

contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



December January 2022/23



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SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

Holy Communion: 8.30am every Sunday

IN CHURCH @ 10.30 - in Church with choir

TOGETHER @ 10.30 - in Parish Hall

Occasional Festival Services: 10.30am

Evening Services - as advertised

Weekday Holy Communion: 11.00am Wednesdays

Holy Baptism: In public worship / or Sunday 12.00 noon
(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 - 7.45pm

Wives Group: 3rd Wednesday - 7.45pm

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

Choir Practice: Thursday: 7.00 - 8.00pm

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: 10.30am - **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: Lebanon: *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

Missioner and Team Vicar - St John's:

Rev'd. Mike Burke - Tel: 0117 909 9425

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 Christmas photos

1. Christmas at St. Michael's Burnett
2. In Chipata the main celebration is the Christmas Eve service. There will be joyful singing, gatherings and eating together. Rachel Shaw.
3. The Christmas Tree Service at St. John's
4. In Papua New Guinea it is always ultra hot. Whenever Papua New Guineans want to celebrate they do so with a 'singsing'. They dress up in colourful grass skirts which are all made from local fibres dyed bright colours. The yellow feathers are bird of paradise feathers. Trevor Stubbs.
5. Lebanon Nativity.

Many churches in Lebanon have a life size nativity display outside the church at Christmas. These can be quite elaborate and are always very brightly lit. Back in 2016, the church we attended decided to set up a nativity scene using real people, rather than models. The idea was that we could interact with passers by and talk a little about the meaning of Christmas. Audrey and I both took one 'shift' as a 'Wiseman' and a 'Shepherd'. The photos show us dressed for the part in the manger. Colin and Audrey Gibson.

6. Advent at St. John's
7. Colin and Audrey Gibson as a Wiseman and a Shepherd.

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Message of the Month

December 2022



We are coming into the season of Advent once again, and, for the first time in a while, without there being lockdowns on the horizon!

Advent looks back in order to look forward. Celebration of the first coming of Christ in the stable at Bethlehem has meaning and purpose because of the hope and expectation of His second coming on the clouds of glory. Christmas is not a memorial of a thing past and gone, but effectual preparation for what is to come. We reflect and look at and prepare ourselves, but we do not stay there; we focus forward, for Advent calls us to look joyfully to God, who is coming to complete His salvation.

The great symbol of Advent is the increase of light. Candles are lit in ever greater number in growing expectation of the End. Advent is an extended meditation on the mystery of time. We look back to the moment of the incarnation, the moment Jesus was born to Mary, the pivot around which world history turns, in order to see the meaning of the flow of the events of human history towards their fulfilment. Assessing the importance of human events in this light gives hope even in the face of disaster and the failures of our politics and world relations, there is a God who came to us, to be with us.

So, Advent then is the antidote for both frenzied concern and cold cynicism (as many have had their lights up for the last few weeks!) It concludes in the great celebration of the incarnation; ending at the beginning with a renewed zeal and hope in the life of Christ. So, this Advent let us pause and look to that moment of Christ's coming, and share the joyful news to all those we meet all through Advent and the Christmas season that follows it, pointing to Jesus always.

Nigel Williams

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Editorial Team sends you our best wishes for the season.

We know that there are people in our community for whom Christmas is a difficult season, and world news seems to be a catalogue of disaster. Nevertheless the joy of the Christian Christmas and the jollity of the Yuletide festival flow out to bring warmth and goodwill across our parish.

It is also an opportunity to say thank you to all the people who help to produce Contact each month. There have been some terrific contributions from the readers, keep them coming please. We are especially grateful to the staff in the parish office who are so unfailingly kind and efficient.

Happy Christmas!



Trio Paradis Cafe Concert Fri 27 January 2023 at 1pm

Trio Paradis' first concert of 2023, *Time & Motion*, will take place on Friday 27th January at 1pm in St John's Church Hall.

The trio will play a varied selection of music inspired by aspects of time, in a range of styles, featuring music by Ravel - his suite from the operetta *L'Heure Espagnole* - alongside Bernstein, Saint-Saëns and others.

