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October 2021



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

October 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 November
magazine is:***

Friday 17 October 2021

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***Cover photo of Joe Sims who
opened this year's fête being
interviewed by John Bennetts.***

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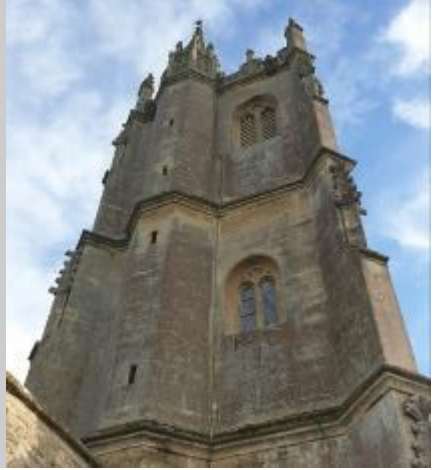
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- Churches & Services -



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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 OCTOBER 2021

Services at St Mary's

You will be very welcome at all services at St Mary's . There is no longer any need to book beforehand, although we continue to take care and follow government and Church of England guidance.

Sunday, 3 October

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Parish Communion

Sunday, 10 October

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30 HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY CELEBRATION
(full details on page 13)

Sunday, 17 October

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
10.30 Morning Worship

Sunday, 24 October

Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Family Café Church

Sunday 31 October

Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity
NO SERVICE AT BITTON
*Benefice Communion at St Barnabas,
Warmley, followed by a bring and share
lunch*

From the Register



26th August

Holy Matrimony

Gemma Harvey and Simon Leighfield



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



Sunday services are at 3pm

Preachers for October:

- Sunday 3rd - Service led by Richard Humphrey**
- Sunday 10th - Harvest Festival Service led by John Creech**
- Sunday 17th - Service led by Margaret White**
- Sunday 24th - Service led by Steve Britten**
- Sunday 31st - Service led by Paul Swift**

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



St Mary's Matters

What a wonderful experience we had at this year's fête! After the disappointment of having to cancel last year's event it was always going to be special to get up and running again, but I don't think anyone could have predicted the number of people that arrived on the day. It is very affirming to know that the fête is still an event which people love to attend, and it is a lovely way of bringing the church and the surrounding community together. A huge thanks to all those, far too numerous to mention by name, who worked so hard to make it happen.



Pete Midgley

The church service on the Sunday following the fête, which we refer to as our "patronal festival" has taken a wide variety of forms over the years, from communion services either in the morning or evening to musical events with expanded choir. This year we held our first café style family service in the space at the back of the church. This was in informal service with coffee and refreshments served at the beginning of the service and the congregation sitting at tables. Ken did a great job putting a service together and we were able to put the new speakers and headset microphone to good use with an angel appearing in the organ loft during the dramatized reading – much to everyone's surprise! This style of service will continue to take place on the second Sunday of each month, with the exception of 14th November which will be a normal Remembrance Sunday service. We look forward to welcoming the scouts back into church at the service on 10th October.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, October 2021

St Mary's is now being opened during the day between the hours of 10.00am and 5.00pm until the end of British Summer Time (30th October). If you are able, please pop in to enjoy the space, say a prayer and view the video clips of the church's history using the QR codes dotted around.

Pete Midgley



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
October



St. Mary's Church
Bilton

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER AT 10.30**

Harvest Festival Family Special

You are invited to bring a gift of produce or non-perishable food. Tins of meat, fish, vegetables, soup spaghetti hoops, rice pudding and packets of rice, pasta, cereals, coffee, biscuits and UHT milk. Also pot noodles, crisps and snack bars and toiletries. These will be distributed in the St Paul's area of Bristol by the Sisters of the Church.

Followed by a

Bring and Share Harvest Lunch

Bring a plate of something sweet or savoury.
Harvest Loaf and Cheese
will be provided
plus Cider or Wine or Apple juice.



Harvest Reflections

Safely gathered in?



**Waitrose Keynsham—
March 2020**

We are currently facing the inconvenience of gaps on the shelves of our supermarkets. I think the word is inconvenience, because whatever you blame for this: Brexit, the pandemic or the lack of a robust transport strategy, it is annoying but not a disaster. As we move into autumn there is also the prospect of soaring energy prices caused, it seems, by a sudden rise in the world price of gas and a number of unfortunate events. These events impact on people in very different ways in this country. To many it is a inconvenience and even if you rely on a food bank, the fact that you cant get a tin of anchovies in Waitrose is of little consequence. But an increase in heating costs could be very significant to people on low incomes.

