

Focal Point

November 2023

The Season of Remembrance

£1-20

St Mary's Church, Bitton
presents



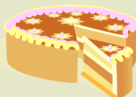
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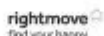
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Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

November 2023

*A monthly church newsletter serving
Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge,
Upton Cheyney & Beach
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Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

bittoncm@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the November
edition is:*

Thursday 19th November

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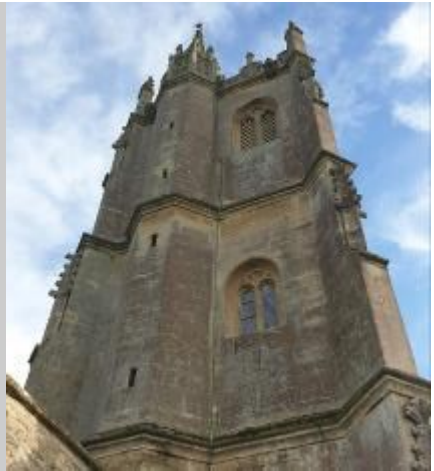
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Cover picture of a field of poppies,
courtesy of Parish Pump



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CHURCH,
BITTON**

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

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 November

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

**Sunday, 5th
November**

Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity
10.30am Parish Communion

4.00pm **Benefice Service of Remembrance**
St Barnabas Church, Warmley (see p17)

**Sunday, 12th
November**

Remembrance Sunday
10.30am A service of remembrance including
the laying of wreaths at the
war memorial.
Further details on page 1



**Sunday, 19th
November**

Second Sunday before Advent
10.30am Morning Worship

**Thursday, 23rd
November**

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



**Sunday, 26th
November**

Sunday next before Advent
—Christ the King
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



From the Register



3rd October Funeral John Graham

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Saturday 11 November at 9.00 am

Prayer Breakfast at Warmley Church

Tuesday 28 November 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

Simon Harris—Churchwarden



Autumn is my favourite time of the year with the vibrant colours of the leaves turning and the incredible quality of the light from the Sun sitting lower in the sky. Whilst our weather has been mixed with our late "Indian Summer" bringing more warmth as well as some heavy rain, we now seem to be settling into a more traditional pattern so the Church heating is now back in operation. Pete Midgely led a splendid Harvest Festival Service with a selection of well-known hymns that filled the church with song – quite glorious. A perfect complement to the vibrant Harvest decoration in the church. With thanks to all those that made this happen.

Our attention will then turn to our annual Act of Remembrance for those lost in conflict. This will be particularly poignant this year as we seem to be bombarded by bad news not only from Ukraine but also now from Palestine.

Continued on next page

Focal Point, November 2023

Let's pray for wise leadership on all sides and perhaps some restraint.

I have been taken by the recent debate over 20mph speed limits, particularly in Wales but the topic has also been aired more locally. In particular, some of the attempts to polarise a debate or pigeon-hole a group – the war on the motorist. Now I walk quite a bit, I also cycle and I drive a car; some time ago I had the privilege of riding a horse, but I would not define myself by any one of these modes of transport. I am not just pedestrian, cyclist, motorist or 'horsiest'. It depends on where I am going, how far, time available and what load needs to be carried. Despite the best efforts of the media, I suspect most folk also fall into multiple categories. When humans compete for a critical resource, whether food and water or road and pavement space, the blood can soon start to boil. The car capable of well over 100mph has to travel at a far lower speed; the bicycle on the cycle path encounters walkers and dogs that aren't thinking like a cyclist on a time trial. Perhaps we also need a little restraint and perhaps some empathy? Just imagine that impediment to your urgent progress is a close friend or family member. It works for me. Best wishes to you all.

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





Remembrance Service 2023

At the 10.30am service on 12 November St Mary's will welcome the Bitton and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion, Chris Skidmore MP, the Chairman of Bitton Parish Council, Cadets from the Army Cadet Force and members of the St Mary's Bitton Scout Group.

During the service there will be an Act of Remembrance around the Village War Memorial in the Churchyard where wreaths will be laid. Trumpeter Mark Wilkins has again promised to be with us.



