

Focal Point

February 2024



£1-20



Focal Point, February 2024

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



YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE

Focal Point has a monthly circulation of 300 to households in Bitton, Beach, Golden Valley, Swineford, Upton Cheyney and Willsbridge.

It is a great way to get your business seen.

Competitive and flexible rates.

Please contact Roger Tilley— rogerjohntilley@gmail.com

If you are one of our current advertisers, we hope you will renew for another year from April. Renewals and invoices are being sent to you this month,

KNOWLEDGE. INTEGRITY. RESULTS.

When it comes to moving home, you need professionals who are trained and trustworthy, with in-depth local knowledge and the technology and connections to market your property.

As exclusive Members of The Guild of Property Professionals we can meet your needs and clearly stand apart from the competition in both sales and lettings.

Contact us for a free confidential marketing appraisal

DAVIES & WAY

CHARTERED SURVEYORS • ESTATE AGENTS

SOLD

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

0117 9863681

daviesandway.com

Keynsham Office

1 High Street, Keynsham
Bristol, BS31 1DP
0117 9863681

keynsham@daviesandway.com

Saltford Office

489 Bath Road, Saltford
Bristol, BS31 3BA
01225 400400

saltford@daviesandway.com

www.daviesandway.com





Fonthill
Garden centre



Planting ♣ *Outdoor living* ♣ *Café*

Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HX

0117 932 3110 www.fonthill-lakeside.com

Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

February 2024

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

Printed by The Mitre Press, Unit 2,
Fantasie Buildings, Waters Road, BS15 8BE

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

**FOR ALL FOCAL POINT
INQUIRIES**

Editor: Jim Heavens

Phone: 07720 248534

Email:

bittoncm@outlook.com

Website:

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk

*Deadline for the March
edition is:*

Monday 19th February

In this month's Focal Point:

- Page 12 *Leslie Willcox*
Learning to Love Lent
- Page 14 News from the Ringing Chamber
- Page 16 ***Church Hall Open Evening—
celebrates improvements***
- Page 18 *The Church Hall—serving the
community for over 170 years*
- Page 20 ***Christingle***
- Page 22 Local News Roundup
- Page 27 The Season of Lent
- Page 31 **Public Information**
From Dan Norris
- Pages 32 **WI News and Recipe**
- Page 36 **Puzzles**
- Page 38 **Prize Quiz**
- Page 41 Last Word

**Church news and
information about acts of
worship pages 6 to 11**

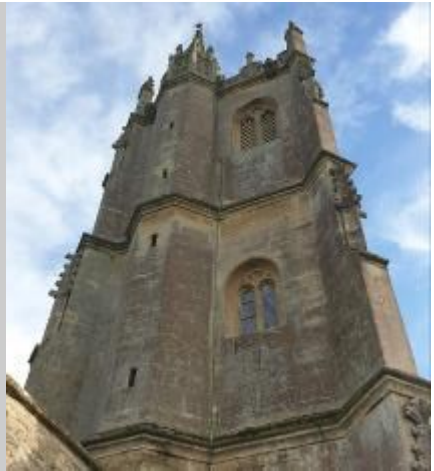
Cover photograph by Chris
O'Donovan of our
Christingle Service (see
page 20).

Oliver and Emily Howells
get to grips with their
Christingle.



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BITTON**

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



Vicar:

Rev Jeremy Andrew
The Vicarage, Warmley
0117 967 2724
(Jeremy departs mid month
leaving a vacancy)

Ordained minister:

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

Curate:

Rev Rosemary Radcliffe

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 February

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

**Sunday, 4th
February**

Second Sunday before Lent
10.30am Parish Communion

**Sunday, 11th
February**

Sunday next before Lent
10.30am **Family Special** with the Bitton Scout Group and the St Mary's Minstrels



**Wednesday 14th
February**

7.30pm **ASH WEDNESDAY
Communion Service at St
Anne's Church Syston**

**Sunday, 18th
February**

First Sunday of Lent
10.30am Morning Worship

**Thursday 22nd
February**

10.00am Celtic Communion
10.30am St Mary's Tea and Coffee Morning



**Sunday 25th
February**

Second Sunday of Lent
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Café Church



Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Sunday 3 February

10.00-10.15 am Lady Chapel

Saturday 10 February

9.00-10.00 am Prayer Breakfast in Bitton Church Hall

Tuesday 27 February

7.00-8.00 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



Our Vicar, Jeremy, is moving on to work for the Diocese having devoted nearly 10 years to the service of the parishes of Bitton, Warmley and Syston. From a personal perspective, I will always be grateful to him for helping the family through some very dark times at the end of 2020. His kind, thoughtful and caring manner were a great comfort to my family as we made arrangements at a time of severe social restriction and I wish him the very best for his next appointment working with the Diocese.

