturday 26 September St Mary's and other chimes in churches across Britain and Ireland will sound.

The last chimes will be heard in Vancouver on Canada's western coast at noon, Pacific Time (1900 hrs on Saturday 226 June in UK).

The event has been planned jointly by St Mary's and The Bitton History Group.



**An Easter oddity**

# How did the bunny get into Easter?



In 1290, the court of Edward I was charmed by a display of painted eggs, providing the first recorded account of Easter eggs in England. As eggs were a food often given up during Lent, their reappearance at Eastertide would be something to celebrate. The eggs not only symbolised the fact that the time of fasting was over, but could also be taken as a symbol of new life and the new life in Christ that came through his crucifixion and resurrection.

Further abroad painted eggs have a much longer history, associated with the time of year or specifically with the resurrection. Early Christians in Mesopotamia were known to dye eggs red as a symbol of Christ's passion.

## **But where did the Easter bunny come from?**

### **German Origins**

The answer, on one level is quite straightforward. The tradition comes from Germany in the Lutheran Church and crossed the Atlantic with German (often called Dutch) settlers in Pennsylvania. Perhaps reflecting the Protestant view of salvation through good works and deeds the Easter rabbit took account of the behaviour of children and distributed Easter eggs to those children who had been well behaved. Children constructed nests for the Easter Bunny to place eggs in them, which seems a somewhat bizarre element of species crossover that strangely passes without comment.



### A Symbol of Purity?

There is however, a much older and more surprising symbolic connection between hares and rabbits and Christianity. It comes apparently from the ancient Greeks, who thought that the hare was hermaphrodite and was capable of reproduction without the loss of virginity. As a consequence, hares are often to be found in illuminated manuscripts alongside pictures of the Virgin Mary as a symbol of purity.

### A Trinity of Hares

But that is not all, - as a book published in 2016 found there is a more ancient symbol of three circling hares that can be found as far east as China and as far west as the churches of Devon with links not only to places of Christian worship but Islam and Buddhism too. The book, entitled ***The Three Hares – A curiosity worth regarding\**** was the result of the intrigue of Tom Greeves, an archaeologist with the Dartmoor National Park, who had noticed the symbol on the oak boss of a 15th century church in Devon. Assuming it to be a symbol of folklore, similar to the green man that is often found in church carvings he was surprised to be told that the symbol was not only in many other churches in this country but in other parts of the world too. The symbol is quite distinct, showing three hares with enjoined ears in a circle. The authors also found the symbol on items such as a Persian metal tray and a Mongol coin. A both items are made of precious metal the symbol may have been used to attest to the purity of the items themselves. Its inclusion in Christian symbols may well be in juxtaposition to symbols of paganism. The fact that they are three joined as one also has a symbolic crossover to those of the Holy Trinity. Greeves and his co-authors come, however, to no definite conclusion, hence the title of their book.

But as you bite into your chocolate bunny this Easter, you might consider how it could be that the Greeks, so skilled in philosophy and mathematics, could get the breeding habits of the hares and rabbit, so utterly wrong.



**Oak Boss in South Tawton Church, Devon**  
*Courtesy—Devon Ass.*

\*Tom Greeves, Chris Chapman, and Sue Andrew – *The Three Hares : A curiosity worth regarding* Skerryvore Productions (2016). The book is no longer in print and for this article information was drawn from a review in the New Scientist by Nic Fleming (1 April 2016).

## *Proposed bridge across the Avon*

# Wessex Water consults local residents

Wessex Water has now officially started consulting on its proposal to build an access bridge across the Avon from the Bath Road (A431) to its recycling water centre in Saltford. A short roadway will be built from the A431 east of Swineford to allow access to the site. The current access on the opposite side of the river is liable to flooding and parked cars in Mead Lane cause blockages.

