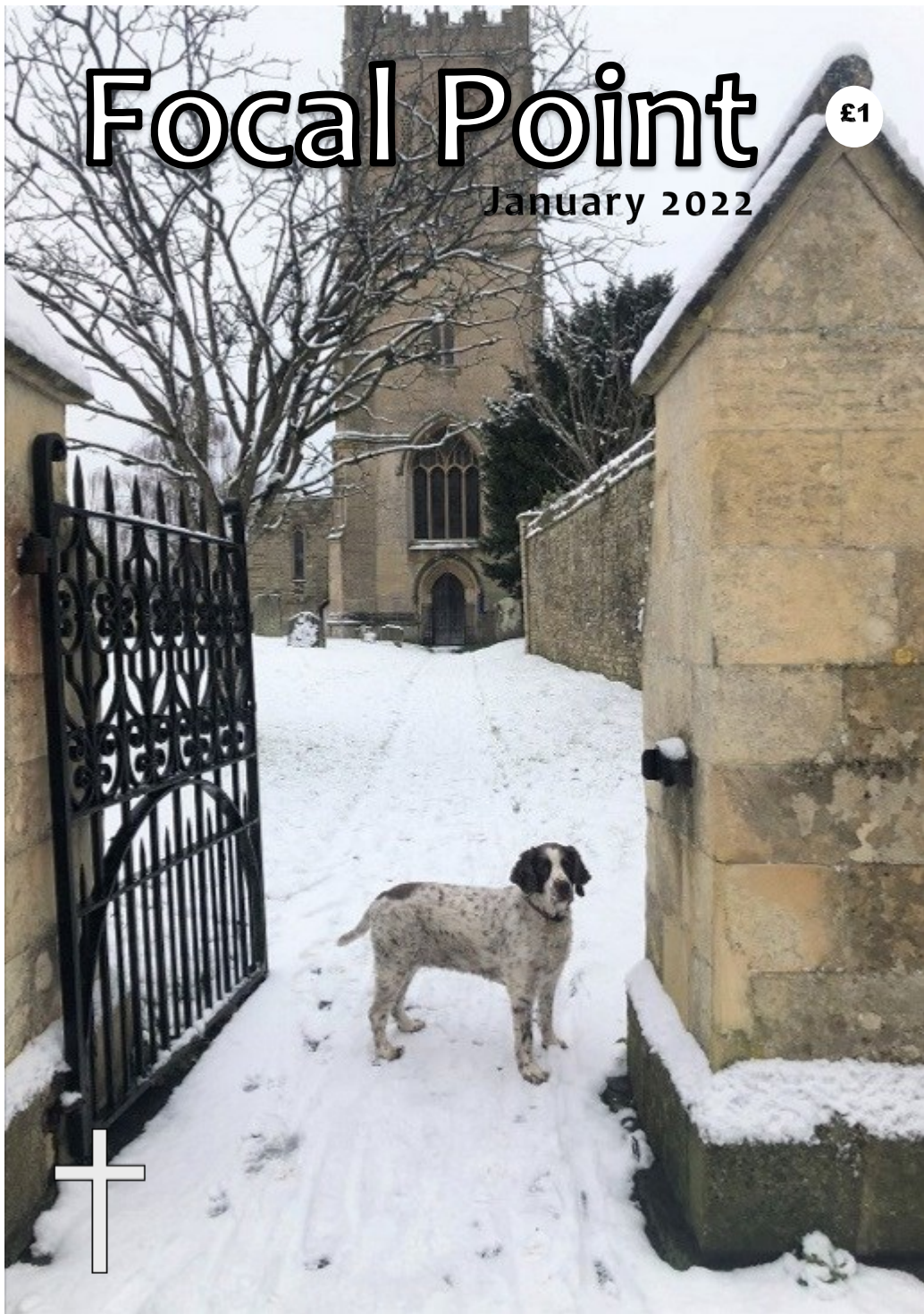


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Bitton Churches' Magazine

January 2022

*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.*

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Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

***Deadline for the February
magazine is:***

Monday 17 January 2022

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information about acts of
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*Cover photo by Becky Feather of
her dog Piper at the church gate.*