Focal Point, October 2021

We *raise the song of harvest home* with words that look back to a simpler bucolic past in which *fields are ploughed and scattered with seed* and then watered with *soft refreshing rain*. What we may actually bring to a harvest festival is a can of chickpeas grown in another part of the world, but the symbolism of the event is not one we should overlook. The celebration is one about the rich resources that the earth provides for us and the opportunity to give thanks for them. Such resources are gifts and we are privileged users, but with any gift or privilege there also comes responsibility.

Can anyone truly argue that in the past two or three hundred years we have acted responsibly, particularly in the last 50 or so years of disposable packaging and mass consumerism? The inconvenience of gaps on supermarket shelves is nothing compared to other parts of the world where the success of the harvest can mean the difference between having enough to eat, subsistence or just survival.

This year, above all, we should be thinking hard about the world's resources at harvest time. At the beginning of next month COP 26 takes place in Glasgow and provides an opportunity for the world's leaders to reset the position on climate change. It is a tall order and there will be compromises all round. The conference will equally be shrouded in the hubris of power play and uncomfortable alliances. It is the 26th UN Conference of the Parties, and its predecessors have not always ended well. Nevertheless it could make a significant difference to the way in which we make use of the world's resources over the next 30 years and beyond. If there is a harvest prayer to be made, this year, it is that COP 26 is a success in reaching solid agreements that all parties can adhere to.

The world may not have a similar opportunity again and while we may pay some of the price for climate change in this country, the impact will be felt much more in countries where life is already far less score. *All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above*, says the hymn. Let us make sure we use those gifts well.

Details of the St Mary's Harvest Festival at 10.30am on Sunday 10th October are given on page 13. This is planned as a service specially for families with a bring and share lunch to follow. The chapel at Upton Cheyney has a harvest service the same day at 3pm.

Jim Heavens

Due to an oversight it was not possible to provide a minister's letter this month.

Mid-week Groups

Wednesday Morning Group 10.30 to Noon

At the Bailey's home - Westover, Bath Road, Bitton
Further details from David Bailey 0117 932 8949

Wednesday Evening Group 7.30 to 9.00

At the Gibson's home 8 Church Road, Bitton
Further details from Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122

Thursday Evening Group Thursday 23 September

At the Midgley's home 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
Further details from Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898



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Record turnout—Record sums raised

Fête Fantastic



The stalls did a brisk trade, particularly on Haberdashery. The Pimm's Tent was popular not only for refreshments but also for its Doggy Treats.



The Pageant (left) and 7 classic cars were additional attractions.



Focal Point, October 2021

Could it have been any better?

After a morning of clouds and showers, the sun shone and Bitton turned out in large numbers to support the fête. There was lots to enjoy for all ages and the event raised a record sum for the Church Development Fund with a net profit of £10,115 .

The fête was opened both with our now traditional pageant and by the actor Joe Sims. It was a huge effort and thanks go to all who worked hard to make it happen and to those who came.

A new attraction this year was to send your teddy (in this case a fox) on a zip wire from the church.



The Bookstall offered a fine range of reading material

Focal Point, October 2021



The Skittle Alley and Coconut Shy run by the Scouts (*left*) were popular; and the Dog Show (*below*) run by Highcroft vets attracted the crowds.