Our thoughts now turn to trying to find a replacement. The three church committees were granted an audience with Archdeacon Christopher who explained the process and the key requirements. There is a 20% vacancy rate within the Church of England, and I understand that it took 18 months to recruit Jeremy and I hope that we can improve on this. Christopher confirmed that there are no plans to reconfigure or amalgamate our current benefice, so at least we can focus on the task at hand.

I recall the advice from a tutor when I was working towards an MA, spending a considerable amount of time on research and reading – “Just start writing”. We need to try to keep the recruitment process as short as possible and I am working closely with colleagues from Syston and Warmley to this end.

Continued on next page

Focal Point, February 2024

Whilst we go through this Interregnum I am very grateful to our wider clergy team for their ongoing support and I am delighted that we have had offers of help from retired clergy within the parish and wider benefice to help share the load.

The drive to make the pews mobile to allow the church to be reconfigured for wider community use, has moved forward a step with prices at last submitted by potential contractors after quite a bit of chasing. We now need to better understand the detail and then a decision will be made on with whom and how the modification process will progress. The aspiration is to maintain the use of the church throughout and we are mindful of the wedding bookings already in the diary as well as the more ad hoc requirements from other life events.

With best wishes to you all.

Simon



Just **KIM**
*Unisex Hairdressing with
Beauty Room & Solarium*

*188 High Street
Oldland Common
Bristol
BS30 9QQ*

Tel: 0117 932 3539



Lent Home Groups



This year ***Christian Aid*** and ***Churches Together*** in Britain have combined to produce a 6-part Lent Course entitled 'Act on Poverty'.

The sessions combine Bible Study, Audio clip and questions for group discussion. We will be encouraged to take on board the current situation and to consider what we can do about it under the following general titles

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 Prophetic | 2 Broken | 3 Generous |
| 4. Located | 5 Hopeful | 6 Together |

There are three groups to chose from. The first sessions will be on 7 and 8 February and after a one week break for Ash Wednesday the other 5 weekly sessions will run throughout Lent from 21 and 22 February:

Wednesdays at 10.30am at Westover, Bath Road, Bitton beginning on 7 February
Contact David Bailey 0117 932 8949

Wednesdays at 7.30pm at 8 Church Road, Bitton beginning on 7 February
Contact Ken Gibson 0117 932 2122

Thursdays at 7.30pm at 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge beginning on 8 February
Contact Pete Midgley 0117 932 6898

Those who do not usually attend a Home Group, but would like to do so for Lent are particularly welcome.

Leslie Wilcox

Learning to love Lent



This year Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on Valentine's Day, traditionally a day of declarations of love, gooey sentiment and gifts of flowers and chocolate. This latter a tough gift to receive if it was your intention to sacrifice the eating of chocolate 'till Easter Day.

In the Church Lent is a season of penitence and repentance which in itself is not without merit but with an emphasis on 'giving something up for Lent' has become for many a depressing season. For most a period of fasting and self-denial sounds challenging to say the least. It is however commemorating or recalling with devotion our Lord's testing in the wilderness prior to the commencement of His ministry. We shouldn't let it pass unnoticed.

In times past the season of Lent was an occasion for spring cleaning when the house was thoroughly cleaned from bottom to top with cupboards and heavy furniture moved to remove accumulated dirt and discover things long lost and maybe no longer needed. Spring cleaning may itself be a reference to the Jewish stricture to clean every nook and cranny to make sure no yeast could be found in the house during the period of Passover.

