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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

June 2021

*A monthly church newsletter serving
Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,
Upton Cheyney & Beach*

*Published by St Mary's Church, Bitton and
the United Reformed Church, Upton
Cheyney.*

*Printed by The Mitre Press, Unit 2 Fantasie
Buildings, Waters Road, BS15 8BE*

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*Deadline for the July
magazine is:*

Friday 18 June 2021

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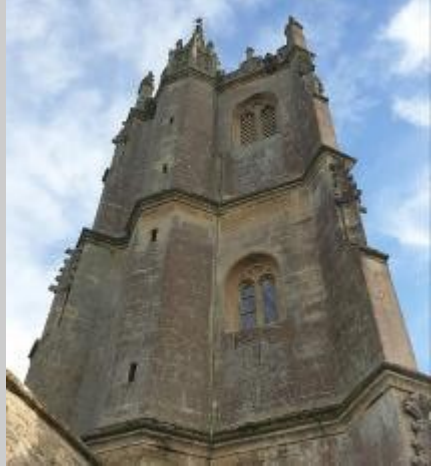
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- Churches & Services -



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www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



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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 June 2021

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 or phone 0117 937 4706

Sunday, 6 June

First Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Parish Communion

Sunday, 13 June

Second Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday, 20 June

Third Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday, 27 June

Fourth Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Morning Worship

Online services

Links to the services will be posted at www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

If you are unable or do not wish to attend church for services, a benefice service is available online both midweek and on Sundays. The service is recorded and available through YouTube. A link to the service is available on the front page of the St Mary's website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



**UPTON CHEYNEY
United Reformed Church
Services for June 2021**



Sunday services are at 3pm

June 6th Service led by Steve Britton

June 13th Service led by Michelle Bates

June 20th Service led by Steve Britton

June 27th Service led by John Creech

Plus on Tuesday 22nd there will be a coffee afternoon at the chapel

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Normal service has been resumed at the Upton Cheyney chapel - well almost. We have had stirring services led by Steve Britton, John Creech and Ann Donnelly. We have had hymns. Initially we read them together. Then we had the music and now we hum quietly behind our masks. Just wait until we can sing again. Most people have returned to attending services as we gradually ease out of lock down. A few of us are even having tea outside afterwards on the patio. Luckily on most occasions the weather has been kind to us, only once did we have a faint splash of water. Everyone is starting to smile again and relax. You can see that an hour's conversation after a service is much appreciated by several people.



Stuart Turner

We have also returned to hosting the polling station for elections. That needed extra thoughts on safety for voters and officials. It's interesting how much we take our right and opportunity to vote for granted and in these times how it is another sign of normality returning.

Now we are looking forward and thinking what's next. Well, a limited coffee afternoon on the 25th of May is in our sights. What is achievable and what isn't yet possible. What will be doable for the following one on June 22nd. Hopefully the next relaxation will have been instigated, maybe not. We have to be ready for both situations. It is also over a year since we have been able to hold a church meeting and we will at least be setting a date for that. So normal service is back - well almost.

St Mary's Matters



Pete Midgley

On Wednesday 26th May St Mary's had its so-called Triennial inspection from the archdeacon. Every three years the churchwardens receive a visit to make sure everything is being carried out correctly. Jeremy, Jacqui and I duly met Michael Johnson, along with Rachel Stewart the PA to the archdeacons, at 2.15 in the afternoon. As well as taking a look around the church and ensuring it is being properly maintained they want to check the photos of any valuables we have, make sure we are keeping our burial, baptism and confirmation records up to date and check the accounts. They also take a look at the so called terrier, inventory and logbook. No – we haven't decided to buy a church dog! The terrier is a record of the land belonging to the church, the word being derived from the Latin terrarius meaning belonging to the earth (the same derivation as the dog). The inventory is a list of items belonging to the church and the logbook is a record of changes to the church its land and contents which take place. Everything seemed to be in order and the archdeacon left satisfied that we, as well as those that have gone before us, have done a good job.

House groups this spring have been continuing on Zoom and have been using short anecdotes from a book called "God's Fingerprints" written by John Samways to stimulate our discussions. John was for some time vicar at St John's in Keynsham. The book contains one short anecdote for each letter of the alphabet through which we see God working in small ways in a variety of peoples lives and circumstances. Although they have regular attendees the house groups are not exclusive. If you would like to join one – even just to give it a try – please get in touch with me or Ken (evenings) or David Bailey (daytime).