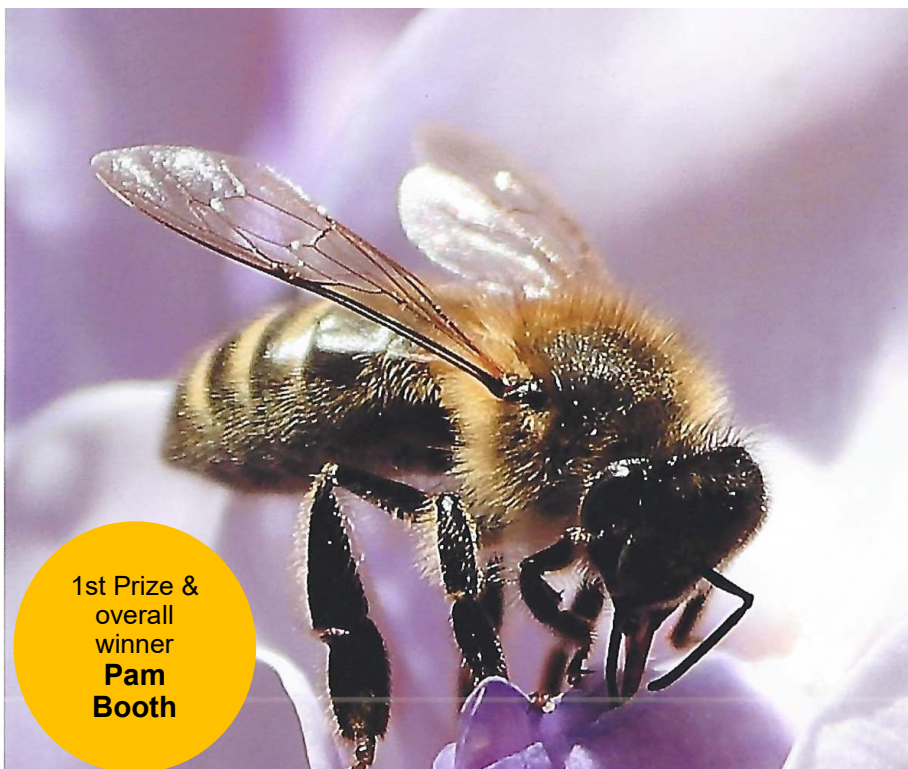
It has become something of a Bitton tradition to end the day with an Egg Throwing Competition (*below*).



Stunning entries for photography competition

This year's Photography Competition attracted a number of impressive entries of a very high quality and standard. The competition was organised by Carolyn Russell, who herself won the competition in 2019. Entries were judged by Robin Allison-Smith. Space does not allow for us to show all entries but the winners are reproduced below. All entries can be seen on display in the church, which is now open daily until 30 October.

The overall winner was Pam Booth, who also received the David Smith cup.

