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August 2023

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for *Songs of Praise* at
The White Hart

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Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

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

FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

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*Deadline for the September
edition is:*

Thursday 17th August

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SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

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funds and The Children's Hospice**





UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel



August 2023

All Services are at 3pm

Sunday 6th Service to be arranged

Sunday 13th Service to be arranged

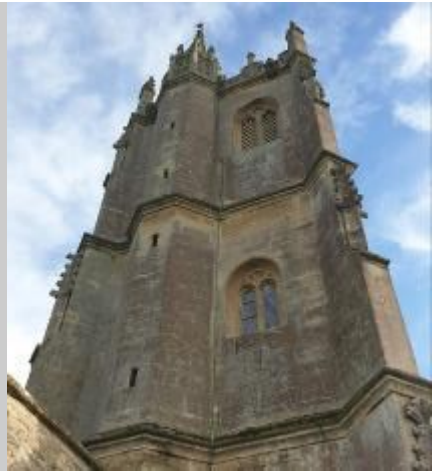
Sunday 20th Service led by Michelle Bates

**Sunday 27th Service led by Richard
Humphrey**



**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 August

Services at St Mary's

Sunday, 6th August

Ninth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 13th August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Favourite Hymns— *chosen by the congregation*

Sunday, 20th August

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Morning Worship

Thursday, 25th August

10.00am **Celtic Communion**
Followed by
11.00am **St Mary's Tea and Coffee Morning**



Sunday, 27th August

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



From the Register



17th June Baptism
Stacey Howell

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Saturday 12 August at 9.00am

Prayer breakfast at St Mary's Church Hall

Tuesday 22 August at 7.30 pm

On Zoom

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).

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.

St Mary's Matters

At the tail end of the 20th Century, I was posted from Wales to Scotland - RAF St Athan to RAF Leuchars (neither of which still exist). We had just moved house in Bath so amidst the chaos of the move we rented the new house out, boxed up again and Mel and I headed North with the girls to take up a married quarter. Leuchars is a cracking spot, nestled between St Andrews and Dundee, on the East Coast, surrounded by some lovely beaches and easy access to the highlands.



Simon Harris

My new job was Senior Engineering Officer (SEngO) on 43 (Fighter) Sqn. The Sqn operated the Tornado F3, the Air Defence Variant, and the main task was Northern Quick Reaction Alert N (QRA). This required a number of fully armed aircraft to be ready to fly at minutes notice with air and ground crew on site 24/7 ready to launch to defend the UK's airspace. In addition, my 100 or so technicians were expected to provide serviceable jets so that the crews could fly and maintain their currency in many different skills. Now the F3 was quite a fragile jet. They took a great deal of TLC and fixing to keep them on the flight line ready for use. Each day, the duty pilot would plan for the next day and needed to know how many aircraft would be serviceable so that he could book ranges, task aircrew and air to air tankers and so on.

Now this is where I started to recognise optimism bias. I saw my 'techies' taking criticism because they had under delivered, they had estimated say 6 jets by 16:00 hrs but only 4 came up. The day before it looked like there should be 6 if everything went well, but in reality, other, unforeseen problems had arisen such as lack of spares or replacement black boxes that did not work after fitting.

Focal Point, August 2023

So we started to build in some reality, or risk. If we thought a jet would come up for 14:00 then estimate 16:00. If a large task looks like 3 days, add a day for risk. The results were a major change in mindset; instead of constant disappointment at failing the target, we found that we were lauded for exceeding the requirement.

How many times in our modern world do we fall into the same trap. We are positive, can-do but fail to take reality into account. When looking after a historic church like St Marys, I apply the same logic as when scheduling work on an aircraft; things are rarely as straightforward on the ground as they seemed in the planning conference.



Rosemary celebrates first communion

It was a special service of communion on the first Sunday in July in Bitton, celebrated by Rev Rosemary Radcliffe having been ordained as a priest the day before, at Bristol Cathedral.

Rosemary has been curate in the benefice since last year, but can now take on wider responsibilities, including cover for our vicar, Jeremy, when he starts his sabbatical in September.



Joyful and well-attended Songs of Praise in the White Hart Garden

There was a large turnout on Sunday 9 July for *Songs of Praise in The White Hart Garden*.

The singers and those attending, who joined in, were accompanied by the St Mary's Minstrels and Oldland Brass with hymns old and new. The event even ended with a requested encore of *Lord of the Dance*

Despite a mixed forecast the event was rain free. A barbeque was also laid on.