Church services are continuing both online and in church for the time

Focal Point, June 2021

being. You will be most welcome back in the church building when you feel able. Social distancing is still in place for the moment so please contact Jacqui in advance using timjaqui@aol.com if you would like to come. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted towards the end of June.



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Lay Minister's Letter

How will the new normal affect our mission?

If there is one thing that the pandemic has shown us it is that people are generous and open hearted when they can see a need which has to be met. There have been countless examples of individuals starting projects to boost morale particularly for frontline workers. Others have put effort into providing meals for those who have been impoverished by being laid off from work or not receiving any government support because their situation 'didn't fit'. Support for food banks has increased significantly as the need to supplement or top up family shopping baskets has become more demanding.

Hundreds of individual fund-raising events and efforts, many inspired by Captain Tom, have raised millions of pounds for charities and social projects which have made living through and surviving the pandemic less difficult for many. On a less materialistic note, others had put effort into raising awareness of personal struggles, emotional issues such as loneliness, grief and depression.

A second issue of concern which is more and more being embraced by the population at large is the issue of climate change. This awareness has been boosted hugely by Greta Thunberg, throwing light on the need for immediate action in order to avoid a global catastrophe. Those of us who are longer in the tooth will be aware for example, of work done by David Attenborough in his voicing of natural history programmes or Prince Philip with his presidency of the World Wildlife Fund. That this awareness is real is evidenced by the increased number of Green party councillors recently elected in Bristol and that the runner-up in the Bristol Mayoral election was also a Green Party candidate.

Continued on page 16

**The New Normal—with
or without face masks?
But there are other
pressing issues as well
as Covid recovery.**



Shutterstock

Focal Point, June 2021

If our Christian witness is to have any meaning in the current situation we have to be looking outwards. Regarded by many as being fairly well to do parishes, there are still needs to be met in the communities in which we live and where our church buildings are based which hardly get noticed, except perhaps for the funerals which we are asked to conduct.

The diocese has joined with Bristol in declaring a climate emergency and is asking all the churches to look at their environmental impact. Almost certainly this will result in our parishes needing to spend money it hasn't in the past, even if it is just in switching to a green energy tariff for electricity or installing an air source heat pump to supplement the gas boilers.

Our newly elected PCCs will no doubt be looking for ways in which God is leading us to serve our communities better. We can all look for ways in which we can help both practically and financially. Let's be ready to step out in faith as the challenges become apparent. Get ready for what may be a new normal. It will be different and will involve change. But if there is one thing that the pandemic has shown us, it is that people are generous and open hearted when they can see a need which has to be met.

Leslie Willcox

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Welcome to:
**Benefice
Summer
Placement
— Sarah
Heywood**



This summer, Sarah Heywood will be joining the benefice on a placement while studying at Trinity College.

Before starting at Trinity College, Sarah was a civil servant for 19 years, working for the MOD (at Ensleigh in Bath, then Filton Abbey Wood) after studying Psychology at Sheffield University. She is a trained Mental Health First Aider and certificated mediator for workplace conflicts. Married to Harry, together they are expertly outmanoeuvred by their three boys - Gabriel (7) and twins Hector & Rafe (5).

Sarah is thrilled to be working with Jeremy at St. Mary's, St. Barnabas and St. Anne's for summer placement and is looking forward to meeting you and hearing your stories. In her spare time, she likes cake, Marvel films, Brené Brown, Georgette Heyer novels, playing pool and smushing their useless British Blue who is called Catface.

