



Focal Point

December 2022

£1



**A heavenly host of angels in
the church this Christmas**

see page 31

**Full details of all Advent and
Christmas Services on pages 7&9**



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

December 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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FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

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*Deadline for the January
magazine is:*

Friday 9th December

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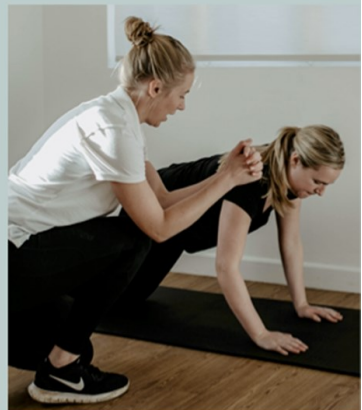
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[www. e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel)

Services for December 2022



Sunday services are at 3pm

Sunday 4th Service led by Paul Swift

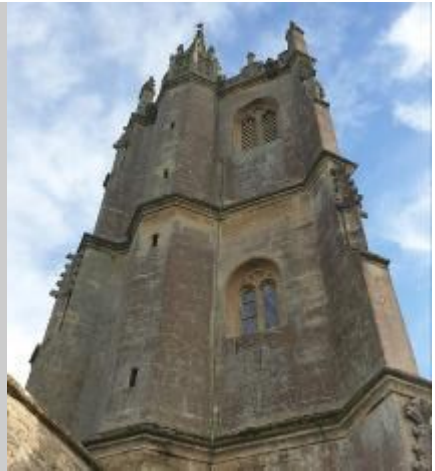
Sunday 11th Service led by Margaret White

**Sunday 18th Carol Service led by Steve
Britton**



**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 Radcliffe
revrosemaryradcliffe@gmail.com

Lay ministers:

Ken Gibson,
8 Church Road
Bitton
0117 932 2122

Churchwardens:

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 December 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 December

Second Sunday in Advent
10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 11 December

Third Sunday in Advent
10.30am Family Café Church and Family
Special combine for a Christmas
Gift Service followed by a Cake
Sale in aid of Scout funds
See next page for details

Sunday, 18 December

Fourth Sunday in Advent
10.30am Christmas Reflections
6.30pm Carol Service *by candlelight*,
followed by mulled wine and a
mince pie

Saturday , 24 December

Christmas Eve
4.00pm **Crib Service** - *Children are invited
to dress up as angels, shepherds
or wise men – or even sheep or
camels – to take part in the
Christmas story and carols*
11.00pm **Midnight Communion**

Sunday, 25 December

Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Christmas Praise

Focal Point, December 2022

Christmas Gift Service—Sunday 11 December

Family Café Church and Family Special combine for a Christmas Gift Service followed by a Cake Sale in aid of Scout funds

Please bring an unwrapped gift for needy families in the Bristol area:

- ◆ For children - unwrapped new or nearly new toys, books or toiletries
- ◆ For adults – gloves, socks, scarves, hats and toiletries or seasonal food such as mince pies, biscuits and chocolates

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 Breakfast

Saturday 10 December at 9.00 am

Prayer breakfast in Bitton Church Hall.

St Mary's Matters

Often small things of significance happen in church without anyone really noticing. One example of this is the new piano leg. The grand piano in the church has been there for several decades, having been donated by an elderly couple many years ago. It is a very good quality instrument and would cost a lot to replace and is being used a lot for services as well as for concerts and recitals. A while ago it was fully treated for the dreaded woodworm but in the last couple of years a severe infestation reappeared in one of the legs. It was becoming a concern that at some point it might collapse, so something had to be done.



Pete Midgley

Enter Simon Harris and Jeremy Andrew to the rescue! (Which one is Batman and which Robin I'm not sure!) Having established that the problem was limited to the one leg, and that the central octagonal core was not affected the piano was duly lifted onto trestles and the leg removed. Jeremy took it back to his workshop and, using his amazing woodworking skills was able to turn a replacement on his lathe. After a quick refit and lowering of the piano, it was as good as new. Job done! Thank you both!

