

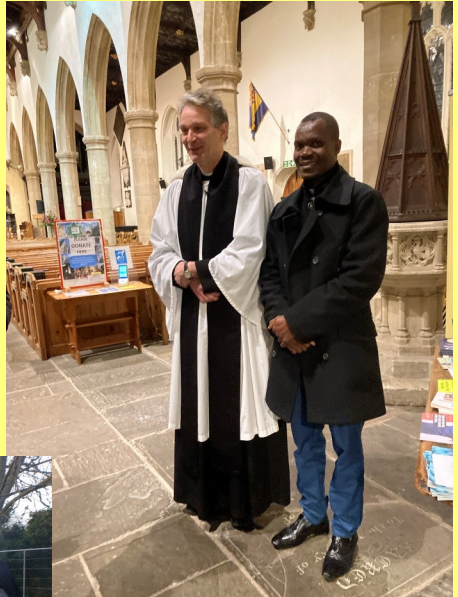
contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



August/September 2023

In September we have to say goodbye to Stephen on his retirement.
Rev. Anika Gardiner will then be in charge of the parish.



1. Stephen M'Caw
2. Stephen with Father Benard from Zambia
3. Anika at the Easter sunrise service.
4. Stephen at Dan Crouch's (youth worker) leaving party

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: 11.00am Wednesdays

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

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: Lin Fry - 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

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:

St John's: - *Steve Spiteri* - contact via Parish Office
St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



*The start of the football season was
the cause of universal joy*

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Message of the Month

August 2023



And it's goodbye from him...

This is my last leading article for Contact magazine, after 13 years as Team Rector. Before I retire, there will be a leaving weekend on 16th/17th Sept at which we can look back and rejoice, and at which I can express my thanks and admiration to God and gratitude to you all. So, in this article I wish to raise two things about the future, in particular the continuity of the parish.

The aim of those taking the parish forward is to ensure as much continuity as possible. We will have less clergy, but with the aid of retired clergy, and gifted lay people, the parish can expect things to be much the same as before on Sunday mornings. Not exactly the same, as there will need to be some efficiencies, but the four churches under the leadership of Revd Anika Gardiner (as Team Vicar in charge) and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) can expect much the same.

This is in no small measure thanks to people stepping into the breach and helping pull things together. An example of this is Lesley Organ (churchwarden at St John's) finding the clergy to cover services from mid September across the whole parish. We all owe Lesley a big thank you. To the rest of you who will be doing more 'up front,' or much 'behind the scenes,' a big thank you.

The second thing to say (again), is to ask you all not to 'overload the donkey.' In this case I mean the one clergy member who possesses a donkey suit and occasionally puts it on at Christmas - Revd Anika Gardiner. It is going to be as busy as usual, in our busy parish, and the workload for Anika from September onwards is going to be considerable.

We can all help by:

- Asking whether someone else might be the person to approach rather than the clergy
- Offering to step into a gap in the parish's mission and ministry yourself, instead of leaving it to the clergy
- Praying for the clergy and parish
- Being kind and understanding when things don't happen in the same way, and occasionally don't run quite so smoothly.

And that reminds me of a saying usually erroneously attributed to John Wesley (1703 – 1791),

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

When it comes to the months ahead, do exercise the fruit of the Holy Spirit as much as you can: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. And in all things, above all else, exercise charity.

May God bless you in the years ahead.

Stephen M'Caw –Team Rector Keynsham Parish

Free community lunches in Keynsham!

Are you, or do you know someone who is finding life hard at the moment?

Struggling to put food on the table because of the rising cost of living?

Or just feeling lonely, depressed or anxious about the future?

Keynsham based charity One Community Trust will be serving 2 course lunches in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 12th August between 12.00 and 2.00pm.

Takeaway meals will also be available which may be a preference for the elderly and also people with mobility or mental health issues.

Catering will be limited to 50 people so early booking is essential.

If the event proves popular the free lunches will continue to be provided every month and into next year.

Book by email: octkitchen@outlook.com

Changing Time

Keynsham Parish is seeing major changes in the clergy this summer. 30th July was Nigel Williams last Sunday before he moves on to take up his post as Rector of Saltford, Corston and Newton St. Loe.

A bigger upheaval comes on 17th September when Stephen M’Caw has his last service, after which he retires and moves away. He writes his farewell Message of the Month in this issue of Contact. Stephen has been an inspirational leader in our parish for so many years, at the hub of all the many and varied activities, that it is hard to imagine the parish without him. His faith, kindness and care will be sadly missed.

