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May 2023

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Easter Egg Trail—How
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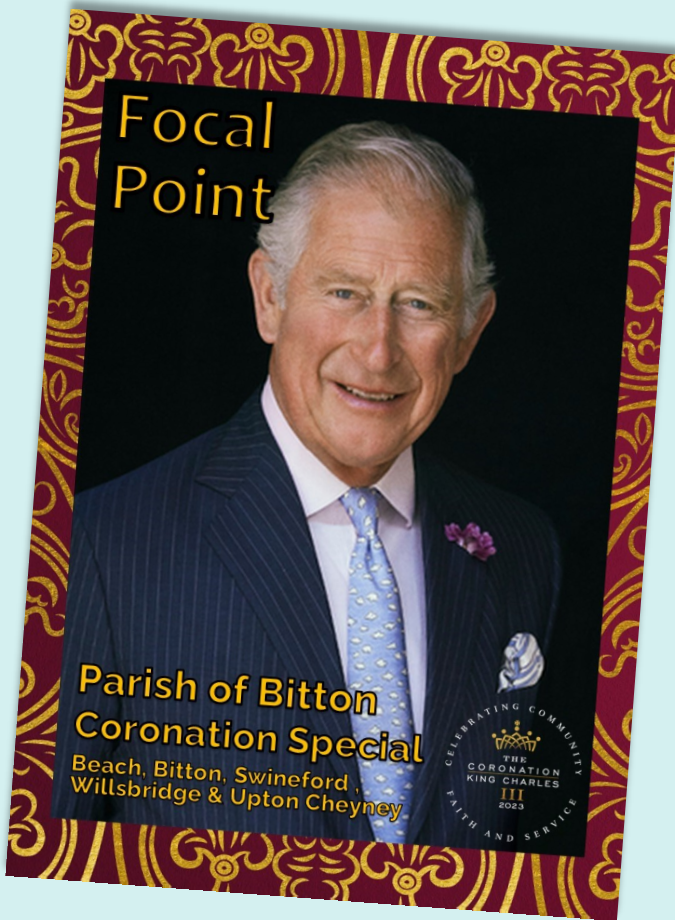
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Don't miss your FREE Coronation Special



This month all homes in the church parish of Bitton will receive a **Coronation Special Supplement**. If you have not received yours, or you attend St Mary's but don't live within the parish, copies are available from the church itself or the Village Shop.



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

May 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.*

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FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

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*Deadline for the June edition
is:*

Tuesday 16th May

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worship pages 7 to 12**

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May 2023



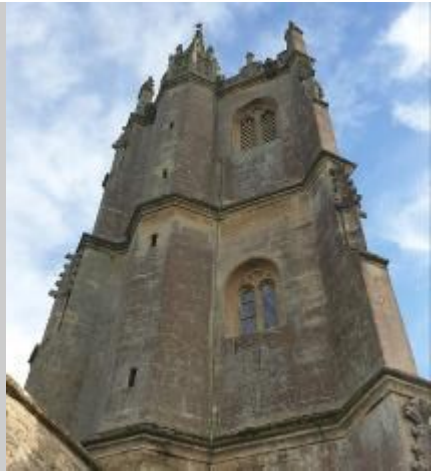
ALL SERVICES ARE AT 3PM

Sunday	7th	Service	led	by	Norman Parfrey
Sunday	14th	Service	led	by	Michelle Bates
Sunday	21st	Service	led	by	Ken Gibson
Sunday	28th	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

David Bailey
Westover, Bath Road
Bitton
0117 932 8949

Churchwardens:

Simon Harris
41 Combe Park
Weston
BATH
07714 615817

Vacancy

Services for May 2023

Services at St Mary's

Saturday 6th May 2023



CORONATION DAY

Sunday, 7th May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Service of Thanksgiving for the
Coronation of HM King Charles III
*Followed by a toast to Their
Majesties*

Sunday, 14th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Family Service with the
Scout Group and
St Mary's Minstrels



Thursday 18th May

ASCENSION DAY

Sunday, 21st May

Sunday after Ascension Day

10.30am Morning Worship

Thursday, 25th May

9.30am **Celtic Communion**

Followed by coffee, tea and cake

Sunday, 28th May

PENTECOST—WHIT SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Café Church

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Saturday 13 May at 9.00am
Prayer breakfast in Warmley Church

Tuesday 23 May at 7.30 pm
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.