On a less dramatic note (excuse the pun!), I have also been able to make improvements to the electronic keyboard. Since this is used both at the front and the back of church, we have been carrying it from one place to the other – tricky, as it is quite heavy and awkward to carry. As it has hollow plastic feet, fitting casters was something of a challenge. However, with a bit of ingenuity and a lot of epoxy filler I have managed to get it onto four casters. It can now be trundled easily from place to place - no more risk to anyone's back!

This year our December services are fully resumed, and we look forward to welcoming everyone to our Advent and Christmas services. Full details elsewhere in the magazine. **Happy Christmas everyone!**

**CAROL SINGING
IN
BITTON**



**TUESDAY
20 DECEMBER**

6.30 for 6.45 at the Christmas Tree
Meet outside the White Hart for
Carols around the village to bring
a touch of Christmas to the house
bound. Carol sheets provided but
wrap up warm and bring a torch.

7.30 at the White Hart
James and Jemma invite the
whole community to sing carols in
the White Hart. Mulled wine and
mince pies will be available.

Everyone is welcome



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St Mary's Church, Bitton

Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm

CAROL SERVICE

*Followed by mulled wine
and a mince pie*



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).

Midweek Home Groups

During December in addition to pursuing Advent readings as individuals we are meeting on Monday 12 December at 7.30pm for a House Group Communion followed by a Bring and Share Christmas Supper. All are welcome.

New Year

In January and February we will be meeting to study the Book of Amos. If you would like to start the New Year by joining one of the three groups then you will be very welcome:

Wednesday Mornings 10.30 to 12

At Westover, 69 Bath Road - Contact David Bailey 0117 932 8949

Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9

At 8 Church Road - Contact Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122

Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9

At 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge - Contact Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898

Bible Reading Notes for 2023

Would you like to order a booklet which provides a reading for each day plus some comments? Quite a few people at St Mary's find this helpful and I will be happy to order a booklet for you covering a four month period starting on 1 January 2023.

There is a specimen to look at in Church. Why not try it as you go into the New Year? And if you like them I can add you to the list of people for whom I get them 3 times a year.

Ken Gibson 932 2122

The Vicar writes

God with Us



Dear Friends,

I write this letter on Remembrance Sunday having returned from a service at the War memorial in Warmley at which many in the community pay their respects to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the theatre of war. I wonder each year how much longer we will do this as, each time we meet, the number of veterans is diminished. This year in Warmley one old soldier was there and was able to pay his respects and remember his comrades in arms. I was surprised to see other, younger men and women wearing medals on their chest, I had not noticed this in previous years, and I was convinced in that moment of the necessity of continuing this gathering each year. None could miss the poignancy too, that as the names of those written on the memorial were read out, there was war in Europe going on, a war creeping dangerously close to the countries that were the feature of the start of the last world war. And in a strange way we stood this morning in solidarity with those fighting and defending their freedom.

The weather today has been almost perfect for processing/marching, singing, praying and remembering. There were many there without even a coat, such was the temperature we enjoyed, and I remember my fleeting thought that this is why climate change is so difficult for us because we enjoy good weather now, without being able to comprehend extreme weather in the near future. Today was perfect weather to be outside when in past years the temperature would have been 10 degrees colder, and we would have recognised it was November.



Earlier in the week, I was at ASDA collecting for the poppy appeal and was struck, as I am each year, with the conversations I was privileged to be part of about those who had served in the military and about relatives; parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, who had lost their lives in service to our country. This year in the midst of very difficult financial situations for most, I was struck by the enormous generosity of everyday people, who still care about, respect and acknowledge the sacrifice and service of others.

These are just three examples of the difficulties we face: war, climate change and the cost of living crisis. You may be reading this thinking that our times are rather bleak and difficult, even after two years of a pandemic we seem still to be in the midst of trouble and the prospect of things getting worse is very real. But I wonder if, in each generation we have our own difficulties and struggles which define our age and are eventually assigned to history. The Biblical witness demonstrates this with numerous examples and the one that comes to mind as I write is the story of the prophet Isaiah and his calling.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, December 2022

At the beginning of Isaiah 6 the words that open the chapter are most telling of the political situation that Isaiah and his following ministry as a prophet is to speak to, “In the year King Uzziah died”. They are a simple statement that reveals the complex and troubling situation Israel faced because Uzziah, a king that had brought justice, peace and prosperity had now died and the nation was to face disruption, war and violence when cities will be laid waste, uncertainty, poverty and exile will ensue. In short, they were to have a terrible time of it.

