

Focal Point

May 2022

**Ellacombe 200
Exhibition**

*Graham Smith
1911*



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

May 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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please contact Roger Tilley
rogerjohntilley@gmail.com

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

jimheavens@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the June
magazine is:*

Monday 23 May 2022

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*Cover photo - Drawing of Canon
Ellacombe by C. Graham Smith,
provided by his great grandson, Gilbert
Ellacombe.*

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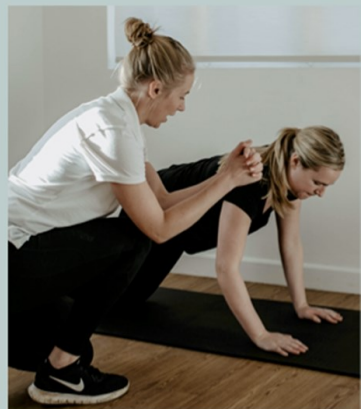
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Westerly Winds
Presents:

A Platinum Playlist



A celebration of music royalty

With special guests:
Jenny Harris & Natalie Morton
Rose Tangye
The Magpie Singers

St. Mary's Church, Bitton
Saturday 14th May 7.30 pm
£6.50 / £5.50

Tickets sold via [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search for: Westerly Winds A Platinum Playlist)
Or email: westerlywindssh@gmail.com for further information

Proceeds to be split between St. Mary's and charities supporting victims of the conflict in Ukraine





UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel



Services for May 2022

Sunday services are at 3pm

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday 1st | Service led by Ben Searle |
| Sunday 8th | Service led by Richard Humphrey |
| Sunday 15th | Service led by Norman Parfrey |
| Sunday 22nd | Service led by Margaret White |
| Sunday 29th | Service led by Michelle Bates |

**In addition, there will be a coffee afternoon
on the 24th**

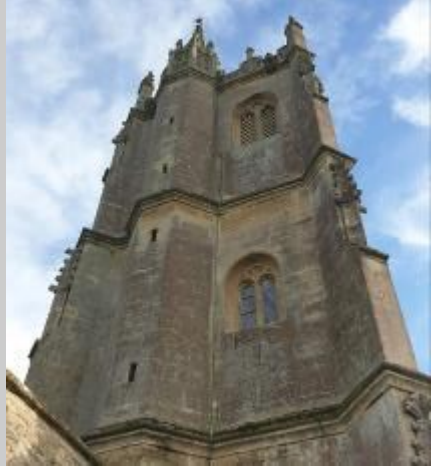


- Churches & Services -



**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

Churchwarden:

Pete Midgley
30 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge
0117 932 6898

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

Services for May 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 provided online .

More details on our website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

Sunday, 1 May

Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 8 May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Family service with the Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels.



Sunday, 15 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday, 22 May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Café Church

Thursday, 26 May

Ascension Day

9.30am Celtic Communion

followed by coffee, tea and cake

Sunday 29 May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Ascension

10.30 Benefice Communion Service at

St Barnabas, Warmley

NO SERVICE AT BITTON

Advance notice for June

Sunday 5 June

10.30

Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee followed by a Toast to Her Majesty

St Mary's Matters

Easter is a wonderful time in the church calendar, and I think this year was especially so. The celebration of Jesus' resurrection combined with the appearance of spring flowers and tree blossom, along with the lengthening days and warmer weather, always bring a sense of hope. The fact that we were able to reintroduce the Palm Sunday parade through the village as well as worship without restriction on Easter Day added to the experience. It was lovely to welcome a good number of adults and children to the Easter communion service and enjoy the Easter egg hunt afterwards.



Pete Midgley

Another positive is that we have continued to have the Easter garden outside the church so that it can be enjoyed by all those who pass through the churchyard.

The celebration of hope has of course been in contrast to the distress of what has been happening in Ukraine. The Easter message of hope follows on, of course from the suffering of the crucifixion on Good Friday. May we continue to pray for a swift end to this conflict and that hope will eventually triumph over evil as it did on that first Easter day.

A while ago we welcomed Sister Teresa to tell us about the work they do. Following that visit it has been agreed that we will collect non-perishable food and toiletries on the first Sunday of each month and these will be collected and taken to the Sisters during the week following.

