

# Focal Point

October 2023



**The sun  
shines on the  
Church Fête**



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St Mary's Church Bitton

# AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 28th October

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St Mary's Church, Bitton  
BS30 6LJ

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jewellery, gifts and more. Ideal for Christmas gifting.  
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[stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://stmarysbitton.org.uk)

**More details on page 25**



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# Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

**October 2023**

A monthly church newsletter serving  
Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,  
Upton Cheyney & Beach  
Published by St Mary's Church,  
Church Road, Bitton BS30 6LJ

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please contact Roger Tilley  
rogerjohntilley@gmail.com

## FOR ALL FOCAL POINT INQUIRIES

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*Deadline for the October  
edition is:*

**Thursday 19th October**

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

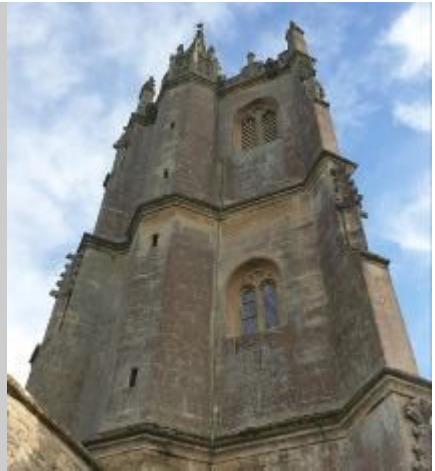
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**ST MARY'S  
CHURCH,  
BITTON**

[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)



**Vicar:**

Rev Jeremy Andrew  
The Vicarage, Warmley  
**0117 967 2724**

Please note that Jeremy is on sabbatical leave until Advent Sunday

**Ordained minister:**

Rev Richard Humphrey  
Splinters, Kenilworth Drive  
Willsbridge **0117 949 0502**

**Curate:**

Rev Rosemary Radcliffe  
[revrosemaryradcliffe@gmail.com](mailto: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 October

You are most welcome at St Mary's for all our services

Sunday, 1st October	10.30am	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion
Sunday, 8th October	10.30am	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity <b>Family Harvest Thanksgiving</b> with the Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels <i>followed by a <b>Bring and Share Harvest Lunch</b></i> 
Sunday, 15th October	10.30am	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity Morning Worship
Sunday, 22nd October	8.00am 9.30am	Twentieth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion Family Café Church 
Thursday, 26th October	10.00am 10.45am	Celtic Communion <i>Followed by</i> <b>St Mary's Tea and Coffee Morning</b> 
Sunday 29th October	10.30am	Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity Benefice Communion at St Barnabas Warmley <b>NO SERVICE AT BITTON</b>

## From the Register



20th August  
Holy Baptism **Emily Harriet Rose Howell**

## **Benefice Prayer Opportunities**

**Saturday 14 October at 9.00 am**

Prayer Breakfast at Bitton Church Hall

**Tuesday 24 October at 7.00 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



I have a confession to make. I haven't been to Church for 6 weeks. Well not to St Marys anyway. My absence was because I had to have an old Dutch Tjalk (barge) lifted out of the water to have an insurance survey carried out. There are few boat yards available to make a heavy lift, so this required moving the boat from Harlow in Essex to Watford. That should take about an hour by car, if the M25 runs freely, or about a week by boat. Our route took us down the River Lee then onto the tidal Thames at Limehouse up to Brentford then North on the Grand Union Canal. Three weeks out of the water for a great deal of DIY, essential repairs and painting then a week to return to the home berth.

So my first Sunday back was the 8 o'clock communion service, followed by Family Café Church, both very ably led by Rosemary.

*Continued on next page*

## Focal Point, October 2023

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As I sat enjoying a bacon sandwich, it was so lovely to see so many young children and families enjoying themselves. It is so easy to take things for granted but we ought to pause and thank all those that make this happen, those who prepare the food, cook and serve as well as the service itself and all that sits behind this from the essential cleaning to the craft kits that the children construct not to mention the great music from our Minstrels; a real team effort. I would also like to make a shout-out to the Fête team who continue to make this event evolve as it goes from strength to strength with another record contribution to the church that sits at the heart of the Bitton community. Thank you to you all.

