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November 2022



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

November 2022

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

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Cheyney.*

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*Deadline for the December
magazine is:*

Wednesday 16 November

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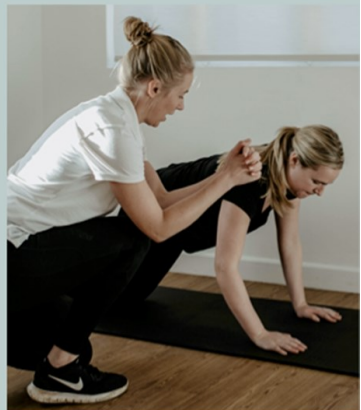
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UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel

Services for November 2022



Sunday services are at 3pm

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday | 6th | service led by | Norman Parfrey |
| Sunday | 13th | Remembrance service led by | Ken Gibson |
| Sunday | 20th | service led by | Steve Britton |
| Sunday | 27th | service led by | Richard Humphrey |

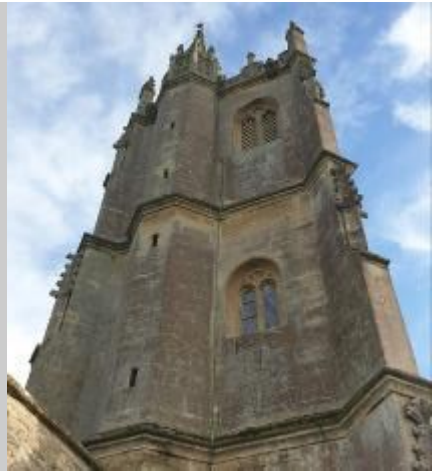
**There will be a coffee afternoon on
the 29th at 2pm**





**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**

Curate:

Rev Rosemary Ratcliffe
revrosieratcliffe@gmail.com

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 November 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, 6 November

**Twenty-first Sunday after
Trinity**

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 13 November

**Twenty-second Sunday after
Trinity - *Remembrance Sunday***

10.45am Remembrance Service

Sunday, 20 November

**Sunday next before Advent
CHRIST THE KING**

10.30am Morning Worship

Thursday, 24 November

9.30am **Celtic Communion** followed by
coffee, tea and cakes

Sunday, 27 November

Advent Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Café Church *for Advent
Sunday*



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 12 November from 9 till 10 am at
St Barnabas Church Warmley and

Tuesday 22 November from 7 to 8 on Zoom

From the Register



Holy Baptism

18th September Ethan Timothy David Goodwin

St Mary's Matters

I've probably mentioned before that making changes to the structure of St Mary's church is a slow and arduous process. All work requires a faculty to be approved which requires the preparation and approval of a lot of documentation. On top of that it is of course a listed building. So it is exciting news that we have finally obtained a faculty for the first phase of the reordering of the church. Very many thanks are due to the Future Group for the huge amount of work that has gone into reaching this milestone.



Pete Midgley

More information about this can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

The church is, of course, more than just the building. The future of St. Mary's also depends on growing and nurturing the worshipping community. One particular way in which we are reaching people is through the development of the Family Café Church service which takes place at 9.30 on the fourth Sunday in the month. After being set back somewhat by the pandemic it is lovely that this service is growing again. Feedback from parents has been enormously positive and encouraging.

In order to further develop our relationship with young families, and in parallel with the building development we are starting to look into the possibility of appointing a part-time children and families worker. This is in very early stages of planning but prayers for this development would be much appreciated.

Back in September I talked about how St Mary's is a church for everyone. We hope you will feel welcome at any of our services and other activities.



At 10.45am on Wednesday 11 November members of the Meadows School are coming to share in an Act of Remembrance when children will lay crosses on the Memorial. Each cross will be inscribed with one of the names on the Memorial.

At the 10.30am service on 13 November St Mary's will welcome the Bitton and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Chairman of Bitton Parish Council, Cadets from the Army Cadet Force and members of the St Mary's Bitton Scout Group. During the service there will be an Act of Remembrance around the Village War Memorial in the Churchyard where wreaths will be laid. Trumpeter Mark Wilkins has again promised to be with us.

St Mary's agrees Parish Pledge for coming year

The PCC has pledged to gift £41,090 to the diocese of Bristol next year. The parish pledge is officially a gift from each parish to the diocese mainly to cover central costs including those of the vicar and administration. These costs are shared between the three churches in the benefice at Bitton, Warmley and Syston. The PCC slightly increased the share offered to take account of inflation.

