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September 2023

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Church Fête—
on 2nd September**



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Saturday 28th October

11am - 3pm
St Mary's Church, Bitton

A wide range of stalls selling local food, crafts, jewellery, gifts and more. Ideal for Christmas gifting. Refreshments will also be available

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Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

September 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 October
edition is:*

Tuesday 19th September

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*Cover picture supplied by
Karen Davidson*



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TEA CONCERT'**



IN St MARY'S CHURCH BITTON



ON

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

AT 3.00 pm

Admission Free

**Retiring collection for church
funds and The Children's Hospice**





UPTON CHEYNEY United Reformed Church

www.e-voice.org.uk/uptoncheyneychapel

September 2023



All Services are at 3pm

Sunday 3rd Service led by Ken Gibson

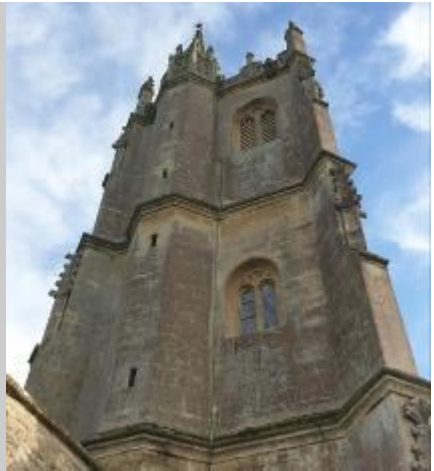
Sunday 10th Service led by Steve Britton

The service on Sunday 10th September will be the last held at the Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church after which it will close permanently.



**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 September

Services at St Mary's

Sunday, 3rd
September

10.30am **Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Parish Communion

Sunday, 10th
September

10.30am **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Patronal Festival
Family Special with the
Scouts and
St Mary's *Minstrels*



Sunday, 17th
September

10.30am **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**
Morning Worship

Sunday, 24th
September

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



Thursday, 28th
September

10.00am **Celtic Communion**
Followed by
10.45am ***St Mary's Tea and Coffee Morning***



From the Register



Baptism 6th August
Funeral 23rd August

Sebastian Warren
David George William Selman

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Saturday 9 September at 9.00 am
Prayer Breakfast at St Barnabas Warmley
Tuesday 26 September 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

We seem to have enjoyed some mixed weather through the summer. Whilst we have heard of extremes of temperature overseas and associated drought and wildfires, we in the UK have been protected from the worst excess by our relatively benign maritime climate. There have been complications; the farmers on who we rely have had to manage periods of dry and wet weather but overall have been able to cut the hay and make progress in the harvest. As September draws in, thoughts turn to how we keep our homes cozy for the Autumn and Winter ahead.



Simon Harris

Our own Lay Minister, David Bailey made a number of thought-provoking points in the July Focal Point – Action on Climate Change is Loving our Neighbour. The General Synod's aim is for the Church to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. Few could deny that this is an ambitious target. Help has been offered by Bristol Diocese in the form of an Energy Audit by specialists to advise us on how we might achieve this and I have provided details of our pattern of church usage, current energy consumption and associated costs.

I think of heating a room as being rather like running water into a bath tub with a leaking plug. There is a direct relationship between the rate at which you can pour water in against the rate that it drains away. If you can minimise that leakage away, then you don't need to put as much in. With modern design, construction and insulation, it is possible to build a space that requires little external energy input and still maintain a comfortable temperature for we humans inside. At St Marys Church we have the other end of the Spectrum. A large space with great height, with no structural insulation.

Our heating has been provided for the last 30 years by a commercial gas boiler which is now considered obsolete. We

hope to keep nursing it along but there are no guarantees. Our system relies on putting in a big bucket of heat before and during a service but little beyond frost protection at other times.

The current re-ordering project, envisaged under-floor heating powered by air source heat-pumps, supplemented by other methods where required. This modern approach needs the system to be run for long periods, or ideally continuously. The heat pump simply moves heat from one place to another like a fridge or freezer. The electricity to power that transfer is charged at approximately 3 times the cost of the equivalent unit of gas used for direct heating, but we should need less of it. The problem is getting the heat in fast enough before it leaks away. Looking on the bright side, we have a huge South facing roof which could provide a great deal of Solar power, just so long as the roof can bear the weight.