Our thanks to our singers and musicians, and especially to James and Jemma for hosting this popular event, which is becoming a summer regular in the church calendar.

Ken Gibson—Lay Minister

Holidays are here again!

Holidays' is one of those words which conjure up a positive reaction for me. I guess it dates back to childhood when holidays meant time off school and a summer holiday which might be an exciting trip to Woolacombe or the Isle of Arran, although in the war, the government did try to free up the transport network by encouraging 'holidays at home'.

Holidays were originally 'Holy Days' such as Christmas and, apart from Sundays, were some of the few days when people were given time off work. How great for us that they have gradually extended. Even when I started work in the 1960s, 2 weeks were the norm but over the next 50 years this has joyfully crept up to 3, 4 or even 5 weeks.

How do we spend our holidays? Maybe Family time, Relaxation time, Travel exploration time, Reading time, Jigsaw time and Change is as good as a rest time. The essence is being away from the pressure of a regular schedule of work and activities from sport to church gatherings. A chance to de-stress and to be unpressured. Little wonder that the word 'holidays' produces that positive reaction.

In Jesus' day holidays so far as we can tell from the Bible were only those linked with religious festivals. The Passover drew many, including Jesus and his disciples, to Jerusalem but, although it was a wonderful renewal of faith as they remembered the God who delivered his people from slavery in Egypt, it sounds to have been crowded and noisy and not 'away from it all'.

However, Jesus did encourage his disciples to take time apart to recharge their batteries. At the Transfiguration he took three disciples up a mountain far from the crowds who normally



followed them all. And according to Matthew 5 verse 1 the Sermon on the Mount saw Jesus taking his disciples away from the crowds and up a hill to listen and think. And He himself took time to be alone in the wilderness to reflect and pray.

That gives a hint as to one of the ingredients that we might include in our holiday. I remember that my father, who usually spent Sunday mornings visiting patients, always searched out a church when on holiday. It is a great opportunity to encounter a wide variety of worship styles. And in addition to packing a good selection of favourite authors, the inclusion a book on a Christian theme can add an extra dimension.

A final thought for those whose health makes holidays away impractical. I hope that you have good memories and photos to look back on. And can the rest of us support you in finding a special holiday treat – something different? An unexpected visit to wherever you are with a surprise gift or even a trip out for a cream tea.

To one and all I send good wishes for happy holidays.



Upton Inn to close

It's the end of an era at the Upton Inn this month as time is called for the last time – at least for the present. Chris and Teresa Meaker, who have been in charge for the last three years are moving to a new venture and their last day at the Inn will be on 6th August. They will be very happy to see anyone for food and drink up to then. Hall and Woodhouse are also ending their lease and it is understood that the building is being handed back to the owners, for a possible sale.



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Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to our next meeting on

Monday 21st August

at

THE MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

Doors open 7.15pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Christina Stapley

Author and Gardener

and the title of her talk is

Herbs in a Kitchen Garden

Over the past thirty years Christina has become a real expert on just about every aspect of herbs and she has written several books covering their history and uses. Her garden in Hampshire has been featured on television and most recently she has appeared on Autumnwatch.

This meeting is FREE to members

New members and guests are always welcome

Mikado Magic



A wonderful performance by the Bath Gilbert & Sullivan Society of their concert version of *The Mikado* took place at St Mary's on 24th June.



All the pews were occupied for the performance that took place on a particularly warm June evening. The heat did not dent the enthusiasm of the harmonious chorus, and there were some fine solo performances not least by Adrian Cooper (Nanki-Poo), Robin Noad (Ko-Ko), Zoë Faulhurst (Yum-Yum), and Juliette Coad (Katisha).

The music was enthusiastically received by the audience who were pleased to take the air outside the church during the interval.

The concert raised £1113 which was divided between church funds and the Children's Hospice Society.



Our thanks go to the Bath G&S Society, to Natalie Morton, who accompanied the singing, as well as the other members of the St Mary's Music Group, Jenny Harris, Jane Clapp and Liz Wilson who ran the ticket sales, raffle and bar between them.

Pictures by Jane Clapp

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may be plenty - but is it enforceable?

Last month we asked whether the speed limit through Bitton village (as well as other parts of the parish) should be reduced to 20mph. There is a campaign to do this led by Bitton resident Steve Cox. Steve made out a case for the change on the grounds of safety, noise and pollution. But not everyone agrees that it would be such a good idea.