The Diocese has thanked St Mary's for the gift.



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Dates for your Diary

Sunday 13th November

Remembrance Sunday

Service at St Mary's at 10.45am with the laying of wreaths at the Village War Memorial at 11am. Service at Upton Cheyney at 3pm

Monday 13th November at 2pm

Bitton WI AGM—Church Hall

Friday 18th November at 7.30pm

Flicks in the Sticks

Meadows School Hall—see page 31

Monday 21st November at
7.30pm

Bitton Gardening Club

Meadows School Hall—see page 21

Saturday 26th November

Roosting with the Magpies

St Mary's Church 2.00pm

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).

A Tribute to Muriel and Stuart from Upton Chapel

It is with deep regret and sadness, that we, the congregation at the Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church, write to inform the readers of Focal Point Magazine of the recent passing on of two Elders of the Church: Muriel Williams, on 20th September 2022, and Stuart Turner, on 27th March 2022. Both these stalwarts have played vital roles in carrying on the 188 year history of worship to its present position.

Muriel was born and grew up in Upton, attending the Chapel with her parents. Gradually, over the years, Muriel took on from them, and her organizational and secretarial skills she put to excellent use. Always to be met with a warm smile and a kind heart all through her long association with the church.

When Stuart Turner, a village resident, retired from business, he very kindly offered to take on the role the raising of finances for carrying out much needed building repairs and renovations. Together with the large amounts of paperwork involved, he took all this in his stride. Indeed, a further phase is being completed at the present time, and it is only fair to say that without Stuart's diligence it would not have been possible.

Both Muriel and Stuart were Elders of the Church and to say they will be sadly missed would be an understatement. Your commitment and dedication will be an inspiration to us. You may have left this life but you will not be forgotten kind thoughts on a life of giving from the Parishioners.

Joan Greenland

Rev Richard Humphrey

“Thy Kingdom Come....” A Prayer for Today

Dear Friends,

As I write this, some of our house groups are a couple of weeks in to a study of prayer, which, as you would expect, refers from time to time to the Lord's Prayer, found in the Sermon on the Mount. It has prompted me to take a fresh look at something that is so familiar; particularly in the light of the challenging and worrying situation the world finds itself in today. Because this is a prayer for justice, for bread, for deliverance, and for forgiveness; for a world grounded in heavenly values, not earthly ones.

If anyone is ever tempted to see this 2000 year old prayer as irrelevant to our 21st. century world, then just ask to them watch the news and think again, because this is not a prayer that pretends that pain and hunger and injustice don't exist. And when Jesus teaches the disciples to pray 'Your Kingdom come' it's already very clear that there is something radical and subversive here because the Sermon on the Mount begins with the astonishing statements of the Beatitudes (Mat 5: 1-12.), the exhortation to '*turn the other cheek*' (Mat 5:38-42); and to '*love your enemies and those who persecute you!*' (Mat 5:43-44). The Kingdom that Jesus presents is nothing less than Gods saving purpose revealed in His Son, and it challenges us to completely change direction, to take a counter-cultural stance and to let go of contemporary values.

The world today stands in desperate need of that Kingdom. We live today, as Jesus did, in a world of intolerance, violence and injustice and this prayer is our way into that space between a loving and gracious God and the frailty and brokenness of our modern world.



But you know, sometimes when I mention *this Kingdom* people look at me a bit oddly, the unspoken question being “what Kingdom is he on about- we already have a kingdom. And a King!” What we need to explain is that this new Kingdom is not just some unworldly reality that is ‘out there’ somewhere. Jesus teaches us a prayer for God’s will to be “done on earth as in heaven” making them, as Tom Wright says, “interlocking arenas of God’s good world¹.” Two sides of the same coin. It’s very easy to say, sometimes, that humanity itself is the world’s biggest problem. Looking at the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis it is hard to disagree totally with that. But guess what? If humanity is part of the problem then humanity also has to play a big part in redeeming Creation and to do that it is vital to live and behave as Jesus did, because this Kingdom is dynamic. Jesus represents a Kingdom that has happened, is happening and will happen in real time- the New Jerusalem will be intensely real.