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The Kohima Memorial in Nagaland, North East India and close to the border with Myanmar. The memorial commemorates the bravery of the men who held back a Japanese invasion into India. The words on the memorial date from an earlier war but have become known as the Kohima Epitaph

Ken Gibson - Lay Minister's Letter

THE SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

If I say to you 'November' what springs to your mind? My immediate thought is 'Remembrance'. The Poppy Appeal, the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday are all part of the month along with dropping temperatures and sombre skies.

11 November was chosen as the time to remember the Great War, the War to end all Wars, because it was the day on which the Armistice was signed and the guns fell silent. Remembrance Sunday falls on the nearest Sunday to that date so this year the services in Warmley, Bitton and Syston and across the country and the world will take place on 12 November. Sadly that first world war was not the last so we will also be remembering the Second World War and many conflicts since right down to the twenty-month old conflict in Ukraine and the war of terror in the Middle East.

But it was long before the Armistice that the beginning of November became a time of remembrance for the Christian Church. For more than 1500 years 1 November has been celebrated as All Saints Day and a time to remember not just the famous named saints of history but also every follower of Jesus who has died. In many churches around this time Services of Remembrance or Rosemary Services are held at which people gather to remember their departed loved ones and all are welcome at the service to be held at St Barnabas Warmley at 4.00pm on Sunday 4 November.

A quite different November remembrance occasion which we can hardly miss are the fireworks surrounding 5 November.

Continued on next page



The Gunpowder Plot Conspirators of 1605

by Crispijn de Passe the Elder engraving, circa 1605—National Portrait Gallery

As the nursery rhyme says, we must never forget Guy Fawkes and his treacherous gunpowder plot and be alert to ensure that such a security threat never recurs.

*Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder treason and plot;
For there is a reason why gunpowder and treason
should ne'er be forgot.*

Where do our thoughts take us at a Rosemary service when we remember our loved ones? It is surely a time to live anew good memories and to share them as we gather with family and friends.

But remembrance is not just living in the past. It also has a future dimension. The Kohima Epitaph which we will hear on Remembrance Sunday urges us to look to the future.

**'Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow,
We Gave Our Today.'**

Yes, the season of remembrance is not just for looking back. The greatest tribute we can pay to those we remember, whether departed families and friends or those who died in battle, is to resolve to live our lives from hereon in the service of others. And in doing this we fulfil Jesus' teaching 'to love one another as I have loved you'.

I pray that this season of remembrance will be full of meaning for us all.

Ken Gibson

MIDWEEK ADVENT SPECIAL

As we prepare for Christmas our Midweek groups are planning a three week series entitled

STARS – LIGHT – EMMANUEL

The three groups will be meeting at their normal times – one on Wednesday morning, one on Wednesday evening and the third on Thursday evening. If you have been tempted to try a small group this is an ideal 3 week taster session – just get in touch with the contact for the one that suits you best and you will receive a warm welcome.

The **Wednesday Morning Group 10.30 to 12.00** meets at the home of David and Stephanie Baily at Westover, Bath Road, Bitton.

Contact David on 0117 932 8949

The **Wednesday Evening Group 7.30 to 9.00** meets at the home of Ken and Jill Gibson at 8 Church Road, Bitton.

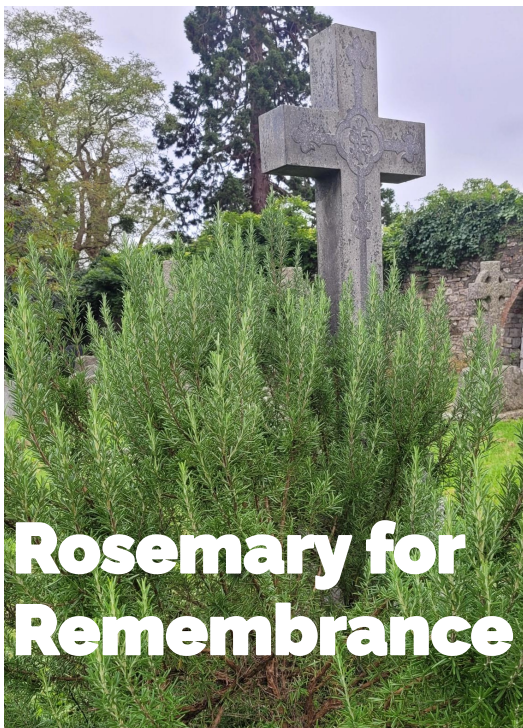
Contact Ken on 0117 932 2122.