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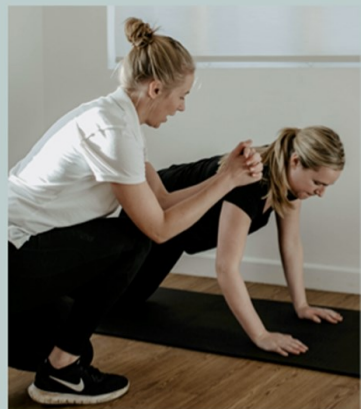
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Services for January 2022

Sunday services are at 3pm

Preachers for January:

Sunday 2nd	No service
Sunday 9th	Steve Britton
Sunday 16th	Michelle Bates
Sunday 23rd	Norman Parfrey
Sunday 30th	Michelle Bates

**In addition, there will be a Coffee Afternoon on
Tuesday 25th at 2pm**

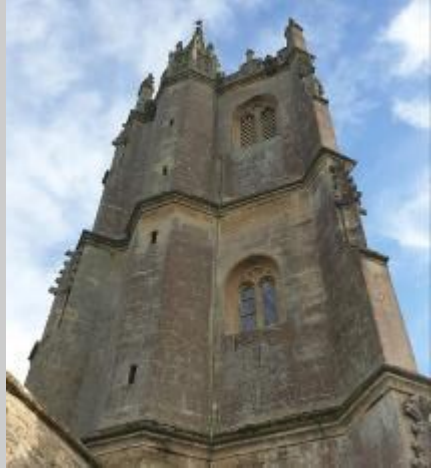


- Churches & Services -



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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 JANUARY 2022

Services at St Mary's

You will be very welcome at all services at St Mary's . For those who are unable to attend some services are provide on line .

More details on our website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

Sunday, 2 January	Second Sunday of Christmas 10.30am Parish Communion
Thursday 6 January	The Epiphany
Sunday, 9 January	<i>The Baptism of Christ</i> First Sunday in Epiphany 10.30am Christingle Service (see separate notice page 15)
Sunday, 16 January	Second Sunday in Epiphany 10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 23 January	Third Sunday in Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Café Church
Sunday, 30 January	Fourth Sunday in Epiphany No service at St Mary's Benefice Communion at St Barnabas Warmley

BIBLE READING NOTES FOR 2021

Would you like to order a booklet which provides a reading for each day plus some comments? Quite a few people at St Mary's find this helpful and I will be happy to order one for you covering a four month period starting on 1 January 2022. The cost is £4.75.

Ken Gibson

932 2122

Events in the Church or Church Hall

Saturday 29 January at 7.30pm Burns Supper

LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH



How do you feel about same sex marriage or people who wish to identify as neither male nor female?

Questions of identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage affect everyone, both inside and outside the church and the Church of England has launched its own initiative to help parishes to address such issues sensitively

Commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England, *Living in Love and Faith* (LLF) is about encouraging the whole church to think more deeply about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage in the bigger context of being human. It is an invitation to people, whatever their background and experience, to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith together. They hope it will change the way people relate to, understand, and love each other in the church, even when we disagree.

Bringing the initiative to the benefice we are going to run a course on two Saturday mornings 12th and 26th February from 9.30am-1.00 pm at St. Mary's. There is no compulsion to join, but those participating will be asked to a commit to a course designed to help people to listen and learn together and led by trained facilitators.



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St Mary's Matters

Towards the end of November last year I held a couple of training sessions for people on how to set up and use the sound and projection systems at St Mary's. Over a couple of sessions around a dozen people were given a tour of the equipment and shown how it all fits together. The need to do this reflects the increasing number of groups and individuals who are using the church for their activities, and it is exciting to welcome community groups such as the Bitton History Group and the Gardening Club into the church for their meetings. If there is anyone else who feels they would like to use the church for a one-off event or for regular meetings, then please do get in touch.



Pete Midgley

Demonstrating the equipment to others also had the effect of highlighting that some of the equipment is showing its age. The sound equipment is mostly new and works very effectively – a huge improvement on what we had before. The projector is also very effective but there are increasing compatibility issues with newer laptops and apple devices. It's also quite a faff setting it up each time it is needed. The intention is that a permanent projector will be mounted in a suitable place as part of the re-ordering project which will make everything much easier.