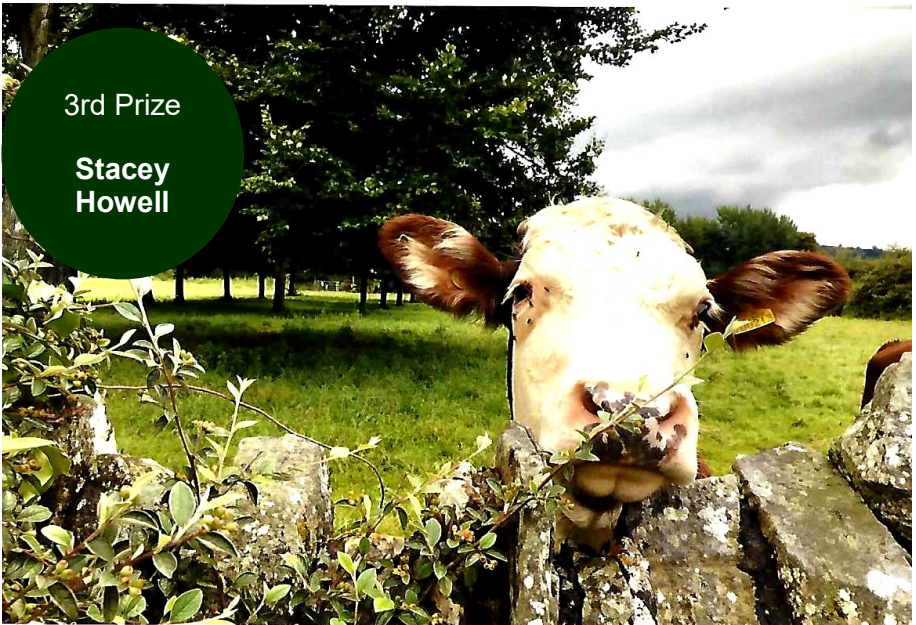


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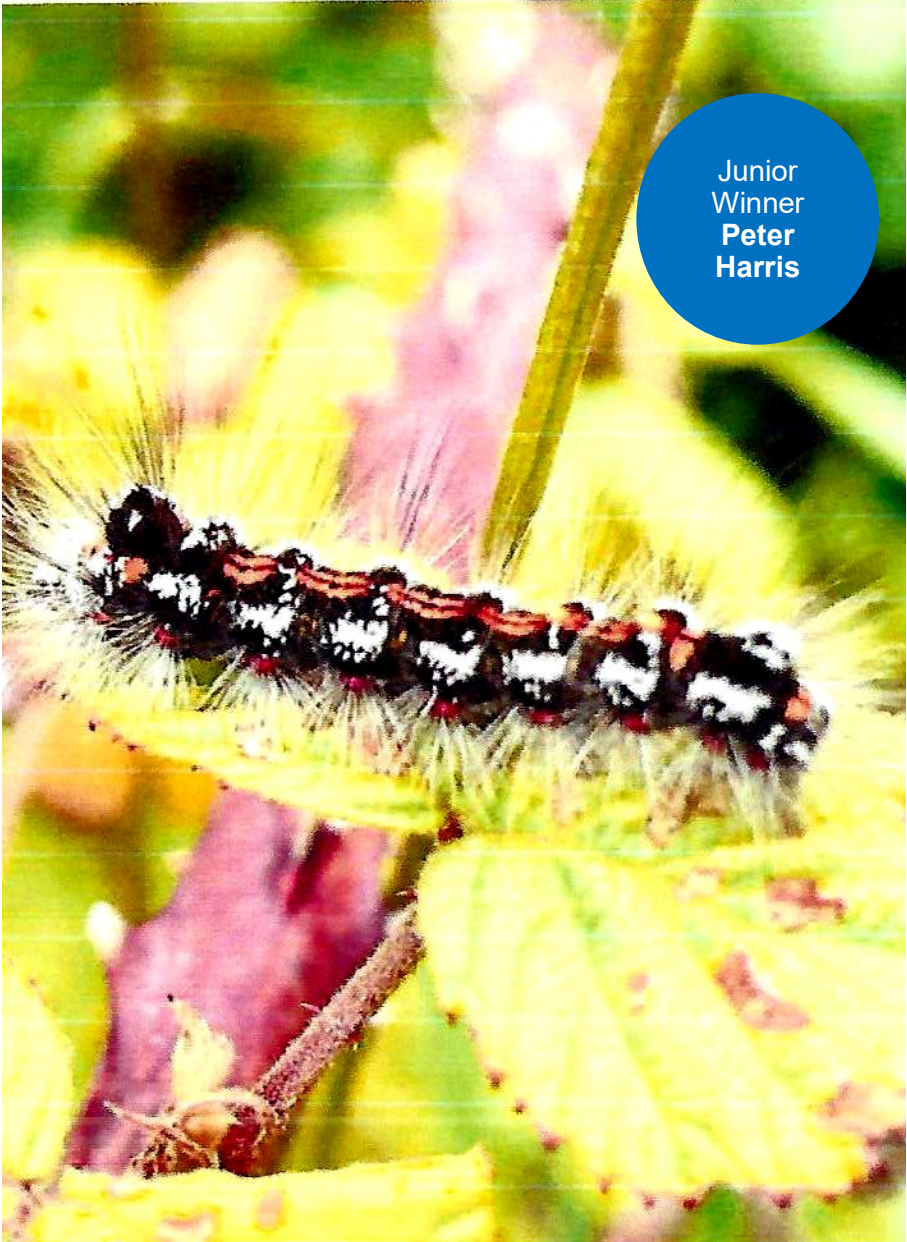
2nd Prize

Stacey
Howell



3rd Prize

Stacey
Howell



Focal Point, October 2021



This charming photograph was in the Food category, but could equally have been submitted for Nature.



Two contrasting seasonal views of St Mary's by Stacey Howell.



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Gardening Club

Herbaceous Delights



What is a herbaceous plant? That was a question answered at the meeting of the gardening club on 20th of September. The speaker was David Usher, who was previously head gardener at Hestercombe where he was responsible for the restoration development and care of the herbaceous borders originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

Herbaceous borders were most in vogue between 1890 and the beginning of the First World War. There are still many beautiful and lengthy borders to be seen in country houses and National Trust properties; they work just as well in a small garden. David had a number of examples of plants in pots and photographs of herbaceous borders.

There were practical tips on how to care for and divide basis plants, and, it was advised, any movement should be undertaken either in the spring or autumn. Take particular care of peonies. As for a clump of Michaelmas daisies, the best ones to move are those at the edge.

The meeting was held in the church rather than the church hall to allow for greater distancing. The next meeting of the gardening club will be on Monday the 18th of October.

So what is a herbaceous plant? - It is a perennial and it doesn't have a hard brown stem that would make it a bush or a tree.

Bitton History Group— **The first Bristol Slave Traders**



September's meeting of the Bitton Parish History Group focussed on a subject of topical interest and discussion – that of the degree to which Bristol was involved in the slave trade. The speaker was Dr Richard Stone, of the University of Bristol who has made a study of the seventeenth century trade to and from the city's docks.

