

# Focal Point †

January 2023

**Happy New Year  
to all our readers**

£1-20

# KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

When it comes to moving home, you need professionals who are trained and trustworthy, with in-depth local knowledge and the technology and connections to market your property.

As exclusive Members of The Guild of Property Professionals we can meet your needs and clearly stand apart from the competition in both sales and lettings.

**Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal**

## DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

# SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

## 0117 9863681

[daviesandway.com](http://daviesandway.com)

### Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham

Bristol, BS31 1DP

0117 9863681

[keynsham@daviesandway.com](mailto:keynsham@daviesandway.com)

### Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford

Bristol, BS31 3BA

01225 400400

[saltford@daviesandway.com](mailto:saltford@daviesandway.com)

[www.daviesandway.com](http://www.daviesandway.com)



# Your property in Park Lane

Showcase your property to the  
lucrative London market



By instructing your local Fine & Country agent, your property will not only be marketed locally and regionally, but nationally and even internationally via Fine & Country's Head Office and Showroom located at one of the most prestigious addresses in the world – 121 Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1.

With over 40ft of window display on Park Lane, we not only reach a lucrative buyers' market other agents cannot, we also market all Fine & Country properties 24/7 through touchscreen technology, enabling customers to browse the details of Fine & Country properties from around the globe, even when the office is closed.

For more information on promoting your property  
in our Park Lane office or for a free valuation, please contact;  
Fine & Country, 36 Gay Street, Bath, Somerset BA1 2NT  
01225 320032 | [bath@fineandcountry.com](mailto:bath@fineandcountry.com)



**Fonthill**  
Garden centre



*Planting • Outdoor living • Café*

Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HX

0117 932 3110 [www.fonthill-lakeside.com](http://www.fonthill-lakeside.com)

# Focal Point

Bitton Churches' Magazine

**January 2023**

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

*Published by St Mary's Church, Bitton and  
the United Reformed Church, Upton  
Cheyney.*

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

To advertise in Focal Point  
please contact Roger Tilley  
rogerjohntilley@gmail.com

**FOR ALL FOCAL POINT  
INQUIRIES**

**Editor: Jim Heavens**

**Phone: 07720 248534**

**Email:**

bittoncm@outlook.com

**Website:**

*www.stmarysbitton.org.uk*

*Deadline for the February  
magazine is:*

**Monday 16th January**

## ***In this month's Focal Point:***

- Page 14 ***The Vicar Writes  
Amos an the Wise Men***
- Page 17 *Roosting with the Magpies at St  
Mary's*
- Page 18 *The Christingle Light for the  
World*
- Page 22 *St Mary's Churchyard  
A Churchyard provides the  
setting for the church*
- Page 26 *Bird Boxes and the Environment*
- Page 29 *Advent Services attract a crowd*
- Page 33 *PCC Report*
- Page 35 *NO EGG Cake*
- Page 37 ***The January Quiz***
- Page 39 ***Last Word***

**Churches' news and  
information about acts of  
worship pages 7 to 13**

## SUSTAINABLE FITNESS

A WARM WELCOME FROM  
SUSTAINABLE FITNESS.

WE ARE A SMALL, INDEPENDENT HEALTH AND  
FITNESS COLLABORATION LOCATED IN UPTON  
CHEYNEY - CLOSE TO BATH, KEYNSHAM AND  
EAST BRISTOL.


WE WORK WITH CLIENTS OF ALL AGES AND  
ABILITIES INCLUDING THOSE WITH PRE-  
EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS OR CONCERNS.

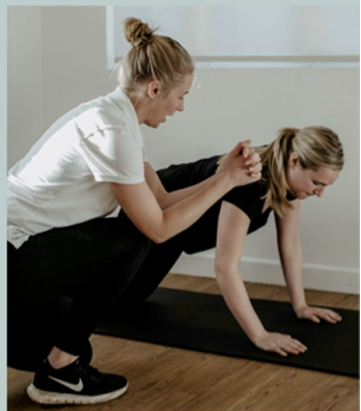
WE OFFER:

- SPORTS & REMEDIAL MASSAGE
- SOFT TISSUE THERAPY
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- PERSONAL TRAINING
- EXERCISE PROGRAMMES
- EXERCISE CLASSES

GET IN CONTACT TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN  
BEST HELP YOU:

