

Focal Point

March 2024



**Farewell to
Jeremy—see
page 9.**

£1-20



Focal Point, March 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



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Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

March 2024

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Upton Cheyney & Beach
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Deadline for the April edition is:

Wednesday 20th March

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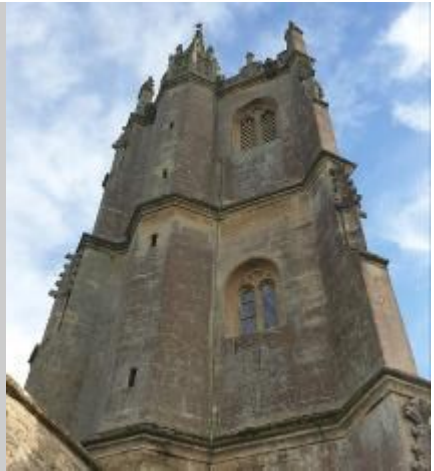
Cover photograph of the farewell to Rev Jeremy Andrew on departing as Vicar of St Mary's on 4th February. More information on page 9.

Picture by Jane Clapp



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH,
BITTON**

www.stmarysbitton.org.uk



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0117 932 8949

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41 Combe Park
Weston
BATH
07714 615817

Vacancy

Services for March 2024

Sunday, 3rd March

Third Sunday of Lent
10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday, 10th
March

Fourth Sunday of Lent
MOTHERING SUNDAY
10.30am **Service for Mothering Sunday** (More details page 11)

Sunday, 17th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday 24th
March

Palm Sunday
9.30am Family Café Church
10.15 Palm Sunday Procession
10.30 Palm Praise

Thursday 28th
March

Maundy Thursday
10.00am Celtic Communion
10.30am St Mary's Tea and Coffee Morning
7.30pm **At St Barnabas Church, Warmley**
—THE MAN BORN TO BE KING—
(see page 19) *followed by*
Communion of the Last Supper



Friday 29th March

Good Friday
10.30 A family friendly interactive Easter experience with activities at stations around the church.
2.00pm Service of Meditation remembering the last hour before Jesus died

Sunday 31st March

Easter Sunday
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Easter Celebration Communion
11.30am **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Benefice Prayer Opportunities

Sunday 3 March

10.00 to 10.15 am In the Lady Chapel

Saturday 9 March

9.00 to 10.00 am Prayer Breakfast in Bitton Church Hall

Tuesday 26 March

7.00 to 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, the Reverend Jeremy preached his last sermon at St Marys on the 4th February and it was lovely to see him so well supported by his wider family. The Midgleys kindly laid on some bubbly to mark the event and a good time was had by all.



Richard leads the toast for Jeremy—4th February

Whilst Jeremy has now taken up his new appointment at the Diocese, we have another chance for a cup of tea and a cake as we gather at St Barnabas Church Hall, Warmley on the 3rd March starting at 2 PM, where we aim to present Jeremy with his leaving cards and gifts.

Continued on next page

Focal Point, March 2024

Do please come along if you are in the area.

With Jeremys departure, our thoughts turn to finding a replacement. The church does not have a Human Resources Department looking to recruit and place the round peg in the round hole. Instead, the PCC have to raise the required documentation such as the Parish Profile and the Job Specification and then go out and advertise the post. I am working closely with my fellow Churchwardens in Warmley and Syston to draft out the required documents, but please remember that you, our parishioners have a say in this process. If you would like to make any specific requests or requirements, then please let me know.

After a number of trial runs, we have at last managed to appoint a benefice administrator to coordinate wedding and baptism bookings and general support to our churches. Sue Godfrey started work just as Jeremy left armed with a manual of how the 3 churches work and their respective points of contact. Her working hours are Monday 09:30 until 12:30 and Tuesday 14:00 until 17:00 Sue can be contacted by e-mail at:

BeneficeBittonSystonWarmley@outlook.com

The drive to make the pews mobile to allow the church to be reconfigured for wider community use, has moved another step forward. We have selected a local contractor, Newman's Joinery, to undertake the modifications and we will shortly meet up to start the planning process. We are respecting the wedding bookings already in the diary and so will not make a start until the 22nd July at the earliest.