Speaking of re-ordering, the project is continuing to move forward. We can give thanks for some recent funding awards which is encouraging. We are now moving towards applying for a faculty for the first phase of the project. This will need negotiations with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which may take a little time. Once approved we will be able to go out to tender.

In the meantime you are, as always, welcome at all our services.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 9 January at 10.30

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top.



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Vicar's Message

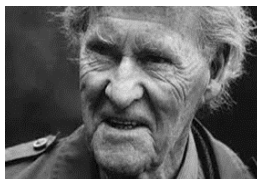
Epiphany with three poets



Dear Friends,

January is a strange month in the church. Outside in the world people have moved on, packed up the Christmas tree and decorations for another year, made resolutions and are pressing on into the new year. In the church, whilst we have changed seasons from Christmas to Epiphany, we are still very much in the Christmas story, moving from our focus on Shepherds to the journeying of the wise men and their gifts.

January can feel flat after the Christmas festivities and perhaps even more so as, at the time of writing, more Covid restrictions are looming, and the pandemic is still overshadowing. I am reminded of R.S Thomas' haunting Christmas poem "Blind Noel" that suggests that the themes of Christmas are exhausted in us, and perhaps this is so after the last few years of chop and change, rules and regulations and restrictions. Love, joy, and peace are in danger of being diminished in us. "Love knocks with such frosted fingers. I look out. In the shadow of so vast a God I shiver, unable to detect the child for the whiteness." (Thomas: selected poems, 2004).



R S Thomas

It is perhaps then in the three strangers, travelling from the East that we may find some relocation in the Christmas story as it effects the year that follows on from it. The metaphor of journey is well used in the description of the nature of Christian living and in the sense that we are travelling from birth to death, it is a good description. The Bible doesn't give the detail of the wisemen's journeying except for the circumstances and reasons for leaving and arrival at a new place, and so it is from other sources that we put together their story. For example, the distance travelled because of the likely place where they lived and its proximity to Bethlehem. From this we derive the timing because of distance and terrain and mode of transport.

Continued overleaf

Poetry gives another perspective and of course T.S. Elliott's "Journey of the Magi" springs immediately to mind. Elliot traces the reality of journeying, imagining the feelings and perspective of those who travel, and the relationships and humanity encountered on the way.



T S Elliott

Then of course there is the mythologising/symbolising of the gifts that are brought along. In human terms these were sensible supplies carried to assist travelling: Gold to pay their way. Frankincense, to assist their daily prayers and worship, and myrrh for medical reasons, an effective pain killer rather like our modern paracetamol. In this way these three gave gifts to Jesus out of their own provision and were more valuable than the gift from the excess of a wealthy donor. Symbolising the gifts as we are wont to do in the light of Jesus' life death and resurrection, we recognise kingship, high priestliness, anointing and death as they draw on the significant themes of the character of Jesus's life and ministry.



Michael Symmons-Roberts

For poetry's perspective we might turn to "The gifts" by Michael Symmons – Roberts who sees these gifts abandoned and imagines Mary and Joseph's awareness of the meaning of the gifts which they reject. "your gifts -you may have guessed – were abandoned when the ingrate family left. Not wanting their boy to be rich, priestly, dead, they took the empty boxes". Then the final lines of this poem,

which for me sum up the allegory of the wisemen's journey and relate it to our own journey of faith and bring home to us the true nature of the incarnation, "...did you keep the memory of the breath of that child on the back of your hand, a whisper on the skin that somehow grew stronger and closer than bone."

Reflecting on our own journey of faith, I am reminded that the Methodist church holds a special service on the first Sunday of January and in a season that is usually full of promise -making with a resolve to do better at life in all sorts of ways, this "Covenant service" fits the mood of the season well.

The service has Puritan origins and dates back to the time of John Wesley. His idea of Covenant was basic to his understanding of Christian discipleship. He saw the relationship with God in a Covenant with his people as being like a

Focal Point, January 2022

marriage between human beings (individuals or en masse) on the one side and God in Christ on the other. This thinking is largely derived from Paul's letter to the Ephesians in chapter 5 in which he urges that we should be subject to one another out of reverence to Christ. (Verse 21) There is a more nuanced interpretation of this passage in the light of the feminist movement, but still, it describes the give-and-take of a reciprocal love and relationship, an agreement that benefits both parties.