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St. Mary's Church Fete 2021 Photography Competition

Photographs must be printed and be a maximum size of 20cm x 20cm, it must be your own work and have been taken within the last two years

There are six categories (see below) and two sections, one for adults (entry fee of £1 per picture) and one for juniors under 16 (entry fee of 50p per picture)
Colour or black and white photographs accepted



1. Bitton Scenes
2. Nature
3. Life adjusting to Covid-19
4. Hobbies
5. The colour Red
6. Food and Drink

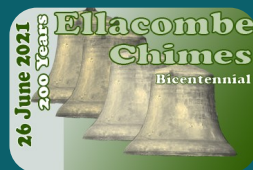
Entries must be supplied in a sealed envelope together with the entry fee, your name, contact number, date the photo was taken, adult or junior entry and category

Entries must be supplied directly to Martin House, Church Road, Bitton by 6:30 pm on Friday August 27th at the latest

All entries and winners will be displayed at the St Mary's Bitton Fete



You are warmly invited to Bitton's international celebration



We hope you are free on 26 June to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Ellacombe Chimes, first installed in Bitton but then replicated in churches throughout the world.

There will be celebrations around the world, but the centre of the action will be at St Mary's, at noon. It is an event not to be missed. If, as is expected, COVID restrictions are generally lifted on the previous Monday, the weekend will be the first fully open one. What more of an excuse do you need to join in?

The event in Bitton will open at 10.30 am in St Mary's churchyard. There will be a display telling the story of the chimes in the church and children from the Meadows will display the bunting and artwork they have prepared. Hot and cold drinks will be available but please bring your own picnic if you wish.

At 11.00am, via a live Facebook feed, we hope to hear the chimes sound in South Africa and Gibraltar, both one hour ahead of us, before the main event at Bitton when the chimes of St Marys will be played as will many others in other parts of the UK and Ireland.

If you have real staying power, you can follow the remainder of the chimes later in the day as the event crosses the United States and Canada, before ending in Vancouver at 8pm.



Sue Elliott, Tower Captain, demonstrates the operation of the Chimes from the frame in the church entrance porch. Pulling the ropes when taut, sounds the bell.

Tucked away in the corner of the entrance porch at St Mary's is a strange looking contraption of ropes on a frame. The fact that they run upwards into the ceiling gives only a small clue to their purpose and connection to the church bells..

In its time the system of ropes and pulleys to allow a single operator to chime the church bells was revolutionary.

That it was copied around the world was mainly due to Ellacombe's own writings, most notably his own book on church bells and bellringing. Published at a time when Britain was expanding her empire, it proved an excellent means for churches, in places where the population was sparse, to be able to create something approximating the sound of English bells. Little surprise then that as well as churches and towers in Ireland and the US, all of the participants are from Commonwealth countries.



You can follow the live feed for all the chimes on **Facebook**. Go to the Ellacombe Chimes Bicentenary Facebook page. If you cant find it, this link should assist

[www.facebook.com/
groups/135681541720946](https://www.facebook.com/groups/135681541720946)

Ellacombe Chimes Bicentenary—26th June 2021

How the anniversary will be

Final chime Vancouver, Canada 8pm	US Mountain Time 7pm	Mid- Western US 6pm	Eastern US & Canada 5pm	UK and Ireland at Noon	South Africa & Gibraltar 11am
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Rev H T Ellacombe
in 1817, the year he was
appointed to Bitton

Nineteen hour chime around the world at noon in

Starting in New Zealand at the first set of Ellacombe Chimes in Timaru in New Zealand followed by bell towers across the globe at the same time.

Most of the early chimes were rung in the hours of the night, but at Bitton they were heard in Asia at the Church of St. George in India.

At Bitton, events will

With the inclusion of Pune in India, chimes will now be rung in each of the four continents to make the event truly world-wide.

e marked around the world

Africa & ...	Pune, India 7.30am	Western Australia 5am	Eastern Australia 3am	First chimes in New Zealand 1am
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each time zone—times shown are those in Britain (BST)

at noon, (1 am in Britain), the chimes will ring in the city of Ellacombe followed by other churches and towers—each at 12 noon local time.

The chimes will sound during the small hours of the night: at 7.30am the chimes will be rung by the church of the Holy Name in Pune, India.