The Sisters have made a special request for toiletries:

**Shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant,
shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel,
sanitary towels, nappies, wet wipes,
toothbrushes.**

From the Register



Funerals

30th March

17th April

Pamela Graham

Richard Honeywell

St Mary's Matters

First, I would like to thank Pete Midgley for his huge contribution in the role of Churchwarden. Pete has served for four highly eventful years and whilst he is stepping down as warden, thankfully he remains a committed member of our church community and so still available to guide me in the right direction.

I am often struck by the sense of history all around as I enter St Marys church. To think of the many thousands of feet that have walked down the aisle to their place of worship is quite humbling. On 17th April, I attended the funeral of our long-standing organist Dick Honeywell and discovered from his son, Dick's long association with the Royal Air Force from 1942. A brief history was provided in the April Focal Point and if you missed it, I would recommend a read through. A bugler played the Last Post and Reveille at the end of the Service, pitch perfect, and left a lasting impression. After the Service, I discovered that the RAF were alerted to Dick's passing by a notice in the Daily Telegraph and offered the services of a professional musician, immaculately turned out, to honour one of very few remaining veterans from the Second World War. Chatting to the bugler after the service, this was a timely reminder of the role of the Military in the upcoming Kings Coronation and the rare opportunity to mark a new Monarch ascend to the throne. It was also marvellous to hear the organ played to great effect, it would be great to hear more of it.



Simon Harris

Despite having seen Dick as organist many times in the past as he glided up the aisle to take communion with his black robes flowing in his wake. I never really had the opportunity to have a conversation and had no idea of his wartime history. Never one to linger at the end of the Service, he was usually keen to march promptly off at great pace, on his walk back across the fields to Keynsham. I was struck again by that sense of history and how easy it is modestly to keep to yourself a lifetimes experience. Perhaps as individuals or as the Church, we should be prepared to share and to tell our story.

My initial focus as Churchwarden has been to meet as many parishioners as possible and get to understand how the Church operates. The first is coming along whilst the second seems ambitious. I have always felt that communication is a key element of any job or role and I welcome your thoughts.

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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).

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Ever heard of pigeon peas? Malawi's miracle crop. When other crops fail, deep roots make pigeon peas drought resistant and a wonderful alternative to expensive imported wheat. Dried peas can be ground into flour to make delicious bread.



The Christian Aid Appeal focuses on Esther and Jen – members of a co-operative in Malawi. Supported by Christian Aid's partner, the Nandolo Farmers' Association, the group has learnt how to market their crop and avoid unscrupulous traders. They have bought an oven and are doing well. The money they raise selling their pigeon pea bread rolls pays for education and training for their children and grandchildren. Our gifts help give independence and prosperity Jen and Esther – and other similar groups.

Christian Aid week runs from 14th to 21st May and, as last year, there's a range of ways in which to donate. Here are the details:

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Envelopes – most will be collected but some will have a drop-in collection point for you to deliver your donation. The address will be on the envelope.

No cash? Don't worry – we now have a Bitton Christian Aid electronic envelope: which you can access using this QR code:

Lost your envelope? -Your collector will have a spare – though we'd rather you had it ready for us when we call back.

Wondering how else you can help? - We'd love to have some more collectors in the team. (And it's a great way to see people's gardens at a beautiful time of year.) If you could help please ring me on 0117 9324696.



Please give generously – and please take the time to increase your donation by filling in the gift aid form on the envelopes.

Nicola Bennetts



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Leslie Willcox

Kings and kingdoms; temporal and eternal

What scenes of pageantry and majesty will be paraded on Saturday 6th May as Charles will officially be endowed with the powers of monarchy along with all the regalia of office when he is crowned Charles III King of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. There will be parties, concerts, parades, fancy dress competitions, street decorations and all sorts. We even get an extra Bank Holiday!