As from Easter day the church will now be being opened during the day for visitors. Openers will be asked to make sure the doors are unlocked between the hours of 10.00am and 5.00pm. You are welcome to come in and enjoy the peace of the building or for quiet prayer. As always everyone is welcome to any of our services.



Barbara Merritt standing in front of the Easter Garden, which she created and placed at the door of St Mary's Church. The garden has traditionally been placed inside the church, but having placed it outside during Covid restrictions last year and the favourable comments received, it was decided to continue with the new location this Easter.

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Tuesday 3 May

7.30 pm on Zoom

Saturday 21 May

9.00am Prayer breakfast at Syston Church Hall

News from Upton Cheyney URC

Stuart Turner



Readers of Focal Point will have enjoyed the regular news letter by Stuart Turner about events at Upton Cheyney Chapel. Sadly, Stuart died in March after a period of illness.

Muriel Williams has provided the following for this month's news:

It is with sadness in our hearts that we have to record the death of Stuart Turner, our friend, church member and Elder. His association with the chapel began as a result of a conversation with several villagers at Christmas time 2010 regretting the scheduled closure in May 2011 through shortage of members, supporters and deteriorating buildings. It was suggested to Stuart that perhaps he could do something about it. He took up the challenge and an informal meeting with three members of the congregation was held at his house, when he offered his help if they would support him. This was agreed and he made a quick start by travelling to the URC Synod Office in Taunton with a request to rescind the closure decision and the promise to encourage local support and renovate the church buildings.

Focal Point, May 2022

After discussion, approval was granted and planning started. Under Stuart's guidance much has been accomplished, including alterations to comply with disabled access regulations, repair work, and the Ordination and Induction of a new Minister by the South Western URC Moderator attended by a large congregation in the tithe barn at Manor Farm. Rev Meryl White and her husband were a great help from 2012 to 2018.

Despite failing health, Stuart carried on with his smile and unstinting hours on the project, which inspired us all, and we count it a privilege to have known such a kind, generous, cheerful and courageous gentleman working to maintain the Christian faith and this small church. It is a mark of his popularity that there were so many friends and former work colleagues from all over the country wishing to attend his funeral that the chapel could not accommodate them, and we are grateful to St Mary's for welcoming everyone in their spacious building.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Adrienne, Emma, Gareth and their families in their sad loss.



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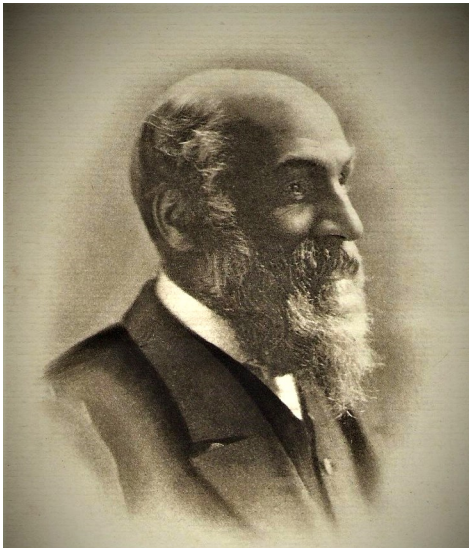
07881 530600
absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Continued overleaf

Lay Minister's Letter—Ken Gibson

THE FASCINATION OF HISTORY

Whether its 40 years on from the Falklands or looking back over the Queen's reign with 70 year Platinum Celebrations, remembering past events is always fascinating. And the further back you go the more skill is needed to be sure what happened.



**Rev Canon Henry
Nicholson Ellacombe
1822-1916**

200 years ago

In 1822 a son was born at Bitton Vicarage to the wife of Henry Thomas Ellacombe. The baby was named Henry Nicholson Ellacombe and in 1850, following in his father's footsteps, he too became Vicar of Bitton. There will be an exhibition to mark the bicentenary of his birth displayed in St Mary's from 21 May and through the summer.

Much evidence of what he achieved has been uncovered including records held in the Bristol Archive Office, replicas of which will be on show. And if any further evidence of his existence is needed, then we can view the memorial tablet in the Church.

