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celebrates
The Queen's
Platinum
Jubilee



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

July 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.

Printed by The Mitre Press, Unit 2 Fantasie
Buildings, Waters Road, BS15 8BE

To advertise in Focal Point
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*Deadline for the August
magazine is:*

Monday 20 July 2022

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*Cover photo - Village Post Box adorned
for the Platinum Jubilee*

Focal Point, July 2022

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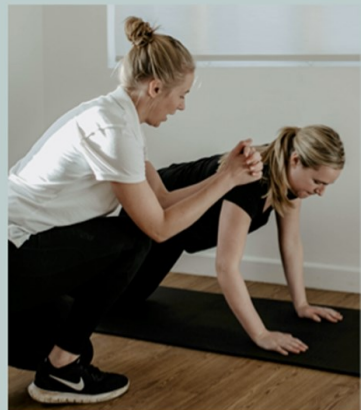
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Services for July 2022

Sunday services are at 3pm

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3rd | Service led by Janet Donnelly |
| Sunday 10th | Service led by Steve Britton |
| Sunday 17th | Service led by John Creech |
| Sunday 24th | Service led by Michelle Bates |
| Sunday 31st | Service led by Steve Britton |

**In addition there will be a coffee afternoon
on the 26th**

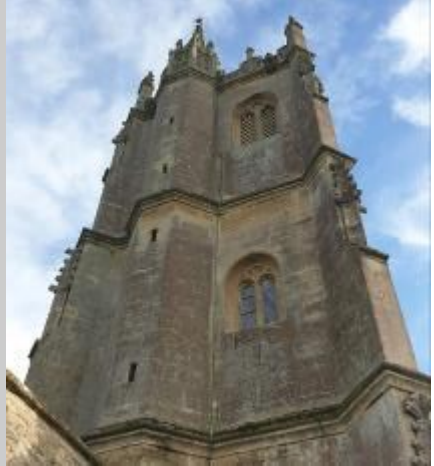


- Churches & Services -



**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

Simon Harris

Services for July 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, 3 July

Third Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 10 July

Fourth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Family service with the Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels followed by a Barbecue in aid of Scout Group Funds .



Sunday, 17 July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday, 24 July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



Thursday 28 July

Celtic Communion followed by coffee, tea and cakes

Sunday 31 July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Benefice Communion Service at St Anne's Syston
NO SERVICE AT BITTON

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

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Tuesday 5 July at 7.30 pm on Zoom

Saturday 16 July at St Mary's Church Hall

From the Register



Marriage—Saturday 4th June

Nicki Ann Carradine and Jason Mark Tomlin

St Mary's Matters

Worship at St Mary's began in June with a special service of thanksgiving for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also Pentecost Sunday, with the congregations from Warmley and Syston joining us for this special occasion. Ken put together an excellent service and Jeremy led the service and gave an inspiring talk. I'm sure it was no coincidence that the palace chose this weekend for the celebrations. Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the church, with the coming of the Holy Spirit supercharging the disciples and sending them out to spread the Christian gospel. The Holy Spirit should also inspire us to a life of service in Christ. It is no secret that the Queen's faith has been the cornerstone of her life of service and Jeremy expertly linked together these themes as he spoke to us. The service came to an end with a toast to the Queen with Prosecco!



Pete Midgley

On the theme of service I can remind you that we have started collecting contributions of food and hygiene products for the Sisters of the Church again. Contributions can be brought on the first Sunday of the month (and the first Sunday in June attracted a lot of very generous contributions) and left in the church porch. Helen Pugsley then very kindly collects and delivers them during the following week. Any contributions will be most welcome.

Hopefully you will be reading this in time for me to remind you there will, weather permitting, be a Songs of Praise event in the garden of the White Hart on Sunday 10th July from 4.30 till 6.00pm, with barbecue. Hopefully it will be a lovely sunny afternoon and we can enjoy a sing and a beer together.

Don't forget to visit the Ellacombe exhibition in church when you can and join us for Sunday worship!

