

contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



April 2023



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SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

EVERY WEEK - 9.15am - with choir
11.00am - with band

Occasional Festival Services: 10.30am - on these Sundays there is an earlier said 8.30am Holy Communion
The news sheet on the website has further details

Evening Services - as advertised

Weekday Holy Communion: 11.20am Tuesdays

Holy Baptism: In public worship / or Sunday 1.00pm
(either by arrangement)

Choir Practice: Friday 6.15 - 8.00pm -Junior Choir & Choir Club
Adults 7.30 - 9.15pm

Worship Band Practice: Wednesday 8.00pm

Bell-ringing Practice: Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm

Mothers' Union: 1st Wednesday - 2.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wednesday - 10.00am

St John's Pastoral Visiting:
Marcia Cohen T: 986 5687

St Francis', Warwick Road

Morning Service: 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

Evening Services: as advertised

Holy Baptism: In public worship by arrangement

St John Ambulance: Wednesday: 6.00 - 9.00pm

Brownies: Tues: 6.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wed: 9.30-11.45am (term time)

St Margaret's, Queen Charlton

1st & 3rd Sundays: 11.15am - **Holy Communion.**

St Michael's, Burnett

2nd & 4th Sundays: **Holy Communion (1662)**

11.15am

3rd Sunday: **Morning Worship:** 11.15am

MISSION PARTNERS:

TLM Mission partner: Bangladesh: *Dr Ruth Butlin*

CMS Mission Partners: Kenya: *Aaron Stanbury*

CMS Prayer partner: *Ruth Radley*

Chipata South Parish, Zambia.

*A number of groups meet regularly for Prayer, Bible Study and Discussion.
Ring the Parish Office (0117 986 3354) for details.*

**Arrangements for Banns and Marriages etc.
9.30 -10.30am on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at the Parish Office**

THE PARISH OF KEYNSHAM DIRECTORY

(www.keynshamparish.org.uk)

The Parish Office is now open to visitors from 10am-12noon Mondays to Fridays. You can make contact by email at office@keynshamparish.org.uk, by phone on 0117 986 3354, or in person during opening hours.

Office Manager: Judy Walker - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

Team Rector:

Rev'd. Dr Stephen M'Caw - Tel: 0117 986 4437

Team Vicar - St Francis:

Rev'd. Anika Gardiner - Tel:0117 985 3470

Curate - Keynsham Parish:

Rev'd Nigel Williams - Tel: 07850887498

Pioneer Missioner:

Trevor James - Tel: 07368 526997

Readers:

Rachel Hall, June Lowe, Rachel Shaw, Paul Thurlow

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

Parish officer: Wendy Harwood - Tel: 0117 986 2323

safeguarding@keynshamparish.org.uk

Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

St John's: *Sam Shackleton BA, MMus* - Tel: 07914186634

St Francis: *vacant*

samshackleton@keynshamparish.org.uk

Tower Captain (Acting):

Edric Broom - Tel: 07890 364754

Parish Youth Worker:

Philippa Lovell - contact via the Parish Office

Parish Children and Families Worker:

Vacant

Caretakers:

St John's: - *Steve Spiteri* - contact via Parish Office

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*

The Cover Pictures

The cover shows a Russian Orthodox "Icon of the Resurrection" which is in Solovetski Monastery in Russia. The 5 pictures show :

1. The Holy Trinity in heaven
2. A redeemed sinner entering heaven
3. Adam and Eve and others follow Jesus from hell to heaven
4. The "harrowing of hell"
5. The entombment of Christ

Inside the front cover:

1. Bishop Michael in the Sanctuary Garden
2. The church wardens escorting the Bishop when he visited St. John's- it is their historic duty to defend him from ne'er-do-wells.
3. Fr Benard learning to play Rummicub in Community at 67
4. Keynsham Churches Together hold a Walk of Witness on Good Fridays
5. These pictures show the procession. Ken (Hero) Flack carries the heavy cross.

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Message of the Month

April 2023

Don't miss the Easter Miracle



There is a wise fool in the ancient Islamic Sufi tradition called Mullah Nasruddin. There are many stories about his life which aim to simultaneously amuse and teach; and since they are often about profound things, many of them illuminate faith of any kind.

The story goes that Mullah Nasruddin did well and was promoted to a high government office which introduced him to the life of the royal palace. Thus it came about, that for the first time in his life, he encountered a royal falcon. Now Mullah Nasruddin had never seen this kind of pigeon before, so he got out his scissors and trimmed the claws, the wings and the beak. 'Now you look like a decent bird,' he said, 'Your keeper has been neglecting you.'

We all know the Easter Story is about Jesus being unjustly executed, and then after three days miraculously being raised from the dead. It's the 'miraculously' part we may need reminding of from time to time.

