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The Parish of Keynsham magazine



April 2024

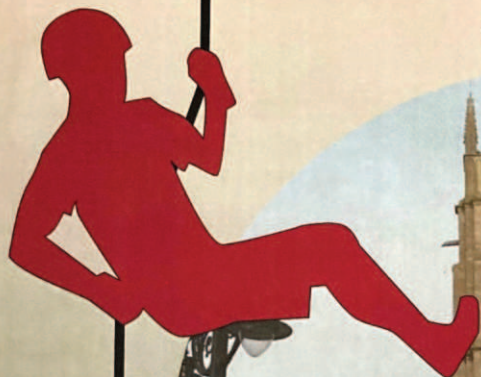
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SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

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: 11.30am 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 - 1.00pm

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

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
Appointment needed**

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: Lin Fry - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

Team Rector:

Vacancy

Team Vicar in Charge

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

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:

Edric Broom - Tel: 07890 364754

Parish Youth Worker:

Philippa Lovell - contact via the Parish Office

Parish Children and Families Worker:

Vacant

Caretakers: - contact via the Parish Office

St John's: - *Graham Mitchell*

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



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Message of the Month

April 2024



You don't have to look at or read the news for too long to understand that the world is a complex and messy place with a lot of pain and uncertainty. Many people's reaction to this is to be very anxious and fearful for the future but as a Christian I would say that there is hope that things can get better. That's easy to say, but is there any rational basis for this hope or is it just wishful thinking? Here are a handful of reasons to be hopeful.

Many people are familiar with the Christmas Story of Jesus being born in a stable and the three kings bringing presents. In the Bible's telling of this story, Jesus is described as 'Immanuel' which means 'God with us'. God walked the planet as Jesus, he understands what it is like to be human. That's my first reason to be hopeful.

At Easter we remember that Jesus died that we might all know forgiveness and that he was resurrected from the dead as a sign that death is not the end and that there is more to life than what we see. That's my second reason to be hopeful.

Then on Ascension Day, which is not celebrated so much, Jesus returned to heaven but promised to come back again to earth, to renew the creation and bring justice and healing to society. After ascending he sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so that we might experience his presence with us in this life. That's my third and fourth reasons for being hopeful.

My fifth reason for being hopeful is that I see many Christians in the world acting as Jesus' did getting alongside people, working for justice, feeding the hungry and bringing hope. There is hope....

Paul Thurlow

ABSEIL WEEKEND 20-21 APRIL

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whose grandparents
attend St Johns!



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All jumping in aid of...

**St John's Church
Keynsham**

WELCOME TO FEBBY AND SUSAN

Mrs Susan Sakala , head teacher of Chipata Church Primary school, Zambia and her colleague Ms Febby Sakala arrive in Keynsham on Thursday 11th April, staying until April 29th

This brings to fruition our 6-year Parish Link, which has included Fr Benard's visit here last year, and a big fundraising effort to help build the school where Febby and Susan now teach. It's also seen links between Chipata School and the two CE schools in Keynsham, St John's and Two Rivers, who are providing a programme of professional enrichment for them while they are here.

So it will be a busy two weeks for Febby and Susan. A different culture, and different weather, to experience, which in itself can be challenging. As well as spending weekdays in schools, they will be having meals with church families, and their weekends will include a visit to Wells and a chance to watch a women's football match. Football is big in Zambia. We will be providing a quiet home base for them while they're here, a chance to repay some of the wonderful hospitality we received when we stayed in Chipata two years ago. They'll also spend a couple of days in Burnett.

You'll have a chance to meet them on **Sunday 14th April** after the combined 10.30 service. And you are invited to stay for the **Bring and Share lunch** at 12.30. RSVP by Friday 12th April to:

wendyharwood@blueyonder.co.uk. mob 07519 90135

St John's and Two Rivers schools would love to see you at their **Celebration Assemblies** while Febby and Susan are with them: Friday 19th April 2.45 pm. Two Rivers School, Fairfield Way, Hygge Park. Friday 26th April 2.45 pm. St John's School, Charlton Park.

Please let Rachel know if you're coming. rachrishaw@gmail.com or 07974 412261

And above all please remember Febby and Susan and all our friends in Chipata South in your prayers, as they pray also for us.