Two more Table Tombs get a makeover



Over the past few years there has been some substantial work in the churchyard to repair and renovate some of the table or chest tombs. Bitton has an unusually large number of them, some of which are listed but which by the end of the last century had fallen into some disrepair.

Since she was churchwarden, some years ago, Ann Willis has been quietly raising funds and getting the necessary approvals for repairs to the chest tombs and altogether eight have been restored.

The latest two to receive the treatment are located close to the north wall of the nave, an area well away from the main paths. Essentially, a chest tomb is quite a simple construction, often with a brick built interior and four stone side and a lid, but they come in many different shapes and decorations. Such tombs were all the rage (for those who could afford them) in the 17th and 18th centuries and were the next best thing to a resting place in the church itself.



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Rev Richard Humphrey

A Brave New World

What does the world look like to you today, in the aftermath of a global pandemic? What have we learned, and what will we do differently? In many ways it seems that we have inherited more problems with the soaring cost of living, energy prices going off the scale and a bitter war in Eastern Europe. And of course many of the pre-pandemic problems such as refugees fleeing their homelands are still with us.

And yet we have just had an amazing celebration of the reign of one of the most amazing monarchs of all time, whose lifetime of service and integrity stands as an example to all those who exercise power and authority. We have too the many people who are opening their homes to Ukrainian refugees, and those who are working tirelessly to secure a future for a planet that we seem to be intent on destroying. As churches we are already thinking very hard about how to be Eco churches.

So as always we seem to have a world made up of the good, the bad and the ugly! But perhaps the answers to the future lie in the past through looking afresh at how and why our world was created. How spirituality and creation are inextricably linked. About how the modern concept of sustainability, of a world living in harmony, relate to biblical teaching. If we take a walk through Genesis we find that God blessed humanity and said, “be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Gen.1: v28). He also “took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Gen.2: v15). Perhaps much of the world has long forgotten that there is a world of difference between the idea of taking control in the word subdue and the



The bitter war in Ukraine has led to high energy prices and the prospect of food shortages pushing up prices. But people in Europe have opened their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

idea of nurturing in the word care, but I would guess that anyone who has ever had to really care for plants, crops, animals or other people will understand that both ideas are necessary for welfare and development.

The real point of these commands though lies in persuading nature to work for us rather than conquering it by force; land had to be worked, planted and irrigated, its natural resources harnessed for humanity to flourish. But since this command also applies to all living creatures, this is not a mandate for humanity to prosper at the expense of other species or peoples by destroying them or their habitats

And In the context to which this was written, the natural world presented real and immediate dangers and challenges -for humanity to flourish nature had to be subdued in the sense of being brought under control and regulated. Humanity and all living things, both great and small, were created at the same time for their mutual benefit – to be used but not abused – in many cases to develop a symbiotic relationship; dependent on each other for their well-being even as they evolved. And as we have seen, we mess with God’s plan or try to control nature at our peril!



“Being made in God’s image does not make us divine- it devolves onto us the responsibility of a caring rule for the whole of His natural world and its inhabitants.”

Shutterstock

And for the people of Israel their covenant relationship with God as the Creator of all things was inter-generational. Everywhere in the Old Testament you will find people celebrating God’s name and his blessings ‘through all generations’ or ‘to the next generation’, particularly in the psalms. Descriptions of the enjoyment and management of creation in all its majesty, mystery and fruitfulness are integral to much of this praise and thanksgiving. What we perhaps have forgotten is that much of this enjoyment arises from Israel’s obedience to God’s will when it came to looking after Creation. Unfortunately obedience is sometimes difficult, and we often don’t want to do it. But ultimately obedience benefits everyone as well as glorifying God’s gift of Creation. The prophets Hosea and Isaiah show us exactly how creation should work with images of the wolf and the lamb and the earth responding to the grain. “The earth shall answer the grain, the wine and the oil”. (Hos. 2: v22.), and “the wolf shall live with the lamb” (Is 11: v6) If through obedience we can work towards a world such as this then the result will be harmony for all creation- including us. Genesis tells us that God saw “everything He had made”, and “it was very good.” It is an entity of which mankind is a part, “essential to the design as a whole” but only as the “other parts of creation” are.