I tried to keep the essential correspondence flowing whilst away but I plan to try to catch up on the wider issue in the coming weeks. I am grateful for the feedback and comments that come back to me, please keep them coming. With best regards.

Simon Harris  
Churchwarden

### *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](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)**





## **Royal British Legion Harvest Auction**

The total raised at the RBL Harvest Auction at Upton Manor Farm Barn on Monday September 18th was £1,634. Grateful thanks to all supporters. Surveying the spread are Dawn Harrill Poppy Appeal Organiser and David Hawking Host and Auctioneer with Oldland brass in the background.



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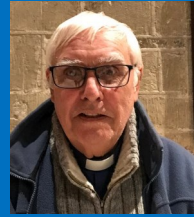
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*Richard Humphrey*

“When will there be a  
harvest for the world?”



***Dear Friend,***

How many of us I wonder remember that old Isley Bros. song from 1976.

**“All babies together, everyone a seed  
Half of us are satisfied, half of us in need  
Love's bountiful in us, but tarnished by our greed  
When will there be a harvest for the world...”**

Well, Autumn seems to have well and truly arrived and, harvest of course will soon be upon us. And it really does give us an opportunity to thank God for the riches of the earth, but it is also an opportunity perhaps to look outwards, particularly in the light of what's happening in the world today. Refugees; the human cost of the many wars around the world; the earthquakes in Morocco, and the terrible events in Libya. To remind ourselves that a successful harvest is important for everyone, but for those who are totally dependent on growing crops and keeping livestock for food, any kind of drought, war, flooding or other natural disaster can mean the difference, literally, between life and death. To remember that even in our own cities there are people who struggle for food and shelter. So, our harvest services are not only an opportunity to be thankful for the fruit of the earth but also a time to renew our commitment to imitate the character of God by showing compassion towards the plight of those in dire need.

In the Old Testament' Isaiah challenges people to do just that. To live up to their beliefs, not just by their acts of formal worship but by their compassion for the helpless and needy. And this is a challenge as much to our world as to Isaiah's:



***“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood. Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.” (Is: 58:6-8.)***

Nowadays, we are deeply aware of the fact that the world has become a much smaller place and that whatever happens in one part of the world often has a global effect: poor harvests in one place often mean higher prices elsewhere; a war in Ukraine raises the price of grain around the world. Unfair trade rules in one part of the world means poverty for innocent sufferers in another. For us, regular giving, quotas and parish shares are very important, and rightly so, but in many Christian churches around the world, collections and offerings are not about money. Not long ago I went to some church services in Ghana-a country where people would often greet each other in the evening with “have you eaten today?” There was no collection plate because the offering was always made up of fruit, yams, homemade dishes, rice, and all kinds of foodstuffs that people grew in their yards that would be collected, blessed and distributed to those in need. There was even a couple of chickens in a cage!

*Continued on next page*



### **United Nations Famine Relief**

People might not have had any money, but they were willing to share whatever else they had or could grow; and it was always given with shouts of joy and big smiles. It was almost as if they had a harvest festival every Sunday! For them, following Jesus isn't just about what they believe in their hearts-it's also about what they can do with their hands-how they can bring practical and immediate help to those who are struggling.

In the New Testament, we read how Christians in one part of the world sent help to others elsewhere who were hit by famine: *"... predicted by the spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world.....the disciples determined that according to their ability each would send relief to the believers in Judea."* (Acts 11:27-29).

Thankfully today, the churches in our benefice, and much of our society, including our schools, are still committed to this ethos of care across cultures and continents, both home and abroad, not only through individual giving, but through the work of Christian Aid and other relief agencies. And closer to home of course we have our regular donations to the Sisters of the Church. So Harvest perhaps is a good time to remind ourselves of the big picture.

But in this modern day and age I sometimes think it's easy for us to be discouraged at times; to think that we are not doing enough, particularly when we set it against the raw human needs in today's world.

If so, perhaps, particularly at harvest time, we should remember that Jesus showed us as he fed 5000 people with next to nothing, that there is no gift so small as to be unacceptable to God and that whatever we are able to offer, including ourselves, he will take it and use it in His service, so that one day there really will be a harvest for the world.

## *Blessings*

*Richard*

### Midweek Groups

Three groups are currently meeting and new members will be very welcome. During September and October we are studying passages from St John's gospel.

