

contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



July 2023



1. The school in Chipata when Rachel Shaw visited.
2. Keynsham in Bloom. Thank you to the volunteers.
3. Nigel Williams abseiling down St. John's church tower. Congratulations to Nigel on his appointment as Rector at Saltford.
4. 7th July is World Chocolate Day. This photo from the 1930s shows the fleet of travelling salesmen about to set out from Fry's chocolate factory at Somerdale.

SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

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

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

Evening Services - as advertised

Weekday Holy Communion: 11.00am Wednesdays

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

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

Worship Band Practice: Wednesday 8.00pm

Bell-ringing Practice: Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm

Mothers' Union: 1st Wednesday - 1.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wednesday - 10.00am

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

St Francis', Warwick Road

Morning Service: 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

Evening Services: as advertised

Holy Baptism: In public worship by arrangement

St John Ambulance: Wednesday: 6.00 - 9.00pm

Brownies: Tues: 6.00pm

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

St Margaret's, Queen Charlton

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

St Michael's, Burnett

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

11.15am

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

MISSION PARTNERS:

TLM Mission partner: Bangladesh: *Dr Ruth Butlin*

CMS Mission Partners: Kenya: *Aaron Stanbury*

CMS Prayer partner: *Ruth Radley*

Chipata South Parish, Zambia.

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

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

THE PARISH OF KEYNSHAM DIRECTORY

(www.keynshamparish.org.uk)

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

Office Manager: Lin Fry - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

Team Rector:

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

Team Vicar - St Francis:

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

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:

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*

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Message of the Month

July 2023



'Used-to-be's'. We all have a store of them. As we experience the rapid changes in so many areas of life, we can all look back and see how radical some changes have been, especially since life was interrupted by the pandemic for several years, but of course, it's all relative to what we choose to remember as well - 'those misty water-coloured memories' that Barbara Streisand sang about! 'I remember when' is a favourite refrain! Its good to keep a store of good memories, they can brighten a day, give us a chuckle or a red face!

God created spring, summer, autumn and winter and these seasonal changes happen, without fail, every year, and we thankfully observe that even the pandemic didn't stop the course of nature and the seasons opened, each with their own glory. Every year just as we've had enough of winter, along comes spring, then the summer months keep us enthralled with the time of refreshment and relaxation, then autumn brings gratitude for the successful harvests of God's bounty, then winter, when we hold the year in reverence as we meet the challenges of the colder months.

Our spiritual growth can often be seasonal too, our faith can wax and wane with our circumstances and moods. *Ecclesiastes 3:1*, 'to every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven'.

Spring is accepted as a time of renewal and new growth, our jaded winter senses need to be revitalised and renewed and we need to know the promise of the spring of budding faith, or renewed faith, after what might have been a dry, even dark period of loss or unhappiness. As spring enters the year with the delicacy of the bluebells, daffodils and snowdrops, (outward appearances only – they are as tough as old boots!), it is like those first faltering steps of the newly spiritually born, awed and excited by the revelation that God cares for each one of us as his own special creation, or it is for those leaving behind a dry period of faith and entering life with a renewed spiritual vigour.

A summer of faith can often be a time of mixed experience, of sunshine and rain, as we attempt to embrace the promises of God and the revelations of spring. We experience days of bold certainty as our 'spring' steps become

confident strides entering into His grace freely given. It can be a time of nurturing our spiritual growth, lifting our faces to the Son of God for his benediction and blessing.

An autumn of faith harvests the growth we have tried to nurture throughout our summer. The colours of our lives change, those deep, vibrant colours of the earth God created reflected in our spiritual growth as we bring our awareness of his grace, his spiritual bounty, and our gratitude for being the children of God.

We sometimes enter into a winter of faith, when our growth may falter with life's unexpected challenges, but somewhere, subconsciously, underground, we're being purified and strengthened while we wait for spiritual renewal.

It always comes, just as the seasons do. Our God is not a 'used-to-be'. God is the one constant in our spiritual seasonal changes, the one who is with us in our spring joy, summer nurturing, autumn harvest and winter waiting.

'But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.' Isaiah 40:31

Let us give the glory to He who was, and is, and always will be.

Blessed be you Divine Friend,

Who eats with us and meets us in the daily round,

Who weeps when we weep and rejoices at our rejoicing.

May the blessing of your friendship be upon us so we may be true friends to you, to those dear ones who walk with us, and to ourselves.

Let us not forget your faithfulness to us each day, each night.

I hope you will always have a joyful spring, a wonderfully nurtured summer, a harvest of faith and graceful winter waiting.

Every blessing June Lowe

A Reminder

Please remember that we have a combined issue for August/September. All contributions for August or September need to be submitted by July 15th, bearing in mind that Stephen will be leaving us in September.