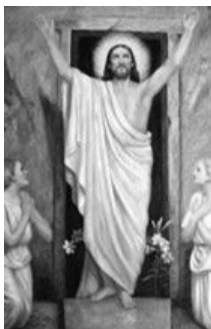
1000 years ago

With a building, as opposed to a person, there is great scope for dating it by examining building materials and styles and there is no doubt that for more than a 1000 years St Mary's has been a place of worship at the centre of the village. Indeed the discovery of some Roman bricks makes it probable that there was a building on the present site 1600 years ago!



St Mary's in the eighteenth century

2000 years ago

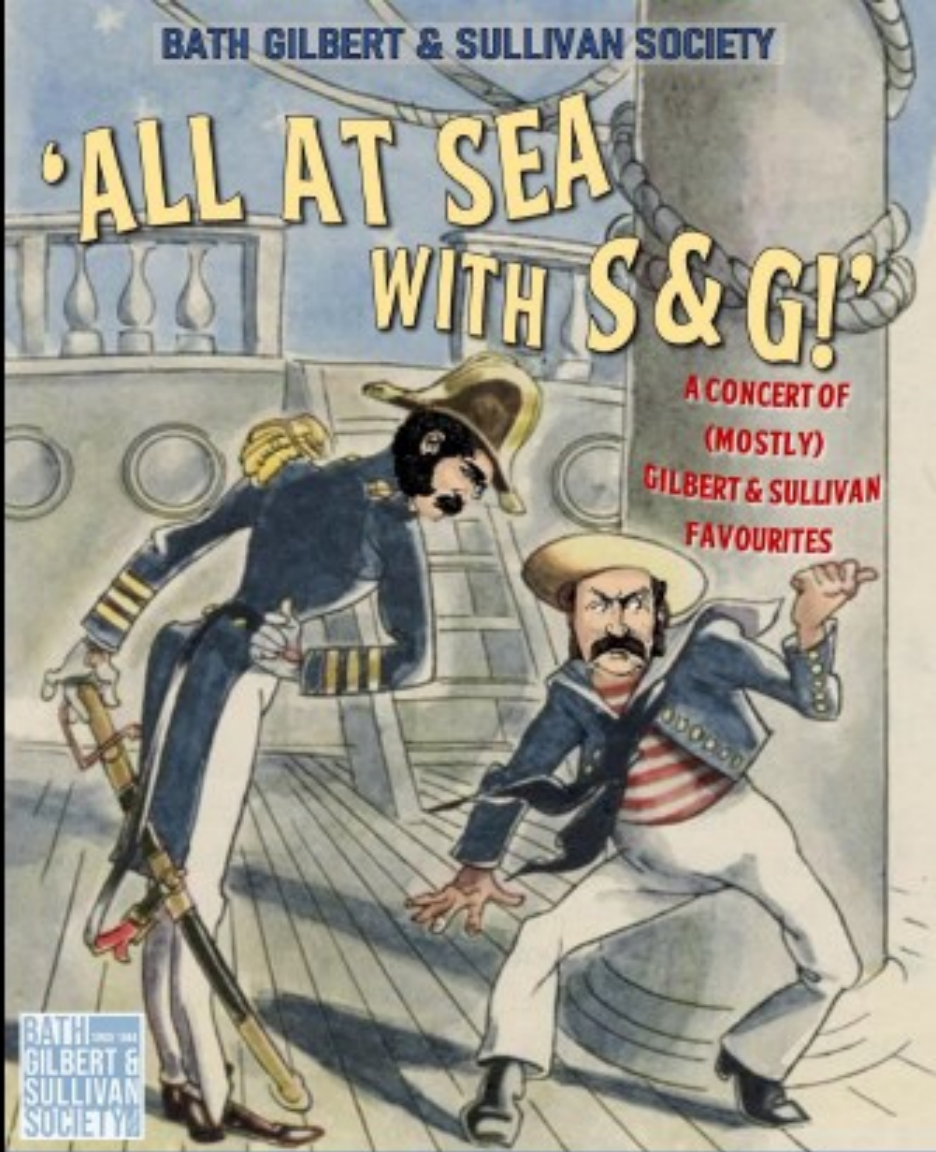


In the middle of April we looked back even further as we remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus. Where do we find the evidence for these events? References to Jesus can be found in the first century history of Josephus but mainly our sources are the accounts written a generation or so after Jesus rose again and now contained in the collection of writings gathered together in the Bible.

