

A photograph of a peacock standing on a stone wall with vines, with another peacock visible in the background.

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March 2022

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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

March 2022

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

*Published by St Mary's Church, Bitton and
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Cheyney.*

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***Deadline for the April
magazine is:***

Thursday 17 March2022

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*Cover photo by Sarah Craddock
entitled **Peacocks of Upton***

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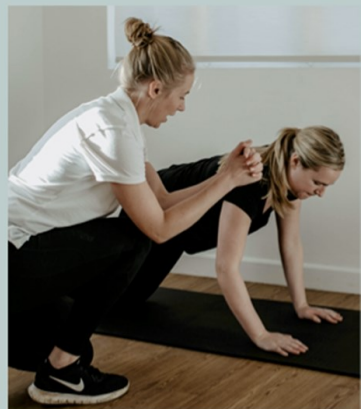
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UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel

Services for March 2022



Sunday services are at 3pm

Sunday 6th March - Service led by Michelle Bates

Sunday 13th March - Service led by Janet Donnelly

Sunday 20th March - Service led by Margaret White

Sunday 27th March - Service led by Steve Britton

**In addition there will be a coffee afternoon on Tuesday
22nd March at 2pm**

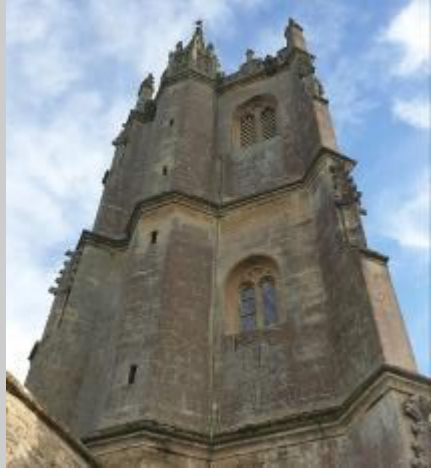


- Churches & Services -



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BITTON**

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724

Ordained minister:

Rev Richard Humphrey
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive
Willsbridge 0117 949 0502

Lay ministers:

Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road,
Bitton
0117 932 2122

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

Churchwardens:

Pete Midgley
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
0117 932 6898

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

Services for March 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

Wednesday 3 March

First Day of lent— Ash Wednesday

No service at St Mary's.

There will be a Service of Holy Communion at 10.00 am at St Barnabas Warmley.

Sunday, 6 March

10.30am **First Sunday of Lent**
Parish Communion

Sunday, 13 March

10.30am **Second Sunday of Lent**
Family Special with the Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels
Focus on the Sisters of the Church in St Paul's with guest speaker Sister Teresa



Sunday, 20 March

9.00am **Third Sunday of Lent**
Benefice Pilgrimage departs for Warmley and Syston. See details on page 23
10.30am St Mary's will be open for prayer and coffee for those not attending the Pilgrimage service at Warmley

Thursday, 24 March

9.30am Celtic Communion
followed by coffee and cake

Sunday, 27 March

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church *for Mothering Sunday*

Lent 2022

Ash Wednesday on 2 March marks the beginning of the season of Lent. There will be a **Service of Holy Communion at 10.00 am at St Barnabas Warmley.**

Weekly Lent Group meetings

You will be very welcome to join one of the four Groups which will be meeting each week during Lent.

- ◆ Wednesday evenings from 9 March at 7.30 at Warmley Church Hall. A course entitled 'Caring for Creation'. Contact Sally Sibley on 967 9478
- ◆ Wednesday mornings from 9 March at 10.30 at Westover, Bitton. A course entitled 'Journeying through Lent'. Contact David Bailey on 932 8949
- ◆ Wednesday evenings from 9 March at 7.30 at 8 Church Road, Bitton. A course entitled 'Live Lent : Embracing Justice'. Contact Ken Gibson on 932 2122
- ◆ Thursday evenings from 10 March at 7.30 at 8 Church Road Bitton. A course entitled 'Live Lent : Embracing Justice'. Contact Pete Midgley on 932 6898

Daily Readings during Lent

If you are unable to join one of the Groups you may like to follow the daily readings linked to the Embracing Justice course. Copies will be available at the back of the Church from the end of February.