Saying goodbye to Stephen

September is still quite a long way away, but the next issue of Contact will be the joint August /September edition. Stephen's last service will be 17th September.

If you have memories or anecdotes of Stephen's time with us and his many contributions to parish life, which you would like to share with us, please send them to me at Contact.

You only need to write a few sentences and the deadline is 15th July. You can send your contribution to keynshamcontact@gmail.com or leave it in my pigeon hole in the parish office.

Kath McCarthy

Christmas Tree Festival

For all the people who like to start planning early this is to let you know that there will be a Christmas Tree Festival at St. John's this year. Happy Christmas!

Did you just book it? Or Thomas Cook it?

Thomas Cook did not start his travel business with the primary goal of making money. Motivated by his Christian faith, it was to help combat the dangers of alcohol and to help the victims of alcohol misuse. Thomas Cook was born in 1808 in Derbyshire. At the age of 20 he became a Baptist missionary and toured the region as an evangelist distributing tracts, and in the 1830s, he became involved in the temperance movement. He was a cabinet maker by trade. With the expansion of the railway network around 1840, he had the idea of combining rail travel with the cause of temperance. He arranged to take a group of temperance campaigners from Leicester Street railway station to a teetotal rally in Loughborough, 11 miles away. On 5 July 1841, he escorted 485 people, who paid one shilling each for the return rail journey and a



Thomas Cook statue
Leicester

meal, on his first outing. Many say that this is when the modern travel industry was born. Other excursions followed, including one in 1851 for 150,000 people to travel to the Great Exhibition in London. Four years later he was running trips abroad.

By 1865 he had acquired business premises on Fleet Street, which included a shop selling travel accessories such as guide books, luggage, telescopes and footwear. He and his wife also ran a small temperance hotel above the office. As the business grew, he built an imposing Temperance Hall and hotel in central Leicester and used much of his money to support the poor, often the victims of alcohol misuse.

In all the excursions he went on to organise, he wanted to bring people closer together and nearer to their creator by making 'God's earth with all its fullness and beauty' accessible and affordable to all.

Eventually his son, John Mason Cook, became a partner in the company and the name was changed to Thomas Cook & Son. Towards the end of his life his attitude towards profitability brought him and his son into conflict, including the issue of allowing lower fares for fellow Baptists. He died aged 83 in Leicester in 1892. After several mergers and takeovers the company collapsed in 2019, but he had given many the opportunity to experience the beauty and variety of God's world because of his strong Christian faith.

By Sally Churchus, Chair of the Association of Church Magazine Editors.

Congratulations to Nigel

We are delighted that our curate, Nigel Williams, has been appointed Rector of Saltford, Corston and Newton St. Loe.

After several years of travel, faith-based work and study Nigel came to Keynsham Parish four years ago, honing his skills and being ordained before undertaking the care of his own parish. We are very sorry to lose him, but happy for him that his life and work in the church progresses.

Nigel will leave a large hole to fill in Keynsham, his burly, bearded and cheerful presence, busy in so many aspects of church life, will be sorely missed. And those bare feet- do they really never get cold?

Nigel, Emily, Isaac and Ben go with all our good wishes, and after all Saltford isn't so very far away.



75 years of the National Health Service

75 years ago, on 5th July 1948, the National Health Service (NHS) began operating – formally opened at the Park Hospital in Manchester, now renamed Trafford General.



The National Health Service Act provided for the establishment of a comprehensive health service for England and Wales. (Separate legislation was produced for Scotland and Northern Ireland.) The Minister of Health at the time was Labour firebrand Aneurin Bevan, but the NHS came into being through the efforts of many others as well – notably Conservative Sir Henry Willink, who was Minister of Health in the Coalition government in 1944. His White Paper laid down all the basic elements of an NHS – that no-one was excluded, and that healthcare was free and based on need, not the ability to pay.

But the origins of the NHS went back many years, starting perhaps in the early 1900s, with socialist Beatrice Webb's Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law. It aimed to get away from the workhouse system, where those with no resources were expected to look after themselves. The report was dismissed by the Liberal government.

Strong ideas in the same vein had also come from biochemist Dr Benjamin Moore, from Liverpool, who is also credited with first use of the words "National Health Service". A novel called *The Citadel* by A. J. Cronin (also a doctor) drew attention to the inadequacies of health care at the time of its publication in 1937.

In the end, the NHS was based to a large extent on the Beveridge Report, published in 1942. William Beveridge was a Liberal politician, economist and social reformer who also had a strong interest in eugenics – the aim of improving the human race by controlling reproduction.

Tim Lenton

Saint of the Month - St. Willibald

St. Willibald's name may not be on the tip of everyone's tongue, but we remember him on 7th July. He was one of the first tourists, so perhaps a suitable saint for July, especially if you like a historical theme to your holidays. Travel was hugely hazardous at that period and he survived many dangers.