The Church of England arranges its affairs so that there will be a gap, an “interregnum”, before a new rector is appointed, probably in about a year’s time. During this time the parish will be led by Anika Gardiner, the Team Vicar at St. Francis who is shouldering the many additional responsibilities. We are all hugely grateful to Anika for taking on this role and must do all we can to help and support her.

So many people have been touched by Stephen’s kindness.

Julia Nicholson has written her own personal appreciation:

Stephen has helped me and my husband Tony in many ways.

I was the first church warden to welcome him to St. John’s 13 years ago. He has been a constant support to us- through my mother, Janet Tuddenham’s funeral, our 50th Wedding Anniversary Blessing and as a church warden.

After my knee replacement, on Easter Day he rang to ask if I would like him to administer Holy Communion at my home. It was very special!

We will miss his kindness and his generosity of time, but I hope he and his future wife will have a happy retirement in Blagdon.

Julia Nicholson

Planning for the Vacancy

On Thursday 29th June all members of the PCC and the DCCs of each church were invited to a meeting in St John's church with Claire Horton who is the Deanery and Parish Development Adviser for the diocese. Only St John's and St Francis were represented.

This was an informal meeting with a view to preparing us for the period when we will be down to just one ordained clergy person, namely Anika Gardiner, who will bear the temporary title of Team Vicar in Charge. The group spontaneously christened the whole process 'Challenge Anika' which will only mean something to the more senior members (but no helicopter this time!).

Claire got us to discuss our fears and thoughts and gave some pointers to the way the process will be handled. Leslie Organ has done some extraordinary work to find ways of covering the services once Stephen has left and reported that there will be a communion service somewhere in the parish every Sunday until Christmas! The Archdeacon will be involved and available to help Anika if needed.

There is already a small management group set up by the PCC to assist Anika in planning the running of the parish. Once Stephen has retired a new group will be formed with the task of producing the Parish Profile - the purpose of which is to give prospective applicants for the Team Rector's position an indication of what to expect if appointed.

Although the prospect of dropping from a team of four clergy to one in nine months seems daunting, a vacancy can be the opportunity for fresh talents to emerge and a spring cleaning of the way things have been done.

Robert Cook

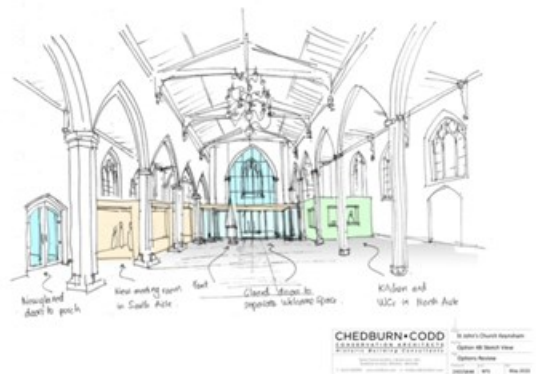
Building for the Future

Some time ago the Building for the Future group was commissioned by the DCC to come up with ways in which we could update St Johns building to reflect our current needs.

Amongst the many issues discussed we decided that we wish to reduce our carbon footprint and develop an improved resource for all of Keynsham; whilst achieving a more welcoming, open, and flexible space for every type of worship. We plan to build for the future whilst causing the least possible adverse impact on our beautiful medieval church. We can envisage the building having many potential new uses, from improved concert venue to exhibition space, café or even a remote-working area. Some of these we hope may produce income for the church. We believe that we need to 'dream big' and not be constrained too much at this stage by financial concerns, though approximate estimates for anticipated work have been obtained.

Over time, various meetings with our architects, and with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC) allowed for the sharing of ideas and knowledge, and the whittling down of plans to the 2 presented here. We would now like our worshipping communities to help us decide which we should carry forward. Both plans anticipate the removal of pews which will allow much more flexibility in the arrangement of services and other uses, but first we may decide to commission a report into the design of the pews as they could be of historic interest.

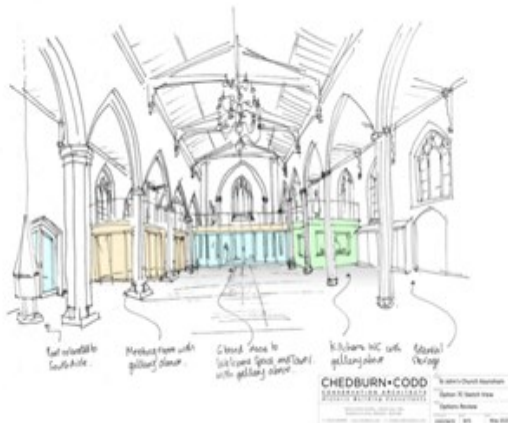
Plan 4B provides improved west and south entrances with glass doors to make the church more welcoming and draught proof. A west end foyer is created by replacing the existing 'modern' inner arch and doors with a glass version extending up into the original arch, and the installation of a glass wall between the second pair of pillars from the west end, which can fold back out of the way when required. This will provide a separate area which will have multiple uses; it will have a glass or solid ceiling and stretch across the west end of the church.