The notion of spring cleaning can be a parable for an exercise of self examination which results in our finding grubby corners and old unwanted habits which need to be cleared out. This attitude of repentance is not just about feeling beset by wrongdoing (although there is no harm in regret and sorrow) but about setting things right and making new. As Christians we can only make full reparation by the grace and forgiveness of God made possible by

Focal Point, February 2024

the sacrifice of Jesus which he made on the cross for us and for the whole world. Lent is a time when we can delve into the recesses of our lives and think what attitudes might be changed, what bad habits might be given up, what blessings can be embraced, what gifts can be shared.

Church teaching encourages us to focus on God and give of ourselves. Easy to say perhaps but the words used in the introduction of the Ash Wednesday service helpfully suggests we should observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word. It does sound challenging and it is but then any spring cleaning job is challenging. Once complete however the results are clear for all to see.

If fasting and self denial sounds too much then remember those for whom fasting and going without are not a choice. If you want suggestion for reading, try Mark's gospel. It is the gospel which will be used for Sunday services this year so you will be prepared.

Whatever happens don't let the discipline of Lent daunt you. It is a time for refreshment and renewal for the benefit of us all, individually and collectively. I pray it will be a blessing to you and us.



News from the Ringing Chamber



The visiting band of ringers from Bradford on Avon will return to St Mary's, Bitton, this 20th February. They will be performing a quarter peal of spliced methods (mixture of various methods), using all eight bells. Starting at 7.30PM

A quarter peal generally can take 40 - 50 minutes of continuous ringing. If successful, it will be recorded in the national database of ringing performances.

Update on Syston number 4 bell



The replacement bell in position

The damaged number four bell has now been relocated into its final position. It will remain in the belfry as a historical reminder to future generations.

On the 18th December, Nicholson's engineering, together with several volunteers hauled the donated 300kg bell up from the car park, and winched it into its new home.

There are still some remedial works required on the ropes, and fittings before the bells will be fully operational again.

Nigel Scudamore



The replacement bell is dragged up the path.

Many thanks to all who attended the coffee morning, and those who generously gave money to assist with this project.

Robert Pearce has over 40 years' experience



RJ PEARCE PLUMBING
PLUMBING INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

**Available for
general plumbing
and repairs**

Tel: 07814 607974

Email: robsuep@btinternet.com

Church Hall Open Evening

An open evening was held at St Mary's Church Hall on Thursday 11th January to celebrate the National Lottery Community Fund grant which has enabled improvements to be made.



Picture: Becky Feather

Pictured: Rev Jeremy Andrew, Jill Gibson and Simon Harris

Focal Point, February 2024



Raising a glass to the future and celebrating the Community Grant

The refurbishment and enhanced heating of the hall has now been completed and the event gave thanks for the £8,000 grant. It also provided an opportunity for people to view the hall which is available to hire for group meetings and parties.

Jill Gibson welcomes enquiries about hall bookings on 0117 9322122 or at kenandjillg@gmail.com

Hanney Welding Limited

For all your Welding & Fabrication
requirements

Eastover Works, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Tel: 0117 932 2647

Email: martin@hanneywelding.co.uk

Focal Point, February 2024



Although the hall has seen many changes there is no mistaking its layout in the picture above (Courtesy of Pat Allen). *Below*—the same view today.



Church Hall: Serving the community for over 170 years

Although built principally as a schoolroom, the hall always seems to have been used as a place for other community activities too. The picture opposite which appears to date from the buildings early years shows the Bitton Clothing Club in operation.

The venue is very easy to identify, although surely some artistic licence has been taken with the headgear of the two clerks. Who painted the picture is unknown, but it comes from an Ellacombe family source and may have been painted by H T Ellacombe himself or possibly by Harriet Pearsall.

Later on the nineteenth century we also know it was used regularly for various community meetings and entertainments from the advertisements that have survived in the Ellacombe scrapbooks.

The building's use as a school was more short-lived, being replaced by the local authority school, now known as The Meadows early in the twentieth century.



Above—Jess Meale of the Children's Society. Below: Aurora and Iona McKay with their completed Christingle oranges.





Christingle

St Mary's annual Christingle Service was held on Sunday 14th January, in aid of the Children's Society. The service was well attended and everyone had a great time constructing their Christingle oranges and decorating them. With the lights turned down on a cold January day in the church, the candles on top of the oranges were lit as the congregation, including the Bitton Scout Group gathered in the aisle to celebrate and sing the Christingle song of praise. The total money collected for The Children's Society is £304.50

The service was attended by Jess Meale, Community Relationship Manager of the Children's Society in the South-West. The Children's Society, gave a presentation on the work of the society.