Early life Born about 700 in Wessex, his father was Richard the Pilgrim, an Anglo-Saxon nobleman and his mother Wuna of Wessex, sister of St. Boniface. When he suffered serious illness aged three, his parents vowed that if he survived he would become a monk.

He was only five when he entered the monastery at Bishops Waltham. But Willibald was beset by the curiosity that drives all great travellers so in 721 he set out for Rome with his father and brother. His father died in Lucca in northern Italy, the brothers carried on to Rome. Here they both suffered from "the Black Plague" but miraculously survived.

Travelling widely Brother Winibald stayed in Rome while Willibald set out, first to Naples then on via Sicily and Greece to Asia Minor where he visited many famous cities of the ancient world and their religious shrines. In 724 he arrived in Palestine, one of the first Englishmen to reach the Holy Land. He stayed for about two years, visiting Nazareth, Bethlehem, Cana and Jerusalem, most of the places associated with Jesus, and several monasteries. In 726 he made his way to Tyre from where he was eventually able to sail to Constantinople. After another two years in Constantinople he sailed back to Naples, where he and his one remaining companion, Tidbercht, entered the monastery at Monte Cassino. He soon came to take a prominent role in the life of the monastery.

Off to Germany Boniface, the great missionary to Germany, came to Rome in 738. He asked the Pope, Gregory III, if Willibald could return with him to Germany and the Pope agreed. They arrived at Eichstatt in 741 and Boniface ordained Willibrand as a priest. While travelling in Germany Willibald was re-united with his brother Winibald, they returned to Eichstatt and founded a double monastery. Winibald was the first abbot, succeeded by their sister Walburga after Winibald died. Willibald became bishop of Eichstatt. Not long before his death in 786 Willibald dictated a detailed account of his travels to a long-suffering nun, Hugeburc. The book, the Hodoeporicon, is the first travel book written by an Anglo-Saxon.

Eichstatt continued to be an important religious centre and Willibald's relics remain there.



Noam Jebb Davies

Noam is one of my Grandsons, he is now 13 ½ yrs. Last Easter March 2022, he was diagnosed with a sarcoma (like cancer) on one of his ribs. I spoke to Stephen and his name was added to the St John's prayer list.

Noam started chemotherapy every 2 weeks at the Royal Marsden Hospital, the beginning of an enormous amount of treatment- chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery. For a while Naom and his Mum went to live in north London, near the hospital. He had some tutoring at home and in hospital.

Noam completed his treatment before Christmas and he gradually recovered his energy levels, returning to school for the spring term, part time at first. Now he can play football again and has done a lot of swimming. His hair has grown and he has caught up at school. In fact he was awarded a prize for 'Resilience' at school, a few weeks ago.

Noam has had 2 clear scans so far, following his treatment

So a huge Thank you to anyone who included him in their prayers, and to the wonderful NHS.

Madeleine Davies 19-06-2023

Proof-reading needed!

The following true-life headlines found in local newspapers make you wonder: is proofreading a dying art?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Audio Bibles for people with sight loss

The Torch Trust is a Christian ministry that focuses on the spiritual support and encouragement of blind and partially sighted people. For over 60 years we have been providing accessible resources and a variety of ways to connect and support people living with sight loss.



At the end of 2021, Torch took “a leap of faith” and ordered 1,000 Pathway audio Bible players containing the New Testament and Psalms read by the actor David Suchet. Knowing the power of Scripture to change lives, they planned to “give these Bibles for free to anyone in the UK losing their sight. 16 months later, all of these Bible players have been sent out and the stories coming back are so amazing that Torch has ordered 1,000 more.”

Gayle-Ann told us “It is my friend...with me wherever, it is just so convenient. I have read the New Testament, but the way this is read is just easily understood”. Kenneth wouldn’t have called himself a Christian, and hasn’t enjoyed audio books, but ‘I like listening to the Pathway. I’m really listening to the New Testament now, not just odd verses. I’m realising what it all means.’

Losing sight can be a time of real questioning and searching, so what better gift can a newly blind person receive than the Word of God? Torch is encouraging anyone who is living with sight loss to contact them for a free audio Bible at www.torchtrust.org/pathway , or by calling 01858 438260.

Most of the first 1,000 players were sponsored by individuals, churches or trusts. Torch is also seeking people to donate £20 to cover the cost of sending out one of the new audio Bibles.

Money Matters

The Church of England, like everyone else, needs money to fulfil its commitments. Here are two current reports:

Church Commissioners fund posts a 5% return in 2022

The Church Commissioners for England, which manages the Church of England's endowment fund, delivered a 5% return in 2022, a "robust performance" in the face of "challenging" market conditions.

