

# contact

*The Parish of Keynsham magazine*



**February 2023**



**Christ in the Wilderness- Scorpions. By Stanley Spencer**

### **Forty Days and Forty Nights**

Lent begins at the end of this month: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. He completed nine, one of which is 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.'

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in Cookham in Berkshire. A villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure, a great contrast to the Christ of stained-glass windows. There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

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[www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion](http://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion)

# 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: 11.15am - **Holy Communion.**

## St Michael's, Burnett

2nd & 4th Sundays: **Holy Communion (1662)**  
11.15am

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

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### MISSION PARTNERS:

**TLM Mission partner: Bangladesh: *Dr Ruth Butlin***

**CMS Mission Partners: Kenya: *Aaron Stanbury***

**CMS Prayer partner: *Ruth Radley***

**Chipata South Parish, Zambia.**

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*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](http://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](mailto:office@keynshamparish.org.uk), by phone on 0117 986 3354, or in person during opening hours.

Office Manager: Judy Walker - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

## Team Rector:

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

## Team Vicar - St Francis:

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

## Curate - Keynsham Parish:

*Rev'd Nigel Williams* - Tel: 07850887498

## Pioneer Missioner:

*Trevor James* - Tel: 07368 526997

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## 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](mailto:safeguarding@keynshamparish.org.uk)

## Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

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

St Francis: *vacant*

[samshackleton@keynshamparish.org.uk](mailto: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*



## Calling all Children

It would be splendid if we could have a regular children's contributions page in Contact. There are a lot of children associated with the church, in the Together At--- services , in youth groups and attending schools that have links to the church. I am sure many of us would enjoy, for example, poems, accounts of local events and pictures giving us a child's eye view of the world.

If you are in touch with our parish's children, perhaps as a parent, grand -parent, teacher or family friend, please do encourage or help them to send in contributions, I would love to hear from them.

The address is [keynshamcontact@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamcontact@gmail.com)

*Kathleen McCarthy*

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# Message of the Month

February 2023



## Dust and Ashes

In 1915, archaeologists in London uncovered a distinctive reddish brown ashy layer about 13 feet down and nearly 16 inches deep (pre-metric days). On examination, it consisted of burnt wattle-and-daub, molten glass, broken tile and blackened pottery. This same ashy layer has been discovered at excavations both North and South of the River Thames – clearly evidence of burning and destruction on a massive scale.

The date for the burnt layer appears to be AD 60 – about the time that Queen Boudicca of the Iceni tribe went on the rampage, slaughtering around 70 000 Romans and burning Londinium. It's a story of betrayal, humiliation and revenge.

We can imagine the terror and pain represented by these dead, ashy remains. We see daily heart-breaking images of the smoking ruins of residential areas in Ukraine: Mariupol, Volnovakha, Rubizhne, Popasna, Lyman and Sievierodonetsk, all destroyed. Those with long memories can remember when parts of London, or Bristol, were reduced to ash and rubble in the bombing and firestorms of the Second World War. It seems that this shameful, sinful layer of ash and darkness can be found throughout all of human history.

Archaeologists bring long buried remains, including those ashy layers of destruction, into the light of day. Rather than relying on the heroic whitewash stories written in retrospect by the victors, they seek to understand the evidence objectively, and acknowledge the real lives of ordinary unremembered people, giving them voice. A sort of redemption.

All sin, great or small, darkens and obscures our relationship with God and damages human relationships. God aches to restore relationships. To recognise where lies the damage, open eyed honesty is required, and sometimes the help of others. Once we can see, or excavate, that dark ash layer, recognise what it represents without pretence, with sorrow and penitence in our hearts, then we can know the healing, forgiveness and joy that is ours through Jesus.

Ash... In ancient Jewish culture, covering oneself with dust and ashes (usually accompanied by the wearing of sackcloth) was a customary gesture of intense grief. The dust and ashes symbolized having been brought low, all the way to the ground.

So marking oneself with ash became a sign of penance, expressing sorrow to God for turning from God's ways, and asking for forgiveness. This custom was adopted by the church and today many churches (including ours) still have special Ash Wednesday services, with ashing, to mark the start of Lent.

However, these symbolic actions are meaningless without a true change of direction. God is less interested in us 'bowing one's head like a reed and lying on sackcloth and ashes' than in us 'loosing the chains of injustice..and setting the oppressed free' [Isaiah 58: 5-7].

A layer of ash is dead and useless without an archaeologist to interpret it, or indeed a practical person to use it. I found a website listing 70 uses for ash in house and garden, including soil improvement, pest control, as a cleaning agent, pottery glaze, cooking ingredient, for treating wounds, tattooing, deodorising and making soap!

Ash Wednesday is full of powerful symbolism – the palm crosses from the previous year are burnt to ash, mixed with oil and marked onto our foreheads in the sign of a cross. This represents our penitent state and symbolises all that is dead and broken in us and in the world and looks forward in hope to Easter and Resurrection. The ash of sin becomes an element in our healing.

So, whatever you do to mark the season of Lent, may it be a time to discover the power of God to reach and renew the dust and ashes of our lives.