Plan 4B looking west

Also included in the north-west corner are a kitchenette/ servery and 2 WCs (one of which will have baby changing facilities and be accessible for people with disabilities). In the south-west corner a separate room will be created with glass partitions which will fold back as doors. This will provide a separate area when required but which can be included in the main body of the church for larger services. The existing seating numbers are maintained.

Plan 7C is similar on the ground floor, but as we hope to build the size of our congregation it adds an upper floor, providing additional seating and/or space for other uses such as exhibitions.



Plan 7C looking west

As part of our consultation we held a meeting in church on Monday July 10th. About 40 people attended and heard about our progress towards this vision and were very positive. In

addition to the sketches provided here, full plans, background, and details, are on notice boards at the back of the church. They are also available on our website, together with a recording of the meeting at:

www.keynshamparish.org.uk/buildingforthefuture

We would so value your feedback and encouragement as we work out our next steps in a time of vacancy, so do please respond to the survey on our website at: www.keynshamparish.org.uk/btf-responses

Our next step will be to consult with the wider community in the autumn.

For over 750 years our church has, "...survived wars, plagues, natural disasters, and periods of human neglect." ¹. It has also been modified by the congregation over the centuries to better suit their needs, and the needs of the wider community. Each modification, beautification or rescue from neglect reflects the devotion of the people who planned and executed it.

What legacy will we pass on to the next generation?

¹ Elizabeth White, St John the Baptist, Keynsham: a history of the church, p7

Tim Winship

“Saint” of the month for August- Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale has been added to the list of people that the Anglican church commemorates, remembered for her work in nursing, social reform and also as a statistician. Her special day is 13th August.

At the age of 16 Florence felt God was calling her to some great lifework, and so she determined to avoid marriage, and thus be available to obey Him. She had been born in Italy in 1820 in to a wealthy family, while her parents were travelling - hence her name, but she grew up at Lea Hurst in Derbyshire. She was fortunate that her father believed in women’s education; he gave her both education and a financial allowance which supported her throughout her life’s work.



Florence had a strong sense of God’s personal presence in her life, and in 1844, when she was 24, came to believe that her calling was to nurse the sick. In 1849 she set off to study nursing in the hospitals of Europe.

On 12th May, 1850 she wrote in her diary: ‘Today I am 30 – the age Christ began His mission. Now no more childish things. No more love. No more marriage. Now Lord let me think only of Thy will, what Thou willest me to do.’ Later that same year she went to train in the hospital of Alexandria in Egypt, and then the Lutheran Deaconess Institute at Kaiserwerth in Germany. In 1853 she returned to England, and was appointed superintendent of the Hospital for Invalid Gentlewomen in London.

The following year, 1854, war broke out in the Crimea. Florence contacted friends in high places, and soon got permission to take 38 nurses to serve at the military hospitals at Scutari in Turkey, and later Balaklava in the Crimea. These hospitals were dreadful places, but with better nursing and better sanitation, the mortality rate among the sick and wounded men soon fell dramatically. When, by night, Florence took to patrolling the hospital wards, carrying a dim lamp; the legend of ‘the Lady with the Lamp’ was born.

After the Crimean war, Florence returned to England determined to establish the first professional nurse training scheme in the country. She found a base at St Thomas' Hospital in London, and through her efforts the stature of nursing gradually rose to become that of a respected medical profession. She also worked tirelessly for the welfare of soldiers. Her extensive knowledge of statistics and ability to present information in graphical forms was a huge help in her dealings with the War Office, and led to the adoption of completely modernised army accommodation.

But Florence had been working too long and too hard; her own health broke down and she became an invalid. But she was not forgotten, and the honours rolled in. In 1907 she became the first woman to receive the Order of Merit. Florence died in London on 13th August 1910, aged 90. Her family declined the offer of a tomb in Westminster Abbey and she was buried in St Margaret's, East Wellow, in Hampshire. Her tombstone says simply: F.N. 1820 – 1910.

I know what you meant, but it's not what you said...

Some real life extracts from church announcements that didn't come out quite right...