St Mary's Matters

As long as I have been attending St Mary's (and I'm not going to tell you how long that is!) there has been a tension between being the church at the centre of the parish of Bitton, and being a part of the benefice which also includes St Barnabas, Warmley and St Anne's, Syston. Probably no one feels this quite so acutely as the incumbent Vicar. Jeremy is the last of four whom I have experienced grappling with the issues of being in charge of three churches with distinctly different needs and trying to find ways in which they can work together.



Pete Midgley

As with many churches in a similar situation to ours, we have a desire to exercise our independence and sometimes this gets in the way of genuine collaboration between the three churches.

With this context in mind it is good to recognise both recent and future activities bringing our congregations together. The joint benefice communion service at St Mary's led by Bishop Viv is now quite a distant memory, but the visit of Bishop Lee to the equivalent service at St Barnabas on 30th January (5th Sunday services are usually joint benefice services) was a really lovely service with worshipful singing and an excellent talk by Lee.

Perhaps more challenging has been the Living in Love and Faith course which has been taking place at St Mary's. Despite the sometimes controversial nature of the course it has been a pleasure to discuss the important issues raised in small groups which have cut across our different congregations. The mutual support and encouragement from these groups has been very important to gaining an increased understanding as we have discussed matters together.

Looking ahead there is the Three Churches Lenten Pilgrimage set to take place on 30th March. Exact details of the plans for the day can be found elsewhere in the magazine and there are flyers in the three churches. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet new people so let's pray for good weather and hope for a good turnout. Many thanks to all those who have helped with the organisation and planning.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday & Sunday
12 & 13 March
10.30am to 5pm.

The Mouse Fest
Life in Bitton as portrayed by knitted mice.

Displayed in the church. Tea and cake available

Saturday 9 April
10am—4.30pm

Get to know your Sewing Machine
With Barbara Merritt

In the church. See page 24 for details.

Saturday 14 May
7.30pm

Westerly Winds

Concert Band returns to St Mary's for an evening of music

Saturday 21 May

Canon Ellacombe 200 Exhibition

Opening of an exhibition focusing on the life and work of Bitton's late 19th century, vicar, horticulturalist and traveller.

Thursday to Sunday
2-5 June

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

Saturday 3 September
1.30pm—5.30pm

Annual Church Fête

In the church and Glebe Field

Saturday 29th October

Autumn Fayre—Stallholders' Fair
with an emphasis on Christmas items

Church & Church Hall Bookings

The church hall is available for hire and is a popular location for children's parties as well as regular events.

For larger events such as community meetings or concerts the church itself may be more suitable.

For Church Hall bookings contact Jill Gibson on
0117 932 2122.

Rates from £12.50 per hour.

For Church bookings contact the Social Secretary, Jenny Harris
by email on **djacharris@hotmail.com**

Rates from £25 per hour (2 hour minimum hire).



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John Sibley

The Force of Nature

Dear Friends,

As I sit here typing this letter, storm Eunice is raging outside my window. The poor early daffodils are taking a hammering and the trees are whipping back and fro as if they might break at any minute. We should never forget just how powerful a force nature can be.

As we enter this season of Lent, some of us will be attending Lent courses, the course we are running at St.Barnabas will focus on caring for God's creation. Storm Dudley and Storm Eunice are good reminders that our weather systems are changing due to global warming, so how we care for nature, which God has given us responsibility for, is very much top of the agenda. You will be made very welcome at one of the courses anywhere in the Benefice.

At St. Barnabas we are working towards becoming an ECO church so that we have an eco response both collectively and individually in all we do. St. Barnabas will be holding 'Climate Sunday' on March 20th with a joint service in Warmley at 10.30. Everybody is most welcome. To celebrate Climate Sunday we are holding a pilgrimage walk starting at St.Mary's, Bitton and walking to Warmley for the service and a bring your own lunch. We then will walk to St. Annes, Syston for afternoon tea. Details are to be found elsewhere in this magazine.