So we live in a world that is flawed, but it’s also one that through God’s Grace is being constantly redeemed; and because the present and future Kingdoms are a reality, Jesus portrays our life here in the present Kingdom as work in progress towards the time when all Creation will be renewed, when God will reign supreme. Life in the present Kingdom means submitting totally to the rule of God- ‘Your *will be done on earth as in heaven.*’ What is more, entrance to this Kingdom is not conditional upon any laws other than loving God and your neighbour:

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, November 2022

“Here is a Kingdom open to all, with no consideration given for the worlds boundaries²”. What sets this Kingdom apart is love and unity with each other and with God. Even sinners are welcome.

But don’t ever think this is not a risky prayer. In giving it voice we sign up to all the values of this new Kingdom; because if we won’t behave as His children what right do we have to call God “*Father*”? How can we pray “*your Kingdom come*” unless we are prepared to pitch in and help bring it about? Can we really expect any kind of forgiveness if we won’t forgive others, or ourselves? This prayer then is not simply a list of loosely connected requests to be trotted out on demand; it is something that commits us wholeheartedly to the values of humility and service to others.

In this prayer then, Jesus presents us with a radical almost unimaginable Kingdom; one of the heart and mind, not something merely geographical. One where humility and self-sacrifice are paramount; where wealth and status count for nothing; where it is necessary to go way beyond the letter of the law to its very spirit. Where love really does conquer all and peace prevails over war. It is a Kingdom that goes against all the accepted wisdom of our modern world, but it is a kingdom where there will be bread for the hungry, forgiveness for sinners, and the breaking of the power of sin and death. It is not an easy Kingdom to see, or explain - Jesus himself often had to use parables- but it is here today for everyone to find.

Our part in this is to show people how to find it-to teach them the simple prayer that Jesus taught us. “***Thy Kingdom Come!***” It could make a world of difference.

Blessings

Richard

1. Wright, T. (2012) *The Lord and His Prayer* ch.2, p.24.

2. Willimon, W.H., Hauerwas, S. and Scott, C.S. (1996) *Lord Teach Us: The Lord’s Prayer and the Christian Life* ch.4, p.54.



St Mary's Church, Bitton

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Introducing



It is impossible these days to be unaware of the climate crisis the whole world is facing; global warming, disrupted weather patterns, droughts, storms and flooding to name but a few. We are all waking up to the fact that something needs to be done! It can feel very daunting, and we may wonder if there is really anything we can do that will help. Well, we can all make small changes that can add up to a big difference.

Caring for God's earth is a necessary part of Christian discipleship. Genesis 1:26 reminds us that we are custodians of all God created here on earth, of all creation, no matter how large or small that living thing might be. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, both as a response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and as a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. At the heart of Eco Church is a unique, online survey that enables churches to both record what they are already doing to care for God's earth, and to reflect on what further steps they can take to that end and then act accordingly.

St Mary's is now registered with A Rocha, and we will be working towards gaining our bronze award. I hope in the days and weeks to come to keep you updated with what we are doing and the progress we have made; I would encourage you also to reflect on your personal contribution to the wellbeing of our planet. There's no time like the present to make even small changes in the way we live, making eco-friendly choices, consuming less and recycling more just to name a few. We don't have to do everything today, just something, because all the little somethings turn into the everything for tomorrow.

Anne Carrington

Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to our next meeting on

Monday 21st November

at

THE MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

Doors open 7.15pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Sally Nex

Journalist and Eco-friendly Gardener

the title of her talk is

A World Under our Feet

Our garden soil underpins everything we do in our gardens, it governs how our plants grow, which plants will thrive and what pests and diseases we are most likely to come across.

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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 for
Advent
Sunday on
Sunday 27th
November

Bitton Village Residents' Association

Invites you to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

Friday 18 November

when we will be screening

Enola Homes

starring

**Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill,
Helena**

**Bonham Carter, Frances de la Tour,
Louis Partridge and Fiona Shaw**

When Enola Holmes, Sherlock's teenage sister, discovers her remarkable mother is missing, she sets off to find her and Enola's adventures begin, as she becomes a super sleuth in her own right.

Suffragettes, a dangerous conspiracy against a mysterious Marquess and parliamentary foul play all conspire to make this a quirky and entertaining movie. As you would expect from Harry Bradbeer, the director of Fleabag. All of us who have seen this movie, loved it.

It is fast-paced and fun and not a Sherlock Holmes case.

