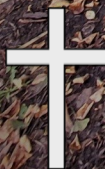


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Bitton Churches' Magazine

November 2021

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Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the December
magazine is:*

Tuesday 16 November 2021

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Memorial Shelter in Upton
Cheyney***

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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 NOVEMBER 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

Sunday, 7 November

Third Sunday before Advent
10.30 Parish Communion

Sunday, 14 November

Second Sunday before Advent
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
10.30 Remembrance Service

Sunday, 21 November

Sunday next before Advent—
CHRIST THE KING
10.30 Morning Worship

Friday 26 November

9.30 Celtic Communion in the Lady Chapel
followed by tea and cakes

Sunday, 28 November

Advent Sunday
08.00 Holy Communion
09.30 Family Café Church

From the Register

26th September Holy Baptism

Harry Mathew Gillett



Benefice Prayer Meetings

Tuesday 2 November at 7.30 pm and Saturday 20 November at 9.00 am.
Please note that this month both meetings are on Zoom.

The link is available on the St Mary's website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



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



Sunday services are at 3pm

Sunday 7th Service led by John Creech

Sunday 14th Remembrance Service led by Ken Gibson

Sunday 21st Service led by Margaret White

Sunday 28th Service led by Michelle Bates

**In addition there will be a coffee afternoon at 2pm
Tuesday November 23rd**



St Mary's Matters

As a church in a small village St Mary's is always faced with the challenge of providing a balance of services that provides for the needs of everyone in the church as well as seeking to reach out with the gospel to those who are not yet part of the church community. This is a delicate balancing act.

As we emerge from the pandemic we have been re-examining the second Sunday service which used to be a family Parade service involving boys and girls from the scout group. In order to make this service as accessible as possible we have tried making this a café style service which is similar to

– but also different from - Family Café Church. The scout group are still involved of course, but it is hoped that this service will have a wider appeal to local families with school age children. Two such services have taken place up to now, in September and October. The next will be the family gift service on 12th December.

This style of service would be inappropriate for Remembrance Sunday of course, and the service on November 14th will be a traditional Remembrance Sunday service. You will be very welcome at this and any of our other services.

On the evening of Saturday 27th November there will be a concert to celebrate the life of David Harris. More details will be elsewhere in the magazine and on the website.

I wonder if you managed to get into church over the last few weeks and tried using the QR codes to find out about the church's historical artifacts. During the period we are in GMT the church will not be being opened during the week. However, church opening will begin again when BST starts in 2022, by which time there may well be more interesting things for you to find out about.



Pete Midgley

Mid-week Groups

**ADVENT 2021
WATCHING AND WAITING**

As we prepare for Christmas you are warmly invited to join one of our three Benefice House Groups for a 4 week Advent course entitled ***WATCHING AND WAITING***.

If you have not previously sampled the informal chat of these sessions this would be an ideal opportunity to try them out!

Wednesday Morning Group Starts 17 November 10.30 to Noon
At the Bailey's home - Westover, Bath Road, Bitton
Further details from David Bailey 0117 932 8949

Wednesday Evening Group Starts 17 November 7.30 to 9.00pm
At the Gibson's home 8 Church Road, Bitton
Further details from Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122

Thursday Evening Group Starts 18 November 7.30 to 9.00pm
At the Midgley's home 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
Further details from Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898

**First of many—Kingswood
Church celebrates 200th
Anniversary**



Holy Trinity Kingswood celebrated the 200th anniversary of its consecration in September. It was the first of a number of new parishes created in the nineteenth century out of the ancient parish of Bitton which stretched into Bristol as far as St Georges. A celebration service was attended by the Bishop of Bristol.

Bishop to celebrate communion at St Mary's on 31st October



Originally planned for September last year, but then cancelled due to COVID, the Bishop of Bristol, Rt Rev Vivien Faull, will be at St Mary's in Bitton on Sunday 31st October for the 10.30 Benefice Communion Service.

This will be the Bishop's first visit to Bitton since her installation in 2018.

The service commences at 10-30am. All are openly invited, whether you attend regularly sometimes or not at all. You will find a warm welcome and coffee and tea will be available after the service.

Rev Richard Humphrey



When less is more



“Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.” (Prov.15:16-17.)