So in summary, the PCC and the Futures Group are looking carefully at all the options available and when better informed by the specialist energy audit we hope to be able to provide a route map for how we get from here to the 2030 ambition of carbon neutrality. This is very much a case of being led by the evidence to create a robust business case for any changes to be made. As David described, "Action on climate change is loving thy neighbour".



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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Pam and Marlene are holding a
MACMILLAN AFTERNOON TEA
at
St Mary's Church, Bitton
on
Saturday 23rd September
2-4pm
Choose a drink, and a cake and leave a donation
Live music

There's more to discover—

Our website is full of information about what the church has to offer today, its fascinating history and plans to renew its role as an active centre for the whole community.

Make use of its community pages and calendar of local events:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

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St Mary's Church, Bitton

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Instagram
stmarysbitton



Vicar's Letter

New Beginnings



I always think of September as a new beginning. I suppose it comes from my school days when, in the last week of August, my parents would begin to prepare for us to return to school. I have always been a fan of new stationery and I suppose the promise that it still holds for me stems from those days. A new school bag, a new ink pen and geometry set, pencil case etc and the obligatory new school uniform (I wasn't very good in those days at looking after a blazer and grew out of them quite quickly). All these thoughts come to mind as I write, and all these objects of stationery and clothing take on significance and meaning that transport me back with that nervous feeling in the stomach and a frisson of excitement of a new start in a new year of school. September then, offers a newness for each of us. Hopefully we are well rested over the summer and meet the autumn months with more vigour. It is an opportunity to begin something new and stimulating, after being rested and renewed. I wonder what you will do that is new?

In John 13. 34-35 Jesus offers us something new. In Jesus' time it was common to give commandments. The people of that age were used to orders and commandment from the Roman emperor and various Roman governors; and the People of God also nurtured a faith based on the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments. It wasn't out of place then for Jesus to talk in this way. These days I feel the word commandment comes with all the trappings of power and, at the very least I am suspicious of it. Cutting through the language, Jesus is actually offering a better and new way to live. "*Love one another as I have loved you*", and it is the "*as I have loved you*" bit that is important for us.



Back to School—A new beginning

We humans have talked about love for centuries, and even before Jesus' time there was an understanding of what love meant. So why is this a *new commandment* if we already know about love. Well, as I said, this is love after the example of Jesus. In John's gospel this new commandment comes in the context of the last supper Jesus has with his disciples and there he gets up from the table and wraps a towel around himself and washes his disciples' feet. It is as if he is saying this basin and towel ministry is the new way to live, and this is the example to live by, not just love, or even love your neighbour as yourself, but love as Jesus loves. The singer Michael Card says in one of his songs,

"And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free, in humility, to take the vow, that day after day we must take up the basin and the towel."

Continued on next page

Focal Point, September 2023

This new commandment, this new way to live was as radical in Jesus' time as it is today. I would suggest it remains so because humans in all sorts of ways can't bring themselves to do it. The new way that Jesus suggests is a powerful symbol of power but not power in the same way as the world shows it. The world, as I see it is in bad need of servant love, of the love that Jesus demonstrates, of the type of unconditional service that Jesus encourages us to offer in this passage from St. John, service that encourages us day after day to take up the basin and the towel.

Jesus is doing something new here. What are you going to do that is new, in this new school term, in this new school year, in the autumn months of 2023?

Midweek Groups

All three groups resume in September when new members will be very welcome. During September and October we are going to be studying passages from St John's gospel.

The **Wednesday Morning Group's** first meeting will be at 10.30am on Wednesday 13 September at the home of David and Stephanie Baily at Westover, Bath Road, Bitton. For further details phone 0117 932 8949.

The **Wednesday Evening Group** also starts on Wednesday 13 September meeting at 7.30pm at the home of Ken and Jill Gibson at 8 Church Road, Bitton. For further details phone 0117 932 2122.

The **Thursday Evening Group** starts on Thursday 14 September at 7.30pm at the home of Pete and Liz Midgley at 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge.. For further details phone 0117 932 6898.