Come along at 12.30pm for tea, coffee and home-made cakes in the pop-up café. The concert lasts c45 minutes and entry is by donation, with a retiring collection, to ensure it's affordable for everyone. More information at <http://www.trioparadis.com>. To join the email list email trioparadis@icloud.com.

Concerts will continue on the last Friday lunchtime of every month.

New Director of Music

It is a great pleasure to welcome Sam Shackleton to his new post as Director of Music at St. John's and to introduce him in his own words:

Sam is originally from Kent, but moved to Southampton in 2012 to study music. During his time in Southampton, he felt God's call to put his musical study to good use in ministry. He has previously served as an organist, choral director, workshop and band leader, and over the COVID-19 pandemic, even as a producer and audio technician!



Sam moved to Bristol in 2021 when his wife Catriona began study as an ordinand at Trinity College, and he joined St. John's in 2022. He loves being able to help people worship through song, and is passionate about encouraging people to explore the many different ways music can be used to uplift worship and help us encounter God.



When he's not making music, you can probably find Sam out walking his dog, tinkering with computers and AV kit, or at home playing board games.

"Does anyone have a light, please?"

Santa in Keynsham

I grew up in a Christian School and attended Church, and (Santa aside) one of the main excitements of the build-up to Christmas was hearing about the Christmas story through services, classwork, and Nativity plays. That story of Mary and Joseph trekking it on donkey-back to Bethlehem and bringing baby Jesus into the world, surrounded by cute barn animals, was the ultimate heart warmer.

Jesus was and is awesome!



Once the school holidays started, Santa Claus came along and garnered most of the spotlight away. Santa was commercialised everywhere from cereal boxes to TV screens, leading up to Jesus' birthday.

That jolly guy who allegedly gave us kids free stuff under a tree every Christmas was also awesome! Cut to many years later, I became that red

guy (a portrayer rather) after coming across a book called the Red Suit Diaries by Ed Butchart, who was a former Marine turned to Christ. His book inspired me to don the red suit (a cheap Poundland one to start with!) and do good in the world. Ed's book portrayed that Santa Claus can also be a platform to tell people that Jesus loves them.

Over more years, I worked on my act (upgrading my costume way beyond Poundland's effort) and before I knew it - I worked from playing the character for my daughter at home to professionally working gigs at adventure parks, schools, charity functions and kids' parties. Oh, and Santa-walked through Keynsham High-Street too.

Walking around under the Father Christmas guise and garnering attention is a great experience and is like a smaller scale experience of what it would have been like in Jesus' shoes (I mean sandals).

Red Suit Diaries (2003) is available on Amazon in various formats.

Hero (aka Ken Flatt)

Good King Wenceslaus

Was he a real person?

Yes indeed, Wenceslaus I Duke of Bohemia ruled an area around modern Slovakia. He was born in 907 to the Christian Duke Vratislaus; his grandfather had been converted by the famous saints Cyril (who invented the Cyrillic alphabet) and Methodius. His mother, Drahomira, however was pagan, being baptised at the time of her marriage. His Christian paternal grandmother, Ludmila, saw to it that he had a good education.

When Wenceslaus was 13 his father died, leaving Ludmila as Regent. Drahomira seized her chance and arranged to have Ludmila killed, strangled with her own veil. She then had herself declared Regent and set about purging Christians from the Dukedom. She ruled until Wenceslaus was 18 when he organised an uprising, supported by those Christian nobles who survived. The uprising was successful and Drahomira was sent in to exile.

The story goes that in order to avoid bloodshed Wenceslaus challenged a rebel leader, Count Radislas, to single combat. As Radislas advanced he saw two angels standing beside Wenceslaus, who cried out "Stand off!". Radislas instantly repented and the Dukedom was restored to Christianity. Wenceslaus then introduced German priests into his realm and promoted Roman Catholicism, and founded the rotunda which is the basis of St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

Like all medieval rulers he fought constant battles to defend his territory, and quell ambitious noblemen. His younger brother Boleslav plotted with some rebel noblemen to invite Wenceslas to a feast, where he was assassinated, aged only 28.