Dear Friends,

In just a couple of weeks or so it will be Advent, and the lead up to Christmas will begin (if it hasn't already!). Will it be, I wonder, a return to the pre-pandemic days with the retail juggernaut gathering momentum from here on in or will there be perhaps a more reflective approach to this year's festivities?

Focal Point, November 2021

Around about now of course we are going to be bombarded with the usual seasonal adverts from the likes of M&S and John Lewis. And as I write this in October there is already excited speculation about who will be singing on the John Lewis ad! Some speculation too as to whether the “fatted ox” (in the form of the Christmas Turkey and pigs in blankets), might actually be in short supply.

But did you know that when it comes to the art of advertising, even its early practitioners were well aware that its purpose was to make people dissatisfied and unhappy and to then to resolve that unhappiness through retail therapy? This is how one advertising expert puts it: “Modern consumers are perpetually dissatisfied. Fulfilment and lasting satisfaction are forever just out of reach. Insatiability itself is as old as humanity, or at least the fall of humanity. What is unique to modern consumerism is the idealization and constant encouragement of insatiability – the deification of dissatisfaction.” Not that consumption is always bad or sinful -after all we have to consume to live- but for many of the richer nations that seems to tip over into living to consume. You could be forgiven for thinking that the human race has become just that -a race where the winner is the one who dies owning the most stuff!

But I would like to think perhaps that this year, in the light of all that has happened since March 2020, the emphasis might just change. The vulnerable child, whose birth we celebrate next month, will grow up to challenge all our perceptions with his Sermon on the Mount, teaching the value of spiritual wealth, making it clear through many of his parables how the material seduces us away from the spiritual and distances us from community. He understood only too well the lure of instant gratification and its potential for spiritual bankruptcy when he says, in Matthew’s Gospel “You cannot serve both God and money”. The world and its riches were created for God’s delight, not for our personal use -Creation is His, and we need to understand that consumerism is not a force of nature. It is not part of creation. It’s a human concept developed over centuries and perfected in the model of 21st century living, where we actually seem to have created an economic system that relies on it! One of the real dangers in our situation today is that in seeking to reignite our economy we are actively encouraged to abandon sensible practices such as saving money and living within our means.



In the words of G.K Chesterton “There are two ways to get enough. One is to accumulate more and more. The other is to need less.”

Responsible behaviour, the desire to share the planet’s resources equally with all, and the idea of helping those less fortunate than us, all fade from view when society focuses on living to consume in an age where worth is judged by material wealth. Wealth, that, by and large, ignores the consequences of our desires. When people consume, how much do they know or care about the origin of what they buy, the conditions of life for those producing it, or the effects on the environment? How do the insatiable desires of consumer driven economies relate to the lives lost in unsafe factories or bad working practices in poorer countries? Made as we are in God’s image, doesn’t consumerism tempt us to settle for desires and aspirations that are far below those for which we were created? And doesn’t it completely ignore the fact that this freedom of choice, so valued by the cult of consumerism and the individual, is not an option for the poor or those on limited incomes?

Focal Point, November 2021

In the Palestine of the New Testament, money and possessions were as much a factor in social identity and positioning as now; and when Jesus says in Luke's Gospel "sell your possessions and give alms", and "make purses for yourselves that do not wear out", this is not empty rhetoric. This is a direct challenge to our post-modern, consumerist society to set aside status and position and share the worldly wealth we have with those in need.

The great novelist Rudyard Kipling, once gave an address at McGill University in Montreal. He warned students about making money, position or glory their life's ambition. "Someday," he said, "you will meet a man who cares for none of these things. Then you will know how poor you are."

So as we approach the reflective season of Advent, perhaps we might rediscover just how much we need to cherish the lessons we have learnt over many, many generations; to regain our historical perspective and to discover anew just who this child is whose birth we will celebrate next month. To grasp what he has to teach us about our relationship to God, each other and Creation.

Because once upon a time shepherds and wise men knelt by a manger and looked into the face of the greatest love the world has ever known; and in that love lies the greatest hope that one day our world will live happily ever after.

Every blessing.

Richard



REMEMBRANCE SERVICES 2021

At 10.45am on Wednesday 11 November members of the Meadows School are coming to share in an Act of Remembrance when children will lay crosses on the Memorial. Each cross will be inscribed with one of the names on the Memorial.