January seems a good time to reflect on these things, our own journey of faith and our commitment to it, since it feels like a fresh start, a new chapter, the beginning again with all sorts of possibilities. I leave you then with the covenant prayer to ponder on, to pray for yourself, as you continue the journey of the wisemen towards Christ:

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

May I wish you a very Happy new Year full of all you need for the journey ahead.

Jeremy

PCC discusses repairs and other matters

While there have been no major repairs required recently, a small number of tiles were missing from the church roof and needed repair. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) which met on 29th November agreed that necessary repairs should be undertaken before the situation became any worse. It was also noted that the floor of the church hall required ongoing repairs a situation that is likely to be the case for some time to come.

Plans are also underway for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next summer. There will be a service of Thanksgiving on the Friday 3rd June which may be shown in the church on a large screen. It is also expected that the regular Sunday service on 5 June should reflect the Jubilee the Queen's 70 years on the throne. More immediately, plans had been put in place for a number of Christmas services, including a village carol service and a crib service for children on Christmas Eve. As such events had been cancelled in 202 due to COVID, it was hoped that they could take place in 2021.

It was also noted that the diary is filling up with events for 2022 and local groups had already planned events, some of which will be held in the church. A Burns Night Supper is already planned for the end of January. Jenny Harris is the church bookings secretary who should be consulted before any church events are planned. This included meetings of the PCC itself, which could, if necessary be held on Zoom to enable the church to be used by others. To encourage local groups to make use of the church, hiring charges are being reviewed. It was agreed that the hire fee should reflect the actual cost of opening the church, taking account of the significant costs for heating. John Bennetts, Treasurer, undertook to review the hire charge based on the most up to date information on heating costs.

Those attending were also informed that in future all PCC members will need to undergo DBS checks every 3 years and attend training. Safeguarding remains a significant issue and the church wardens should be contacted if the need arises, particularly while Richard Humphrey is out of

Focal Point, January 2022

action.

Amongst other matters discussed was the Bristol-Uganda Link. Ken had received a thank you letter from James Gardner to St Mary's, mentioning the support over 51 years and gave other details of how the donation is used. Some changes will be made to church electrical sockets to support the Wi-Fi. Martin Lings has offered to take on the website management role from Pete and it is anticipated this will be an ongoing task.

It is also proposed to hold some facilitated discussion events in February to support the Living in Love and Faith initiative to discuss matters of concern regarding for instance identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage. The material and videos that accompany these discussion topics are available on the Living in Love and Faith Hub on the CoE website for those who may wish to attend but are unable to make the dates.

The PCC also discussed the role of Sidespersons and the important part they play in welcoming people into the church. Some people whose names are on the rota have been unable to attend due to COVID fears. A workable rota will therefore be drawn up for 1st and 3rd Sundays.

The PCC is next due to meet on Monday 7th February. The Annual Parish Meeting is planned for Monday 4th April 2022.



KIM

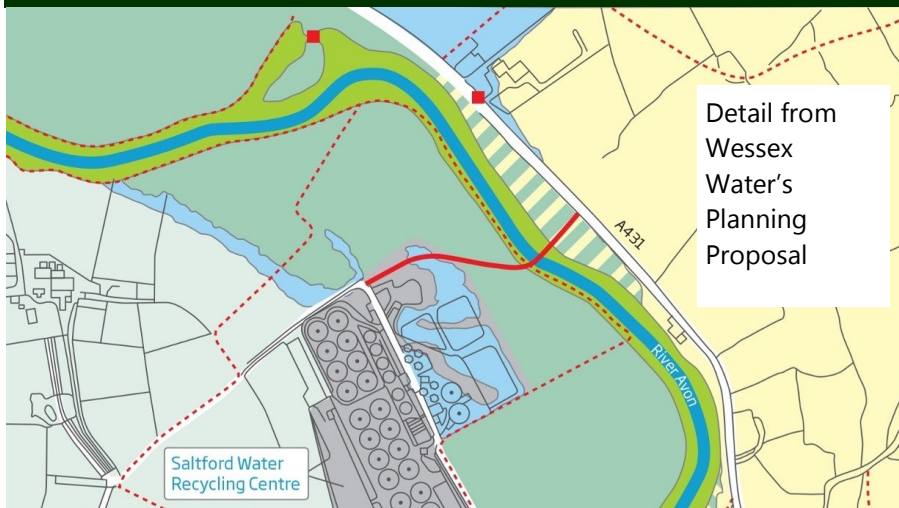
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BANES approves Bridge over Avon