Two Special Services in March

Mothering Sunday Family Special - Sunday 10th March, 10.30am.

We're planning to provide three or four special services during the year which will appeal to families with children at the upper age range of Family Café Church and older.

The Mothering Sunday service is going to be the first of these, with fun activities based on how we communicate with each other. With lively music from the Minstrels, daffodils and more, do come and join in. There are more details on the services page, on our website and on posters round the village.

Palm Sunday Service with Procession – Sunday 24th March

The fourth Sunday in March falls on Palm Sunday. The plan is to have a Palm Sunday Procession sandwich! We'll be starting with Family Café Church breakfast at 9.30 and an informal Café style service.



At 10.15 we'll be going out to process through the village and then there will be a more traditional Palm Sunday service in church at 10.30. You will be very welcome to join in any or all of this!

Pete Midgely

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BITTON, presents



'THE ROAD TO CALVARY'

The story from Palm Sunday to the
Crucifixion in music by

THE MAGPIES

On Saturday 23rd March at 2.30pm



With tea and cakes
Collection for Church funds



Benefice welcomes Sue Godfrey

New to the benefice is Sue Godfrey who will be undertaking administrative support, initially, at least, during the period of the vacancy following the departure of our vicar, Jeremy. Sue will be available on a Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon but will also be monitoring the Benefice communication channels from time to time outside of these times. Chief amongst her duties will be the management of bookings for baptisms, weddings and funerals, ensuring that the churches are available and making sure there is someone to conduct the services.



Sue retired from the University of the West of England at the end of July 2023 having worked as a professional service staff member in the Business and Law School prior to moving to the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Before that, on leaving school, she worked for Barclays Bank in and around Bristol in a similar support role.

Sue says: "I am a regular worshipper at St Mary's Fishponds. I have undertaken all sorts of roles during my time including Sunday School teacher then leader, PCC member on and off, and Churchwarden having stepped down after fulfilling the requisite number of years allowed in that role. I now enjoy singing in the church choir – it gives you a great sense of wellbeing.

I enjoy gardening – tending my own garden and my 'half size' allotment in Hanham – I always feel a sense of renewed purpose when I can get outdoors, singing and reading detective novels both classic and current.

I look forward to meeting up with as many people as I can over the coming months."

Westerly Winds plays Bitton

Westerly Winds are offering an array of musical favourites at St. Mary's Church in Bitton on **Saturday 13th April at 7.30 pm.**

The spring concert kick-starts their gig season and will feature a wide variety of tunes and styles from big band swing to big screen themes. Westerly have been performing at St. Mary's since 2018 for what was their first official concert and have been delighted to return ever since.

In addition to providing an exciting evening of entertainment, the night is also an opportunity to raise funds for St. Mary's, with proceeds being shared with the church for its continued upkeep.

Westerly's Spring Pick and Mix is so-called because it's guaranteed there'll be a tasty treat for everyone.



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St. Anne's Oldland - Ellacombe's organ in need of restoration

When the organ at St Anne's in Oldland was installed in 1842, the new church was still part of the parish of Bitton and, although there was a dedicated curate, the vicar was the Rev H T Ellacombe. It was Ellacombe who oversaw the replacement of the old medieval chapel with the new church and consequently the installation of the organ, built by G M Holditch of London.

Over the years, the organ has been extended with additional pipes and updated with an electric blower; but after 180m years it is again in some need of refurbishment of its electrics, stops and bellows and the whole organ is in need a major clean

It is planned to undertake the work in phases over a period of perhaps as long as 10 years. Such work is expensive and the church is now raising funds to meet the likely costs. Their first fundraiser is an organ recital on the afternoon of 13th April by David Ponsford, and internationally recognized organist who will be managing his way around the old stops and bellows.