It is to difficult and troubling human times that again and again God comes to his people in the biblical story, to rescue them and restore them, to bring them hope even in the most desperate of times, the story of the Exodus is a case in point. It is especially in our present difficult times that Christ comes to us, that Christ sees us and saves us and, in this season of Advent as we prepare once again to remember his coming, not on the edges of our lives, but right into the midst of them and we look forward to his coming again, that we can find some solace, some support, some love and some hope. Jesus in the manger shows us the depths God is prepared to go, to seek us out and to rescue us. In the darkest days of the year there is light because of the child in the manger.

*I wish you all a hopeful and happy
Christmas and New year.*

Jeremy.

Christian Aid at Christmas

What has Fyness in Malawi got to smile about?



Christian Aid – that’s what!

Heatwaves, drought, downpours, floods make it an everyday struggle to feed a family, but Christian Aid’s local partner is helping Fyness to deal with the climate crisis. She has learnt how to use home-made compost to beat drought and how to make fertilizer from manure. This Christmas Fyness’s family will have chicken and rice as a Christmas treat and they will celebrate with dancing and football matches.

Our Christmas donations will be used to give practical help to Fyness and people like her.

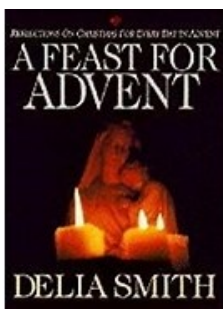
There will be Christian Aid envelopes in the pews over the Christmas period. Please give generously and please increase your donation by completing the gift aid form. If you now live a cashfree life you can give online at <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/bitton-st-marys-ca-group-christmas-2022> or use the QR code opposite.



Nicola Bennetts

Books for Advent

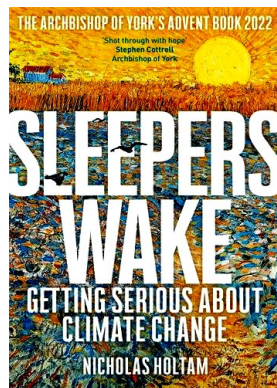
Our mid-week planning group that plans our house group material for the year have decided that we are to be left to our own devices during Advent with no specific Advent course this year. You might be glad of a cognitive and spiritual rest, but if you are like me, you might be keen to engage with this season of penitence and reflection as we prepare for the remembrance of Christ coming amongst us, and wait expectantly for his coming again. To this end I said to the group that I would put together some suggestions for Advent books and I hope that you find this short list helpful.



Over the years we have used Delia Smith's Advent and Lent books and they are timelessly helpful for the seasons. "A feast for Advent" offers a bible reading, a reflection and a prayer for each day of the season and the four weeks of Advent are divided into four themes: Awakening to God, prepare the way, in joyful hope, and O come. They are reasonably short but there is much here to ponder, and I commend this book

to you. This is available from world of Books for £3.49 www.wob.com

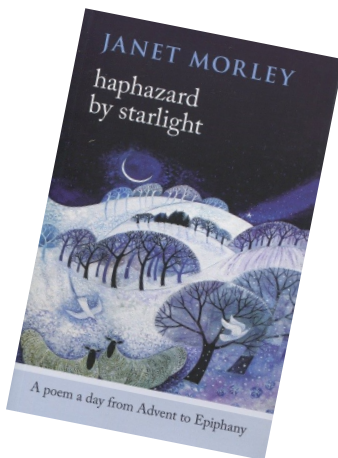
If, like me, you have been caught up this year with questions about climate change and the sustainability of our earthly resources, then this year's Archbishop of York's Advent offering might be of interest. "Sleepers Wake: getting serious about climate change" by Nicholas Holtam, offers short chapters on a wide range of issues surrounding climate change and is described as a carefully constructed meditation