Rachel Shaw (Keynsham-Chipata South Parish Link Co-ordinator)

See picture on page 23

All that Jazz!

Jazz Appreciation Month, aptly called JAM, is a music festival held every April in recognition of the significant contribution that jazz music has made to society. The organisers say that it: *aims to pay tribute to jazz for its historic and cultural significance by encouraging schools, governments, and organisations to participate in various events.*

JAM was started in 2001 by John Edward Hasse, a curator at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and was funded by the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation. In 2012, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings group received permission from the estate of Louis Armstrong to release his recordings on a new album titled *Satchmo*. The release was made at the 2012 annual Jazz Appreciation Month events in the US. Today, it is a worldwide event.

Through jazz-focused events, JAM works to support today's jazz scene and encourages appreciation of jazz music in people of all ages. Throughout April, people will be encouraged to participate in jazz activities such as studying jazz, attending concerts, reading about jazz and its history, or just simply listening to good jazz music – I would recommend Louis Armstrong if you enjoy traditional Jazz, or Dave Brubeck if Modern Jazz is your preference.



Duke Ellington



John Zorn

From the General Synod

The Church of England has been meeting in its Synod which as usual covers a wide range of subjects. Here are a few snippets from the recent meeting:

General Synod backs a code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils

The Synod has voted in favour of a motion to ask the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers.

This motion seeks to correct the imbalance of accountability, whereby lay volunteers face no consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour. The clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, but there are no accessible means to hold lay members to account. The meeting highlighted instances of uncooperative or aggressive behaviour in PCC meetings, where there was no mechanism to remove a member from the PCC.

Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale said: "When things do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability. We seek a review into a code of conduct to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people and the church."

General Synod calls for redoubling efforts to create new churches on estates

The C of E needs many more leaders from working class backgrounds and deprived communities, the General Synod was told. The Synod also re-committed the C of E to setting up a church on every significant social housing estate.

Members also backed moves to double the number of young active Christians on housing estates. It wants young people from estates and low-income communities to be trained as children's and young people's leaders, among other forms of ministry. All in all, the Bishop of Blackburn, Philip North, called on the Church of England to reverse the "slow erosion" of Christian life on estates.

The Bishop said that Dioceses and Theological Education Institutions (TEIs) – where people are trained as priests - should be encouraged to consider more ways of training leaders from estates and deprived communities. "Estates churches and the wider church desperately need leaders called from our estates and deprived communities."

New estate churches have been planted by all Anglican traditions. He added that around £100 million of Lowest Income Communities Funding and £40 million in Strategic Development Funding has been allocated to estates or economically deprived communities.

General Synod affirms work as the key to ‘human dignity and purpose’ in the face of the AI revolution

General Synod has affirmed the place of work as a key component in “human flourishing,” in an era when Artificial Intelligence is driving a “new fast moving industrial revolution”.

The debate heard that work is currently being transformed by the combined impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation, the rise of the gig economy, and AI. Synod approved a motion which affirmed the “dignity and value of purposeful work – whether paid or unpaid.”

The Bishop of Oxford said: “Work is related intimately to human dignity and purpose.”

But he went on to warn that: “The---- value of work faces new and powerful challenges and needs to be articulated afresh----. A new fast moving industrial revolution is gathering pace, without safeguards to protect human purpose and dignity in work, let alone agreement about how to share the inevitable costs alongside the undoubted benefit.”



Ukraine, debated by Synod

Ukraine is paying for our security 'with money and blood' – Archbishop Justin

General Synod has issued a call to reaffirm support for Ukraine, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said he could not be “neutral” in the face of the aggression of Vladimir Putin.

The Archbishop, who visited Ukraine ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian invasion, said the country is “paying for our security with money but also with blood”. He said the current international situation is possibly more dangerous than at any time, other



than the Cuban Missile Crisis, since the run-up to the Second World War. He was speaking as Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for “peace, justice and reconciliation” in Ukraine.

“We are paying with money. It is so utterly different. They are defending the international rules-based order and settling that question, to use a phrase of Bismarck’s, with iron and blood.