- ◆ *Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.*
- ◆ *Report in a church magazine: Miss Charlene Mason sang I will not pass this way again, giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.*
- ◆ *From a pew-sheet: Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. Now's your chance to get rid of all those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.*
- ◆ *From a pew-sheet: The sermon this morning is entitled 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight will be: 'Searching for Jesus'.*
- ◆ *From a pew-sheet: Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. Do go along if you can sing at all. They need all the help they can get.*

August 2023

As you read this you may well be putting your feet up and having a well-earned rest from school, work or even church! Summer is a time for taking things a little easier and making space for rest and relaxation. But of course, many continue to work hard to make such recreation possible for us! We may want to take a moment to value all those who make our holidays possible. There's always room to say, 'thank you!'

You will be aware that I recently had the opportunity of taking a little time out for some sabbatical. Howard and I spent a month walking the Via Di Francesco, a pilgrimage walk, in the footsteps of St Francis, in Italy. We walked some 140 miles from Rome to Assisi, using local transport for the other 40 or 50 miles along the way. We took our time, not least because of the wear and tear on our hips and knees as we went up and down steep gradients. In addition, it gave us room to notice things along the way.

It is often the small, seemingly insignificant things which can get overlooked as we travel through life isn't it. How many of us make the time to 'stand and stare' as William Davies puts it in his poem, 'Leisure'? So, I found myself discovering new meaning in the unexpected moments of pause that the walk brought us. The brief conversation with Destiny, a refugee, whilst we waited at a bus stop, who generously shared his bus tickets with us. The awareness of the world of creation around us – birdsong; the quill of a porcupine on the path; a family of wild pigs running through wheat fields. The kindness and hospitality of strangers. Encountering God in new people and places.

During this month, when perhaps the business of your life is stilled a little, are you expecting to encounter God? Will he need to break in or interrupt you, or how might you intentionally make time for him? Where might you notice the glimpses of God in the world around and hear his voice speaking into your experience?

I hope that this summer you will experience not only the rest and recreational power of a good holiday but also the space to renew your relationship with God. Along with the writer to the Ephesians, I pray 'that you may have the power to comprehend, ...what is the breadth and length and height and depth,' of God's love for you.

With love and prayers

+Ruth Bishop of Taunton

mannna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

July 2023

Supporting our schools

In Bath and Wells we are blessed to have 182 Church of England schools. While each supports their children in their own unique way, their values are underpinned by the Church of England's values of wisdom, hope, community and dignity. Supporting of our schools with their own unique talents are our school governors.

Ed Gregory, Director of Education for Bath and Wells says, "Governors are an essential part of the leadership team in a school or trust. You don't need to be an expert in education, the strength of a governing board comes from skills and experiences each person brings. While we have some amazingly supportive governors, we also have many gaps to fill, particularly Foundation Governors and Trustees, so if you feel this is something you are called to do, why not find out more about how you could help? It doesn't take much of your time, we provide lots of support and I have no doubt you will find it extremely rewarding."

Headteacher Jayne Rochford-Smith, St Andrew's Church School Bath, says



"Governors are what I would call 'critical friends'. They bring advice, they help us to move the school forward, and they also help us to make the right decisions."

Foundation Governors are appointed as Governors and as 'Champions' for the preservation and development the religious character of our Church of England schools, a responsibility of the entire Governing Board. They can be from any walk of life and any age, over 18, and be a practising Anglican or a member of another Christian denomination within the Churches Together movement. If you'd like to be a governor, even if you don't have a current church connection, if you have the support of the school and church community and are passionate about ensuring that the religious character of the school is flourishing, we'd still be keen to talk to you so get in touch.

bathandwells.org.uk/governors ■

News in brief

'Green' school security

In what's thought to be the first project of its kind in the UK, Kilmersdon Church of England Primary School has created a 'green' security hedge to keep the children safe, instead of a wire fence. The school wanted to construct something which reflects their vision to care for and manage God's creation. Headteacher, Steve Bamford said, "The children are really proud of this solution to our need for site security. We are excited about what animals, birds, insects and plants might make their home at Kilmersdon in and around our hedge as it grows, adding to the considerably diverse existing wildlife on site!"

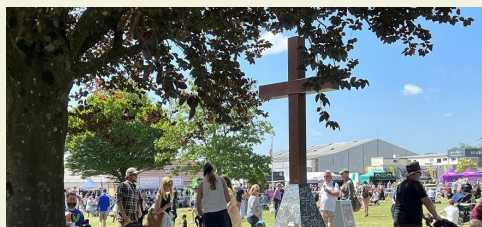
Tackling modern slavery

The latest course for Hidden Voices Somerset, the joint initiative between Bath and Wells and Clewer to tackle modern slavery, is underway at St Francis Church, Bridgwater. Sian Owens, the local coordinator for Hidden Voices Somerset, says, "Despite people's expectations, modern slavery is happening across our diocese. It is not just to people trafficked from other countries but also vulnerable local people, young and old." Find out how you can play your part in tackling Modern Slavery at bathandwells.org.uk/modern-slavery ■

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

A visible presence

The Church Tent has been at two of our largest gatherings in the diocese this year, the Bath and West Show and Glastonbury Festival. The tents were manned by ecumenical teams and served a steady flow of visitors. At the Bath and West Show the Yeast Scrapstore from Glastonbury created a display on the theme of The



Servant King and prompted people passing by to add their thoughts, comments and prayers to a board outside the tent ■

What a joy!