The **Wednesday Morning Group's** is at 10.30am on Wednesday 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 meets on Wednesdays 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** meets at 7.30pm at the home of Pete and Liz Midgley at 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge.. For further details phone 0117 932 6898.



St Mary's Church Bilton

# HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023



## Decorating the Church

Delivery of autumnal foliage and berries from hedgerows or gardens will be welcome at the Church porch: Friday 6th or Saturday 7th at 10am

## FAMILY HARVEST THANKSGIVING

**SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER AT 10.30**

**with the Scout Group and  
the St Mary's Minstrels**

You are invited to bring a gift of produce or non-perishable food which will be distributed by the Juice Food Bank in Cadbury Heath to needy families in the area. All items are welcome except for Baked Beans of which they have plenty.

## Followed by a Bring and Share Harvest Lunch

Bring a plate of something sweet or savoury. Harvest Loaf and Cheese will be provided plus Cider and Apple juice.



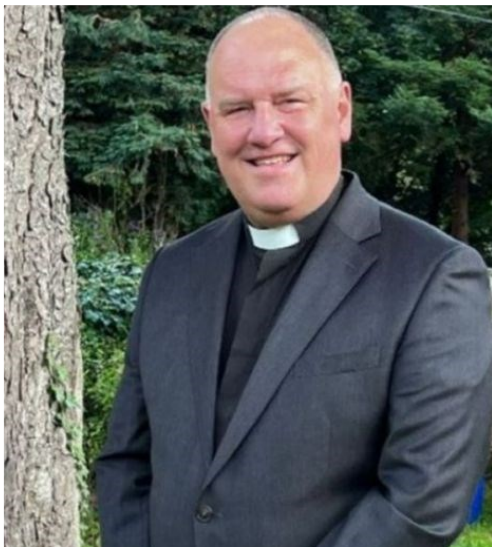


# **New Bishop of Swindon**

The Venerable Neil Warwick, currently Archdeacon of Bristol, has been appointed as the next Bishop of Swindon.

Neil has served as Archdeacon of Bristol, responsible for three populous deaneries across Bristol, since 2019. He will take up his role as Bishop of Swindon in November.

Swindon is a suffragan bishopric within the Diocese of Bristol.



# **Upton Cheyney URC**

The last service at Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church was held on Sunday 10th September and the church has now closed.

The future of the building is unknown, but it is likely to be sold .

The garden remains open for people to visit and to tend graves. The garden is a very peaceful place and has outstanding views across the Avon Valley.





# Fête brings in crowds and funds

After weeks of rain and generally poor weather, the clouds parted on 2nd September to provide a fine afternoon for the annual church fête. There was a huge turnout and an even larger number of stalls and activities to enjoy.

Opening the fête, this year, was one of its longest serving supporters, Marlene Gallop. In 1967, returning from her honeymoon she was immediately approached by the ladies of the village and “told” to make soup for the Fête. More persuasive approaches are used these days and Marlene charmingly opened the proceedings and drew the raffle at the end.

The fête stretched over three sites including the Glebe Field, the church itself and the garden of Church Farm where cream teas were sold due to the generosity of Martin and Bridget Hetzel.

## Focal Point, October 2023

Live music was provided by the Jazzbeanz, Oldland Brass and (in the church) by the St Mary's Minstrels. Tatters and Tails Morris also made an appearance.

Once costs had been taken into account, the fête raised an overall sum of £11,148. 10% is retained to support the organisation of next year's event but the rest goes directly to church funds. Maintaining this grade 1 listed building in the heart of our community is expensive and the church needs well over £1000 each week just to maintain its current services and day to day running costs. Thank you to all who contributed and attended to make the event such a success.



### Scenes from the Fête 2023

Above—Marlene Gallop opens the event



Fêtegoers enjoyed cream tea and the Jazzbeanz at Church Farm.

*Left* - Archery

*Right*—The church as busy too with teas and cake.



# **Bitton Gardening Club**

invites you to our next meeting on

**Monday 16th October**

at

**THE MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL**

**Doors open 7.15pm**

**Meeting starts at 7.30pm**

Our speaker at the meeting is

## **Katherine Crouch**

Gold medallist at Chelsea  
and the title of her talk is

# **Bulbs that Should be Better Known**

Katherine is a renowned gardener and speaker. She was Winner of the first BBC Gardener of the Year award in 1999 and Winner of 2008 Gardener of the Decade. This evening she will be introducing us to the many lesser known bulbs that should find a place in our gardens.