At the 10.30am service on 14 November St Mary's will welcome the Bitton and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion, Councillor Jane Allinson, the Chairman of Bitton Parish Council, Cadets from the Army Cadet Force and members of the St Mary's Bitton Scout Group. During the service there will be an Act of Remembrance around the Village War Memorial in the Churchyard where wreaths will be laid. Trumpeter Mark Wilkins has again promised to be with us.



COP 26—In the month when world leaders meet in Glasgow to grapple with the issues of climate, churches around the country have been encouraged to focus on the environment. In October it was the subject of our Family Café Church and thinking about how what we do has an effect on the planet..

Bishop Viv has been a strong advocate of environmental action, in July joined with the RC Bishop of Clifton and Martyn Rees, Bristol's mayor (above) to welcome The Young Christian Climate Network's (YCCN) relay to Glasgow and their five-day residency in Bristol. She said: "We, in our diocese, have much to do to get our own house in order but we are unwavering in our belief that creation care is at the heart of God's mission for God's Church and his call upon our lives."

PCC Meets in Church

Ken Gibson was reaffirmed as Lay Minister for a further three years. at the most recent meeting of the Parochial Parish Council (PCC), held on 27 September. Ken has been undertaking the role, at Bitton, for some years and the reaffirmation was readily agreed to.

The meeting was the first to be held in person since the outset of the pandemic in March last year, although a zoom link was also available.

The PCC also agreed to meet the Diocesan request to meet its Parish Share in full for the coming year. The parish's share of diocesan expenses, which includes the wages and pensions of the clergy, was assessed at £40,081. The share is met through the parish's mainstream funds and not from fundraising efforts specifically for church development or other causes.

The PCC also discussed the modernisation of the church website and the structure it should take. The current website is quite outdated in its format although it continues to provide good service. A new website provides the opportunity to re-examine the way the church connects with a wider audience. Consultation will continue around the proposed design and volunteers are sought to assist with the content.

The PCC also agreed to approve the commissioning of the church architect to begin work on the faulty application for the interior development plans and to engage in further discussion with the diocese and local authority.

A new health and safety risk assessment is to be undertaken in line with the recommendations of the church insurer. It was also noted that the aisle carpet was in need of refixing. The carpet had been affected by the removal of the rear pews and had also recently been taken up to allow archaeological examination of the ledgers below. A temporary repair with tape had been necessary but was unlikely to last and was unsightly. It was decided that the carpet should be refitted professionally but should be removed entirely from the rear of the nave where the space was already being used more flexibly.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, November 2021

Following the suspension of church services during the pandemic, greater use had been made of video including, very recently, an experiment with live streaming (although this was not universally accepted, particularly in relation to a communion service). It was also intended to undertake further experimentation with the second Sunday service. While this would still involve the scouts and other groups, it was intended to move to a café style service for this event from October onwards. More formal services would continue to have lead singers, but it was hoped to redevelop a choir too.

In discussion about the churchyard, it was reported that concerns had been raised about the use of herbicides to suppress weeds. Herbicides have been used to control ivy that was threatening a wall, which is listed and needs protection. Alternative methods would be expensive given the shortage of volunteers to maintain the area and the cost of alternatives.

The PCC also has a watching brief on the adjoining Glebe Field (where the fete is held) and it is proposed that some additional tree planting could take place on the far side of the field by the main road to provide an eventual canopy for vehicles and pedestrians entering the village. This will require diocesan permission.

The remaining meetings of the PCC this year are on 1 November and 7 February. The Annual Parish Meeting is planned for 4 April 2022.

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The many War Memorials of Bitton



The Bitton Parish memorial in St Mary's churchyard dedicated in 1921. This year's annual Service of Remembrance will be held on 14th November.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the parish war memorial in St Mary's Churchyard, inscribed with the names of 32 men who lost their lives in the First World War. (To their names were added 16 more who died in the Second World War.) It is around this memorial that we will gather on 14 November as part of our annual service of remembrance. A service will also be held, later that day in Upton Cheyney.