As God's tenants our relationship with His world must be one of integrity, nurturing and caring for every single thing, animal and person He has created, in a way that is sustainable into the future and works towards the wellbeing of each and every part of what He has made. Being made in God's image does not make us divine -it devolves onto us the responsibility of a caring rule for the whole of His natural world and its inhabitants.

So perhaps if we wish to go forward in to a brave new world we need to look back towards the old one.

Blessings

Richard

Bauckham, R. (2010) *The Bible and Ecology*, Darton, Longman and Todd (2010) ch 1, p15.

Bishop objects to removals to Rwanda



The Bishop of Bristol was one of 23 signatories to an open letter condemning the government's policy in sending asylum seekers to Rwanda. The letter signed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and all the bishops who sit in the House of Lords openly challenged the policy.

Archbishop Justin Welby tweeted that "To reduce dangerous journeys to the UK we need safe routes: The church will continue to advocate for them. But deportations – and the potential forced return of asylum seekers to their home countries – are immoral and shame us as a nation."

Dates for your Diary

Until 4 September

Canon Ellacombe 200 Exhibition

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

Open daily

Sunday 10 July at 4pm

Songs of Praise in the White Hart Garden *with Oldland Brass and St Mary's Minstrels*

Saturday 3 September

Annual Church Fête

1.30pm—5.30pm

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).

Election of New Churchwarden

An extra Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 6 June to elect Simon Harris as a new churchwarden. Simon replaces Jacqui Harris (not related) who ended her term as churchwarden after six years in the post.

Simon was raised in the North West of England. He joined the Royal Air Force at 16 years of age and started 3 years of training as an RAF Technician apprentice. He then took up his first tour on Victor tankers. Three years later, he was commissioned and received his professional



Simon Harris

training as an Engineer Officer and has since served on numerous aircraft types from Hercules and VC 10 to Phantom, Jaguar, Harrier, Tornado and most recently on the Eurofighter Typhoon.

He attended the Joint Staff Course in 2001 where he gained an MA in International Relations and War Studies. He was chosen to be the first Typhoon OC Engineering Wing at RAF Coningsby in 2006, responsible for

Focal Point, July 2022

Typhoon introduction to RAF Service as well as the Fast Jet Weapon Evaluation Unit and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. He was then posted to MOD in Whitehall from 2009 to consolidate the continuing Typhoon in-service support with the growing Export demand. He was later selected as the Chief of Staff of a dedicated Typhoon Export team, seconded from MoD to the Trade Department, charged with Typhoon exports.

Married to Melanie at St Marys, he lives in Bath. Both his daughters were baptised at the church.

Air Commodore Harris retired from the Service in 2018; he is a Chartered Aeronautical Engineer and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. His interests centre on the outdoors, country walks with the dog, rugby, sailing and skiing. He has always enjoyed fixing, restoring and improving, in his own time as well as professionally. Despite numerous postings around the UK and overseas, St Marys has always felt like his spiritual home