The four gospel writers each give their account and in the Acts of the Apostles we read how Jesus' followers spread the good news that Jesus' death was not the end but he lived again. It was not popular news with the authorities and for spreading the message many disciples were imprisoned and some, like Stephen, were killed. The fact that they were willing to be persecuted is compelling evidence that these eyewitnesses were absolutely sure that Jesus was alive.

Is history important?

The study of history is full of interest and helps us understand how we have got to where we are in 2022. But for followers of Jesus what happened at the first Easter is more than that – it is life changing news. Jesus' message that there is life after death is not just for himself but is to be shared by every person who accepts Jesus' invitation to make him part of life. Interested? Do come along to St Mary's, St Barnabas or St Anne's and join us as we explore and find out more.



BATH GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

'ALL AT SEA WITH S & G!'

**A CONCERT OF
(MOSTLY)
GILBERT & SULLIVAN
FAVOURITES**

BATH GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

SAT 25 JUNE AT 2.30 PM | ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON

Tickets: £10 (incl. Tea & Cake) Contact JENNY HARRIS on 07970 325927
or email djacharris@hotmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting

There was swift business at this year's Annual Parish Meeting on 4 April, which was followed by a short PCC Business Meeting.

Pete Midgley was elected as church warden for a further year and was thanked by the Vicar for his work in 2021-22. After completing her 6 year term as Churchwarden, Jacqui Harris is now standing down from the role. She was thanked for all her hard work and humour in this role. This leaves a vacancy, and the PCC will continue to seek another churchwarden.

The current electoral roll now stands at 69. One more person wishes to be added so his name will be forwarded to the Electoral roll secretary, Carole Shaw. Reports were also received from the various PCC committees on their work during the year, including the annual accounts which have already been audited.

Jim Heavens and Jacqui Harris remain as representatives on the Deanery Synod for a further year. The PCC also sought to return to the three year rolling PCC membership arrangements which has been upset by the pandemic. Only two new members had been nominated out of a total of 3 vacancies and Jane Lings and Anne Carrington will now be serving for a 3 year period. There remains one vacancy. John Bennetts was re-elected as Treasurer and Alison Wride as secretary.

PCC Meeting

In the following short PCC meeting, it was agreed to set up a regular food collection in Church for donations to the Community of Sisters of the Church, in Bristol (further details on page 22). A notice will be put in Focal Point specifying which items are most required and when to bring them into Church, i.e. 1st Sunday Communion Service.

Focal Point, May 2022

Jim Heavens raised the issue of nesting Peregrine Falcons. The BVRA had suggested that we might investigate the possibility of supporting their nesting engaging local experts. Concern was raised about access and maintenance issues and the mess around the tower. While there would not be any attempt to dissuade the birds from nesting more consideration and advice was required.

Further meetings

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 23 March 2023. Dates for future PCC meetings are as follows:

30th May 2022

7th November 2022

18th July 2022

6th February 2023

12th September 2022

27th March 2023 APCCM

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 **2122.**

0117 932

Rates from £12.50 per hour.

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

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14 May
7.30pm

Westerly Winds

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

Sunday 22 May

Canon Ellacombe 200 Exhibition

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

Open view 22 May-4 September

Thursday to Sunday
2-5 June

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

BVRA Jubilee Picnic in the Park

Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's

Sunday 19 June

Bitton Open Gardens

Run by the Gardening Club

Saturday 25 June at 2.30pm

All at Sea with G&S

Concert by the Bath Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Tickets £10 including tea and cake

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

New venture between St Mary's and the Sisters of the Church

Over a number of years Harvest and Christmas gifts to St Mary's have been taken into St Paul's in the middle of Bristol in support of this project originally by the late Ted Claxton and recently by Helen Pugsley who works at the project each week as an Associate Volunteer.