We are so used to the pigeons that we don't recognise a falcon. We are so used to the everyday that when we are presented with a miracle, we assume that there is really no such thing.

Everyone became alarmed in the town when they saw Mullah Nasruddin mounted on his ass, charging around in great haste. 'Where are you off to?' they asked as he careered past. 'I'm searching for my runaway ass,' he cried as he whizzed by!

It's easy to laugh at Mullah Nasruddin, because he is so obviously a fool. He can't see what is right underneath his nose. It can be equally easy to miss the spectacular miracle that we celebrate each Easter. Jesus was raised from the dead, and is alive today. Alleluia, he is risen.

One final Sufi tale: (one worthy of Mullah Nasruddin, but this time there are a crowd of Nasruddins!)

A man thought to be dead was taken by his friends for burial. When the coffin was about to be lowered into the grave, the man suddenly came back to life and began to bang on the lid of the coffin.

The coffin was opened and the man sat up. ‘What are you doing?’ he said to the assembled crowd. ‘I am alive not dead.’

His words were met with a stunned silence. Finally one of those present said, ‘Friend, both the doctor and the priest have certified you are dead. The experts could hardly be wrong!’ So the lid was reattached, and he was duly buried.

We celebrate a supernatural event this Easter – let’s not be amongst the crowd of miracle-deniers. Alleluia, Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Stephen M’Caw –Team Rector Keynsham Parish

Thank You

A big thank you to the many people who have made donations to Contact. The donations mostly help to pay for the costs of printing, but it is very helpful when readers of the online edition also contribute. If you are still planning to make a payment there are several easy ways to do it:



You can go to <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/f2db93c0-0105-4c7e-869e-097521cf1b4f> or scan the QR code.

Payment can also be made by cash, or BACS to Parochial Church Council of Keynsham Sort Code: 60-12-11 Account No: 80291295. Cheques should be made payable to Keynsham P.C.C. Please reference your payment as ‘For Contact’

Holy Week and Easter Services in the Parish 2023



Palm Sunday 2nd April

9.15am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday at St John

9.30am St Francis Eco-service for Palm Sunday

11.00am All Age Service for Palm Sunday at St John

11.15am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday at St Margaret, Queen Charlton

11.15am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday at St Michael, Burnett

Monday 3rd April

7.00pm Compline by Zoom A short ½ hour service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81900881574?pwd=eXhqOU5yOEhjeXRUR3M4c1p4aVY1QT09>

Meeting ID: 819 0088 1574

Passcode: 008113 Contact: rachrishaw@gmail.com

Tuesday 4th April

11.20am Holy Communion Service (BCP) at St John

7.00pm Compline at St John A short ½ hour service

Wednesday 5th April

7.00pm Compline at St Margaret, Queen Charlton

A short ½ hour service

Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at St Margaret, Queen Charlton

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at St Francis and optional prayer vigil till 10pm

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service at St John and optional prayer vigil till 9pm

Good Friday 7th April

10am Churches Together service at St John, concluding with a service of witness at the Market Walk - clocktower

2-3pm Meditation Hour at St John

2-3pm Meditation Hour at St Francis

Saturday 8th April

3.30pm Messy Church at St Francis (something for all ages)

Easter Day Sunday 9th April

6.00am Sunrise Service in the Paddock outside St John. Followed by simple breakfast (Please book with the Parish office for catering purposes)

8.30am Easter Holy Communion at St John

9.30am All-age Easter Holy Communion at St Francis

10.30am All-age Easter Holy Communion at St John

11.15am Easter Holy Communion at St Margaret, Queen Charlton

11.15am Easter Holy Communion at St Michael, Burnett

Bishop Michael visits Keynsham

Bishop Michael, the new Bishop of Bath and Wells, has set about visiting all the parishes in his diocese and on 5th and 6th March he came to St John's and Keynsham.

The high point of Sunday's visit was a special service in St. John's, when Bishop Michael preached and presided over Holy Communion. Our large church was well filled for a lively service which included break-out activities for the children. When he arrived the Bishop made his procession down the church escorted by the church wardens with their staffs- it is their job to fight off evil doers who might attack the bishop. This may have been very necessary in times gone by, but fortunately we now live in more peaceable times.



On Monday Bishop Michael visited more of the parish. Both our church schools enjoyed his company and Trevor James, who runs our special pioneer mission, showed him the "Wild about Community" project.

Trevor writes:

It was a pleasure to show Bishop Michael around the Wild About Community project (part of the Bath and Wells Pioneer Project). We visited Two Rivers School and enjoyed a cup of tea in the Sanctuary Garden, where we had the privilege of an unexpected and prolonged visit from the resident kingfisher.