The **Thursday Evening Group 7.30 to 9.00** meets at the home of Pete and Liz Midgley at 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge.

Contact Pete on 0117 932 6898.

**“There's Rosemary,
that's for
remembrance. Pray
love, remember”
says Ophelia in
Shakespeare's
Hamlet, as she
wanders half mad
and mourning her
father's death.**

**What is it about this
common herb that
links it so
significantly to acts
of remembrance?**



The association of rosemary with remembrance and with funerals long predates Shakespeare. Its pungent aroma meant that it was frequently used in the management of the dead. A mediterranean herb that is hardy even in northern Europe, it could not fail to excite interest, although its association was not always with death. It is and was a common component in bridal bouquets.

Its Christian connections are also explicit, the plant having supposedly gained its name and the blue colouring of its flowers from the Virgin Mary herself who is said to have thrown her cloak on the plant whose formerly white flowers were turned blue in her honour.

In medieval times the plant was thought to repel evil spirits and cure thievery those concerned with prison overcrowding should perhaps take note.

Sir Thomas Moore marvelled at it running around his garden in Chelsea without intervention from gardeners because *"it is a herb sacred to remembrance and therefore to friendship."*

Yet there may be a more scientific reason why the herb is so closely associated with remembrance - it is possible that its aroma stimulates cognitive function and memory.

There is a rosemary plant in Bitton Churchyard, and it grows abundantly on the grave of Bitton's pre-eminent plantsman Canon Ellacombe (pictured opposite).. Given its association with memories, perhaps there should be more..



Service of Remembrance/ Memorial Service

**4.00pm Sunday 5th November
2023**

St Barnabas Church, Warmley

An occasion where people can join together and remember their dearly departed loved ones.

There will also be an opportunity to light a candle and hear their names read out in remembrance. Afterwards there will be the chance to share memories with others over refreshments.

*It would be lovely if you could join us.
Everyone will be very welcome.*

For more information or to add loved one's names to the list that will be read out, please email the Reverend Rosemary Radcliffe: revrosemaryradcliffe@gmail.com

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Open Evenings and Tours at the Meadows

The Meadows School is holding a series of open evenings and school tours for new school admission in 2024 and 2025.

Dates in November are: Wednesday 8th (2.00pm);
Wednesday 15th (6.00pm); Thursday 16th (6.00pm) and
Tuesday 21st (9.30am).

Those wishing to visit are requested to contact the school—0117 932 2203 or email enquiries@themeadowsprimaryschool.org.uk

It's a packed November

There is something for everyone in the many community events taking place in the village this month. Most are filling up this edition of Focal Point with individual advertisements.

But if you want a neat calendar view, why not visit the events section of our website? You don't have to search for it as it forms part of the front page of the website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk.



You will find all church and some community group listings. If you have an event you would like to list, please let us know at bittoncm@outlook.com.

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Focal Point, November 2023

Bitton Gardening Club
invites you to our next meeting on

Monday 20th November
at
THE MEADOWS SCHOOL HALL

Doors open 7.15pm
Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Philip Aubury
Retired Director of Oxford Botanic Gardens

and the title of his talk is

Garden Ponds and Water Features

We are welcoming back Philip who is an excellent speaker, you may remember his talk last year on Labour Saving Gardening. Tonight he will be talking about the benefits of adding a pond or water features to our garden and how to achieve the best results.

This meeting is FREE to members

New members and guests are always welcome



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Slavery & Bristol

This month's history group meeting looks at one of the most difficult and painful aspects of Bristol's history and its controversial role in the slave trade.

Local historian Gary M Best will talk about Bristol's controversial role in the slave trade.

In addition to an overview of how Bristol became involved in the slave trade, his talk will focus on an autobiography

written in 1796 by an ex-slave, Olaudah Equiano (pictured above), which provides a harrowing personal account.