JO@SUSFIT.CO.UK  
07845 557 862

[WWW.SUSFIT.CO.UK](http://WWW.SUSFIT.CO.UK)   @SUSFITUK





# **UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church**

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

## **Services for January 2023**



Sunday services are at 3pm

**Sunday 1st No Service**

**Sunday 8th Service led by Michelle Bates**

**Sunday 15th No Service**

**Sunday 22nd Service led by Richard Humphrey**

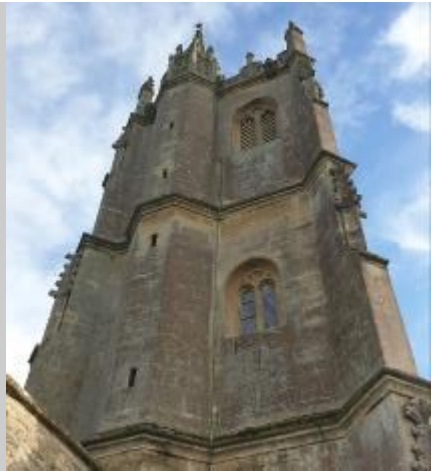
**Sunday 29th Bible study led by Steve Britton**

**All services will be weather permitting**



**ST MARY'S  
CHURCH,  
BITTON**

[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://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 January 2023**

## **Services at St Mary's**

*You will be very welcome at all services at St Mary's .  
More details on our website: [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)*

<b>Sunday, 1 January</b>	10.30am	<b>First Sunday in Christmas</b> Parish Communion
<b>Sunday, 8 January</b>	10.30am	<b>First Sunday of Epiphany - <i>The Baptism of Christ</i></b> <b><i>Christingle Family Special</i></b> with Jess Meale of the Children's Society, the Bitton Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels followed by lunch at the <b><i>Swan in Swineford</i></b>
<b>Sunday, 15 January</b>	10.30am	<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> Morning Worship
<b>Sunday, 22 January</b>	8.00am 09.30am	<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b> Holy Communion Family Café Church
<b>Thursday, 26 January</b>	10.00am	Celtic Communion <i>followed by coffee and cake</i>
<b>Sunday, 29 January</b>	10.30am	<b>Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</b> <b>NO SERVICE AT BITTON</b>  Benefice Communion at St Anne's Syston with Katia Rocks, our CMS Link Missionary from Brazil, followed by a bring and Share lunch in Syston Church Hall

# Benefice Prayer Opportunities

**Saturday 14 January at 9.00am:**

Prayer Breakfast in Warmley Church

**Tuesday 24 January at 7pm:**

On ZOOM

## 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

## From the Register

4th December Holy Baptism  
Euan David Samuel Bron Miley



# St Mary's Matters

Way back before the COVID pandemic we used to have a regular lunch date together on each second Sunday of the month, in local pubs and sometimes at the Avon Valley Railway. This has so far never really got started again, but on the second Sunday in January, following the Christingle service I've booked space for twelve people to have lunch together at the Swan Inn in Swineford, at 12.00 noon. We will be joined by Jess Meale from the Children's society who will be speaking at the service in the morning.



**Pete Midgley**

Would you like to be one of those twelve people? If so, please get in touch. First come first served so book early to avoid disappointment! Is there anyone who would be interested in organising this on a regular basis? If so, please let me know.

After Christmas I will be reminding people of this event using my St Mary's email list. This was compiled at the beginning of the COVID outbreak to keep people up to date with changes week by week as events unfolded. I still use this list to communicate goings on in the church but I do worry that there may be people who would like to be on it but, for one reason or another are not. If you're not and would like to be please contact me.

While we're on the subject of communication, have you checked out the new website yet? The address is still [stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://stmarysbitton.org.uk) but it now has a completely new look. We also have facebook page (@stmarysbitton). We probably should be using this more effectively. Anyone want to take charge?

So, 2023 is under way! Happy new year to everyone and maybe see you in church.



## **Absolutely Feet**

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

Professional treatment of corns, callus, fungal infections, painful or thickened nails, diabetic foot care, nail trimming etc.

**Joanne Nash** MCFHP MAFHP

Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600

[absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com](mailto:absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com)

# **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](mailto:djacharris@hotmail.com)**

Rates from £25 per hour (2 hour minimum hire).