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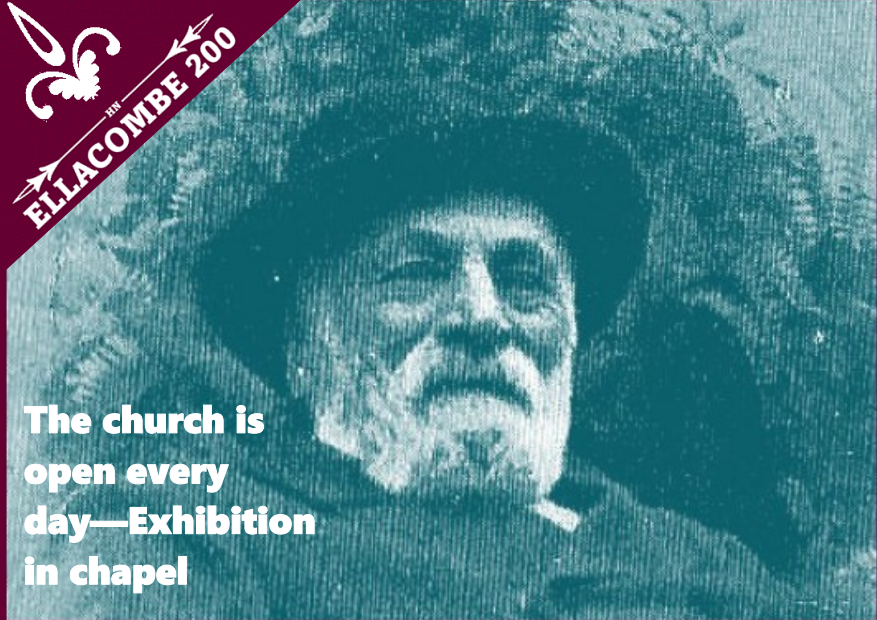
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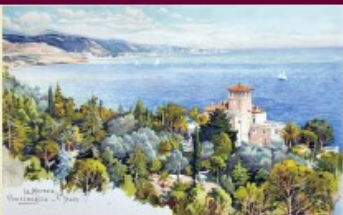
ELLACOMBE 200

*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 BOOKS, AND
ORNAMENTAL WORK
and other articles will be held in the
VICARAGE GARDENS,
on
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,
May 2nd & 3rd respectively, 1916.
The Proceeds will go to the BITTON and a NEAR VICARAGE
of St. Mary's Church.
Admission on Friday of 10th October, 10.00. From 10.
Members of St. Mary's Church, 10.00. From 10.
A BAZAR WILL BE HELD AT BITTON, AND RECEPTIONS WILL



**TEN POUNDS
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MORNING last, from a Field
SITUATED at BITTON,
**A FAT
EWE SHEEP,**
The Property of Mr. Alfred Sperrin.



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

Bitton celebrates Platinum Jubilee



Bitton put the flags out (literally) to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a four day bank holiday weekend at the beginning of June.

Many people tuned in to the national broadcast events and not least the Queen's appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, even if she was too frail to attend other celebrations in her honour. Those who were particularly committed may even have stayed the whole course and watched a very long and sometimes bizarre celebratory procession.

In Bitton, the jubilee was marked by a special event on the Poundfield – bring a picnic organised by the Bitton Village Residents Association entertained by a succession of local bands and musicians. Spirits were only partly dampened by the rain which poured down midway through the afternoon.

A special Jubilee service was held on Sunday 5 June at St Mary's with a Toast to Her Majesty after the service. The lessons were read by the



Picnic with music on the Poundfield



The flags were out in Aubrey Meads

Picture by Sarah Craddock

Chairman of the Bitton Parish Council, Matt Bridge and the Chair of the BVRA, Anna Skuse.

A final event took place in Willsbridge on the Sunday afternoon with a family day of fun.

It was weekend to remember, and a Platinum Jubilee is an event that none of us are likely to see again.



After the special jubilee service, a toast was made to Her Majesty

... and farewell to Sharon Gleed



Photograph—Rev Jeremy Andrew

Playing her trumpet at the Jubilee Service, was Sharon Gleed. Sharon has been a part of the benefice ministry team for much of the past year as part of her final year's training for ordained ministry with Sarum Theological college, Salisbury.

Sharon's visit to St Mary's was her last, at least for the immediate future, as she takes up a position as curate in a benefice in Swindon. She goes with good wishes for the future.

Help spruce up the churchyard —volunteers wanted



Can you help to improve the look and tidiness of the churchyard?

Due to the pandemic, it hasn't had a good couple of years, but the churchyard is a lovely peaceful area that enhances the beauty of the church in the centre of our village. It is used by many and is also home to a wide variety of trees, some of which were planted in the 1970s and are juts reaching maturity .

Keeping our churchyard tidy and clear is a major task and it has undoubtedly suffered a little during the pandemic but now a joint church and BVRA initiative, organised by Anna Skuse is planned to spruce it up. Can you help?

Work is planned on the following dates:

Sunday 17th July

Saturday July 23rd

Tuesday 26th July.