"Our aim is to support the mission and ministry of the Church of England through providing as much funding as we can on a sustainable basis, year in, year out, come rain or shine – and achieving these returns in a year of double-digit inflation, an unprecedented cost-of-living crisis, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is truly a testament to the skill and dedication of our investment professionals," said **Alan Smith, First Church Estates Commissioner**. "As a result of our consistent strong returns over the long-term, we were able in 2022 to announce an increase in our distributions to the Church to £1.2bn over the next three years, a 30% increase over the previous three-year period."

The Church Commissioners for England manages the endowment fund of the Church of England in a responsible and ethical way. The portfolio is diversified across a broad range of asset classes to mitigate risk, and assets are invested with a long-term outlook. This approach has enabled the Church Commissioners to deliver an average annual return of 10.2% over the last ten years.

Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme grows

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme, which directs capital towards new solutions to deep-rooted social challenges, has invested £5.7m in its first two years, according to its 2023 Impact Report.

The programme, established in 2020, aims to support vulnerable people and communities, while generating sustainable returns that preserve the capital for future impact.

Vanessa Morphet, Head of Social Impact Investment at the Archbishops' Council, said that the C of E works with "excellent investment managers who have deep knowledge of the UK charity and social enterprise sector", and so she is "confident our capital will have a real, lasting impact where it counts most."

The programme has so far made four investments, including one to a fund which provides refuges for vulnerable women and their children.

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

June 2023

Celebrating our links

Churches across Bath and Wells and in Zambia are invited to celebrate the links between the dioceses on Sunday, 2 July on the renamed 'Zambia - Bath and Wells Sunday'. Launched in 2021 as Zambia Sunday, the day has been renamed to reflect the desire for the link not just to be celebrated in churches in Bath and Wells, but also in churches in Zambia.

Martin Canning Chair of the diocesan World Mission Group, explains, "Zambia - Bath Wells Sunday is an opportunity for every parish across our six partner dioceses to pray and learn more about each other, and to consider our place as part of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

"It is also an opportunity to give thanks for the nearly 45 years we have celebrated life and faith together through our companionship link. Even if a parish doesn't currently actively have a link, we hope they will join with us in prayer on the day."

As well as celebrating the link,



Members of St Paul's, Chipata South laying new school foundations.

with all the joys that it brings, people are also asked to reflect on the challenges we are all facing, including climate change which currently affects some areas of the world more than others. Sara Emmett, diocesan Climate Justice and Environment Adviser says, "Growing our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Zambia offers many benefits, but certainly gives us a greater insight into not only the impact of climate change, but also the inequity of climate change."

Prayers and other liturgical resources for 'Zambia – Bath and Wells Sunday' can be found on the diocesan website, along with lots of stories of how the link works in different parishes across Bath and Wells. bathandwells.org.uk/zambia ■

News in brief

Coronation celebrations

Services and celebrations took place right across Bath and Wells to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

St Paul's Church in Weston, St Andrew's Church in Minehead, and Bath Abbey were among the many churches which livestreamed the event and invited their local community to join together in celebration. St Paul's even had their very own giant crown. At St John's Church in Keynsham the tower was lit up in red, white and blue and an image of the Union Flag was projected on to the west front of the church, while inside a mini-Flower Festival was just one of the celebrations they held ■

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

Church's new compost loo a hit

After receiving a quote of £120,00 to install a toilet in their church, the community of St Peter's Church, Staple Fitzpaine, changed their plans and are now enjoying having a new environmentally friendly compost toilet.

Rebecca George, Churchwarden at St Peter's says, "I have an elderly mother and I wanted her to be able to come to my church, but she didn't feel confident without a handy loo. So, with permission, I ordered a port-a-loo which was installed about 100 yards from the church. Suddenly the Pop Up Cafe got more popular, more people like my mum came to services, and it became possible to put on more events for a wider range of people." ■

Pupils enact historic first

Coronation

At St John's church in Glastonbury on Sunday 7 May, following the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, there was a Civic Service and town procession with a twist.

Pupils from Wells Cathedral School re-enacted the first Coronation, that of King Edgar at Bath Abbey. King Edgar



was crowned by St Dunstan, who was born in Baltonsburgh and the first Archbishop to crown a King." ■

A commitment to serve

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

'Your Majesty, as children of the kingdom of God we welcome you in the name of the King of kings'. In reply to these opening words at his Coronation, King Charles III responded 'In his name and after his example I come not to be served but to serve.' This short exchange summed up what the service was about and what it intended to convey.

The King's commitment to service is not in any doubt. To give just a few examples, he has engaged with our most challenged communities far more than any politician, he called on us to care for the environment years before it became popular to do so and, of course, founded The Prince's Trust, which supports our most challenged younger people in so many ways.