For many, the coronation will be the major event of the year. Given the stalemate in the negotiating of public sector wage increases, worries over wars, and other political upsets the coronation will bring some light relief, a good excuse for a party. It will no doubt be tempered with a certain circumspection given the current financial squeeze on incomes from high inflation and low pay rises.

The coronation service is a right royal mixture of panoply, religious ceremony and worship. During a key part of the coronation ceremony, the King will be anointed with oil. Four Knights of the Garter hold a canopy over the chair and, concealed from view, the Archbishop anoints the Sovereign with holy oil on the hands, the breast and the head. This is the most solemn part of the coronation service for by anointing the monarch is set apart or consecrated for the duties of a Sovereign. It is this action which sets upon him his divine right as monarch to rule over his kingdom, having sworn to govern faithfully with justice and mercy, to uphold the Gospel, and to maintain the doctrine and worship of the Church of England for his whole life.



Photo by Hugo Burnand

A bit later in May, if you are really alert, you may notice the Church commemorates another coronation. Thursday, May 18th is Ascension Day, the day when we remember that Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at God's right hand. The day marks the end of his earthly ministry which began with His baptism and his anointing by the Holy Spirit.

Continued overleaf

Focal Point, May 2023

His mission was to bring to everyone the knowledge of the extent of his kingdom which embraces all of creation. His work of portraying God's love was exemplified in his way of life, his relationships, his teaching and his healing.

As his earthly ministry drew to an end, his crown was made of thorns, his sceptre was a reed and his throne was a cross. Such a contrast! Yet in death Jesus' reign didn't come to an end. His resurrection, which we celebrated not many weeks ago, and his ascension affirm his right to be regarded as God's Messiah, God's Son. Where His love is shown there is his kingdom. Our God reigns!

Even later in May (28th) the Church will celebrate Whit Sunday (Pentecost) when the first disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the love and saving power of Jesus. Such was the conviction in their speaking and living that thousands of people became followers of Jesus even in one day. Their story of their work of proclamation, starting in Jerusalem and extending outwards throughout the known world, is told in Acts of the Apostles. Incident after incident shows that as people became believers they received the power of the Holy Spirit to continue the work of proclamation in word and work.

All of us who have been baptised into the faith of Christ have that potential to show God's love in work and word. At baptism we were anointed, we have received His Spirit. Pentecost Sunday would be a good time to come and remind yourself of the gifts you have received and to renew your baptismal promises. In this way the Church will continue its work to extend the reach of God's eternal kingdom of justice and peace.

Leslie

Easter Egg Trail gets full marks from all



Some of the comments received by the Friends of The Meadows

Few could have missed this year's Easter Egg Trail around the village. This year the trail featured 36 hand painted wooden eggs which were hidden along the trail in various locations around the village. The objective was to spot as many eggs as you could and then drop an email to the **Friends of the Meadows** with the answer. All answers went into a prize draw, with 36 winners (one for each egg hidden) being drawn at random to win a chocolate Easter egg..

Continued overleaf

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The trail was organised by the Friends of the Meadows School as one of their fundraising activities and is now in its third year.

This year's trail ran throughout the Easter holiday. Nearly 200 maps were sold, and the event raised £462.50 for the Friends of the Meadows. This will go towards equipment and resources for the school.

"It's been wonderful to see so many families taking part and enjoying the beautiful scenery we have on our doorstep", says Linette Zerk, one of the organisers. "We've received some lovely comments in response".

A BIG THANK YOU also goes to Kandee and his family in the village shop who agreed to sell the maps on the Friends behalf, without whom the trail would not have been possible.

The Friends fundraising efforts are continuing. Their big fundraising project this year being to fund the build of an outdoor wellbeing classroom. If anyone is interested in supporting their fundraising efforts, they can contact the Friends at meadowsprimarypta@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Hunt

If you wanted more immediate gratification from an Easter Egg hunt, chocolate eggs were there to find and eat at the now traditional Easter Egg Hunt that followed the main service on Easter Sunday at St Mary's. No one went home empty handed.





Palm Sunday Procession

April this year brought not only showers, but some long and persistent periods of rain. So it was welcome to have a short break in the wet weather for the annual circuit of the village on Palm Sunday. A few years ago the procession was headed by a donkey symbolising Christ's entry to Jerusalem. Unfortunately no donkey has been available for some time.