Please gather at the churchyard at midday. Please bring secateurs, loppers, spades and forks and wheelbarrows. Work will continue for a few hours but if you can only manage an hour or so, that's fine.

Everyone is welcome - even if you can't help, moral support will be appreciated!

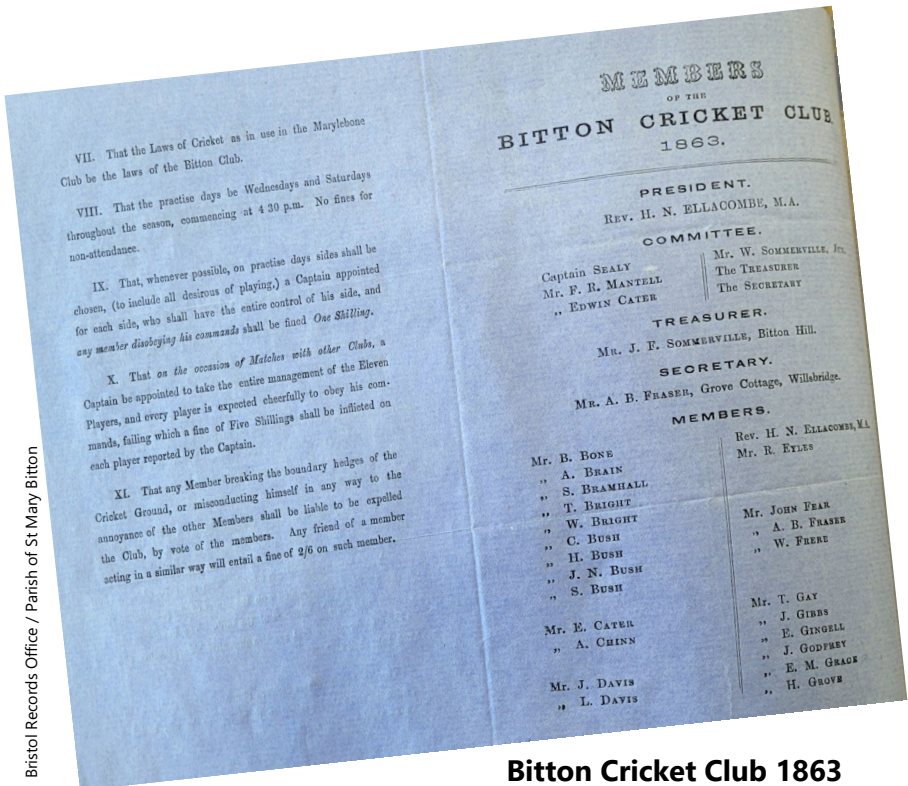


Ellacombe— the cricketer



The discoveries for the Ellacombe 200 exhibition in St Mary's have revealed how far H N Ellacombe seems to have influenced the social life of the village. The Canon's interest in cricket is certainly not an aspect that was previously known, but Bitton cricket club was founded within a year of his appointment and twelve years later he was the club's president.

We know this from a 1863 membership card pasted in Ellacombe's



Bristol Records Office / Parish of St Mary Bitton

Bitton Cricket Club 1863

scrapbook in the Bristol Records Office. The club had a large membership of 68 and seems to have attracted most of the leading and wealthy men of the area. An annual membership fee of five shillings would probably have been beyond the means of most working men in Bitton at the time, but the club rules provided for a waiver of fees depending on circumstance (so no doubt any man with a natural ability was recruited.)

The club accepted the laws of cricket, which were still very much in development. In 1863, overarm bowling had not yet been authorised and overs consisted of only 4 deliveries. The game certainly did not require the athleticism of today, so it is likely that even at an age of 41, in 1863, Ellacombe could well have turned out for games himself.

Bitton's cricket club was formed only a few years after another local club at Mangotsfield was founded by Dr Henry Mills Grace father of the famous W G Grace. As today, matches were organised between local clubs something that only truly became possible due to the expansion of the railway. The line from Mangotsfield to Bath was opened in 1869 and Ellacombe kept an original poster and timetable, a copy of which is included in the exhibition.