Caring for nature is not something we can leave to someone else. Individually we have a responsibility to care for the world around us. You may recall that in John 3.16 it says, "That God so loved the world that he gave his son". Do you remember the sheer wonder and joy when as a child you held a worm or let a woodlouse walk around in your hand. Or finding a slowworm under a stone or watching a tadpole turn into a frog. We should have no less wonder now as adults.

Shutterstock



Nature is all around us, it is part of us, it is our responsibility, mine and yours to do all we can to protect and nurture this wonderful planet that God made. For future generations to come, we must not fail.

Your Lay Minister

John Sibley



Community of Sisters of the Church (Bristol)

Our Family Special on 13 March will focus on the work of the Sisters of the Church in St Pauls.

Each week Helen Pugsley provides them with volunteer help and at harvest and Christmas we send them gifts of food, toiletries and clothes.



We are delighted that Helen has been able to arrange for one of the Sisters – Sister Teresa – to come and tell us of their work at our Family service.

ALL WELCOME—Sunday 13 March at 10.30am

Why Ash? Why a Wednesday?

The beginning of Lent is marked by a day called Ash Wednesday. As a tradition, the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are collected and burned and, if you attend a service that day, you will be invited to be marked with the sign of the cross. It is a strange ritual, and one that seems more redolent of other religions than mainstream Christianity. It attracts no biblical reference or requirement and there is no predecessor in Judaism; so how did this ritual come about, and how has it endured?

How the tradition began is unclear, but it seems to have begun in Rome in the first centuries after Christianity began to be established there. It may well have been a pre-Christian Roman practice to be covered in ashes as a means of demonstrating penance. Particularly for most serious penitents and sinners it was customary for them to begin a public penance on the first day of Lent, dressed only in sackcloth and be doused in ashes. Over the years it seems that this practice was adopted more widely and instead of sackcloth and ashes, a more refined approach simply used a light ash to make a symbol on the heads of congregations. The custom is used as a means of reminding Christians both of their own mortality and need for penitence.

Perhaps this penitential aspect was what saved the custom from extinction during the Reformation. The Book of Common Prayer takes a slightly snooty line referring to the day as "The First Day in Lent, commonly called Ash Wednesday". The practice was never banned, but it was not necessarily encouraged either.

Lent has not always begun on a Wednesday and in the eastern Orthodox churches, not only are there no ashes, but Lent also generally begins on a Monday. While both traditions adopt a period of 40 days of penitence and fasting (reflecting Christ's own 40 days in the wilderness prior to beginning his ministry), they have always calculated this differently.

In the western church the 40 days originally began on a Sunday, the 40th day being Maundy Thursday, but it was later decided that Sundays should not be included as days of fasting and as a result 4 additional days were added so that Lent began on Wednesday.

Whatever the tradition, Lent is a period of abstinence and penitence leading up to the most important of all Christian events, that of Easter.



PCC discusses charges for hiring church

Charges for the hire of the church were discussed at the recent meeting of the Parochial Parish Council. The PCC was keen for the church to be used by the community, but the only rate that had previously been used had been set for a public inquiry that used the church some years ago. John Bennetts had estimated the cost for heating the church (which was the main cost) and it was decided that a fair charge would be £25 per hour, but for a minimum of two hours.

There has been greater use of the church in the past few months as it provided a much larger space for meetings and allowed more opportunity for social distancing when this was required. But it was noted that when works go ahead in the church, it is likely that the church hall will need to be used for a wider variety of purposes while work was ongoing. The floor requires ongoing attention, and it is likely that a heater will need to be replaced. Jill Gibson announced that she would be resigning as the church hall secretary later in the year.