Did he help the poor?

A very strong oral tradition supports the claim. Within a few decades of his death people were writing tributes to his generosity. Typically: "no one doubts that, rising every night from his noble bed, with bare feet and only one



Statue in Prague

chamberlain, he went around to God's churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty, so much so that he was considered, not a prince, but the father of all the wretched."

He was so famous that the Holy Roman Emperor, Otto the Great, declared him a King and not a mere Duke soon after his death. Pope Pius II also greatly admired this tradition of generosity and made him a saint nearly 500 years afterwards.

The Christmas Carol



The words of "Good King Wenceslas" were written by John Mason Neale in 1853, set to the tune of a 13th century "Carol to Spring". It did not meet with approval from the musical establishment. The 1928 Oxford Book of Carols quotes opinions that it is "doggerel" and "poor and commonplace to the last degree", "but we reprint the tune in its proper setting...not without hope that, with the present wealth of carols for Christmas, *Good King Wenceslas* may gradually pass into disuse".

But of course it didn't. It is one of our most popular carols, popping up in plenty of contemporary settings like Doctor Who. Even The Beatles played it.



Jesus is the Reason

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.

He was born both God and man,
A Saviour for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed His call.

So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason

By Joanna Fuchs, Poemsource.com



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...

Smile lines for December

What do you call Santa's helpers? – Subordinate Clauses.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? – Frostbite.

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.

US elections

Edward Hale, while chaplain of the U.S. Senate, was once asked if he prayed for the senators. He quickly replied, "No. After getting to know the senators, I pray for the people."

Good home

After the christening of his baby brother in church, young Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That minister said he wanted us to be brought up in a good Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys."

Special Services for Christmas and Advent in the Parish of Keynsham 2022

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

Advent Carol Service - 6pm Sunday 27th November

Christingle Service - 5pm Sunday 11th December (A service for all ages)

Carol Service - 6pm Sunday 18th December
(A traditional service of readings & carols)

Crib Service - 5pm Christmas Eve (A service for all ages)

Midnight Communion - 11.30pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Day – 8.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
10.30am Christmas Day Service

St Francis, Keynsham

Community Carol Service - 6pm Sunday 18th December

Christingle - 4pm Christmas Eve (A service for all ages)

Christmas Day - 9.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

St Michael, Burnett

Carol Service - 6pm Monday 12th December

Christmas Day - 11.15am Christmas Day Service

St Margaret, Queen Charlton

Carol Service - 6pm Sunday 18th December

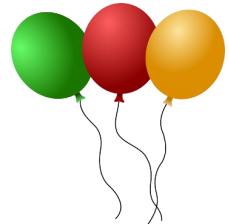
Christmas Day - 10.30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

New Year's Eve is coming soon...

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. – *E K Kruger*

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic piglet under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. – *Alfred Hitchcock*.

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. – *Jonathan Swift*.



His light is never extinguished

As 2022 comes to a close, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine whose country was invaded by Russia on the 24 February this year. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed.

The UK has received more than 100,000 people fleeing from the conflict. The gift of their presence among us reminds us that this is no “quarrel in a far away country, between people of whom we know nothing”.

As we recall once again the coming into the world of Jesus at Christmas, our challenge is to connect our celebration of his birth with the realities and consequences of the conflict that is happening. Sadly, it’s not hard to see the links. Jesus was born in a land (Palestine) that had been annexed by an expansionist foreign power (Rome) in pursuit of its territorial ambitions. The demands of the Roman occupiers meant that Jesus’ birth happened not at home in Nazareth, but at a counting centre - Bethlehem. He was born in a stable because ‘there was no room at the inn’. While still a baby, Jesus became a refugee when taken to Egypt due to warnings of atrocities to come.

Viewed this way, the Christmas story is no sentimental fable. It is a brutal foreshadowing of the events that Ukraine and our whole world have encountered this year. At the same time, it is also a story of hope. For it tells us that even in the very worst that can happen the Christ child whose birth we celebrate knows all too well the realities of the human condition. As a result, in any darkness his light is never extinguished. For he is Emmanuel – God with us.