Two residents, who have lived in Bitton for many years, raised the key issue of enforcement. They had previously been involved with the Community Speedwatch monitoring vehicles coming on both the Bath and Bristol sides of the village. At that time, 88% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit, but when reports were made to the police, they chose to do nothing. They were also concerned about the unintended consequences when frustrated drivers behind those respecting the speed limit are overtaken, often at speeds well above 30mph creating an even more dangerous position.

Whatever the speed limit, enforcement is clearly a key issue and one that is unlikely to come high on the police's list of priorities for the foreseeable future. There are also some genuine concerns about the politicisation of speed limits and measures intended to reduce pollution.

Speed limits were originally intended to indicate a maximum speed at which it is safe to drive on a road, but imposition of new speed limits as part of pollution reduction measures or to promote cycling are not always popular and the arguments are complicated.

Focal Point, August 2023

Slower speeds can mean lower pollution from engines, but pollution is also caused by braking as motorists slow down when they move into a lower speed area.

What is clear, however, is that the movement for lower speed limits has momentum and they do tend to reduce overall traffic speeds – people don't necessarily comply with 20mph, but they do tend to keep below 30mph. Is that a compelling argument? But will the people who really need to reduce their speed do so, just because the speed limit has changed?

Meanwhile Steve Cox is pressing on with his campaign and has a growing number of people he has invited on Facebook.



The current speed limit is 30mph. It is not always respected.

Steve is planning an informal meeting from 7-9 pm on 1st August 2023 in St Mary's Church Hall, Bitton to discuss the next steps and ideas for the campaign.

Everyone is invited, RSVP to Steve Cox on steve@photoopportunity.com or mobile 07795 247160

Focal Point is keen to hear views from any perspective – whether in favour or not.

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Can you help with the churchyard?

As the church fête is approaching, we thought it would be a good idea to have a concerted effort to tidy up the churchyard as much as possible ready for the big day.

There is a date planned for the usual first Saturday of the month Saturday 5th August - but unfortunately, I won't be around on that date. If you do go I would just request, please you ensure you aren't there alone especially if using any sort of chopper/cutters!

New dates are Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th August between 10.30 a.m. and 3p.m. We thought we would lengthen the time as slightly earlier or later may suit some people better - and of course no one would be expected to stay for the whole time.

Please do pass this on to everyone and anyone you know who you think may be interested in sparing a couple of hours.

Of course do feel free to go anytime that suits you - don't have to stick to the suggested dates (as long as you're not on your own!!). Thanks so much everyone and I will see you on 12th August!

Anna Palmer, BVRA Chair



Countdown to the Fête

Bitton's annual church fête takes place on Saturday 2nd September and plans are underway for a memorable community and church event.

All the usual stalls will be there of course, and we are especially pleased that the Tatters and Tails Morris Group will be appearing. Also on show will be a collection of classic cars. A wide range of refreshments, games and stalls will be available with a licensed bar and for children, Punch and Judy.

The Fête Committee is still looking for donations to its stalls and for more volunteers.

Bookstall – contact Sarah Heavens 0117 932 5376

White Elephant - Nicola Bennetts 0117 932 4696

Nearly Nu (clothing) Annette Vowles 0117 932 6352

Bottle Stall - Sarah Craddock 0117 932 8644

Tombola (gift items) - Alison Wride 0117 932 4931

Items can be left in the church porch when the church is open (usually 10am to 5pm). Please don't leave them outside when the church is locked.

Want to get involved – *you're most welcome.* If you would like to help at the fête, running a game or helping on one of the many stalls, please get in touch. It doesn't have to be for the whole afternoon, just an hour is fine.

Focal Point, August 2023

We are also looking for helpers to set up and dismantle the fête on Friday and Saturday evenings and for helpers with programme selling and car parking.

More information on our website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk or contact the **Fête organiser, Helen Pugsley** on 07767 777019.

And at this year's fête be sure not to miss:



DOG SHOW—The very popular fun dog show will be part of the fête—we are very grateful to Highcroft Vets who will be running the competition.



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION— This year you can upload your prints online. No need to print, just take a photo on your phone and send it. **See page 26 for details.**



BITTON BAKER OF THE YEAR— Returning this year is our baking competition with a special under 12s section. **See page 35 for details.**



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St Mary's Church Fête

2nd September 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Entries are invited now

Photographs can be in colour or black and white. It must be your own work and have been taken within the last 2 years.