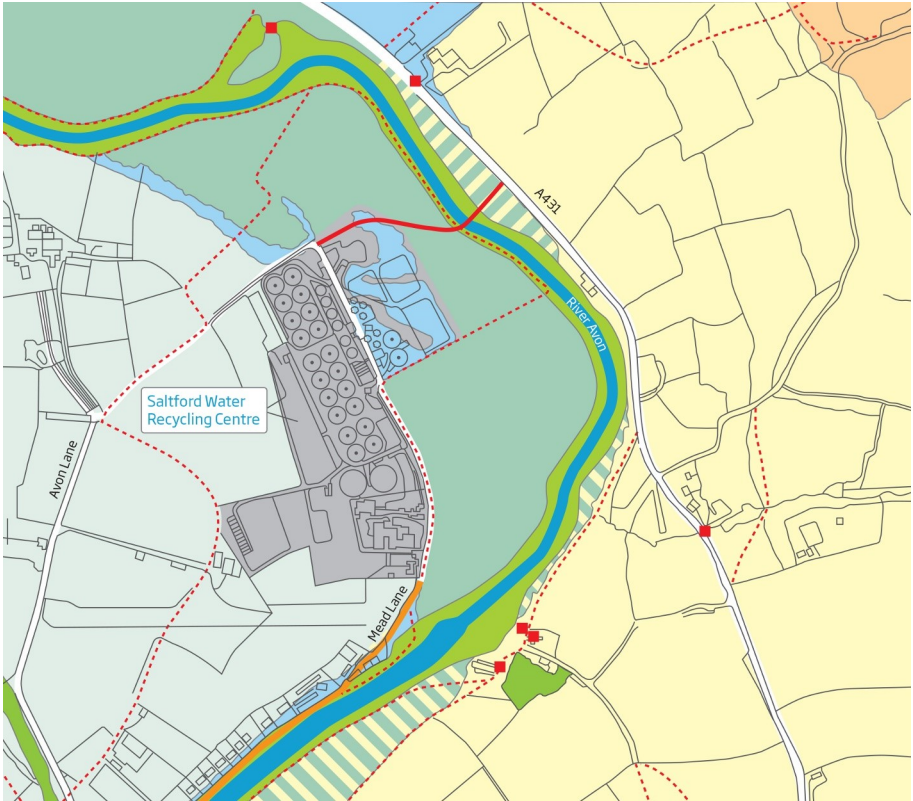
The proposals will not provide a through route for traffic other than for those requiring access to the site which also houses the company's regional scientific centre. The bridge will however provide additional community access to the footpaths and the River Avon Train. They are also proposing an environmental gain through the planting of trees at both ends of the bridge and the creation of a wetland habitat and opportunities for local wildlife groups.

Wessex Water intends to submit a planning application soon but would like to hear comments about their proposal and have circulated a letter to households near to the proposed bridge.

Views from the local community should be submitted by email to [saltford.access@wessexwater.co.uk](mailto:saltford.access@wessexwater.co.uk).

*Opposite page:* Wessex Water's own proposed plan showing the new access road and bridge from the A431 across the River Avon.

# Focal Point, April 2021



Area all within Bristol and Bath Green Belt

- Proposed bridge
- Existing access route
- Public right of way
- Area of outstanding natural beauty
- Conservation area
- CROW open access land
- County wildlife site
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3
- Flood zone 3 and AONB
- Listed buildings

*Bitton History Group*

# THE LONS

*and the people who lived there*



**Part 5**

**The Bitton Parish History Group has continued to investigate the history of The Lons or Lons Court as it is now known, and the people who lived there. The final two studies looked at the years since 1953.**

The Folliotts bought and moved into The Lons in 1953. Hugh Folliot was a businessman and had lived in the Bristol area for some time. Born in 1910, he had been commissioned in the artillery regiment during the war and by 1945 had been promoted to the rank of major.

Hugh had married Frances in 1934. They had already started a family and lived in Chewton Keynsham, but with Hugh away at war and money tight, Frances had rented out the house and taken up a post in York in a PNEU school (Parents National Education Union) where she moved



**The Folliot family at The Lons**

with the children. PNEU schools followed the principles of Charlotte Mason, a Christian educationalist who believed in a wide and liberal curriculum founded on Bible teaching that supported parents in home schooling. As a result the schools were often attractive to parents of children who found more formal education difficult.

After the war the family returned and Frances, set up a PNEU school in Keynsham, but by the early 1950s it needed to expand. The Lons provided a location that would be both a family home (there were by now 5 children) and a school and from where Hugh could continue his business interests. *The Gateway School* was thus established at The Lons and operated there for the next 15 years.