# Midweek Home Groups

**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*

# Amos and the wise men



*Dear Friends,*

**Of course, I want to begin this letter with New year wishes and hope that the holiday season has been joyous and restful. For the church, we are not done with celebrations but continuing in our journey with those seeking the Christ child and it is in Matthew's gospel that we find the story which is at the heart of this Epiphany season.**

The patient journey of the Magi has some merit for us in these dark days of January made even darker this year with our concerns for fuel poverty and a cost-of-living crisis. Perhaps in facing the New Year we have lost the capacity to think about the wider global issues at play, the war in Europe, the global implications of climate change and food insecurity. Our focus is inevitably self-centred when crisis hits but is that true when crisis seems to have become our usual existence, permacrisis was a word invented for a reason. Epiphany is characterised by patient journeying and seeking, and this is perhaps a sensible course for us during these times so that we are looking outward and dealing in the moment. A wise person once said that if you are angry, you are living in the past, if you are fearful, you are living in the future, if you are peaceful, you are living now. Patient journeying today is the focus of this particular Epiphany season.



The second influence during this first month of the New Year has come about through the genius of our mid – week planning group, who settled on Amos as our study for the initial weeks of the year. Its genius is that, despite being the book of the Bible that people naturally turn to early in any serious engagement with the Old Testament, its themes of social protest, religious critique and universalism seem to fit our time. Perhaps the proclamation of classical prophets is perennial and has equally been applicable through the ages, yet for me at least, Amos’ fundamental concern for social justice has much to say about how we deal with the little, the least, the last and the lost in our own day. In chapter 7, Amaziah calls Amos, “the troublemaker within his temple precincts” and it seems that those who are voicing their concerns about various issues of our day are perceived as such.

Another title for Amos is that of seer, that is one who has vision or visions. That is certainly true as you read in the pages of the book of Amos of his first two visions of natural disaster and in the second more of cosmic disaster. The seer in scripture is almost always one who understands, so that seeing, is much more about understanding. A good New Testament example is the story of Jesus’ healing of blind Bartimaeus where the one healed ‘sees’ that is, understands who Jesus really is and has faith in him over and against the religious leaders who are unable to see and certainly do not understand who Jesus is.

*Continued overleaf*



**Amos**—a prophet with a concern for justice and equality of nations

For us the question of interpretation and understanding of our faith and our principles to live by, has a direct impact on how we engage with the issues of social justice in our time. Amos' message is consistently cautionary. At its best he shoots from the hip and at its worst it is downright bleak and certainly reflects the January weather. Yet at its conclusion, as in the writings of other prophets there is hope, and hope is described in terms of a revived Kingdom, fruitful agriculture and a return to the land, which is to do with settlement and peace.

As we journey with patience in the midst of these present times may we journey with hope too as we see and understand God's justice, forgiveness and peace in our world now and the fruitful, settled, peaceful Kingdom that is to come.

*I wish you peace and all good things.*

*Jeremy*





## Roosting with the Magpies at St Mary's

An afternoon concert on 26 November brought in a sizeable audience from the local community and beyond. The performance included instrumental and choral numbers sung by the Magpies choir.

Everyone also enjoyed the delicious teas and cakes. The concert raised a total of £325 to be split between St. Mary's and The Children's Hospice.

**Above— Anne Carrington conducts the Magpies** *(picture by Jane Clapp)*

# The Christingle light for the world

Christingle is most often celebrated in the period before Christmas. It is very much an idea linked to the birth of Jesus and the word although anglicised as *Christingle*, was originally *Christkindl* meaning *Christ child* in German. It was a symbol developed in the Moravian church and incorporated into church services in this country in the 1960s in an effort by the Children's Society to raise funds.

At St Mary's we celebrate the Christingle in early January, close to Epiphany and in many ways its message is much more suited to that season than it is to Advent or Christmas. Central to the symbol is a candle inserted into an orange representing Christ as the light to the world, which is the message of Epiphany – the God had sent a saviour, not just for the Jews but for all humanity.

Last year in this country Christingle services raised £550,000 for needy and deprived children. Last year we were still under some Covid restrictions and masks were still being worn. This year, we hope to see a return to normal conditions and to celebrate the Christingle with a joyful lighting of candles.

Please join us on Sunday 8 January for our Christingle service.