“As someone said to me three weeks ago in Ukraine - a soldier who had just come back from the front, battle-shattered and needing trauma treatment ... ‘we have the 21st Century drones and the First World War bayonet and we are using both equally!’.”

The Archbishop spoke about developments in military technology, including the development of AI-assisted drone attacks. “This is an immensely dangerous time, immensely dangerous, and we have probably not seen a time as dangerous, apart from Cuba, since 1938,” he said. “And what we do looking forward will put into a shadow all the other things we discuss, what we do as a nation.”

Opening the debate, Mark Sheard, chair of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council, highlighted the "staggering numbers" of people killed and injured and said "Support for Ukraine must be for the long term. We should not forget that behind each statistic there is an individual, made in the image of God, whose life has been shattered or destroyed,".

The reality of war is suffering and loss and its effects will last long after the guns fall silent.

Our response therefore cannot be fleeting - we need to be there for the long term. I recognise that as we pass the war's second anniversary there is a risk of fatigue with the war's slow attritional grind."

Bishop welcomes MPs' recommendations for end-of-life care

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has responded to the publication by The Health and Social Care Committee of its report on *Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide*.

Bishop Sarah, a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: "In over 20 years of working in the NHS, I witnessed first-hand the critical role that palliative care plays for patients and for their families. Particularly in my time as a cancer nurse in the capital, the difference I saw it make was deeply moving and inspirational in equal measure. This country has some of the best palliative care services in the world - but they are currently underfunded and overly-reliant on charitable donations.

"This is why I welcome the report's call for the Government to ensure universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services, including hospice care at home, and its recommendation that the Government commits to an uplift of funding to guarantee support for hospices in need of financial help. I also welcome the call for better mental health support for terminally ill people.

"In 2022, the Church of England's Synod voted overwhelmingly to oppose a change in the law and the guidelines on Assisted Suicide, and called for adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services. This is about offering compassion and direct support for the terminally ill, to ensure the highest possible standard of care for all."

Support for the Abseil

Edmund and Chris Prideaux write:

Recognising that we felt that abseiling down the church tower was not quite for us, we were delighted when our grand-daughter Eleanor said she would like to do it. She is raising money for St. John's and The Life Project- a small charity for the differently abled in Bath that provides a lot of care for our other grand-daughter Lily.



This year, although St. John's receives a payment from each abseiler, Eleanor and our caretaker Graham Mitchell, and a mystery abseiler, are at present the only people specifically raising money for St. John's, so please they need your support and encouragement.

To sponsor Eleanor you could use the QR code. If you prefer a cheque it is to St. John's, with "Abseil" written on the back, or cash to the office or ourselves. If you are able to boost your support with Gift Aid please let us know your address and postcode.



Thank you in advance for your support



Our former curate, Nigel, abseiling on a previous occasion

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

April 2024

Growing together

Spring is a time that we celebrate the signs of new growth, making it the perfect time to come together to share stories of growing church. That's just what happened at the second Greenhouse gathering which took place in March. Those who attended were able to share the progress on their projects to grow their churches, learn from each other and get creative together.

Megan Jones-Dellaportas is part of the team planning to start a new church on the new Orchard Grove housing estate in Trull. She says, "It's great to have the opportunity to get together with others going through something similar. I didn't know what to expect at our first gathering, but I came away inspired and with lots of ideas to share with my team. It also gives you an important time to reflect. When you are busy doing what you are doing it's easy not to realise what you have achieved, but today I've been able to reflect on the last six months as I share my news with others."



Gathering for Greenhouse at St Peter's & St Paul's, South Petherton

Sally Mottram and Barbara Taylor from Ilchester were also able to share their good news. They started a new church gathering in September 2023, in a school at the other end of the village from the church. They said, "We wanted to offer a way to access worship for those who aren't drawn to worship in a church building and we've already got a core group of families who come every month. Even when it poured with rain the other Sunday and we thought no one would turn up, they did, which is a very encouraging sign for the future."