Focal Point, December 2022

and an unsettling call to action. If you haven't engaged in this topic before, or for a while, Holtam, drawing on his experiences of being a former lead Bishop for the environment, is inspiring and challenging as he encourages us to tackle the reality of climate change and at the same time be transformed spiritually and culturally so that we can all do our part to preserve our world for future generations. Here is a link to the book on Amazon <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sleepers-Wake-Getting-Serious-Archbishop/dp/0281086842> it costs £8.99

The third book on the list is for those who enjoy the metaphor and mystery of poetry. Janet Morley's, "Haphazard by starlight" is a deep and insightful commentary on Advent through reading a poem a day. The famous and not so famous poets are all present and Morley offers a unique take on these as she considers them in the light of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. This is another book that I have returned to for a number of years, and I agree with the book's cover that suggests it is a pilgrimage of the heart. It is well worth the time and effort. You can get this from world of books for £3.49 at www.wob.com



The final offer is a compilation by Canon Arthur Howells, "A little book of Advent" (£3.79 from world of books www.wob.com). This collection of readings from some of the most celebrated modern-day spiritual writers offers a daily reflection, Bible passage and prayer and contains something for everyone whatever your spirituality and tradition might be.

Wishing you a hopeful and happy Advent
Jeremy

St Mary's Refreshes its Website

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

After some months of planning, St Mary's has refreshed its website to provide an accessible source of information about the church and the Bitton community.

The new site went live in November but can be found at the same address as before www.stmarysbitton.org.uk.

Much of the site is still under development and there is a lot of information to be added including the extensive Focal Point Archive. As with any new site there are also a number of glitches that will take some time to iron out and discover as people make more use of it.

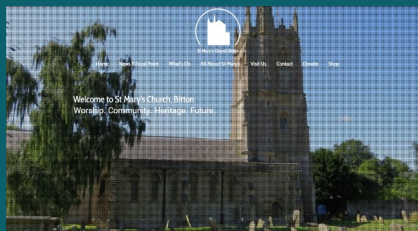
One benefit of the new site is its ability to display more pictures and Focal Point contributors, Alison Wride, Carolyn Russell and Jane Clapp, have given pictures to provide a fresh and appealing look.

The website is designed to work on PCs, tablets and smartphones rearranging items to suit the device. As a result there is a mixture of scrolling and clickthrough to information.

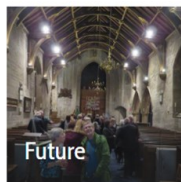
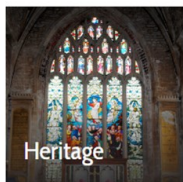
The information pages are grouped around the four development areas and it is intended to develop each one extensively over the next few months to give a full picture of the life of the church. This will include its links with the community, the rich stories of its heritage and reports on progress being made towards new developments.

Why not give it a look?





The new Home Page is the starting point from which all other parts of the website can be accessed.



The structure is based around the church's four development elements, with further pages of information sitting under each one of them.

MON
21

November 21 @ 7:15 pm - 9:00 pm

Bitton Gardening Club Meeting

Meadows School., Bath Road, Bitton.

Bitton Gardening Club Sally Nex, Journalist and Eco-friendly Gardener A World Under our Feet

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. During this talk we will learn how to look after our garden soil and treat it with the respect it deserves so that our gardens will thrive.

New members and guests are always welcome

THU
24

November 24 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am  Celtic Communion

Celtic Communion

St Mary's Church, Bitton Church Road, Bitton

The new and extensive calendar has room for both church and community events. Local groups wishing to place items on the calendar should send information to **bittoncm@outlook.com**

Could you spare a little time for the churchyard?



Thanks to the many volunteers, the churchyard has undergone something of a transformation in the past few months. Trees have been lifted and bramble cleared , revealing views and memorials that have not been seen for many years.

The churchyard is a public place, used by many local people often on a daily basis. It provides a beautiful setting for the church and contains a number of listed structures, including the War Memorial and an unusually large number of table tombs.

The work has been coordinated by Anna Palmer and the Bitton Village Residents Association. (Contact annalpalmer.ap@gmail.com).