Photographs were taken of the service for future use of the society by Chris O'Donovan. A small selection is shown here and on this month's cover.

Local News Roundup

**January 2024 -
First the flood,
then the ice,
then the storm.**



Photograph—
Alison Wride

January Weather

We don't normally report on the weather but January's has been extreme.

For a second year running, the A431 was closed at Swineford due to flooding early in the New year. The water reaches as far as the front door of The Swan. Restrictions remained in place for over 3 days. Following the flood came cold weather, with temperatures falling to -3 overnight. As the temperature rose, the country was then caught by Storm Ischa which disrupted travel and caused damage across the country. Let's hope February (it is one day longer this year) sees more placid weather.

Kingwood By-election

It hardly needs mentioning, but Bitton faces a by-election on February 15th, following the resignation of our MP, Chris Skidmore. Chris had represented the area since 2010, but had been angered by the government's position on climate change and net zero. He also resigned from the Conservative Party.

His successor will serve less than a year before the Kingswood seat is abolished at the next General election which must be held before January 2025.

Upton Inn to reopen?

A post on Facebook from the Upton suggests that it is reopening – as a public house! Few details are available, but it seems that new owners have taken possession of the keys and are planning an opening.

To lose both the pub and the Upton Cheyney Chapel in the same year seemed too much, and while there is no prospect of the chapel reopening as a place of worship, those who like to gather for other purposes may be cheered by this news.

Continued on next page

South Gloucestershire Local Plan

South Gloucestershire Council are consulting on their revised local plan. The plan is important as it sets the parameters on which future planning or developments will be permitted. It includes standards for energy saving in new homes, for example and has a bold ambition to provide more affordable homes.

However, the council has concluded that while it will place preference on land that can currently be developed, if it is to meet the requirement for new homes in the area some green belt land may be needed. This has, not surprisingly raised some concerns. The plan is open for consultation until the middle of this month and can be read in full at;

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/publications/local-plan-phase-3-towards-a-preferred-strategy/>

ROY PREDDY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We are at your service 24 hours a day

We will help and guide you every step of the way

We will guide you through our choice of funeral plans

We can help and advise you choose a memorial

Our other Bristol businesses can similarly help you -

Roy Preddy - Kingswood (0117) 9446051

TB & H Pendock - Hambrook (0117) 9566774

Stenner & Hill - Shirehampton (0117) 9823188

R. Davies & Son - Westbury-on-Trym (0117) 9628954

R. Davies & Son - Horfield (0117) 9424039

Part of Dignity Ltd, a British Company

Focal Point, February 2024

Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to
our next meeting

on
Monday 19th February
in

The Church Hall, Church Lane Bitton
Doors open 7.15pm
Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Joff Elphnick

and the title of his illustrated talk is

Crayfish on the Lawn!

Joff studied horticulture at Pershore. He has worked for Henry Robinson at his national Collection of Rambling Roses and later worked at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons - could this be where he encountered the Crayfish on the Lawn? He now looks after three gardens in the cotswolds and is the host of Pot and Cloche Garden Podcasts where you will discover he is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

For more information
contact Bridget at b.hetzel@btinternet.com
or just come along to the meeting

New members and guests are always welcome

This meeting is **FREE** to members. Guests £4



Cherry Plumbing & Heating Services

EST 2004
Over 20 years experience

Boiler Breakdown, Service & Installation Engineer

All makes and models worked on

Call Darren on 07787 956651

www.cherryplumbingandheating.co.uk



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with
one another in love



Local Service at 2 pm
at Unity Methodist Church,
West Street, Oldland
Common BS30 9QS

Limited parking at the
church. Please park on
nearby streets or come on
foot.

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 • 365 DAYS A YEAR • PRAYER MOVEMENT • ECUMENICAL INTERNATIONAL • WOMEN-LED

wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

The Season of Lent



With a relatively early Easter in 2024 (it falls on 31 March) Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. A lot of people give something up for Lent and use the period as one of restricting self indulgence- not all of course. For some reason Cadbury's Cream eggs go on sale at new year and none of the advertising suggests that anyone should wait until Easter Sunda to indulge.