Memorials to wars were not common before the First World War, although number had been erected following the South African War earlier in the century; but in the few years after 1918 memorials were erected in almost every town and village. There was no central coordination, so as a result the memorials differed widely in design. Often more than one memorial was erected.



All three of the main places of worship in the parish installed memorial tablets listing the names of the men who did not return. They can be found (left to right) in the rear of the nave in St Mary's; on the outside wall of the former Methodist chapel; and on the outside wall of the Upton Cheyney Chapel (now URC). They seem to have been a joint initiative as they are broadly similar in size and were each cut and inscribed by Turvey & Sons, Masons, of Bath.



The Imperial War Museum's Register also lists memorials to the fallen on family graves in St Mary's churchyard. Family graves (left to right) of Pullin, Aubrey and Batley. The men are also listed on the other village memorials.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, November 2021



In Bitton, the three churches seem to have worked together to erect simple stone plaques in or outside each building. All three plaques are currently listed on the Imperial War Museum's Memorial's Register, as is the Upton Cheyney Memorial Shelter.

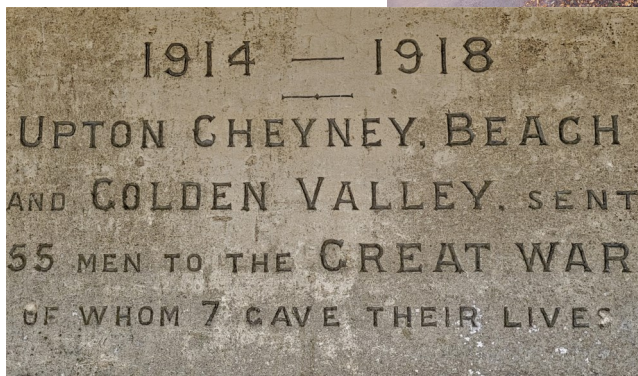
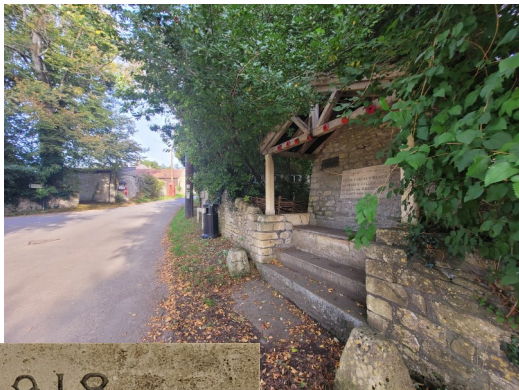
The Register also records three memorials added to inscriptions on family graves in St Mary's churchyard as well as the memorial inside the church to John Scott Parker. As Parker died in 1938, its inclusion may seem strange, but as the tablet in St Mary's notes, he was the Chief Horticultural Officer for war cemeteries overseas and thus has a close connection with many more memorials around the world. Anyone who has visited war cemeteries in France or elsewhere will appreciate the simple but dignified design and use of plants.

The remainder of the memorials were almost certainly raised by public subscription and stand today as a reminder of the huge outpouring of grief following what was expected to be a war to end wars.



Top— The memorial to John Scott Parker in St Mary's Church.
Below— the grave of Gunner H Brewer in St Mary's churchyard .
As this is a grave this is not listed as a memorial).

The Memorial Shelter in Upton Cheyney with its simple but poignant dedication.



Are there any more? The memorials mentioned are on the IWM register. But this may not be a full record.

The last word, perhaps, should go to the memorial shelter in Upton Cheyney, not least because it records no names, but points to scale of the loss of lives and the social conditions of people at that time. It simply records the fact that from Upton Cheyney, Beach and Golden Valley, 55 men served in the First World War of whom 7 did not return—a significant loss. In addition, some would have returned having been wounded. The number of men is also surprising. It would be difficult today even to find as many as 55 men aged between 18 and 40 from those parts of the parish. As it is unlikely that there are fewer dwellings than in 1914, it points to the high level of occupancy or overcrowding in which people then lived. The promise of the Prime Minister, Lloyd George, to build more decent “homes fit for heroes” was urgently felt.

Unfortunately, although many new private and local authority homes were built in the 1920s and 30s, it took some time to get going. The hopes for a war to end wars were not realised in the rest of the twentieth century.