Those attending the church were presented with a Palm Cross.



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This month, our eco church focus returns to the churchyard, where we have created a rewilding area. This is against the North wall, and is a small grave-free area now marked out with logs. The idea is that this area will be managed for wildlife, with wildlife friendly plants such as brambles and nettles left to grow back here.

Brambles and other woody weeds can be of great value to wildlife, providing shelter and food. For example, the flowers of brambles are a food source for bees; the leaves are a food source for caterpillars and the fruits are eaten by mammals and birds.

Stinging nettles are also great wildlife attractors: caterpillars of the small tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies use them as foodplants; ladybirds feast on the aphids that shelter among them; and seed-eating birds enjoy their autumn spoils. We have also included a pile of dead and rotting logs. Decaying wood and old plants are very beneficial to wildlife; they are of great value to insects, fungi, mosses and lichens, and birds feed on insects that make their home in old wood. Although wild areas like this look less "tidy", they are very important for wildlife, and can also look attractive; already we have some beautiful bluebells growing there.

The Eco-Church "eco-tip for the month" is on a similar theme: Say no to the mow. Mowing your lawn less, and letting parts of it grow long, saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact for wildlife, don't mow your lawn or a section of it all until August to help even more animals.



The Rewilding Area by the North Wall of the Churchyard



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Janet Ivens has just celebrated her ninetieth birthday, an event that was shared with friends and family before she was presented with a large cake at the Sunday service on 12 March. Janet was keen to thank everyone who had sent good wishes on the occasion.

If Janet has a secret about living to such an advanced age, it is probably her good humour and giggles. She can find the humour and bright side in most things, whether it is at her regular get together with the knitting group or aspects of her long life spent very much in the local community.

Janet was born and raised in Longwell Green, in Stone Hill. "It was lovely then with the fields all around before the houses were built" she says. Her father had spent some years in Canada, where he was the joint owner of a store "in the middle of the prairie". But when his partner got married, he cashed it all in and came home, married and bought a house – "he sort of retired," said Janet. But then he decided to open a hardware shop in Redfield – *Ivens the Ironmonger*. Janet did not like working in the

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shop, partly because all the addition had to be done in your head in shillings and pence. She would often divert to the shop of her uncle (one who did not go to Canada) who also had a shop in Redfield – *Ivens the Draper*.

Janet attended Bitton Council School (now The Meadows) and then Redfield High. After school she trained as a nursery nurse. The training and experience were quite extensive in those days. She then worked in a number of day nurseries in Bath and later at the Enmore Day Nursery, where, over time, she rose to the position of matron. Day nurseries do not really exist in the same way anymore. They were not the same as today's childcare centres to enable mothers to go to work, but focused on benefits to the children. Originally overseen by local authorities, responsibility was moved to social services with a very different view about how things were managed. Janet looks back on that period ruefully – "really it was bullying". They did not want people like her running it and she left on medical retirement.

Contained overleaf



Happy Days—Janet with others in fancy dress. She is the one in the top hat at the back

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It was then she moved into a vast number of other community and social roles including as caretaker at her old school, The Meadows, and at a golf course. It was also a chance encounter with Margaret Wilcox at Bitton Hill House that led to Janet being involved in catering – a service she supplied to most of the “large houses” in the area. It meant dealing with many interesting appliances including cooking a “funeral stew” on a gas cooker that slightly tipped forward and being given strict instructions on the manner she should cook a casserole. “On Regulo 4 for 40 minutes precisely” apparently, which wasn’t much use as there was only an Aga – “so it just went in!”

Janet has now lived in Bitton for many years, in only the second house in which she has ever lived. Recently it has become the centre for a weekly knitting circle – a group that brought us last year’s *Mousefest* in the church. The knitters are now working on a new project of local scenes and had recently been working on knitted trees -she giggles as she produced the early stages of a woodland scene -neither of us were sure that the mushroom was really in proportion to the tree. “We could really do with some new ideas – something to get us going on”.

Happy Birthday, Janet, and may you have many more.