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus.'

In conversations with people about our vision in recent months, we have talked of all the different ways that we can serve the communities in which we are based - how we can enable the life of the whole of the people of God.

One of the community connections that many of our churches nurture is with their local school, in particular with our church schools where day in, day out teachers and their support staff reflect God's love and teachings with the pupils in their care. As rewarding as that role is, it is a tough one. The long summer holiday may be in sight but anyone who knows a teacher or member of school staff will tell you how much that is needed as well as how much work is done during that 'break'. They truly need our support and love and prayers. We should also give thanks for those working in our schools during the summer, cleaning, building, or preparing for the new academic year.

Not all of us are blessed with the gifts to teach, but many of us have

other gifts that can help our school communities. For some it is the gift of storytelling, sharing the teachings of Jesus as an Open the Book volunteer, others serve as chaplains. Some will simply live out their Christian faith by volunteering in classrooms or in the playground, or by praying for the school community. All of these roles are valuable to our schools, and rewarding for those who fulfil them.

What our schools and Academy Trusts need in particular are governors and trustees. There are many opportunities, especially for foundation governors and trustees who have a distinct responsibility for championing the Christian character of our schools. That may sound daunting, but that responsibility isn't held alone as there is support locally and from our excellent education team. And if you do take on that role, what a joy to know that you are playing your part to support and nurture our young people in the way of our Lord who said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 1:4 ■

Bishop Michael

A witness of my faith

Bryan Wong is a Foundation Governor at St Andrew's School Church of England Primary School, Bath.



Bryan Wong, Foundation Governor at St Andrew's School, Bath

Why did you become a governor?

I wanted to support the school and I wanted to serve God. I also wanted to help the students here in the school.

What's the best thing about being a governor?

The best thing is fulfilment. To be involved in the school governing body and to chair committees, to support the leadership of the school, to visit the students and see how they're doing in class - all these are very, very meaningful to me.

Does it take up all your spare time?

No. I find my colleagues and the school leadership very understanding. They keep reminding me that I need to put my family first. So, if I cannot finish the meeting because I need to pick up

my child then I will be excused.

What would you say to someone who's thinking of becoming a governor?

I think it's a very meaningful job. Apart from serving the community, it keeps me very up to date with the knowledge and dynamic development about the education system in this country. I feel inclusivity and diversity are very much celebrated here and that helps me to make better sense of how this could be translated into other spheres of my life.

How did your faith inform your decision to become a governor?

My faith was actually the cornerstone of my decision to join the governing body. I was invited by the former headteacher here. It was approved by my parochial church council. So I always see my role here as a foundation governor as also a witness of my faith to the school community.

This is to me the most important thing

Hear more from Bryan at bathandwells.anglican.org/foundation-governor ■

Follow us on

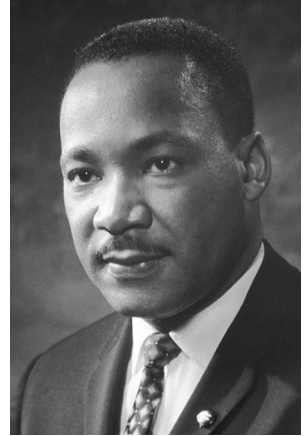
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60 years since “I Have a Dream”

Sixty years ago, on 28th August 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The civil rights rally was attended by about 200,000 supporters, including many A-list film celebrities released temporarily by their studios.

His words influenced the Federal government to take more direct action to create racial equality, in for instance the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.



King had been advised not to use the Dream format at Washington. He had used the idea before, and his adviser, the Revd Wyatt Tee Walker, described it as “hackneyed and trite”. The idea was to use a new speech with the theme “normalcy never again”. But King was prompted by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson to re-use the Dream idea, and he went ahead with it, much to Walker’s dismay. But it had a huge impact and is now regarded as perhaps one of the most influential speeches in American history.

Martin Luther King Jr, born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister who became one of the most prominent leaders in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination, apparently by James Earl Ray, on 4th April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. The autopsy revealed that although he was only 39 years old, King “had the heart of a 60-year-old”. He had said shortly before being shot that he was not afraid of dying.