So, if you want a truly musical day, you can attend the organ recital in the afternoon at St Annes and the Westerly Winds at Bitton—all on the same day.

More details in our next edition.

Rev Jillianne Norman



Life changes, but the promise of Easter remains

On 12th March I will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. Significant anniversaries such as this give me an opportunity to pause and look back over the last 30 years and the 60 years or so I have been attending church. I grew up in a very High Anglo Catholic Church where women could do nothing beyond the screen. My brothers were servers and there was a boys only choir. The girls ironically rang the bells and after much protest about the unfairness of the music situation, we were allowed to form a 'little banjo group'! Ironically again, it was mostly the girls who were the musicians and we were aided by the one woman organist. Another irony of the male dominated situation is that as far as I know I am the only Priest to have grown up in, and come out of, the parish in recent memory.

When I was accepted for training, I was a Deaconess Candidate, and wore a navy blue cassock. By the time I came out of college the Women Deacon's Measure had been passed, and I was Ordained a Deacon, and remained in the Order of Deacons for 6 years, until the Women Priests Measure was passed. I was then Priested with some 2,000 women across the country who were also Deacons, many of whom had been waiting a lot longer than I to fulfil their vocations. In 2015 the Church of England consecrated their first woman Bishop. Women Bishops now sit in the House of Lords and speak on issues relating to women. How far we have come. How much change I have seen.

But we are a church and a community that worships an eternal and changeless God. We worship a God who cares so much for us that he sent his only son to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus

took on himself the burdens of humanity to free us to worship God, to have a personal relationship with him. Not for us the Promised Land of the people of Israel. Our promise is of eternal life, life with him. Our promise is that he knows us so well and cares for us so much that no matter what we do, we only have to turn to him, and he will walk alongside us, and carry us when things get difficult. In the course of my work as a Hospital Chaplain at the BRI I regularly read parts of Psalm 139 to my patients. As one of my patients said to me after hearing it 'This means I am not doing this on my own!'

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:1-12

For all the changes I have seen and you will have seen in your lifetimes we are all still striving to become closer to God, to become the people he created us to be. The changes around us are all part of that discernment process of becoming. The period of Lent we are in now helps us to focus on the things which are important in our relationship with God, while we are striving not to miss too much the things we have given up for Lent. Lent does not last for ever, but the Easter ahead and its promises to us are eternal. May you continue to have a productive Lent and a Happy and Blessed Easter.



CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL

For its Christmas 2023 appeal Christian Aid took inspiration from the shining star in the nativity story and focused a spotlight on Bangladesh, one of the poorest and most disaster-prone regions of the world. Here they are giving women a time to shine by helping them to set up a business selling their craftwork. Christian Aid's partner organisation has provided them with Wi-Fi and taught them how to use social media to sell their goods.

Our gifts will help other women to find a way out of poverty.

The Christmas collections from St Mary's raised £375 and the carol singers round the village and at the White Hart raised a further £46.07. A total of £421.07. Very many thanks to donors and singers.

Nicola Bennetts

An advertisement for "Just KIM" hairdressing salon. The logo features the word "Just" in a white script font inside a dark grey vertical rectangle, followed by "KIM" in large, bold, dark grey block letters. Below this, the text "Unisex Hairdressing with Beauty Room & Solarium" is written in a dark grey serif font. The address "188 High Street, Oldland Common, Bristol, BS30 9QQ" is listed in a dark grey serif font. The phone number "Tel: 0117 932 3539" is also in a dark grey serif font. A circular logo with the letters "KIM" is in the bottom right corner.

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

*188 High Street
Oldland Common
Bristol
BS30 9QQ*

Tel: 0117 932 3539

The Man born to be King Thursday 28 March 2024 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas Church Warmley



Dorothy Sayers

In 1943 Dorothy L Sayers wrote a cycle of plays for the BBC one of which is centred on the Last Supper. It attracted enormous listening figures on Sunday evenings in those dark war years.