Focal Point, March 2022

The Diocesan Advisory Committee is now in receipt of our application for the next phase of work on the church and its outcome is awaited. The PCC also agreed to a separate bank account for money raised for church development purposes. Although already accounted for separately, it was felt that the sums involved required separate banking facilities. More fundraising events including the knitted mice and an exhibition on the life of Canon Ellacombe were planned.

On physical resources there had been concerns about the heating controls which had become “quirky”. However, it was decided not to invest further unless the situation worsened but to wait for the development work. Weeds growing on the roof of the chapel are to be investigated as there is a concern that they have gained a significant roothold in one or two instances.

Also under discussion was the new second Sunday format for a family service. There had been mixed views and the structure was not yet settled. A café style service had been tried but in February a parade type service with the scouts had also worked well. It was also agreed that there should be a thanksgiving service on the weekend of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, followed by a toast to Her Majesty.

Unfortunately the vicar was unable to be present, and so a proposal to fund a Children and Families Worker for the parish was postponed until Jeremy could attend.



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Bitton Parish History Group plan an exciting Spring and Summer of talks and visits



Local residents can fire up their enthusiasm for finding out about our past with Bitton Parish History Group.

Famine and Plague in Early Modern England A talk by Professor Ronald Hutton on 24th March

In the Tudor and Stuart period people suffered regularly from famine and devastating epidemic diseases. This talk looks, with some special reference to the Bristol area, at what we can learn from these killers and their effects, and how they were experienced at the time. It also tackles directly the question of when and how they were finally brought to an end. Join the talk on 24th March, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, North Common Village Hall, Millers Drive, North Common, Bristol BS30 8YH.

Focal Point, March 2022

Salford Brass Mill On 10th May 2022 there will be a visit at 2:00pm.

Salford Brass Mill was part of a major copper, zinc and brass industry in the Avon valley, supplying an international trading market. It all started with coal-fired smelting of Cornish copper ores on the



banks of the Avon using Bristol coal, and finished with a thriving industry making brassware for trade with West Africa and the Caribbean. Such pots and pans supported the triangular slave trade which contributed to the creation of the wealth of Bristol and Bath.

Warmley Grotto A visit is planned to Warmley Grotto in June or July 2022. William Champion's zinc making business in Warmley became successful in the late eighteenth century, and he built himself an elegant and imposing new house with surrounding gardens laid out in the then popular Dutch style. A focal point was a ten metre high statue of the god Neptune with his trident. The statue is still standing and is believed to be the largest garden statue now standing in the country. The garden also features extensive man-made grottos, which are fun to explore.

Somerdale: Life Down the Factory – Chocolate Man and Boy Later in the Summer, David Noble will talk about work at the chocolate factory at Somerdale, where David spent 41 years working for Fry's, then to become Cadburys.

Everyone is welcome at the history group's talks and visits. It is not necessary to be a member and there is no charge. For further information contact:

Mike Gates, Secretary Bitton Parish History Group.

Mg122@btinternet.com 0117 9328777

<http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk>

THREE CHURCHES LENTEN PILGRIMAGE



Sunday 20th March 2022

08.30 Meet at St. Mary's Bitton for light refreshments
Prayer send out 9.00am

09.30 leave Bitton Railway Station (meet at front entrance)

10.30 arrive at St. Barnabas Church for
Climate Sunday Service and Bring Your Own Lunch
(Drinks provided)

13.00 'upward and onward' to St Anne's Syston
Tea and Cake celebration - provided

You will need to wear stout shoes or boots as there are some uneven steps and a stile or two!

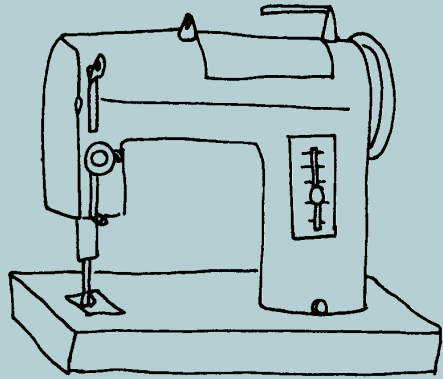
All covid precautions will be observed.

