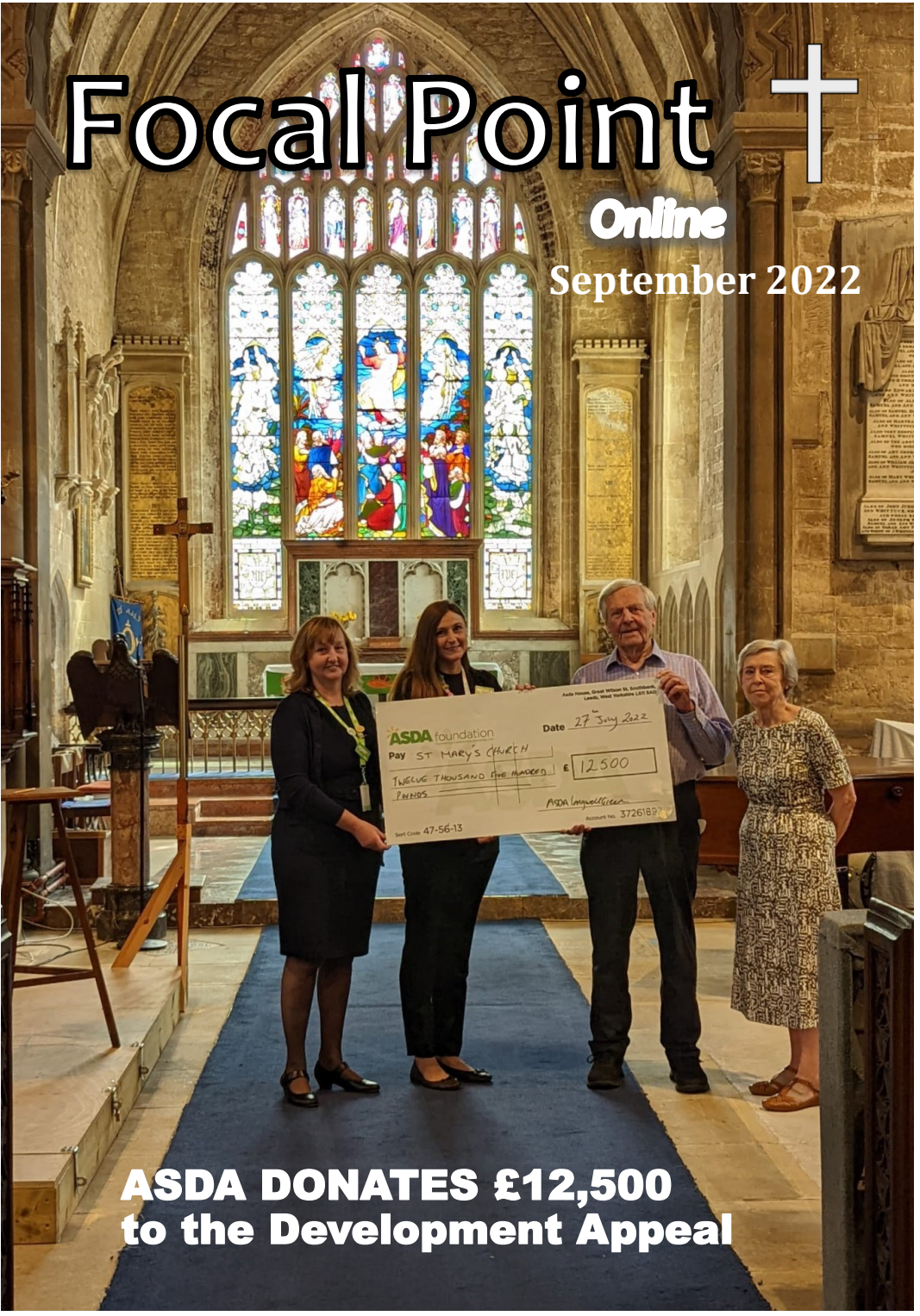


Focal Point

Online

September 2022



**ASDA DONATES £12,500
to the Development Appeal**

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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