In March Sister Teresa spoke at our family service and told us how they distribute gifts not just at festivals but all the year round. The needs have increased over the years and continue to grow.

In April the PCC agreed to provide a monthly opportunity for us to give to the project the details of which are set out in the box below.



Sister Teresa at St Mary's in April

THE SISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE CHURCH LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY

Gifts may be left in St Mary's Church Porch between 10.15 and 11.45 on the First Sunday of each month and will be delivered to the Sisters on the following Wednesday.. Non-perishable food and toiletries will be welcome and the Sisters Top Ten requests are:

Tinned fruit	Long-life milk	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Shower gel	Toothpaste	Deodorant	Shaving gel
	Sanitary towels	Nappies	

Any other non-perishable gifts will be gratefully received



THE ELLACOMBE 200



ELLACOMBE 200

*Celebrating the life and times of Rev Canon Henry Nicholson Ellacombe,
Vicar of Bitton, Gardener, Writer and Traveller 1822-1916*

**BITTON.
BAZAAR.**

A SALE OF WOODS AND
ORNAMENTAL WORK
GARDENERS AND ALL THE
VICARAGE GARDENS,
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,
4th and 5th September 2022

The Proceeds will be given to the PFDU for a WFP (Woods for People Development) and the Wildlife Trust.

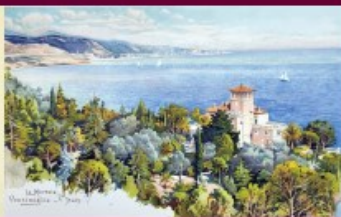
Arrangements for viewing of this Bazaar, to which there will be Refreshment and Refreshments, will be made from 10.30.

A BAZAR WILL BE HELD AT 10.30 AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FROM 10.30.



**TEN POUNDS
REWARD.**

STOLEN
On MONDAY NIGHT or TUESDAY
MORNING last, from a FOLD
SITUATED at BITTON,
**A FAT
EWE SHEEP,**
The Property of Mr. Alfred Sperris.



ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON
22 May—4 September 2022



Christian Aid Week 15-21 May

What is Christian Aid doing about Ukraine?

It's one of the charities in the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and has already donated £1 million for trauma first aid kits and £1 million for urgently needed medical and pharmaceutical equipment in Ukraine. In addition they are working with partner organisations in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania to offer assistance to internally displaced people and to refugees.

Are they providing help just for Christians?

No! Christian Aid ALWAYS offers support to people of all faiths and none. They do not preach or try to convert; they offer practical help where it is needed.

Why isn't there anything about Ukraine on the Christian Aid week envelopes?

The Christian Aid week envelopes were prepared long before Russia invaded Ukraine and the envelopes are a reminder that Christian Aid does not just give emergency aid.

What else do they do?

They give ongoing support to the world's poorest people in twenty-nine countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. The year's envelopes focus on Zimbabwe where drought makes every day a struggle for survival.

Focal Point, May 2022

Christian Aid week runs from 15th to 21st May and, as last year, there's a range of ways in which to donate. Here are the details:

Envelopes – most will be collected but some will have a drop-in collection point for you to deliver your donation. The address will be on the envelope.

No cash? Don't worry – we now have a Bitton Christian Aid donation page:

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/bitton-st-mary-christian-aid-week-2022>.

Or use the QR code:



Lost your envelope? Your collector will have a spare – though we'd rather you had it ready for us when we call back.

Wondering how else you can help? We'd love to have some more collectors in the team. (And it's a great way to see people's gardens at a beautiful time of year.) If you could help please ring me on 0117 9324696.

Please give generously – and please take the time to increase your donation by filling in the gift aid form on the envelopes.

Nicola Bennetts

Scramble for the eggs



Covid stopped the Easter Bunny from visiting Bitton churchyard in 2020 and 2021, so it was a relief to welcome its return this Easter.

The search (which is only open to children—strict definitions are in force) took place after the morning service on Easter Sunday which attracted a large congregation. A sunny spring day added to the event and everyone managed to find some chocolate surprises.

