

# contact

*The Parish of Keynsham magazine*



June 2023



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# SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

## St John the Baptist, Keynsham

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

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

**Evening Services** - as advertised

**Weekday Holy Communion:** 11.20am 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 - 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

**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: 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

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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:

*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*





*Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN*

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# Message of the Month

June 2023



Advent has a wreath. Christmas has a tree. Lent has Ashes and palms. Easter has a cross, an empty tomb and signs of new life. Pentecost has fire and wind. Symbols are so important for us to allow religious meaning to enter into our lives. Through symbols we actually assign meaning to ordinary things.

In June, we find ourselves in Ordinary Time, according to the church year. Ordinary may not be a bad thing after a busy time, Easter followed by the Coronation weekend behind us. The colour for Ordinary time is green. I am not sure if it is true but I felt that trees and bushes took a little while this year to turn green. But by the middle of May, everything suddenly sprang into life and colour. Green is meant to symbolize hope, to be a symbol of life. During ordinary time, there is no special festival, no holiday in the Christian calendar, no special services in church. In the meantime, we can encounter God in the ordinary ways. This is not a season of "nothing going on." It is a time which we can symbolize growth, movement, process, life.

Walking can be a great Ordinary Time activity. I have tried to get out more and we live in a beautiful area with stunning walks in easy reach. Of course, we could use this as an opportunity to walk more than we usually do, walking some of these well-trodden beautiful walks, but we can also use every time we walk somewhere, in the ordinary course of our daily routine - even if it is down to the high street or to work. We can use this as a moment to turn to our God and acknowledge that we are not alone and that God is with us. We are on this journey together. It can be very simple, and become an easy habit to develop. And, before long, our ordinary walking from here to there, expresses communion, acceptance, obedience, even a profound alignment of my life with God's loving mission for me.

Walking is something we often do as family, it is good to get out, fresh air and all of that. No matter where we go, my youngest often finds something interesting to pick up: a little stone, a stick etc which ends up in our garden, or even somewhere in the house. An ordinary object, one that reminds me of this time of walking together as family. Let me encourage you over the next few weeks, to journey with God in ordinary ways and if you find it helpful, pick up an object that reminds you of that time.

*Anika Gardiner*

# John McLennan

## John in the Church

*Marcia Cohen, Penny Garrett, Anne Hewitt, Hazel and Morris Powe, Judy Presland and Edmund and Christine Prideaux share their memories.*

John and Sonya came to live in Keynsham about 1985. He was an active member of St. John's right from the beginning. He was well known as a gentle, kind, calm and cheerful man whose engineering background and sharp mind brought a wealth of useful skills and attributes.



He served the church in so many ways, as Church Warden, a long-standing member of the DCC and a much-valued member of the Buildings Committee. The DCC made good use of his knowledge. He contributed a great deal to the Building for the Future group, which plans the future refurbishment of the church building. He grappled with the problems of meeting the carbon neutral commitments of the Church of England, and was happy to share his knowledge with other churches. He also played an active role on the Vision Committee.

With all these commitments he was also a stalwart supporter of the pastoral team, helping with pastoral events and pastoral visiting

After his wife Sonya died, he found support as an active member of a Grace group, who will also miss him sadly.

John never allowed the years to slow him down. A year ago he became the oldest person to abseil down the church tower – the second time. In his final illness the end came quickly, but the Church remained important right to the very end, as he dictated notes and collated information for the proposed new heating system for St. Francis even as his final care was being arranged. He had passed on the baton.

Continued >>>

**John in the Community** John was also active in the wider community. Chris Primrose writes:

John McLennan - Past president Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club.

My first real contact with John was in 2015/2016 when we were both members of the Probus Club. John was Vice President, and looking for someone to take on that role when he became President. Out of the blue John rang me to ask if I was interested and was most surprised when I said "Yes!" This was the beginning of a surprising and meaningful friendship.

John and I were very different characters, We did, however, have many things in common which came to the surface as our friendship grew. Our love of our families was foremost, followed closely by our desire to do the right thing.

In all my dealings with John I found him to be kind, loyal, supportive, honest and most of all helpful. I will miss him and his wise advice, our conversations and his great friendship. He will also be sadly missed by all his friends at The Probus Club.