All welcome at any point of our journey i.e. walk, service or just a cuppa but please advise one of us if you hope to come in order that we can cater appropriately

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Email: nicola.eaton3@gmail.com

Sally Sibley Tel: 07799416142
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Tea and coffee are provided, bring your lunch, and sewing machine.

I will bring the fabrics so you can take home samples of what you have done.”

Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to
our next meeting on
Monday 21st March

in

St Mary's Church, Church Road

Doors open 6pm

postponed AGM starts at 6.15pm

Meeting starts at 6.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

James Cross

Head Gardener at the Bishop's Palace, Wells

and the title of his illustrated talk is

**The History and Development of
the Bishop's Palace Garden**

This stunning tranquil garden of 14 acres, hidden within the ancient ramparts and protected by a moat, can be found in the heart of medieval Wells.

There is evidence that gardens existed here even before Bishop Jocelyn began work on building the Palace c.1220. Over the years the gardens have changed as successive bishops have added their legacy and today these gardens have Grade II listed Garden status due to their special historic nature. In 2016, the gardens were acknowledged by the Royal Horticultural Society, as "outstanding with exceptionally high standards of planting and design" – a great achievement for James Cross, out speaker and his team.

We look forward to meeting James and discovering more about the development of this historic garden, and this talk forms an introduction to our visit to the garden on Thursday 15 September

For more information
contact Bridget at b.hetzel@btinternet.com
or just come along to the meeting



Flicks in the Sticks

Bridget writes:

Dear All

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Is now the right time?

We are thinking of having a **Flicks in the Sticks** film night in late March or early April to celebrate the end of Covid restrictions and to enjoy each other's company as well as a good film.

It would be held in the Church Hall on a Friday night as usual, with a licenced bar and choc ices in the interval - just reminding you, it has been so long!

Our dilemma is that we need at least 40 people to come to cover our costs.

So we thought it would be a good idea, if we asked you if you would be interested in coming.

Are you ready to sit with friends in the hall to watch a film?

Please can you email b.hetzel@btinternet.com and let us know if you would come.

ST MARY'S CHURCH DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

Plans for next phase are submitted



Plans have now been submitted for approval to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which advises the Bishop on the approval of applications to change the interior of the church.

As the detail was worked through, some changes were made to the original plans, but the key aspects remain.

The application now seeks approval for the following:

- The cleaning and repair of walls and windows in the nave (the main part of the church) and the chapel.
- The removal of all the remaining fixed pews. Twenty of these will be retained, but they will have two decorated ends and be mobile, so that they can be moved as needed.

They will also be altered to make them more comfortable with padded seating. (details overleaf). The pews will hold 100 people. When further seating is required this will be provided by stackable chairs.

- A new stone floor in the nave, porch and chapel with underfloor heating. Some of the existing floor memorials may also be kept. The platform under the font will be removed as will the stone steps of the pulpit, creating a level surface throughout. There will be a ramp down to this level from the front entrance. The floor will be 160mm (just over 6 inches) higher than the existing floor. It will have underfloor heating, which, in the future can be attached to a heat pump.



The Chancel was not included in previous plans

Focal Point, March 2022

- The floor of the chancel will also be raised, but then replaced at a slightly higher level so that it is level with the remainder of the nave and provide step free access . The steps of the sanctuary will be replaced with a new stone one that removes the large drop on one side. Choir seating will be returned to the chancel, from where it was removed in the 1950s. The seating will be used to hide the chancel heating. The choir fronts (already mobile) can be moved here or elsewhere as required.



- To improve hospitality three new mobile serveries will be built that should be similar to the existing kitchenette in appearance . They can be used as welcome desks or for the serving of drinks and refreshments. They will store glasses and crockery.
- The panelling to which the existing pews are attached will be extended to the east end of the nave. They will provide conduits for wiring and enclose booster heaters that will still be required when the weather is cold.
- Finally, the pulpit, which has been through a number of changes in its life will be rehoused in a wooden stand, and the plywood door to the steps to the old rood will be replaced by a new glass one, enabling visitors to see up the steps and reveal part of the church’s medieval design.