There are 6 categories for both adults and juniors (under 16s). Entry is £2 per photo for adults and free for under 16s.

The categories are:

- **Coronation**
- **Best friend**
- **Happy place**
- **The colour blue**
- **My Bitton**
- **In motion**

Printed photographs must be a maximum of 20x20cms.

The digital limit is 10MB. Digital photographs will be printed 8"x6"

How to enter:

1. **Printed photographs** should be submitted in an envelope with your name, contact details, the date the photo was taken, category from above and your age if you are under 16 to:
Rosewell, Church Road, Bitton. - **OR**
2. **Submit a digital photograph** online on our website, or using one of these QR codes:

ADULT



UNDER 16



ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY by 6:00PM on Thursday 24th August 2023.

Join us at the fete where all entries and winners will be displayed. The overall winner will receive the David Smith Cup, and there will be other prizes too.– **GOOD LUCK**



Bitton's new Farm Shop and Café

Have you tried the new Farm Shop and Café?

Opened in July, in Golden Valley Lane, the new farm shop and café provides a great stop for walkers, and some speciality foods for shoppers. There is a coffee shop, a very tasty menu and a wide range of produce, *Tutti Frutti* greengrocers are also on site having moved from The Chief Trading Post during development.

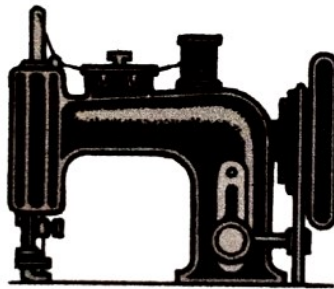
Open every day 9am to 5pm.

Birthday Month Bus Passes

Dan Norris, West of England Metro Mayor writes to Focal Point:

I'm pleased to let readers of Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge, Upton Cheyney & Beach know about Birthday Buses. Please do apply at www.birthdaybus.co.uk There you can apply for a special Birthday bus pass for free bus travel throughout the whole month of your Birthday. We have ambitious net zero targets in the West of England and 44% of our carbon emissions currently come from transport. This is a plan to encourage people to try the buses and hopefully switch to them, which in turn will mean more fare income and so better buses in the future too. You'll need a digital style passport photo and a local address to apply - and to fill in a couple of quick questions about your travel habits.

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Cream Teas in Support of GHCT and Ride & Stride

At St Marys have so much for which to be thankful, our beautiful church and churchyard we have inherited and the good state in which it was left.

One of the organisations that has helped us is the **Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (GHCT)**. This charity has not only been generous to us but has also helped many other churches to care for, repair and restore their buildings.

Every year GHCT have an event called Ride and Stride when people are sponsored to cycle and walk between churches raising money for the Trust. This takes place on **Saturday 9th September**, a week after the fête so we feel somewhat lacking in the riding and striding but we would like to support this important work.

Can you help with cash or cheques made out Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust?

On Saturday 9th September there will be cream teas in church to support the Trust, and I hope we will see you.

Barbara Merritt

September

is a busy month for church and community activities. As well as the fête on 2nd September

Monday 5th- New Term at The Meadows with a new head Teacher, Mr Edwards.

Sunday 10th—Last service at Upton Cheyney URC chapel as the chapel closes.

St Mary's holds its annual **Patronal Festival Service** earlier the same day.

Also in September—Monday 18th the Royal British Legion auction (see page 30) and **The Magpies Concert on Saturday 30th** (see page 6).



**Royal British Legion
Bitton and Oldland Branch**

Harvest Auction

Monday 18 September

**The Manor Farm Barn
Upton Cheyney**

**by kind invitation of
David and Catherine Hawking
and featuring Oldland Brass**

**7.30 Bar opens
8.00 Harvest service
8.30 Auction begins**

**Gifts of produce will be
appreciated. Please bring these to
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News from Bitton WI

It was a much cooler day when WI members met on July 10th for our afternoon meeting. Jean, our president, welcomed everyone and read the minutes of our previous meeting and a list of forthcoming events. Jean asked members if they could provide cakes or fruit (suitable for her to make jam) for the WI stall at Bitton Fête on September 2nd. Cakes can be taken to the stall on the day, if possible could Jean receive the fruit in good time, so that she can make the jam.