On Maundy Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm in St Barnabas Church Warmley there will be a reading of this play as a prelude to our Communion Service. The parts of Jesus and the disciples will be read by members of our congregations from across the Benefice.

What's your surname's origin?

If you have ever wondered how your surname came about, or would just like to know more, then the next meeting of the Bitton History Group may be of particular interest when Professor Richard Coates will explain the historical background, formation, and typology of surnames.



Richard Coates

The meeting will also be the group's Annual General Meeting.

**Tuesday, March 19th
Oldland Common Tabernacle, United Reformed Church,
High Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QN, 7:00 for 7:30pm**

Focal Point, March 2024



River rises again

For a second time this year a road closure order was put in place for the Bath Road near Swineford as the River Avon rose. The picture opposite, with St Mary's tower reflected in the waters was taken by Celia Mosley on 18th February.

Natalie Morton

As well as being the church pianist and occasional organist and having given her own recital of piano music in the church, last year, Natalie Morton is herself now available to give piano lessons.

Natalie is an experienced teacher and is willing to take on all grades and abilities. She is also available for singing and instrumental exams.

Contact Natalie Morton ARSM

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A Warm Welcome at St Mary's

After 34 years in ministry as a vicar, most recently in Sandy in Bedfordshire, Huw Davies recently moved to the area and has settled on St Mary's as the place for him and his family to worship. As he also has a licence from our bishop to officiate within the diocese he may be assisting with worship as well.

Here he writes about how he found St Mary's.

From the moment we first walked into St Mary's we felt welcomed. Friendly faces, interested and interesting people, a warm atmosphere and a cup of tea and cake to finish.

We arrived new to the area in July last year and it took us a while to find a local church which suited my elderly mother's needs. St Mary's fitted the bill.

Friendly people, warm church, accessible toilet, a relatable service, lovely music led by an ensemble of flute, cello and piano with a small group of singers and best of all, even with impaired hearing mum could hear every word of the service and the sermon, which is always interesting (and not too long, ha ha!).

St Mary's is an outward and future facing church with a variety of services. As well as the traditional Holy Communion there is Morning worship service and a monthly family orientated relaxed café church service which starts with coffee and a bacon bap and includes a short talk and craft for the children.

St Mary's is also a church with a long and interesting history but is not looking back and resting on its laurels. With a modern sound and visual system and plans to refurbish the interior and update the seating and heating it is seeking to embrace the future and the needs of the next generation of worshippers.

You may have heard that the Revd Jeremy Andrew is leaving his post as Rector of Warmley, Siston and Bitton in February to work in



Huw Davies

the wider context of the Bristol Diocese and this adds to the possibilities facing the church in the next chapter of its life.

One of the strengths of St Mary's is the lovely team of people who lead the services and the other activities throughout the year. The talented musicians and singers, the hosts and hospitality team, and the many others in the background including Churchwarden Simon, as well as those lay and licensed and ordained leading at the front, Ken and David, Pete and Richard and Rosemary to name a few that I have met in the last few months and been grateful for their ministry.

Focal Point, March 2024

After eight years in education and over thirty years as vicar in four parishes enjoying a rich variety of experiences and all the privileges of serving the people in every stage and circumstance of life I am now retiring from full-time church ministry. We returned to the South-West partly because I had been vicar of St Paul's in Weston-super-Mare for many happy years and brought up our children there.

As we settle into this new phase of life we are glad to have come across this little community of people at St Mary's in Bitton.

If you are a member of the congregation, thank you for making us welcome.

If you are reading this and have not yet been to St Mary's church Bitton then I hope you will find it as friendly and welcoming as we have when you come along to visit.

You can find details on their website: **stmarysbitton.org.uk**

Huw Davies

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Have you ever wondered about the Alms Houses in Church Lane, Bitton?

The houses were built in memory of Edward and Mary Frere in 1859 by their children. They are run by a Board of Voluntary Trustees in accordance with the Charity Commission to provide housing for local people.