There are therefore some significant additions to the original plans in this phase and we await the DAC’s response. Meanwhile planning and fundraising continue for the project that aims to make the church a place both for worship and a centre for the whole community.



How to Support the St Mary's Church Development Appeal

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

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.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
DEVELOPMENT APPEAL

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ST MARY'S MOUSE FEST

from 10.30 am to 5 o'clock on
Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th
March

Come and see the amazing
displays of

LIFE IN BITTON

on show at St Mary's Church



The Carol Singing Mice
The Bell Ringing Mice
The Wedding Mice
The History Society Mice
Janet Ivens' Knitting Group Mice
The Fête Mice
The Gardening Club Mice
The Music Group Mice
all kept in order by our very own
Lollipop Mouse

Tea and cake will be available and
you will have the chance to buy a mouse
Entrance is free – donations will be welcome

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News from Bitton WI

After a short interval we are back to give you news from our monthly WI meeting. This month's offering will be short as I've literally just taken on the task of writing the articles and am having to recall from memory what happened at our meeting held today, Monday 14 February.

I have only been a WI member for only a few months, but I'm enjoying it so far and would thoroughly recommend women coming along to our meetings whatever age you are. We are a great bunch and I found everyone most welcoming – the tea and cake is a bonus too!

Our meeting commenced at 2 pm when Jean, our President, welcomed us all and Roz read the minutes of the last meeting held in January 2022. Jean advised members that there will be lots of events happening throughout the coming months. WI members are invited along to various outings to include a day trip to Chavenage House, where many TV and Film productions had been filmed and Cirencester, as well as a visit by coach to RHS Malvern Show. A tea party for our members is being planned in the summer and we all await further details with interest. Jean also outlined the proposal to move venue from Bitton Church Hall to the Community Building at Redfield Edge in Oldand. There were pros and cons to staying or moving which she also mentioned. All members were asked to vote on which venue they preferred and the result of this vote will be emailed to us all very soon.

Unfortunately, our Speaker for the meeting was unavailable this month so it was agreed to fill our afternoon with a game of Linkee. The rules explained, and after a trial run, we all joined teams to work out just what the links were. Four questions with four answers to make a link. Some links were easy, some just puzzled us as to how we arrived at the link and others completely passed us by, but along the way we had much laughter and enjoyment. A hotly contested head to head came about when two teams needed just the letter "N" to win. Roz's team pipped the Institute Rebels Team to the post



Focal Point, March 2022

to win the grand prize of a box of chocolates which was shared amongst the members present. I'm told the Institute Rebels Team felt they were robbed, but they still enjoyed the chocolates whilst promising to win next time around!

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 14th March at 2 pm. Venue to be advised following our vote today.

This month's recipe on the next page is a favourite of mine and is a great way to use up those over-ripe bananas.

Karen Davidson

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Choc Chip and Banana Loaf

Ingredients

100 g butter, room temperature

3 small ripe bananas

1 tbsp. lemon juice

150 g caster sugar

2 eggs

250 g self-raising flour

1 tsp. baking powder

150 g milk chocolate, diced

Method

Preheat the oven to 160°C/gas mark 3. Grease a 900 g loaf tin and line the two long sides and base with greaseproof paper.

Peel the bananas and mash with the lemon juice.

Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl. Add the eggs, bananas, flour and baking powder and mix until a smooth dropping consistency.

Spoon a third of the mixture into the tin and sprinkle with a third of the chocolate. Repeat the layers then finish with the remaining banana mixture. Smooth the top level. Reserve the last third of the chocolate for after the bake

Bake for 1 – 1 ¼ hours or until well risen, the top should be golden and cracked and a skewer should come out clean when inserted into the centre of the loaf.