*Rachel Shaw*



**A BIG WELCOME TO FATHER  
BERNARD PHIRI, VISITING  
KEYNSHAM FROM CHIPATA SOUTH,  
ZAMBIA 11 -17 FEBRUARY.**

## New Year's Day Eco Church

The first Sunday of every month is now the day St Francis Church hosts the Eco Church. This used to be at Chewton Keynsham but since the decision to close Chewton church St Francis has taken up the role.



So, the 1st of January 2023 was also the first Sunday of the month and thus due to be Eco Church day. Instead of meeting in St Francis as normal for breakfast it was decided to visit the Sanctuary Garden that Trevor James, our pioneer minister, has set up in the allotments on Dapps Hill.

Being New Year's Day, it was anticipated that attendance might be small but, on the contrary, a good number both young and old arrived to take advantage of the bacon baps Trevor was cooking on his fire pit together with croissants and coffee. After breakfast Trevor led us into Dwelling in the Word from Galatian's 6: v1-10. It was amazing to hear the birds joining in with the worship and have the rushing river running by. Finally, we were all given a piece of wood to use with the confession in which we were invited to cast our wood with our sins onto the fire as an act of repentance.

After breakfast, those who were able had a muddy walk along the banks of a very swollen river to Chewton Kensham and some very welcome mince pies and mulled wine!

*Robert Cook*





## Now it's all over

**On the first day** of Christmas my true love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

**On the second day** of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked in to our turkey, a most delicious bird.

**On the third day** of Christmas came people from next door  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

**The fourth day** of Christmas came relations young and old,  
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

**On the fifth day** of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried  
But we were nice and warm inside, we had the turkey curried.

**On the sixth day** of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died  
The children fought and bickered, we had the turkey fried.

**On the seventh day** of Christmas, my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.

**On the eighth day** of Christmas the dog had run for shelter,  
He's seen our turkey pancakes and a glass of Alka Seltzer.

**On the ninth day** of Christmas , by lunchtime Dad was blotto.  
He knew the bird was back again, this time as risotto.

**On the tenth day** of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,  
And if that wasn't bad enough we were eating turkey stew.

**On the eleventh day** of Christmas , the Christmas tree was moulting,  
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting.

**On the twelfth day** of Christmas, we had smiles upon our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too, we dined on FISH AND CHIPS.

With thanks to Patricia Lewis

## Disowning the Violence

Challenging the disturbing image of God in the Old Testament

by Tina Stubbs



Old Testament God

Magazines often carry a disclaimer: “The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor.” I think it would be a good idea if every bible came with a similar disclaimer: “The views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of God.” A great deal of misunderstanding would be avoided.

The bible is invaluable because it brings us the amazingly good news that God loves us so much that he was willing to become a human being, living, dying and rising again so that we can share eternal life with him. As Christians we believe that it is in Jesus that we can come closest to understanding what God is really like.

There is much to value in the Old Testament and it is essential for understanding the New Testament but if we accept it as a literally true historical record, it gives a very distorted and disturbing image of God’s character, which cannot be reconciled with the loving God we see in Jesus. God orders multiple genocides, kills thousands through plagues and other harsh punishments, rejects disabled people, endorses slavery and the subjugation of women and condemns whole nations for generations to come.

In sharp contrast, Jesus healed. The gospels give snapshots but it probably amounted to thousands of people. He taught and practised non-violence, forgiveness and love for everyone including enemies. He passionately confronted injustice and discrimination. We need to read the Old Testament through the lens of Jesus. God has not changed. What we believe about him has. Much of the Old Testament was written hundreds of years before Jesus and describes events which supposedly happened hundreds of years before that. It tells us what ancient civilizations believed about God within their time and cultures, rather than what God is really like. Ideas constantly change and develop over time and we can see this process within the bible.

*Disowning the Violence* develops this theme with varied examples and suggests that how we interpret the bible as a whole, enables us to discount the horrific images of God which we find in parts of the Old Testament. It is Jesus who shows us the truth.

**Available from Tina or the Parish Office at £4.00.** (Publisher: The Listening People, 15 Cleave Grove, Keynsham. Bristol, BS31 2HF. ISBN: 978-1-915288-05-09)

If you have read the book thank you and I would value feedback. Do you agree/disagree/find the argument convincing/ want to ask questions/are there issues left out/have you had concerns about some OT stories/ did you find my answers helpful??? Can we have an ongoing discussion?

[tina.m.stubbs@gmail.com](mailto:tina.m.stubbs@gmail.com)

## Shop in the Parish Office!

Did you know there is a small range of items on sale in the Parish Office? These mostly raise funds for the church or the Friends of St. John's and all are excellent value. You will find:-

### **Stationery items.**

Lovely notelets showing a water colour of the front of the church. £3 for 6.

Another painting of the church front. Cards £2, coasters £3.

### **Books.**

History of St John's by the late Elizabeth White. A comprehensive and well researched account. £5.

Guide Book to the Church. Another really useful book if you would like to know more. £2

Both these books are amazingly good value.