He becomes king of a new era, the Carolean era. Our times see us face some big challenges. Our question is how to address them. I was immensely struck by all the agencies and charities present in the Abbey for the King's Coronation. Their participation spoke of the ways

in which we're going to need to act differently in the years ahead to address the issues that confront us.

Because it's all too evident that the power of government, be that local or national, to respond to the problems we see is less now than it was when the late Queen began her reign. Our challenge in this era is of how we're going to come together, in service, to address the different challenges that lie before us, be that the climate, how we tackle poverty, how we respond to a troubled international situation. All of us will have a part to play.

Where to find the resource to act in the way that's going to be needed? As I stood beside the King at the Coronation what inspired me was to see the way he drew so much strength, purpose and resolve and assurance from his Christian faith for the service he's called to give. And in that we can follow him too ■

Bishop Michael



Growing in faith together

Rachel Shaw is Zambia Link Coordinator in Keynsham Parish, which has a link with Chipata South in Eastern Zambia.



Keynsham link members, with a Zambian flag presented by Fr Bernard

What prompted you to have a link?

We restarted our link to Zambia when Bath and Wells celebrated 40 years of the link in 2022 and I was fortunate enough to go on the diocesan anniversary trip and spent some time getting to know the people there. There are a lot of parallels between our parish and Chipata South, both have a mix of town and rural churches and are busy and thriving communities.

How did you get started?

We have a link group in both places. Together we worked out what we wanted to support and how we wanted to do things. Since we began, we have been clear that the link is about getting to know the people and growing in faith together.

How did you manage that?

Our main challenge is to share with our congregation what life is like in Zambia. We share stories on our Facebook page, hold Zambia evenings and have a WhatsApp Friendship Group of about 40 people, half from Keynsham and half from Zambia.

Have you learnt anything from your link relationship?

It has helped us stop being so focused on money and what we can't do. We can see what they do with so little - and with such faith, joy and hopefulness. We can learn so much from that.

Are you planning anything else for the Coronation weekend?

We're organising a teacher exchange with two schools in Keynsham, who are forming their own links with Chipata South School. We hope to fly two teachers from Zambia over here to spend a couple of weeks in school - which will be both beneficial for the teachers and children.

Read more about Keynsham's link with Chipata South at bathandwells.org.uk/keynsham-chipata-south ■

Follow us on



The School in Chipata, Zambia

The friendship link between Keynsham and Chipata South Parishes began in 2018 and has grown steadily ever since. There have been visits in both directions; Rachel and Graham Shaw visited Zambia, and Father Benard came to Keynsham. Keynsham Parish raised funds to help with the building of a new school in Chipata, which opened in 2021.

The children in our two Church of England schools, St. John's and Two Rivers, have also been finding out more about their Zambian friends. This link will be formalised when the schools join the Diocesan Zambia School Link scheme. The next project is for two teachers from Zambia to visit the Keynsham schools in April 2024, when they will spend time in both schools and create a joint programme of work- a wonderful opportunity for an enriching experience for teachers and pupils alike.



Keynsham Parish is asking, at this point, for **pledges** of money to cover the teachers' travel costs as well as practical help during the visit. If you would like to know more or can offer any help, contact Rachel Shaw on 0117 9868638 or email rachrshaw@gmail.com, or see the flier at <https://www.keynshamparish.org.uk/news>

Persecuted Sudan Christians in need of your prayers

By Colin Bailey

Sudan has been in the news, particularly over the last three months, with the large-scale evacuation of many British nationals and their dependents fleeing violence. Open Doors, a charity which monitors persecution of Christians, reported in April that the conflict in the country will make things even harder for the Christians in the country.

Sudan is number 10 on the Open Doors 2023 World Watch List, indicating that Christians there face extreme levels of persecution. The violence in the country is over a power struggle within the military leadership. The escalation in violence between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is spreading through the country. The number of casualties as reported in May by the Sudanese health ministry was 730 people killed and 5,454 injured, but likely to be higher.

There are almost two million Christians in Sudan, but this represents just 4.3% of the country's population of 46 million. There had been progress towards religious freedom in recent years, however, a military coup occurred in October 2021. This followed an escalation of hostilities between conservative Islamists wanting a military government and those who toppled Omar al Bashir in April 2019. After that coup, a transitional, power-sharing government emerged but protests caused the resignation in January last year of civilian Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok.

Open Doors reports how Christians - especially converts from Islam - are still vulnerable to extreme persecution in public and private life. There are fears that Sudan will return to the authoritarianism of the years of the former president. This could mean that the death penalty for leaving Islam, abolished in 2021, could be reinstated.

At the time of writing, relative calm in the capital Khartoum from a week-long peace deal was disrupted by clashes between the Sudanese army and paramilitaries. The ceasefire had come after five weeks of warfare in Khartoum and outbursts of fighting elsewhere, including Darfur - a conflict that started in 2003.