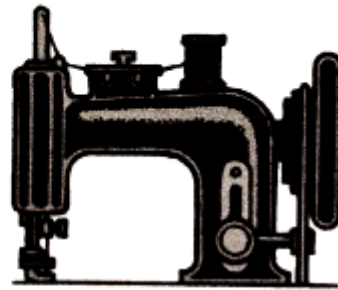
But what are the origins of this season and its practices?

The term Lent itself, comes not from a religious so much as a seasonal one, from the middle English word lente, meaning springtime or the lengthening of days. The fast of 40 days is a time for reflection in the period before Easter and a commemoration of Christ's period in the wilderness, of 40 days and nights, before beginning his ministry.

Altogether Lent lasts longer than 40 days, as Sundays are not included in the calculation.

Traditionally, in the western church Lent is a time of austerity in preparation for Easter and Christ's suffering and resurrection. Ornaments are covered and people's diets were restricted. Few of us, today, would necessarily commit to the more stringent medieval restrictions than included no eggs or fats, but denying ourselves some of our favourite items- chocolate or alcohol is widely practised.

Parker's Sewing Services



**Clothing alteration
and repairs**

Soft furnishings

**Specialist projects
and commissions
undertaken**

Telephone Lizzie : 01179326662

Mobile : 07837126945

Email :

lizzieparkerclarke@rocketmail.com

Steve Painter Decorating Services

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- ❖ Traditionally trained
- ❖ Quality workmanship
- ❖ Paperhanging specialists
- ❖ Friendly and reliable
- ❖ Competitively priced
- ❖ No VAT added

Contact Steve on 07853 250035

or 0117 956 5190



Bitton Village Residents' Association

Invites you

to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

Friday 16 February

when we will be screening

THE OUTFIT

starring

**Mark Rylance, Zoey Deutch, Jonny Flinn
and Simon Russell Beale**

Although the plot is not entirely based on a true story, real events inspired this psychological crime thriller. Set in Chicago in 1956, Rylance plays an English cutter, who runs a neighborhood tailoring shop. His primary customers, for his stylish but expensive cloths, are a family of Irish mobsters.

Mark Rylance and this movie will not disappoint. While there is some violence, the plot is so tight you won't want to miss a word or nuance because you know it is taking you somewhere that will surprise and delight you. We loved it.

Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.

At the CHURCH HALL CHURCH LANE 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

Bendrey Bros

TIMBER RETAILER SINCE 1890

Your local stockist of:

- Fencing Materials
- Graded Building Timber
- Timber & Composite Decking
- Sleepers & Landscaping products
- Gates - Residential & Agricultural
- Wide range of Timber Claddings
- Fast Local Delivery Service or collect from our yard

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday Morning:
8.00am - 12.00pm

www.bendreybros.co.uk ☎ **0117 9674382**

The Sawmills, Bath Road, Bridgegate, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 5JW



E. C. Alderwick & Son Ltd
Funeral Directors

Serving Bristol since 1945

Kingswood - 11 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8JX
Tel: 0117 967 3609

Hanham - 71 High Street, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3DG
Tel: 0117 935 3746

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Update from Dan Norris, Mayor of the West of England



'SOCIAL ECONOMY WEST' LAUNCHES

Co-operatives and other community-focused firms can now access advice and support from a new service: Social Economy West. Find out more at www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/socialeconomywest/.

LOCAL BUSINESSES - TURN YOUR ROOF INTO A RENEWABLE POWER STATION!

Small and medium-sized businesses in the West of England can benefit from grants to help them cut their emissions and their energy bills by installing solar panels on larger commercial and industrial roofs - think warehouses, factories and larger offices.

Grants are available first come first served, with a total of £500,000 up for grabs. For further information please contact: lowcarbonbusiness@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

TIME TO 'LEAP' ON TO THE BUS:

2024 is a leap year which means an extra day added to the calendar. That's great news for those with February birthdays as they will have a whole extra day to use their free 'Birthday Bus Month Pass'.

Birthday Buses from the Mayoral Combined Authority gives you unlimited free bus travel throughout the month of your Birthday. Don't forget to apply at: <http://www.birthdaybus.co.uk/>!