**Assorted paperbacks.** There are a few copies, all with some St. John's connection:

The Fading Smile. Mike Burke £5

The Kicking Tree. Trevor Stubbs £8.99

Merry Christmas Everyone. An anthology. £6

God's Fingerprints. John Samways. £6.99

Stardust. Trevor Stubbs £6.00

**And St. John's new best seller**, reviewed in this issue of Contact:

Disowning the Violence. Tina Stubbs. £4

We await a new print run, it will be available again very soon.

### **Book Review - "Disowning the Violence" by Tina Stubbs**

Tina contrasts the destructive and cruel image of God, as portrayed in the Old Testament, with the loving Jesus who brought Christianity to us in the New Testament. Does the image of a destructive and cruel God disturb you? If so, this book is a must for you. It is short, well researched and written. Tina is a lay person and her book is powerful, yet easy to read. Tina writes on the back cover of the book, "Many horrific acts are attributed to God for which the God we see in Jesus could never have been responsible". Tina's book is in my opinion a must for all Christians to read.

*John McLennan*

## Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

Each year the Fairtrade Foundation promotes Fairtrade Fortnight, to encourage us to remember the plight of so many small producers, especially in developing countries, who struggle to receive fair payment for their produce. The Foundation works hard to support and protect these producers through a variety of schemes.



This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink. This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

**You can help** three ways during this Fortnight.

**First**, why not join an online *Big Fairtrade Get Together*? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future.

**Secondly**, *let your friends know* of any Fairtrade events in your area.

**Thirdly**, and very important, buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots else.

For more information, visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

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### Beat the Scammers

A safety tip for if you are buying something using your credit/debit card, and you are not entirely sure how reliable the seller is:

Insert your card in the machine, and then input an incorrect PIN number. The machine should come up with a message saying incorrect PIN, please enter again. In which case you can enter your correct PIN and complete the transaction.

If the machine accepts the incorrect pin number, and gives a receipt, it is a counterfeit machine trying to take your PIN number to access your account. Remove your card and refuse the transaction, safe in the knowledge that they have not got your correct PIN number, nor been able to take any money from your account.

So it's a simple way to keep safe.

## St. Cyril and St. Methodius

St Valentine is not the only saint commemorated on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Saints Cyril and Methodius may be much less famous in Britain, but their work for the church lives on over the centuries.

Cyril and Methodius were brothers, born into a wealthy family in Thessalonica, in 826 and 815 respectively. Their upbringing destined them for lives of respect and influence.

Methodius, the elder brother, was appointed governor in a Slav province of the Roman Empire, although within a few years he became a monk on Mount Olympus. Meanwhile his younger brother, Cyril, went to Constantinople, becoming a lecturer in philosophy and a prestigious librarian.



In 863, the ruler of Moravia, Rostislav, asked the Roman Emperor Michael III in Constantinople to send him some Christian teachers, who could conduct services and teach his people in the Slavonic tongue. The emperor chose Cyril and Methodius.

It was a daunting task as the Slavonic language had not yet been written down. Nonetheless, the brothers methodically set about their great work. Cyril used his academic ability to create an alphabet which eventually became the Cyrillic alphabet. The brothers then used this written language to teach Christianity in Slavonic, and to provide a way for the Moravians to worship in their own language. The brothers translated much of the liturgy and the gospels to this form.

During their time in Moravia, the brothers faced opposition from missionaries of the German Church, who believed that the official languages of the church should only be Hebrew, Greek or Latin. But the Pope supported the brothers, and made them both bishops.

Cyril and Methodius are highly honoured as men who pioneered the use of the local language in church services, an idea which only spread to Western Europe centuries later. Cyril would have been astonished if he had known the eventual consequences of his hard work. The Slavonic language spread quickly, Cyril became known as the Father of Slavonic Literature; his work went on to become the language of the Liturgy in the Russian Church. The Cyrillic alphabet, with local variations, remains in widespread use throughout Eastern Europe to this day.



## Welcome to Aaron Stanbury

Please join me and the Worldwide Mission Committee in welcoming our new CMS Mission Partner, Aaron Stanbury. Aaron will be joining us at St. John's on Sunday 26th February.



Aaron attended St. Mellitus Theological, Ministry & Mission College, and has experience of working in an orphanage in Rwanda. He will be working as an assistant teacher in the massive Westland slums of Nairobi, building relationships with 7-10 year olds, and preparing children for integration to public school for the education they need to help them out of poverty.

In these slums there is no access to clean water or electricity & raw sewage runs in the 'streets'. By sharing Jesus' love through his work, Aaron hopes to encourage children to explore their aptitudes to enable them to break out of the cycle of poverty & deprivation in the slum. He will teach life skills, coach football and other sports as well as provide basic education. The organisation 'Kids for Kids' will provide these vulnerable youngsters with two meals per day, as well as encouraging them to invest in basic literacy and numeracy skills in a safe, loving environment.

May I encourage you to remember Aaron & the children of Westlands in your prayers, where he will be working as a true disciple of Christ. We look forward to meeting Aaron at both the 9.15 & 11am services.

*Diana Nutt*

*I once heard the story of a little girl who learned in Sunday school that we came from dust and that we are going back to dust. When she got home she asked her mother if this is true? "Yes, darling, that's true" her mother replied. The little girl then said: "Well, I just looked under the bed and someone is either coming or going." (Lou Nicholes - Author/Missionary).*

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



February 2023

## Giving life to our churches

**W**hat does ministry look like where you are? Does it look the same as it did five years ago? In Bath and Wells we have been encouraging the bubbling up of a variety of ministries – lay and ordained – as we seek to release the gifts of all and, in the process, help to give life to the Church.