This meeting is **FREE** to members  
**New members and guests are always welcome**



## **Photography Competition 2023**

This year's Fête Photography Competition attracted a large number of entries, most of which were submitted online in digital form for the first time. The competition, organised by Nicola Pillinger.

There were six entry categories with a separate competition for under 16s.. The competition was judged by Robin Allison-Smith.

Overall winner was Pam Booth with her entry for *Best Friend* showing two zebras (above.)

All of the entries were on display in the church during September and on our website. A selection is printed on the next page.

# Photography Competition—Category Winners



**Coronation** - Jane Clapp



**Happy Place**—Jane Clapp



**The Colour Blue**—  
Alison Wride

**My Bitton**—  
Jane Lings



**In Motion**—  
Rob  
Campling



**Under 16 winner**—*The Colour Blue*—  
Ruby Blackmore

All entries can be viewed in their full glory on the St Mary's website: [stmarysbiton.org.uk](http://stmarysbiton.org.uk)

# Open Evenings and Tours at the Meadows

The Meadows School is holding a series of open evenings and school tours during October and November for new school admission sin 2024 and 2025. A list of the dates and details are given in the notice below:



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The Meadows Primary School  
Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol, BS30 6HS  
Tel: 0117 932 2203  
Email: [enquiries@themeadowsprimaryschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@themeadowsprimaryschool.org.uk)

Futura  
Learning Partnership

### EVFS Open Evenings and School Tours Admissions 24/25

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - 2:00pm - afternoon tour  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - 6:00pm - open evening  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - 6:00pm - open evening  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October - 9:30am - morning tour

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November - 2:00pm - afternoon tour  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November - 6:00pm - open evening  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November - 6:00pm - open evening  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 9:30am - morning tour

Please contact the school to register your interest for any of our dates.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

## *Hanney Welding Limited*

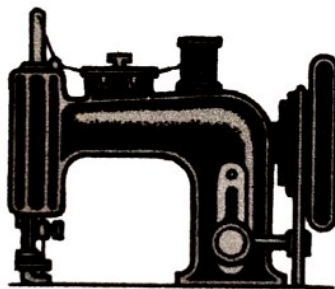
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# **Autumn Fayre - 28th October**

Following last year's successful Autumn Fayre, this time there will be even more stallholders - a total of 16.

Some who exhibited last year have returned and there have been many more offers and enquiries. It is a great opportunity to find that special item for Christmas.



**Parking available in the Globe Field  
Refreshments**



**New and unusual, this year are Joanna Hill's jewellery (left) and Roger Cole's Walking sticks (right).**

**The event on Saturday 28th October lasts from 11am to 3pm. Entry is free (although a donation is requested). More details on our website [stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://stmarysbitton.org.uk).**

# News from the Ringing Chamber



## **Visitors from West Sussex**

Bitton ringers will be hosting a visiting band on Wednesday, 18th October between 10.15 am and 11.15 am. This band are travelling from West Sussex.

## **System St Anne's cracked number 4 bell**

A lovely coffee morning. Raising funds for the broken Bell at System, which was well attended by local residents from System, Bitton, Warmley and Dyrham

Lots of Coffee, Cakes, Chattering and Chiming. We raised a wonderful £244 plus a little gift aid, thank you to all.

Together with generous donations and grants. We now have enough to commence the installation of the donated Bell and associated works in November / December, and hopefully the bells will be ringing for Christmas.



**Not the cracked one — but there were opportunities to chime the other bells.**



**Visitors enjoyed coffee and the many cakes on offer in Syston Church Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> September, raising £244 towards a replacement bell. Our bell ringers cover the three churches in the benefice at Bitton, Warmley and Syston.**

**FINALLY. a bit of history for you....** Ringers have a national database of performances. The earliest recorded on this system was from Jan 1878, which happened to also be published in the *Bristol Mercury* newspaper for that day.