Head Shave for Ukraine

How far would you go to raise money for Ukraine? Probably not to the same extreme as Sarah Craddock, who asked people to sponsor her to shave off her hair to raise money for the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

The deed was done at St Joseph's Home Cotham Hill Bristol by kind permission of Rev Mother Catherine, (Little Sister's of the Poor) an order dedicated to the Care of the Elderly. The shaver was Tracey, a carer at St Joseph's and fortunately a qualified hairdresser.

As Focal Point went to press Sarah had raised over £1100 for the appeal. Her *Just Giving* page (search *Sarah Craddock*) remains open until 14 May .



Going



Going



Gone—The new look!

What we leave behind

This month sees the opening of an exhibition in St Mary's celebrating the life of Henry Nicholson Ellacombe, Vicar of Bitton from 1850 until 1916. As his father was the incumbent curate at the time of his birth in 1822, he also holds the distinction of being the only vicar of Bitton who was born and died in the same vicarage.

What has made such an exhibition possible is the large amount of material that the two men left behind, most of which now sits in three archives at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, in the Bristol Record Office and the archives at the Guildhall in Bath - as well as other published material in their books and articles. They make for interesting and often surprising reading not least because both men had an eye to the world around them and retained items not only of interest about the local community, but also what seems to have amused them. One obsession was the compilation of scrapbooks.



**20 GUINEAS
REWARD.**

WHEREAS some evil disposed person or persons entered the Garden at the back of my House, late Last Night or Early this Morning, and broke down, tore up, and otherwise destroyed about Fifty Fruit Trees, also Two Hives of Bees with their Honey.

Whoever will give such information (whether an accomplice or not) as shall lead to the conviction of the offender or offenders, shall receive the above Reward on application to me,

JAMES DAVIS,
OLDLAND COMMON, BITTON.

DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF MAY, 1862.

W. MACK, PRINTER & STATIONER, 52, WINE STREET, BRISTOL.

Life in Bitton in the mid 19th century could be tough— though why Ellacombe thought it appropriate to retain such notice of vandalism is unclear.

The one compiled by the elder Ellacombe is a quite grand book with many interesting pictures including some watercolours depicting life in Bitton in the mid-nineteenth century. These pictures are very readily accessible through *Bath In Time*, a website created in conjunction with Bath Libraries. A second scrapbook, seeming largely to date from the time of the younger Ellacombe, is in the Bristol Record Office. Its contents have not been widely shared previously but provide a fascinating glimpse into the church and life in Bitton at the time.

Many of these are charming little insights into activities including many entertainments that took place in the “schoolroom” (the church hall) and the various fundraising activities such as fetes and fairs in the 1880s and 1890s. By contrast in the 1850s and 60s, life in Bitton often seems hard. There are battles between omnibus operators competing for trade; large rewards are offered for information about the theft of animals; and in the 1860s, Bitton, like the rest of the country was affected by cattle plague (now known as Rinderpest) which proved devastating to the health of cattle and to the finances of farmers. Yet the 1860s also sees the construction of a new railway line from Mangotsfield (and a junction with the line to Birmingham) to a new terminus in Bath, with a brand new Midland Railway station in Bitton itself. The opening of the line in 1869 was noted in the scrapbook through the retention of the first advertising poster, listing the departure times of trains with connections to many cities and towns in England, Wales and Scotland.



Henry Nicholson Ellacombe
1822-1916

Canon Ellacombe and his father
left behind a wealth of items in
scrapbooks and diaries

Focal Point, May 2022

The railway in the nineteenth century was at least as if not more transformative than electronic communications have been to a more recent generation. Ellacombe inherited from his father an established garden in the vicarage at Bitton, with a range of unusual plants that was to grow expeditiously as the century progressed and the railway and other technological changes enabled new plant discoveries in parts of the world previously explored by Europeans. Many of these new plants found their way to the vicarage garden, by way of the Botanic Gardens at Kew, but equally through the generosity of many of Ellacombe's horticultural finds and acquaintances.