**The Board of Trustees need some NEW Members,
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Do you have a few hours of your time to give?

**No specialist skill is needed just a willingness to be
available and able to contribute as needed.**

INTERESTED?

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Mike Blackmore – mikeblackmore1@icloud.com

Or

John Dugay – johndugay50@gmail.com



Bitton Village Residents' Association

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to

Flicks in the Sticks

on

Friday 15 March

when we will be screening

One Life

starring

**Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter,
Lena Olin and Jonny Flynn**

Set against the backdrop of the rising Nazi threat in 1938, "One Life" tells the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, a then young British stockbroker, who driven by a sense of humanity, travels to Czechoslovakia and through sheer determination embarks on an impossible mission. With friends he orchestrates the Kindertransport, rescuing hundreds of children and bringing them to safety in Britain.

*This film is a celebration of one life focusing on the joy of his achievement rather than the horror of the war.
We thoroughly recommend it.*

Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm.

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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**

Bitton Gardening Club

invites you to
our next meeting

on

Monday 18th March

in

The Church Hall, Church Lane Bitton

Doors open 7.15pm

Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Our speaker at the meeting is

Andrew Tolman

and the title of his illustrated talk is

Hidden Gems Off the Beaten Track

You will remember Andrew from his excellent talk last year on the
Art of Topiary and Ornamental Hedges.

Andrew is a professional gardener with extensive experience in a wide
range of different gardens and this month he will be talking about
less well known gardens and showing us their delights and special features.
It should be a real treat.

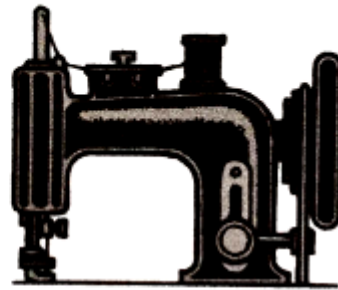
We will also be **taking bookings** at this meeting for our May Garden visit to
Charlton Farm Gardens near Malmesbury

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

New members and guests are always welcome

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St Mary's Church Bliton
Parochial Church Council

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council met on 5th February. Among the items discussed were:

Vacancy

Following Jeremy's resignation as vicar, the parish is now officially "in vacancy". A transition team will now be required to manage the specification and advertising of a new incumbent for the three churches in the benefice from PCC members.

Pews

Planned work to improve the comfort and mobility of the pews will not take place until after this summer's planned weddings have taken place by the end of July.

Facilities

A new water heater and hand drier has been fitted to the lavatory.

Growing in Faith Chaplain

The PCC agreed to explore funding for a Growing in Faith chaplain to work with churches and schools within the benefice.

The Churchyard

It was agreed that the churchyard should be a regular topic for discussion at PCC. The church is working towards and are close to achieving the bronze level Eco-Church award.

Benefice Admin Post

The benefice has now appointed Sue Godfrey as Benefice Administration Officer and she needs to be included in any information that is being circulated. She will initially be working from home. Zena will continue to do the benefice calendar.

Safeguarding-

There will be a Safeguarding audit in March and St Mary's may be involved.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Update from Dan Norris, Mayor of the West of England



Are Bitton, Swineford, Willsbridge, Upton Cheyney & Beach the bees knees?

The Bee Bold Awards which celebrate local organisations that are taking action to support pollinators in the West of England are returning for their third year.

Local groups are encouraged to submit their nominations for the awards which open 21st February. Winners will be announced at the Bee Bold Awards ceremony over the summer. Find out more here: <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/bee-and-pollinator-capital/bee-bold-awards/>

Birthday Buses

Residents celebrating their birthday in March can now sign up for free bus travel throughout their birthday month. Don't forget to apply at: www.birthdaybus.co.uk

Help with heating for Charities

Charities in the West may be eligible for financial support to replace old heating systems with environmentally friendly heat pumps.