Bishop Michael



Coronation Celebrations

The Coronation weekend is fast approaching, and at St. John's Church we are looking forward to contributing to Keynsham's celebrations. Our activities will reflect the King's own interests in the natural world, in volunteering and in encouraging young people.

The church will be open to see the floral displays from Friday to Monday 9-5, except during church events - there is a wedding on Friday! The flower team are looking forward to creating something special for this very special occasion. The church yard will have its own decoration of knitted blooms. On Friday evening we launch a Union Jack projection on to the church tower.

Saturday being the big day it is left free for watching the telly, but on **Sunday** St. John's, our Parish Church, comes in to its own with a special service for the whole parish in the morning. Remember everyone who lives in Keynsham is a parishioner, whether or not you are a church-goer.

On Monday afternoon we have our Coronation Celebration at the church.

There will be the flowers and music, refreshments, a selection of stalls and activities for the children. The King's theme is The Big Help Out, reflecting his enthusiasm for volunteering. Local organisations are invited to set out their stalls, highlight all the wonderful things they do, and encourage new volunteers to join them. We also hope to emphasise the importance of keeping young people involved as we look forward to the new reign.

The stalls may be inside or out, depending on the weather, but the church will be open to see the floral displays. At 4pm comes the fabulous finale with cake and bubbly, and the bell ringers marking the historic occasion with a quarter peal.

Do come and join the celebrations!

Visit of Fr Benard Phiri, priest of Chipata South, Zambia

'God is Good' 'All the Time'

'All the Time' 'God is Good' (Zambian acclamation)

What a blessing was Father Benard Phiri's unexpected visit to Keynsham last month, What a welcome he received, what hospitality was shown by so many in our parish. And what an eye opener to us to hear about the challenges and the joys of the church in Zambia, and what an encouragement to our Parish Link to be able to share and pray in Christian fellowship, face to face with our new friend Benard, and to hear him preach in St John's Church.

Here are some pictorial highlights of his visit:



Meeting members of Youth Group over supper



..and joining the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) Coffee Meeting



Loading up donations as a temporary Foodbank volunteer



Watching Bristol Rovers with Martin Burton



And back home in St Paul's church Chipata South, handing over a set of Mission Praise books, given by St Francis church, to the Churchwarden,

To find out more about our Parish Link with Chipata South contact Rachel Shaw (rachrishaw@gmail.com) or any member of the Zambia Action Group (ZAG).

Reflecting faith – Easter Flowers

Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter Lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms. While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances in both the Old and New Testaments, emphasising the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ spoke of them too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen. Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth. For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

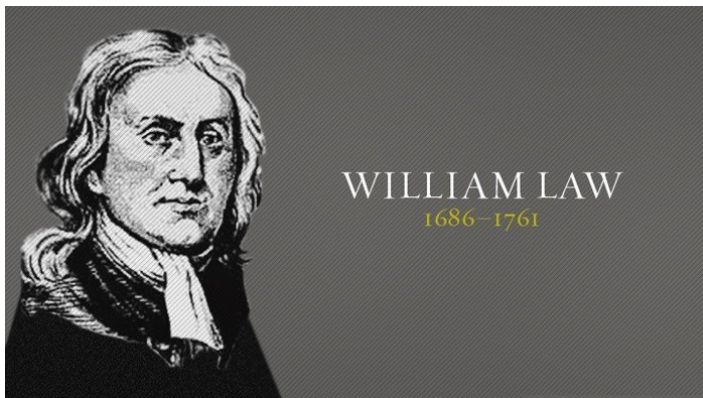


It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity - the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.

The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!

Have a look around the church over Easter. Daffodils and Easter lilies are often displayed, because they are the first flowers of spring, when Nature is being reborn. Their life after the death of winter reminds us of the Resurrection. For we cannot imagine the death and the passion of Christ without having in mind the empty tomb, radiating hope. Christ's death has no meaning without His Resurrection.

The Revd Dr Jo White.



On 10th April we remember William Law, the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in Northamptonshire in 1686, William studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711. But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. When the first Hanoverian monarch, George I, became king in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. He felt he could not do this with any integrity, but without the Oath William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

This bitter blow halted his church career, but more than a career in the Church he wanted to live a holy life, and to keep his conscience clear. And so he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring and his writing.

Through his writing William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except *Pilgrim's Progress*.

His writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield, and was praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as Dr Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon. 20 years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, paid tribute to the influence of Law's writing.

Law's spiritual writings remain in print today, nearly 300 years later.

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

April 2023

Coming together to care for creation

It's been three years since Bath and Wells declared a climate emergency and committed to Net Zero by 2030. During that time church communities have been making changes in a host of ways, all doing their bit to care for creation and help us achieve our goals and in November we achieved A Rocha's Bronze Eco Diocese status.