**Last year's Christingle service—masks were still being worn.**

*Picture by Jane Clapp*

THE CHURCH HALL ARE NOW RUNNING

# St Mary's

## playgroup



FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE

**0-5 Years old**

JOIN US FOR PLAY, CRAFTS, MUSIC, DRINK & SNACKS,

NO NEED TO BOOK £2 PER CHILD  
AND GROWN UP £3 WITH SIBLINGS

**Wednesday 10-11.30**  
**Term time only**

**BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
GARDENING CLUB**

**INVITES YOU TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON  
MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> January**

in the  
**Meadows School Hall, Bath Rd Bitton  
Doors Open 7.30pm**

**We will be celebrating the beginning of our Fourteenth Year.**

**Come along and join the Gardening Club, and this evening enjoy a free drink and nibbles, meet friends and check out your gardening knowledge with our annual Teams Quiz with prizes. We will also present our new 2023 Gardening Club programme.**

**The programme for 2023** is, as usual, bursting at the seams, with eight meetings and five gardens to visit. Our speakers will cover such diverse topics as Organic and Nature Friendly Gardening; Topiary and Ornamental Hedges; Herbs for the Kitchen and Bulbs that should be better known.

**Garden visits** are on different days of the week and include Highnam Court near Gloucester; Caisson House near Bath; Miserden near Painswick and Ridley's Cheer near Marshfield.

**Bitton Open Gardens** will take place on **Sunday 11 June** (if anyone is interested in opening their garden that day please let me know), and **Fonthill have invited us back in May to shop 'til we drop at their garden centre (with a 10% discount).**

**The Garden Club Annual Membership Fee remains the same at £12 and**  
all our meetings will continue to be FREE to members. Meetings are now held in the Meadows School Hall, Bath Rd Bitton. If anyone would like to join the committee, please contact Bridget Hetzel before the meeting.



*E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd*  
*Funeral Directors*

Serving Bristol since 1945

Kingswood - 11 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8JX  
Tel: 0117 967 3609

Hanham - 71 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3DG  
Tel: 0117 935 3746

## Medivet *Oldland Common*

Visit the friendly team led by Stephen Pullan BVSC MRCVS. We pride ourselves in delivering exceptional care for animals and their owners.



103 High Street, Oldland Common

0117 932 3100

[oldland.common@medivet.co.uk](mailto:oldland.common@medivet.co.uk)

[medivet.co.uk/oldland-common](https://www.medivet.co.uk/oldland-common)

**Mon – Fri:** 8:00am – 7:00pm  
**Sat:** 8:30am – 12:30pm

**M**  
**MEDIVET**  
ALWAYS THERE

# The Churchyard provides the setting for the Church



Not all churches have large churchyards, but they usually enhance the setting of the church and, as in the case of Bitton, are interesting in their own right.

St Mary's Churchyard is quite unusual as it has no side to the south of the church due to the proximity of The Grange, itself until relatively recently (early in the twentieth century) a church owned building and its garden. The churchyard thus extends to the north, west and east of the church and has been extended on more than one occasion, the dates of which can generally be traced by the markings on the graves.



**Before and after**— This chest tomb commemorating the Truebody-Thompson family was restored in 2013.

*Photo by Bob Willis*

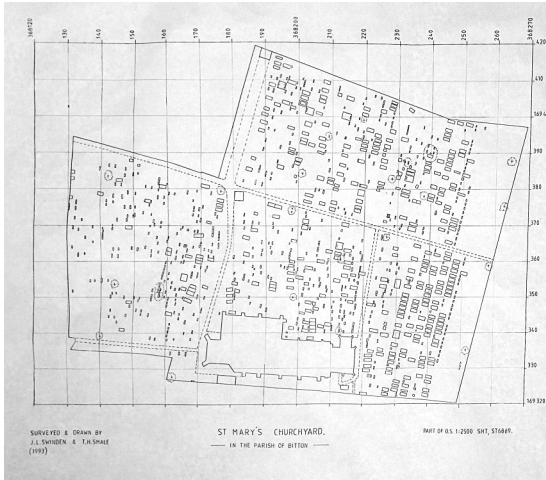
A notable feature of the churchyard are the number of table or chest tombs, some of which are themselves listed. By the beginning of this century many of these tombs had fallen into disrepair. Not only were they in danger of falling and causing injury, but could well have been lost for all time. Fortunately, in stepped Ann Willis, a former churchwarden, who has taken it on herself to raise money and organise the work to restore these ancient monuments which are often quite elaborate works of art. As reported in a recent edition of Focal Point work has now progressed on 13 of the tombs and they now stand as firm and as dignified as when they were first erected, mostly in the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

Another person who has beavered away in recent years is Bridget Hetzel, who has spent many hours trying to make out the inscriptions on the gravestones and has thereby created an index and map of the churchyard.

Over the next few months it is hoped to provide much of the information about the graves and , particularly about the location of graves on the new church website.