**BITTON.**

**CHANGE RINGING.**—The ringers of St. Mary's Church Bitton, ascended the tower on the evening of the 31st of January, and rang the date of the present year, being 1878 changes, consisting of 50 bobs, 80 singles, and 20 extremes. Time, one hour and 25 minutes. The ringers were as follow :—Owen Bush, treble ; Austin Hall, 2nd ; Oliver Bush, 3rd ; Robert Headington, 4th ; Edward Croom, 5th ; John Saunders, tenor. The ringing was conducted by Robert Headington.

**Pictures and story by Nigel Scudamore**

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**Bitton Village Residents' Association  
Invites you to**

**Flicks in the Sticks**

**on Friday 20 October**

when we will be screening

# **Woman at War**

starring

**Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson,  
Juan Estrada and Jörundur Ragnarsson**

Set in Iceland and Ukraine, this is a truly brilliant film about a resourceful woman who singlehandedly wages war against corporate environmental damage and greed until ... another possibility arises! The film is a comedy drama that is unusually original and creative on so many levels, while the stunning Icelandic landscape and the quirky accompanying music, all make it very special.

**The Icelandic cast are excellent. It comes with subtitles  
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**



## **Can you help to conserve our walls?**

Conserving and cleaning of walls is the next phase of work for the St Mary's Church Development Programme and the Futures Committee is looking to raise £40,000 over the next year to do it.

Wall cleaning doesn't sound either attractive or necessary, but it is much more than just a cosmetic operation.

Until a new cedar roof was installed in the 1860s,(when the photograph above was taken) the walls were covered in plaster and regularly whitewashed. They were then stripped back in the fashion of the time, and since then 160 years of dirt, soot and pollution have taken their toll. They have also been inappropriately repaired with concrete mortar.

To conserve them for the future and keep them standing for another thousand years they need attention. Conservators have already undertaken some test patches on the wall and the difference is quite stunning. They have also found traces of the medieval wall paintings that would have adorned the church before in English Reformation in the sixteenth century.



## How can you help?

We will try to raise money for this work from trusts and external funders, but we are also looking to community and individual sources too. It costs about £50 for each square metre of wall that is treated, so the committee is asking for donations of that size and tracking their receipt on a wall chart in the church. Every time someone makes a donation of £50 another sticker goes up.

About 800 x £50 stickers are required in all, but the fund raising has got off to a great start with a donation of £3,000 from the Benefact Trust.

There are leaflets in the church and more information on St Mary's website – [stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://stmarysbitton.org.uk)



# MacMillan Afternoon Tea

Pam Hacker and Marlene Gallop held a special *Afternoon Tea* in the church on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support. The event was well attended and raised a total of £527.



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Frequent travellers on the Bath Road towards Kelston will have noticed that the prefabricated section of the new bridge across the Avon has arrived to be installed by engineers working for Wessex Water. The expectation is that the new bridge will go into operation in 2024. The impact on overall traffic is estimated to be small but there are continued concerns about the passage of large lorries from the site through the village.



Meanwhile closer to the centre of Bitton concern has been raised about a planning proposal to South Gloucestershire Council to redevelop the disused glasshouses at the bottom of Brewery Hill for commercial, industrial and storage space.

This is a change of use from agricultural or horticultural use and is in green belt land.

The Bitton Village Residents' Association considers the proposal to be inappropriate and has urged local residents to object. Consultation on the proposals has now closed.



# Smiley Speed Camera Checks

If you approach Bitton Motors by car from either end of the village, you will notice that the council have recently installed a smiley speed checker. These devices which turn the face to an unhappy position when motorists exceed the speed limit (currently 30mph). But they don't just provide friendly advice, they also record and retain information about the speed of traffic that can be used to inform decisions about speed limits and journey times. It is emphasised that it is very basic data simply about the speed of traffic passing and not related to individual vehicles.

Meanwhile, Steve Cox's campaign to reduce speed limits in Bitton to 20 MPH continues and he has submitted a formal request to South Gloucestershire Council for an investigation scheme request.



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# News from Bitton WI

Jean our President welcomed us all back for our September meeting. We were pleased to hear that our baking efforts at the Church Fête had been well received and much appreciated. We had raised over £300 for the church through the sale of cakes, jams and the cake competition. Our coffee morning had also raised more than anticipated and was enjoyed by all who attended. Sylvia was thanked for hosting the morning. Many more trips and events are planned for WI members up until Christmas which we are always encouraged to attend.