September 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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*Deadline for the October
magazine is:*

Monday 19 September 2022

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September is different this year
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Ride & Stride 2022
- Page 20 **COVER STORY**
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Reflections
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- Page 37 **WI News & Recipe**
- Page 41 **This month's Quiz**
(answers to last month's quiz on the following page)
- Page 43 **Last Word**

Churches' news and information about acts of worship pages 7 to 11

Dates for your Diary page 14
This online version of Focal Point is longer than the printed edition

Cover photograph by Carolyn Russell— Susan Grant (Community Champion) and Tina Lawrence (Customer Store Manager) hands over a cheque for £12,500 to John & Nicola Bennetts from the ASDA foundation. (See page 16)

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UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel

Services for September 2022



Sunday services are at 3pm

Sunday 7th Service led by Norman Parfrey

Sunday 11th Anniversary Service led by John Creech

Sunday 18th Service led by Neville Lintern

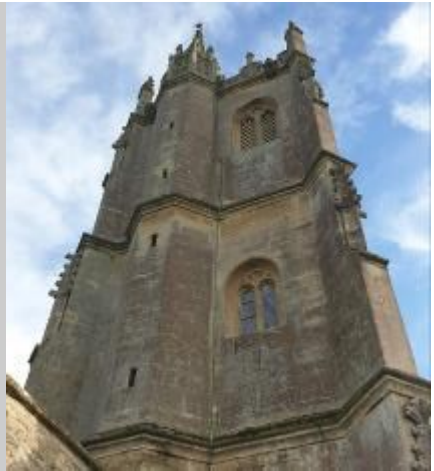
Sunday 25th Service led by Margaret White

There will be no coffee afternoon in September



**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
41 Combe Park
Weston
BATH

Services for September 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, 4 September

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 11 September

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Family service with
the Scouts
and
St Mary's Minstrels



Sunday, 18 September

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday, 25 September

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



Thursday 29 September

9.30am Celtic Communion followed by
coffee, tea and cakes

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

Saturday 10 September at 9.00 am Prayer Breakfast
at St Barnabas Warmley

Tuesday 27 September at 7.30 pm on Zoom

From the Register

Marriage 20th August
May Leaky to Robert Hobbs



St Mary's Matters

Have you ever thought you would like to be more actively involved in the life of St Mary's but you're not sure how? Does the church seem a bit of a clique and difficult to break into? Maybe you feel you should wait to be asked.

Like many churches, large and small, the tendency is for things to get done by a small number of people. This is very unhealthy for the church in two ways. Firstly those who are heavily involved find themselves doing more than they can really manage. Secondly, others who could be taking part remain excluded, perpetuating the idea that church is just for those "holy" people.

Let's dispel a few myths! Most importantly, the church (and particularly the Church of England) exists for everyone. The great thing about the parish system is that every inch of our country lies within the bounds a parish which has a church connected to it, so everyone has a church where they belong. There are no special requirements needed for you to attend a service or get involved. Also, there is nothing special about people who go to church. In fact, probably quite the opposite! They are ordinary mortals with their own weaknesses and strengths, hopes and fears.

There are lots of things to be involved with at St Mary's. From making music to making coffee, setting up tech equipment, organising rotas, greeting and meeting people at services. There's bellringing and helping maintain the church yard. And much more! Whatever your strengths there will be something you can do.

So please don't wait to be asked! We may not know that you have a hidden musical talent, a love of technology or just like making coffee and chatting to people. If you would like to be involved please get in touch.



Pete Midgley

Midweek Home Groups

All three groups resume in September when new members will be very welcome.

The **Wednesday Morning Group** is the first into action with meetings at the home of Ann Willis at 16 Baron Close at 10.30am on Wednesdays 14 and 28 September. The meetings will be led by the Revd Jeremy Andrew on topics of his choice. Further details are available from Ann Willis on 0117 431 0270.