It is planned, weather permitting, to have another clearance session on Saturday 3rd December and then regularly on the first Saturday of the month from 11am to 1pm.

Bitton Knitters prepare for a Christmas delight



There is no stopping the Bitton Knitting Group!

Having put on a wonderful and popular Mousefest earlier in the year and bringing a selection of knitted creatures to the Autumn Fayre, they have now moved onto Christmas with a host of Angels to decorate the church.

The Bitton Knitters has a variable membership, but the leading lights for the angels are Janet Ivens, Jacynth Baber, Linda Crossling, Sarah Craddock and Nicola Eaton.

They have gathered regularly to knit, with additional sewing help from Barbara Merritt. It is planned to place the angels on the candelabra in the church

– but not too near the flame!



Autumn Fayre proves a hit



The **Autumn Fayre**, on 29th October, proved to be a great success with over 250 visitors and over £1,000 raised for the St Mary's Development Appeal. Music was provided by the St Mary's Minstrels and refreshments were provided by Jacqui and Tim Harris.



Visitors were able to view and purchase from 12 different stalls selling a variety of goods at a wide range of prices with many gift items for those who organised early Christmas shoppers. There were items to keep children amused, including a treasure trail, although the jigsaws proved more attractive to a more senior age group.

It is intended to repeat the event next year.



How well did you know Bitton?

Our fiendish quiz of photographs of places in and around Bitton, and taken from unusual angles proved popular with well over 100 books sold. It was launched at the fête with the winner announced at the Autumn Fayre.

The quiz, however, was so fiendish that few books were returned.

The winner of the competition was John and Pam Heyes, who won the £100 cash prize money. John had the most correct answers but no one managed to guess them all correctly.

Thanks to Alison Wride, who devised the quiz. If you would like to discover the correct answers you will need to visit our website and

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Remembrance Sunday 2022



Wreaths were laid on behalf of MP Chris Skidmore and by South Gloucestershire and Bitton Parish Councils

There was a large turnout at the annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November. A morning of blue skies and sunshine greeted those who gathered around the Village War Memorial where two minutes silence was observed before wreaths of poppies were laid.

The service was led by Ken Gibson and the preacher was Rev Richard Humphrey. The service was also supported by the Bitton and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL), the City and County of Bristol Army Cadet Force (ACF) and the 34th Kingswood (St Mary's) Scout Group. The standard bearer for the RBL was Cadet Sergeant Aniket Pailkar of the City & County of Bristol ACF.



Left—Cadet Sergeant Aniket Pailkar—Standard Bearer.

Right— Trumpeter, Mark Wilkins

Photos by Alison Wride

At the War Memorial the two-minute silence followed the sounding of the Last Post and ended by the Reveille played by trumpeter, Mark Wilkins. Wreaths of poppies were laid by Cllr Matt Bridge, Chair of Bitton Parish Council, Cllr Erica Williams (South Gloucestershire Council) and Mrs Elaine Skidmore, representing her son, Chris Skidmore MP. Wreaths were also laid by Jeff Dando for Bitton and Oldland Branch of the RBL and Churchwarden, Simon Harris on behalf of St Mary’s Church. Other tributes were then laid at the memorial.

The service resumed in the church with prayers and the singing of the National Anthem. Following the service coffee was served and those attending were able to enjoy a special Remembrance Cake, decorated with a poppy.

More pictures on our website at

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk/bitton-remembers/

Update on Diocese link with Uganda

The Bristol Diocese has been linked to the church in Uganda over many years with church leaders and representatives visiting each other's countries. St Mary's makes a regular donation to Uganda link funds. Last year £450 was given by the parish last year which contributes to a much larger pot of money to support projects in the country.



On Sunday 20th November, St Mary's was pleased to welcome James Gardener and Alison Rowe, from the diocese who had recently visited western Uganda. The west of Uganda is a lush green fertile environment even though it is close to the equator, when the party from Bristol visited last month it was a pleasant 24°. Those who had visited before noted how Uganda's economy is developing, with a much stronger emphasis of trade in useful and often plastic goods and the development of a middle class. Most Ugandans, however, still have to grow their own food, which can place a strain on family resources as family units are still very large.