News from Bitton WI

Our first meeting of 2024 took place on Monday 8 January. Our group was welcomed by the President, Karen, who also welcomed a number of new members to the Group for their first time taster session. Karen also extended our best wishes and a Get Well Soon to members who were unable to be with us at today's meeting.

Following the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, Karen told of her adventures singing with her Choir at Highgrove back in November. She also played a recording of the Choir singing Hallelujah as they would have done for His Majesty which the group enjoyed and sang along. We heard how she had met Raymond Blanc who she says, had become a fan of the Choir, though he wasn't tempted to join! She also mentioned the beautiful birthday cake and it's near sad demise as it had toppled slightly. She praised the skill of the cakemaker who had applied some last minute repairs to make the cake look resplendent again ready for his Majesty to cut. Our Group enjoyed hearing about the day and a glimpse of what goes on "behind the scenes". One member said that she almost felt a part of the day herself.

We had no other speaker this month and with time to spare, we had organised to play games of Bingo and a short Beetle drive. I must admit, I had never heard of a Beetle drive though I seemed to be the only person who hadn't! Each game of bingo and the Beetle drive earned the winners a ticket into a draw for Gardening Vouchers.

Much hilarity and bemusement followed as we negotiated our way around a bingo card in order to be the first to shout House or Bingo and tried, in vain in most cases, to throw a six

Focal Point, February 2024

to start our Beetle. The draw for first prize went to one of our lucky new members.

New members are always welcome to come and see what we get up to at our meetings. There is no obligation to join if you feel it's not for you. If you need more information, please do get in touch with us at: bittonwi@gmail.com.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 12 February, at 2pm, St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton.

Our recipe this month (*see next page*) celebrates the great Pancake (courtesy of WI Recipes).

Karen Davidson, President.



Pancakes with Salted Caramel Sauce

Ingredients

To make the pancakes

100g Plain flour
2 eggs
300 ml milk
Sunflower oil for frying

Salted Caramel Sauce

175 brown sugar
50g butter
300ml double cream
½ teaspoon of Cornish sea salt

Method:

To make the pancakes

1. To make the pancake batter, place the flour into a bowl and make a well.
2. Crack the eggs into a well in the centre of the flour
3. Pour a dash of milk into the well and begin to incorporate the flour adding more milk gradually.
4. Ensure all milk has been added and then whisk to form a smooth batter
5. Place in the fridge for 30 minutes to 1 hour.
6. To cook, heat the pancake pan then brush with oil and pour enough batter to cover the base thinly.
7. When the pancake begins to set and change colour due to the heat, loosen with a palette knife and toss.
8. Cook the other side a few more minutes.

For the Salted Caramel Sauce

1. Place all the ingredients into a saucepan and place over a low heat, stir until the butter and sugar has melted.
2. Once melted turn the heat up slightly do not boil, allow the gooey liquid to bubble for a few minutes until it has thickened.
3. Place the pancake on a serving plate pour the golden caramel liquid over the pancake, fold or roll.

Serve with ice cream or clotted cream and a scattering of chopped walnuts

Enjoy!



Absolutely Feet

Caring for your feet, in your own home.

Professional treatment of corns, callus, fungal infections, painful or thickened nails, diabetic foot care, nail trimming etc.

Joanne Nash MCFHP MAFHP
Insured & Registered Foot Health Professional

07881 530600
absolutelyfeet@hotmail.com

Puzzle Pages

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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