Suse Osmond, Vicar of St Mary's Bridgwater says, "Everybody has a gift to bring to their church and when people are encouraged to use those gifts that's when church works best. There are a million and one things that I am not gifted with and welcome those with the gifts to support me - we all need others to support us."

In St Mary's, Suse has been challenging the perception that only the vicar can lead worship by encouraging others in small ways; asking others to lead Café Church worship, think of creative ways to pray, or a develop a theme for a particular service. Those blessed with other gifts are also recognised, including café volunteers, who offer pastoral care not just a hot drink,



Revd Suse (right) with Bishop Michael and St Mary's cafe volunteers.

and a church member with a passion for positive mental health is being encouraged to explore ways the church can offer a combination of mental health and spiritual support.

Says Revd Suse, "We can be nervous about starting something new as we feel we don't have enough people but I have found that if you step out in faith the support can come. In times of crisis, for example when we wanted to support Ukrainian refugees, the community has heard our story and stepped in to help. We have also found volunteers on websites such as Spark Somerset. One volunteer, who ended up joining our congregation, has since volunteered her gifts to become our new PCC Secretary."

Want to encourage a conversation about what church looks like where you are? Visit [bathandwells.org.uk/enabling-ministries](https://bathandwells.org.uk/enabling-ministries) ■

# News in brief

## Everyone, everywhere growing in faith

People throughout Bath and Wells are exploring growing in faith in the first week of February in our Everyday Faith event.

The event started with a Zoom service on Sunday 29 January and every day during the week people are exploring the themes of Growth, Rhythms, Others, Word, Together and Hope before taking the opportunity to come together on Saturday, 4 February. You can still sign up during the week of the event and access the resources when the week is over.

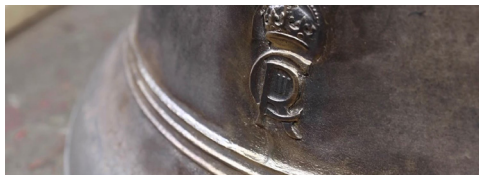
[Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event](https://bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event) ■



## Threads through Creation

Bath Abbey is hosting 'Threads through Creation', a stunning exhibition of twelve enormous, embroidered silk panels that explore the story of Creation.

Inspired by the verses of Genesis, the first book in the Bible, textile artist Jacqui Parkinson re-imagines this ancient story in a vibrant



## Ring in the changes

A set of church bells from St Peter and St Paul's, North Curry are the first to be cast with the new cypher of King Charles III. The community raised £150,000 for the bells to be recast and some have visited the foundry to witness the recasting, including the church's vicar, the Revd Simon Bale. He says, "To see the bells actually poured into the cast is quite something. It's quite emotional, frankly. I was able to say a prayer of thanksgiving and of hope and gratitude as well for all this being done." The bells won't return to Somerset until later in the year ■



combination of layers of silk, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers and gold leaf, miles of thread – and more than eight million stitches!

The exhibition opened in January and will run until 19 March ■

# Looking out for Jesus

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Culture, it's said, is 'how things get done around here'. This suggests that our understanding of the world is largely formed by our experiences and what we're accustomed to. That's all fine until everything around us, as it does, keeps on changing. Then we're then set on a collision course between how we think things should be, and how they actually are. Anybody aged over 40 who's had to ask a nine year old how to use their new phone will understand this dilemma perfectly.

Cultural collisions aren't just restricted to technology. They affect churches too. Many of us grew up with a model of church set up by the Victorians. This mostly meant that each parish had one church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. Yet even this was new in its day. Look much further back and things worked very differently. The New Testament speaks of churches where lots of different people played many different roles, each operating out of the particular skills and gifts

given them by God. In Ephesians the writer describes a church where 'some [are] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers'.

So what would be the right model of church for our day? The Victorians' assumption that the vicar would do almost everything would seem to be a crying waste of the gifts and passions that together we share. And as more of our clergy care for three, six or more parishes, the nineteenth century model is increasingly leaving our vicars tired, overstretched and liable to burn out.

We need a better way; one that draws on the rich talents, abilities and skills that our church members have. Here in Bath and Wells we're calling this 'shared local ministry'. Examples of what that can look like exist in many places around our diocese. Neither first century nor nineteenth century, but an emerging twenty first century way of how we want 'to get things done around here'. A better way to inhabit well the faith we've inherited in our time and generation.

Bishop Michael ■

# Inspiring faith

Julian Spicer is one of nine Lay Worship Assistants licensed in Quantock Towers benefice last year.



Julian Spicer (back row, left) and his fellow LWAs were licensed in March.

## What made you all train up?

We had advance notice of our rector retiring and as churchwardens are practical problem-solving people and knew, post-Covid, how important it is for people to have confidence that we are maintaining our normal service pattern. We went out and asked our congregations who would like to join us and train up and in total nine of us trained up, including five churchwardens.