On 14th October 1964, King had won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance.

Tim Lenton

Clergy struggle in cost-of-living crisis

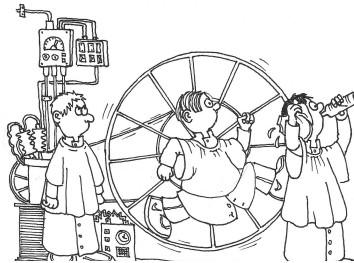
Is the C of E paying its clergy enough? The amount of the stipend is determined by the dioceses, but they use national benchmarks which are set by the Archbishops' Council each year. A guiding principle in setting these benchmarks is that "clergy should be paid at a level that gives them a standard of living that is between poverty and affluence."

But now the Clergy Support Trust has suggested that, in the current economic crisis, recent stipend increases have not achieved this stable balance for clergy homes, at a time when there is a growing need for pastoral care. The Trust says that it has never been busier. Almost one fifth of the clergy received support from the Trust during 2022, and the Trust's charitable spend has risen by 51 per cent since 2021. Much of the support was due to clergy requesting help in order to cover household energy bills and other basic living expenses.

The Trust has also spoken of a worrying trend where curates begin with a significant amount of debt. It is also concerned at the seemingly growing acceptance among clergy that living in debt is just a part of life for those in ministry.

Since April 2021, stipends have fallen behind inflation by about 6.5 per cent. In response, the C of E Employee and Clergy Advocates (CEECA) union has proposed a 9.5-per-cent increase in national stipend levels from April 2024. That would make the national average stipend about £31,600, and no less than £29,340.

The Revd Sam Maginnis, chair of the union warns that if clergy families are under constant financial strain, "the increased likelihood of stress and burnout can push personal and pastoral relationships to breaking point." He believes that clergy "should be provided with enough money to support a stable, happy home life, and the emotional capacity to minister effectively to the needs of their community."



*When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan "B"*

An unusual choir rehearsal

A "normal" Friday for St John's Choir starts at around 5pm when Sam starts setting up, organising music, children's folders etc. I arrive around 5.15 to set up for Minims who arrive around 5.50. We play games and learn notation, then the choristers start to arrive (some of them enjoy the Minims activities so much they join in with those, too!) At 6.15 we have both sets of children, and Minims parents with us, then Minims go home at 6.25, choristers continue till 6.50 when we work on their Voice for Life workbooks, before a snack and a drink and games at 7. At 7.30 we start adult rehearsal and the choristers join us till 8. Adults then continue on their own till 9pm.

So, you can see Friday evenings are full on and hectic even when things are relatively normal - and along the way we share a lot of fun, laughs, jokes and repartee as well as working hard preparing music for our services.

Last Friday had all of that - but because there was a concert using the church building and the hall, we were displaced into the Upper Room. It was pretty cramped - at one point we had 12 children, half a dozen parents, myself and Sam, all crammed into the small room but we managed the impossible!

Eventually all the excited children and their parents left and the adults got down to some serious work - or as serious as we ever are amidst the laughs. Sam worked hard and got us through our workload in good time - then someone suggested we sing through a couple of anthems in the book we were using just for the fun of it - and it was fun, just sharing together the love of singing.

We finished up by singing "Be still, for the Presence of the Lord" - and while we were singing, an extraordinary thing happened. EVERYONE in the room was truly taken up into genuine and holy worship, and there was a most tangible feeling and awareness of the Holy Spirit there, in the room, with us. It was breathtakingly beautiful. No-one spoke, the silence and peace hung in the air. There was more than one person with teary eyes. We always finish rehearsal with prayer - but there was no need for anything more, our singing and worship and feeling of being totally at one and at peace in the presence of the Holy Spirit was prayer in its purest form. It was a privilege to be there.

Frances Sadowski

September's Saint of the Month

St Adam of Caithness is remembered on September 15th

St. Adam may not be a famous saint but he has a lesson for us all. He was very keen to collect his tithes, the 10% of income people are supposed to give to the church. Teaching people to 'tithe' can be a delicate matter. There are clergy who teach 'tithing' badly – and then, watch out! St Adam (bishop 1213 – 22) is a good example of how NOT to do it.

Adam was a young Cistercian monk who became abbot of Melrose. In 1213 William, King of Scotland, sent him to Halkirk as bishop in Caithness, a remote area where his own royal power was weak, but that of the Norse earls strong.

Adam attempted to enforce law and order, including canon (church) law, and particularly the payment of tithes. The people sullenly

obeyed most of his teaching about the law and order, and didn't care a fig one way or another about canon law. But tithing was a subject on which they had passionate views!