Find out more about Greenhouse and how it can help you nurture new Christian worshipping communities: bathwells.org.uk/greenhouse ■

News in brief

Cathedral admission changes

Wells Cathedral has announced changes to its admission guidelines from 22 April. Free passes are available to local people and to parishioners in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, with a new £14 entry charge for tourists. It will remain free to enter for worship, prayer, and to light a candle. The monies raised by the tourist admission charge will go towards the care of the cathedral building and its mission. Information about the Parish Pass and how to apply for it is available from the [Wells Cathedral website](#) ■



A unique art exhibition

An immersive response by four artists to the Easter themes of ascension and love, grounded in the locality of Martock, the Levels and Somerset is on display in All Saints Church, Martock from 20 to 28 April. Painter Tessa Coleman, writer Lucy Jago, sound artist Zivi Sainsbury and sculptor Rachel Goodison,

Bishop Michael to visit Zambia

Bishop Michael will be making his first visit to Zambia as Bishop of Bath and Wells this month, having previously spent time there during his career as an epidemiologist.

Commenting on his visit, which takes place from 22 April to 5 May 2024, Bishop Michael says, “I am really looking forward to be going back to Zambia. It takes the whole world to know Christ and I’m so excited at the thought of all I will learn from our Zambian brothers and sisters. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to explore how we can potentially work together on a joint environmental project involving our schools.” ■

Find out more on these and other stories at bathandwells.org.uk/news



collaborated on the installation for the beautiful space of All Saints, finding inspiration in the church and its community ■

Hope in deed

By Michael Langrish, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Bath & Wells

In January I was back in my old Diocese of Exeter, marking the death of Sabine Baring Gould 100 years before. What an extraordinary person he was, with an incredible range and roundedness of learning and interests, in an equally full and fulfilled life. He was a great traveller and prolific writer of biographies, folklore, travel books, theology, novels and hymns, including some, such as 'Onward Christian soldiers' that remain popular today. He was a linguist and translator; and, as an archaeologist on Dartmoor, very much a pioneer in the field. For many, his greatest achievement was his collecting the old folk songs of Devon and Cornwall, providing inspiration for such composers as Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst. He was also the Squire of Lewtrenchard and, being ordained, he appointed himself as parish priest as well!

This he saw as his true vocation. His responsibility, and that of the local church, was the cure of souls from cradle to grave. This meant a care for the spiritual wellbeing of all in the community and for their bodily and social welfare too. Striving

for good health and housing must go hand in hand with growth in faith and prayer. All should be encouraged to full humanity, to holy discipleship, to the recognition, and use, of whatever gifts anyone possessed for the common good.

But, underlying all of this, one other aspect of this great man's life speaks very strongly to me now. That is how he understood worship and its relationship to the whole of life. 'To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God'.

This edition of Manna contains encouraging stories of New Christian Worshipping Communities in Bath and Wells. Worshipping is key. I am reminded of the later words of Archbishop William Temple: 'It is sometimes said that conduct is supremely important, and worship helps it. The truth is that worship is supremely important, and conduct tests it.'

Bishop Michael

A life of shared prayer & mission

The Revd Liz Dudley, with Pioneers Elizabeth and Andrew Alden share plans for a new Christian Community in Frome.



Preparations are underway at Mary's House

What is happening in Frome?

Work is underway at the former vicarage at St Mary's to prepare the house for a new Christian community of four self-supporting adults. They will live there for a year and work locally.

What will Mary's House offer?

It will offer a lifestyle grounded in contemplative prayer and a Christian commitment to the environment. As a community, their shared life will be marked by a daily pattern of prayer, weekly work in the local community, and a rule of life with shared values and approaches to missional living.

Why Frome?

The combination of St Mary's site, the congregation's missional outlook, and the pioneering work at The Giant's Garden presents a compelling opportunity to explore and potentially establish a new Christian community here.

What's the local reaction to the new

community?

Frome is open to the spiritual side of life, there is a common concern for those on the edge of society and we hope that those who choose to live here will be able to connect with that aspect of life here. Mary's House offers an opportunity to show that you can live out in the world and live in a Christian community with a rhythm of prayer and rule of life; that it is possible to do the two together.

What's your hope for the community?

That this community will contribute to God's work of regeneration in the churches and the town, increasing the missional impact of God's people. Long term it could develop a model that could be replicated elsewhere in the diocese. The community will include a dispersed element of people living in their own homes but following a similar rule of life.

When do you expect to open?

We hope those called to help establish the residential expression of the community will move into Mary's House from September onwards.