News from the Ringing Chamber



Bitton ringers will be hosting a visiting band on Monday 4th September between 2.15 and 3.15. This band from Bradford on Avon will be captained by the Rev Tim Hawkins

Syston St Annes cracked number 4 bell

The beautiful little church of St Anne's Syston is part of our benefice of three churches. Since January, the bells of have been silent, due to a cracked number 4 bell. Had this bell been left unattended it was in danger of coming adrift from its mountings causing considerable damage to the tower structure. Thankfully regular inspections mean that this doesn't happen.

When you hear the bells not only from our church in Bitton, but others including Syston and Warmley, you would not realise that the bells in themselves are of great historic importance. The age and inscriptions cast into the metal are often specific to the church. So it is sad that the number 4 bell has seen its life, and will be retired.



The Number 4 Bell at Syston dates from 1664

Originally cast in 1664, together with the number 5 bell, apart from world wars, and pandemic viruses, it has been rung regularly. Weighing about 600lbs (272Kgs) it will be relocated on the bell frame in the tower out of the way of the other bells and stored. The Keltek Trust, a charity that specialises in redistributing bells from around the world, have kindly donated a replacement bell.

We look forward to replacing this bell at the end of the year, and continuing with the fine tradition of full circle ringing at St .Anne's.

As Bitton ringers we support all the churches in our benefice for services and special occasions.

Nigel Scudamore



Cake and Coffee Morning in aid of Syston Bells

**We are trying to raise money to repair the bells at
St Anne's Church, Syston**

**Saturday 16th September, 10:30 - 12:30 at
St. Anne's Church Room, Syston.**

Please come along to find out more about the work and support the cause. You will also have an opportunity to chime one of the existing bells under the watchful eye of an experienced ringer.

If you are unable to join us but would still like to donate. Payments can be made to:

**St Anne's Syston Parochial Church Council
HSBC Bank. Sort no: 40-14-20. a/c no: 71446258
Ref: Bells**



Patronal Festival Weekend

9-10 September 2023

Come and celebrate the Patronal Festival, of our patron saint, St Mary. This year, it is being held on the second Sunday in September

Saturday 9th September 2.30pm—4.30pm

Cream Teas in the Church

Cream Teas at St Mary's in aid of the **Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust**: After the fete the previous weekend we will all be too tired to take part in Ride & Stride , but we would like to support the trust in its work . Donations at the church or to Bárbara Merritt.

Sunday 10th September

Patronal Service at 10.30am



With the Scouts, and the St Mary's Minstrels.

The Minstrels will be performing

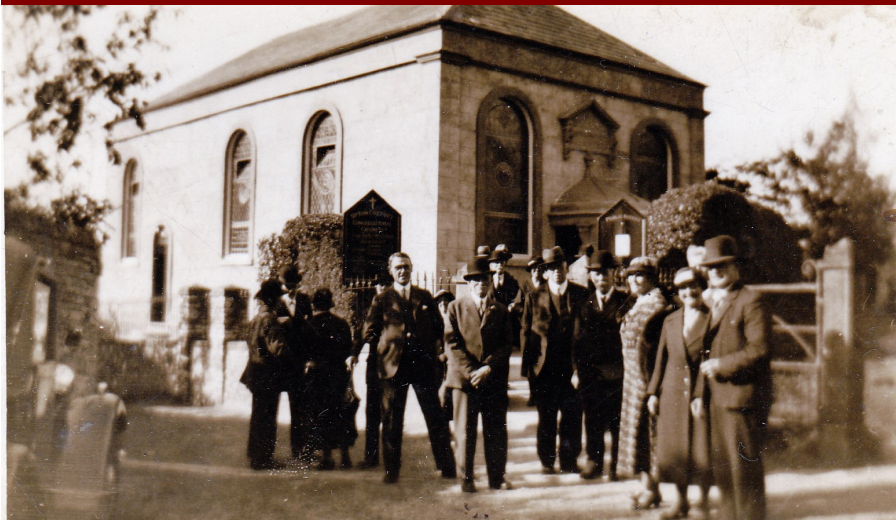
Ave Maria by Caccini

Ave Verum by Mozart

**Talk: A Short History of St Mary's
by David Bailey**

Upton Cheyney URC

**Doors close for the last
time after 189 years**



**The Congregational Church at Upton Cheyney on
its 100th Anniversary in 1934**

On 10 September this year, the final service will be held at Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church, after which the church will close permanently. It is a sad end to the use of a building that has served the people of Upton Cheyney (and beyond) for nearly two hundred years.