**The Gateway School at The Lons in 1964**

The Lons offered lots of space – outdoor activities being very important for PNEU schools – and could take a small number of boarders, although most of the children who attended were day pupils. The school was small, catering mostly for about 60 pupils and had a small staff of teachers. The “staff” also included Aunt Minnie, Hugh’s aunt, a former teacher and governess who lived at The Lons until her death, at 97, in 1968.

What work was undertaken on The Lons to convert it into a school is unclear. It would seem to be limited and the central heating run on a old boiler in the basement seems to have just about functioned. Nevertheless it was a happy place as many of its former pupils have confirmed.

Hugh also began a successful business from The Lons creating a potting compost made of peat, vermiculite and a slow release fertilizer which he successfully marketed as *Vermipeat*. This soon moved to other premises as it expanded. This business continued successfully into the 1980s. Hugh, however, suffered from poor health in his later years and died in 1969, when only 59 years old. Although the family had largely worshipped at St John’s in Keynsham, Hugh is buried in St Mary’s churchyard.

By then part of the Lons grounds had been sold to Fonthill Garden Centre and Hugh had also sought planning permission to build some additional houses on the estate, which was refused. This was a disappointment as the money was intended to provide a pension.

A few years later, Frances sold and moved from The Lons to Bath. She died in 1999.

## Focal Point, April 2021

The Lons was sold to Graham and Anne Miler, in 1974, who were able to obtain planning permission to build additional properties and to turn The Lons into a country club, which offered a swimming pool and squash courts as well as a venue for entertainment, receptions and meetings; it even boasted a nightclub.

The Millers and their children lived in a flat at The Lons. Graham had an outgoing personality and business experience which meant he was well suited to running

such a venture. He owned a helicopter which he would land at The Lons. Anne's health, however, was not good and following her death, Graham sold up and lived on a barge in Bristol Harbour. The building was converted to apartments and remain as such today.



Photographs of the Folliott family and *The Gateway School* are courtesy of Julia Scott, daughter of Hugh and Frances. Photo of the Country Club swimming pool are courtesy of Kingswood Heritage Museum and South Gloucestershire Gazette.

## Bitton Parish History Group

Research on this part of the History of The Lons was undertaken and described in an extensive set of papers by Marlene Gallop, Stephanie Bailey, and Annette Rothwell.

The history of The Lons has also been published as a paperback book, available on demand through the Bitton History Group website (see below)

Contact: Mike Gates, Secretary, 0117 932 8777  
email: [mg122@btinternet.com](mailto:mg122@btinternet.com)  
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# News from Bitton WI

At last we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope like me, you will have had at least one Coronavirus vaccination, and that now we can look forward to a brighter future, with the return to some of our social activities. Unfortunately at the moment I have no news on the return to our monthly meetings, we will let you know as soon as we know a date.

Usually at this time of year we are looking forward to our summer outing in August, but as you all know this year there will be no outing. I recalled that our last outing was in 2019, which seems a long time ago. We set off on the coach from Bitton to Wales and onto our destination of St Fagan's National Museum of History. When we arrived, after a warm welcome from a guide, we all gathered for a coffee and cake before deciding the time we would meet for lunch, as you can imagine food and being together was an important part of the day. We were very fortunate that the weather was warm and sunny and that we could stroll around the village enjoying the atmosphere and reminiscing about the historical lifestyle, culture and architecture of the Welsh people.

It seemed all too soon that after a very enjoyable lunch and a last quick stroll around, we again had to board the coach for our homeward journey. We passed through some beautiful countryside before we reached our next stop Chepstow. When we reached Chepstow we had enough time to look around, and as you may have guessed, have our usual WI cup of tea and a cake. We arrived back in Bitton tired but all agreeing it had been a very enjoyable day, hopefully we will be able to go on our summer outing next year.

Looking to the future I have Sheila Jennings to thank for this month's recipe of Gingerbread (Loaf) which I think could be made for the St Mary's fete.





I think you will agree Gingerbread Loaf would be good to sell at the fete, or just to enjoy eating at home. Once again I ask you to stay safe, because, as I said earlier, we are almost at the end of the tunnel, and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Lyn Coles

### Gingerbread (Loaf)

- 275g. self raising flour
- 1.     tablespoon ground ginger
- 1.     teaspoon baking powder
- 200g. soft brown sugar
- 100ml. sunflower oil
- 1.     tablespoon lemon juice
- 170ml. water

Preheat oven to 200 degrees, line a tin. Sift flour, sugar, ginger and baking powder. Pour in oil, lemon juice and 170ml water. Stir to a smooth batter, pour into tin and bake for 30-35mins. Transfer to a rack to cool. When cool cut into squares.