Our speaker this month was Kate Bell who took us on a fascinating virtual tour of the Bristol Hippodrome. Kate had worked in the Hippodrome for 20 years where she started as an Usherette before moving through various backstage roles, finally finishing as person responsible for Group Bookings and Tours. Kate told us that the Hippodrome first opened its doors in 1912. It was built for Oswald Stoll and designed by Frank Matcham. It originally had a tower over the front doors which had 4 large figures holding a huge globe. This was taken down in the 60's. The internal décor was done to represent a nautical theme with gilt rope plasterwork and carvings of seashells and oak leaves. There are still glass portholes filled with coloured sand hanging in the corridors.

A mural depicting The Tempest was painted on the large dome in the main auditorium. This has since been painted over due to the cost of upkeep. Kate highlighted the small studs dotted around the skirtings which, she said, were vacuum points. These were installed originally with a huge industrial vacuum under the floor which was fired up every day for the cleaners to plug their vacuum hoses into these points without having to carry the cleaner itself. Sadly, this has now been removed some years ago and an army of Henry's now carry out that role!

The building is Grade II listed so remains very much as it was when it was first built. However, not all is as it seems as, despite surviving the war years, it was badly damaged by fire backstage in 1949. Fortunately, the fire was contained by a sturdy stage curtain. The current stage curtain installed after the fire is made of solid

## Focal Point, October 2023



Janet Ballinger presides over the entries for the Best Bitton Baker competition. Inset—the WI stall did a roaring trade in cake sales and Carol Sheedy celebrates her win as **Best Bitton Baker of 2023**

concrete and takes some time to raise and lower mechanically. The roof dome, as some of you will know, also opens up to let air in. This was often used during summer performances, when audiences were allowed to smoke or if there were pyrotechnics involving smoke for instance and opened by hand. Very often birds would fly in and Kate told us of the day a seagull flew in and the first they knew about it was when it had pooped on a gentleman's head! The dome is still opened from time to time, albeit mechanically these days!

We were asked to look out for the anniversary painting now hanging in the building depicting the many shows put on at the Hippodrome as well as staff, famous faces, the seagull incident and a horse in a pool! Kate later told us about the huge tank that sat under the stage and was filled with water when productions required a water scene. This has now been removed and the space used as storage. What a marvel that must have been to audiences at that time, though anyone sat in the stalls might not have enjoyed the show so much, as the pool was sunken into the stage!

## **Focal Point, October 2023**

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We virtually toured each level of the auditorium, learning about the view, the boxes (the best are at the back!) and how the "riff raff" using the Upper Circle would have to wait around the side in all weathers to gain access! Thankfully, a new staircase has been installed so all visitors can arrive at their chosen seats via the front doors!

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 9 October at 2 pm where we will be welcoming a Valuer from East Bristol Auctions. New members always welcome.

Our recipe this month is a quick and easy favourite of mine which uses your leftover raw vegetables as a tasty snack. The children love them too!

Enjoy

Karen Davidson



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**Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience**



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# Vegetable Crisps



## Ingredients

Choose from a variety of vegetables, carrots, potatoes, beetroot, parsnips, radish, courgette – in fact anything that can be sliced thinly, and you enjoy eating.

A little oil (olive, vegetable, light spray)  
Salt/Pepper/Seasoning to taste

## Method

1. Slice your vegetables thinly using a mandolin/slicer/ sharp knife.
2. Put the sliced vegetables into a bowl and add about a tablespoon of olive or vegetable oil. For a lower calorie option use a light oil spray or leave out altogether.
3. Place a disc of greaseproof paper or kitchen roll onto your microwave turntable and lay the sliced vegetables onto the paper ensuring they do not overlap or touch one another.
4. Turn on your microwave using full power for a few minutes at a time until the vegetables are slightly browned and crispy. Turn the crisps once during cooking. Do this until all the vegetables are cooked.
5. Sprinkle the cooked crisps with salt and pepper or your favourite seasoning and serve warm with your favourite dip. (Alternatively, put your crisps into a bag with seasoning and give it a good shake).

These will keep for a few days in a sealed bag but better served immediately. Not suitable for freezing.

# Puzzle Pages

## SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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

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Answers to both puzzles are available on the church website [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk) - click on **News & Focal Point** or use this QR code





# WORD SEARCH

This word search is again themed around the story of Joseph, and the time he spent as the Pharaoh's principal adviser.