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**Active
Citizens
Keep
Bitton
Tidy**

Picture by Sarah White

As part of their **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP** project at school, Amelie White and her friend Natalie, who are both very keen on nature and the environment, chose to spend time during the Easter holidays litter picking around the village. The project required the children choose a way that they could help the community. They picked up litter from the High Street, Church Lane and Church Road, as well as the churchyard and Glebe Field.

Thank you Amelie and Natalie for all your hard work.

St Mary's Church, Bitton

ANNUAL FÊTE & DOG SHOW

The Annual Fete and Dog Show will be taking place on Saturday 2nd September 2023.

We hope to have all the usual stalls and attractions plus a few new ones.

If you are able to help on before or after the fete, please get in touch. We are looking for people to help with:

- **THE HEAVY GANG**—to erect and take down the tents and tables.
- **RUNNING STALLS & GAMES**—even for just an hour or so, every little helps.
- **SELLING PROGRAMMES** on the gates.

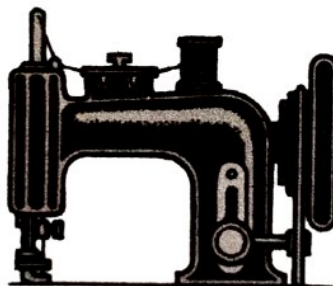
FRESH IDEAS for stalls and games are also welcome.

Please contact the Fete Co-Ordinator, Helen Pugsley on 07767 777019 or email bittoncm@outlook.com

More on our website: **www.stmarysbitton.org.uk**

All proceeds from the fete go to St Mary's Church for its maintenance and upkeep. Local voluntary groups are welcome to publicise their work and seek volunteers. Commercial and independent stallholders are most welcome at our **AUTUMN FAYRE** to be held on Saturday 28 October 2023. Contact as above.

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Upton Cheyney Chapel— A little gem

The United Reformed Chapel in Upton Cheyney has received less attention in Focal Point in recent months. The chapel was undergoing a long term improvements plan, but the death of two of its elders and leading lights during the past two years has placed the chapel in jeopardy. The chapel, built in 1834, was once at the heart of the Upton Cheyney community. Its original trustees



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included WD & HO Wills the tobacco importers. A few years later a schoolroom was built on the back of the chapel to provide schooling for 40 pupils who originally paid 2d per week. The schoolmistress lived in a house on two stories above the schoolroom. The school forms and desks used in that school are still in the schoolroom today.

The chapel is a little gem and popular as a place for weddings. But weddings on their own will not be enough to ensure its future, although at present the chapel, offers a service every Sunday afternoon.



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News from Bitton WI

A later in the month meeting for us this time due to the Easter break. Welcomes and updates done, we had a fabulous speaker this month. Tony Rance came to tell us all about his job as a Toastmaster and told wearing only the very best Toastmaster uniform! We felt like we were at a very special function indeed!

Tony gave us some history on how the Toastmaster role came about which is strongly believed to have originated in Bath way back in the 1600's when Beau Nash decided that it was better for the Prince Regent receive the Toasts in a more organised fashion. He then became the Master of the Toast. This idea was taken up in Tunbridge Wells and later in London. However, the Londoners thought it far better to be known as a Toastmaster, a name which has stuck to this day. They also created a new uniform to ensure the Toastmaster stood out in any crowd. The red tailed coat, black trousers, white waistcoat, black gloves and patent shoes became the trademark for all Toastmasters. Tony told us how he had to take a course to become a Toastmaster whereby he had to work with more experienced Toastmasters who would vouch for him when he took the exams. Once Tony had gained his qualifications he told us how he went to big hotels and function halls asking if they needed a Toastmaster. He preferred not to just do weddings as a lot of others might do and has been lucky enough to travel the length and breadth of the country as well as all over the world during his time as a Toastmaster.

Tony had found that there was a lot of work for him in the Welsh capital Cardiff and had been Toastmaster at a Football Cup Final in Cardiff when Wembley was being rebuilt and was the official Toastmaster for the Lord Chamberlain's office. Tony's background as a professional footballer, also helped in securing work at sporting functions.



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Tony has been so successful in what he does that he's built his own business with 15 other Toastmasters who cover anything from weddings to major royal functions.