So as we come to the end of 2022 we give thanks that God is always with us in whatever we face. May he be with Ukraine. May he be with Russia. And may he be welcomed by us all.

A very happy Christmas.

+Michael

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



December 2022

A Christmas message

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Russia in February. In the months since, we have watched in horror as civilians, cities and infrastructure have been attacked, land occupied and atrocities committed.

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Bishop Michael

News in brief

Bishop Michael gifts 1,000 saplings at installation

Preaching on the reading from the Book of Acts Bishop Michael said in his sermon that his gift was an example of just one of the things we can do to bring about the harvest of God's life into God's world and asked all those present "will you plant a sapling as a sign that under God each of us, in every place, can play our part in working for change, for transformation, for life? Small actions that when we undertake them together make a big difference." ■



A service marked with tradition and symbolism

Bishop Michael was installed 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells wearing the Coronation Cope; originally commissioned for the Coronation of HRH Edward VII in 1902. His Oath of Allegiance to the King was taken on Bishop Robert Creyghtone's Bible



Out and about from Bath to Wells

A phrase that has stuck with Bishop Michael from the service when he became a bishop is 'bishops know their people and their people know them'. As he seeks to live out that sentiment, rather than make a conventional car journey home from attending Morning Prayer at Bath Abbey back to Wells on the morning of his installation, Bishop Michael took a different approach, using different forms of transport and meeting people along the way ■

which dates back to 1633, and he received the 15th century episcopal ring ■



You are invited!

Following a series of difficult Christmases, everyone is invited to follow the star and join us at church services and other ways this Christmas.

Why not invite a friend to come along to your church this year? The Talking Jesus Report 2022 indicates that lots of people who are not church-goers are open to receiving an invitation, while many church people are anxious about asking. The Rev Stephen Hance, from the Church of England Vision and Strategy team suggests considering the three 3Ps before you extend your invitation: Pray before you invite someone (after all it is God who draws people); Prepare (what kind of service is your invitee most likely to be interested in) and Petition (in other words, just ask). If that person says no, consider who else may welcome an invitation.

The invitation to join in is not limited to attending church. Why not share the ways they could engage with the reflections for 'Follow the Star: The Great Invitation'. Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing

daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany (6 January), these reflections will help you make space this Christmas. On each of the 12 days, a different contributor will share something that speaks of a Christmas invitation for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and challenge. The reflections will be available via email, audio, via an app and a printed booklet – so anyone can join in.

As Rev Stephen concludes, "It's a beautiful thought that God can use you and me to invite people into his love this Christmastime – and it's true! So who will you invite?" ■



Offering a warm welcome

The community in and around Wiveliscombe has come together to support their Ukrainian guests.



HRH the Countess of Wessex visits St Andrew's to learn about the project.

How did you set up your community support?

When we realised Ukrainian refugees would be coming to our area we realised we would need to have a co-ordinated approach so we set up a community organisation, Wivey Welcomes Refugees. Because of our rural setting we tried to bring people from the same area here together and thanks to the Facebook group, Taunton Homes for Ukraine, we matched about 95 per cent of people.

What support did you offer at first?

Our visitors' first priority was to learn English and that's when we started planning to set up a Welcome Hub. St Andrew's in Wiveliscombe was the first to open their doors to us. They already ran a Café for All on Thursday mornings and made it clear we were welcome to

come and use their space for whatever we wanted to do. One lesson a week quickly became three.

How did that develop?

The wrap around care is important. The community volunteers come into the lessons to help and also offer friendship and trusted practical support for our visitors. The opportunity to build up friendships with fellow Ukrainians, has also been really important, especially for those who are living out in the countryside and not near any fellow Ukrainians, and that has created a wonderful atmosphere.

What about Christmas?

They are strong and resilient people but a Christmas away from home will be challenging and the friendships, hospitality and support will be particularly important. One of our community partners is making plans for Orthodox Christmas on 7 January and we hope to follow up the success of our recent joint service with a Ukrainian/British carol service.

Read more: bathwells.anglican.org/wivey-welcomes

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Living the story. Telling the story.