Bath and NE Somerset Council have now approved planning permission to Wessex Water to build a bridge and access road from their Saltford Treatment Works to the A431 east of Swineford. The application was opposed by the Bitton Parish Council, the BVRA and received many letters in opposition from local residents, was nonetheless supported *in principle* by South Gloucestershire Council, although they asked for certain issues to be taken into consideration.

Wessex Water have been seeking a solution to the problem of vehicles accessing the site through the Saltford conservation area and the impact on roads in the area. Other options were considered but the principal alternative of routes through to the A4 on the south side of the river were ruled out on ground of environmental impact or cost. There are also some small advantages in a bridge providing access for pedestrians and there are some strict environmental requirements in respect of the river and screening.

The question remains, however, as to what the long term impact will be in Bitton? Most of the impact assessment provided to planners has focused on the building period. But the main concern of residents is about the number of additional vehicles, particularly heavy vehicles that will roll through Bitton on the A431. The impact is assessed at only a 2% increase in traffic and does partly depend on both the size of vehicles and whether all the traffic that currently uses the Saltford roads switches to the other side. South Gloucestershire Council has asked that the access routes from Saltford are not closed completely.

Of the 300+ daily traffic movements currently in and out of the site how many will hit Bitton in the future?

Police & Crime Commissioner seeks views on police precept

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset, Mark Shelford has asked to hear local people's views before he sets the amount of money local people contribute to policing through their council tax.

The Government has told PCCs that they can raise the precept next year by **£10 for an average band D household**, which is approximately 83p per month.

Before making this decision, PCC Mark Shelford wants to hear from communities and find out their views about this potential increase. He has launched a survey asking if residents would be willing to pay an increase in the policing part of the council tax.

All residents in the Avon and Somerset area are invited to take part and the survey is open and available on the PCC website:

www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk

Doreen Jeffries

Doreen Jeffries, who had lived most of her life in Upton Cheyney, died in October at the age of 92.

Born Doreen Mead in North Stoke in May 1929, she crossed the fields daily as a child to attend school in Upton Cheyney. She went to no other school as by the time she was due to attend senior school the war had started, and it was decided safer to keep the local children close to home and teach them skills that would be more immediately useful such as cooking.

Having left school at 14, Doreen worked for Mrs Brown in North Stoke for a short while, helping to look after her baby daughter, but she later found employment at Hawking's Nursery growing tomatoes, blackcurrants and later chrysanthemums.

Doreen met her husband Mervyn Jeffries at a youth club which her daughter Mary believes was in the old tin chapel in Swineford. They married in 1950 in the church at North Stoke. Doreen, who was an only child loved the fact that Mervyn had a much larger family with brothers and sisters. Immediately after they were married, they lived with Doreen's parents in North Stoke, but they then moved to 2 Chapel Cottages in Upton Cheyney where Doreen lived until very recently. It was here that she brought up her four children, Mary, Stephen, Robert and John. Later they even accommodated Doreen's father, known as Gramp.

Mervyn was a mechanic but when he came out of the army, he also found work at Hawking's Nursery as a grower and later delivering to shops and markets with Doreen. They both worked for the Hawkings all their working lives. Doreen loved animals and was known to have a special way with cats. David Perrett, the local vet told her that he knew a cat would recover in her hands as she had a special touch.

Doreen's main delight though, was always her family, which became larger as the years went by and she became not only a grandmother, but a great grandmother too. Children's parties were something very special for her. Sadly, Mervyn died in 2007 but she carried on at Chapel Cottages and



continued to lead an active life taking a delight in her garden almost to the very end. She loved going to the chapel at Upton Cheyney, particularly the monthly teas. She was still at Chapel Cottages until May this year, in spite of all the problems that the Covid pandemic brought. In the last two years she had becoming increasingly blind due to a small tumour on the pituitary gland, and she suffered some falls which meant she had to move into a home.