Read more at bathandwells.org.uk/st-marys-frome

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DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

9th April - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost: that kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came. He grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin University, and so the family moved to Berlin.



Bonhoeffer never considered going into politics, he studied theology in Tubingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931. Although Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. On 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him, including anyone in the two major churches in Germany - Lutheran and Catholic. Bonhoeffer refused to comply with orders from the Nazi regime and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church by Nazi supporters. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. Many of his contacts were involved in the plot to kill Hitler in July 1944, and this may well have sealed his fate.

He was moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp. In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

Trio Paradis Spring-time Concerts

Trio Paradis have two more of their excellent spring -time concerts booked at St. John's.

Friday 26th April at 1.00pm. "The English Romantics"

Friday 31st May at 1.00pm. "Flower Garden"

Tea/coffee and cake will be available before the concerts for about £3.50.

There is no fixed charge for the concerts but donations are invited, a guideline figure is £10- £12.50 per person



-----and here is some official advice for concert goers:

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids

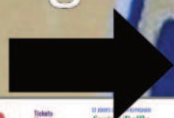
Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health. Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them. The researchers hope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

RAFFLE

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21st April



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in Pembrokeshire
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plus many more...



As we head into Spring, now is the time to get creative in your garden and thinking about wildlife should be a priority in these environmentally difficult times. A wildlife-friendly garden is a wonderful way to support local biodiversity.

Make room
for wildlife...
...and feel
the benefits

An illustration of a butterfly with orange and black wings on the right, and a blue flower with a green stem on the left.

The key to a wildlife-friendly garden is diversity. Providing various elements, such as different plants, water features,

and nesting spaces, will attract a wide range of species to your garden. Additionally, gardening sustainably by avoiding harmful chemicals and using organic practices contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem.

For lots of information to read and download check out the The Wildlife Trusts website:

www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening

Wildlife gardening is about making a haven for you, as well as for wildlife. By gardening sympathetically for wildlife, you'll be rewarded by a truly natural outdoor space, where you can get in touch with the plants, animals and birds that make their home there.



And don't forget the Grow Wilder nursery in Frenchay, an offshoot of Avon Wildlife Trust

which specialises in growing (and selling) native wildflower and herb plants and much more. For information visit their website:

www.growwilder.co.uk

Interested in practical conservation?

We regularly get asked about volunteering opportunities in the local area and, although we would prefer to point people in the direction of Avon Wildlife Trust, there is a lack of local sites managed by the Trust where people can help. Locally we have The Fox and Hounds Lane Action Group (FAHLAG, email [HERE](#)) and Friends of Manor Road Community Woodland (email [HERE](#)), both of which undertake much needed work within the Keynsham area so please offer your services if you have the time.



We'd also like to point you in the direction of the Great Avon Wood near Whitchurch, managed by Avon Needs Trees. They run tree planting sessions for volunteers on various days of the week. Find out more [HERE](#). Can't join a volunteer day? Become a woodland hero and donate to support their work. Avon Needs Trees are currently raising funds for a new venture: Lower Chew Forest, the biggest venture they have undertaken so far. Donate [HERE](#)

Smile Lines

Wages

Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

Choir

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

Fooling Around

I was about six when I began to enjoy April Fool's Day. My older brother was very clever at appropriate hoaxes, not only deceiving me but also Mum and Dad. On the whole my childish efforts were encouraged. The day was full of laughs, even at school, where the teachers would try to trick us and all day long no one quite believed anything they were told. So it went on, year after year, though I think it all seems as a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool of all time. In 1957 the BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Switzerland. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Swiss farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping, all with Richard Dimbleby giving serious documentary coverage. It took a while to appreciate that this was Auntie playing games. Whatever next!

Perhaps we should remember that at the time, 7 million of the 15.8 million homes in Britain had TV. Pasta was not an everyday food in 1950s Britain, it was known mainly from tinned spaghetti in tomato sauce and was considered by many to be funny foreign food.

Hundreds of people phoned in the following day to question the



authenticity of the story or ask for more information about spaghetti cultivation, and how they could grow their own spaghetti trees. The BBC told them to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best".

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of the April Fool tradition. It has been widespread in Europe for hundreds of years. It might even go back to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the end of March.