The chimes will take place largely in the

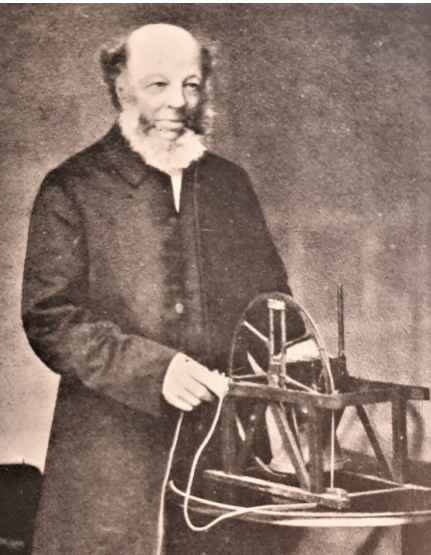
churchyard. Government restrictions should be eased by then, and that is the best place to hear the chimes. We are hoping for good weather and, if possible to have a live feed from South Africa or Gibraltar at 11.00am before our own chimes sound at noon.

There is then quite a gap until churches and towers in North America pick up the trail. The final chime will take place at 8pm at Vancouver in British Columbia on Canada's Pacific coast.

How a dispute with bell ringers led to invention

The Ellacombe apparatus is a mechanism devised for performing change ringing on church bells, by striking stationary bells with hammers. It can also enable the playing of tunes, which is much more difficult using traditional ringing methods.

It requires only one person to operate, unlike the traditional method, where the bells are rotated through over 360 degrees (full circle ringing) to sound them and one person is needed for each bell. Instead, the bells are kept static (or "hung dead") and a hammer is struck against the inside of the bell. Each hammer is connected by a rope to a fixed frame which in Bitton is in the church porch. When in use, the ropes are taut and pulling one of the ropes towards the player will strike the hammer against the



HT Ellacombe in later years demonstrating the correct hanging for a bell

bell. To enable full circle ringing to also take place in the same tower, the Ellacombe Chimes' ropes must be slackened, to allow the hammers to drop away from the moving bells.

The system was devised by the then curate of St Mary's Henry Thomas Ellacombe around 1821. He created the system as an alternative to using his local ringers so that he did not have to tolerate the behaviour that he saw as unruly.

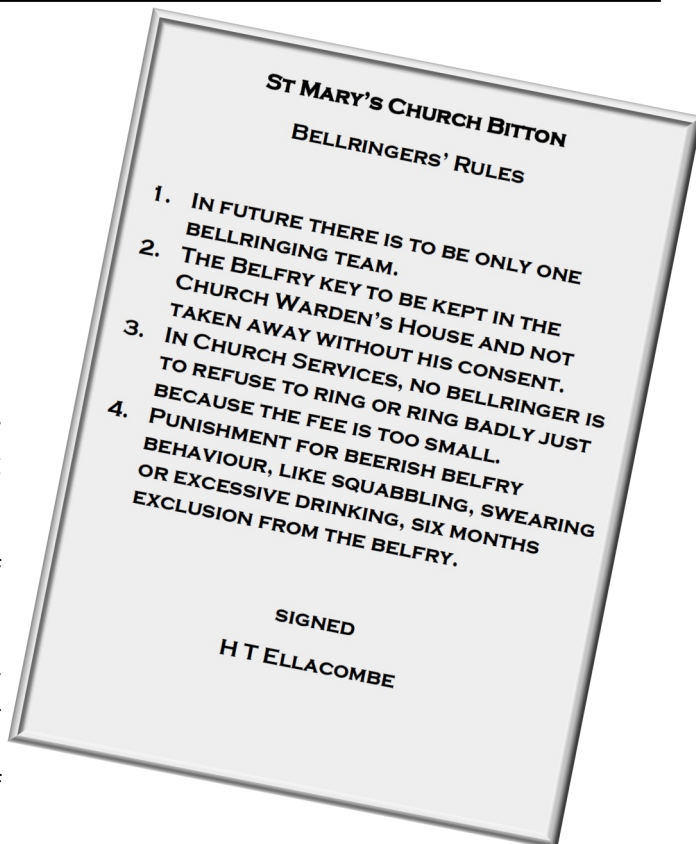
Ellacombe described his experiences with bellringers in his book *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, published some years after his first encounter with the Bitton bellringing teams when he arrived in the parish as curate in 1817.

Dispute

He already had a dim view of men who rang bells, from previous experience, but he was nonetheless appalled by the situation at Bitton. The bell ringers possessed the only key to the ringing chamber and at one point there were two rival teams of ringers who would ring a peal of bells for any reason they chose or for whoever might pay. He was critical of their drunkenness, lewdness, brawling and the fact that they seldom attended the church services. "I used to

see them on a Sunday, waiting in the churchyard till the service was over ; and then, almost before every person had left the holy place, they would strike out a merry peal."