There can be no doubt that Bristol's trade in the eighteenth century benefitted from slavery in it imports pf tobacco, sugar and other produce from the Americas but what of the century before? Officially, Bristol's traders were excluded from direct participation in the slave trade by the monopoly of the Royal Africa Company (though many invested in what was a joint stock company) but unofficial trading was hard to regulate.

Using the surviving Port Books (customs records) from the period, Richard pieced together a picture of trade through the city's docks from the 1590s to 1698 analysing the size and the type of goods imported and exported. It was very clear that in the 17th century, trade shifted from being focused on Europe to America: to the colonies in North America and the West Indies.

Richard described his study as something of detective work. There was some hard evidence but largely it was looking at clues such as the names of ships, the cargoes exported and the social connections that people formed.

The cargoes carried out Bristol were largely manufactured goods and much of this was bound for the colonies as it was cheaper to import than manufacture—even simple items as nails were sent across the Atlantic.. But quantities of luxury goods such as Indian cloth were more likely aimed at the west Africans who exchanged these goods

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for people. Two ships, Endeavour and Mary Fortune in early 1660s, seem to have gone south with Indian cloth and glass and returned with goods that were only available from slave areas.

He also drew on work by Madge Dresser who had identified a Merchant Venturer ship called the Blackamore and followed the social connections of the owners. This ship traded through Madeira a well known stopping point for slave traders.

The conclusion of his detective work is that it is very likely that Bristol merchants were interlocking in the slave trade even in this early period – though the extent and the level of involvement were more difficult to judge.

The next meeting of the group is on 26 October, most probably a live meeting in St Mary's Church in Bitton.

Ellacombe Chimes- the Facebook page remains live. It was also announced that 230 commemorative books had been sold, with a profit of over £750 to the St Mary's Development Appeal.



It wasn't the warmest or driest of days, but after postponement a month earlier, *Songs of Praise* took place in the garden of the White Hart on 29 August. Pub customers were invited to join in a number of old and new hymns accompanied by the St Mary's Minstrels, church singers and Oldland Brass. Thanks to James and Jemma for hosting the event

News from Bitton WI

At last I have some current news from WI because after 17 months we were able to hold a meeting. It has been a very busy time for WI members. We had a cake stall at Bitton Fête, and I would like to thank all the members who made such delicious cakes, which made the stall a great success, and I am pleased to say that all of the cakes were sold.

On Monday 13th at 2pm we held our first meeting since the first lockdown in 2020, it was also our first afternoon meeting. It was so nice to see everyone, and also to welcome several new members, it seemed as though we had never had a break, it was lovely to all be together again. Jean our president welcomed everyone, then Roz read the minutes of the last meeting in 2020. Members were reminded about the Royal Chase tea party, which Bitton WI is hosting, is on Friday 24th September. There is also a chance for members to go to a special shopping evening with refreshments on Friday 29th October at John Lewis, tickets cost £6 and members will receive a £5 voucher to spend in the store. Sylvia (our group representative) told us about a group day trip on November 21st to Blenheim Palace, at last we have some nice things to look forward to.

Jean then introduced the speaker Sally Britton who, when she was sorting through her late grandmother's possessions found a box of letters written by her mother to her grandmother, whilst she was an evacuee during World War II. Today we talk about the experiences of women and animals during the war, and memorials have been erected in their honour but there are no memorials for the children who died during the war.

Children should not be forgotten. It must have been a mammoth operation to evacuate three and a half million people, two and a half million of them being children, from the large cities to the countryside. A child had a label attached to them with their name and address on it and they were allowed to take one bag of possessions with them, unfortunately some children became lost because their label came off.

Sally's mother was seven when she was evacuated with several other children to the home of a widow, Mrs Tullet near Dorking, where she

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stayed for nearly six years. Phylis's sister Pat was younger aged three and went to Birchgrove house until she was five, then she joined Phylis at Mrs Tullet's. Parents could, if it was possible, visit at weekends, and the children were allowed to write letters home. You can imagine that when the children eventually returned home they would have found it difficult to form relationships with their parents and to return to their old lives.

Sally has written a book about her mother's evacuation and her mother's letters will one day be given to the British War Museum.

Now for this months recipe, by popular request (after so many people enjoyed it at the fête) we have Mary Smale's Lemon Drizzle printed overleaf.

I hope you will enjoy this cake as much as the people that ate it at the fête did.