## Focal Point, January 2023



The churchyard was surveyed 30 years ago identifying all the visible graves then in place

One final aspect of the churchyard is that of the number of very fine and unusual specimens of trees. One might have thought that these were planted by Bitton's famous horticultural vicar, Canon Ellacombe. The Canon did plant the avenue of Lime trees that runs up Church Lane towards the High Street. However, most of the more decorative trees were planted only about 50 or so years ago and are now coming to their maturity.

Recently discovered photographs show trees being planted in the churchyard during the 1960s and 70s.

Regrettably not all of the trees shown being planted in the photographs appear to have survived, but many others have.



The planting of a red maple, which has since grown to maturity





**Planting trees in the churchyard**— Amongst those pictured are Christopher Gallop, Christopher Richards and Arthur Hawking

Churchyards unfortunately need upkeep. The churchyard fund, which operates separately from church funds has been able to finance a regular cutting of the grass during summer months. This is an expensive and lengthy undertaking as gravestones and undulating ground has to be accommodated. But this cannot hold back fully the growth of bracken or the expansion of other plants.

It is therefore especially welcome that in recent months, Anna Palmer and a small team of helpers from the Bitton Village Residents Association have taken up a once a month action to help clear the churchyard of weeds and bracken and open up some of the space that had become overgrown. Just a few Saturday mornings, for only 2 hours, has already made a significant difference to the look and the views of the churchyard. Anna has planned successive dates on the first Saturday of each month. Dates and times are published on the calendar on the St Mary's website.



**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

# Bird Boxes aid the Environment

The Eco Church initiative includes encouraging native wildlife. To this end we can make changes in the churchyard for example. As individuals we can also make changes around our homes and so this month's project has been to produce bird boxes for the churchyard and my garden.

The RSPB website sells **several** birdboxes. It also provides a plan to make your own, so I used this. Do not use pressure-treated wood, as this can have a detrimental effect on the box inhabitants. I went to the Bristol Wood Recycling Project website and found that they do many different sized pieces of recycled wood, at about a third the cost of new wood, so it is ideal for an Eco project!

The RSPB plan is based on a plank that is 133cm long, 15cm wide and 1.5 cm thick, from which you can produce a box for birds around sparrow size. Preferences for different birds are included to allow you to adjust the plan depending on which species you want to attract. Cutting to the plan is straightforward. Ensure the inside of the front is roughened to make it easier for fledgelings to climb out when the time comes. Attaching the pieces together with screws or nails may benefit from another pair of hands or some clamps, and a piece of old bicycle innertube makes an excellent waterproof hinge for the roof.

As pressure treated wood should not be used, I applied a single coat of a water-soluble preservative on the outside only, leaving the wood untreated around the hole where birds may peck. Basically if the product says to clean brushes using water (e.g. not white spirit) then this will probably be suitable.

Follow the RSPB advice on location and mounting your box, and look forward to watching birds check it out. When you are in the Churchyard in spring, see if you can spot the two boxes.



This is an excellent project for a DIYer of any skill level and could be great fun for a supervised child.

**Keith Carrington.**

**Bitton Village Residents' Association**

Invites you to

**Flicks in the Sticks**

on

**Friday 20 January**

when we will be screening

**Mrs Harris  
goes to Paris**

starring

**Lesley Manville, Isabelle Huppert, Lambert  
Wilson, Anna Chancellor and Ellen Thomas**

Set in the 1950s, Ada Harris, a war-widowed cleaning lady, discovers a beautiful Dior couture dress in one of her client's bedrooms. It's almost untouchable but so beautiful she decides she should have one too - but how?

What follows is a warm fun-loving adventure full of humour and surprises, filmed in the romantic city of Paris.

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.**

**At the Meadows School Hall, Bath Road 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 in the warm, cosy hall.

**Admission £3  
Everyone is welcome**

# Advent Services attract a crowd



Picture—Jane Clapp

There are only four Sundays in Advent, but with Christmas Day itself falling on a Sunday, Advent was a full four weeks long in 2022. St Mary's took each Sunday in its stride starting with a highly active Advent Sunday Café Church, with crafts including a banner to take home. Both children and parents set to work to produce some beautiful designs with a lesson centred on the parable of the Prodigal Son and the welcome he received. It was also an opportunity to light the first Advent Candle.



Picture—Jane Clapp

## Focal Point, January 2023



A more restrained Communion Service was held on the second Sunday, but with still a full fortnight to go, the St Mary's Annual Gift Service proved a slightly chaotic but enjoyable mixture of Café Church and Family Service. It was an opportunity to set up the crib for Christmas and to decorate the tree. There was a generous supply of gifts collected for needy families in the Bristol area.