## How did you find the training?

It was only four Saturday mornings, with just 11 people in total from our deanery, so it felt very comfortable. We felt there was a real benefit in us all taking the same training and getting a common grounding, even though churchwardens can already take services if needed.

## Have you enjoyed being an LWA?

I think some people have found it a growth experience. They feel they really have moved on from one place to another place and we are all very happy to carry on doing services when we have a vicar back. We also have two more people in training so we will soon have 11 LWAs which is great.

## Are you looking forward to having a vicar back?

There is a bit of a sense of 'we've proved we can do it but don't want to do it on our own forever'. It will be nice not to have to worry about finding someone to take a christening, for example.

## Have you got any advice for someone considering training to be an LWA?

There is a real satisfaction in getting on with the role. If you feel it is something you want to do and would like to do, then it probably is something you could do as in some way it is a kind of self-selecting role.

Read more about Julian's experience of being an LWA, including establishing a nationwide Facebook groups for LWAs: [bathwells.anglican.org/quantock-lwa](https://bathwells.anglican.org/quantock-lwa)

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**Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



## Update from Bishop Peter

*Many people have asked after Bishop Peter since he retired due to ill health. He recently sent this short update to share with everyone...*

We have moved to Cranleigh in Surrey and have been busy during the past year with building work on our new home. One of the joys of living where we do means that we see much more of our family including our five grandchildren.



Bishop Peter at St John's

I have been made an Assistant Bishop in Guildford Diocese and enjoy taking services and confirmations and offering pastoral care and support to parish clergy.

We look back with gratitude and fondness for our time in Bath and Wells and are very grateful to everyone for your love, support and prayers especially during my treatment for leukaemia. It is hard to believe that it will soon be two years since I received my stem cell transplant and we continue to give thanks to the Lord and the amazing NHS for my recovery. Every day is a wonderful gift in which to praise God and to enjoy all the blessings he gives.

With my warmest greetings in the Lord.

*Bishop Peter Hancock*

### **A selection of special days in February**

- 2nd Candlemas
- 7th Safer Internet Day
- 9th National Toothache Day
- 11th International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 14th Valentine's Day
- 17th Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18th Real Bread Week
- 20th World Day of Social Justice
- 21st Shrove Tuesday
- 22nd Ash Wednesday,
- 22nd World Thinking Day

## A Prayer for Candlemas from HART

Lord, we remember before you those whom this world has taught to expect nothing. We are astonished when we meet them by the grace and graciousness they can show. May they share in your riches.

We pray for those told by the world that they are worthless.

May your love teach and reassure them that they are precious and priceless and loved.

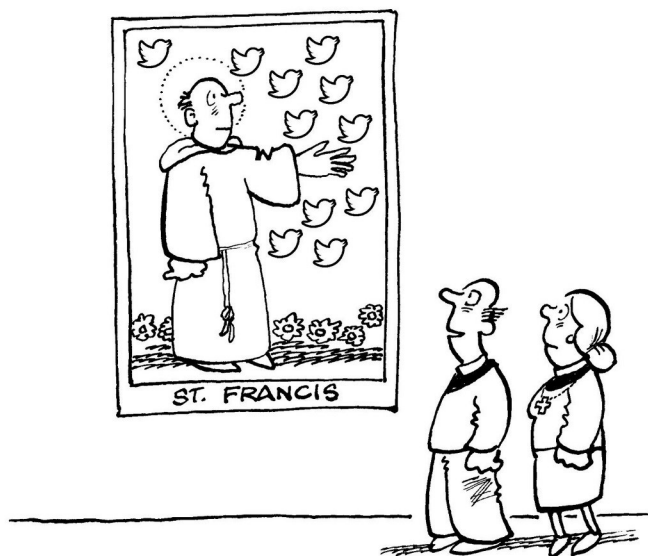
We pray for those who are treated as expendable and forgettable.

May HART, by my small efforts and support, reach them with your Love.

And may they always be in our hearts as they are always in yours.

We offer this prayer through the Jesus who heard every cry. Amen.

*The Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) was founded by Baroness Caroline Cox who is also its CEO. It works with 14 partners in 8 countries. HART believes that local people are best placed to understand their own needs, and that they should be at the helm of development efforts. More information from: [www.hart-uk.org/](http://www.hart-uk.org/)*



*He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!*

## Avon Needs Trees

Avon Needs Trees is a Bristol-based charity that buys land in the Bristol-Avon river catchment area to create permanent woodlands. The charity will soon begin planting at two exciting new sites, one in the Chew Valley and the other near Shepton Mallet. Over the coming two months, volunteers will help to plant thousands of native trees provided by the Woodland Trust.

### Get out on the land!

Dave Wood, Director of Avon Needs Trees, who lives in the Chew Valley, explained:

*“We are very excited to embark on these two new projects, and one of them is by far our most ambitious project to date. This means that we need to mobilise hundreds of new volunteers in the region. With their help we will create woodlands that will stand for generations to come. So we are spreading the word and hope that people will sign up and become part of our growing community!”*

People can find out more and register as volunteers at Avon Needs Trees’ website [www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/volunteering). Planting days happen during the week as well as Saturdays and Sundays so there are opportunities to suit everyone.