BVRA holds AGM



The Bitton Village Residents' Association held its AGM on Sunday 17th October in the open air and in the convivial setting of the garden of the White Hart. Billed as a village get together and speedy AGM, there was a complimentary drink for all attendees. Chaired by Anna Palmer the new committee of volunteers was elected and brief reports were given on the main activities and the various sub groups. In spite of COVID and the shift to many events online, a remarkable number of activities had still taken place or been managed in a different way. The history and gardening groups had kept up a steady stream of activities on line and were now returning to actual meetings.

Concerns continue to be raised about the prospect of the building of a bridge across the Avon to provide access to the Wessex Water site. The meeting was told that there was the prospect of 28 HGVs per hour leaving the site onto the A431 And through the village. The BVRA continues to oppose the development which is still being considered by Bath & NE Somerset Council.

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The right tree in the right place



Andrew Mikolajski

As we are all being encouraged to plant trees, it is important to choose the right one for the location. Lots of good advice was given on the subject by garden expert Andrew Mikolajski who was the guest presenter at the October meeting of the Gardening Club held in St Mary's Church.

Andrew had some strong views about what should not be planted which included eucalyptus (grows too large) and flowering cherry (great in Japan but not in this country). The important

thing is to get a tree that is the right size and shape for the garden and has the right attractions in respect of colour through the year, leaf shape and bark. His talk was illustrated by an on-screen presentation.

Gardening Club Committee's chair, Bridget Hetzel has also been busy with the many photographs of their gardens submitted by members during the past year. These will be available soon as a calendar for 2022.



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News from Bitton WI

On October 11th at 2pm in St Mary's church hall, we held our second meeting of 2021 and it was so good to meet up with past members and welcome some new ones. Roz started the meeting by reading the minutes from the previous meeting. Everyone was then asked how they would like to celebrate at the December meeting, the one before Christmas, and it was decided that we would have a lunch in the church hall with entertainment.

We were then introduced to the speaker Rachael Clarke from One25, a charity for women to heal and thrive. One25 works with some of Bristol's most marginalized and vulnerable women, supporting them to move from crisis and trauma towards independence in the community. The women who can be homeless, drug addicts, street sex workers, sufferers from domestic violence, sexual violence or have mental health problems, find acceptance, love and help from the One25 volunteers.

The group operates a night outreach van service providing food (donated by fare share) and a safe haven for women trapped in street sex work, and women living rough on the streets. The women can receive first aid, warm clothes, alarms and help from the yellow vans. There is also a drop-in centre offering a homely, unique, women only safe space which provides meals, showers, facilities for washing clothes, an opportunity to see health workers including doctors and take part in creative activities. As well as receiving unconditional love the women are helped to find work, accommodation, ways to successfully budget their money and overcome substance and alcohol abuse.

Rachel then answered numerous questions from members and it was during this time we learned that some members regularly provided cakes for the charity.

Focal Point, November 2021

One of the ladies who baked the cakes for the charity also provided the refreshments for the meeting and has been kind enough to give me the recipe for the cake we enjoyed at the meeting. (printed overleaf) I would therefore like to thank Jan Parry for her recipe of Somerset Slice.

I hope you enjoy the Somerset Slice as much as we did at our October meeting, thank you Jan.

Our next meeting will be on November 8th at 2pm when Dorothy Cook will entertain us with Tales from a Midwife. Until then, please stay safe.

Lyn Coles



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The WI Recipe:

Somerset Slice

Ingredients

6oz (170g)	butter
8oz (225g)	demerara sugar
8oz (225g)	mixed dried fruit
6oz (170g)	whole meal self raising flour
2oz (55g)	oats
2tsp	baking powder
pinch	salt
1	large egg (beaten)

Method

1. Melt the butter and the sugar gently in a saucepan.
2. Stir in all the dry ingredients.
3. Add the beaten egg last.
4. Line a baking tray 12"x 8" (30cm x 20cm) with non-stick paper .
5. Cook for 30 - 40 minutes at 350F/180C (160C fan)
6. Cool in tin, then cut into squares.