Tony has worked with many big named celebrities as well as most of the Royal Family and is highly regarded in his line of work. He is also a Freemason and has worked over the years with the WI doing Christmas Tree appeals, giving our presents to children in Bristol and raising money for the appeal.

It was really fascinating to hear what goes on behind the scenes at some of the functions we see on the TV or read about in the media.

We've lots of events and outings to look forward to this coming summer and I am hoping to bring you some feedback from our members each month.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 15th May (a change to the usual timing due to the Coronation Bank Holiday) at 2pm, Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton. If you are interested in joining and would like more information, do email me on **bittonwi@gmail.com**

Our recipe this month is a familiar one and is just right for those celebration parties for the Coronation. This is a recipe I use that's been passed down from my grandmother and has won me the Bitton Fete WI Baker of the year in the past. Of course, I'm talking about the fabulous Victoria Sandwich.

Enjoy for any tea party or your Coronation celebrations.

Karen Davidson
Vice President, Bitton WI.

Victoria Sandwich

Ingredients: (makes 8 – 10 slices)

8 ozs (225 g) Self Raising Flour

8 ozs (225g) Caster Sugar

8 ozs (225g) Soft Margarine

4 Medium Eggs

A little milk

Strawberry or Raspberry Jam

Fresh fruit for decoration.

Icing sugar for dusting (Optional).



Method:

1. Heat your oven to 190c, Fan 170c or Gas Mark 5.
2. Grease a 9" (20 cm) round deep baking tin or 2 x 9" shallow tins and dust with a little flour. Line bottom with greaseproof paper.
3. Beat together the caster sugar and soft margarine until lighter in colour.
4. Beat in the eggs one at a time with a tablespoon of the flour and add the remainder of flour to the mix. Mix together until you have a light smooth batter. If you need to, add a little milk to loosen the batter.
5. Pour the batter into your tin, or divide into the two tins and smooth the surface with a spatula.
6. Bake in the oven for 30 – 40 mins (one tin), 20 – 25 mins (two tins) until the cake is golden brown and springs back when pressed. Use a skewer to check if you aren't sure and this needs to come out clean.
7. Turn out onto a cooling rack and leave to cool.
8. Once cooled, remove greaseproof paper cut in half if one cake, and add jam.
9. Place two halves on top of one another and dust with icing sugar.

Add some fresh strawberries or raspberries on top as that final touch.



St Mary's Church Bitton
Parochial Church Council

PCC Report

Three meetings took place on 27 March 2023.

The Annual Parish Meeting to which all parishioners are invited met and elected Simon Harris as churchwarden. Pete Midgely has stepped down as churchwarden after 4 years. As yet no replacement has been found.

The Annual Church Meeting that followed dealt with other items of business:

- The church **Electoral Roll** was confirmed at 68. Alison Wride will maintain the electoral role as there is no separate holder.
- **Annual Reports** from the church committees were accepted and adopted.
- The **Church Accounts** were adopted and Roger Hatherill appointed as auditor.
- **Confirmation of Elections:**
 - Jim Heavens and Jacqui Harris to be representatives to the Deanery Synod for 3 years.
 - Pete Midgley, Stephanie Bailey and Helen Pugsley to be PCC members for 3 years.
 - John Bennetts to be Treasurer and Alison Wride to be Secretary.

The final meeting was the first **PCC meeting** of the year..

Vision & Strategy—Jeremy felt that the vision and strategy of the church needed to be reviewed and asked those present to undertake a short note storming exercise looking toward what a thriving church would look like.

Further discussion took place about the maintenance of the Church Hall and plans for the Coronation, which would include a Thanksgiving Service.

Puzzle Pages

Our monthly prize quiz has proved to be particularly popular so we thought that we would try some additional puzzles. No prizes but strictly for entertainment.

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

8				4				5
5		7			8		6	
	4			5			2	
					9	3		2
9				1				7
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	8			9			7	
	7		2			5		6
1				7				9

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WORD SEARCH

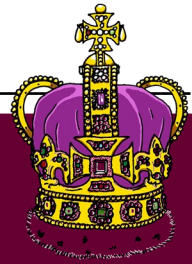
The word search has a slightly (but not exclusively) royal theme for Coronation month. How many can you find?