Gary will explain how profits from slavery shaped the commercial development of everything from coal mining and chocolate production to canals and railways,

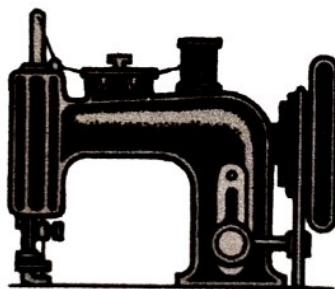


National Portrait Gallery, London

November 21st Slavery and Bristol, by Gary M Best

7:00 for 7:30pm. Venue: Unity Oldland, Methodist Church, West Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QS

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Bitton in Bloom

Meadows School wins a First Prize

First place in the Bitton in Bloom school gardening competition went to the Meadows School. The children grew lots of vegetables, strawberries, sunflowers, and looked after the flower planters.

Daisy Stone also won the reduce, reuse and recycle competition with her scooter.

The winners are pictured at the ceremony in North Common Hall on 29th September together with the new Head Teacher, Mr Owen.

Below are the gardeners in action.



Pictures by Laura Stone

It's rubbish – but South Glos Council wants your views on it!

South Gloucestershire Council has launched a consultation on proposed changes to waste collection and is asking residents for their views on their proposals.

The council has been on a long journey in respect of waste recycling and services. Twenty years ago, almost nothing was recycled, and it was well behind on refuse services compared with other councils. Now it is one of the best.

Only a tiny proportion of waste from black bins (about 8%) goes to landfill. Other waste is sold for recycling or burned to provide energy.

A selective proportion of the rubbish we place in black bins is sorted. A significant proportion is still food waste, so there is a lesson to all of us to make sure we place waste food in the right bin. But approximately a quarter is made up of soft plastic – the food and retail packaging that the council currently does not recycle but wants to provide the service in the future. Providing a weekly recycling process for soft plastic should mean that there will be sufficient capacity in black bins to reduce collections so that general household waste is collected once in every three weeks rather than fortnightly as present.

Want to know more? The full details can be found on the council's website at www.consultations.southglos.gov.uk/waste_less/consultationHome/.

Consultation closes on 7 January 2024.

MacMillan Afternoon Tea

Pam and Marlene would like to thank all that came to their MacMillan Afternoon Tea. The final total raised was £600.

Hugo is found

Nick and Lynn Watson in Church Road would like to say a very big thank you to their neighbours and the wider community of Bitton for help in finding Hugo their dog who went missing whilst out on his daily walk on Sunday 8th October. Hugo's disappearance was widely reported on the Facebook *Bitton Village Community Group*.



Hugo bolted after hearing repeated gunfire and went missing for six hours but was eventually found by their neighbour, Stacey. Hugo was very traumatised when found but is now enjoying his walks again across the fields.

Nick and Lynn said: "It is only when a pet is lost, and you fear you may lose them for ever that you realise they are an integral part of the family, and you love them. Many thanks Stacey and everyone else who were brilliant on the day. We did not appreciate how useful social media could be in this situation."

Avon Valley Country Park

It can be a little eerie walking into the churchyard and hearing strange sounds, but they are usually coming from Avon Valley Country Park on the other side of the river.

Doug Douglas of AVCP is aware that Bitton and residents further afield have experienced noise intrusion from some of their events. He is working with South Gloucestershire Environmental Protection Department, B&NES and noise consultants to monitor and mitigate any issues arising from his operations. He has kindly set up a dedicated email address and hotline phone number so that people have a reliable and direct route for communicating any issues.

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Magpies Concert



The Magpies concert on 30th September raised a total of £470 which will be divided between St. Marys and The Children's Hospice Southwest. Those attending were treated to a special variety performance of classical and light music. The tombola also raised £70.

Harvest

Bitton has a tradition of celebrating its harvest festival well into October – so all is truly gathered in! Following the service a bring and share lunch was enjoyed, as well as the beautiful harvest loaf made by Tim Harris. *(Photo—Jane Clapp)*





St Mary's Church Bitton
Parochial Church Council

PCC Report

A shorter than usual meeting of the PCC took place on 11th September.

Safeguarding- All PCC members need to be DBS checked and some renewals are now taking place. Jacqui Harris is the Safeguarding co-ordinator. She reported that the Diocese of Bristol is intending to set up some further Safeguarding Training on a Saturday morning in the near future.