The two evening Groups begin a week later and will be following an 8 session course on prayer.

The **Wednesday Evening Group** starts on Wednesday 28 September at 7.30pm at the Gibson's' home at 8 Church Road. Further details are available from Ken Gibson on 0117 932 2122.

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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

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).

Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust—*Ride & Stride 2022*

We, in Bitton, have good reason to be grateful to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust. GHCT) Those who walk in our beautiful Churchyard can appreciate the restored Table Tombs that had become ruinous and dangerous. Ann Willis applied successfully to GHCT for grants to restore them. Those who are working for St Mary's Future have also benefitted as have our friends at St Barnabas in Warmley.

Ride and Stride is GHST's chief fund raising event. Each year Walkers and bicyclists are sponsored to walk and ride between churches. It takes place on 10th September. As that is so close to the Fête we are all feeling somewhat exhausted as regarding Riding and Striding, so we are asking for money without the walking to say thank you to this wonderful organisation.

Sponsored money is divided between the local church and GHCT but we give them all we raise.

I can collect cash or cheques, made out to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Tel Barbara Merritt 9323926 for any details



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The Vicar writes

September is different this year



Dear Friends,

After two years I have been prompted to revisit Coleridge's poem 'This lime tree bower'. I wrote about it in the magazine because, at the time it seemed to fit our predicament in the midst of lock down in 2020 and we could relate to Coleridge's imprisonment because of an accident which meant he was unable to go out walking with his friends but was confined to rest and respite. The accident is made little of in my copy of his collected poems but in reality, it was quite serious, his wife spilling a skillet of boiling milk on his foot which rendered him disabled and in pain for some time.

It is clear from the poem that Coleridge is used to walking in his locality and familiar with the details of the surrounding countryside as he sends his visiting friends out walking and suggests what to look out for. The poem is then his response, as all poems are, to his present predicament, his imprisonment in the lime- tree bower due to his accident, his lamenting of the situation and eventually the realisation of the beauty and joy he can feel by being present here and now in this moment and this place. Paying attention and being present here and now rather than concerning ourselves with the past and what might have been, can, like Coleridge, help us to live with gratitude for what we have rather than concern for what is out of reach.



Children and young people are returning to schools and colleges this September—we are back to normal lives

James Jiao—Shutterstock

How different the picture is now for us as the pandemic seems more distant and, although the virus is still with us in various shapes and forms, we are back to living normal lives. We are able to walk in the countryside and meet with others, we are able to visit other places and experience different cultures and people and there is less out of our reach.

Focal Point, September 2022

September always seems to me the month when things start again. Although most of us are out of the school term pattern it always takes me by surprise that something I spent my school days moaning about and trying to escape, turns out to be sensible and practical, that six to eight week term times and holidays are quite a healthy pattern for life.

The busyness and bustle of September is different this year, whilst living with gratitude for what we have, and more so after the pandemic, It feels like this September is full of new possibilities as God calls us on: Our re-ordering project at St. Mary's is on the cusp of becoming a reality as planning permission is granted, our heating at St. Barnabas has been restored after two years without it and our community garden project and Eco – church award is well on its way to completion. At St. Anne's we are beginning to talk about new plans for the future. It feels like a new chapter is beginning and with Coleridge we can say, 'no sound is dissonant that speaks of that life.' It is the abundant life that God offers us in Jesus Christ as we come together in following him for a new term and a new start.