Rest In Peace John.

*Chris Primrose - Immediate Past President, K&S Probus Club*

### **Inside the Front Cover**

1. The Tower lit up.
2. St. Michael's Burnett celebrates in style.
3. The flowers in church were a lovely feature of our celebration.
4. The special Coronation Service.
5. One of the stalls on Monday afternoon- the Gambles and friends.



## St. John's Celebrations



Our parish church of St John's celebrated the Coronation in fine style, even the weather failed to dampen the spirits. There are pictures inside the front cover, where everyone can see them in colour.

The weekend burst in with a blaze of red white and blue from the church tower, together with a huge projected Union Jack, all ready for the big event on Saturday. The church was full of flowers from Saturday onwards, with knitted versions outdoors to cheer things along. The special Coronation Service on Sunday had something for everyone, starting with family-friendly themes and moving on to a magnificent formal service enriched by wonderful music from the choir and organ. This brought the time neatly up to lunch, so several families moved seamlessly on to the Council's Party in the Park.

Monday's theme was "The Big Help Out". The King is keen to promote volunteering so this was the day's theme nation-wide; the church's own volunteers certainly worked hard to make the weekend such a success. Local groups took the opportunity to set up stalls to promote their causes, and to recruit volunteers. The growing church choir also had a promotion event, offering adults and children the chance to enjoy singing.

Church events are always good for tea and cake but Monday went one better. The weekend came to its grand finale with a coronation cake, and bubbly to drink the King 's and Queen's health while the church bells pealed out across the town.

*Kathleen McCarthy*

## Welcome to Lin Fry

*Lin Fry has now joined St. John's as Office Manager following Judy Walker's retirement. It is a great pleasure to welcome her; she has written a few words to introduce herself. Lin writes:*



I have lived in Bristol my whole life as did the generations of my family before me. I am married with 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren. My daughter and her husband married in St. John's Church, Keynsham in 2004 followed by her children being christened in the Church a few years later. The Church has always held a very special place in our hearts and I'm so pleased to have been given this opportunity to join the team. My family and I have all lived near Keynsham for over 40 years and are very familiar with the local schools (Keynsham and Saltford) and its amenities.

A brief overview of my work history, I joined Hewlett Packard in Filton, Bristol, as an Executive Assistant and was soon given the opportunity to study for a Master's Degree in Business Management. Following my Graduation, I moved into the Human Resource function becoming a Human Resource Manager where I spent 20 very happy, although very busy years until I took voluntary redundancy to primarily spend more time with my elderly parents, who unfortunately passed away shortly afterwards. During time to consider what I was going to do next, I enjoyed renovating our home and spending more time with my grandchildren. Shortly afterwards, I was very fortunate to begin working at Pukka Herbs as a People Advisor and will always be grateful to Pukka and Hewlett Packard, for the wonderful opportunities my various roles presented to me including making many lifelong friends.

I have a number of interests including some art type activities, calligraphy and being a member of my Slimming World group, where I've been part of the social team for about 15 years. For the most part I spend as much time as possible with my close and extended family and most week-ends I watch my eldest Grandsons play football. One plays for a local team, the other is a member of Bristol Rovers Academy. My husband, as a very young man, played for Bristol City so some very interesting conversations are held at the week-end as you can imagine :-)

I hope this has given you a little insight into who I am and I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all in due course and working with the team.

*Lin Fry*

## **The independent review into faith engagement**

The report finds that faith is an ‘overriding force for good’, and the government needs to improve its engagement with faith groups. A better understanding of faith will help government tackle systemic issues including forced marriages, child safeguarding and extremism.

**Colin Bloom, Independent Faith Engagement Advisor**, considered how government can best celebrate the contribution of faith groups, while tackling harmful practices. More than 21,000 people responded to the public consultation and Colin Bloom has set 22 recommendations for government.

In his review, Bloom examined engagement with faith in a broad range of public institutions including the Civil Service, Armed Forces, schools and prisons. He called on the government to bring in a programme of faith literacy training for all public sector staff, to ensure public servants understand the people they are helping, and to increase partnership opportunities with the faith groups who play a valuable role in society.