Leave to cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then loosen the edges and turn out on to a wire rack. Sprinkle with the remaining chocolate and leave to cool.

Peel off the greaseproof paper and cut into slices. Enjoy!

Recipe from "The Women's Institute. Chocolate Success" by Sara Lewis. (London: Simon & Schuster, 1988)

The March Quiz

This months quiz is on Space, I've given the first letter of each word and the word lengths

No. Clue

1. Collection of celestial bodies orbiting the sun (SS 5,6)
2. Star that suddenly increases in brightness as it explodes (S 9)
3. Planet circled by broad flat rings (S 6)
4. A fast rotating neutron star that emits regular pulses of radio waves (P 6)
5. System of millions of stars held together by gravity (G 6)
6. Large star of high luminosity and low surface temperature (RG 3,5)
7. A belt of these are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter (A 7)
8. This natural satellite of Earth is visible at night by reflecting light from the sun (M 4)
9. Group of stars making a pattern in the night sky (C 13)
10. Celestial object made from ice and dust, often seen from Earth with a 'Tail' (C 5)
11. Massive, remote object emitting exceptionally large amounts of energy (Q 6)
12. A small planet like object, too small to be classed as a planet (DP 5,6)
13. Cloud of gas and dust sometimes visible in the night sky as a bright patch (N 6)
14. Non-visible material which is postulated to exist in space (DM 4,6)
15. The hottest planet in our solar system, with a surface temperature of 462 degrees C (V 5)
16. This moon of Neptune orbits in a backward direction to every other observed orbiting body (T 6)
17. The only British satellite to be launched by a British rocket (TBA 3,5,5)
18. The galaxy which is home to us (MW 5,3)
19. The closest galaxy to ours, about 2.5 million light years away (AG 9,6)
20. First picture of one was released in 2019, it is 3 million times the size of Earth and 310 million trillion miles away (BH 5,4)

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 March.

February's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on Roman gods and goddesses:

The correct answers are:

1. Ceres; 2. Trivia; 3. Aurora; 4. Vulcan; 5. Flora; 6. Diana; 7. Vesta; 8. Jupiter; 9. Venus; 10. Cupid; 11. Mercury; 12. Luna; 13. Neptune; 14. Saturn; 15. Proserpina; 16. Pluto; 17. Victoria; 18. Mars; 19. Minerva; 20. Bacchus.

Correct answers were received from:

Jan & Diane; Mary Younie; Jon & Pam Booth; Jon & Pam Heyes; Ros & Charles Knight; Sue & Rod; Nethercote; Alan & Sue Murtagh; Terry Matthews.

This month's prize goes to:

Pam & Jon Heyes.

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The last word



Dare we believe it? Is the pandemic really over or are we just in a lull? We have largely discarded wearing masks, services are taking place regularly in church once again. It all seems such a long way from the position 3 months ago as the Omicron variance hit. More than that as this edition explains, we have started making plans for the future. In the immediate future the church, Gardening Club and the Parish History Group have planned talks and events that are detailed elsewhere in this edition. There is even a question of whether the time is right to resume *Flicks in the Sticks*.

In the longer term the church has put forward its proposals for future reordering of the inside of the church aimed at preserving and improving the fabric of the church and to make it open to all as a centre for community activity.

Change is rarely easy and getting ourselves back to a more normal way of life may in itself seem daunting, but (notwithstanding events in other parts of Europe) it seems likely to be more of return to the ways things were as people are keen to loosen the restriction of recent times. So, whatever the pace, let us at least hope that these plans can now come to fruition.

Jim Heavens, Editor



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Focal Point, March 2018

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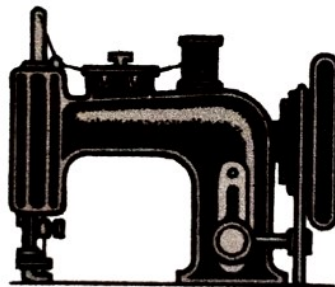
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