The ELLACOMBE 200 EXHIBITION is in the church until 4 September. The church is open from 9am until about 5pm. The exhibition has many items, not only from Ellacombe's life, but also from life in Bitton.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.
OPENING OF THE LINE TO
BATH.

The BATH and MANGOTSFIELD Extension of the Midland Railway, will be opened on
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1869,
 Affording a new and direct route between BATH and GLOUCESTER, WORCESTER, BIRMINGHAM, and the whole of the Midland System, also a new and convenient route between BATH and BRISTOL.

There' Trains will run between BRISTOL and BATH, and be in connection at MANGOTSFIELD with Main Line Trains to and from BIRMINGHAM and the NORTH as usual.

FARE TABLES FOR THE BATH AND MANGOTSFIELD EXTENSION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SEVERAL STATIONS, AND PARTICULARS AS TO THE RATES APPLIED TO IN ALL DIRECTIONS, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE GENERAL MANAGERS AT BRISTOL.

FARE FROM BATH	WEEK DAYS							SATURDAY							WEEK DAYS							SATURDAY						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BRISTOL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MANGOTSFIELD	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
BRISTOL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MANGOTSFIELD	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

TRAINS BETWEEN BRISTOL AND BATH.

FARE FROM BATH	BATH TO BRISTOL							BRISTOL TO BATH						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BRISTOL	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
MANGOTSFIELD	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

THROUGH THIRD CLASS ARRANGEMENTS.

By 1st Class Train from Bath to Bristol via Mangotsfield and Gloucester, and Return.
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JAMES ALLPORT, General-Manager.
 Derby, August, 1869.

The Midland Branch Line to Bath via Bitton opened in 1869 BRO/ St Mary's Parish Bitton



Christian Aid Week 2022: Thank You

The house-to-house collection raised £1,570 and the online donation page raised a further £80 making a grand total for 2022 of £1,650.06.

Very many thanks to the hard-working collectors and very many thanks to everyone who put money in their envelopes. Thanks too to those who were out when the envelopes were collected but who took the trouble to deliver their gift to the collector or to me. Finally thank you to those who completed the gift aid slip of the envelopes and thereby added 25% to their donation.

If you meant to give but have not yet go round to doing so IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Give to the

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:



Nicola Bennetts

A treat of Bitton Open Gardens

Ten of Bitton's finest gardens were open on 19th June. In spite of the scorching temperatures only days before (enough to wilt all but the most hardy young seedling) the gardens all looked their best and the weather had cooled to give a fine if not very sunny day.

Teas were served in the garden of Church Farm (thanks to Bridget and Martin Hetzel) with a plant sale. The event was organised by the Garden Club.



Mary's Veg Patch
Photograph by Sarah Craddock



Foxgloves
Photograph by Johnny Prior

Countdown to the Fête



Plans for this summer's fête are now starting to come together. All the traditional activities will be taking place on the day and, as ever, we hope for good weather. Put the date in your diary for 3rd September. There will be some new things but all of the traditional fun will be there. The fête committee is particularly pleased to have secured the services of a new Morris group, *Tatters and Tails*, as well as *Professor Hudd and his Punch & Judy Show*.

As always the fête depends on a small army of volunteers as well as donations from all over the village. If you can help, there are contact details below. You can do a little or a lot—an hour on a stall or an activity is very much appreciated, and people who are willing to join the *heavy gang* to put up tents and prepare the field on the Friday and take them down again on Saturday are also welcome.

Stalls that rely on donations are also ready receive. There are contact numbers opposite to arrange delivery or collection, or you can leave items in the church porch, which is open every day .

RAFFLE TICKETS are now on sale.

CAN YOU HELP AT THE FÊTE?

There are so many ways you can assist both before after and during the fête – even for just an hour or so. There's the heavy gang to set up the tents on the Friday and dismantle after the fête closes. Programme sellers and stall helpers are also wanted.

If you are able to spare some of your time please contact Helen Pugsley 07767 777019.