Please pray for Sudan - for stability in the region and for a government to be established that respects equality and religious freedom. Please pray for the Christians in the land and for the work of local church partners.

Keynsham in Bloom

We are all grateful to the Keynsham in Bloom team, who do so much to make Keynsham a better place to live. They have celebrated their 15th birthday this year, so many congratulations. Mary Woodman wrote a report about their new busy season:

“Keynsham in Bloom are starting the summertime early with several projects in the pipeline.

The flowerbeds and containers at the station are looking lovely and we are planting more insect friendly flowers on the Bristol side flowerbed. Also in hand is painting a mural above this strip of garden to enhance our rail entrance to Keynsham. The Dee James Memorial Train is full of flowers and will continue to brighten the darker side of the station.

Our Pocket Park continues to thrive. The hopscotch will be cleaned and re-painted, the birds enjoy their feeder and water feature and we have seen a fox run through when we have been working on a Saturday morning.

The High Street containers will have colourful cascading summer bedding to mirror the three-tier planter which will be moved from outside the library to outside the Victoria Methodist Church.



The Coronation Crown



The Pocket Park

If you would like to volunteer to help, please either pop into the Town Council office at 15-17 Temple Street, email Dawn Drury at keynshaminbloom@icloud.com or myself at catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com. You would be very welcome.

Our aim this year is to make our townsfolk smile when they look at our displays. Keep well and safe and keep gardening!

Mary Woodman



GROW

**TOGETHER
FAMILY**

2pm - 4pm Every First Sunday

Wild About Community and One Community Trust have come together to bring you 'Grow Together'. Come and join us for fun for the whole family.

We have created a space at the back of the One Community Trust Building (next door to St John's Church) to Come Together, Grow Together, Play Together and Pray Together.

There are two allotment plots to grow your favourite veg as well as various activities to keep those little ones occupied such as creative space, nature craft, firepit and more.

This month we will be planting and weeding.

Grow Together is led by Trevor James (St John's pioneer minister) and his wife Holly James.

Donations are always welcome but there is no charge or obligation.

For information contact Trevor: trevorjames@keynshamparish.org.uk

(One Community Trust: 1 The Park, Keynsham, BS31 2BL)

If you would like to help maintain the garden come and drop in on Monday's between 10am-1.00pm. (Not Bank Holidays)



Well Versed

The Dog

When God made earth and sky
The flowers and the trees
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.

And when his work was finished
Not one was quite the same
He said "I'll walk this earth of mine
And give each one a name"

And so He travelled land and sea
And everywhere He went
A little creature followed Him
Until its strength was spent

When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea
The little creature said "Dear Lord
There's not one left for me?"

The Father smiled and softly said
"I've left you to the end
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you Dog, my friend"

Golden Wedding

He asked me if I'd marry him,
I beamed and said "You bet"
I'd fancied him in senior school
Now I'd got him in the net!

My mother said "Don't do it,
He's always down the pub"
My Dad said "He'll be alright
He's a member of our club"

And so with this star rating
Plans began to roll
A date was fixed, the church was booked
The wedding was the goal.

We booked the Co-op for the "do"
For everybody said
"They do a good ham salad there
for 7/6d a head"

We honeymooned in Jersey
And flew from Burnaston
We crossed the grass, propellers roared
A new life had begun

We bought a house, a family came,
Life passed with little bother
And the moral of the tale, my friend?
Don't listen to your mother!

With thanks to the unknown authors. Contributed by Patricia Lewis.

Chew Valley Big Sing!

This is an exciting, new, day-long event for singers of all abilities to celebrate the fun of choral singing in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. It is organized by Chew Valley Choral Society and Caroline Lowe (Vox in Frox, Better Than Chocolate, and Singaholics).

The day will be led by David Ogden, a well-known professional conductor. Together we will be learning, from scratch, a selection of pieces to suit all tastes, from Handel (Hallelujah Chorus) to Duke Ellington (It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing), and plenty more besides. No experience of singing as a group is needed, nor ability to read music. Just come and enjoy!

Existing Valley choirs will also showcase some of their repertoire so you know what's on your doorstep.

When and where

Date: 30 September 2023, 10am – 5pm

Venue: Chew Valley School

Tickets: £12 available through Eventbrite

For more information and booking:

www.voxinfox.co.uk

<https://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk/>

Or search for The Chew Valley Big Sing on Facebook



Summer of Love with CitySound Voices

Saturday July 15th 2023 at 7.30 pm
St. John the Baptist, Keynsham, BS312BL

Conductor William Stevens

Accompanist Peter French

Soprano Caitlin Ellis

including music by Brahms, George Shearing and the Beatles

Tickets £15, under 18s free

from *Eventbrite* via our website or at the door

www.citysound.org.uk

RCN no.1168389

Supporting

Keynsham and Saltford

Dementia Action Alliance



Popular Bath Choir to sing at St Johns

Popular Bath choir CitySound Voices will be performing at St John's on Saturday July 15 in a concert in support of the Keynsham and Salford Dementia Action Alliance.