Mary, Chris, Stephen, Robert, John and Sue would like to thank family and friends for all the kind messages and cards sent at a very sad time. Also, for the donations in Doreen's memory to Cancer Research UK which amounted to £395.00.

Thank you all.



Concert celebrates life of David Harris

Saturday 27 November saw a packed Church at a concert to celebrate the life of David Harris. Ken Gibson welcomed everyone to St Mary's and then handed over to Jenny's eldest son, Andrew, who paid a moving tribute to his Dad, talking about how for a full two years David coped with his leukaemia with amazing calm and determination. Andrew then compered the concert.

The Apollo Windband began by playing a selection of David's favourite music followed by the Magpie Singers with four well known songs.

In a complete change of mood the Cubs and Scouts then paid tribute to their much loved Akela joining enthusiastically in a camp fire song 'Mighty Mighty Bitton'.

Next came two pieces from Jenny and Natalie on flute and piano including the haunting melody of the Ashokan Farewell. A final contribution from the Apollo Windband included a rendition of Highland Cathedral in which the bagpipes were replaced by the oboe and ended with a foray into Christmas music.

To celebrate David's Welsh heritage and his passion for their Rugby team the concert ended with everyone present singing Cwm Rhondda accompanied by Natalie Morton on the organ followed by further refreshments.

The retiring collection totalled £1,178 and the donations are being split between the leukaemia department of the Bristol Royal Infirmary and Macmillan Cancer support both of whom provided great help and support to David, Jenny, Andrew, Chris and Pete.

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Raffle winner enjoys her prize



The church fete may be long past,, but Cheryl Wright still had her prize to savour: a trip to Bradford on Avon for a delicious cream tea and chauffeur driven in a classic 1954 Wolsey 6/80. The 2nd prize in this year's summer raffle was generously donated by Douglas MacDonald who appeared at Cheryl's door in full chauffeur outfit for the event.

The prize could hardly have gone to a more deserving recipient than Cheryl, who has been back to work in nursing during the Coronavirus pandemic. She shared her prize with friend Carolyn Hayward and as the photographs show, it was a most enjoyable outing.

Focal Point, January 2022



Opposite: Your carriage awaits—Douglas holds the door open.

Left: The Wolsey's semaphore trafficator points the way to the tearooms.

Right: A real cream tea awaited them.



Below left: Cheryl with her chauffeur, Douglas and the Wolsey in Bradford on Avon.

Below right : Cheryl and Carolyn outside the tea-rooms.



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Bitton History Group

Looking back on Bicentennial celebrations



The last History Group Meeting of 2021 looked back on the celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of the installation of the Ellacombe Chimes. At its heart had been the highly successful event on 26 June of a *Round the World Chime*—a jointly organised event by the History Group and the church Future Committee. This included a series of collected videos of dexterous hands in many locations from New Zealand to Canada as noon rotated around the globe. While Britain still remained under some COVID restrictions, the June day had been blessed with fine weather and a party atmosphere was possible in the churchyard.

In his presentation, Mike Gates set the context of the clash between Ellacombe and the bell ringers in a much broader historical setting of what was happening in the Church of England at the time.

While church bells were, as all else, the responsibility of the incumbent, most bells had been installed by wealthy patrons, usually for their own

Continued overleaf

amusement , and Bitton was far from unusual in having bell ringing teams who operated so independently. The Church of England had been in decline for much of the eighteenth century, but with the religious revival in the early years of the nineteenth things stated to change. Ellacombe, was one of the early proponents of a return to ritual and ceremony. Following his appointment as curate in 1817 he instituted a number of changes, not only for the bell ringers but the whole form of services and worship.

Mike also drew attention to comfortable a life that was then enjoyed by the vicar of Bitton in his large parsonage with a number of live-in servants—far removed from the lives of ordinary people.

One important issue was however finally and satisfactorily solved as an enlargement of Ellacombe’s own drawings of his chiming device showed a date of 1821. There had been some ambiguity in Ellacombe’s own writings about the exact date of the installation of the chimes and it was good to have this confirmed.