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**

Going Swimmingly at The Swan



If you haven't been to The Swan in Swineford recently, then you may notice the new proprietors, Jason Godwin and Miriam Curtis have made something of an impact.

Jason, who started at The Swan in July last year, originally arrived as head chef, but was recognised for his wider talents and soon took over the reins. He then brought in his relative Miriam (known as Mim) as deputy manager – “You need trust in this business,” he says, and so bringing in a member of his own family seemed the best thing to do. It is clear they make a good team.

It was a difficult time to take over as the country came out of COVID that summer and started to operate as normal. The two made some immediate changes repainting the interior of the pub to give it a fresher look and further expansion took place with the erection of a semi-



Proprietors: Jason Godwin and, deputy, Mim Curtis

permanent high quality marquee that serves both as an addition to the pub and as a separate venue. There is also an outside bar for the summer months, so that those enjoying the expanded garden can be served quickly without having to walk backwards and forwards to the main bar.

It's clear that Jason's focus is on food having been a chef in Michelin starred restaurants that included the Bath Priory and the Manor House in Castle Combe as well as a list of top restaurants in London. The menu has been redesigned. There are still the pub favourites, of course, but for those who wish to be more adventurous there may be *prawn and clam tagliatelle* and *ox cheek ravioli with calvo nero*. A pre-Christmas menu for Christmas parties is also now available and bookings are being taken for Christmas Day lunch.

Jason is keen to emphasise that he sources local ingredients so far as possible, using local suppliers who obtain meat and other items from local farms. Some items come from even closer to home, being grown on his neighbour's allotment in Swineford. It also means that the pub menu is often enhanced by a few specials designed around the availability of ingredients.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, November 2022



The marquee erected during the pandemic now provides additional capacity and a venue for events

The pub is, obviously, well placed from passing trade, not just those in cars but the many walkers who drop down from the Lansdown Hills on the footpath that runs straight past. They are also pleased to welcome many cyclists. But both Jason and Melanie are keen to make The Swan a real part of the local community, staging events that the whole family can enjoy. A special Halloween event with pumpkin carving, was due to be held on the last weekend in October. They have also put on themed events such as a *Mayfest* and a *Swinefest* both of which were appealing to a wide audience and provided additional entertainment.

There is certainly no let-up in activity. Once Halloween is past, Jason and his colleagues will be supporting the *Movember* campaign to support prostate cancer charities by growing a moustache (Jason says he will have a full shave before regrowing just a moustache) but also to raise money for a defibrillator for the Swineford end of the village.

In many ways the pub is living up to its name. It is swimming on serenely but there is clearly much work and activity going on below the surface. It was great to witness both Jason and Mim's enthusiasm and commitment to their work and we wish them well for the coming year.



**Come and join Us
for our
Archway of Angels**

Saturday 26th November 2022

St Anne's Church Syston

From 12.00—3.30pm

For a talk on Angels given By Professor Stephen Hill, in the church

There will also be the story of the Syston Angel paintings

After the talk there will be time for questions.

You will be able to:-

Explore our pretty Country Church and its interior décor whilst enjoying Christmas music.

Followed by some Christmas Cheer in the Church Hall.

We will be serving Tea, Coffee and cake,

where the stalls will be open for business

Come and brows over our Stalls :-

Stocking fillers and luscious treats

Hand Crafted Christmas Gifts

Stock up on festive flowers and plants

Take delight in delicious cakes and biscuits to take home.

We look forward to welcoming you.



We should be grateful for any donations for the stalls. There will be an “As New Stall” –for Christmas books, Winter Jigsaws, unwanted new gifts.

For the “Syston Flower Stall” we would like to ask for flowers, plants, Christmas Greenery.

There will be a Christmas “Goodies and Sweets Stall” –for which your gifts of biscuits, Sweets and mince pies would be appreciated.

Items such as wine, food, chocolates and children's treats will also help us for the grand raffle.

This day has been organised by The Syston Archaeological Group, some profits will be given to St Annes Church.

Chancellor gives approval to plans



The Chancellor of the Bristol Diocese has given permission for work to be undertaken to reorder St Mary's. The permission (called faculty) allows for :

- A new floor to the church that is even and more accessible, with the prospect of underfloor heating;
- The cleaning of wall and windows;
- 20 pews to be reconstructed so that they can be moved around on wheels allowing the seating area to be reconfigured. The pews will also be altered to allow for greater comfort. Additional seating will be provided on chairs.
- Modernisation of services power and lighting.