Finally on the fourth Sunday came a service of Christmas Reflections and the traditional service of nine lessons and carols in the evening. Having been cancelled in 2020 and with a much restricted service last year in 2022 the church returned to normal, serving mince pies and mulled wine at the conclusion of the service.



**Previous page**— at the Gift Service.

**Above**— There were lots of handicrafts to take home at the café church.

**Left**— Gifts piled up at the Gift Service



### And farewell to Becky



Becky Purchase has stepped down as Scout Leader of the St Mary's Kingswood Scouts. Becky picked up the role following the illness and later death of David Harris.

At a well-attended service in St Mary's, Becky was thanked for all her work by both the church and other scout leaders who had attended. Jenny Harris presented Becky with a present designed especially for her with a special bouquet from the scouts themselves, with memories of activities.





# Collingwood

Care Home for the elderly

Collingwood Care Home provides the best possible care to our residents.

We ensure it is a happy, safe place to live...  
“home from home”

Please contact one of our friendly Management team for an appointment to discuss your requirements.

Lizzy, Mandy or Suzy

Collingwood Care Home  
78a Bath Road  
Longwell Green  
BS30 9DG

**0117 9324527**

**[linkside-care@btconnect.com](mailto:linkside-care@btconnect.com)**

**[www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk](http://www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk)**





St Mary's Church Bitton  
Parochial Church Council

# PCC Report

A meeting of the St Mary's Bitton PCC (Parochial Church Council) took place on 7 November.

The PCC has agreed to part fund a new administration post to provide support across the benefice. It is intended that the role will support the clergy and other tasks that enable the benefice of three parishes (Bitton, Syston and Warmley) to keep running smoothly.

Church funds are in a good state although money, as always remains tight and the running of the church, which costs over £1000 each week is largely dependent on income from parishioners, with additions from investment and fundraising sources. A recent letting of the church for filming of a music video was successful which prompted a discussion about how this could be expanded to provide additional sources of income. It was agreed that a formal hire agreement should be available for such events in the future. Bookings are also increasing once again for the church hall.

The PCC also welcomed the news that the faculty (planning permission) for the reordering of the church (including mobile pews) had been approved by the Diocesan Chancellor on the Bishop's behalf. The chancellor had recognised the scope of the intended works and allowed for this to be carried out in phases, each of which would require approval from the Diocese. As a first step it was intended to move ahead with the mobilisation of the pews.

The new website is now live. It will take some months before it is fully functioning, but it is more modern looking and flexible than the one it replaced which had become seriously outdated.

Phil Vowles reported that the boiler has been serviced and a new light installed in the ringing chamber and a replacement door fitted to the cupboard housing the outside tap.

Fundraising has also started for the post of a Children and Families worker for Bitton parish by Liz Midgely.

The parish would also be applying for an energy grant that may be

## Focal Point, January 2023

---

available from the diocese to assist with the increased costs of energy this winter.

The Queen's Jubilee Canopy is still being added to in spite of the death of the sovereign. It is planned to plant a tree in the churchyard and a suitable tree would be sought.

The PCC also learned that Becky Purchase would be stepping down as Scout Leader in December and it was agreed to fund a small present to show appreciation for all her work.

Jacqui Harris has recently completed her Safeguarding Lead course and would be reviewing our policy to ensure that policy and practices are robust.

There has been a Quinquennial inspection and report was expected soon.

It was suggested that the next meeting of the PCC should be held on Zoom to save heating costs. The next meeting is due to be held on 6th February.

# Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Wide range of Timber Claddings
- Fast Local Delivery Service or collect from our yard

### Opening Hours:

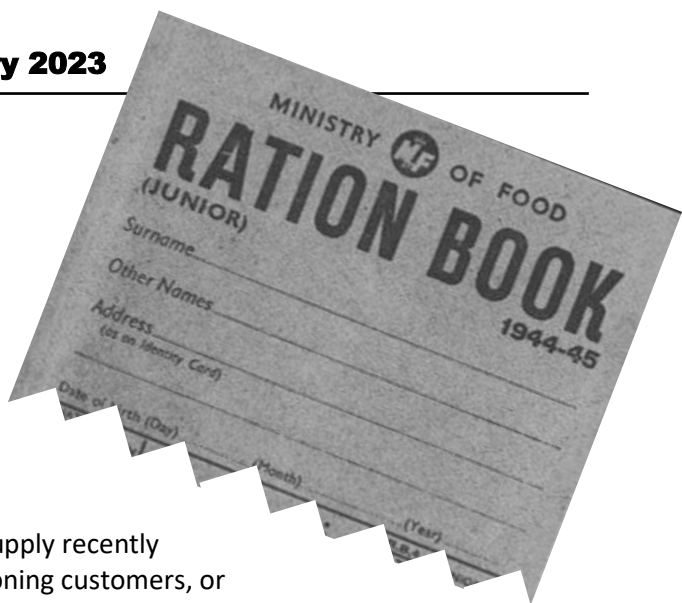
Monday - Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:  
8.00am - 12.00pm