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The November Quiz

This months quiz is on Fashion Designers

No. Clue

1. The only fashion designer to be named in the Time 100: The Most Important People of the Century (CC)
2. Designed hot-pants and short skirts in the 60s had an exhibition in the
3. Former Spice Girl who has her own fashion label (VB)
4. Possibly the most famous British wallpaper designer, the V&A have an
5. Invents Gabardine, patented in 1888, to protect people from the
6. First female artistic director of Givenchy in 2017 (CWK)
7. Launched her 'Seven Easy Pieces' collection in 1984 (DK)
8. Manchester-born designer who was creative director of Pucci from
9. Designer whose collections include 'Pirates', 'Punkature' and 'Buffalo Girls' (VW)
10. Designer who opened his first shop in Nottingham in 1970 and was
11. Italian designer who was shot by his front door on 15/7/1997 (GV)
12. Born in 1963, expelled from school at 16, known for designing shoes
13. The couple who designed Lady Diana's wedding dress (D&EE)
14. His label designed Kate Middleton's wedding dress (AM)
15. Designer who created Pippa Middleton's wedding dress (GD)

More quiz questions overleaf

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 November.

Focal Point, November 2021

16. Designed 'Zebras' wallpaper in 1945 for the opening of Gino of Capri restaurant in New York (FS)
17. Daughter of one of The Beatles who launched a clothing collection inspired by the film Yellow Submarine (SM)
18. Model and presenter of 'Popworld', launched her label in 2016 (AC)
19. The first designer to ban models with a body mass index under 18, has \$7.6 billion (US Dollars) (GA)
20. This designer founded his label in 1854 in Paris, from 2006-2012 LV was named the world's most valuable luxury brand (LV)

October's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on world leaders:

The correct answers are:

(1) Catherine the Great; (2) Vladimir Putin; (3) Queen Anne; (4) Thomas Jefferson; (5) Martin Luther; (6) Empress Matilda; (7) Elizabeth I; (8) Queen Boudica; (9) Lech Walesa; (10) Napoleon Bonaparte; (11) Eva Peron; (12) Pierre Trudeau; (13) Cleopatra; (14) Otto Von Bismarck; (15) Kofi Annan; (16) Queen Maria; (17) William the Conqueror; (18) Maria Theresa; (19) Queen Tomyris; (20) Charles de Gaulle / Eisenhower

Correct answers were received from:

Sarah Cradock; Pam and Jon Booth; Frank, Sue, Sophie and Lucy; Pam and Jon Heyes; Jan and Diane; Pearl and Debbie Evans; Sue and Rod Nethercote.

This month's winner is:

Jan and Diane



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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.

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The last word



War memorials were not common in England before the First World War. National memorials were raised for the wars in South Africa in the early years of the twentieth century as they had been for the Crimean War in the 1850s. But these were never the focus of repeated annual ceremonies of remembrance. Afterwards, there was hardly a village in Britain or France that did not raise a local subscription to remember those who gave their lives; many of which became the focus for annual commemorations. What distinguished the 1914-18 war from those before was, of course the sheer scale of the loss and its lasting impact.

Recently, doing a spot of family research I recognised a great aunt whom I remember as an old lady. She was widowed in the Great War (that much I knew), but I had not previously known how close the date of her marriage in 1916 was to that of the death of her husband only weeks later. She never remarried and must have spent no more than a few days of married life in the company of the man whose name she used for the rest of her very long life.

Such connections bring home the impact of the events so long ago, but as personal links and memories fade how does our annual November ceremony retain its relevance to younger generations for whom the two world wars are as historic as the Napoleonic wars a century before? The answer, perhaps, lies in the fact that since 1945 there has not been one single year when British forces have not been engaged in conflict. While the casualties of recent wars have been light compared with the two world wars, there have nonetheless been significant losses and injuries both physical and mental, highlighted by such organisations as the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

As we undertake this year's act of remembrance my thoughts will be not just of those who gave their lives in two huge wars but for those who have given just as much in the years that have followed.

Jim Heavens



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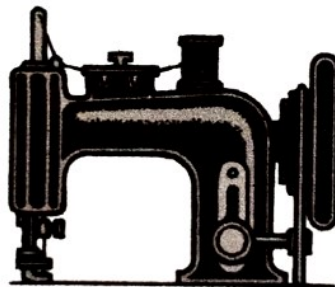
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