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

**You are looking for:**

- |          |             |        |         |
|----------|-------------|--------|---------|
| Egypt    | Forget      | Food   | Juice   |
| Grapes   | Trusted     | Birds  | Pharaoh |
| Butler   | Baker       | Cows   | Dream   |
| Pardoned | Famine      | Joseph | Bread   |
| Advisors | Prison      | Thin   | Bumper  |
| Someone  | Trustworthy | Seven  | Choose  |

# October Prize Quiz *by Carolyn Russell*

This month's quiz is about plants with compound words.  
To give an example: the clue is **pig, unwelcome plant**, to which  
the answer is **Hogweed**

**GOOD LUCK!**

## **No. Clue**

- 1.** Side walking crustaceans, fruit of type pink lady, Bramley or Cox
- 2.** Yellow dairy fat, drinking vessel
- 3.** Fasten by tying, unwanted plant
- 4.** Animal with a brush, hand covering
- 5.** Has 9 lives, to pinch
- 6.** White flakey precipitation, allow to fall
- 7.** A golf score is over or under this, a tool used to force the weft into place in weaving
- 8.** Male deer, organs that allow you to see
- 9.** French husband, Au
- 10.** Matching card game, fire-breathing creature
- 11.** 5th colour of the rainbow, campanologist's tool
- 12.** Man's best friend, smaller than a forest
- 13.** Flowers very popular on 14th Feb, wife of Joseph
- 14.** Rate of movement, a person who is not ill
- 15.** Similar to fog, French the, digit of the foot
- 16.** Pink type of floss, small clump of hair
- 17.** Tailless amphibian, linen can be made from this plant fibre
- 18.** This bird "sings at break of day arisin", wheeled boot spike
- 19.** Not fixed in place, conflict
- 20.** Our closest star, blooms on plants

Please return your answers:

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

### September Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about things that start with the word **Grand**

**Answers:** (1) Grand National; (2) Grand Canal; (3) Grand Tour; (4) Grand Remonstrance; (5) Grand Theft Auto; (6) Grand Slam; (7) Grand Duke; (8) Grandmother / Grandma; (9) Grand Canyon; (10) Grand Union; (11) Grandmaster; (12) Grand Central; (13) Grand Cru; (14) Grand Piano; (15) Grand Jury; (16) Grand Junction; (17) Grand Opera House; (18) Grand Spa Hotel; (19) Grand Prix; (20) Grand Designs.

#### Correct answers :

Correct answers to all 20 questions were received from Frank Fitzgibbon, Ken and Jill Gibson and The Booths.

#### This months winner is:

Frank Fitzgibbon

### 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](mailto:bittoncm@outlook.com).



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# The last word



## *Bitton Churches Magazine*

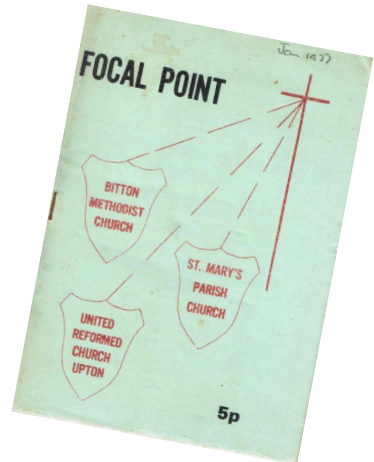
It was in January 1977 that the first edition of Focal Point was issued as a joint venture between three churches in Bitton.

Looking back at that first edition it is not only noticeable how much has changed, but how many things are just the same.

At St Mary's the oil heating system was being replaced with gas, the Methodist Church reported on its recent Autumn Fayre, and there seemed to be no end of coffee and cake mornings to raise funds.

The technology has changed, of course. In 1977 Focal point was typed and duplicated, photographs could only be printed at much greater cost, so did not appear and its cover price was just 5p.

Times change, but as we look back on a highly successful fête, forward to a harvest festival perhaps the spirit under which Focal Point began is one that should guide its future as St Mary's emerges as the only remaining church of the three. An initiative of 46 years ago that sought to overcome past divisions and recognise that people often hold more in common than the things that drive them apart could not be a better basis for a church and community magazine.



**The First Focal Point—  
January 1977**

*Jim Heavens*



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