It took him some time to gain full control of the bell ringers,. The installation of the chiming apparatus was a significant step in imposing discipline. **The Bellringers Rules**, first imposed in the 1820s, were revised later and by 1848 extended to 29 separate clauses. Ellacombe's original rules are still displayed in the ringing chamber.

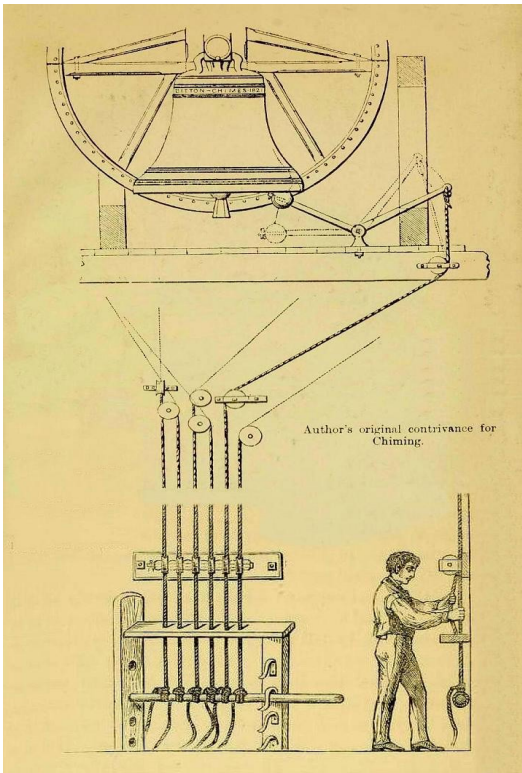


Ellacombe's Bellringers' Rules Still on display in the Ringing Chamber

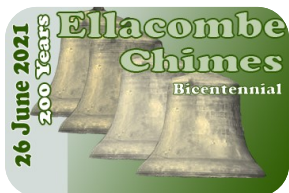
Scholarly Campanologist

It should be emphasised, however, that Ellacombe was not in any way opposed to full change ringing. He is recognised as possibly the first scholarly campanologist. His *Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers*, first published in 1849, drew on his experience of reforming bellringing at Bitton. He was also the editor of the bell ringing column of a church periodical called *Church Bells*, in which he was not slow to criticise the actions of bell ringers who did not ring exclusively for church services. A particular target was *prize ringing*, where teams from different churches competed for a prize for the best ringing, usually accompanied by a social event.

An example was in 1875, when he weighed in with a diatribe against a ringing competition at Slapton in Devon, when he wrote, "We blame the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing the bells to be so prostituted for the benefits of a publican's pocket..."

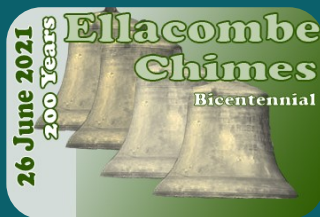


Ellacombe's published drawings showing the chimes mechanism. As a result the mechanism was installed in churches around the world.





Rev H T Ellacombe in his Oxford MA hood. This portrait hangs in St Mary's Chancel



Early Reforms were not just Chimes

Ellacombe came to his appointment as curate in Bitton in 1817 with an unusual background. He had attended university with the intention of taking holy orders, but while at Oxford, he had a chance encounter with the engineer, Marc Isambard Brunel. Brunel was apparently so impressed with his technical drawings that he invited Ellacombe to take up a position with him. This led to Ellacombe, at the age of only 24, taking charge of Brunel's works at Chatham. The appointment was significant, but ended in 1816 when, with the end of the Napoleonic Wars, work at the dockyard dried up. There was no question of his dismissal by Brunel. Indeed, it is clear from correspondence at the time that he was sorry to lose him.

He swiftly took holy orders and following a brief period in another parish was appointed as curate in charge at Bitton in 1817.

Ellacombe's first few years were something of a whirlwind of change. The dispute with the bell ringers was only one of many changes that he brought about in the early years of his incumbency.