The evening ended with a demonstration of the chimes by Tower Captain Sue Elliott.



Those pesky mice are at it again—this time as Bell Ringers!

To complete the bi-centennial of the Ellacombe Chimes, another delightful knitted mouse tableau has been created by Janet Iven’s knitting group. The tableau of bell ringers was also on show for the History Group evening.

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ST MARY'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT APPEAL



Good news for Appeal as Phase II plans crystallise

The St Mary's Church Development Appeal has received some good news in recent weeks. The Bristol Archdeaconry has given £22,400 and two significant further pledges of money were made of £10,000 by the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and £5000 by the Beatrice Laing Trust. That brings the total raised for the Phase II works to a little over £75,000 in all.



The fundraising effort, led by Nicola Bennetts has been working hard to identify likely sponsors and seek their support. Getting this far has been a remarkable

achievement but further sponsors are waiting on the final decision about the scope of the works and the approval of a faculty (permission to undertake the works) from Bristol Diocese.

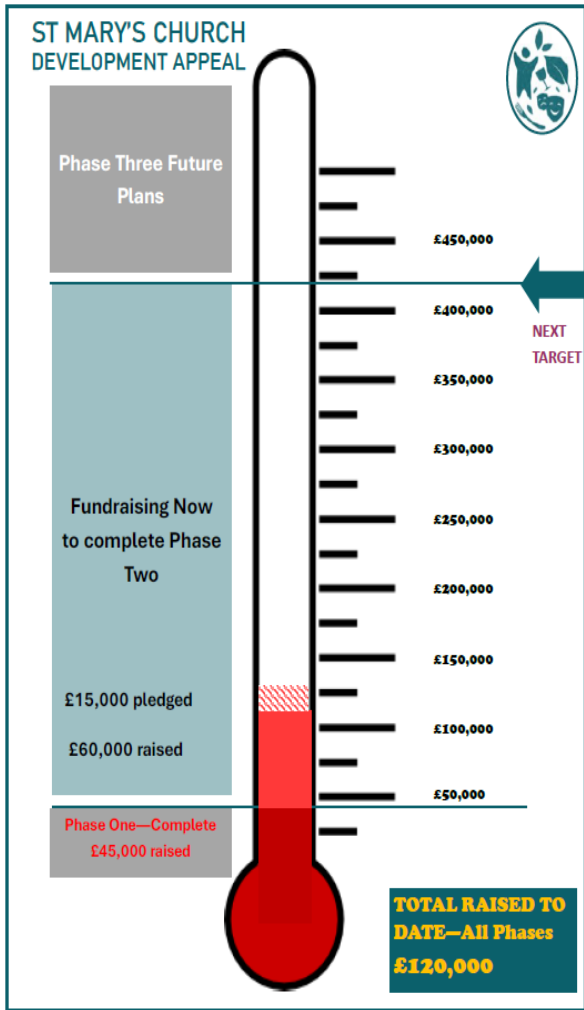
Diocesan Advisory Committee

Making any change to an ancient and grade 1 listed building is always approached with care. The Church of England is responsible for planning changes in church buildings through a Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which advises the Bishop. Their planning procedures are similar to those used by local authorities.

In November, our architect, George Chedburn, submitted an outline description of the plans for the interior of the church—our Phase II plans to the DAC, which received a warm and encouraging response, looking forward to more detailed plans to be submitted early next year.

For details of the plans for the church interior— *see page 34*

STILL A LONG WAY TO GO but progress is being made — Initial estimates for the cost of the Phase II work (more details overleaf) were for £375,000. That figure is likely to be revised as the details of the work are fully established and some actual quotes obtained. Thus far some £75,00 has either been donated or pledged since fundraising began for this phase. **A BIG thank you to all who have contributed .**



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 above.

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

John Bennetts, Treasurer, Springfield Villa, Brewery Hill, Upton Cheyney, Bristol, BS30 6LY.

Our Phase II Plans

Plans for St Mary's future have been in discussion for the last 10 years and have involved members of the congregation and the wider community. The aim is to make St Mary's a resource for the whole community to use, with seating that is more flexible, with increased accessibility and altogether more welcoming with increased opportunities for hospitality and with a clean and bright environment. But we also want it remain as a place of worship and to celebrate and preserve its heritage.