R	T	T	C	R	I	H	U	R	H	H	T	E	T
O	O	O	U	E	R	B	E	O	L	T	A	C	T
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O	P	S	R	U	O	L	O	C	R	E	T	A	W
L	G	G	V	E	A	C	R	L	W	W	L	P	M
D	R	Y	T	I	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	S	T
E	E	S	A	A	G	S	T	H	R	O	N	E	H
S	B	U	C	K	I	N	G	H	A	M	I	C	D
T	M	C	T	E	G	D	I	R	B	M	A	C	I
I	E	A	N	R	R	I	U	K	I	O	I	A	V
E	V	S	E	I	T	I	R	A	H	C	C	N	E
M	O	N	A	R	C	H	E	E	E	S	U	E	R
M	N	R	A	L	V	O	O	H	M	I	B	T	L

Answers to both puzzles are available
on the church website

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk - click on
News & Focal Point or use this QR code





Coronation Prize Quiz

By Carolyn Russell

No. Clue

1. On what date is the coronation of King Charles III?
2. Where is the starting point of The King's Procession?
3. Which carriage will take King Charles to the coronation?
4. In which abbey is the coronation held?
5. Apart from the King, who else will be crowned at the coronation?
6. Which crown will the King be crowned with?
7. Which crown will the Queen Consort be crowned with?
8. What oil is used to anoint the King? C _ _ _ _ _ Oil
9. What bird is the ampulla modelled on?
10. Where was the anointing oil consecrated?
11. The King will pledge to be "Defender of the " ?
12. Which object symbolises the Christian world and represents the sovereign's power?
13. What is the oldest object used in the Coronation, recorded as used in 1349?
14. Who commissioned the Coronation Chair in 1300?
15. What material is the Coronation Chair made of?
16. How many previous monarchs have been crowned in the same abbey?
17. Who has been commissioned to compose the coronation anthem?
18. How many Windsor Greys are used to draw the Gold State Coach?
19. How many tonnes does the Gold State Coach weigh?
20. On the coronation weekend there is a Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church followed by a blessing of what new items?



This month we have three options for you to submit your answers, which need to be returned by Monday 15th May:

1. Submit your answers online. Use the QR code opposite or visit the church website and go to the Focal Point section where you will find a RED button to submit your answers www.stmarysbitton.org.uk
2. By email to bittoncm@outlook.com
3. By sending your answers to Eastover, High Street (corner of Golden Valley Lane).

Coronation Quiz by Carolyn Russell



April Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was called Beetles.

Answers:

(1) Wasp; (2) Tanner; (3) Weaver; (4) Bombardier; (5) Drugstore; (6) Ant; (7) Watercress; (8) Screech; (9) Musk; (10) Lily; (11) Rhinoceros; (12) Hercules; (13) Stag; (14) Orchid; (15) Longhorn; (16) Ladybird; (17) Minotaur; (18) Asparagus; (19) Leaf; (20) Tiger.

Many of you will have struggled with question 5, which asked for 10 letters when the correct answer drugstore has only 9.. As a result it has been decided to accept all answers to that question. Apologies.

Correct answers :

The correct answers were therefore received from: Katherine Clarke, The Wakefields, Marlene Gallop, Julia Butler, Alan & Sue, Susan Oxford; and Sue Nethercote.

From the draw of the correct entries, this month's prize goes to:

Sue Nethercote



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The last word

Coronation Fever?



It seems almost to have come as a surprise. Unlike the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, only year ago, this year's coronation seems to have an understated build up. A few items of the usually tasteless but loveable variety of memorabilia have started to appear in the shops, but for an event that is a matter of national celebration the take off seems to have been a little slow.

Perhaps that is what is intended, the king having himself wished not to have too over elaborate an event at a time when the national finances are stretched and to have events that provided an opportunity to bring the community together.. Compared to the coronation service for his mother, it will certainly be pared back, but should still provide the opportunity for celebration.

However you intend to spend the Coronation Weekend may it be enjoyable and memorable.

Jim Heavens

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