CitySound Voices offers music to delight audiences with a variety of styles, both sacred and secular, classical and contemporary. Their most recent performance, celebrating their 10th anniversary, was attended and enjoyed by Bath MP Wera Hobhouse and Bath Mayor Rob Appleyard.

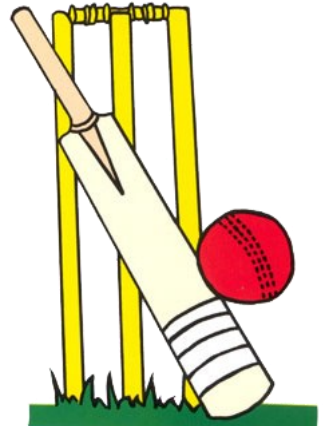
On this occasion we will be hearing Brahms charming *Liebeslieder Walzer*, arrangements of Shakespeare's songs and sonnets by jazz composer the late George Shearing, as well as a couple of Beatles songs arranged by the King's Singers.

CitySound Voices will be led by their musical director William Stevens who has strong Keynsham and St John's connections: he sang in the church choir, was married here and also gave his first professional performance here. Also performing will be Cardiff-based soprano Caitlin Ellis.

For more information see the choir's website: www.citysound.org.uk

CRICKET IS QUITE SIMPLE

**YOU HAVE TWO SIDES.....OURS AND THEIRS,
ONE OUT IN THE FIELD AND ONE IN. EACH MAN
IN THE SIDE THAT'S IN, GOES OUT. AND, WHEN
HE'S OUT. HE COMES IN AND THE NEXT MAN
GOES IN UNTIL HE'S OUT. THEN, WHEN THEY
HAVE ALL BEEN IN AND ARE ALL OUT, THE
SIDE THAT'S BEEN IN THE FIELD GOES IN AND
THE SIDE THAT'S IN GOES OUT AND TRIES TO
GET OUT THOSE COMING IN. SOMETIMES YOU
GET MEN STILL IN AND NOT OUT. THEN WHEN
BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN IN AND OUT, INCLUDING
NOT-OUTS, THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME.
.....IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE**



Notes from the PCC (Not Minutes)

- The PCC met on the 6th June in St John's Hall with Anika Gardiner in the chair.
- Participants were invited to share anything which was a cause for thankfulness in our churches which included increased attendance and more active children.
- It was noted that Nigel Williams curacy has been extended until September subject to his not finding a full-time position before then.
- The team preparing the managing of the team rector vacancy met on the 22nd April. Lesley Organ is compiling a list of retired clergy who may be able to cover some of the services. An offer of a contribution toward their expenses would be made.
- Claire Horton, Deanery and Parish Development Adviser, will meet with the PCC and DCCs to help with preparing preliminary views on the Parish Profile.
- The draft of a Pastoral Letter to be circulated to the parish explaining the arrangements for the vacancy was agreed and this would be issued shortly.
- A copy of the revised management structure of the parish was distributed.
- Lin Fry, the new Office Manager is now in post and Judy Walker has left.
- There were no applicants for the joint post with the Methodist Church for a Children's and Families worker. There will be a meeting with the Methodists on July 4th to discuss the way forward. There may be someone interested in the original part time role.
- There is a possible candidate for the Parish Treasurer role who cannot start until September. Payroll might be contracted out.
- 'More' our current accountants have suggested a move to Case accounting Ltd., Chippenham for our 2023 accounts, at no increased cost to the PCC. The PCC have investigated and agreed the move.
- A possible design concept for a parish-specific legacy leaflet was approved.
- £10,000 of a legacy from Jenny Howard has been received so far.
- With Stephen M'Caw leaving the sale of Chewton Keynsham needs to be handed over possibly to an estate agent.
- There are plans for two teachers from Zambian link parish of Chipata South to come over next year. A flyer requesting pledges of financial and accommodation support has been included with the notices.

Robert Cook

FARM DIARY

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

In the field Every month in the summer is a harvest month. The end of July marks the start of the arable harvest with winter oil seed rape and winter barley. Winter wheat does not follow until August. Here in central Somerset and in the rain shadow of the Quantocks, we are an early-to-harvest area. The combine harvester has just had its pre-season pressure wash. Its final service is next. Grass is also harvested in most months, whether as hay or silage.



The latter is quicker to make and thus less weather dependent and made in plastic film. Readers might like to know our sheep were shorn of their fleece last month (removing their winter coat) and the value of 87 fleeces was about £30 if it was delivered about 30 miles away. The cost of the shearing was greater than this. If “extinction rebellion” members would wear woollen jumpers instead of man-made ones which come from petroleum, we would all be better off.