Yours in Christ,

Jeremy

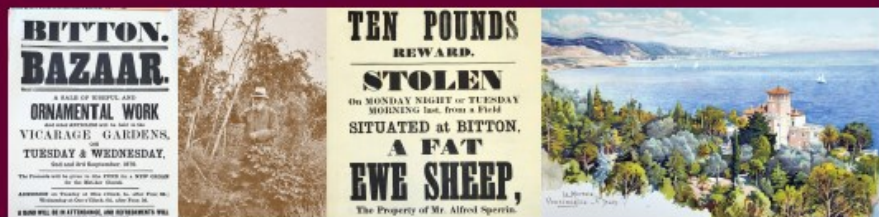


**THE
ELLACOMBE 200**

**Last chance to
see the display
- closes 4th
September**

ELLACOMBE 200

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



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

ASDA FOUNDATION DONATES £12,500 TO DEVELOPMENT APPEAL



Photo - Carolyn Russell

There was coffee tea and cake for those attending the presentation on 27 July.

Our Development Appeal is slowly growing and received a significant boost in July when the church was awarded £12,500 by **The ASDA Foundation** towards the next phase of work on the floor, walls and pews. The foundation has been generous to the church in other ways too, funding the scientific events for children held at the end of last year. We understand that our appeal was one of two finalists for a £25,000 pot of money which was eventually shared with another organisation.

Attending the event to hand over the money, on 27 July, was Tina Lawrence, Customer Trading Manager, and Susan Grant, the local ASDA Community Champion. Susan has been a great support and has turned up at previous events to help out, including the Ellacombe 200 Event in May.

Susan handed the money to Church Treasurer, John Bennetts, at a small morning event in the church that was well attended and where some delicious homemade cakes and coffee were served.

An enormous presentation cheque was handed over (picture on cover).

So what about the plans and the development Fund Appeal?

Having received a positive recommendation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, our application went forward to formal consultation, giving interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This formal process included notices placed on the front door of the church. No responses were received in the required timeframe, but two concerns or objections were submitted by amenity societies after the deadline, both of which had been invited to give their views about the project earlier in the process. As Focal Point went to press the application and the objections were being considered by the Chancellor of the Diocese and we await the outcome of his considerations.

Until we receive the final outcome, it is difficult to proceed with the major fundraising that we need to do. First, because it is not entirely clear which aspects of the plan will be approved (the main area of contention being whether we raise the floor as well as resurfacing all or part of it). Second, because many funders are unwilling to give large sums of money to churches until full permission (a faculty) has been granted. They also like to have builders' quotes so that the cost is plainly visible. Once we have a clear faculty fundraising can swing more fully into action.

Local fundraising is, of course a vital component of the plans and opportunities exist either to give a donation directly to the appeal or to "sponsor" a new mobile style pew or part of the new floor paving. There are leaflets in the church and donations should also be possible shortly through the new website.

To date, we have raised approximately £80,000, but the likely cost will be in the region of six times that, so there is some way to go.

You can donate at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/16eb4568-45b1-40b6-b0d8-36e96dac99a1> or use the QR code to the right



Think you know Bitton?



Then try this quiz, and see if you can identify the landmarks and features in the photographs.

There is a cash prize of £100 that will be awarded in at the Autumn Fayre at the end of October.

Copies available for £3 at the fête, in the church and at the village shop.

Come to the
Autumn Fayre

**in St Mary's Church, Bitton
Saturday 29th October
2022**

11am to 3pm

**Gifts and other items
Fun for all the family**

**Tea, coffee and light lunches
served**

*In aid of the St Mary's Bitton
Development Appeal*



There is still room for more stall holders. If you have a business or like to sell crafts etc, stalls are still available at £10 for the day.
Contact **Stephanie Bailey 0117 932 8949**



Reflections on the 200th Anniversary



Of all the men who have held the position of vicar of Bitton, none is as well known or as well documented as the longest serving incumbent, Canon Henry Nicholson Ellacombe. Succeeding his father as vicar in 1850, he remained in post until 1916, and died in the same vicarage in which he had been born some 93 years earlier. An exhibition in the church, this summer, has chronicled that life, which began 200 years ago, and, though lived almost entirely in Bitton, was rich, varied and multi-faceted. Nationally renowned as a plantsman, he was a traveller and writer; but he also played a much wider role in the life of the village and its inhabitants. There was hardly a society or organisation locally which he did not lead.