Pews & Pulpit

One of his first actions was to change the pews and the site of the pulpit. Like many churches, St Mary's had been fitted with box pews in the eighteenth century, with high backs and people sitting face to face in them. Usually, the higher your status the grander the pew. Ellacombe had the pews stripped out and cut down in size, so that the whole of the congregation faced forwards, a novelty that must have caused as many rumblings as any suggestion of reordering does today. The pulpit was moved to the front so that the congregation was addressed directly.



Robert Pearsall of Willsbridge. In the 1820s and 30s he transformed the church choir.

Choir & Music

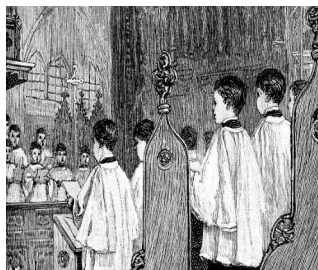
With the assistance of the local musician and amateur composer Robert Pearsall, the choir was transformed into a surpliced and disciplined group of men and boys. Such choirs were usually only seen in colleges, cathedrals and royal chapels. Services were often chanted.

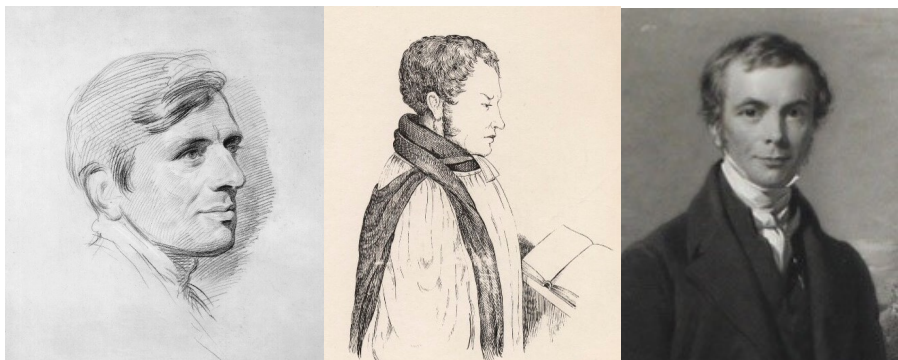
Bells

In many respects, the argument with the bell ringers was simply part of a wider approach to reform of church practices. Bells, Ellacombe considered, were to be rung to announce services not as he discovered, for non-religious reasons such as celebrating someone's birthday—and for a fee.



The jolly village choirs of the eighteenth century (left) were reformed, surpliced and placed in choirstalls near the chancel (right).





Newman, Pusey and Keble. As he embarked on reform at Bitton all three held fellowships at Oriel, Ellacombe's Oxford College.

All pictures © National Portrait Gallery, London (see below)

So, where did this zeal for reform come from?

There is no doubt that he was a man who had extraordinary energy and a keenness to get things done. His time with Brunel would have showed him how to make things happen and to organise effectively. It would also have given him the knowledge that would help in his invention of the chimes.

The main source of information about these changes, however, is Ellacombe himself, writing some years later, in his *History of the Parish of Bitton*. By that time the sort of changes he had made were mainstream and the church had been impacted by the ideas of the *Oxford Movement* otherwise known as *Tractarians* (because they published tracts or pamphlets to explain their cause). They challenged the church and society to rethink its approach to religion. Moral teaching through the pulpit remained important, but it also stressed a return to an earlier, more primitive church, with an emphasis on ceremony and the central role of communion.

New churches were modelled on existing medieval churches, with spires, richly adorned arches and exposed stonework and filled with pews and choirstalls facing forward, with pulpits at the front. Existing churches were reordered to suit this fashion.

John Newman by George Richmond, 1844, NPG 1065 (Lic mw04655); **Edward Bouvarie Pusey** published by James Wyatt & Son, etching, mid C19th, NPG D5567 (Lic mw39959); **John Keble** by Samuel Cousins, published by and after George Richmond, mezzotint, published 1 September 1845 (1844) NPG D36766 (Lic mw195272)

We know that Ellacombe was himself a Tractarian, but it is usual to date the start of the movement's impact to the 1830s. His initial work at Bitton was more than a decade earlier.