One initiative that has proved very popular with churches and their communities is the Wilder Churches initiative run in partnership with the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Over 200 people attended the online launch of Wilder Churches and since then they have attended regular sessions to share progress and ideas. There are also regular sessions for those new to Wilder Churches and keen to learn how they can make their churchyard more biodiverse.

Pippa Rayner from the Somerset Wildlife Trust says, "Local people are best placed to really get to know and understand their local churchyard or burial ground. The Wilder Churches



Churches go wild in Bath and Wells training has been designed to support communities in this and empower them to take positive, evidence-based, effective action for wildlife in a way that also works for their community."

Sara Emmett, Environment Adviser for Bath and Wells says, "We have been so delighted by the positive response from so many people across the diocese to Wilder Churches, but also that so many churches are engaging with the Eco Church initiative. It's a lot easier to become an Eco Church than many people think and together we can make small changes that combine to make a real difference.

[Visit \[bathandwells.org.uk/environment\]\(https://bathandwells.org.uk/environment\)](https://bathandwells.org.uk/environment) to find out more about Wilder Churches and the Eco Church award or [email \[sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org\]\(mailto:sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org\)](mailto:sara.emmett@bathwells.anglican.org)

News in brief

Warm welcome for Zambia visitors

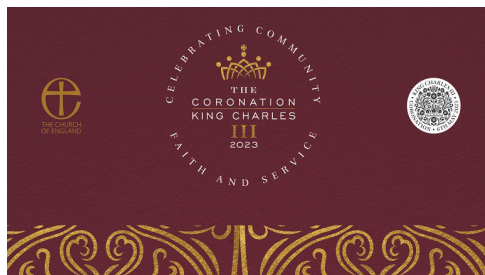
We recently welcomed Fr Bernard Phiri and Fr Emmanuel Ngoma, from the Diocese of Eastern Zambia. After attending a conference in Canterbury, they visited their respective link parishes, enjoying a full programme of parish events and school visits, as well as a visit to meet Bishop Michael and Bishop Ruth.

Commenting on his visit and the contrast between church in Zambia and Bath and Wells, Father Bernard says, "It has reinforced my view that people may like different worship styles, but we are all part of the same family pursuing the same purposes." ■

Find more on this story and others at bathandwells.org.uk/news

Growing Toddler Church

In Minehead, an idea that began four years ago as a way of supporting parents with toddlers, has grown into a regular Toddler Church; a place where families with small children can come together to play, learn and care for one another. Some weeks up to 32 families attend the gatherings which take place



Celebrating the Coronation

The Coronation ceremony for His Majesty King Charles III will take place on 6 May at Westminster Abbey. Plans for a special weekend of events, celebrations and activities that will include shared community lunches and activities to help inspire community spirit have been announced. Find out how you can join in and find Church of England resources for the celebration.

bathandwells.org.uk/coronation ■



Children & Families Worker, Jules Perry says, "We have succeeded in planting a kind, welcoming, non-judgemental mini church for all to experience." ■

The joy of Easter

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

As April begins, we mark it with the Palm Sunday procession, the welcoming of Jesus into Jerusalem amongst much jubilation and a sense of impending revolution. There were those who expected Jesus to be the next rebel leader who would rouse the local people to turn against their Roman overlords. In their enthusiasm, limbs of trees were broken to pave the way for this new hero.

However, it didn't take much for the crowd to turn around and change its tune. Those palm leaves torn from branches to throw in his path have become the palm crosses we hold today. Symbolising for us the way in which the week ends. Fronds of living trees now dried and woven to form the cruel instrument of death on which Christ suffered.

Many of our churches are now engaged with rewilding their church grounds, many are seeking to gain awards with Eco Church and are looking for new ways of reducing or capturing carbon. There would be horror at the thought of denuding our trees! In fact, parishes are discovering opportunities to partner with others to plant new trees on

spare glebe land.

Sometimes though it can feel to us that the environmental crisis is too great a one to solve. Yet the message of Easter shows us that when things seem nigh on impossible it is then that we glimpse the grace of God at work. God's way of overcoming evil was not to fight a small act of resistance against a Roman invasion but rather to combat sin itself. The death of Jesus was the ultimate battle to overcome that which has separated humanity from knowing the extent of God's love for each and every one of us.

The natural world around us is a wonderful illustration of how death is not the end. The environment can be devastated by flood, fire and human carelessness and yet new life can begin again. The joy of Easter is that the story doesn't end in death but opens a new beginning for us all through the resurrection of Christ.

May you know the life and love of Christ this Easter!

Bishop Ruth ■



Going greener

Sue Carpenter explains how St James' Taunton is caring for creation for the benefit of wildlife, as well as the church and local community.