The leading hand in its creation, early in the nineteenth century, is that of William Clark who had previously built a chapel in Little Dean. His connection with Upton Cheyney was through his wife and a protracted legal claim on property in the village that he was eventually able to take possession of.



Church anniversaries were times for celebrations and large teas like this one in the former Schoolroom in 1954

In spite of the often cited activities of John Cennick, a follower of Wesley, in the village in the 1740s, Clark's view of the village in the early 1830s was that the villagers were "immersed in great darkness" and neglected. Being unable to find a suitable place for worship other than the Anglican church, he offered worship in his own house, and it was this group of worshippers who came to gather in his house, that proposed the building of a chapel.

Land was found and a group of trustees and funders was identified including the Bristol tobacco importer H D and H O Wills.

Continued on next page



Church outings were a high point—like this one to Weston in 1948

The foundation was beset by legal argument including an expensive application to the Kings Bench. But it eventually opened in 1834 having cost £360 to build and with land attached for burials. William Clark, himself, died in 1864 and is buried at the chapel.

The congregation described itself as independent dissenters and the chapel was known as the Independent Chapel for many years before it joined the Congregationalist Church (later part of the United Reformed Church), and pastors replaced the lay ministry.

In 1849 a day school was added together with accommodation for a teacher. Its first teacher was a Miss Haskins, and the pupils paid a fee of 2d per week. It remained in operation until the 1890s when a new board school was opened. After that the schoolroom was used for Sunday School but was also the setting for many afternoon teas and other events, the kitchen had more than sufficient space to prepare what was required.

Well into the late twentieth century the church flourished. There was off shoot in the chapel set up in Swineford in the years before the First World war (the corrugated iron building, still used as a nursery today. It was certainly described as flourishing in 1954, when it celebrated its 120th anniversary and the chapel remained a centre for people's lives for many years after that, organising trips and outings for families.

The last 25 years, however, have seen more mixed blessings. With a declining congregation the church was scheduled for



The church elders and pastor - thought to be around 1955

closure over a decade ago but was reprieved largely as a result of the efforts of two elders, Muriel Williams and Stuart Turner, who regularly provided a news piece for this magazine. Sadly, both Stuart and Muriel died in 2022 and without more people willing to step forward as elders and maintain the church, closure became inevitable once again.

There will be many with happy memories that they wish to share and, in addition to the two remaining services in September, the Bitton History Group will be holding a special meeting in the chapel on Tuesday 5th September at 7pm (starts at 7.30pm) to look back on its past and offer a time to share memories.

Remembering

David Selman

Many will be saddened by the news of the death of David Selman who died at the end of July aged 84. David and his wife Joyce had farmed at Knights Folly Farm and were well known in the village. A softly spoken man but with a warm appreciation and care for others.



David's love of driving started at a young age.

David was born in 1938 at Hill Farm in Bitton. As a young man, he joined the *Young Farmers* and became very active in the organisation of events and competitions. It was at one of their social events that he met his future wife, Joyce. Her family were not only famers, but hauliers and David soon moved over to be close to Joyce lodging with one of her relatives and driving heavy good vehicles delivering seed and animal foodstuffs to farmers. It was a life he craved for himself; and when the opportunity of Knight's Folly Farm became available, he and Joyce, whom he married in 1962, moved in.



David and Joyce Selman whose lives were both celebrated at David's funeral last month

It was the right choice as David and Joyce loved farming and running their own business, He developed a dairy herd that had to cross the main road each day to be milked and return afterwards (much to the consternation of drivers) and Joyce supported him and was as well known selling eggs form the door of their house in the Bath Road. He also loved farm machinery. Just as he had loved driving lorries in his youth, he was happy to on his tractor.