I hope to see you at the tea party on September 24th, and at our next WI meeting on October 11th at 2pm in St Mary's church hall, when we will hear from One25 about helping vulnerable women, until then please keep safe

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The WI Recipe:

Lemon Drizzle Cake

For this you will need a loaf tin or an 8" (20cm) cake tin.

Ingredients

2	lemons (rind and juice)
8oz /225g	Stork marg
8oz /225g	caster sugar
4	eggs
8oz /225g	self-raising flour
1 teaspoon	baking powder
2 tablespoons	granulated sugar

Method

1. Cream the margarine and sugar and then beat in the eggs.
2. Fold in flour and baking powder and add the add grated lemon rind.
3. Line a tin with greaseproof paper and pour the mixed ingredients in.
4. Bake in oven at 150°C / 300°F/ Gas 2 for approximately 1 hour or until cooked.
5. Meanwhile put juice of the lemon in a cup add a couple of tablespoons of granulated sugar and stir.
6. When cake is cooked, place it on a rack to cool before transferring it to the plate for serving.
7. While it is still warm, pierce the cake a number of times on the top with a knitting needle or equivalent before spooning over the sugary juice which should fill up the holes and run down the sides.
8. Wait until it is fully cool before slicing and eating.

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The October Quiz

This months quiz is on world leaders

No. Clue

1. She ruled Russia from 1762 until 1796
2. Ex-KGB officer and judo black belt, re-elected as president in 2012
3. The first to rule Great Britain after the 1707 Act of Union, she had 17 children
4. Third president of USA, was responsible for the Louisiana purchase
5. Religious figure who sparked the reformation and was excommunicated in 1521
6. Daughter of Henry I who fought Stephen for the English throne
7. Known as the 'Virgin Queen' she was the last Tudor monarch
8. Queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe, she led an uprising in 60 AD
9. Activist who led Poland's first independent trade union from 1980 to 1990
10. Corsican military leader who crowned himself emperor in 1804
11. Nicknamed 'Evita' was first lady of Argentina from 1946 to 1952
12. Four-term prime minister of Canada, his son become prime minister in 2015
13. Last Queen of Ptolemaic Egypt
14. Became the first chancellor of the German empire in 1871
15. Born in Ghana in 1938, was secretary-general of the UN from 1997 to 2006
16. Queen of Portugal and the first monarch of Brazil
17. Became King after defeating Harold II at the battle of Hastings
18. Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary & Bohemia from 1740 to 1780
19. Massagetean ruler in the 6th century BC, although William Shakespeare referred to her as the 'Queen of the Scythians'
20. World War II General became a President and has an airport named after him

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 October.

September's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was to identify stalls or activities at the Church Fête from anagrams

The correct answers are:

(1) Ice Cream; (2) Photography Competition; (3) BBQ; (4) Morris dancers; (5) Coconut Shy; (6) Egg Throwing; (7) Handicraft Stall; (8) Cream Teas (9) Splat the Rat; (10) Licenced Bar; (11) Skittles; (12) White Elephant; (13) Raffle; (14) History Quiz; (15) Tombola; (16) Companions of the Long Bow; (17) Dog Show; (18) Punch and Judy; (19) Jam and Chutney stall; (20) Church Tower Tours.

Correct answers were received from:

Ros & Charles Knight; Jon & Pam Heyes; Alan & Sue; Pam & Jon Booth; Frank, Lucy, Sophie & Sue; Terry Mathews; Jan & Diane

This month's winner is:

Sue & Alan



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ST. MARY'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

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St Mary's Church has a rich heritage and history, but its future lies in our hands. Can you help to give it a future - one in which it can continue to play a part in the changing life and story of Bitton.

Change has already begun, and the removal of the rear pews and choirstalls has demonstrated its viability as a community resource as well as a continuing place of worship.

The next phase of work seeks to modernise its existing facilities, preserve its heritage and create a building that is welcoming and works for all.

To do this we need to raise at least £375,000. Much of that we hope to raise from national funders, but we are also looking for a sizeable amount to come from events and donations locally.



How to Support the Appeal



You can make a donation through our *Give a Little* donations page, which you can access using the QR code below.

If you would prefer to give a cheque, please make it payable to **St Mary's Church Bitton.**

Please send it to
John Bennetts,
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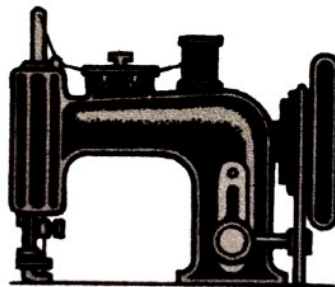
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