Putting together the exhibition and the research behind it was fascinating, but one could not more than touch the surface. The Ellacombe archive at Kew is substantial, with notes and correspondence from both the Canon and his father. There is more in the Bristol and Bath Records offices and more too, mainly of a horticultural nature at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Should anyone wish, there is very clearly a research topic to be tackled. Reflecting on the information gathered, two somewhat unexpected elements came to light.

Church Landholding

The first, (an item hardly explored at all) was the amount of land within the village that appears to have been owned by the church at the outset of the nineteenth century and how much had been sold off by its end. The records in Bristol contain many estate agents' documents and maps detailing the sales of land and the interest of the Vicar. It is difficult to know, of course, whether the land was actually owned by the Ellacombe

family (there is no obvious record of purchase) or the church, so intertwined were the position of the vicar and the associated living. Land values in the second half of the century were also generally quite depressed, bringing in little rent, so their sale may well have been economically astute. But it does appear that most of the village to the north of the main Bath Road was owned by the church. There were some exceptions, such as King's Square. The landholding certainly extended to the Meadows School, the site for which was purchased from Canon Ellacombe and opened as a school in 1910, having previously been an open field where events such as the 1897 Diamond Jubilee fête had been held.

Nineteenth Century Morbidity

The second unexpected element was that of the family history of the Ellacombe family itself whose size and numbers of relatively young deaths could form the background to one of Dickens' own novels, written in the same period.

On the one hand there was wealth. The Ellacombe's were a class apart from the vast majority of their parishioners. The money came from the *New River Company* started by one of their ancestors that brought clean water to London from Hertfordshire. It provided a consistent income for six or seven successive generations, and no doubt grew in value as London expanded and its need for fresh water increased. The family retained their original seventeenth century shares. Part of the reason that the shares were not greatly split up through inheritance was connected to the family's consistently high morbidity, despite their wealth, and presumably



The land on which the first Horticultural Society Exhibition was held on church lands, now the site of the Meadows School



Two important women in the Canon's life

Left— **Ann Nicholson**, the mother he barely knew but who in her 7 years of marriage bore five children before dying in childbirth

Right— **Emily Aprilla Wemyss**, his wife and the mother of his ten children. Four, who reached adulthood, pre-deceased her.

Pictures courtesy Peter Cockey

the best doctors available. Potential heirs were plentiful, but few lived to full age and there was a particularly high death rate amongst women.

Canon Ellacombe's father, Henry Thomas, was the youngest of 8 sons born to William Ellicombe and Hannah Rous (there were no daughters). Only two of the sons, Hugh and HT himself had any sons who survived long into adulthood. Henry Thomas, himself, had three wives, two of whom died during, or shortly after childbirth. The first, Ann Nicholson, the mother of the Canon, died when he was only five years old so his recollection of her must have been small. In her seven years of marriage Ann bore five children. The Canon also had a stepbrother and sister. But of the seven, only three lived into old age, including the Canon himself.

It is striking that even in a relatively wealthy family, like the Ellacombes, the mid years of the nineteenth century saw high rates both of births but also of young deaths as diseases spread quickly. This was before medical practice gained an understanding of how pathogens could multiply. Large

families were fashionable amongst the well to do, but that meant multiple pregnancies and much greater incidence of childbirth deaths.

The Canon's own wife Aprilla Wemyss lived into her sixties and was the mother of ten children, but five predeceased her (four as adults).

Large families are less common these days and improvements in medicine and hygiene have transformed life expectations for everyone in this country. Women, on the whole, live longer than men and death amongst young people from disease is far less common. It is this different experience of life and death that is so markedly different in the late 20th and 21st centuries than it was in the century before.

If you have not yet seen the exhibition there is final chance during the first weekend of the month. Some of the material we hope to use again and publish on the new church website that is planned to launch this autumn.