St James' bug hotel

What made you look to have 'greener' church grounds?

Back in 2018 our PCC resolved to engage with the Eco Church initiative and improving the management of the churchyard came out of that. We hope to apply for a Bronze Award very soon and continue to work to get the Silver Award or better.

What changes have you made?

We've created a meadow area, worked with the council to introduce a more eco-friendly mowing regime and our children have created a bug hotel. We've also installed a compost bin in the churchyard and have wood piles which support wildlife.

Has it reaped rewards?

The church community has become

more aware of the value of our church grounds and what lives and grows within it. We had an Easter trail in 2021, a Jubilee event last year and this year are planning a 'Spring of Hope' using resources from Muddy Church. A survey has found over 120 species of wildflowers, trees and ferns – including the rare Bee Orchid.

How has the local community reacted?

It's been positive thanks to regular articles in the church website, magazine and our Facebook page. We have labelled the areas where we've made changes too, so that those visiting or passers-by can understand what we are trying to do.

Any advice for other churches?

It's been positive thanks to regular articles in the church website, magazine and our Facebook page. We have labelled the areas where we've made changes too, so that those visiting or passers-by can understand what we are trying to do.

Get more advice from Sue at:

bathandwells.org.uk/going-greener

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Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Church leaders are targeted by Russian forces in Ukraine

Church leaders in Ukraine are being singled out for persecution by Russian forces in occupied areas. Some pastors have been arrested, interrogated, tortured, and even expelled from their towns by the Russians and their supporters.

Occupying forces have confiscated church buildings and Christians have received harsher treatment at Russian military checkpoints, say partners of Release International, which serves persecuted Christians around the world.

According to reports, Russian forces broke into a Baptist place of worship in occupied Berdyansk, in Zaporizhzhia. After checking the identity of everyone present, they searched the church and sealed it. The next day they seized another Baptist church nearby. Later that month Russian forces seized a priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in occupied Kherson.

In the following account, names have been changed to protect the individuals:

Before the war Pastor Ivan led a growing congregation of more than 200 people in a town in the Kharkiv region. He also supported a thriving network of five evangelical churches in the area.

Last spring when the Russian military were poised to take the town many people fled, including families with young children. Only some elderly people remained. Pastor Ivan and his wife Viktoria stayed behind too. They felt called by God to serve the elderly and vulnerable in their occupied town, to do what they could to provide the people who remained with food, prayer, and comfort from the Bible.

But Russian forces, suspicious that evangelical pastors are agents of the West, came to Pastor Ivan's home to arrest him. They threw him into prison and tortured him, accusing him of being an American spy. Enduring their beatings, Pastor Ivan tried to talk about God with them. And when he was stuck in a tiny cell with eight other prisoners, he prayed for them. Two days later the Russian soldiers interrogated him again and beat him so badly he thought he would die. "Other prisoners tried to help me and called for help. The Russians sent me to a hospital, which I believe was divine grace and intervention. I believe God saved my life through the Ukrainian doctors who helped me."

After two weeks, Pastor Ivan was allowed home where he recovered slowly. As the Russians tightened their grip, Pastor Ivan and Viktoria left for Poland, but as soon as their town was liberated by the Ukrainians, they returned.

The CEO of Release International, Paul Robinson, says "Pastor Ivan is again leading a congregation of more than 300 people, many of whom are new to church. God is using him and others like him to share the gospel and to help people in practical ways in the liberated areas of eastern Ukraine."

Release International has launched an appeal to help Christians in Ukraine and around the world who are suffering oppression for their faith. If you would like to help, please go to: <https://releaseinternational.org>

Ben Hur - and the story behind the story

There is a story to be told of the writing of *Ben Hur*, the book that became the 1959 block-buster film featuring Charlton Heston.

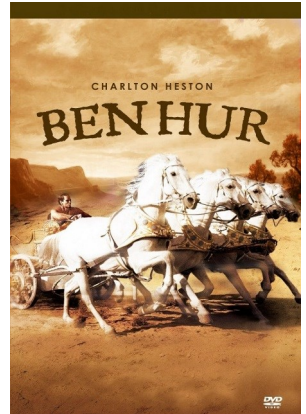
It was written in 1880 by Lew Wallace, an American lawyer, a Union general during the American Civil War, and then governor of the New Mexico Territory. (His statue still stands today on Washington's Capitol Hill).

Wallace had told his wife that he intended to examine the New Testament, and then write a book that would explode what he called "the myth of Christ's resurrection". The months passed, and Wallace read

and reread the New Testament, and wrote and rewrote his draft chapters. Finally, he confided to his wife that he could not refute the resurrection of Christ, and that therefore his book would not be written.