The customary offering at this time was a span of butter to the clergy for every twenty cows that a person owned. Adam said this was not enough. He wanted more butter. He increased the tithe to one span for every fifteen cows. Then one span for every twelve cows. Then one span for every ten cows that a person owned. So Adam managed to double his butter income. But any modern-day Diocesan Board of Finance thinking of doubling the parish share should beware what happened next. The people revolted, supported by the Norse Earl of Orkney. One night they forced their way into his bishop's house at Halkirk, and burnt him and his followers to death. The only good news was that his body, although 'roasted with fire and livid with bruises, was found entire under a heap of stones, and buried honourably in the church.' Thus ended Adam, and the people kept all their butter tithe – presumably spreading it on toast?



Halkirk

Keynsham Parish's World-wide Partners

We may live in a (fairly) quiet corner of Somerset, but the Christian Church's world-wide mission gives us, here in Keynsham, links to some far-flung corners of the world. Our churches have a World Wide Mission Committee with four main partners. They are:



Aaron Stanbury (Church Missionary Society) In Kenya

Aaron works in the Nairobi slums, helping children to learn to read and write and build a solid base for the education which can lead them out of poverty.

Ruth Radley (Prayer partner)

Ruth has returned from South Sudan and now works with children in Birmingham Children's Hospital



Dr. Ruth Butlin OBE (The Leprosy Mission)

Dr. Butlin works for The Leprosy Mission which provides whole life care for patients. Now retired from full time employment she still travels back to Nepal, and to international leprosy conferences.

Zambia Link

Rachel Shaw from St. John's with the schoolchildren in Chipata.

Keynsham Parish now has a formal link with Chipata South Parish. We raised funds to help to build a school and the close ties continue.



If you would like to help to support these people who are our mission partners the easiest way to do it is via the link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/e2373631-08c8-4b2c-a79b-3607c7073431>





Chew Valley Choral Society

Come and join us!

Chew Valley Choral Society is keen to welcome new members

We are a friendly choir rehearsing and performing in venues across the Chew Valley. We do not hold auditions but some experience of choral singing and ability to read music is recommended. You are welcome to join us for a couple of sessions to see how you get on. If you haven't sung for a while, why not come along and try it out!

We will be starting rehearsals for our winter concert on **Tuesday 12 September**. We rehearse on Tuesdays, from 7.30 – 9.30pm, at Church Hall, Church Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8TX.

For our winter concert we will be singing:

Ralph Vaughan Williams - *The First Nowell*

George Malcolm - *Missa ad Praesepe*

A selection of carols

Our concert is on **Saturday 2nd December** in Holy Trinity Church, Bishop Sutton.

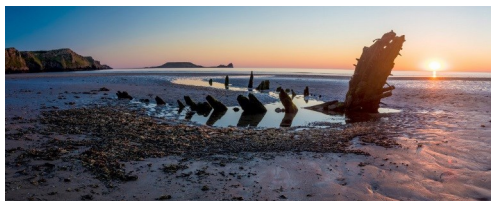
For more information about the choir, please visit our website:

www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk or contact Catherine Hunt on 0781 4098457 or email info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk

Virginia Hughes has been using her talents to write another poem for us, perhaps to remind us of seaside visits :

The Wave

I am the wave; I crash and roar
I am the wave upon your shore.
Children squeal and shout
Though some run out with fright
Others laugh in pure delight.
In winter I am cold
A storm will make me very bold
My swell is huge and rising high



Rhossilli Beach by Phil McCarthy

I am powerful
I am fierce
I splash upon the stone sea wall
In answer to the seagull's call

Often rough and rising high
Great peaks and crests
Break, spill over, down again
Like rushing torrents of rain, I crash and roar
I am the wave upon your shore.

Wrapping myself around the land
Leaving ripples and patterns in the sand.
Fish of all kinds live under me.
Seagulls ride my surface swimming in the flow,
Suddenly they spot a fish and swiftly dive below.
People love to walk in and swim
Children run, jump and play in me,
Boats, surfers and boarders ride on top of me-
I am the wave upon the sea.

At full tide I flow to Looe River where many boats reside
And under Looe Bridge where seagulls follow, glide and ride.
Families with fishing lines come crabbing all together
Dropping lines over the harbour wall
Excited voices, buckets ready no matter what the weather.

At turn of tide I drift swiftly back to sea
Leaving many moored boats, rockpools and seaweed behind.
I skim over pebbles on the sea bed, gently flatten and glide
In a slow slim shape along the sand.
Bend down to cup me in your hand
I will trickle through your fingers and fall back to the sand.