Futures – It was reported that the work to convert the pews was currently out to tender, and it was hoped to announce the outcome soon.

Church Hall – The church hall had received an award from the National Community Lottery Fund which had enabled a gas heater to be purchased and fitted. Decorations are also planned.

Fete – This had been the most successful ever and had record takings of over £13,000 with £11,148 profit. Thanks to all who helped.

Parish Share - The diocese had requested a sum of £41,090 as Parish Share for next year. This was agreed subject to further budgetary discussion and clarity over the position of the benefice administrator, which had been advertised but remained unfilled.

Other matters – The PCC had previously agreed in correspondence to the repairs to the south boundary wall and replacement platforms.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 6th November.

**Bitton Village Residents' Association
Invites you**

to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

Friday 17 November

when we will be screening

What's Love got to do with it?

starring

**Lily James, Shazad Latif, Emma Thompson
Asim Chaudhry and Mim Shaikh**

How do you find lasting love in today's world?

For documentary maker Zoe, online dating has only delivered an endless stream of Mr Wrongs. For Kaz, her childhood friend, the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan.

As Zoe films his hopeful journey from London to Lahore to marry a stranger, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

***This is the perfect film for November, warm, colourful,
funny and very entertaining. 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

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News from Bitton WI

Bitton WI group met on an unseasonably warm afternoon on 9 October. We were welcomed by our President, Jean. Following the normal business our Secretary, Ros, spoke on her recent attendance at the Avon Federation WI, AGM in September. They had discussed the ongoing reduction in finances due to lower membership figures. Unfortunately, as is typical across the country, costs are rising which means the funds need to stretch a lot further. Support for some WI events had meant them being cancelled and were probably a consequence of people trying to manage their finances through the cost of living crisis. We heard about the interesting speakers who were at the meeting from Southmead Hospital's fundraising charity and a BBC Radio Presenter now turned Celebrant. Another speaker from the RAC, I believe, spoke to the group about the over 60's driving. It will come as no surprise that the older drivers blame the young drivers for terrible driving and the younger ones, vice versa! He told how at the current time there are at least 300 drivers aged 100 and over who still hold a current driving license. The oldest being 107 years old!

Our Speakers today was Andrew Stowe and his colleague, Annie from East Bristol Auctions. We did things a little differently and asked Andy and Annie to value some items we had brought with us. A wide variety of our precious possessions were displayed for them to appraise and value - everything from a gold pocket watch to a plate once owned by W G Grace himself. It was interesting to hear some of the history of the items. One such was a gift tin which was given to soldiers at Christmas by Queen Mary in the first world war. These contained a Christmas card and a number of useful items, such as a lighter, cigarettes or a pen. Only the Christmas card remained in the tin we saw and was valued at £50 - £80. If the pen or lighter had been present, then the tin could be worth more. Andy and Annie told us that Mantel Clocks had gone out of fashion at the moment so only worth somewhere between £30 - £80 depending on condition and size. They are still collectable as they go on forever, but the prices have dropped considerably in the past 20 years or so.

Continued on next page

Focal Point, November 2023

A discussion about ivory and rosewood revealed that it is now almost impossible to buy or sell as it is protected. To sell these, a licence must be obtained and is only issued under certain conditions. Ceramics are also falling in price unless they are something really special. A collectable was bought for £10 around 20 years ago, is now only worth £3 or £4! We were also warned about the many copies made of expensive watches. Some look better than the original so always do the necessary checks before purchasing one at a price too good to be true.

Jewellery still commands good prices. Gold and Silver are often bought and sold by weight and carat though special pieces made by good makers will always reach good prices at auction.

A particularly interesting piece which caught both our auctioneers' eye was a small silver duck. When opened it contained a silver egg. This in turn opened out to be two egg cups. The legs of the duck could be removed and became small spoon to eat the eggs. Very ingenious and not something Andy or Annie had seen before. They agreed it could reach as much as £120 or more at auction.

All in all, a very interesting session. Some members were amazed and astounded to hear the present value of their treasured items, whilst a few of us were disappointed that we wouldn't be booking that cruise any time soon!