**[www.bendreybros.co.uk](http://www.bendreybros.co.uk)** ☎ **0117 9674382**

The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgegate, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW

# NO- EGG cake



Eggs have been in short supply recently and shops have been rationing customers, or have even run out. The cause of this situation is disputed. Suppliers are blaming supermarkets for not paying enough to make egg production viable while the supermarkets are blaming avian flu.

Whatever the reason, and despite Brexit, we are now importing more eggs from the Continent. But if you want to revive that wartime spirit (when people were rationed to one fresh egg each week) you might like to try this 1940s recipe for an eggless fruit cake, supplied by Jill Gibson.

## **Ingredients**

1lb flour  
6oz margarine  
8 oz sugar  
1 ¼ lb mixed fruit  
3 oz cherries  
½ pint milk  
2 tbsp malt vinegar

## **Method**

Mix sugar, and flour and rub in fat. Add fruit, malt vinegar and milk. Put into lined tin. Bake 275°F (Gas Mark 1 or 135°C) for about 2 hours but cover top after 1 hour.



**KIM**  
*Unisex Hairdressing with  
Beauty Room & Solarium*

*188 High Street  
Oldland Common  
Bristol  
BS30 9QQ*

*Tel: 0117 932 3539*



**Robert Pearce** has over 40 years' experience  
plumbing in the local area



Available for  
general plumbing  
and repairs

**Tel: 07814 607974**

**Email: [robsuep@btinternet.com](mailto:robsuep@btinternet.com)**

## *Hanney Welding Limited*

For all your Welding & Fabrication  
requirements

**Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton**

**Tel: 0117 932 2647**

**Email: [martin@hanneywelding.co.uk](mailto:martin@hanneywelding.co.uk)**

# The January Quiz

*By Carolyn Russell*

This month's quiz is about *New things*; all answers begin with the word *New*.

## **No. Clue**

1. A state in Australia which is just over 800,000 km<sup>2</sup>
2. This testimony of Jesus' life containing 27 books
3. Ladies fashion clothing shop, has over 500 branches
4. A Louisiana city on the Mississippi River
5. The original name for New York City
6. The first lunar phase
7. British political weekly magazine first published in 1913
8. The capital of India
9. This music scene was characterised by flamboyant fashion in the 1980's
10. Santa Fe is the capital of this USA state
11. Area of London, has a train station of the same name
12. A country named after a northern part of the Netherlands
13. Pop group formed in 1980 from Manchester, had a hit with "Blue Monday"
14. Group of islands belonging to France in the southwest Pacific Ocean, home of indigenous Kanak people
15. Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme opened in 1986 with a capacity of 600
16. The song by Eagles, has a chorus of "Johnny come lately, The \_\_\_ \_\_\_ in Town"
17. The world's 2nd largest Island, after Greenland (not including Australia, which is a continent)

## Focal Point, January 2023

---

18. A region of the USA, including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont
19. Village in North Lincolnshire, it has its own train station situated on the Barton line, 19 miles west of Cleethorpes
20. The home ground of Rotherham United Football Club

Name:

Contact:

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

## Christmas Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was on Christmas films

### Answers:

(1) Buddy; (2) Deck the Halls; (3) Bob Cratchit; (4) The Snowman; (5) Paris; (6) The World Is Not Enough; (7) 2; (8) Paul; (9) Hugh Grant; (10) Meet Me In St Louis; (11) 50p; (12) Danger in the Manger; (13) Holiday Inn; (14) Toy Salesman; (15) James; (16) A reindeer; (17) 4; (18) Frozen; (19) Cookies; (20) Clarence.

### Correct answers were received from:

Sue and Alan Murtugh, Sarah Craddock, Carol and Tony Sheedy  
Sue and Rod Nethercote.