Grants are available on a first come, first served basis. For further information please contact: lowcarbonbusiness@westofengland-ca.gov.uk

News from Bitton WI

Bitton WI members met on a sunny February afternoon and were welcomed by the President, Karen, along with a welcome to Sue Murphy the Avon Federation WI Chairman. We have a few poorly members and the moment and our good wishes and a hope for a speedy recovery is sent to them. Karen asked members to ensure they provide any updates to their personal contact details so that we can keep in touch. Our Federation newsletter will be sent out in email form from April this year, so an up-to-date email address is needed. Sue explained the new Learning Hub for WI members offering lots of free on-line and in-person courses from crafts to confidence building.

Members are now being invited to spring and early summer events from Afternoon Tea to six days in Northern Spain! Definitely lots to look forward to this year. WI Members are reminded that the 2024 membership subscription is due next month so please remember to bring it to March meeting.

Our Speaker this month was Debbie Keeling from the multi award winning Bath Harvest Rapeseed Oil. The oil is made by Debbie herself at their farm in a small hamlet near Bath on Wilmington Farm. Debbie's husband runs the farm where they keep beef cattle and where the Rapeseed is grown. Debbie said she came up with the idea of making rapeseed oil when she heard another farmer talking about the benefits of rapeseed on the radio. She decided to give it a go and she has since grown a thriving small business supplying many local farm shops, restaurants and cafes.

Debbie spoke of the many difficulties they were encountering when growing and harvesting the rapeseed, particularly with the everchanging climate and unpredictable weather we've seen these past years. Debbie emphasised that they were a bee friendly farm and they make every effort to ensure that any necessary crop spraying is only carried out when absolutely necessary and always after bees were tucked up in bed!

Focal Point, March 2024

Debbie's oils are cold pressed which is how they make extra virgin olive oil. The rapeseed oil is thicker, yet lighter than olive oil and contains far less saturated fat so a healthy alternative to other oils. As the oil is farmed and produced on their farm it has a low carbon footprint too! Nothing goes to waste, even the husks from the squeezed seeds are pelleted and given to the cattle on the farm. No doubt this leaves them with a lovely shiny coat! Debbie explained that the oils can taste different from region to region so not to be tempted into thinking they are all the same. Debbie offers a versatile oil for cooking, salads, baking and roasting and also a selection of infused flavoured oils. Alongside she has sourced some local balsamic vinegars with flavours to complement the oils. I can honestly say the original oil with fig and date balsamic tasted absolutely wonderful! She gave us some excellent ideas for using all the oils, including her own recipe Banana Bread which I'm going to give you later.

Debbie mentioned at the beginning of her talk that she hoped to convert us to using Rapeseed Oil and she certainly did that for many of us with her knowledge and enthusiasm for her product. We later got to taste the oils and balsamic and as I've said, they were amazing. Fortunately, we were able to purchase some to take home and try. I bought the lemon infused and used them for pancakes and wow, what a difference it made! So light and tasty!

Debbie's oils can be found on her website or at many of our local craft fayres and farm shops. Do buy some. I, for one, am definitely converted to using rapeseed oil from now on!

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 11 March 2024 in the Church Hall, Bitton at 2 pm.

I can't help but share the Banana Bread recipe that Debbie promotes on her literature and on her website. It sounds delicious and healthy too using rapeseed oil. Here is her recipe: (Thanks Debbie).

Karen Davidson



Bath Harvest Banana Bread



Ingredients

75ml Bath Harvest Rapeseed Oil
125ml honey or maple syrup
2 eggs
225g mashed ripe bananas (about 3 small or 2 large)
55ml milk
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp vanilla extract
Pinch salt
½tsp ground cinnamon, plus more to swirl on top
220g white plain flour*

Method

1. Preheat oven to 165°C or Gas 3 and grease and line a 2lb loaf tin.
2. In a large bowl beat together the wet ingredients; rapeseed oil, honey, vanilla, eggs and milk. Add in the mashed bananas and mix until just combined.
3. In a separate bowl measure out the dry ingredients; bicarb, salt, cinnamon and flour. Sieve into the wet

ingredients and then fold through gently until just combined. Add any extras in now and stir through.