His two sons and later wives and children were great source of pleasure to David.. His other loves were the community and the church. He served as a parish councillor and as a churchwarden regularly attending at St Mary's and hosting Easter sunrise services at the farm. At the fête each year it was often David who was first onto the field to erect tents and put things right, and the last to leave at the end of the day.

Continued on next page

Joyce died in 2020 while Covid restrictions were in place, so her funeral was attended only by close family and a small group of well-wishers who were allowed to stand at a distance in the Glebe Field. David's funeral was well attended, and the family asked those present to remember Joyce as much as David.

That would not be difficult. Both David and Joyce will be remembered fondly by the church community and by Bitton for many years to come.

Much of the information for this article was taken from the address by Hartley and Victor Selman at David's funeral on 23rd August.

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Is Plenty Campaign Continues?

Steve Cox is continuing his campaign to reduce speed limits through Bitton village and has signed up additional supporters to his campaign.

A meeting was held on 1 August, together with local councillors Paul Hughes, Erica Williams and Geoff Hardman and the topics discussed covered both the proposals as well as the concerns of local residents what means could be used to reduce speed.

As well as the reduction in speed limits to 20mph, the meeting also discussed :

- Speed bumps and the need for improved signage
- Supportive feedback and requests for inclusion from Willsbridge, Upton Cheyney and Oldland Common
- Data from a 7-day traffic study carried out in July 2023 by the Police for Bitton Parish Council
- The need to complete and submit a Highway Investigation Scheme Request form to South Gloucestershire Council

The supporters hope to enlist other local groups and organisations with an interest in speed reduction, and to seek a policy statement from local councils on implementing 20 mph as the speed limit in all residential areas.

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THE GREAT BITTON RAMBLE AND I-SPY



Sunday 17th September 2023 at 10.30am
START: The Circle noticeboard, Bitton Mill
FINISH: The White Hart, Bitton

A relaxed mostly off-road walk and nature extravaganza in the beautiful countryside around Bitton in aid of Party in the Park 2024

Suitable for all ages

Adults £5 (cash only on the day please), accompanied children under 16 free

Please dress suitably for the weather and the countryside and bring water and refreshments - the walk will last around two hours including some uphill sections. Stout footwear and outdoor clothing are essential.

Come and join your local community and raise funds for a great local event next year

Tell your family and friends
All welcome!





It's all go for the Fête

Bitton's annual church fête takes place on Saturday 2nd September. Starting ta 1.30pm...

The Fête Committee has grown in the past year as has support from the wider community, and we are particularly pleased to welcome to The Meadows School stall, Together with Punch and Judy, facepainting and glitter tattoos, this should be a specially good fête for children

Everyone will of course be catered for, with a vast array of refreshments, games and stalls where you can pick up a bargain. Entertainment will be provided by Oldland Brass, The Jazzbeanz and Tatters and Tails Morris who return for a second year

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. **(see next page)**



THE RAFFLE— with some great prizes. Tickets available on the day, draw at 4.45pm.



DISPLAYS— Classic cars on the field and in the church. Photographs from the Photography Competition and a display of Fabergé styled eggs by Joan Blake.



EGG THROWING—A Bitton tradition to end the afternoon.

More information at **www.stmarysbitton.org**
or follow us on **Facebook**

ENTRY CLASSES AND TIMES



Registration 1.30pm to 2.00pm

At the Fête

2.00pm	Fabulous Fella
2.30pm	Loveliest Lady
3.00pm	Best Groomed
3.30pm	Child and Friend (under 16)
4.00pm	Best Paw Shaker
4.30pm	Sausage Retrieval

£2 per class entered. All profits will go towards Church funds.
*Classes kindly sponsored and organised by Highcroft
Veterinary Centre Longwell Green*



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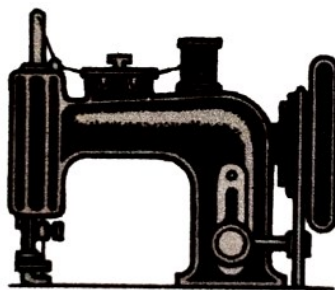
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**Bitton Village Residents' Association
Flicks in the Sticks**

Welcome to our new Winter Season of films starting on

Friday 15 September

when we will be screening

**The Bank of
Dave**

starring

**Rory Kinnear, Joel Fry, Hugh Bonneville, Jo Hartley and
Phoebe Dynevor**

This is a gem of a film based on the true story of the legendary Dave Fishwick, a northern Robin Hood character from Burnley who decides to take on the might of the banking establishment in London to help his local community.