Mrs. Wallace disagreed. She persuaded him to write his book, but from a new and different standpoint altogether. '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' was the result. Ben Hur tells story of a high-born Jewish man who is taken prisoner by the Romans, who encounters Jesus, and whose life is gradually transformed. A sea battle and a chariot race in the story add to the excitement.

In the 143 years since it was written, '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' has never been out of print.



Who is eating the plastic at sea?

Scientists believe they may have discovered what happens to a great deal of the plastic that is dumped in the ocean. The mystery has been that while about 14 million tonnes end up in the sea each year, only about one per cent of that is ever found in sampling surveys.

While much of the plastic may have sunk to the deep bottom of the sea, the answer may also be partially because bacteria are eating it. A recent study by the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) has found that the widespread bacterium *Rhodococcus ruber* can actually digest plastic, turning it into carbon dioxide and other harmless substances. The bacterium is found across the globe, in soil, water and the sea. It is known to transform a number of harmful pollutants, including industrial chemicals and pesticides, into harmless molecules.

One scientist explained that while "this is certainly not a solution to the problem of the plastic soup in our oceans it does help explain where all the missing plastic has gone."

Why hedgehogs need your help!

We need to make sure the UK's only spiny mammal, the hedgehog, remains a common and familiar part of British life. Hedgehogs are in trouble, worryingly we've lost a third of all our hedgehogs since the millennium and there are many reasons for this. The good news is that numbers are beginning to recover in towns and cities.

Hedgehogs love gardens, and fortunately there are around half a million hectares of garden in the UK. However each hedgehog needs access to lots of gardens to survive, so it's important that we all do our best to look after their habitat. And there are plenty of simple ways to help hedgehogs in our gardens and green spaces.

Top 10 tips to make your garden hedgehog-friendly

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Create a wild corner
4. Deal with netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



Charlie's hedgehog says:



Excuse me. Can you help me move safely around the gardens in YOUR STREET (and beyond)?

Will you pledge to help hedgehogs in our street?
Join us creating a
Hedgehog Street

Visit www.hedgehogstreet.org for more information

Number one on the list: **make a Hedgehog Highway**, a 5 inch gap in a fence or a wall, to provide a passage through your garden and into your neighbours, and so on down the road. Hedgehogs can travel up to 3km in one night so need to move around the neighbourhood with ease.

Making this gap between gardens allows hedgehogs to forage for food, meet mates to breed and access nesting sites. **Avon Wildlife Trust Keynsham Group, in conjunction with Keynsham Town Council, are giving away free Hedgehog Highway surrounds to local residents.**

We are also encouraging residents to set up a **Hedgehog Street, getting neighbours together for hedgehogs.** "Hedgehog Street" was set up by the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) in 2011 and there are now over 100,000 Hedgehog Champions registered!

Becoming a **Hedgehog Street Champion** is the first step to creating your "Street", someone needs to take the lead after all!

For more information on how to do this, visit their website www.hedgehogstreet.org/

And we can help by providing advice and design for advertising handouts and posters.

So contact us today for highway surrounds or to discuss Hedgehog Street!

keynshamawt@gmail.com Check out our website where we have links, information and more, to help hedgehogs. www.keynshamawt.org.uk/hedgehogs



Jokes for April

Local man killed by falling piano. It will be a low key funeral.

I relabelled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet..... but the thyme is cumin.

Why was the jazz movie X-rated? It had too much sax and violins.

I'm taking care of my procrastination issues. Just you wait and see.

Exercise works best early in the morning before your brain figures out what you're doing.

For some people it seems a lot easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

Good judgement comes from experience and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

Happy Birthday, Cadbury Crème Egg

Cadbury Crème Eggs celebrate their 60th birthday this Spring. They have a lot to celebrate: the Crème Egg is the best-selling confectionery item between New Year's Day and Easter in the UK, with annual sales of more than 200 million eggs, worth about £55 million.

Cadbury Crème Eggs were first created by the British chocolatier Fry's in 1963, before being renamed by Cadbury in 1971.



RSPCA tips for keeping children safe around dogs

Dogs and children communicate very differently, but they can be great friends and help children develop kindness and a sense of responsibility. Just remember RSPCA's six golden rules for keeping your children safe and your dogs happy.

1. Stay with your children around dogs: Never leave your child alone in the same room as a dog, even your own.
2. Interact with dogs at the right times: Teach your child not to approach dogs when they're eating or having a treat. Have a toy or something else they really like.
3. Be gentle: Teach your child to be kind and polite to dogs. Don't let your child climb on dogs, pull their ears or do anything you wouldn't allow them to do to another child.
4. Play nicely and teach tricks: Teach your child how to play nicely with your dog. For example, your child can teach your dog some really funny tricks, or to play dead or roll-over.
5. Give your dog space if they need it: Supervise your child when they're with your dog - if your dog looks unhappy, let them go somewhere they feel safe and happy.
6. Don't let your children approach dogs they don't know such as when you're out in the park.