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December

Slavery has been with the world for thousands of years, but in recent centuries it has taken on an increasingly inhuman and sinister nature that the United Nations calls 'modern slavery'. This prompted the UN to create, in 1949, an 'International Day for the Abolition of Slavery', to be held each year on 2nd December.

In Biblical times there were two common ways someone became a slave – they were either prisoners of war, or people could choose to become one, usually by selling themselves to a wealthy person in exchange for shelter and food. Such slaves could be likened to live-in servants in more modern times, although this does not mean that all slaves were treated fairly.

In the 1600s, slavery took a serious downturn with traders transporting an estimated 12.5 million Africans to the Americas in such dreadful conditions that only 10.7 million survived the journey. It took about 50 years to bring the trade to an end during the 1800s and the repercussions are still rumbling on today. 'Modern Slavery' as recognised by the United Nations in December 1949 is a different, but equally serious issue, and it is this that prompted the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Its focus is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking people, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of child soldiers.

It is estimated that 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9million in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriages. There are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world, with one in four being children. Some 16 million people are exploited in the private sector such as domestic work, construction, or agriculture; 4.8 million people in forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million people in forced labour imposed by state authorities. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors.

The international day on 2nd December 'seeks to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity'.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

“Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice” is the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) 2023.

WPCU is traditionally celebrated between January 18 and January 25 – originally the octave of St Peter and St Paul.

For this Week we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis, as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland writers’ group has also focused our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen’s memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

“As we join with other Christians around the world for this year’s Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.”

Dr Nicola Brady. General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

St. John’s Wives Fellowship

After over seventy years St. John’s Wives Fellowship will be closing at the end of December 2022.

The Group was originally called St. John’s Young Wives Fellowship and was founded by a group of young women in the early years after the second world war. As Christians its aim was to strengthen family life and to help members cope with the still austere times of rationing and the shortage of food and other goods. In those days few mothers with young children went out to work. Over the years the Group grew to as many as eighty members who enjoyed visits to the theatre as well as having interesting speakers and the occasional demonstrations with a summer trip to the seaside and a garden party in June.

Now with fewer members and speakers becoming much more expensive sadly we feel that the time has come for the Group to close. However we hope to meet regularly in a different form to keep our friendships alive and to still support one another.

Greta Bickerton

Connecting with Children and Young People

As we emerge from a series of lockdowns so much of what our local churches do with children and young people has had to begin again. This is an opportunity to do a rethink for all the churches in Keynsham of whatever denomination.

Last October, Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford began to consider how we should work together for our children and young people. Churches Together exists to enhance and augment the work done by individual congregations. Together we can seek to make fresh contact with the many youngsters we do not reach through our Sunday gatherings. While reluctant to invite any one denomination, our non-church schools and other organisations are often open to CTKS. For example, the chaplaincy which is now successfully getting off the ground at the Wellsway Academy is sponsored and funded through CTKS. In the past, CTKS has distributed bibles in the primary schools but that has now all but come to an end.

So where to next? What can we do through CTKS to reach out to our children and young people?



CTKS is launching an initiative to seek achievable goals based on a Spirit-led desire to:

- Properly listen to children and young people and those who care for them.
- Genuinely love them and try to serve them.
- Find out what our youngsters need.
- Think of ways we, as Churches Together, can address a few of those needs.

While want to be ambitious, we should concentrate on a few and do them well rather than a lot and find we are too thinly spread. This is the strength of being together. Quality over quantity is the name of the game.

So this is a call to all church members in Keynsham and Saltford to come up with your ideas, opportunities and priorities. With what ideas would you like CTKS to approach our schools or other organisations? What could we do to fill in

the gaps which those who care for children and young people need help with? In what ways can we serve them as people of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, which will be accepted and welcomed by secular institutions?

Please send your ideas to me by email <revtrev.stubbs@gmail.com> or text/ Whatsapp 07967566223 or contact me through my author website <www.trevorstubbs.co.uk> or post to the Keynsham Parish Office, 1 The Park, Keynsham, BS31 2RL.