Each diocese has a Chancellor, a legal position, who acts as a judge and acts with the bishop's authority in respect of church matters including planning. The Bristol Chancellor Justin Gau recognised the scale and ambition of the project and permission has been given for work to be conducted in stages.

Top of the list for the Future Committee will be to have a prototype of a new mobile pew made up from those that were removed from the rear of the church in 2017. Some of the money for making the pews mobile has already been raised at least enough to cover the first few, so quotes are now being sought. The Future Committee will also be in early contact with the church architect to work out a phasing plan for the work, so that as funds become available work can be taken forward.

This is really good news and sets the church on the route to meeting its vision of being a thriving hub for the community and an inspiring place of worship.



What's happening to the pews?

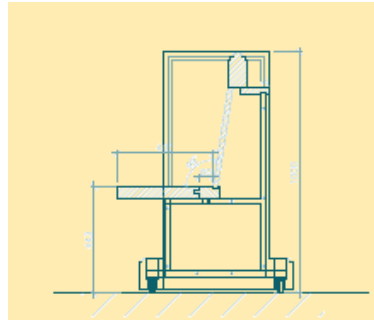
Changes to church pews is always controversial and people point to churches where pews have been removed leaving empty barn like areas or have simply replaced them with chairs set out in the same way (which somewhat defeats the object).

Our current pews date from the 1860s and 70s and have individual carved ends. The plan is not to remove them but to make them mobile – that way we get the benefit of greater flexibility but for much of the time the church will look much as it does today with pews in place on either side of the aisle.

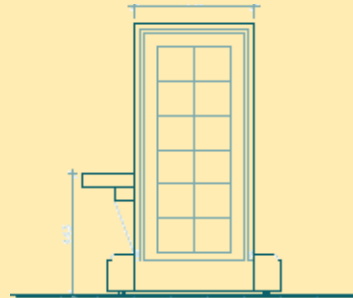
An engineering design has been drawn up and was submitted as part of the approval process but it is one that has not previously been used exactly in this way, so a prototype is required to make sure everything works well. Our local metalworks, Hanney, have agreed to make the metal frame that will be discretely attached to the pew from which the wheels can drop down as required. They will work with a firm of local carpenters to create the final



Dating from the 1860s and 70s, the pews have fine individually carved ends that will be retained.

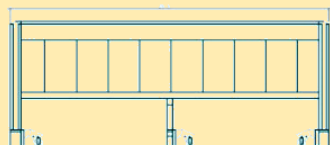


The back of the pews will be angled to improve comfort and a mechanism will be fitted to allow each pew to be lifted on a cradle and wheeled to where it is needed.



The pews will be slightly shorter but with one of the existing carved ends attached at each end.

The pew will run on three sets of castors, though, when in place, will drop back soundly onto the church floor.



PCC considers maintenance, falcons and angels

Matters of maintenance were discussed at the September meeting of St Mary's Parochial Parish Council (PCC). The boiler is to be serviced at a cost of £298. There are also problems with changing lights in the ringing chamber which are located at a position that is difficult to reach and the previous method of changing the bulbs is now deemed to be unsafe. Further discussion is to be undertaken to identify a safe system of work or the use of professionals to maintain lighting in the area.

Plans to appoint a Children and Families Worker for the parish were also discussed. It was hoped that this could be achieved by autumn of next year, but this would depend on the successful identification of funds to cover a 3 year project. Liz Midgley has been appointed as fundraiser and has already begun work.

The PCC noted that the fete this year had been particularly successful and a record profit of £10,436 had been raised for church funds. During the week following the fete had come the news of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The church had provided a book of commemoration and an opportunity for parishioners to reflect and light a candle should they wish.

The PCC also discussed the matter of Peregrine falcons which had appeared around the church in the spring and the possibility that they might choose the tower as a nesting site in the future. The BVRA (Bitton Village Residents Association) had expressed an interest in supporting the installation of a nesting box to support them. The PCC recognised the many community benefits from encouraging the birds to nest at the church, making them a centre of interest and activity and helping to foster engagement between church and village. However concerns were expressed and have not been resolved about safe access to the church roof for maintenance and flag raising. Further discussion will take place between the PCC and BVRA.

Other issues discussed included the need to find a new Electoral Roll officer and the need for all PCC members to complete *Safeguarding* training.