Last month two members were lucky enough to get tickets to visit the new Hinkley Point nuclear power station, and before our speaker began her talk, Barbara gave us a fascinating account of her visit. We could only imagine the size of the site and the number of people employed there.

Jean then introduced our speaker Daphne Atkinson who began her talk on the history of pub signs. There is usually a pub in every town and also in many villages in Britain.

A pub sign usually tells the history of the village or surrounding area. They can be traced back to Roman times when tabinae displayed outside of a house meant wine was sold inside.

Many signs displayed vine leaves, but as there were few vines grown in England this became changed to bush, as is shown in the name the Holly Bush.

The Queen's Head is also a common name but no reigning monarch may be displayed on the sign.

The Plough is the 5th most common name and is usually found in rural areas. The Rose and Crown was named to celebrate the end of the war of the roses.



Focal Point, August 2023

The Marquis of Granby spent all of his money providing pubs for NCO officers and died with huge debts. Pubs with the cock in their sign meant that cock fighting took place on the premises. The Bricklayers Arms, Blacksmith Arms and Carpenters Arms meant that the landlord had contacts in these trades and could help you get employment (the early beginnings of the job centre).

The sign the Lord Nelson was first used in 1798 to commemorate Nelson's victory against France in the battle of the Nile.

The Nutshell built in 1867 in Bury St Edmonds is the smallest pub in Britain. Questions were taken afterwards and then Jean thanked Daphne for a very interesting talk.

As we have so many soft fruit in season I thought a Fresh Fruit Flan would be nice to make, it is a fruit salad with a difference, delicious fresh fruit in a crisp pastry crust which is great for this time of year.

I hope you enjoy making and eating this fruit flan this summer, and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 11th September when Katie Bell will be taking us on a virtual tour of the Bristol Hippodrome.

Lyn Coles

Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience



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Fresh Fruit Flan

serves 6



100 g (4 oz) caster sugar
3 tbspcornflour
300 ml (1/2 pt) apple juice
150 ml (1/4 pt) orange juice
1 tsp grated lemon rind
Squeezed juice of half lemon
Selection of prepared fresh fruit such as apple, orange, pears, grapes, plums, peaches or strawberries

Pastry

100 g (4 oz) butter softened
50 g (2 oz) icing sugar sifted
Grated rind 1 small lemon
1 egg yolk
2 tbspcornflour
225 g (8oz) flour sifted

Method

1. Make pastry: in a large bowl, cream butter with sugar and lemon rind, until fluffy. Beat in egg yolk and lemon juice. Add flour and mix to a soft dough using finger tips. Wrap in foil and chill for 1 hour.
2. Heat oven to 200C (400F/Gas 6) Roll out pastry and use to line a 23 cm (9 in) flan tin. Bake blind for 15 mins. Remove from oven and cool.
3. Mix sugar with cornflour in a saucepan. Gradually whisk in fruit juices and rind. Heat over medium heat, stirring, until boiling. Boil for 1 min. then remove and cool stirring from time to time.
4. Prepare fruit and fold into cold apple juice mixture. Spoon evenly into flan case and chill until ready to serve.



WI at the Fête

WI Cake, Jam and Chutneys stall Donations of cakes, homemade jams and chutneys are welcome on the day, but if anyone has any fruit they can donate for jams and chutneys could they contact Jean Hook on 0117 9322050.

Baker of the Year

This year we will be bringing back the **Bitton Baker of the Year Competition.**

There will be two categories:

- * Adults
- * Children (12 years and under please)

We would like Adult bakers to bake a 8 inch (20cm approx.) Victoria Sandwich and children to make 4 decorated biscuits.

Entries to the WI Cake Stall by 2.30 pm at the very latest ready for judging at 3 pm. Prizes will be awarded after judging has taken place.

Karen Davidson

Puzzle Pages

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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

Answers to both puzzles are available on the church website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk - click on **News & Focal Point** or use this QR code



WORD SEARCH

This word search is themed around the parable of the Wheat and the Tares told in St Matthew's Gospel Chp 13

g	f	n	p	w	d	f	i	e	l	d	o
j	e	v	i	l	o	d	a	r	n	e	l
b	b	v	r	g	a	r	c	r	p	y	p
u	h	o	p	x	h	n	k	s	m	p	b
j	w	a	s	c	a	t	t	e	r	e	d
k	s	l	p	j	r	g	n	s	r	o	r
p	o	p	r	p	v	e	w	o	w	p	s
d	r	u	o	w	e	v	s	e	h	l	e
j	t	l	u	t	s	n	p	s	e	e	e
w	c	l	t	o	t	e	h	g	a	d	d
d	o	h	e	a	v	e	n	j	t	m	s
g	o	o	d	g	l	a	d	n	v	a	e