Bloom noted that a better understanding of faith would also equip the government to tackle issues such as forced marriage, radicalisation in prison; and faith-based extremism, including Islamist extremism, and the small but growing trends of Sikh extremism and Hindu nationalism.

Bloom also calls for appropriate regulation of out-of-school settings, including the faith-based sector, to safeguard the physical safety and wellbeing of children.

Bloom, said: 'For millions of people, faith and belief informs who they are, what they do and how they interact with their community, creating strong ties that bind our country together.'

'As we as a nation continue to become more diverse, so too does the landscape of faith and belief. Our government's understanding of the role of faith in society must remain both current and alive to its evolutionary changes.'

'It must also not shy away from some of the challenges that exist in small pockets within faith communities, from forced and coercive marriages to faith-based extremism, financial exploitation, and child safeguarding. These must not be consigned to the ‘too difficult’ box.'

'Greater understanding of faith in all its diversity will ensure that we remain a country that respects, celebrates and understands people of all faiths, beliefs and none.'

### **Faith Minister, Baroness Scott of Bybrook said:**

'As Faith Minister I will continue to shine a light on the important work of faith groups across the country, who play such an important role in public life.'

'I welcome this review and thank Colin for his work – we will carefully consider the recommendations and I'll make it my mission to continue to work closely with those of all faiths.'

## **Saint of the Month**

### **Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, Bishop of Bath and Wells**

It seems right and proper that we should remember a Bishop of Bath and Wells who features in the Anglican Calendar of Saints, being remembered on June 8<sup>th</sup>. His main claims to fame are his hymns, and his struggles with the politics of turbulent times.

#### **Early life**

The Ken family home was Ken Place in Somerset, but he was born in Hertfordshire. Education at Winchester and Oxford led to ordination in 1662. After several curacies he returned to Winchester Cathedral as Bishop's chaplain, and also worked as a curate in the poorest parts of the town. He was an accomplished musician, at this time he wrote two famous hymns, "Awake my soul and with the sun" and "Glory to thee my God this night", as well as the doxology "Praise God from whom all blessings flow". Later he wrote a third hymn "Lord now my sleep does me forsake" which has not stood the test of time.

After he visited Rome in 1674 he came home an even more convinced Anglican.

#### **A developing career**

In 1679, King Charles II appointed Ken as chaplain to his niece Princess Mary, who was married to William of Orange, in his court in The Hague. However, Thomas fell out with William, and returned to England the next year. When the King visited Winchester in 1683 he refused to allow his lodgings to be used by Nell Gwynne, but the King did not hold it against him and the following year he was appointed Chaplain to the Fleet. He went with the navy on the expedition to blockade Tangier for a sea sick year, together with Samuel Pepys, who left some "quaint and kindly reminiscences of him".

On his return the King was appointing a new Bishop of Bath and Wells, and asked for "the good little man who refused his lodging to poor Nell". Sadly Bishop Ken's first duty after his consecration was to attend the King on his death bed.

Back in his diocese Bishop Ken was well known for his philanthropy. He refused a lavish banquet after his consecration, and frequently invited "12 poor men" to dine at the Bishop's Palace- at the "Bishop's Table" He published a guidance

manual for “Rich and Poor taking the Waters in Bath”. Unfortunately, he failed in his attempts to establish a workhouse in Wells, and also several schools.

James II now became King and Thomas Ken’s troubles began. James supported Roman Catholicism and issued his controversial “Declaration of Indulgence” in 1688. Ken was one of the seven bishops who refused to sign. They were all imprisoned in the Tower of London on 8<sup>th</sup> June, charged with “High Misdemeanour”. A subsequent trial acquitted all seven.

William and Mary soon came to power following the Glorious Revolution, but Ken still had a problem. Having sworn an oath of allegiance to James II he felt unable to swear a new oath to William and Mary. He was removed from his Bishopric in 1691 and retired from public life.