Avon Needs Trees volunteer Celia Stevens told us:

*“I love being an ANT volunteer. You get to be outside with a bunch of interesting people and learn so much. Knowing the trees you plant will make a real difference to the climate, improve biodiversity and offer wild places for future generations is a great feeling. I would really recommend it.”*



Credit: Russell Hughes

### Why plant woodlands in our region?

England is one of the least forested countries in Europe, with only 10% woodland cover compared with an average of 38% in the European Union<sup>2</sup>. The West Country has even less at only 8%.

Creating woodlands is a practical response to the climate and wildlife emergencies. Trees lock up atmospheric carbon and the woodland habitats provide a place for local wildlife to thrive. As the new trees grow, their leaves and canopies help slow the rate that rainfall runs off the land providing natural flood management.

New woodlands are planted with a variety of mainly broadleaf native trees for example, hornbeam, oak, willow, and alder. Some areas are left to regenerate naturally, allowing self-seeded saplings to flourish. Avon Needs Trees works with local communities to make sure the woodlands give something back, for example by planting a community orchard.



Credit: [Canopyandstars.co.uk](https://canopyandstars.co.uk)

Avon Needs Trees ensure long-term care of their woodlands, including a year-round maintenance programme led by volunteers and overseen by the charity. People of all ages can enjoy the woodlands at wellbeing days, family days and forest school sessions. There are opportunities for groups to visit, colleagues to take part in a team ‘away day’ and local people to come along with their friends or family.

### **Find out more about Avon Needs Trees**

Stay up to date by signing up for the newsletter at [www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/newsletter](https://www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/newsletter).

It’s also easy to register as a volunteer tree planter and get out planting this winter [www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/volunteering](https://www.avonneedstrees.org.uk/volunteering).

For group bookings and enquiries contact [volunteer@avonneedstrees.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@avonneedstrees.org.uk).

## Pancake Day

**Shrove Tuesday**, the last day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, marks the end of the period of plenty that followed Christmas. Christians repented of their sins and were shriven, or absolved, before embarking on the Shrovetide or Lent fast. They may not have had much choice about the fasting, In earlier times supplies were often running short by the spring.

In Britain the Shrove Tuesday celebrations seem to be fairly modest. They concentrate on the one day, and pancakes with only simple ingredients. Pancake races have been in evidence for centuries, Olney's started in 1445. The nearest to riotous behaviour seems to be games of mob football in various towns. The Houses of Parliament has a three-sided pancake race between the House of Lords, The House of Commons and the press, as a charity fund-raiser.



Olney Pancake Race 2009

Most of northern Europe follows a similar pattern with various sorts of cakes which sound more luscious than pancakes, but often celebrations last longer.

Going further south things become more exciting. The French have **Mardi Gras**, Fat Tuesday, which spread to French territories throughout the world. In New Orleans, which became the French capital of Louisiana, boundless exuberance rules from Twelfth Night, the end of Christmas, to the climax on Shrove Tuesday.

Spain and Portugal also have **Carnival** (meaning the putting away of meat) on Shrove Tuesday, which spread to their colonies. Pictures of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro look spectacular, with two million inexhaustible people on the streets for the five days of Carnival, plus a parade the following Saturday for the winners of the samba competitions.



Mardi-Gras



**Carnival in Venice** has to be the most famous. It also has a long history, back to 1192 when the celebrations were to celebrate a military victory. Over the centuries it grew to two weeks of revelling; mask wearing was supposed to



protect the population from the strict social regulations of Venetian society. However Carnival got out of hand, becoming so uncontrolled and crime-ridden that it was banned altogether in 1797. The ban lasted until 1979 when the Italian government decided to revive the Venice Carnival, in order to promote the tourist trade and also to support the ancient skills of mask makers.

## Remembering Ukraine – one year on

24<sup>th</sup> February is the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which has seen nearly eight million people displaced and thousands killed. This winter is the worst in living memory for most Ukrainians, with medicine, food, water, and heating in short supply. If you would like to mark the first year by helping the people Ukraine, here are some charities from which you might choose:

**The Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC)** is an umbrella group of UK charities.

[www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal)

**Christian Aid** was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Sadly, with war back in Europe, it is now back at work on the Continent.

[www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022)

**Barnabas Fund** distributes food through local churches to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions.

[www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/](http://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/)

**Samaritans Purse** has been airlifting medical supplies into the country, distributed more than 45 million kilos of food, and built water systems providing more than 30 million litres of water.

[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/)



## Midsomer Choral



Here is an email from one of our Directors, Neil Moore, inviting you to join our MSW choir, Midsomer Choral, who rehearse on Sundays 6.45-8.30pm in St John's Church Hall, Midsomer Norton. Please contact Neil directly email: [neil.r.moore@icloud.com](mailto:neil.r.moore@icloud.com) / tel. 07864 628932.

Dear all,

Midsomer Choral have just enjoyed an excellent concert on 7 January. They resume rehearsals this Sunday 6.45–8.15pm in St John's Church Hall, Midsomer Norton as they start working towards their next performance on Friday, 31 March.