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Tickets: £15 (£6 for children and students)
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www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk



*Among their demands were bourbon
biscuits, double fees for weddings, and
Sundays off*



Chelwood Bridge Rotary



Charity
Choir Concert

St. John's Church, Keynsham.

Saturday 22nd. April @ 7:30 p.m.

FEATURING

Welsh Choir

CANTORION CREIGIAU SINGERS

&

BRISTOL MILITARY WIVES CHOIR

*All proceeds in support of the RUH Charitable Fund
& other Rotary charities.*

Refreshments available from 6.30p.m.

Tickets £10 each.

**For tickets email rob@chelwoodbridgerotary.com
available at Keynsham Parish Office, or direct through
www.ticketsource.co.uk/rotary-club-of-chelwood-bridge**



Email

In aid of...



Ticket Source

St John's DCC meeting –14th March 2023 - a summary

Building for the Future. It was noted

- the church architect has provided drawings of different options for the re-ordering of the church. The drawings helped the DCC members to visualise the changes that are possible.
- acting on the advice of the church architect a heating engineer will visit St Johns on 22 March to compile a report.
- work on the new lighting system is underway and is likely to be completed in time for Easter.

Current Service Times It was noted that

- feedback from the 11.00am service was on the whole positive although there had been some problems with technology.
- feedback from the 9.15am service conveyed the difficulty some older choir members and those that do not live locally have with the earlier start for preservice rehearsals. Happily the parents of junior choristers have accepted the new timings.
- feedback from the 8.30am service detailed a sense of loss and stressed the importance of a weekly early service to those who value it.
- The churchwardens feel the transition between the two main services is working well.
- The midweek Communion service will return to the Church on the Wednesday following Easter.

It was agreed to continue with the current pattern of services but to keep listening and reviewing the situation.

Development It was noted

- plans for the period following the departure of Stephen, the Rector and Nigel, the Curate are being considered by the PCC
- the role of Children and Families worker will be shared between Keynsham Parish and the Methodist Church. The CFW will be employed by the parish but the Methodist church will contribute one half of the salary etc.

it was suggested that in future only 1 of the main services is live streamed each week.

Finance The financial position at the end of 2022 was described as miraculous! Thanks in part to 2 generous legacies and a lot of faith! The DCC agreed unanimously to adopt the accounts for 2022.

Reports the meeting noted the reports provided on behalf of the Pastoral Team, the Youth Group and Music and Worship.

All were in favour of a request included within the Music and Worship report to pay organist: Alison Howell £40 a month for attending Friday evening Choir rehearsal.

AGM The date of the AGM, 18th April 2023 was noted. *(Please note: there are places available on the DCC if you would like to stand for election. It is a chance to be involved in making decisions effecting the fabric, finances and mission of our church and to plan for the future.)*

Miscellaneous. It was noted

- a Committee is currently planning a programme of events for the Kings Coronation 5th -8th May 2023
- a new Committee and Chairperson is needed to help organise the Summer Fete. This event is an important opportunity for outreach and fund raising.

Deborah Hall - St John's DCC Secretary

Notes from the PCC - not minutes

- The PCC met in St John's Parish Hall on the 21st March
- Plans for managing the parish when the Rector leaves in September and the curate by the end of June were discussed.
- Agreed to set up a management committee including Anika, churchwardens, treasurer, and secretary. Stephen would be involved to begin with in order to share his knowledge. This is not the group to produce the Parish Profile.
- Need to book the visit of the archdeacon to PCC for mid-September.
- There were 5 applicants for the Office Manager vacancy and 3 have been invited for interview. Ideas for Judy's farewell were discussed.
- Details of the job description, person specification and advert for the Children's and Families worker joint with the Methodist Church were discussed with suggested revisions to be put to the Methodist church. The PCC approved beginning the recruitment process.
- As the accounts were not yet available it was agreed that the Standing Committee could approve them shortly. The proportion of central costs paid by each church was agreed. Treasurer, Chris Newton, expressed his intention to step down at the APCM. NB new PCC treasurer required!
- Our IT systems are in need of upgrade to improve internet reliability now and have new computers running Widows 11 by 2025 as the existing ones are not suitable.
- Chewton church building is still being used for some activities but the decision to close and dispose of it was upheld.
- St Francis' request to apply for a faculty to upgrade the church heating system was agreed as was a request from St Michael's for a faculty to re-pave the church path.
- There was a discussion on the potential effects of the outcome of Living in Love and Faith but further action must wait for the final General Synod outcome.
- The Diocesan Synod report and warden's reports were received.
- The Deanery is an important part of the Diocesan structure and we have 3 out of 5 positions to fill at the APCM
- Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford need a new chairman.