DONATIONS PLEASE

Books	<i>Sarah Heavens</i>	0117 932 5376
White Elephant	<i>Nicola Bennetts</i>	0117 932 4696
Nearly Nu (clothes)	<i>Annette Vowles</i>	0117 932 6352
Tombola	<i>A wide range of items would be welcome for the tombola, including toiletries, games, children's toys, soft toys, sweets, chocolates, household items or gardening.</i>	
Bottles	<i>Sarah Craddock</i>	0117 932 8644
Jams	<i>Janet Ballinger</i>	0117 932 4728
	<i>Janet would be particularly grateful for donations of empty small jam jars.</i>	

Items can be left in the church porch when the church is open, but please don't leave them outside the church door when locked.

James and Jemma invite everyone to join them for

Songs of Praise in the White Hart Garden

Sunday 10 July 2022
4.30 to 6.00



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News from Bitton WI

The Bitton WI met again on Monday 13 June at the Church Hall. We were, as usual, welcomed by Jean, our President and the minutes of the May meeting read and agreed.

Ros, our Secretary, had attended the Annual General Meeting of the WI in Liverpool on behalf of us and several other WI groups in the area. She found the meeting and the resolutions discussed very interesting and urged other members to take up the opportunity of attending in the future. Ros found the speaker, Sarah Clarke, who holds the post of Black Rod currently, particularly interesting. The resolution we had voted on last month was carried after a 96.5% in favour vote. The highlight of the trip was having to stop on the motorway due somebody travelling the wrong way on a mobility scooter! Luckily, they had been stopped by the police before they had met with an unfortunate accident.

The various outings for WI members have now started. Some of the Bitton members went to Chavenage House and Cirencester recently. Despite the pouring rain, they enjoyed the visit very much. They reported that towels had been handed out by the driver upon their return trip as he didn't want them to spoil the seats on his brand new coach. It didn't help either when some members boarded the coach carrying some blossom petals that had blown off a nearby tree which immediately prompted the driver to get his vacuum out! Now that's what I call dedication!! We are all eagerly awaiting the annual Bitton WI Garden party coming up soon which I will report back on next issue. Those attending are reminded to get their Rose in a Jam jar ready to present on the day.

Our speaker was a little different this week. I think I mentioned last month that we were all intrigued to know what Chair Zumba was going to look like. Philomena, our instructor from Zumba in Bristol told us that this type of Zumba is beneficial to those of us who have limited mobility or

Focal Point, July 2022

would prefer a less strenuous type of exercise. Philomena explained why we should try and keep moving as much as we can. Even if it's to stretch our arms above our heads, which increases our heart rate, or lift ourselves out of the chair without pushing on the arms for support to keep our leg muscles strong and healthy. We then started the exercises to a wide variety of music with a beat to keep our toes tapping. We started with a warm up – not too difficult at all. Then it all kicked off – literally, arms and legs stretching and rotating to the music. Kicking and punching side to side, back and forth! Fortunately, we had already been warned to sit well apart, so no injuries there! I can't believe I'm saying this but I certainly worked up an unexpected sweat (or should I say bloom!) and it wasn't due to the warm weather I'm sure! Even the slow exercises were pretty fast! The good news is we all made it to the end and we all said how much we enjoyed it. We certainly earned our tea and cake this month! I'd certainly recommend giving Chair Zumba a go if you want to get back to into exercise and/or have limited mobility.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 11 July at 2 pm in the Church Hall, Bitton. Our speaker will be John Gingell on Bean to Bar. Look forward to seeing you there.

Our recipe this month is not strictly cake, but still squares of chocolate loveliness! A great summer recipe with no baking required. I've chosen a WI Recipe - No Bake Chocolate cake to tempt you.