Courtesy—Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Left—Ellacombe's favourite hotel at Piora in Switzerland—a place to which he returned many times

Right, facing page – a poster advertising a church bazaar in 1879

By the 1890s, Ellacombe had become something of a star in the gardening world. He was the author of a charming book about the significance of flowers in Shakespeare's plays and had a regular gardening column in a national newspaper and contributed articles to the growing number of horticultural magazines in an era that celebrated gardening as much as we do today. His citation award for the RHS Victoria Order of Merit was one item found in the Bristol scrapbook, a copy of which will be included.

The railway and improved communications also created the basis for the third part of the archive at Kew Gardens. Here can be found, a mass of blue postcards from Ellacombe to the directors of Kew about plants and horticultural information. The railways enabled a postal service in the early twentieth century that was better than anything available in more recent times. Postal collections and deliveries took place three or four

Focal Point, May 2022

times a day with Ellacombe's postcards arriving in London the day after they were sent and responded to. Also in Kew are the records noting plants sent to and from Ellacombe – one of the largest of all individual contributors.

The railway also meant that people with money (and Ellacombe had a private income of his own in addition to his stipend as vicar) could easily travel large distances in Europe opening up the continent for short trips for a few weeks at a time. For each of these trips, made from the 1870s to the early 1900s, Ellacombe kept a notebook – a diary- in which he recorded his exploits and collected pictures or photographs of what he saw. He wanted to see plants but he was equally interested in church buildings and architecture.

It seems that the Ellacombes kept many scrapbooks, which they showed to visitors, which suggest that many may have existed, and we cannot know what has been lost. What we have does enable us to have some insight into a life from what was purposefully stashed away or recorded.

The H N Ellacombe 200 Exhibition will be in St Mary's Church from 22 May until 4 September. Free entry, but a donation to church development is requested.



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News from Bitton WI

Our members met again for our April meeting in the Church Hall where our President welcomed us all with a very appropriate poem from Silversurfers, entitled The Truth About Women. Very funny, but oh so true – do look it up if you get a chance.

Lots of things to do and see for all members throughout the summer months. We are all especially looking forward to the WI Jubilee Garden Party to be held on 20th June where a competition will be held for the best Rose in a jam jar. There are still places available on the various outings, though a trip to Windsor has not had a lot of interest and could be cancelled, so if you are a member and would like to go on that one, please do get in touch.

Our speaker was Daphne Atkinson who went on to tell us about her mother's "*Life below Stairs*". Her mother was encouraged by Daphne to write down her memories of her life below stairs at Ickworth Manor in Suffolk.

Daphne gave a presentation on some of the history of Ickworth and told us about the many owners. Interestingly, the house belonged to John Hervey, the first Earl of Bristol, who had taken on the title though had no links with Bristol at all! The property was handed down through the generations until the 1930's when Daphne's mother worked for Frederick Hervey, the 4th Marquis of Bristol and his wife between 1934 and 1938.

Her mother knew when she left school that she would like to go into service and wrote to an agency asking them to find her employment. She was later interviewed by the Head Housekeeper and got the job. She was told to arrive at the train station and wait for her lift. A horse and cart arrived whereupon a bicycle was taken off and she was told to ride the 4 miles to Ickworth Manor. Her role of understairs maid was one of the

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lowest jobs in the house being paid around 11 shillings a week. She was however, treated really well but had to work very hard, getting up at 5am each morning to clean much of the below stairs accommodation. They ate a hearty breakfast before saying prayers with the lady of the house and continuing with cleaning the many rooms below stairs. One of the jobs she liked least was darning and mending the dusters, tablecloths and napkins.

Extra work was always created during the shooting season but it brought many other servants into the house and evening meals for staff were always fun. At Christmas a party was always held for the staff in the Rotunda on Boxing Day and staff would receive gifts of £2.10 shillings on Christmas Day.

One of the highlights of her time at Ickworth was when Prince George, Duke of Kent, stayed at the house. The other was that she met her husband and left employment when they married in 1938. Parts of the Manor are still occupied by the Hervey family, whilst others have been converted into a luxury hotel. The manor was passed to the National Trust in 1956.

Daphne was thanked by our Secretary who also acknowledged how lucky we are these days to have our many labour saving devices to help us with our daily chores.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 9th May at 2 pm in St. Mary's Church Hall. Our speaker will be Sandy Bateman with the Magic of Minack. If you are thinking of joining us, do please come along to our meeting, we'd love to see you.