The PCC also encouraged the Bitton Knitters Group who have suggested creating a display of knitted angels for the church at Christmas.



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News from Bitton WI

Bitton WI met for its October meeting on Monday 10 October. We were welcomed by our President, Jean who read us a short poem. After agreeing the minutes, we heard about the various events taking place over the next few months. Of course, Christmas featured a lot with outings to John Lewis, a carol service in Bath and one in St. George, an evening of song with the Lifeboat Crew and a Table Top Sale in Hanham Folk Centre on 12 November, 9 – 12 noon (All welcome). Importantly, our Christmas meal has been booked and details provided. Any members wishing to attend on 5th December lunchtime need to get their name down and a deposit of £10 in. Our December meeting will be singalong with mince pies. Any requests for songs to sing are welcomed.

Our Secretary, Ros Knight, attended the AFWI AGM recently and gave us a report. Membership of the WI had fallen during Covid, and the uptake since has been slow to improve. The guest speaker was Kate Bottley of Gogglebox, TV and Radio fame. She gave an amusing account of how she became a Vicar and what she is doing now in the world of entertainment.

Our speaker was Ian Caskie, a Visitor Volunteer on the SS Great Britain. Ian told us how he got involved in his current role and his work to inform people about the ship. He told how Isambard Kingdom Brunel got the job of building ships on the back of his work with the railways. He only actually built three ships in his lifetime. The first, a paddle steamer did not fare well and was not successful. His second the SS Great Britain led him to look at alternative ways to build a bigger and better liner. He ditched using wood for the hull in favour of cast iron and rather than sail power, he opted to use a propeller. This was met with resistance but he soon convinced the doubters of the benefits of building in this way. The ship was built in the centre of Bristol and was the first luxury liner of its kind, her interior was like no other. She was launched in Bristol in 1843 where a Mrs Miles, the wife of the steamship company director had been invited to throw the bottle of champagne as is usual. She missed completely, which prompted Prince Albert, who was in attendance as Guest of Honour, to pick up a bottle and hurl it at the ship whereupon it smashed sending glass into the crowds. The ship sailed only 4 crossings to New York from Liverpool before disaster struck. It ended up beached in Northern Ireland and there she remained for over a year.

Focal Point, November 2022

After the owners were bankrupted, the ship was sold and had a major refit to enable her to take passengers to and from Australia where goldmining had led to many people emigrating to find a better life. There are many journals written by passengers who spent 2 months travelling. The ship was full to bursting with 700 passengers, crew, livestock – which included pigs, sheep, a cow, ducks and chickens. Passage on the ship was not cheap, even for a steerage passage which would cost £1500 in today's money. Many of those writing about their trip spoke of the lavish meals they were to eat, as well as the sea sickness that often followed. Later the ship was commandeered to take soldiers to fight in the Crimean war.

By the 1870's the business tailed off so the ship was again put up for sale. She was completely stripped out and wooden cladding added to preserve the hull. It was then used as a cargo ship carrying coal from South Wales to San Francisco. Unfortunately, she again shipwrecked during a storm around Cape Horn. She was deemed too costly to repair so was towed to the Falkland Islands and remained there until a salvage team was funded to raise her and bring her back to Bristol. She arrived in Bristol in 1970 watched by thousands of people and now rests back in the spot where she was first built. Visitors to the attraction can see a much different ship than arrived in Bristol back then. We will see what the ship used to look like through the many stages of its life complete with a sensory experience of noise and smells to give you a real sense of what it was like to be on board. Ian advised that visitors are able to pay for one entry which entitles them to return for a whole year without paying again.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Monday 14th November at 2 pm, Bitton Church Hall. Please do come along and join us. You can find out more about our activities and trips, as well as join us in celebrating the festive period.

A recipe from this month's WI Magazine.
I haven't tried it yet but it looks scrummy!

Karen Davidson



White Chocolate, Almond and Raspberry Ripple Brownies – makes 15

Ingredients

200g butter
200g white chocolate, melted
415g caster sugar
4 eggs, beaten
100g plain flour
200g ground almonds
½ tsp baking powder
200g fresh raspberries

Method

Preheat the oven to 170C/150C fan/Gas 3.