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## March's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about the collective noun of animals

**The correct answers are:**

(1) Pack of Dogs; (2) Cackle of Hyenas; (3) Tower of Giraffes; (4) Brood of Hens; (5) Leap of Leopards; (6) Rhumba of Rattlesnakes; (7) Parcel of Penguins or a Parade of Peacocks Puddle or Paddle of Platypus; (8) Pride of Lions; (9) Coalition of Cheetahs; (10) Labour of Moles; (11) Troop of Kangaroos; (12) Bushel of Crabs; (13) Knab or Knot of Toads; (14) Dazzle of Zebras; (15) Kindle of Kittens; (16) Colony of Bats; (17) Mob of Meerkats; (18) Bed of Oysters; (19) Cartload of Monkeys; (20) Bloat of Hippopotami(uses).

**Correct answers were received from:**

Terry Matthews, Mary Younie, Sue & Rod Nethercote, Jon & Pam Heyes, Pam & Jon Booth, Frank FitzGibbon & Co.  
19/20 correct answers were received from: Jan & Diane, Jill & Ken, Alan & Sue.

**This months winner is:** Pam & Jon Booth

# The April Quiz

This months quiz is on compound words, can you find a word which combines with each of the clues to make new words.

Example Coat / Lap / Knot, the answer is Top creating Topcoat / Laptop / Topknot

- | No. | Clue                   |
|-----|------------------------|
| 1.  | Storm / Wash / Child   |
| 2.  | Long / Time / Line     |
| 3.  | Close / Sight / Close  |
| 4.  | Shine / Stone / Struck |
| 5.  | Bed / Light / Time     |
| 6.  | Field / Craft / Man    |
| 7.  | Stand / Cast / Room    |
| 8.  | Dog / Cut / Age        |
| 9.  | Roll / Load / Off      |
| 10. | Comb / Moon / Dew      |
| 11. | Note / Hole / Stone    |
| 12. | Stop / Stroke / Ward   |
| 13. | Flower / Tan / Roof    |
| 14. | Board / Flow / Coat    |
| 15. | Cup / Fingers / Nut    |
| 16. | Word / Port / Over     |
| 17. | Bone / Breaker / Fire  |
| 18. | Rock / Clothes / Room  |
| 19. | Dress / Line / Hunter  |
| 20. | Fall / Drop / Bow      |

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email [mrsrussell@icloud.com](mailto:mrsrussell@icloud.com) by 15 April



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# The last word

## *New beginnings*



I am grateful to Brenda Claxton for suggesting Susan Collige's poem *New Every Morning* to cheer us up. Had there been room, it would have been included in last month's edition, but in many ways, it feels more appropriate for this month; the month of Easter.

The enduring message of Easter is that of renewal. After the tragedy of Christ's trial and crucifixion came resurrection, hope and a fresh start. In fact, this is not just the Easter message it is the Christian one, that here is for us all, always : the chance to begin again.

This Easter, perhaps more than any, has its own feeling of renewed hope. For the first time in months, Sunday services will begin again in St Mary's, there are expectations that Coronavirus restrictions will be gradually reduced, and we can look forward to events such as the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Ellacombe chimes and even, perhaps, the annual fete.

Can we expect normal life to resume? To some extent, but not completely, at least not in the same way. For while it is always possible to make a fresh start, one has to accept the consequences of what has gone before, even as we resolve to do better in the future. Let us hope that the experiences of the past year provide us with the understanding of how we can do better in times to come and, as the poem reminds us, every new day provides such an opportunity.

*Jim Heavens*



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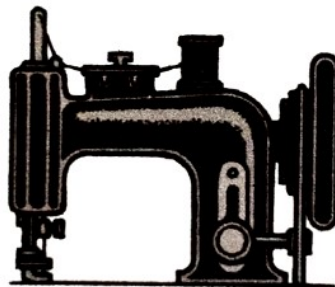
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