4. Pour into your prepared tin and sprinkle lightly with cinnamon then swirl with a knife.
5. Bake for 45 – 55 minutes, or until a metal skewer inserted comes out clean. Try not to overcook – slightly underdone is better. Let the cake cool in the tin for 10 minutes, transfer to a rack to cool further before slicing.
6. Store for 2 days or in the fridge for 5 days. Alternatively freeze in wrapped slices.

Baking Gluten Free?

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Puzzle Pages

SUDUKO CHALLENGE

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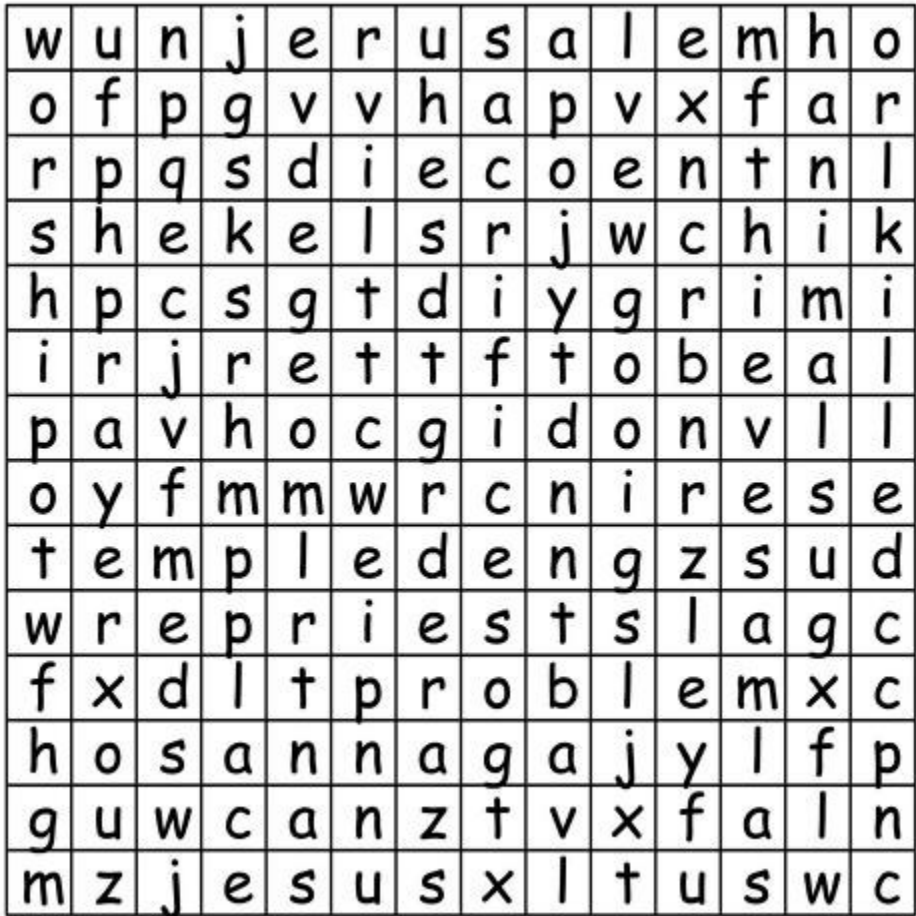
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Answers to both puzzles are available on the church website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk - click on **News & Focal Point** or use this QR code



WORD SEARCH

This month's word search continues the story of Moses.



You are looking for:

Everyone

Sacrifice

Thieves

Stalls

Jerusalem

Visitors

Problem

God

Den

Priests

Hosanna

Shekels

Drove

Upsetting

Killed

Jesus

Place

Crowds

Prayer

Worship

Special

Secretly

Animals

Temple

March Prize Quiz

by Kim Scudamore

Herbs and Spices

In this month's quiz, most (but not all) the questions refer to those magic ingredients that add flavour and interest to our food

GOOD LUCK!