One can speculate that he was an early initiator but we can also speculate about his own more personal links to the growing debate that would become the Tractarian movement. His college in Oxford was Oriel, then the hub of intellectual fervour on the issue. He was a contemporary there of John Keble, and although it seems he left the college in 1814, it is likely that he maintained contact. By the time that he was making changes in Bitton, the fellows of Oriel College included not only Keble, but Pusey and Newman, three of the leading lights of the movement.

Later work

Later, in the 1840s, Ellacombe was to undertake further changes in the church on much the same lines. Eighteenth century installations such as the chancel arch were stripped out and remodelled to look *medieval*. Ironically, some of these actions probably destroyed much of the true medieval fabric of the building. Plasterwork, for example, that was stripped off to provide a more "primitive" appearance, is likely to have contained medieval wall paintings, which modern archaeology would have been at pains to investigate.

We should be cautious, however, about judging the actions of those in the past by our modern values. He had a passion for what he was doing and a small band of bell ringers was no more likely to stop anything that he wanted to do than the gentry who no longer sat out of sight in their box pews or the amateur choir that had sung its merry tunes. He was a pioneer, but what happened at Bitton in the 1820s was to impact all churches over the following 50 years.



St Mary's looking west from the chancel showing the forward facing pews and the pulpit, The plaster was later stripped from the walls and ceiling

Bitton Village Residents Association

Invites you to

BITTON OPEN GARDENS

On Sunday 4 July 2021 from 12 noon

**Assuming Government Covid regulations will allow us
Bitton Gardening Club is going ahead with
Bitton Open Gardens**

**We will be following any necessary restrictions to ensure
that the event is Covid safe**

**Gardens will be open to view from 12noon to 5pm
when we hope the sun will be shining and the
gardens will be looking their best. There will also be
a Plant Sale and hopefully Tea and Cakes serving from
2pm**

in the garden at Church Farm

**Programmes with a list of the open gardens and a map,
should be available from June 27th at the Village Shop, the
White Hart, the Church, Fonthill Garden Centre, the Swan
at Swineford and the Upton Inn.**

**We will also e-mail the programme
to you if you are on the BVRA mailing list**

**If you have any plants that you could donate to the plant
sale, we would love to have them. Please can you clearly label
them with the plant name and bring them along to Church Farm in
the morning.**

**For more information contact
Sue Murtagh Tel 932 6232 or e-mail Sue.murtagh@btinternet.com
Gabriel Frankcom Tel 932 6158 or e-mail
gabriel01.wood@gmail.com**

Everyone is welcome so do bring your friends,

This event is Free.

News from Bitton WI

I hope all our members are fit and well and have had their vaccinations, because at last I have some good news to write about. A tea party will be held at Cully Hall Farm on Friday June 25th, it will start at 2.30pm until about 4.30pm. We hope that the weather will be kind to us, but, I am assured, if it rains we can use an outbuilding on the farm, you may wish to bring your own folding chair or if you prefer there will be hay bales to sit on. Members just need to come and enjoy the tea and cakes made by the committee, and it will be lovely to meet up with old friends again.

We are hoping to resume our meetings in St Mary's church hall in July on the second Monday of the month, I will give further details next month. At the moment I am hoping that both meetings will go ahead, but as you all know we are at the mercy of the coronavirus and the government's guidelines, but hopefully, fingers crossed, we will all be able to meet again on the 25th of June.

It seems as if we have been a long time in lockdown, hopefully now most people will have been vaccinated and soon we will be able to meet friends for coffee. It amazing how the thought of meeting friends again can lift one's mood, and we can hopefully look forward to a more normal social life.

I am also looking forward to St Mary's church fete on September 11th, and as usual Bitton WI will have a fund raising stall, if anyone has any ideas as to what we should sell, we would love to hear from them.

Now for this month's recipe, I have to thank Sheila Jennings's once again for her recipe of Apple Cake.

I hope you will enjoy making the apple cake and more importantly I hope you enjoy eating it.

Once again I hope you will stay safe and well, and I look forward to seeing you all at the tea party.