This months recipe is one to practice for your Queen's Jubilee Celebrations which are just around the corner. Of course, it has to be Scones!

Karen Davidson



Queen's Jubilee Scones (WI Recipe)

Ingredients

200g self-raising flour
1/2 tsp Salt
50g Butter
50g Sugar (optional)
125ml Milk
1 Egg (optional)

For the filling

250ml Whipping Cream - whipped
Selection of Strawberries, Raspberries and Blueberries, about 200g

Method

1. Heat the oven to Gas 8 / 230C.
2. Sieve the flour and rub in the butter to make breadcrumbs.
3. Make a well in the centre and pour in the egg and sufficient milk to make a soft spongy dough.
4. On a floured surface knead the dough very lightly until it is just smooth.
5. Roll out 2cm thick and cut into rounds 5-6cms diameter.
6. Bake at the top of the oven until well risen and golden about 12 mins.
7. Cool on a wire tray and then split and fill with whipped cream, strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

For variety, this mixture may have 50g dried fruit (currants, sultanas etc) added. Brown scones may be made using all wholemeal or half white and half wholemeal flour. Cheese scones are a tasty savoury; use 50g grated cheese. Before they are put into the oven brush with egg or milk. Enjoy.

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The May Quiz

The theme of this month's quiz is **Musicals**.
The clues are all cryptic

No. Clue

1. Felines
2. Really Cruel
3. Unhappiness over the Channel
4. 2021 British Bake Off winner may have declared this at winning
5. Lads from Saint Helier
6. One more than a handful of digits
7. Mr Biden or Mr Stalin may have had a visually fabulous outer garment
8. Flower seller Eliza
9. Could be daughter of either King Henry 1, or a chef creating nightmares
10. Not specific thing leaves
11. Queen of Scots, burst balloon with small metal sticks
12. The bearded Lord of the Jungle
13. Red mill in France
14. Ghost at Madame Butterfly or La Boheme
15. Compass point, edge or boarder, tale
16. The, Series of 4 films from 1970's, film genre, reveal
17. Harmony 1970's TV advert, is she or isn't she wearing it?
18. Helps keep machinery running
19. All conversing re Mr Murray, Mr Oliver or Mr Cullum
20. Home to Bulls, Bears, and White Sox

*Entry form
and details
on next page,
together with
last month's
answers*

Name:

Contact:

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

April's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on chemical elements.

The correct answers are:

1. Hydrogen; 2. Helium; 3. Mercury; 4. Nitrogen; 5. Phosphorus;
6. Sulphur; 7. Zink; 8. Chlorine; 9. Calcium; 10. Scandium;
11. Cobalt; 12. Nickel; 13. Aluminium; 14. Copper; 15. Bromine;
16. Carbon; 17. Astatine; 18. Polonium; 19. Lead; 20. Iodine.

Correct answers were received from:

Pam & Jon Heyes
Alan & Sue
Sarah Craddock

This month's prize goes to:

Sarah Craddock

The last word



Two years ago our churches were shut at Easter for the first time in nearly 800 years as the Covid pandemic reached its height. How welcome then, an Easter Sunday without the need for masks or other restrictions—and a sunny, if chilly day with an Easter egg hunt in the churchyard. We all know that things are not quite normal, but how much better does it feel for us all.

Last year, under Covid conditions we managed to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Ellacombe chimes, installed by Henry Thomas Ellacombe. This year we hope to do celebrate a similar anniversary for his son with an exhibition of documents and images the two vicars accumulated. We hope the exhibition will be visited by many people, and that they will feel able to give generously to our fund raising for the development of St Mary's. *Jim Heavens*

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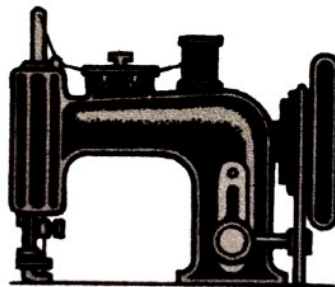
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