No Bake Chocolate cake (WI Recipe)

Makes 25 squares

Ingredients

- 100g Butter
- 100g Dark Chocolate (70% Cocoa), broken into pieces
- 100g Milk Chocolate (32% Cocoa), broken into pieces
- 3 tbsps Golden Syrup
- 150g Malted Milk Biscuits
- 50g Pistachios, halved

(Optional)

- 135g Maltesers
- 100g mini pink and white Marshmallows

Method

1. Put the butter, dark and milk chocolate and golden syrup in a large mixing bowl and set it over a saucepan of gently simmering water. Leave until melted, stirring only occasionally.
2. Meanwhile, cut a square of non-stick baking paper a little larger than a shallow 20 cm cake tin, snip into the corners diagonally then press the paper into the tin so that the base and sides are lined.
3. Break the biscuits into rough pieces with your fingertips and stir into the chocolate mixture with the pistachios, if using.
4. Take the bowl off the heat and allow to cool for 10 minutes or so.
5. Stir the Maltesers and marshmallows into the chocolate mixture then spoon into the lined tin and press into an even layer.
6. Chill in the fridge for 2–3 hours until firm, then lift the paper from the tin, cut the cake into small squares and lift off the paper to serve.

Tip

Don't be tempted to stir the Maltesers and marshmallows into the hot chocolate mix along with the biscuits or the chocolate will fall off the sweets and the marshmallows will melt and lose their shape.

Enjoy!



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The July Quiz

The theme of the quiz is four letter words in sport

No. Clue

1. A game played on a table with 6 pockets
2. The word used to signify zero in a tennis game
3. The disc that players hit with sticks in ice hockey
4. A combat sport meaning "Gentle Way"
5. Class of dinghy in which Ben Ainsley won 3 Olympic gold medals
6. In cricket a set of six balls bowled consecutively from one end of the pitch
7. The colour at the centre of an Olympic archery target
8. A game played over eighteen holes
9. City that host the annual Bislett games, a diamond league athletics event
10. Surname of the seven times Wimbledon ladies singles tennis champion between 1988 and 1996
11. Chicago baseball team who in 2016 won their first world series in 108 years
12. Light toboggan on which the rider lies on their back
13. Number of players on a baseball team
14. The colour of the ball that is worth 6 points in snooker
15. Surname of the Jamaican sprinter who won the 100 and 200 metres at 3 Olympic games
16. The Oxford university men's reserve boat race crew
17. Japanese wrestling sport in which a grand champion has the title yokozuna

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, July 2022

18. Red or yellow item shown by a football referee in response to a serious offence
19. A game played on horseback, the word is also used for a shirt, a car and a mint
20. Player on either end of the front row of a scrum

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 July.

June's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Monarchy.

The correct answers are:

(1) Zara Tindall; (2) St Paul's Cathedral; (3) Sir Norman Hartnell; (4) 1969; (5) 1955; (6) Peter Phillips; (7) 14; (8) President Johnson; (9) Winston Churchill; (10) 14; (11) Prince William; (12) St Edward's Crown; (13) Albert Edward, Prince of Wales; (14) The Sydney Opera House; (15) The Queen's diamond jubilee; (16) 2017; (17) Princess Beatrice; (18) George III (59 years); (19) 2015; (20) Mary Berry & Monica Galetti.

Correct answers were received from:

Terry Matthews; The Booths; Frank & Gang

This month's prize goes to:

Pam and John Booth

The last word



Two years ago, at Easter, as we were all required to stay at home and the NHS was desperately trying to cope with growing numbers of COVID patients, the Queen made an assuring broadcast with the message that “we will meet again”. Her Platinum Jubilee celebrations last month seem to have brought her message to a conclusion brining the nation together. Our celebrations in Bitton were a local witness to that as are the many other events and activities that are happening again. Covid cases are on the rise, so we need to continue to be cautious, but we are now learning to live with the virus as we have lived with others and it is clear that something of the new normal has arrived.

Finally a word of thanks to our advertisers, many of whom have placed advertisements in this magazine for many years, and who have recently signed for another year; your support is greatly appreciated.

Jim Heavens, Editor

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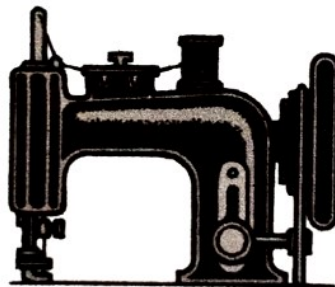
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