Lynn Coles



Apple Cake

Ingredients

- 6oz. softened butter
- 12oz. caster sugar
- 3. eggs
- 12oz. plain flour
- 1. tblsp baking powder
- 3. tblsp milk
- pinch of salt
- 14oz. baking apples

Topping

- 10oz. caster sugar
- 6. tblsp milk
- 2oz. butter

Method

Pre heat oven gas 4/180c/350f

Grease and line base of a 9" deep cake tin. Peel core and slice apples. Arrange apples in bottom of tin. Cream butter sugar and other ingredients together. Spread over apples. Bake for approximately one hour to one and a half hours. When cake is cooked place on a rack to cool.

Topping

Put all ingredients into a pan, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. When the cake has cooled pour the topping over the top.



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May's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about breakfast.

The correct answers are:

(1) Bagel; (2) Rice Krispies; (3) Croissant; (4) Marmalade; (5) Muesli; (6) Kedgeree; (7) Grapefruit; (8) Porridge; (9) Waffles; (10) Grits; (11) Kipper; (12) Pancakes; (13) Frosties; (14) Eggs (15) Crumpet; (16) Toast; (17) Congee; (18) Pain au Chocolat; (19) Eggs Benedict; (20) Omelette.

Correct answers were received from:

Terry Mathews, Frank FitzGibbon, Alan & Sue Murtagh, Mary Younie, Martin & Bridget Hetzel, Jon & Pam Heyes, Sarah Craddock, Katherine Clark, Jan & Diane, and Craig & Andy.

This month's winner is: Katherine Clark

The June Quiz

This months quiz is on cities, I have given the initial(s) of the City.

No. Clue

1. City with the largest population (T)
2. City with the densest population (M)
3. Which is the most northerly city of the world (N)
4. Which is the most southerly city of the world (U)
5. Highest city, 4,150 meters (13,615 feet) above sea level (EA)
6. The lowest city in the world, 258 meters (846 feet) below sea level (J)
7. City with the most bridges, over 400 (P)
8. City with the most skyscrapers (HK)
9. City with most museums (P)
10. City farthest from the sea, about 2,500 kilometres (1,600 mi) from
11. City with the largest church in the world (V)
12. City with the largest train station (NY)
13. City with the largest aquarium (S)
14. The official symbol of this Spanish city has a bear eating berries from a tree (M)
15. The only city which is in 2 continents (I)
16. This city had it's first beach created in 1992 (B)
17. City with the largest stadium, capacity of 114,000. Rungrado 1st of May Stadium (P)
18. The city with most visitors (pre-Covid) (B)
19. City with the oldest zoo in the world (V)
20. This city has what is thought to be the world's largest zoo with 17,000 animals of 962 species, it has the world's largest indoor swamp, the world's largest indoor desert (O)

Name:

Contact:

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



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The last word

Global Bitton?



There can be little doubt about the main subject of this month's Focal Point. The anniversary of the Ellacombe Chimes and the events that led up to it are covered in these pages, with the intention not just of commemorating an invention made in Bitton, but how it came about and how it fits into a continuing story of change in the life of the church and the community.

The decision to commemorate the installation of the chimes was taken by the St Mary's Future Committee and the Bitton History Group well before the pandemic. In recent months it was expected that, like so many events, it would be confined to being on-line only. There is now growing confidence that we will be able to commemorate the event in a more active way in Bitton and at St Mary's where the apparatus was first installed. The organisers have left a degree of flexibility to allow to any last minute changes in restrictions, and in any case most of the event will take place outdoors or on live feeds from around the world. We hope that Bitton residents will help us celebrate this anniversary and that we can join with many other churches, towers and universities around the world to make the event truly memorable.

It is not every day that Bitton is the centre of such an extensive activity but it could not be a more appropriate one. As the world faces a post pandemic period with some uncertainty, international resolve and co-operation will be vital. Most of the places participating outside of Great Britain and Ireland are currently those that are impossible to visit. What we cannot do physically, the internet and a joint event can at least serve to draw people a little closer together at a difficult time.

We hope to see you on 26 June for our international event.

Jim Heavens



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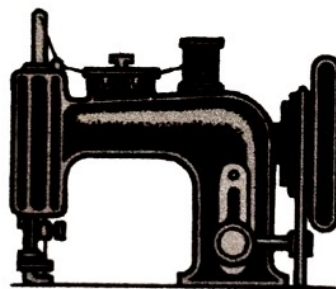
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