1. Which Colonel might have done it in the library with the lead piping?
2. What was the name of the lion who lived in the garden of Sir Basil and Lady Rosemary?
3. The Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Gateshead was originally named after which software company?
4. In Roman Polanski's 1968 film, who thinks she is having Satan's baby?
5. Which weekly magazine was first published in New York in 1933?
6. Which VW Beetle went to Monte Carlo in 1977 and went bananas in 1980?
7. The actress born Virginia McMath was better known by what name?
8. Which spice is derived from the flower of *crocus sativus*?
9. Which brand of grooming products for men was originally launched in 1937 as a fragrance for women?
10. Bell, Poblano and Anaheim are all varieties of which vegetable?
11. Which writer told us *How To Be a Domestic Goddess*, and then told us to *Cook, Eat, Repeat*?
12. What name is shared by a South American capital city and an SUV model introduced in 2002?
13. Which spice is obtained from the bark of a particular species of laurel bush?
14. Which British skater was a gold medallist in 1976 Olympics?
15. In Greece, a cake dedicated to which saint is traditionally served on New Year's Eve?
16. In 1976, what did Michael Heseltine famously wave in the House of Commons?
17. The crocus appears on the coat of arms of which Essex town?

Focal Point, March 2024

18. The Maluku Islands of Indonesia were known by what name in the 17th Century?
19. Which company, that claims to be the oldest in Britain, moved from Tower Hill, London to Llantrisant, Wales in 1968?
20. Which football manoeuvre favoured by players such as Suarez, Ronaldo and Messi, shares its name with a popular spice?

Please return your answers by Friday 15th March by email to
bittoncm@outlook.com

February Quiz Answers

Last month's quiz was **related mainly but nit wholly to those who had spent their lives in service**

Answers:

(1) Got it all done by Friday; (2) Mary Poppins; (3) Mrs Hudson; (4) Kaiser Bill's Batman; (5) Butler; (6) Manderlay; (7) Arthur; (8) Batman; (9) Maid in Manhattan; (10) Carson; (11) Dawid Malan; (12) Jeeves; (13) Joan of Arc; (14) Hudson; (15) Peter Purves; (16) The Admirable Crichton; (17) Sam Weller; (18) Hagrid; (19) One Man two Guvnors; (20) Phileas Fogg

Correct answers

There was a surprisingly disappointing number of entries for last month's quiz and many of our regulars did not submit.

This months winner is:

There was only one set of correct answers received from John Heyes who is consequently this month's winner and recipient of £10 Joh Lewis voucher.

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.

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The last word

Time for Renewal?



It seems strange to write that this is the Easter edition of Focal Point – as Easter Sunday falls on the very last day of March.

In many ways, I like Easter just as much, if not more than, Christmas. It is a time of renewal, of looking forward. Christ's resurrection is symbolised as a moment of rebirth and renewal.

It is a theme that we are likely to hear more of over the next few months as preparations are made to identify a new vicar and to set out our needs and expectations for the person, we want to fill the role. A new vicar can have a significant effect on the way in which services are conducted and the way in which the wider community views the church – for good or bad. It is not so much a question of finding the right person as finding the one who fits the needs of the churches in the benefice.

Those *needs* are equally difficult to define, including both the needs of today and the expectations of tomorrow and what kind of church we want to see in coming years. As we approach Easter this year, it is time to use that sense of renewal to envisage how we would want things to develop over the next few years.

Finally, can I say something about subscriptions and advertising. First, a big thank you to those who have renewed or taken out a subscription to Focal Point. Second may I thank our advertisers who really enable us to continue to provide print edition at a relatively low cost. If you do have a local business and you would like to advertise there is still time and space to take out an advertisement for the coming year beginning in April (details on page 2).

Jim Heavens



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