Jim Heavens

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Looking for Anthony Hooper

John Britton has written to ask for help in trying to locate an old school friend of his by the name of **Anthony Hooper**. Anthony (known as Tony) and John were both at Kingswood Grammar School from 1952 until 1957. He lived in Bitton then, and when he was 16 he became a Christian and subsequently became a preacher in the Bitton, Kingswood and possibly other areas around and about. Tony was also an excellent footballer, playing for Bitton Juniors and cricket for the KGS 1st team.

John believed he preached in Methodist Churches, but may well be known in other congregations too. Tony will be in his early 80's and John would be delighted to get in contact with him again.

Anyone who can help is asked to contact John directly
—tel 07540261753 or email johnjan.britton@gmail.com

St Mary's Family Café Church

**Fourth Sunday of the
month at 9.30 am**

An informal café style event with time to relax and listen to music from keyboard and flute. Café Church is designed for families with primary and pre-school children. A Bible story is followed by a craft session and refreshments are available throughout.



**Join us on
Sunday
25th
September**

Thank you for clearing the churchyard



The recent heatwave, which saw temperatures rise into the 30s for six successive days in August, did at least have some benefits. The churchyard grass has been much too slow in growing to require extra cuts and, like much of southern England, turned a Mediterranean brown.

The churchyard also benefited from the hard work of a number of volunteers, organised by Anna Skuse and the BVRA, who were brought together to tackle bracken and other overgrowths. The result is very plain to see. Some of the worst area of ivy and small tress growing in graves have been tackled. The bottoms of some of the trees have been lifted allowing more light and air to circulate and prevent barriers to the view.

Of course, there is still much to do and this is an never ending task, but a big **THANK YOU** goes to all those who helped.



The opened up view to Church Road

Bitton Village Residents' Association

Flicks in the Sticks - is back

*Welcome to our new Winter Season of films
starting on*

Friday 16 September

when we will be screening

Operation Mincemeat

starring

**Colin Firth, Kelly Macdonald, Matthew Macfadyen
and Penelope Wilton**

How good is it to be back with our film nights after Covid and in a
NEW LOCATION at the Meadows School Hall on the High St in Bitton.

We will tie a balloon on the gate so you can find the door easily.

Operation Mincemeat is a spy drama based on a true story.
The title of the film was the codename for a clandestine operation
during the second world war, to try and deceive Hitler and
his army and secure the first invasion of Europe.

The casting is excellent, the film is gripping
and there is a dash of romance. We loved it.

Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.

At the new location the Meadows School Hall Bitton

Drinks will be available from the Licensed Bar,

Choc Ices will be served in the interval

and there will be time to chat with friends

Admission £3

Everyone is welcome

The Winter season dates for your diary are

Friday 16 September 22

Friday 21 October 22

Friday 18 November 22

Friday 20 January 2023

Friday 17 February 23

Friday 17 March 23

JUBILEE PLATINUM

QUIZ!

**Friday 14 October at 7.30pm
Bitton Sports and Social Club**

**An invitation to
Teams of 4 for a *Fun Quiz* in
support of the
Bitton Recreation Ground**

**Tickets at £5 a head
including a Ploughman's
Supper are available from Paul
Cooney
on 0117 403 6845**

Here comes the Fête!



We are all set for the fête on 3rd September, though there is still time to volunteer to help out or join in the pageant (see overleaf).

Starting at 1.30pm, It should be a great day for all the family and event that is not to be missed.

There will be plenty to do and see for all ages, including many old favourites and perhaps something new. 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*. There will be two food stations and a bar on the field, plus tea and cake in the church and cream teas at church farm—so you won't go hungry. There will be all the usual stalls plus some great *vintage cars* on display. Oh! - not forgetting the displays in the church too including a lovely needlework display called *Animal Magic*.

As always, the fête won't end without the traditional **Egg Throwing Contest!**

RAFFLE TICKETS are now on sale from Barbara Merritt. This year we have an extra special hamper full of British and hopefully local delights.