Robert Cook

FARM DIARY

In the Field. Grass land work is being carried out even if the spring is taking it's time in coming. Flat rolling is a good preparation for any grass fields that are going to be conserved. Conserving grass often includes chopping. Rolling buries foreign objects of metal or stone thus protecting the machinery. It also levels mole hills. Soil from any source is bad news in silage or hay. With silage it causes the wrong fermentation process to occur spoiling the product. Topping or sheep grazing is also good as this can remove any dead growth which again is not best in conserved forage. With the price of fuel these operations are now more expensive.



Wildlife and insects. According to a study by the Max Planck Institute in Germany, as reported in The Daily Telegraph by Sarah Knapton on March 15th, ozone has a debilitating effect on the mating habits of fruit flies. They think it might have the same effect on other insects. Insects are attracted to each other by pheromones and a slight increase in ozone interferes with this causing male fruit flies to go for other males and fail to find the females. Could this be the reason there are less insects around? Ozone is produced by...? For a good news story google the Selborne Landscape Partnership. Here a group of farmers and land managers in the arable county of Hampshire have been working together for six years and achieved huge improvements in biodiversity.

Myths. According to the NFU's the facts about British red meat and milk leaflet, myth number 1 is that British livestock are the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Citing a March 2019 statistical study by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the greenhouse gas footprint of UK milk is just 40% of the global average. There are 278 million dairy cows worldwide. If they were all as efficient as UK dairy cows we would only need 76 million of them to produce the same amount of milk. UK agriculture accounts for 10% of total emissions. Taking into account grassland sequestration of carbon, cattle and sheep account for 3.7% of UK emissions.

Richard Graham

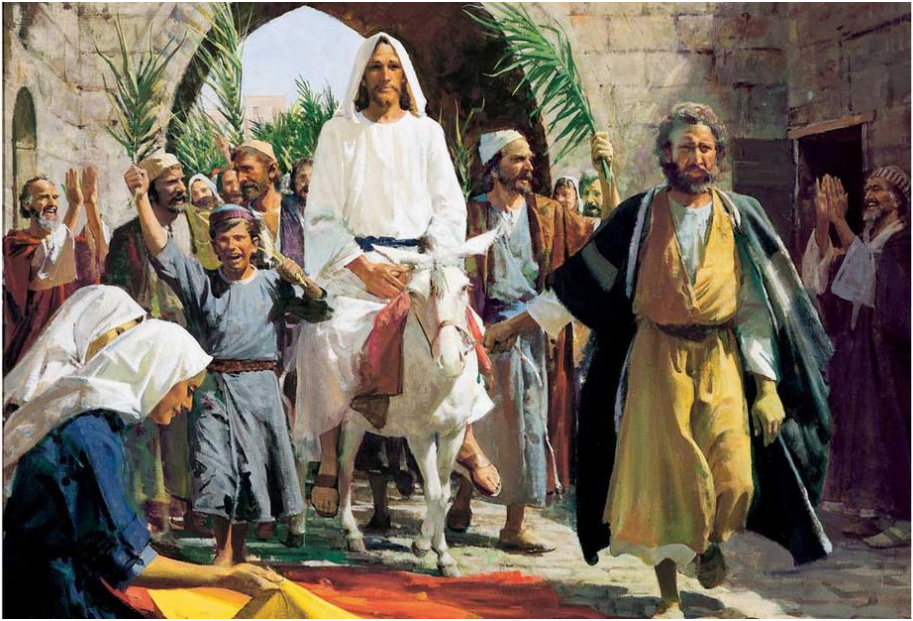
Parish Register & Diary for April

DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
14 th February	Gillian Trueman	57
2 nd March	Joan Bruton	94

DIARY

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
1 st	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
1 st	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
2 nd	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
2 nd	6pm	Impact Club (KS2)	Parish Hall
5 th	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
12 th	2pm	Pastoral Afternoon Tea	Parish Hall
15 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
16 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
16 th	6pm	Impact Club (KS2)	Parish Hall
17 th	7pm	St Margaret's AGM	St Margaret's,
18 th	7.30pm	St John's AGM	Parish Hall
18 th	7.45pm	St Francis AGM	St Francis Church
20 th	7pm	St Michael's AGM	St Michael's, Burnett
22 nd	7.30pm	Rotary Charity Choir Concert	St John's Church
25 th	7.30pm	Parish APCM	Parish Hall
28 th	1pm	Trio Paradis concert	St John's Church



Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week

The people carpeted the road with their cloaks, while others spread palms they had cut in the fields ----and shouted "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:8-9

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Cover:

Icon of the Resurrection - See p3

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