### **Later Years**

Ken lived for many years in retirement at Longleat, which belonged to a friend from college days, Lord Weymouth. When in due course Queen Anne succeeded William and Mary she offered him his Bishopric back but he declined, mostly on grounds of his age. She did however grant him a generous pension of £200 a year. He died in 1711 and is buried in the Church of St. John in Frome, the nearest parish in his old diocese.



Crypt of Bishop Ken - Photo by Phil Williams



## **‘Yes, I’m an atheist churchgoer’**

An English vicar had a regular church attender who came to church on average twice a month, and who volunteered to keep the church hall tidy. He also frequently helped out by doing practical repairs or improvements. But – he didn’t believe in God, in Jesus or the Bible! In another church, while the PCC was discussing worship, the lady church treasurer suddenly said, “Yes, that’s all very well, but what about those of us who don’t believe?”!

An American university survey undertaken in 2022 by the Public Research Institute found that 29% of people who said they were atheists “sometimes” went to church. Another survey by *Christian Today* found that 1% of atheists went to church regularly, even weekly! The obvious question to these findings is “Why does someone who clearly doesn’t believe in God go to a church set aside for the worship of God?”

An article published in *Backyard Church* on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 suggested three reasons:

- 1) Some go to keep their spouse happy, usually the wife dragging the husband along.
- 2) Some go for the sake of their children, to increase family bonding.
- 3) Some go because they want to feel part of a community, and church communities are usually very Atheist Churchgoer friendly, welcoming and open.

In the 2021 Census, while 37% of English people said they had No Religion (which is not the same as being an atheist), just 14,000 (0.02% of the population) wrote in the word ‘Atheist’ in answer to ‘other religion’.

Sadly, no survey in Britain seems to have ever asked atheists if they go to church!

In a 2011 study, 12% of the UK population said they were spiritual AND religious, and 34% said they were spiritual but NOT religious. Clearly this is a debatable topic!

*Peter Brierley*

# mannna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

June 2023

## Celebrating our links

**C**hurches 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](https://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](http://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](https://bathandwells.org.uk/keynsham-chipata-south)

Follow us on







St. John The Baptist Church Keynsham is Wild About Community and we believe Church is more than just a Sunday morning. We want to express the Love of Jesus inside and outside of our building every day.

Led by our Pioneer Minister Trevor James, we are exploring initiatives under the umbrella of our Wild About Community banner. It is our way of sharing the love of Jesus, serving our community, exploring fresh expressions of church and worship. whilst reconnecting with creation.

We are doing this in a number of ways:

The Sanctuary Garden is a community garden located next to the River Chew on Dapps Hill. We are open once a week for you to come and have a cuppa and relax You can also join us every morning Monday - Friday 7.15am to 8am to 'Be Still' as we listen to the bible and pray in the day. There are other ad hoc events during the year so please keep an eye on our Facebook page!

We have partnered with the One Community Trust located next to St John's Church, for our monthly 'Grow Together' session. Families can come and get involved with growing veg on two plots, be creative with crafts and have a fun safe place to play and get to know others There is also an opportunity to join us every Monday 10am - 1pm for a spot of gardening and upkeep. If gardening isn't your thing you can just pop in for refreshment, rock painting or a chat at The Community Table.

We are exploring a fresh way of being church, from April there will be a meeting around The Table on the third Sunday of the month @4pm at Two Rivers School Hygge Park. It is an opportunity to meet together around food. There is no set format other than sharing time together as we learn more about each other and our faith, with time for praying and sharing.

Please follow the @WildAboutCommunity Facebook page for more details and to keep up to date with events.

If you want to know more about the project please contact Trevor James via the message button on Facebook or email: [trevorjames@keynshamparish.org.uk](mailto:trevorjames@keynshamparish.org.uk)



## **Monday's 10.00am-1.00pm**

We have created a relaxed and welcoming space in the One Community Trust building. Come and drop in and have and some refreshments @The Table. You can pop in for a chat and get to know some folk, join our creative duo Hero and Christine for some rock painting or join Trevor outside for some gardening where the team will be @Grow Together.

Led by Trevor James (Pioneer Minister CofE) & Holly James.