1. Lightly grease a 30cmx17cmx2.5cm over tray and line with baking paper.
2. Pour the melted butter and 150g of the chocolate into a large bowl. Reserve 1 tbsp of caster sugar, then add rest to the bowl and stir in.
3. Beat in the eggs. Add flour, almonds and baking powder and beat until all is incorporated together.
4. Pour into prepared tray.
5. Using the back of a tablespoon, push the raspberries through a fine sieve into a bowl, stir the reserved sugar into the puree. Spoon over the top of the brownie mix in swirls. Bake for 45 – 60 mins until golden and firm.
6. Drizzle the remaining melted chocolate to decorate and leave to cool. Cut into 15 squares and serve.

Enjoy.



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The November Quiz

By Carolyn Russell

This month is on bridges in the UK

No. Clue

1. City which is home to the Peace Bridge completed in 2011?
2. City which is the home to Pulteney Bridge?
3. The longest bridge in the UK is the Bromford viaduct. which motorway is this part of?
4. River below the Infinity Bridge which opened in 2009?
5. Town which is home to Bridge House, thought by many to be the smallest house in England?
6. River crossed by the Iron Bridge in Shropshire?
7. Which is the oldest bridge over the Thames in Greater London?
8. City of Pero's Bridge, named after Pero Jones, an enslaved African who lived in the city, opened in 1999?
9. City of the Millennium Bridge, nicknamed the Wobbly Bridge?
10. Name of the bridge which connects Anglesey to mainland Wales?
11. Name of the UK's only remaining fortified river bridge?
12. Name of the M90 motorway bridge over the river Forth?
13. Name the bridge in Exeter, which has 2 large circular millstones as its cable anchors?
14. City which is home to the Bridge of Sighs, the Kitchen Bridge and the Mathematical Bridge?
15. Which 2 rivers does the Bridge called Pont Hafren (from the West side) cross?
16. Which island is connected to the mainland by a bridge which uses the island of Eilean Ban as a stepping stone?
17. On which river is the bridge built in the late 1830's to link 700 parishioners on the north bank to a church on the south bank, nicknamed Shakkin' Briggie?

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18. City which is home to MacNeill's Egyptian Arch?
19. River below the grade II listed transporter bridge, built to connect 2 parts of a large chemical and soap works in 1915?
20. Name the recently completed footbridge in Cornwall which connects 2 sides of a mediaeval ruin for the first time in over 500 years, is 15 m above sea level and has a 40 mm gap in the middle?

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 November.

October's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz provided cryptic clues to car parts.

Answers:

(1) glove box; (2) clutch peddle; (3) hub-cap; (4) spark plug; (5) wing mirror; (6) horn; (7) number plate; (8) bonnet; (9) dipstick; (10) fan belt; (11) bumpers; (12) hand brake; (13) indicator; (14) hatchback; (15) saloon; (16) boot; (17) tailgate; (18) sunroof; (19) air conditioning; (20) speedo.

Correct answers were received from:

Olivia Pillinger; Terry Matthews ; Sue & Kevin Wakefield; Martin & Bridget; Jon & Pam Heyes; Jon & Pam Booth; Elaine Tubbs; Sue & Rod Nethercote; Mary Younie; Alan & Sue; Ros & Charles Knight; Carol & Tony Sheedy

This month's prize goes to:

Olivia Pillinger

The last word



You may already be wondering what happened to 2022? Certainly not a usual type of year and may be remembered not only for the accession of a new King as much as the year of three Prime Ministers.

However, as the end of the year approaches, more mundane matters have to be considered and not least the fact that Focal Point subscriptions will be due in December. I hope you enjoy the slightly eclectic mix of church, chapel and community news and information that the magazine carries. I am always keen to hear suggestions for new things and any articles submitted are welcome.

Unfortunately, from time to time the cost of the magazine needs to be reviewed. At the latest meeting of the executive committee it was decided that the cost of the magazine should rise from January to £1.20 with a year's subscription at £12. This is the first rise in ten years. The last rise, from 75p took place in 2013, so and with increasing costs, we hope it does not seem unreasonable to raise prices.

Advertising rates are to be kept the same for 2023. *Jim Heavens*

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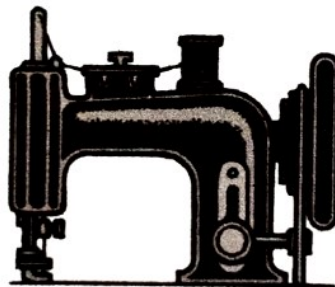
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