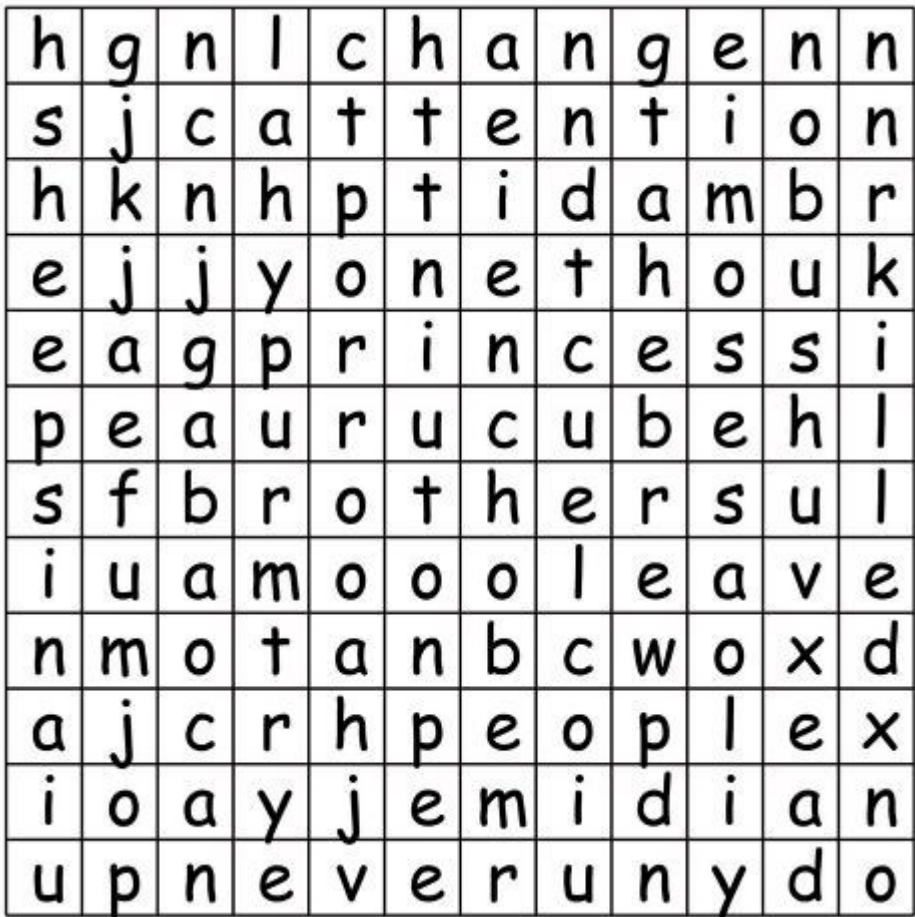
© 2008 KrazyDad.com

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 month's word search continues the story of Moses.



You are looking for:

Change

Burning

Choice

Moses

Father

Leave

Egypt

Bush

Attention

Mountain

Pharoh

Sheep

Run

Hebrew

Body

Sinai

Brother

Killed

Midian

Aaron

Princess

Married

People

Never

February Prize Quiz

by Kim Scudamore

At Your Service

In this quiz, most (but not all) the questions refer to those who are in service.
GOOD LUCK!

1. Why did Robinson Crusoe never have any housework to do on Saturday?
2. Who was nanny to the Banks family of Cherry Tree Lane?
3. Who looked after Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street?
4. Whistling Jack Smith had a hit in 1967 celebrating which servant?
5. What name is shared by a former Foreign Secretary and a bus driver who often got on the wrong side of Inspector Blake?
6. At which house was Mrs Danvers the sinister housekeeper?
7. Who had a valet called Hobson as played on screen by John Gielgud?
8. Alfred Pennyworth was butler to which crime-fighter?
9. In which 2002 film do Bob Hoskins and Jennifer Lopez appear as employees of a smart New York hotel?
10. Who serves as butler to the Crawley family of Downton Abbey?
11. In the 2023 ICC World Cup, who was England's top scoring batsman?
12. Who was Bertie Wooster's reliable manservant?
13. Who was known as the Maid of Orleans?
14. Where Mrs Bridges did the cooking, who was head of all the servants 'Upstairs and Downstairs'?
15. Which former Blue Peter presenter claims to be 'At Your Service' on a series of radio jingles?
16. In which 1957 film does Kenneth More play the part of a butler who takes charge of his employers when they are shipwrecked in the South Sea?

Focal Point, February 2024

17. Who was the Cockney bootblack who became Samuel Pickwick's servant in 'The Pickwick Papers'?
18. Which gamekeeper and keeper of the Grounds had a 3-headed dog called Fluffy?
19. Which 2011 play starring James Corden was an update of the 1743 play 'A servant of Two Masters'?
20. Passepartout was valet to which fictional traveller?

Please return your answers by Friday 16th February by email to
bittoncm@outlook.com

January Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was **for the birds** as most answers referred to members of the bird family.