I'm looking forward to being snowed under (an appropriate term in mid-winter!) by all your ideas and we'll see if there is a pattern that emerges. I am excited about this, I hope you are, too!

Thank you.

Trevor Stubbs

Church leaders in Ukraine continue to protest against Russia

The leaders of Churches in Ukraine have urged Christian leaders in the West to help to try and persuade Russia to comply with humanitarian standards of behaviour, and to stop indiscriminately attacking civilians and torturing prisoners and deportees.

The All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations has said “the Russian Federation has significantly stepped-up acts of terror and genocide, using a wide arsenal of missile armaments.” They go on: “Russian officials do not hide their criminal desire to destroy the vital infrastructure of Ukrainian cities on the eve of cold winter in order to destabilise the socio-political situation, to sow fear and panic...”

The Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I has told a Roman Catholic news agency that he has made “heated and fraternal appeal” to Russia’s Patriarch Kirill to distance himself from Moscow’s aggression and “unjustified bloodshed”.

However, preaching recently in Nizhny Novgorod, Patriarch Kirill assured Russian troops that they would be protected by the Virgin Mary and St Seraphim of Sarov in vanquishing “forces of evil” and those who had “taken up arms against Holy Russia.”

The Primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk and the head of Ukraine’s independent Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko) have also voiced their opposition to the Russian Orthodox Church’s position.

The logo for 'curo' is written in a lowercase, white, sans-serif font inside a light green circle. The background of the entire poster is a teal color decorated with white snowflakes, a small robin perched on a branch in the top right, and a snowman in the bottom right. There are also illustrations of wrapped gifts with red and white striped paper and a small white tree at the bottom.

Tickets
£5

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your own way to the event. Let us know if you need
help arranging transport.

Dreams

Never throw your dreams away
Keep them for another day
For fortune shines on those who persist
Regret is the reward for opportunities missed
So, stand by them with drive and ambition
Then your dreams will come to fruition
Always have that possibility to renew
Maybe someday they will come true

Les Benson

*Taken from his newly published book Women
of a Certain Age*

What is your cat doing?

If you live with a cat, you will know the scenario: it is late at night and you want to go to bed, but the cat is sitting maddeningly just out of reach on the garden path. You keep calling 'kitty kitty' in your sweetest tones, and in response the cat twitches an ear - and just goes on sitting there. *WHY?*



Now researchers in France have discovered that your worst suspicions are right – cats *do indeed know their names, and they are fully aware when you are talking to them.*

In tests, veterinary students found that cats definitely do know their owner's voice. Cats can even differentiate between when you are talking to them or when you are talking to your friends. They *know.*

So why don't they always respond? Sadly, no researcher has yet discovered the reason for feline impudence.

David Pickup offers the following challenge to those who love quizzes....

Christmas Quiz 2022

- How did No Vac Novak become No Match Novak?
- 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. What did they choose?
- Which rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that?
- What unexpected occurrence at the Winter Olympics caused problems in the icy setting?
- He would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote The hippopotamus song mud, mud, glorious mud
- What was the career of the President of Ukraine before he entered politics?
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock, What film did Smith go on to get an Oscar for?
- What were the following "gates"? Why are they called "gates"? Partygate - Tractorgate - Beergate
- In May a footballer's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million. Whose was it?
- What were two places outside the UK that gained city status?
- There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. Which film features the line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me."?
- A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the Platinum Jubilee was Paddington Bear. Who voiced Paddington in the Ukrainian language version of the film?
- The actor who played the Revd Timothy Farthing passed away this year. What comedy series did he appear in?
- At the age of nearly 90, he published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years Of Doing Absolutely Everything* - and its advice was simple. "Do your best and be grateful for every single job". Who was he?
- Which actress was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King?
- Where did Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge?