The church in Uganda is thriving. Church services are packed to capacity and a new church, just built in Ankole in south west Uganda has capacity for 7000 people – which they are able to fill. The talk was illustrated with pictures and a short video of spontaneous celebration dancing.



Alison & James during the presentation



Collingwood

Care Home for the elderly

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News from Bitton WI

Our November meeting began with our usual welcome from Jean, our President, who read us a piece called “Why a ship is called She”. A table top sale in Hanham that took place the previous weekend had been very successful raising a small amount for the WI. Members were reminded that payment was required for our Christmas Lunch in December. If you haven’t paid yet, please contact our Secretary, Ros Knight.

This meeting was also our Annual General Meeting. We received several reports covering 2022, which had been very busy and so different from the previous two years! Our President thanked Committee members for their support and hard work during the past year. We all showed our appreciation to those taking on roles within the committee to ensure our meetings run successfully, that we have access to events and activities, as well as some really great speakers throughout the year. All reports were adopted by those present. Committee members who wished to stand again were introduced and well as two new committee members for the forthcoming year – I have to put my hand up to being one of those! Little did I realise when I joined the WI that I’d be on the Committee with the year and writing these articles! It’s a lovely, welcoming group to be part of. The Committee members were voted in, as well as our President, Jean Hook, who agreed to stand for a further year.

Our guest speaker this month was Emily Koch, a novelist who has written three crime novels. Emily told us how she became a writer whilst writing for a local newspaper and hearing stories that inspired her. Emily told of the difficulties of writing as a mum of two small children and how pregnancy had inadvertently impacted on some of her storylines. Her books are advertised as Crime stories, but Emily explained that her books were dark domestic dramas, and were more about what happens around the crime and how the people involved are affected.

Her first book “If I die before I wake” was a bestseller. This was a story about a man with locked in syndrome who could not communicate in any way with the outside world, but could hear everything everyone was saying. It follows his thoughts, what goes on around him and tells of what he learns by listening to visitors and staff.

Focal Point, December 2022

Emily's second book "Keep him close" is about two mothers, Alice loses a son who was murdered and Indigo whose son is currently in prison. They strike up a friendship and find out that the son in prison had killed Alice's son. It looks at the relationship between the two mothers and the moral dilemmas they both faced. The book is set in Bristol and features many familiar places in and around the area. Emily told us about her inspiration for her books, her extensive research on the subject and the people she was able to meet who had first hand experience of losing loved ones in this way or had son's in prison.

Her latest book, due to be released early next year called "What July knew" is set in the 90s in a small fictional seaside town and is about a girl called July who is seeking to find out more about her mother who had died when she was young. It follows her journey from a young age when she had gleaned a small amount of information from her grandmother, into adulthood, when she's able to find out more about how her mother had died.

It certainly was a fascinating insight into the process of writing a novel, how to get it published and how to ensure the facts and storyline are precise. If you like a good crime novel, or even if you don't, I'd recommend giving Emily's books a read. They were certainly thought provoking.

Our next meeting takes place on Monday 12th December 2022, at 2 pm, in the Church Hall, Bitton where we will be enjoying our Christmas party with entertainment. For more information on how to become a WI Member in Bitton, please come along to one of our meetings, or find out more at <https://avon.thewi.org.uk>

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year from us all at Bitton WI.

Karen Davidson.



Winter Lentil and Mint Soup

Serves 4-6

Preparation: 10 minutes. **Cooking time:** 30 minutes. Freezing recommended before blending

Ingredients

1 tablespoon Vegetable or Olive Oil

a knob of Butter

1 Onion, sliced finely

1 Small Garlic clove, sliced

2 tablespoons Tomato Purée

115g Puy Lentils

2 litres Vegetable or Chicken Stock

40g Bulgur Wheat

teaspoon Lemon Juice

Heaped teaspoons Mint sauce or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Mint

Salt and freshly ground Black Pepper

Method

1. Melt the oil and butter in a large lidded saucepan.
2. Add the onion and garlic and sweat, covered, shaking the pan from time to time, until softened but not browned.
3. Add the tomato purée and lentils and stir so that all is well mixed.
4. Add the stock and bring to the boil.
5. Reduce the heat and leave to simmer for about 30 minutes, or until the lentils are soft.
6. Remove the soup from the heat and leave to cool briefly.
7. Blend half the soup until smooth.
8. Return the blended soup to the pan and stir in the bulgur wheat, lemon juice and mint sauce or fresh mint.
9. Adjust the seasoning if necessary and simmer for another 2 minutes.