Answers: (1) The Sparrow; (2) The Mallard (the train of course); (3) Rook; (4) Emu; (5) Jonathon Swift; (6) Doctor Bird (as in Bird's Custard); (7) Dan Quayle (well it's almost a quail); (8) Penguin Books; (9) Grouse and Ptarmigan shooting season (not pheasant); (10) Nicholas Hawksmoor (not Christopher Wren, but there's a bird in there); (11) Taylor Swift; (12) Jack Sparrow; (13) Tweety Pie; (14) Nottingham; (15) Jay Blades; (16) Magpie; (17) John Parrot; (18) Budgie; (19) Florence Nightingale; (20) Goldcrest

The answer to no 19 proved a little problematic. These days the Florence *Nightingale* statue is inside St Thomas Hospital while Mary Seacole is outside. While the bird reference was the clue, both answers have been accepted.

Correct answers were therefore received from

Ros and Charles Knight, Celia Mosley, Becky Harrison, Linda Crossling, Mary Younie, Terry Matthews, Alan & Sue Murtagh

This month's winner is:

Becky Harrison

Prize Quiz winners receive a £10 John Lewis voucher.

All entries with fully correct answers are listed and the winner is than chosen at random.



- Design and build
- Building Maintenance
- Renovation
- Refurbishment
- Roofing

K P Wilton & Son Ltd

11/12 Brighton Place, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QY

Tel: 0117 967 1207

Email: info@kpwilton.co.uk



The last word



It is a moment of departures. This month sees the departure of our vicar Jeremy who moves to a new role within the Bristol Diocese. The process for finding a replacement have already begun as Simon has explained in the churchwarden's letter.

The other departure has been more widely but perhaps less favourably publicised – that of the departure and resignation of our Member of Parliament, Chris Skidmore. Chris has a longstanding relationship with St Marys since childhood and on the Sunday following his first election in 2010, he attended the morning service at St Mary's and has been at many events since then including almost every service of remembrance.

He was intending to stand down at the next election, but as a point of principle decide that he can no longer support the government in pursuing policies that will fail to deliver on its previous commitments to reach net zero; in particular the decision to licence further drilling in the North Sea.

Politics can be an unpleasant game and those opposed to his actions have cast doubt on his principles. But there can be no doubt about the basis of his concerns. The UK has a target to be at net zero by 2050. South Gloucestershire and the Bristol diocese have even more stretching targets to be net zero by 2030. Setting targets is easy – making the decisions that deliver it are proving to be less so.

We wish Chris well in his new endeavours and look forward to welcoming his successor.

Jim Heavens



Collingwood

Care Home for the elderly

Collingwood Care Home provides the best possible care to our residents.

We ensure it is a happy, safe place to live...
“home from home”

Please contact one of our friendly Management team for an appointment to discuss your requirements.

Lizzy, Mandy or Suzy

Collingwood Care Home
78a Bath Road
Longwell Green
BS30 9DG

0117 9324527

linkside-care@btconnect.com

www.collingwoodcarehome.co.uk

**NORTON
TAX SHOPS LTD**
ACCOUNTANTS & TAX SPECIALISTS

FREE INITIAL
CONSULTATION

Would you like...

- To pay less tax;
- Accurate and high quality work;
- To be eased through the tax minefield;
- Work on time, every time;
- Competitive fees;
- Friendly, qualified staff;
- Quick, responsive service, tailored to you;
- Up to date expert advice;
- To maximize profit;
- To reduce the burden of your paperwork.

You would? Then please contact us for help with:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Self-Assessment | ■ Annual Accounts |
| ■ Capital Gains Tax | ■ Limited Companies |
| ■ Income from Property | ■ Bookkeeping & Payroll |



Keynsham Office
3&5 Station Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2BH
Telephone: 0117 986 0960
Kingswood Office
7 Regent Street, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 8JX
Telephone: 0117 967 47474

Email: admin@nortontaxshops.co.uk
Website: www.nortontaxshops.co.uk



Bitton Motor Company

Bath Road Bitton
Bristol BS30 6HY



MOT
Testing Centre



Cars Bought and Sold

Servicing Repairs Engine Tuning
Welding Tyres Exhausts Cam belts

Telephone: (0117) 932 8686