For more information contact Trevor:  
[trevorjames@keynshamparish.org.uk](mailto:trevorjames@keynshamparish.org.uk)

You can find us at The One Community building at the rear of St John's Church: 1 The Park, Keynsham, BS31 2BL



## REFUGEES

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

\*\*\*\*\*

(now read from bottom to top)

By Brian Bilston

(who has given his permission to publish)





## Christian Aid in Ukraine

### **An estimated 15.7 million Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance**

Christian Aid is warning that since the Russian forces invaded Ukraine, “An estimated 15.7 million Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance. This includes 7.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in private homes with host communities and in collective centres.”

Millions of Ukrainians are living in damaged homes or in buildings which are inappropriate for their needs. Winter temperatures can plummet to as low as -20C in parts of the country.

Christian Aid is working with partners to provide hope and to ensure people survive and rebuild. Its partner organisations provide shelter, distribute lorryloads of food, and give out life-saving medical equipment, hygiene kits, baby incubators, lifesaving drugs, thermal blankets, and trauma kits. They also offer a shelter for refugees, where women and children are prioritised so that they don't need to sleep at overcrowded railway stations.

Christian Aid says: “Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to the people of Ukraine. By joining us, you can give hope to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.”

If you can help, go to: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>.

### **Miscellaneous observations on life**

- ◇ I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.
- ◇ It's weird, being the same age as old people.
- ◇ One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.
- ◇ If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- ◇ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- ◇ You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
- ◇ As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

## Our Species – Not All Bad

When we watch the news, it is very easy to conclude that humanity is a failing species. Item after item is of violence, corruption, dishonesty and evil exploitation of the most vulnerable.

I have been asked in recent days by a number of people about what is happening to people we knew in Sudan. Since 2011, South Sudan (where we lived and worked) became independent of the Arabic north based on Khartoum, so, for the time being, at any rate, Juba is not directly involved in the horrors that we read about and see on our screens.

The politics are complicated and global – they are sponsored by regimes across the region and beyond, including Russia. Meanwhile, the ordinary people are caught up in the crossfire – ten million in Khartoum and 45 million in Sudan as a whole. Water, food and basic everyday necessities are in short supply.

With all that is going on, how can ordinary people survive? All around Khartoum, away from the banks of the Nile, the terrain is dry desert for hundreds of miles in every direction. At the beginning of the conflict, the news was about getting people out, helping people escape. But what happens to older people and children or those who are unable to run away or fend for themselves?

What we don't hear a lot about on the news is that the vast majority of the population are looking after each other – pulling together and sharing. A large number of organised networks are working what may appear like a series of miracles but, in fact, are simply what happens when human beings work as a team to care for each other – to care for the most vulnerable among them. While life is by no means easy, it is at least preserved, hoping for the possibility of good times to come. God is answering our prayers through these networks.

*Al-Jazeera* has recently published the following story which I thought worth sharing. This is just one example among many. While the evil and selfish may have the power, wealth and murderous control, they are vastly outnumbered by the millions who share and care. With a few exceptions, human beings are good, generous and kind by nature. *Al-Jazeera* reports\* :

*“Despite the near-constant danger, 36-year-old Walid Abdel Mawla al-Sideeg regularly heads out to the battle-ridden streets of Khartoum to deliver food to families holed up in their homes. Like many other Sudanese civilians, his actions are borne out of a dogged determination to protect the country’s vulnerable as the country’s infrastructure is torn apart by war. Al-Sideeg started the Khartoum Food Bank on April*



*18, three days after the fighting began. The food bank has since grown into an essential lifeline for thousands of families in the city.*

*But, it is just one of countless civilian committees across the country that have banded together to support the communities racked by shortages of food, water and medical supplies. They scour food supplies from any store that is open and attempt the treacherous journeys to homes around the city.*

*Some families have gone without food for up to three days; others are in areas where fighting is so intense that al-Sideeg and his team cannot reach them. On those occasions, they send them cash transfers and hope that they can reach a grocery store themselves.*

*The Khartoum food bank, like many of the country's burgeoning civil committees, is funded by members of the Sudanese diaspora, who respond to calls on social media for support.*

*After receiving donations, al-Sideeg and other members of the food bank brave the streets to buy beans, lentils, flour, onions and other essential foodstuffs before rationing them out into bags according to each family's needs."*

There are many other stories like this.