Answers on p 24

Christmas Quiz 2022 answers

- No Vac Novak became No Match Novak because Novak Djokovic was due to play at the Australian Open but prevented because he had declined a covid vaccination.
- 35 years ago ITV wanted a detective story set within 50 miles of the Midlands to rival BBC's Agatha Christie stories. They choose to the Morse stories.
- Meatloaf was the rock star who died in January and would do anything for love, but not that.
- It snowed at the Winter Olympics caused problems as the organisers had not expected it.
- Actor and singer Michael Flanders would have celebrated his 100th birthday in March and was one of a duo who wrote the hippopotamus song *Mud, mud, and glorious mud*.
- Before he entered politics the President of Ukraine was a comedian.
- At the Oscars Will Smith had an incident with the comedian, Chris Rock. Smith go on to get an Oscar for the film called *King Richard*
- Partygate was the furore about parties held in Downing Street.
- Tractorgate was the alleged incident when an MP looked at inappropriate material online during a session of the House of Commons.
- Beergate was a political controversy concerning allegations that an event in Durham in April 2021 could have been in breach of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The police, after investigating, cleared the attendees.
- Controversies are often named "gates" after the Watergate scandal.
- In May footballer Diego Maradona's shirt was sold for the record breaking £7.1 million.
- The two places outside the UK that gained city status this year were Ramsey on the Isle of Man and Stanley in the Falklands. Before you google it the Isle of Man is not part of the UK.
- There was a television series this year called *Infamy*. The line, "Infamy, infamy, they've all got it in for me!" comes from *Carry on Cleo* 1964 and was spoken by Kenneth Williams.
- A surprise guest of Her Majesty for tea over the jubilee was Paddington Bear. Paddington was played by Ukrainian President in the Ukrainian language version of the film.
- The actor who played Rev Timothy Farthing passed away this year. He was Frank Williams in the BBC television sitcom *Dad's Army*. He became a prominent lay leader in the Church of England.
- At the age of nearly 90, Bernard Cribbins published an autobiography looking back on his years in show business in 2018. Its title was *Bernard Who? 75 Years of Doing Absolutely Everything*.
- Nichelle Nichols who played Uhura in the Star Trek franchise was ordered not to quit a science fiction series by Martin Luther King
- Dan Snow reportedly urge tourists to visit Durham instead of (or possibly as well as) Stonehenge.

Hope you enjoyed the quiz and remembered some of these events and people from 2022

Notes from the PCC (Not Minutes)

The PCC met on 8 November 2022 and, of the matters discussed, the following may be of particular interest:

Usual reports were received from the **churchwardens**, again highlighting their commitment and dedication to their role

Sadly, Mike's **mission report** was to be his last. However, it again highlighted how much involvement Mike has in the community which will be greatly missed.

Members received an update on the progress of **Chewton Church**. It has now been officially registered with Land Registry and the next step is to obtain valuation prior to sale.

Parish Children and Families Worker post received very little response so the PCC decided to continue to explore various options as to where we may go from here.

PCC agreed a **Pastoral Letter** from the Clergy team regarding future clergy numbers in the parish

The parish **Safeguarding Policy** was reviewed and agreed following including Wendy Harwood's (PSO) new email address. It will appear on Church notices boards in due course.

The **2023 budget** was received and agreed although in the light of these difficult financial times may need to be reviewed as the year goes on.

Worldwide Mission Committee made a recommendation of our next mission partner. Sue Sprague will publish this as soon as possible.

Information regarding **external lighting for St John's** tower clock was shared as was possible improvements to **heating at St Francis'**

Sue Lloyd

PCC Lay Chair (November 2022)

St John's DCC meeting – 15th November 2022

Summary of the Meeting.

Tim Edwards opened the meeting with a prayer.

A vision for St John's. It was agreed that the 'Waiting for God' flyer created following discussions around a shared vision for St John's will be considered by the congregation at a Sunday Service in the near future.

First impressions. Samuel Shackleton, the new Music Director was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Sam shared his first impressions of St Johns. He commented on the wealth of talented musicians and choristers and the great work being done to grow the children's choir. He would like to focus on enriching worship through music, and mission and outreach.

Together @10.30am service. Steve Daws gave a visual presentation of the different options for the layout of seating arrangements for the contemporary service when it moves from the hall into the church. Two pews on each side of the main aisle have been removed temporarily. The seating options are 1) for chairs arranged in a curve, 2) chairs arranged in angled rows and 3) a setup of tables and chairs (café style). The options will be considered by the Together at 10.30am congregation.