Adapted from an article in Parish Pump



Chew Valley Choral Society

Rejoice and be glad!

Chew Valley Choral Society present a programme of anthems and sacred pieces from across the centuries, from the early Renaissance to the Present Day. The works will cover many moods, from the darkness of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Day, and there will be some new works to discover alongside some more familiar classics.

Saturday 18th May 2024 at 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Chew Magna, BS40 8PW

Tickets: £15 (£6 for children and students)
Available through our website or on the door
www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk



Teachers at Chipata. Febby in the hat, head teacher Susan far right

See article on p6

Notes from St John's DCC meeting –12TH March 2024

Church Heating The Church Heating subcommittee gave a comprehensive presentation of the different options for a new church heating system – a replacement gas boiler or energy efficient electric radiant heating. They also set out the need for a new enhanced electricity supply as the current system is not safe. After a question and answer session the DCC approved the first step of contacting Network Grid to install a new supply of electricity. They further agreed to the Heating Committee continuing their discussions with Herschel about radiant heating. <https://www.herschel-infrared.co.uk/heating-heritage-buildings/churches/>

Communication The meeting considered how we communicate as a Parish and as a church and the need for a sub group that is representative across the Parish (hopefully to include young people). The DCC heard feedback from a PCC meeting 11th March which covered areas such as the parish website, newsletter and Contact magazine. It was agreed that it is important to get the balance right between how we communicate electronically and in paper form.

Building for the Future It was noted

- The upkeep of the church clock is becoming expensive with much of the cost being met by the Friends of St John, approx. £3,078 since 2021 plus £9,000 from the budget. Representatives from the Friends have met with Bob Frost from the Diocese and Nathan from Nathans clocks. Bob Frost will discuss options with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and report back in April/May. The clock is currently not working but the DCC agreed not to pay a further £500 for repairs at this time.
- Work to install the external clock tower lighting will take place 18th and 19th March.
- The Quinquennial report has not been received from the Church Architect but has been promised in time for the AGM, 16th April 2024.

Finance The Treasurer informed DCC that

- It was not possible to confirm the final position re Parish Share 2023 at the time of the meeting
- The accounts for 2023 are still with the auditor meaning a further meeting will be scheduled to adopt the accounts before the AGM 16th April.
- Tickets sales for the Spring Draw have got off to a good start approx. £500 raised so far.
- An unrestricted legacy has been bequeathed from the estate of John McLennan.

Development. It was noted

- The closing date for applications for the role of Team Rector is 13th March.
- The shortlisting of applications will take place Monday 18th March.
- Services will return to the Church from, Holy Week beginning 24th March 2024.

Reports. Reports from the Pastoral Team and Youth Worker were noted.

Miscellaneous. The DCC noted

- The dates of the abseiling event, 20th/21st April and the need for volunteers to help. This event is being held in partnership with MENCAP.
- The DCC approved a suggestion for an application to the Town Council for a grant to fund the replacement of the vandalised bench that was opposite the main entrance to the Church.

AOB Julian Anderson was thanked and warmly applauded for his 11 years of service as a member of St Johns DCC.

Deborah Hall - St John's DCC Secretary

ONLY TWO MORE ISSUES OF CONTACT

Unless we can soon find someone to take over the role of editor

Kath McCarthy has been doing an excellent job for three years but now needs some time off to enjoy her life.

The Mission (should you choose to accept it) is to gather interesting snippets about the parish as a whole, to use existing on-line resources to find articles of more general church interest and cartoons etc.

Several articles about activities in the area are regularly sent in and need sorting and sometimes revising slightly.

If you can get pictures (your own or from others) so much the better.

Robert Cook will continue to compile the magazine and make it suitable for publishing.

For more details email keynshamcontact@gmail.com

Notes from the PCC – Not Minutes

The PCC met in a cold St John's Church on Monday 11th March

Sue Lloyd chaired the meeting as Anika had family concerns.

- Susan Jones – Treasurer of St Margaret's was unanimously co-opted to the PCC
- Paul Trueman who has taken over as PCC treasurer from Chris Newton now has full access to the bank account (there have been some issues transferring everything over to Paul)
- The diocese has agreed that Chewton Keynsham will no longer be included in the Parish Share requirements.
- Parish Share will henceforth be known as Benefice Share and consultation meetings are being held by the diocese looking at the way parish share is calculated and collected.
- Team Rector vacancy – the adverts are out and awaiting responses. The purchase of a new rectory in Somerdale is proceeding.