FINAL NOTE—If you still have items to donate please leave them no later than 1st September in the church porch. Items such as books or for the White Elephant brought to the field on the day can't be sorted and regrettably usually end up being thrown away.

& Dog Show



CLASSES & TIMES FOR THE DOG SHOW

You need to register your entry between 1.30 and 2.00pm

- 2.00pm Fabulous Fella**
- 2.30pm Loveliest Lady**
- 3.00pm Best Groomed**
- 3.30pm Child and Friend (under 16)**
- 4.00pm Best Paw Shaker**
- 4.30pm Sausage Retrieval**

£2 per class entered.

Classes kindly sponsored and organised by Highcroft Veterinary Centre Longwell Green



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.

Please contact Helen Pugsley 07767 777019



Could you be in our fête pageant?

For the last few years we have revived an ancient ceremony of *Shooting the Meadows* as part of our fête opening ceremony. We are looking for children and adults of all ages, who don't mind a little dressing up and playing along with the action. There are no lines to learn.

**If you can help please email
jimheavens@outlook.com.**

Bicycling Bishop Lee goes from John O'Groats to Land's End – Again!



For most people, cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End would be a once in a lifetime experience. But the Bishop of Swindon Bishop Lee Rayfield has now completed the journey for a second time to raise money for a special gift for the most disadvantaged in Swindon this Christmas.

The plan to do this was scuppered two years ago, when a bike accident on black ice caused the bishop to break his femur, but he is now back on his bike and clearly fully recovered. The trip from one end of the country to the other was completed with his cycling friend Chris Stanley and so far has raised £3,400.

If you would like to give, you can do so using this link: <https://bit.ly/3yBbYXo?>



**Royal British Legion
Bitton and Oldland Branch**

**Harvest Auction
Monday 5 September
at 8.00 pm at
The Upton Inn
Upton Cheyney**

by kind invitation of
Theresa and Chris Meaker

Featuring Oldland Brass

Have a wonderful night!

Proceeds in aid of the
Royal British Legion

Auction purchases payable by
cheque or cash please

News from Bitton WI

No WI Meeting for us in August but this didn't stop us all getting together to visit an Open Garden instead. On a very warm and sunny afternoon in August we gathered in Newton St. Loe, just along the way from Bitton as the crow flies.

The lovely Jane Turner welcomed us to her home and garden at The Hayes in Newton St. Loe. The National Open Garden Scheme introduces the garden as a "1 acre garden on edge of Duchy of Cornwall village. Herbaceous borders and formal lawns and terraces; informal garden of trees and long grass, bulbs and meadow flowers; formal potager and greenhouse; small orchard with espalier apple trees. Tulips, wisteria, alliums, foxgloves, gladioli, dahlias, asters".

Jane told us how they bought the house in some disrepair about 26 years ago. The garden had not been touched as the previous owner had been unable to tend it due to age and illness. Once the house had been renovated they started on putting the garden in order. It was very overgrown and this took some time, but it now looked stunning, sitting between a backdrop of fields and Newton St. Loe church in the top corner. The fields belonged to the "big" house which is now Bath Spa University and were part of their gardens designed by Capability Brown. The University is currently planting again to get the grounds looking as they did when Capability designed them.

Jane not only told us about her wonderful garden, but also gave some history to the rest of the village which belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall. She spoke with some sadness on how the village is very different now that the tenanted properties are mainly rented out on very short lets. This, she said, has resulted in the loss of many of the old traditions and village activities.

She invited us all to not only enjoy the garden, but to have a paddle in the pool or a bounce on the trampoline. (I took her up on her kind offer of a bounce as hadn't done this for a very long time!! We won't go detail, but needless to say, it's not something I'm likely to take back up as a hobby any day soon!!). At Jane's suggestion we all had a go on her marvellous tree swing which provided lots of giggles!