When we consider humanity as a whole, here is an example of the true network at its heart. Keynsham is no exception. We have hundreds of residents who reach out to others in one way or another, both locally and far beyond the boundaries of our community.

Thank you for being part of it. And please keep praying for Sudan. Prayer is something we can all do, and it works!

*Trevor Stubbs*

*\*<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/1/sudanese-civilian-groups-band-together-to-provide-essential-aid>*

## How to prepare for your new puppy (or: what the dog training manuals will never tell you)



*Begin now – and build up your stamina!*

1. Pour cold apple juice on the carpet in several places and walk around barefoot in the dark.
2. Wear a sock to work that has had the toes shredded by a blender.
3. Immediately upon waking, rush outside in your pyjamas in the rain and dark and say several times: "Be a good puppy, go potty now - hurry up - come on, let's go!"
4. Cover all your best suits with dog hair. Dark suits must use white hair, and light suits must use dark hair. Also, float some fur in your first cup of coffee in the morning.
5. Play 'catch' with a wet tennis ball.
6. Run out in the rain in your bare feet to close the gate.
7. Tip over a basket of clean laundry, scatter clothing all over the floor. Leave your underwear on the living room floor, because that's where the dog will drag it anyway. (Especially when you have company.) Jump out of your chair shortly before the end of your favourite TV programme and run to the door shouting, "No, *no!* Do that OUTSIDE!" Be sure to miss the end of the programme.
8. Put a little heap of chocolate pudding on the carpet in the morning, and don't try to clean it up until you return from work that evening.
9. Scratch the legs of the dining room table several times with a screwdriver – they are going to get chewed on anyway.
10. Take a warm and cuddly blanket out of the dryer and immediately wrap it around yourself. This is the feeling you will get when your puppy falls asleep on your lap.



# The Magic of Moths

Kathy Farrell from Avon Wildlife Trust tells us more about the wonderful world of moths.

Moths are among the garden's best-kept secrets. Most people think they are dull and that they eat clothes. Well, two UK species do eat clothes but that makes the proportion in relation to the total number of species extremely small. As for being dull, again it is a matter of degree and taste. Some moths are indeed a bit brown and boring, but others are intricate flying mosaics, stunning to the eye and quite miraculous under a magnifying glass.

During Summer, be prepared for an amazing fact: at night more species of moths may pass through your garden than all the types of butterflies in Britain put together. Many more, in fact, because on a good night there may be over a hundred. And these will include many different colours of moths that would really make you sit up and take notice, if you have the wish to investigate. We



Lime Hawkmoth

know some people would shudder at this but keep calm and read on!

As the majority of the 2500+ species of moths found in the UK are nocturnal, to investigate them in your garden all you need is a bedside lamp (100w or LED equivalent) with the shade removed, and an old sheet. Place the sheet on the lawn and put the lamp in the middle of it. If

you have some empty egg boxes to place around that helps to give places for the moths to rest. Switch the lamp on at dusk and after a while you will find moths circling and eventually resting on the sheet and egg boxes. It's best to wait an hour or two before you enjoy the fun bit of examining what you have. Best results will be found on a still humid night, as moths love these conditions. You can continue attracting moths to your lamp throughout the summer and discover different species as the season changes.

As you check specimens that fly in you will be astounded by the variety of sizes and colours and soon you will want to be finding out more. And then another delight awaits - moths have amazing names and here's just a few: True Lover's Knot, Maiden's Blush, Rosy Footman, Peach Blossom and Hebrew Character. British moths can lay claim to having the most vivid and imaginative names of any group of animals worldwide



Mint Moth

Some moths can be seen in the daytime. If you have mint or marjoram herb plants in the garden look around them on a summer's day. You may well disturb the micro "mint moth", a reddish brown moth with yellow spots. And of course there are the "tiger moths", generally dark with white spots or stripes and flashes of bright colour on their underwings, a delight to see on a sunny day.

If you would like to know more about the Keynsham branch of Avon Wildlife Trust their website is [keynshamawt.org](http://keynshamawt.org) and the email address is [keynshamawt@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamawt@gmail.com).