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The Christmas Quiz

By Carolyn Russell

This year's quiz is about Christmas films

No. Clue

1. What is the name of the Elf in the movie Elf, played by Will Farrell?
2. In what movie do two neighbours fall out after one of them decorates his house so brightly it can be seen from space?
3. What role does Kermit the Frog play in The Muppets Christmas Carol?
4. Name the 27 minute, 1982 winter animated film.
5. In Home Alone, which city are the McCallister family planning to visit?
6. In which Bond film is there a character called Dr. Christmas Jones?
7. How many children does Graham have in The Holiday?
8. What is the name of the primary school teacher in Nativity who is asked to produce the year's nativity play?
9. Who played the prime minister in the 2003 movie 'Love Actually'?
10. 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas' is sung by Judy Garland in which film?
11. What Christmas gift does Harry Potter receive from the Dursleys on his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
12. What is the subtitle of the Nativity 2 movie?
13. In which film did Bing Crosby first sing the song 'White Christmas'?
14. In The Santa Clause what is Scott Calvin's job?
15. What is the name of the little boy in The Snowman?
16. What does Mark Darcy have on his Christmas jumper at a party in Bridget Jones' Diary?
17. How many Nativity movies are there?

Focal Point, December 2022

18. In which movie do Anna and Elsas live in a Kingdom named Arendelle?
19. Complete the quote from a Christmas movie "Who told you you could eat my _____?"
20. What's the name of the guardian angel who takes George Bailey on his journey in A Wonderful Life?

Name:

Contact:

Please send your answers to Carolyn Russell at Martin House, Church Road, Bitton (the yellow house) or email mrscussell@icloud.com by Sunday 11 December.

November's Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on bridges in the UK.

Answers:

(1) Derry; (2) Bath; (3) M6; (4) River Tees; (5) Ambleside ; (6) River Severn; (7) Richmond Bridge; (8) Bristol; (9) London; (10) Menai Bridge; (11) Monnow Bridge; (12) Queensferry Crossing; (13) Miller's Crossing Bridge; (14) Cambridge; (15) Rivers Severn and Wye; (16) Isle of Skye; (17) River Dee; (18) Newry; (19) River Mersey; (20) Tintagel Castle Bridge

Correct answers were received from:

Carol & Tony Sheedy; Sue & Rod Nethercote; Pam & Jon Booth; Alan & Sue Murtagh; Pam & Jon Heyes; Elaine Tubbs; Terry & Richard; and Sarah Craddock.

This month's prize goes to:

Elaine Tubbs

The last word

The hope of Christmas



One year ago we were still being affected by COVID. Our Advent Carol Service took place, but was only a small event and masks were being worn by the congregation. It all seems like a long time ago that such restrictions were in place but as we have moved away from the pandemic a host of other issues have hit us.

The word traditional is often used at Christmas time, and so many of us look forward to the comforts we have enjoyed so many times before. For many, this Christmas, even in this country, such things may be lacking. But Christmas must also represent a period of hope, for a better future identified for the birth of any baby, in whatever circumstances they are born. May this Christmas bring you the hope of better 2023.

Perhaps it may happen a little earlier, who knows, - perhaps Harry Kane will lift the World Cup trophy on 18 December! ***Come on England!***

With best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jim Heavens

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Focal Point, March 2018

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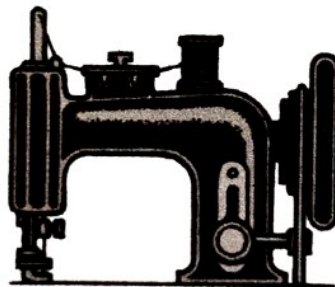
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