Service times. After much discussion at this and at earlier meetings and after considering the data from the St John's Church Survey, the DCC agreed a pattern of services from 8th January 2023. There will be Sunday services at 9.15am and 11.00am. On festival dates and 5th Sunday's there will be a service at 8.30am with a combined service at 10.30am.

Development - Staff and Clergy It was noted

there have been no viable applications for the role of Children and Family worker. The PCC will give further consideration to the matter.

the issue of the proposed reduction in clergy numbers will be considered by the PCC Clergy Redeployment group. The parish DCC's have given feedback to the group.

Church Building It was noted that the faculty for the upgrade to the church lighting has been approved. Work is likely to commence after Christmas and will take around 3 weeks.

The DCC agreed a proposal for the illumination of the church clock face and west side of the tower. Some funding has already been promised and there is an opportunity to apply for a grant.

Finance The DCC were not in a position to adopt the 2023 budget, it will be discussed at the January meeting when more figures will be known.

It was noted that church gas and electric usage is being monitored. It is estimated that the cost to heat the church for a service is £55.

The DCC agreed to a proposed heating surcharge for the hire of the hall and church. For one off events e.g. parties the surcharge will be an additional 40% of the hire charge and for regular hall users an additional 20%.

The Treasurer brought to the attention of the meeting a trial for a new parish giving system which centralises giving and helps to reduce the work the Treasurer has to do once things are set up.

Reports The Pastoral Team report and Mission reports were noted. Mike Burke was thanked for his final mission report, the many community initiatives he has been involved in were acknowledged.

Miscellaneous - The Warm Keynsham initiative. The meeting was informed that a leaflet to advertise the initiative would hopefully be available in time for the Winter Festival. It will include a map of all the warm spaces in Keynsham and other helpful advice.

Keynsham parish hall will provide a warm space on Monday's from 2.00-4.00pm.

These are not official minutes

Deborah Hall - St John's DCC Secretary

Farm Diary

In the Field. The wet weather in early November meant we did not plant our beans as planned. It was too wet to get the required traction and being so wet risked spoiling the soil structure. Patience is the order of the day. We bought a winter variety but our agronomist who advises on all sorts of matters with the crops said it was a spring variety with good winter tolerance so that it could be planted almost any time over the winter. The rain continues preventing further field work.

Net Zero. The farming industry is aiming for this. We have not calculated our carbon footprint yet as there are numerous methods and they produce different answers. However, our activities are reducing our carbon footprint significantly. Ploughing typically uses 8 to 15 litres of diesel per acre depending on the toughness of the soil and the shape of the field. Power harrowing which is the least necessary additional cultivation on all but very sandy soils uses another 10 litres per acre. Drilling will use approximately another 10 litres per acre. With our strip till drill we are using 3 - 4 litres per acre in total which is a dramatic difference. Also we have a gasification wood burning boiler that reduces our heating oil consumption. When we will reach net zero is another completely different matter.

Country Roads. There is a sad statistic that deaths on country roads are several times higher per passenger mile than on city roads. In our village the roads are generally single track. It is essential in this circumstance to be able to stop within the distance that one can see. This means one cannot blithely whiz round corners.

Richard Graham



Pictures Courtesy of Rob Judge

Parish Register & Diary for December

BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
6 th November	Jordan Kingsley Davis	St John's
	Zion Jahvaree Davis	"
	Max George Lea Barry	"
	Florence Lacey Victoria Robins	"

DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
13 th October	Joan Ellison	86

DIARY - DECEMBER

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
3 rd	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
4 th	6pm	Impact Club	Parish Hall
4 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
6 th	7pm	PCC Standing Committee	Upper Room
6 th	8.15pm	St John's DCC Standing Committee	Upper Room
7 th	7.30pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
10 th	7.30pm	Avon & Somerset Police Male Voice Choir Concert	St John's
11 th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
14 th	7.45pm	Wives Group	Parish Hall
17 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
18 th	6pm	Impact Club	Parish Hall
18 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT



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