The casting is excellent. It is a real feelgood comedy. We loved it.

Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.

At the Meadows School Hall Bitton

Drinks will be available from the Licensed Bar,

Choc Ices will be served in the interval

and there will be time to chat with friends

Admission £3

Everyone is welcome



**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
the Barn between
2.30 and 3.30 on 18 September**

**Proceeds in aid of the Royal
British Legion**



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News from Bitton WI

No regular meeting for us in August as this is our WI Annual Outing date. This year following an intriguing and information talk on the SS Great Britain earlier this year, we all agreed that we should go and see this for ourselves.

We met outside the SS Great Britain in the Great Western dockyard in Bristol, on a damp but warm Monday afternoon for our eagerly awaited tour of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's restored ship. Our tour guide on the day, Elaine, was very keen to show us around and had a vast knowledge of the history of the ship and it's restoration over the past 50 years or so.

Elaine took us aboard ship where we realised just how big the ship actually is. Brunel's design changed history by using iron for the massive hull and rather than a paddle for power, he used a steam powered propeller. We learned that the bridge remained in the middle of the ship due to spiralling build costs and the fact it would have been put there because that's where the steam paddles were originally planned to be.

The helm was at the very back of the ship over the new propeller which meant the Captain standing on the bridge could not be heard when giving orders, so a young boy was employed to run backwards and forwards passing the instructions to the person at the helm! These boys were called Nippers and they certainly had to move quickly when the seas were rough! This is where the term Nippers came from and is used often when talking about children today.

We were then taken down onto the promenade deck where passengers could take exercise when the weather was bad or the outer deck was crowded with animals, passengers or crew. Around the perimeter, the cabins are situated, many of which have been restored to show what it was like when the ship first set sail. Mannequins portrayed passengers and crew, along with smells and noises of the time added to the experience.



All aboard the SS Great Britain

The bunks were tiny and unimaginable to think some of the small cabins berthed whole families or up to 8 people, sailing for up to 64 days to Australia later in it's life. We then moved on to the large dining hall which has been restored with replica carpets and gold leaf decoration to show how the liner would have looked originally. Here we met Isambard himself and chatted for a while about the ship, his pride and joy! He told how this dining room now provides a function space for events and wedding receptions, where he often pops up again to meet guests. He mentioned how strange he found it, that guests would seemingly take no notice of the fact he was there as if it was quite normal and to a point where most just said "alright mate" and went about enjoying their party!

There was so much to do and see there that I am sure we never got to see everything in the 3 hours we were there! We passed through the kitchens, the engine room, went underneath the ship to see what would normally be hiding beneath the water line and visited the Being Brunel exhibition. We could, should we have had the energy, even climbed the rigging!

Continued on next page

Focal Point, September 2023

All in all, well worth the visit. We all thoroughly enjoyed our annual outing this year and no doubt, many of us will be back again. A great place to take the family, children or grandchildren.

Church Fête

We are now looking forward to the Summer Fête at St. Mary's Church this month where we will be selling cakes made by WI members, as well as running the Bitton Baker of the Year competition. Hope you have your entries ready or if you are reading this after the event – you entered and even won!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held in the Church Hall, 2 pm on Monday 11 September where our speaker will be taking us on a virtual tour of the Bristol Hippodrome.

Our WI recipe this month uses up all those lovely fruits of the season to make a pie that is delicious served hot or cold.