Apples This has been mentioned before but the old publicity slogan “an apple a day keeps the doctor away” appears to stand up to scientific scrutiny. Sarah Knapton, the science editor of The Daily Telegraph, wrote on 24th May about a 12 year study at the Harvard Medical school. It followed 1,701 over 65 year olds and looked at their risk of becoming frail. Higher flavanol intake is known to prevent frailty. They are presently found in a lot of fruit and leafy vegetables. The flavanol quercetin present in apples to a higher degree appears to have the strongest effect. There is mounting evidence that quercetin has many benefits. Wageningen University in the Netherlands has found that one apple a day reduces the risk of strokes by between 36% and 45%. A study by the University of Reading found two apples a day lowered levels of bad cholesterol in the body by 4%. On a separate note, it is the author’s thought that our supermarkets are discouraging apple eating. They will stock Gala and Braeburn. The author cannot eat a whole one of these on their own. Whereas with a Cox, he can, although they are not often stocked.

Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for July

BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
4 th June	Amelia Jayne Allen	St John's
	Jude Alexander Salvage	
25 th June	Judith Newton	St John's
25 th June	Hugo Roberto, Oscar Leonardo, Louis Elio, and Theo Mariano Rose-Parfitt	St Margaret's

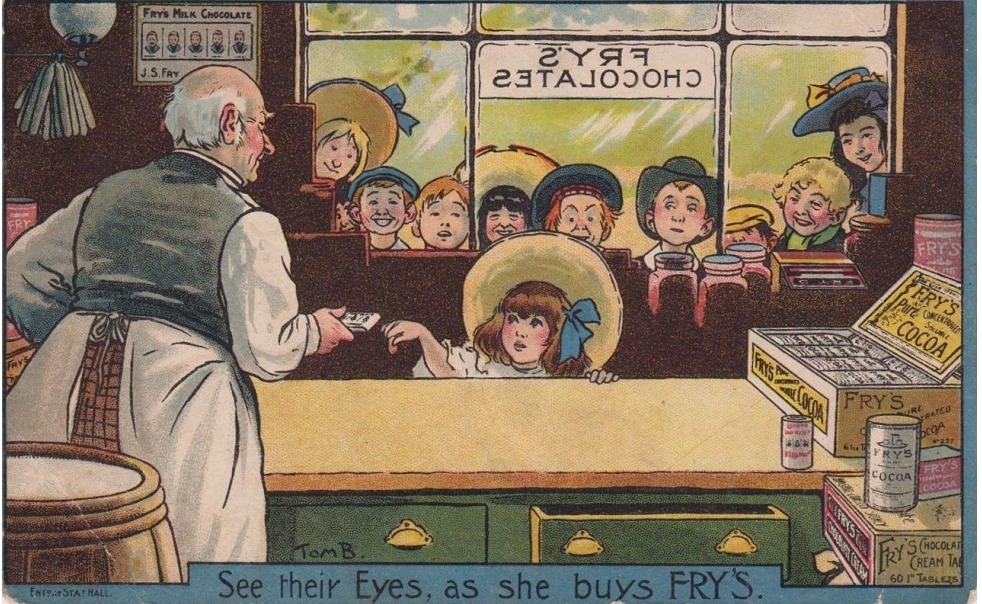
DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
18 th May	Robert (Bob) Bowes	77
30 th May	Peter Beach	95
30 th May	Violet Parsons	95

DIARY

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
1 st	9.30am	Mother's Prayers	St Francis Upper Room
1 st	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
1 st	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
2 nd	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
2 nd	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
3 rd	7.30pm	DCC Meeting	St Michael's
5 th	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
5 th	7pm	Deanery Synod	Parish Hall
5 th	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Session	OCT
8 th	9am	Young Voices Workshop	Parish Hall
9 th	10am	Silent Space	Chewton Keynsham
9 th	6pm	Evensong	St John's
10 th	7pm	Re-ordering Project Presentation	St John's
15 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
15 th	10am	Who Let the Dads Out	Parish Hall
15 th	7.30pm	City Sound Concert	St John's
16 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
16 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
23 rd	6pm	Evening Quiet Worship	St John's
28 th	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
30 th	12.30pm	Nigel Williams – last day bbq	Parish Hall
30 th	6pm	CTKS service	St John's

The Celebrated "Famous Advertisement" Series, by permission of Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd.



Chocolate production was a major industry for Keynsham from 1923 -2010. This post card was popular before the factory moved to Keynsham from Bristol. Keynsham certainly has good reasons to remember World Chocolate Day.

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Cover: St Margaret's Church
Credit: Kath McCarthy

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