I'm writing to invite you to join them. They are an excellent though small choir and could do with a few more singers on each line. Indeed one member recently commented that, following the 7 Jan concert, that they felt euphoric! Another said "I really enjoyed the concert and enjoy singing with MSN choir because it performs to a high standard and each person can feel that they are really contributing to the overall performance."

March's concert will be:

Rutter *Magnificat*

Stanford *Songs of the Fleet*

After this concert they'll join with Oakfield Choir, Frome on 13 May to sing Mozart's *Regina coeli in C* as well as Mozart's *Great Mass in C minor*. Beyond that lies one of the greatest works ever written, Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, to be performed in Mells on 16 July.

How could you not want to be part of this delicious cornucopia of music?!

Do come along on Sunday and sample the first course!

I look forward to welcoming you there.

Best wishes,

Neil



**Come and join us!**

**Chew Valley Choral Society is keen to welcome new members.**

For our spring concert we will be singing sacred and secular music on the theme of Nature and Creation, including anthems, part songs, and madrigals. The concert is on Saturday 29 April 2023 at Publow Church.

We rehearse on Tuesdays, from 7.30 – 9.30pm, at Church Hall, Church Lane, Chew Stoke, BS40 8TX. We will be starting back on Tuesday 17 January and you are welcome to join us then.

Alternatively, on 24 January we have a **taster session**, which is a chance for those new to singing or those who haven't sung for a while to sing alongside regular members to see how they get on. The session is free of charge and all sheet music will be provided. The session will be led by our musical director, David Bednall. Some music-reading ability is an advantage.

You are welcome to turn up to our regular rehearsal on 17 January or to our taster session on 24 January - no need to register in advance, but to give us some idea of numbers it will be helpful if you let us know if you plan to attend and what voice you prefer to sing.

For more information about the choir and all these events, please visit our website:

[www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk](http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk)

or

email: [info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk](mailto:info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk)

**Note. Although the January dates are past the Choral Society is still recruiting new members and would be pleased to hear from you.**

## Notes from the PCC - (not minutes)

The PCC met in St Francis Church Hall on 10th January

- Trevor James, our Pioneer Minister gave an update on his current work in which he had made many new contacts in the Hygge Park estate and the Grow Together project at One Community Trust has 15 families very much engaged. He also has 5 sessions a week at the Sanctuary Garden at Dappys Hill with some regular attendees. He is building a relationship with Two Rivers School and hopes to develop Grow Together there among other things.
- Sadly our Office Manager, Judy Walker, is to leave at the end of May for family reasons and a group to help source her replacement is to be set up.
- With no suitable applicants for the Children's and Families Worker discussions have been held with the Methodist Church with a view to a possible joint role as there is a lot of commonality and a bigger opportunity that might be more attractive.
- The Rector needs a PA for a few hours a week to look after much of his admin. Combining this with the Office Manager role will be considered although the requirements are rather different.
- A program in Lent aimed at discovering Skills and Gifts will be arranged.
- Arrangements for Mike Burke's leaving party were shared.
- All churches except St John's have paid all their Parish Share. DCC's will decide between two options for this year's share.
- A very generous legacy from the late Jennie Howard will be coming
- The Stewardship Report listed the giving per church and showed that St Francis folk are giving the most per capita.
- The Diocese is to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme, pioneered in Gloucester, which processes giving and recovers Gift Aid relieving treasurers of a huge burden. It was agreed to encourage individual churches to adopt this.
- The position on the sale of Chewton Church was mentioned.
- Churches all reported good attendance over the Christmas period.
- Living in Love and Faith will be a subject at General Synod in February.
- Bishop Michael will be visiting Keynsham on the 5th and 6th of March so it was agreed to have a joint service on the 5th and PCC and DCC members will be invited to an evening with the bishop on the 6th.

*Robert Cook*

## Summary of St John's DCC meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Current Service times** It was agreed to review of the pattern of services that have been in place since 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022 during March.

**Children and Family Worker** The PCC have agreed to explore the option of joining forces with the Methodist church with a view to combining the two part time roles. It is hoped that one full time post might attract more candidates. Claire Lowe also shared encouraging news about growth in children's work.

**Loss of Clergy Post** The minutes of a meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November of the Clergy Redeployment team were noted. There followed a discussion on the use of lay leadership for leading worship and preaching. Everyone within the parish will be encouraged to recognise and offer their gifts towards the ministry of the church community

**Vision and Prayer meeting** It was agreed that the next DCC Vision and Prayer meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February will focus on outreach and vision.

**Finance** The Treasurers report was noted and Anne was thanked for all her hard work.

It was agreed to provide funds from the restricted Outreach account to Trevor James in support of his new outreach initiative at Two Rivers School which commenced 15<sup>th</sup> January and continues every third Sunday thereafter.

Details of a new Parish Giving scheme were explained by Anne which could reduce the administrative burden on the Treasurer and be more efficient in areas such as reclaiming Gift Aid.

The need for continued fund raising was highlighted as an important income stream and the importance of willing volunteers to help organise events such as the Fete and Christmas Tree Festival.

The financial position for 2022 was better than had been forecast due in part to a saving in respect of the Music Directors salary whilst the post remained vacant.

The 2023 financial budget was agreed. It was noted that the budget includes an increased element of 'Faith'.