Enjoy, Karen Davidson, WI

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Apple & Blackberry Pie

(courtesy WI recipes).



serves 6

Ingredients

- 250g Shortcrust Pastry, either home made or ready made
- 500g Cooking Apples, peeled and sliced
- 250g Blackberries or Brambles, washed
- 50g Sugar, Granulated

Method

1. Divide the pastry into 2 and roll out to fit a 18cm ovenproof plate, base and top.
2. Simmer the peeled, sliced apples and brambles for a few minutes in a pan to soften, then sprinkle in the sugar.
3. Cool the fruit then pour into the pastry lined plate.
4. Brush the edge of the pastry and place on the pastry top, securing the edge by pinching together with finger and thumb. Use the excess pastry to make a decoration for the top.
5. Brush the top of the pie with beaten egg and make a slit to allow the steam to escape.
6. Bake in a fairly hot oven, Gas 6 200°C for 20 mins and then reduce to Gas 4 175°C.
7. Serve with custard, cream or ice cream.

Puzzle Pages

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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

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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 story of Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob who was tricked by his brothers and sold into slavery.

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

You are looking for:

brothers
traders
Jacob
wife
dry
animal

sold
slave
coat
well
dream
prison

hate
goat
bad
sons
captain
Joseph

tricked
household
sheep
Ishmaelite
stories
work

September Prize Quiz

by Carolyn Russell

GRAND THINGS

All answers start with Grand, this may be part of a compound word? or maybe a separate word? All answers start with **Grand**,

No. Clue

1. Annual horse race held at Aintree
2. Main waterway in the city of Venice, spanned by the Rialto Bridge
3. TV program hosted by 3 ex-presenters of Top Gear is named The ...
4. List of grievances presented to King Charles I by the English parliament in 1641
5. Video game first released in 1997, has sequels subtitled Vice City and San Andreas
6. Bidding and winning all thirteen tricks in the game of bridge
7. Hereditary title of the Monarch of Luxembourg
8. Your Father's Mother
9. USA National Park with spectacular natural example of erosion
10. Canal system that runs from London to Birmingham and Leicester
11. Title of the highest ranking chess players
12. New York's largest train station, on East 42nd Street
13. French classification for the most superior grade of wine
14. Large acoustic keyboard musical instrument
15. 23 US citizens, selected to examine the validity of an accusation prior to US trial.
16. City in Colorado's wine region with a population of approximately 66,000
17. Theatres in Belfast and York share this name
18. Hotel in Clifton, Bristol
19. Annual series of races to determine an F1 racing champion
20. Home improvement channel 4. TV program started in 1999 and hosted by Kevin McCleod

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).

August Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about flags

Answers:

(1) Japan; (2) USA; (3) Brazil ; (4) Argentina; (5) Australia; (6)Canada; (7) Switzerland; (8) New Zealand; (9) Georgia; (10) Jamaica ; (11) Lebanon; (12) Qatar; (13) Singapore; (14) Senegal; (15) Maldives; (16) Bosnia and Herzegovina; (17) Bhutan; (18) Central African Republic; (19) Liechtenstein; (20) Saint Lucia

Correct answers :

Correct answers were received from Frank Fitzgibbon and Julie Scudamore.

This months winner is; Julie Scudamore

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



And then there was One

David Noble, a local historian, has identified 5 churches and chapels that once operated within the current ecclesiastical parish of Bitton. By the 1977 just three remained: the Methodist Chapel, in Mill Lane; the United Reform Church (originally the independent chapel) in Upton Cheyney; and St Mary's Parish Church. That year, much as a result of the work of the then vicar David Holloway, the three churches got together to produce a joint churches magazine called Focal Point. Forty-six years later Focal Point is still going, but with the closure of the URC in Upton Cheyney the two chapels will be no more.

It is a sad end and not the first occasion when closure of the URC was threatened. A decade ago there was a reprieve because there was a group of people willing and ready to look forward and work for its future. Sadly that is not the situation today and the chapel will close after its last service on 10th September.

Many will lament the closure of the chapel and not least those who have a lifetime of memories and whose relatives not only worshipped there but are buried in its grounds. But without a group of people willing to support and maintain and to look not to what has been but to its future needs it could not survive. Tradition and fond memories are no substitute.

The challenge for this magazine is to continue to provide for those who formerly worshipped at the URC, which we will aim to do..

Jim Heavens



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