Communication

- * Parish Website – Heidi Scott has done a great deal of work revising it and it was agreed that it is a great improvement but there is more to do.
- * The future of Contact and the means of communication with church members and the wider parish was the subject of much discussion.
- * DCCs are to be asked what each church sees as a priority and for ideas.
- * Contact is thought to be required by many but, unless a new editor comes forward, will cease in June.
- * Ideas included 1) A weekly sheet for events that week and a monthly one for future or ongoing items. 2) Distribution of service details and special events by email via Mail Chimp or similar. 3) Seeing if we can have a regular page or two in The Keynsham Voice. No perfect answer was found.

Julia is standing down as PCC secretary after the APCM but Sharon, the previous secretary, has offered to return

The Archdeacon of Bath, Adrian Youings, is leaving the diocese to work for Care in the Family. His last day will be June 17th

Robert Cook

FARM DIARY

This is written for non-farmers who live surrounded by farmland.

In the field At the time of writing the wet weather is still with us. We have annual crops that eventually provide food for us directly or indirectly. They are at all stages of survival from good to bad. We even have mistakes that we have made that are visible to those who see these things. We have over grazed the oil seed rape with our sheep in places and our contract driller had a blocked seed coulter that he did not notice so that this roadside winter wheat field has stripes in it. It was a worry for this author who changed from working for Downton in Gloucestershire to come back to the family farm that all his mistakes would be visible to everyone. The author finds that one learns more from mistakes than when things go right. Animals will not be turned out of their winter quarters while the ground is so wet. The goats are producing kids in early March and the sheep are due at the end of March. They are due to lamb outside whereas we have the goats inside. It all depends on breeding and what the specific animal is used to - its hardiness.



Tech. The small weigh scales that are used for the sheep and goats has been converted to an electronic one. We are required to have an identification tag in the ear of all farm animals. With sheep and cattle they have to have a tag in each ear and one of them has to be electronic (an EID). Goats are not part of this legislation. We have EID's in our goats as well and recently we weighed a group of goats. Holding the reader next to the ear, the weight was automatically recorded against that identified animal and placed in the memory. At the end of this quick operation, we could see weights of any animal, the average for the group, the highest and lowest and the daily live-weight gain since the last weighing. Fantastic. Are you computer literate yet? It helps to have a younger farmer around.

Revoluting Farmers. Lots of farmers are making their views known throughout Europe and even in Russia where the cost of fuel was an issue as it was in Germany. We cannot produce all the food we need without fuel and some level of profitability. More on this later.

Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for April

BAPTISMS

3 rd March	Marliya Louise Anne Mcbirney	St John's
3 rd March	Rio Phoenix AJ Hemmings	St John's

WEDDINGS

16 th March	Adam Noble & Sophie Blakeley	St Margaret's
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DIARY

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
3 rd	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
6 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
6 th	10am	Who Let The Dad's Out	St Francis
10 th	2pm	Pastoral Afternoon Tea	Parish Hall
13 th	12pm	Free Community Lunch	Parish Hall
16 th	7.30pm	AGM	Parish Hall
20 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
20 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis
20 th	All day	Abseil Event	St John's
21 st	Afternoon	Abseil Event	St John's
21 st	6pm	Impact	Parish Hall
21 st	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
21 st	7.30pm	Youth Home Group	OCT
23 rd	7.30pm	APCM	Parish Hall
26 th	12pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
27 th	8.30am	Tea, Toast & Prayer	St Francis

*These meetings by appointment only

St George's Day

On April 23rd we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He was an officer in the Roman army, martyred for his Christian faith on 23rd April 300 AD. He became a popular soldiers' saint whose fame spread to many countries through military links, and eventually to England largely through soldiers returning from the Crusades.

The dragon, however, has a much shakier pedigree. Dragon stories do not appear until 500 years after St. George's death.



Russian Icon - George slaying the dragon



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Spring in Burnett

Credit: Rosemary Turner

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