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## Butterflies

In the UK, long-term trends show that 80% of butterfly species have decreased in abundance or distribution, or both since the 1970s.

This month, 3rd June has been declared a Butterfly Education and Awareness Day (BEAD) 2023. It is an annual event organised by the Association for Butterflies (AFD) to raise awareness about the importance of butterfly conservation.

BEAD is designed to help educate the public about the importance of butterflies in the pollination process and why it is important to create and protect butterfly habitats. It is also a great opportunity to teach children about metamorphosis. There are over 200,000 species of butterflies in the world and scientists tell us that they are a vital part of the environment. They are essential as pollinators for many crops, flowers and plants and they provide a good indication of the health of the world's ecosystem and the effects of climate change.

Scientific studies of the different butterfly life cycles will, it is believed, lead to important medical developments in the future.

And, of course, they are fascinating insects to sit and watch when you need a break from digging the garden!

*The report can be downloaded free at: <https://butterfly-conservation.org/state-of-uk-butterflies-2022>*

# 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.voxinfrox.co.uk](http://www.voxinfrox.co.uk)

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

Or search for The Chew Valley Big Sing on Facebook





## FARM DIARY

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

**In the Field.** With the very wet early May weather, spring work is late. More than most industries, farmers are at the mercy of the weather. Early and late spring work will need to be done at the same time. Maize drilling and first cut silage are the jobs done in early May which are late. Silage quality falls as the grass puts up seed heads. Next winter, animals on silage will need more supplementation with “nuts.” Nuts are purchased feed in pellet form that will include for example, protein, energy, vitamins and minerals and will be tailored towards that which the main feed is short. The protein and energy can be soya meal, cereals, brewers grains and so on. With late planted maize it has to be borne in mind that the plant breeders have provided us with forage maize that can be grown at this latitude. Already it is a crop that is harvested quite late so that delay in planting could make this later again or less mature and lower quality. Ground conditions at this time can be challenging.

**Bear Grylls.** Having been a vegan before, he now regrets this. It must be possible to be vegan and healthy but as Bear Grylls points out the nutrient density of meat and dairy is immense. Other commentators have pointed out that the elderly, children and those on lower incomes will find it difficult to do well on a vegan diet. The environmental credentials of alternatives to meat and dairy are also suspect. All these points have been made before by this author.

**Hunting etc.** Hunting wild animals with dogs was banned some years ago. The debate at the time was based on political considerations rather than scientific ones. Counter intuitively, foxes have declined catastrophically since the ban. However, we do need to understand if you have more of one thing you tend to have less of another. At the moment, the author is plagued with jackdaws. Their number is increasing relentlessly each year. Something else must be disappearing. The RSPB has been discovered to be killing foxes in Northern Ireland to address the declining number of lapwings which are ground nesting birds. All tricky.

*Richard Graham*

# Parish Register & Diary for June

## BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Edith Roxanne Skennerton	St John's
"	Arthur John Paul Nash	
"	Elsie Mary Rose Nash	
"	Wilson Hobbs	

## WEDDINGS

Date	Name	Church
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Adam Mark Prangle & Rebecca Leigh Smith	St John's
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Ian Joseph Morris Musmann & Jessica Elisabeth Frances Harber	St John's

## DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Pat Ryan	85
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Sylvia Harvey	83
24 <sup>th</sup> April	John McLennan	88

## DIARY

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis
4 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
4 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
6 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	PCC Meeting	St John's
7 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Keynsham Orchestra concert	St John's
13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	St John's DCC meeting	St John's
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
17 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
18 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
18 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
25 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
30 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Keynsham Music Festival concert	St John's



The Big Help Out. The King had asked for the Bank Holiday Monday to reflect his enthusiasm for volunteering. Here Sam Shackleton, the Director of Music, has set out his stall to encourage new choir members, and the Girl Guides are busy telling girls about the organisation.

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**CONTACT EDITORS**

**Kath McCarthy, Robert Cook  
 and Hero**

e-mail: [keynshamcontact@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamcontact@gmail.com)  
 c/o Parish Office,  
 1 The Park, Keynsham  
 T: 0117 986 3354

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