**Church Building** The brief notes of the Building for the Future group meeting with the Architect on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were noted. Following advice from the Architect the DCC agreed a proposal to engage a heating engineer to provide a report. The report should give important advice on how to become carbon neutral by 2030. It was also agreed that a fund be launched so that those who wish to can contribute towards the upfront costs of the reordering of the church.

It was noted that work on the installation of the new lighting system is due to start 13<sup>th</sup> February. The work is likely to take 3 weeks.

### **Miscellaneous**

**Bishop Michael's visit 5<sup>th</sup> March.** Suggestions to include in the programme for his visit included visiting both C of E schools and OneCT, a display (possibly digital) to show the diversity of events/services at St John's, a Bring and Share lunch after the combined 10.30am service.

**AGM** The date of the next AGM was agreed - **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

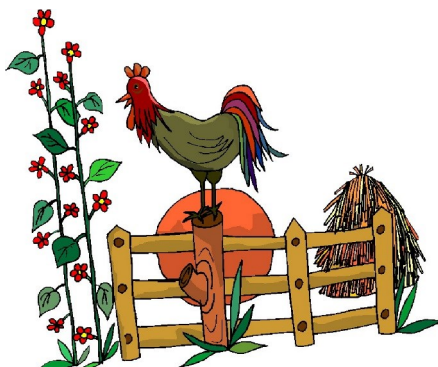
**Summer Fete.** A new Chairperson and committee members are needed for this year's summer fete. The event is an important opportunity for outreach in the community. An appeal will be made for volunteers.

These are not official minutes

*Deborah Hall - St John's DCC Secretary*

## FARM DIARY

**In the field.** The sheep can stay out all winter although if only on grass with the feed value having declined, they will not grow much. However, they do the field a world of good. Under-grazing is as bad for fields as overgrazing. The sheep remove any excess over the winter that heavier animals cannot do without spoiling the sward and soil structure. We have not done it before but just before Christmas we used the sheep to graze our winter oil seed rape crop. Excess growth in our mild winters just increases fungal diseases and so we are using the sheep to reduce the fungal disease burden by letting in more air and light. The goats are in the farm buildings. Kidding is due in late February /early March. Exciting times ahead.



**Grain marketing.** We use Openfield, a farmer owned cooperative to market all our grain. Most of it is on pools, where we leave them the task of finding a buyer and we store it safely, securely and insured. We can receive up to 65% of our money now even if the crop has not been sold or moved. Final reckoning is in late August of the year following the harvest when the remaining 35% is paid plus any other moneys not already claimed. Prices have dropped a lot from their peak as the southern hemisphere's harvest gets under way. Openfield have 300 UK destinations to where they deliver grain. There are 45,000 UK cereal holdings but I am not sure how many Openfield deal with. (Source - Cecilia Pryce, market analyst, Openfield)

**Countryside Stewardship.** This is a scheme to fund farmers to look after various different landscape features including fauna and flora as well. It is available under the latest schemes. In practise, here in Somerset, we have lots of hedges and trees and landscape types so there is already a diverse environment.

*Richard Graham*



# Parish Register & Diary for February

## BAPTISMS:

27th November - Margot Avery James - St Margaret's  
4th December - Henry John Lockwood, Indigo May Anne Hicks,  
Keira Rose Margaret Leigh - St John's  
8th January - Isabella Mae Wareing - St Johns

## DEATHS:

**November** 11th Molly Cutler 84, 19th Robin Orchard 78,  
20th Patricia Wood 91, 28th Colin Harvie 67,  
**December** 5th Thomas Ford 91, 9th Leonard Pool 101, 18th Fred Bush 87,  
19th Sharon Goddard 53, 25th Beryl Wells 96,  
27th John Bernard Luckhurst 90, 28th Phyllis Hayes 90  
**January** 7th Brenda Vowles 89

## DIARY FEBRUARY:

1st	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
4th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
4th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
5th	9am	Marriage Preparation Day	Parish Hall
5th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
7th	7pm	PCC Standing Committee	St John's Upper Room
11th	7.30pm	Jazz Evening	Parish Hall
12th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
14th	7.30pm	Prayer & Vision Meeting	St John's
18th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
18th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
19th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
24th	1pm	Trio Paradis Concert	Parish Hall



Ash Wednesday services are at 11.00am in St Johns  
and at 7.30pm in St Francis

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<p><b>Garden Maintenance, Patios, Fencing, Leaf Clearance, Decking, Turving, Hedge Trimming</b></p> <p><b>Ian Bodman</b> Tel: 0117 329 7096 Mobile: 0796 243 2571 Email: ian@beaverscapes.co.uk 13 Rowan Walk, Keynsham Bristol, BS31 2RE</p>  <p><b>Beaverscapes</b> Your friendly, hardworking landscape gardener</p>	<p><b><i>CONTACT EDITORS</i></b> <b>Kath McCarthy, Robert Cook and Hero</b> e-mail: <a href="mailto:keynshamcontact@gmail.com">keynshamcontact@gmail.com</a> c/o Parish Office, <b>1 The Park, Keynsham</b> <b>T: 0117 986 3354</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Cover:</b> St Michaels in the spring Credit: Nick Milton</p>
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