Our next meeting on Monday 13th November 2023 will include our AGM where we will be electing our Committee and a new President. We will also be enjoying Chair Zumba with Philomena Connelly. Please arrive for 2 pm in the Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton, dressed comfortably.

Our recipe this month courtesy of WI Recipes is a Pear & Red Cabbage salad. (Recipe by Jill Arthur, Denman Tutor)

Enjoy.

Karen Davidson

Bitton WI.



Pear & Red Cabbage Salad



Ingredients

For the dressing:

80g (3oz) honey
60ml (4 tbsp.) cold water
45ml (3 tbsp.) red wine vinegar
60ml (4 tbsp.) olive oil
Salt and pepper

For the salad:

225g (8oz) red cabbage, finely sliced
1 red onion, peeled and sliced thinly
2 sticks of celery, sliced thinly
3 pears, Comice or Rocha, quartered, cored and sliced

Method

To make the dressing:

Put the honey and water into a saucepan, melt on a gentle heat and then use a fast heat to boil without stirring until deep golden. Take off heat and cool for 5 minutes. Add the red wine vinegar then return to low heat and stir until smooth. Cool then whisk in the oil and seasoning.

To make the salad:

In a large bowl, mix the cabbage, onion, celery and pears with the dressing. Toss together until well coated.

Puzzle Pages

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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

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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 is the third word search on the story of Joseph and takes the story on to his reconnection with his family.

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

You are looking for:

Little

Changed

Sack

Sent

Test

Joseph

Brother

God

Family

Slave

Cup

Food

Spies

Egypt

Father

Master

Sold

Judah

Famine

Heart

Recognise

Benjamin

Servant

Thief

November Prize Quiz

by Carolyn Russell

This month's quiz is about **inventors and their inventions**

GOOD LUCK!

	Inventor	Invention clue initials and number of letters
1.	Tim Berners-Lee	WWW 5 4 3
2.	Josephine Cochrane	D 10
3.	John Logie Baird	T 10
4.	Barnes Wallace	BB 8 4
5.	Alfred Nobel	D 8
6.	Mary Anderson	WW 10 6
7.	Louis Braille	BS 7 6
8.	Hedy Lamarr	SSR 6 8 5
9.	Alexander Graham Bell	T 9
10.	Frank Whittle	JE 3 6
11.	Christopher Cockerell	H 10
12.	Trevor Baylis	WUR 4 2 5
13.	Michael Faraday	EG 8 9
14.	Thomas Edison	TFP 3 4 10
15.	Nikole Tesla	TC 5 4
16.	Alessandro Volta	B 7
17.	Edwin Herbert Land	IC 7 6
18.	LaMarcus Thompson	R 13
19.	Edward Beard Budding	L 9
20.	James Watt	SE 6 6

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).

October Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was about plants with compound words

Answers: (1) Crab apple; (2) Buttercup; (3) Bindweed; (4) Foxglove; (5) Catnip; (6) Snowdrop; (7) Parsley; (8) Buckeye; (9) Marigold; (10) Snapdragon; (11) Bluebell; (12) Dogwood; (13) Rosemary; (14) Speedwell; (15) Mistletoe; (16) Candytuft; (17) Toadflax; (18) Larkspur; (19) Loosestrife; (20) Sunflower.

Correct answers: There were lots of entries last month and many fell down on the answer to no3—knot weed was a close answer but two entries gave a full score as requested by Carolyn—The Booths and the Tilleys.

This months winner is: From teh lucky dip of correct answers the winners are:

Eileen and Roger Tilley

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



Bishop does TikTok

It is good to report on a happy outcome as a result of social media. The speed with which Hugo, Nick and Lynn Watson's dog was discovered due to posting on the village Facebook page shows how it can be used to alert and bring communities together. I learned of Hugo's recovery as news was posted and, as it happens, it came on the same day as the Diocese of Bristol announced that it was launching itself on TikTok. It raised a smile and one can only wonder what they have in mind for the future and what reels will be put together.

But it is no use being sniffy about such things. If you want to get out a message then you need to use a method that works for the audience. If John Wesley were around today, he would be unlikely to draw many people to Hanham Mount to listen to him preaching, but he would reach many more if he used social media. Like so many things the test is not what it is but how we make use of it that counts.

Jim Heavens

Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience



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