Paddle all along my edge
So cooling for your feet in summer.
My frothy edges fizz swish and pop between your toes.
Relax and laugh, forget your woes
I am THE WAVE UPON YOUR SHORE.

Virginia Hughes 2023

Happy Holidays

'From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace... we went on to Neapolis. From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. (Acts 16:11-12)



I wonder if travel was in some ways easier in St Paul's day? No waiting at airports, cancelled flights or passport problems. The Roman Empire had an amazing system of well-maintained roads, provided with inns, guards, signposts and milestones. Everyone spoke Greek and the currency was interchangeable. But we do not live in classical times, so how should we prepare for holidays?

- ◇ Choose your holiday from a reliable travel company that is a member of the professional bodies that protect customers if it all goes wrong. Pay for the holiday using a credit card, so you can claim against the credit company if there is a serious problem.
- ◇ Prepare and research where you are going. Look up the Government travel advice pages on staying safe and healthy in that country.
- ◇ Get someone to look after your house and pets while you are away. Make sure the house does not look as though it is empty.
- ◇ Get proper insurance that covers what you need. The Association of British Insurers has advice online about travel insurance, including how COVID-19 can affect it, and a guide on choosing the right travel insurance policy.
- ◇ Rules on claiming health benefits in Europe have changed. It is now the Global Health Insurance Card.
- ◇ When on holiday, keep your belongings safe and avoid dangerous places. Do not keep all your holiday cash in one place. If you lost your wallet, would you have details of what numbers to phone to stop your card? Take more than one credit/debit card with you, and keep them separately.
- ◇ Finally - have fun. You deserve it! This is a light-hearted introduction, and do get professional advice.

David Pickup, solicitor



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FARM DIARY

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

In the Field: The cereal harvest should have begun by the time you read this. It all depends on the weather which at the time of writing was too unsettled to warm up the combine harvester. As it happens harvest for a particular variety of a particular crop is nearly always within three or four days of the same date. This year it looks as if the harvest will be at the early end of this scale. The last week of July is time for the winter sown oil seed rape and the winter sown barley. The first week of August is for winter sown wheat. Winter sown beans are later in August and they turn an eye-catching black before being ready to harvest when the beans are dry in their pods. The latter are shattered by the combine so that only the bean is collected. Beans make a very good break crop and entry for wheat with the residual nitrogen from their nitrogen fixing property. These dates are for central Somerset.

Baked Beans: More of these are eaten in the UK than in the rest of the world combined. However, we have not been able to grow them. Scientists from the University of Warwick have bred three varieties that just might change this. A farmer in Lincolnshire has planted a commercial scale of these haricot beans. Watch this space.

Diet: As reported in The Daily Telegraph of 7th July by its science correspondent, Joe Pinkstone, we can savour our steak and cheese without it taking a bite out of our life expectancy. This is an important study with the lead author, Dr Andrew Mente, of McMaster University in Canada. This is a ten year study of 150,000 people from 20 countries. Dr Mente concluded that cardiovascular diseases and early mortality may not be the result of over-indulging in meat and dairy but under-nutrition by not eating enough key food groups. These include vegetables, legumes, fruit and fish and nuts. People were 30% less likely to die during the study period when consuming a well-balanced range of foods. There is evidence to suggest that whole-fat dairy may be protective against hypertension and metabolic syndrome - key drivers of cardiovascular disease.



Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for Aug/Sept

BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
9 th July 2023	Amelia Lois Stephens	St John's
16 th July 2023	Orlagh Rose Workman	St John's

DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
15 th June 2023	David Morris	81

DIARY

August

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
2 nd	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
5 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
5 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
6 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
6 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
13 th	12pm	Picnic & Rounders	Keynsham Park
16 th	2pm	Pastoral Cream Tea	Parish Hall
19 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
19 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
20 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
20 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
25 th	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall

Parish Register & Diary Continued

September

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
2 nd	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
2 nd	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
3 rd	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
3 rd	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
5 th	7.15pm	PCC meeting	Parish Hall
6 th	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
10 th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
12 th	7.30pm	St John's DCC meeting	Parish Hall
16 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
16 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
17 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
17 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
18 th	7.30pm	St Michael's DCC meeting	Burnett





The Transfiguration is remembered on August 6th. It commemorates the occasion when Jesus took his disciples Peter, James and John into the mountains and they saw a vision of Jesus transfigured by radiant light, and with him Moses (representing the law) and Elijah (representing the prophets). They also heard the voice of God calling Jesus “Son”.

The painting is by Alexandr Ivanov (1824)

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Cover: Credit: Phil McCarthy

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