Focal Point, September 2022

Finally, Jane and her small team of helpers, provided us with tea and homemade cake which was delicious and very welcome on such a hot day. The garden at The Hayes is open again to the public on 10 & 11 September 2022 (though will open on other dates if you wish to go as a group). If you haven't been there before it's well worth a visit. You can find details of where and when it is open on the Open Gardens website - [National Garden Scheme \(ngs.org.uk\)](https://www.ngs.org.uk).

We are all now looking forward to the Bitton Fête on 3rd September and you will find us there on our stall, as usual, with cakes and homemade produce on sale. If you do read this beforehand, do come and say hello and perhaps make a purchase.

Our next meeting is due to take place **on Monday 12th September at 2 pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton**. If you aren't already a member and you've been thinking of joining us on a Monday afternoon (or if you never even given it a thought but you'd like to see what the WI is all about), I would, as always, encourage you to come along. We are a great bunch of women who enjoy getting together once a month to have a chat, eat cake and listen to some very interesting and inspiring speakers (none of whom I've found to be in the least bit boring!). You may also have seen we do occasionally play games or have activities such as Chair Zumba (which was surprisingly energetic as I remember!). During the year we are also invited to go on many varied outings which again, are enjoyed by many of us. We would love to see you and welcome you into our group. You can come along for a couple of free sessions to see if you like it, and you've absolutely no obligation to join. You can see what WI do as an organisation by visiting their website: www.thewi.org.uk.

No recipe this month - Come along instead to try our own delicious bakes at the Bitton Fête, or if you can't make it there, do come along to one of our meetings where the consumption of cake is almost obligatory!

Take care.

Karen Davidson



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The September Quiz

This month's quiz is about book titles. All these books titles include 'in the' in the title, what are the missing words?

No. Clue

1. The M in the I M
2. The C in the R
3. The B in the S P
4. The B in the L
5. The L in the V
6. L in the time of C
7. The W in the W
8. F in the A
9. The F in the S
10. L in the B
11. A W in the W
12. The C in the H
13. M in the L
14. A B in the R
15. The M in the H C
16. The S in the S
17. The M in the B S
18. M in the M
19. The R in the A
20. The C I of the dog in the N-T

Continued overleaf

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 September.

August's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about car logos and names

Last month's quiz was

The correct answers are:

(1) BMW; (2) MERCEDES; (3) JEEP; (4) OPEL; (5) AUDI; (6) CITROEN; (7) LAMBORGINI; (8) VW; (9) SUBARU; (10) ALFA ROMEO; (11) MAZDA; (12) FERRARI; (13) HYUNDAI; (14) JAGUAR; (15) ROLLS ROYCE; (16) MAZERATI; (17) SUZUKI; (18) SKODA; (19) BENTLEY; (20) VAUXHALL.

Correct answers were received from:

Pam and Jon Heyes; Sue and Alan Murtagh; Terry Matthews.

This month's prize goes to:

Sue and Alan Murtagh

(With apologies that last month's quiz had the wrong month shown)

The last word



The annual church fête has become something of a village institution and is certainly an event that brings the whole village together. Last year saw record numbers of visitors, although that may have been a result of pandemic restrictions limiting the opportunities for other activities, but we expect to see a good turnout on 3rd September.

Editing this magazine is a privilege and I am pleased to say that most months the main problem is what to leave out rather than put in. But there is still room for more and it would be good to hear from other community groups and organisations or to receive more articles on any random local topic you care to write about. Short pieces of news can really boost community groups and encourage others to get involved and with our new church website (hopefully launching sometime in September) we should be able to give even more focus to community and heritage aspects than ever before.

If you have anything to contribute, please let us have it.

Meanwhile—enjoy the fête!

Jim Heavens

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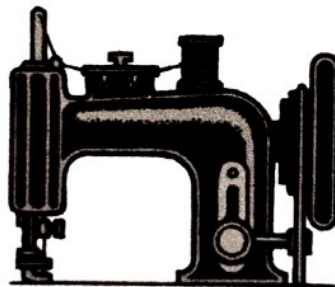
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