You are looking for:

worker

heaven

evil

pull

spotted

weeds

world

angels

good

happen

sort

wheat

same

field

seeds

harvest

scattered

farmer

enemy

plants

people

darnel

night

sprouted

August Prize Quiz *by Carolyn Russell*

This month's quiz is on the subject of flags. Name the country these flags represent

No. Clue

1. White with a red circle
2. 50 white stars and 7 red stripes
3. Green background, yellow diamond and a blue sphere
4. Blue with a white stripe and a sun in the middle
5. A Union Jack and 6 stars on a blue background
6. Red and white with a maple leaf in the centre
7. A square red flag with a white +
8. A Union Jack and 4 stars on a blue background
9. A white background split into quarters with red lines and a red cross in each quarter
10. Diagonal yellow lines separating triangles of green and black
11. Red, white and red stripes with a green tree in the middle
12. White and dark red joining in a zig zag pattern
13. Red and white with a moon and 5 stars
14. Stripes of green, yellow and red with a green star
15. A white moon in a green rectangle bordered with red
16. A yellow triangle and a line of white stars on a blue background
17. A white dragon on a yellow-orange and red-orange background
18. Stripes of blue, white, green, yellow and red with a yellow star
19. Half blue, half red with a gold crown
20. A yellow triangle over a black triangle edged with white on a blue background

It seems that there is a reluctance to embrace new technology and submit answers through the online answer sheet (which automated the process) so we will return to the old ways for next month. Please return your answers:

1. By email to bittoncm@outlook.com
2. By sending your answers to Eastover, High Street, Bitton (corner of Golden Valley Lane).

July Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about is finding a word which can make 3 new compound words with the 3 given words

Answers:

(1) tooth; (2) day; (3) week; (4) up; (5) tail; (6) hair; (7) run; (8) fall; (9) fire; (10) news; (11) fish; (12) under; (13) body; (14) light; (15) waist; (16) boat; (17) star; (18) room; (19) sun; (20) berry.

Correct answers :

Apologies with all those who struggled with question 6. Somehow the answer actually appeared connected to the last word clue when the quiz was transferred over from its original spreadsheet. All answers were therefore accepted for that question. This was clearly a difficult quiz. It attracted few entries and no-one identified all of the words Carolyn was looking for . But the person who achieved the most correct answers is this month's prize winner—

Terry Matthews

COULD YOU BE A QUIZ SETTER?

Sadly, our brilliant Quiz Setter *Carolyn Russell* will no longer be setting the quizzes after December. While we are grateful to Carolyn for some excellent quizzes, Focal Point is now seeking a new Master or Mistress of the Quiz. If anyone would like to step into this role from January—please contact the editor, Jim Heavens, on bittoncm@outlook.com.



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The last word



Closings & Openings

How many times, I wonder, were those attending the Congregational (now United Reformed) Church in Upton Cheyney warned about the dangers of drink? Such congregations (even the Methodist Church until the 1970s), almost all preached abstinence. There is some irony then, that the former beer and house, *The Upton Inn*, is calling time only one month before the chapel itself closes for the last time. Both the pub and the chapel have been closed before, of course, and then rerieved. When Courage brewers closed the Upton Inn in the 1970s it was bought and taken over successfully. More recently the chapel was saved by the dedication of a small number of committed volunteers. This time, however, the position looks far more precarious and both buildings may well be sold to become very pleasant private houses.

All over the country, public houses and places of worship are closing – the reasons are many and varied.. In the case of the chapel it is plain to see that the sudden loss of two of its leading lights in the past two years simply made it unviable. But the Upton Inn is surely a different matter. It has a great location and only few years ago was packed at weekends, particularly in the summer, with its outside tables at capacity. Surely, it still has potential and could again provide a central point to the village as it has for so long? And shouldn't Brewery Hill lead the traveller to a drink at the top?

By contrast, let us welcome a new arrival in the shape of the new Farm Shop and Café in Golden Valley Lane. It was doing a swift weekend trade when I visited and has clearly already attracted a following. We wish it every success.

Jim Heavens



Collingwood

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