In 2017, we embarked on an experiment, what we have now called Phase I, to remove some of

the rear pews and create an open space at the back and front of the church for more flexible use. The space at the back of the church has proved its worth enabling all sorts of church and community activities to take place. The front has been less of a success because of the discovery of a vault, the top of which was higher than the existing floor level. We also discovered that below the pews there was no paved floor at all, mostly it was just a form of rubble.

The Key Items of Phase II

1. Raise and pave the floor:

The main floor will be raised by about 6 inches so that it is at the same level as the chancel and provide a smooth surface throughout. Some of the floor memorials will be retained but the rest will be paved in a suitable stone.

2. Make the pews mobile:

We plan to retain about 20 of the existing pews. Each will have two of the decorated ends and will be made mobile, so that they can be

Focal Point, January 2022

arranged in a traditional fashion but also pushed to the side or placed in different configurations as required. The choir and current pews will also be retained. For larger services there will be some additional light, stackable chairs.

3. Underfloor heating:

An underfloor heating system will be installed. Initially this will be run on the existing gas boiler, but this will enable us to convert to a more environmentally sustainable heating system later. It will also hide away the surface pipes.

4. Wall & Window Cleaning & refurbishment:

The walls are currently discoloured by a century or more of soot and dirt. The walls will be washed making them more able to reflect light. The windows will be professionally cleaned and repaired. Together this will make the church feel brighter and cleaner.

5. General Tidying and Improvements:

The opportunity is being taken to undertake some general tidying up too. We need to improve our utilities such as wiring, lighting and sound, so that they can serve a much wider range of purposes in the church. We are also looking at improvements to the area around the pulpit so that it is less cluttered.

It is planned to submit the application for a faculty early this month (January). The faculty will be subject to notice and opportunities for objection before final consideration. Approval is still likely to take a few months.



The January Quiz

The theme of the January quiz is Magazines,
they are all anagrams

- | No. | Anagram |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1. | KO |
| 2. | ads registered |
| 3. | action flop |
| 4. | agenda hounders |
| 5. | air pm |
| 6. | capitol moons |
| 7. | ego uv |
| 8. | emailed oh |
| 9. | gerianna pathologic |
| 10. | go odd oof |
| 11. | iced Louis |
| 12. | latter |
| 13. | lolhe |
| 14. | meanest wants |
| 15. | mite |
| 16. | pekingese hood Ugo |
| 17. | raw chat |
| 18. | swimming droll |
| 19. | trying vinculo |
| 20. | variant fyi |

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 January.

Christmas Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on fashion designers:

The correct answers are:

1. Boxing Day; 2. Holly; 3. Turkey; 4. Marzipan; 5. Snowmen; 6. Present; 7. 3 Wise men; 8. Frankincense; 9. Selection box; 10. Noel; 11. Bells; 12. Gold; 13. 3 Kings; 14. Chocolate Log; 15. Myrrh; 16. Wrapping paper; 17. Ivy; 18. Jingle Bells; 19. Carols; 20. Mulled Wine.

Correct answers were received from:

The Booths, Carol Sheedy, Jan & Diane, The Wakefields, Sarah Craddock .

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The last word



A new year is traditionally a time when we look ahead.

Well, there are things to look forward to in the coming year. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May, for example, is planned as a time of national celebration as well as an extra day of bank holiday. Never before has there been a festival for a monarch's 70 years on the throne and it should be a wonderful celebration in which we all can join.

Yet this new year, as the last, is overshadowed by the impact of COVID. The Christian message of loving one's neighbour is always a powerful one, and no more so now. At home it may mean getting a booster jab to protect those around us; but in a global pandemic, neighbourliness certainly should know no boundaries, and it needs an international effort to vaccinate worldwide. My hope for 2022 is that effort becomes less about rhetoric and more a reality.

Jim Heavens, Editor



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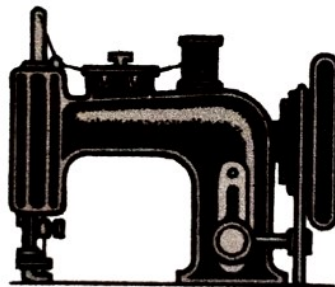
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