### This month's prize goes to:

Carol and Tony Sheedy

# The last word

## *A happy new year*



January takes its name from the Roman god Janus, who had the ability to look both backwards and forwards. Janus might be looking back with some dissatisfaction at 2022. A year of three prime ministers, war, rising energy prices, a cost of living crisis and as the year ends the prospect of a new winter of discontent and strikes.

So, lets not look back, but look forward and try to find the positives about the new year. Can I offer three?

The first must be that we start 2023 having confined COVID to the same position as flu. The second is largely reflected in the pages of Focal Point—that both at St Marys and the Upton Cheyney chapel there continues to be a community that supports and cherishes as people have done in the past and adds to a sense of community. And third, 2023, brings the prospect of a coronation; something that has not happened for a record period of time.

However it turns out, may I wish you a happy new year and hope that you keep reading Focal Point.

*Jim Heavens*

## **Steve Painter Decorating Services**

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- ❖ Traditionally trained
- ❖ Quality workmanship
- ❖ Paperhanging specialists
- ❖ Friendly and reliable
- ❖ Competitively priced
- ❖ No VAT added

**Contact Steve on 07853 250035**

**or 0117 956 5190**



- Design and build
- Building Maintenance
- Renovation
- Refurbishment
- Roofing

## **K P Wilton & Son Ltd**

11/12 Brighton Place, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QY

**Tel:** 0117 967 1207

**Email:** [info@kpwilton.co.uk](mailto:info@kpwilton.co.uk)





## ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We are at your service 24 hours a day  
We will help and guide you every step of the way  
We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans  
We can help and advise you choose a memorial  
We are members of the National Association of Funeral Directors

### **Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -**

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051

TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774

Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188

R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954

R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039

R. Davies & Son - Bishopsworth (0117) 9641133

Whitchurch FS - Whitchurch (01275) 833441

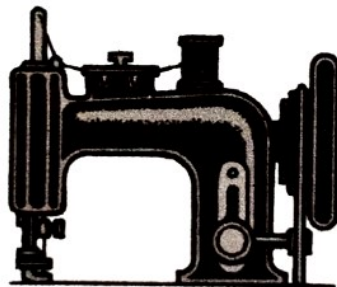
*Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company*

## Parker's Sewing Services

**Clothing alteration  
and repairs**

**Soft furnishings**

**Specialist projects  
and commissions  
undertaken**



Telephone Lizzie : 01179326662

Mobile : 07837126945

Email :

[lizzieparkerclarke@rocketmail.com](mailto:lizzieparkerclarke@rocketmail.com)

# SOLVING PEST PROBLEMS OTHERS CAN'T

- Since 2008

*Covering: Bath - Chippenham - Calne - Melksham -  
Malmesbury - Crudwell - Bristol East - Norton St Philip*



**Book a free survey today**

MATT WALL

**ALL PESTS:** Rats, mice, squirrels, wasps, fleas, flies, woodworm, rabbits, deer fencing, loft insulation clearance, bird proofing and prevention and so much more...

- Wasps from £67
- Ants 2 visits from £172
- Moles 2 visits from £118
- Rodents 3 visits from £176

\*quote 'bitton' for these prices

Find us on on



**For Homes & Businesses**

[www.pghbeegone.co.uk](http://www.pghbeegone.co.uk)  
[sales@pghbeegone.co.uk](mailto:sales@pghbeegone.co.uk)

**01225 285084**



Visit our website



**NORTON  
TAX SHOPS LTD**  
**ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS**

FREE INITIAL  
CONSULTATION

**Would you like...**

- To pay less tax;
- Accurate and high quality work;
- To be eased through the tax minefield;
- Work on time, every time;
- Competitive fees;
- Friendly, qualified staff;
- Quick, responsive service, tailored to you;
- Up to date expert advice;
- To maximize profit;
- To reduce the burden of your paperwork.

**You would? Then please contact us for help with:**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Self-Assessment      | ■ Annual Accounts       |
| ■ Capital Gains Tax    | ■ Limited Companies     |
| ■ Income from Property | ■ Bookkeeping & Payroll |



**Keynsham Office**  
3&5 Station Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2BH  
Telephone: 0117 986 0960  
**Kingswood Office**  
7 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8JX  
Telephone: 0117 967 47474

**Email:** [admin@nortontaxshops.co.uk](mailto:admin@nortontaxshops.co.uk)  
**Website:** [www.nortontaxshops.co.uk](http://www.nortontaxshops.co.uk)



# Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton  
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT  
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning  
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686