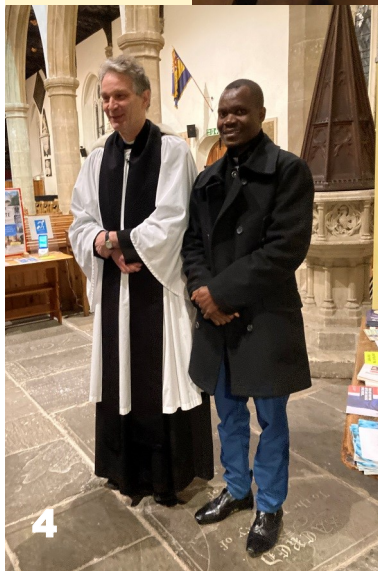


# contact

*The Parish of Keynsham magazine*



**March 2023**



# SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

## St John the Baptist, Keynsham

**Holy Communion:** 8.30am every Sunday

**IN CHURCH @ 10.30** - in Church with choir

**TOGETHER @ 10.30** - in Parish Hall

**Occasional Festival Services:** 10.30am

**Evening Services** - as advertised

**Weekday Holy Communion:** 11.00am Wednesdays

**Holy Baptism:** In public worship / or Sunday 12.00 noon  
(either by arrangement )

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

**Worship Band Practice:** Wednesday 8.00pm

**Bell-ringing Practice:** Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm

**Mothers' Union:** 1st Wednesday - 7.45pm

**Wives Group:** 3rd Wednesday - 7.45pm

**Toddlers Group:** Wednesday - 10.00am

**St John's Pastoral Visiting:**

Marcia Cohen T: 986 5687

## St Francis', Warwick Road

**Morning Service:** 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

**Evening Services:** as advertised

**Holy Baptism:** In public worship by arrangement

**Choir Practice:** Thursday: 7.00 - 8.00pm

**St John Ambulance:** Wednesday: 6.00 - 9.00pm

**Brownies:** Tues: 6.00pm

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

## St Margaret's, Queen Charlton

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

## St Michael's, Burnett

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

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

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### MISSION PARTNERS:

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

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

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

**Chipata South Parish, Zambia.**

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

**Arrangements for Banns and Marriages etc.**

**9.30 -10.30am on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at the Parish Office**

# THE PARISH OF KEYNSHAM DIRECTORY

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

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

Office Manager: Judy Walker - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

## Team Rector:

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

## Team Vicar - St Francis:

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

## Curate - Keynsham Parish:

*Rev'd Nigel Williams* - Tel: 07850887498

## Pioneer Missioner:

*Trevor James* - Tel: 07368 526997

-----

## Readers:

*Rachel Hall, June Lowe, Rachel Shaw, Paul Thurlow*

## Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

*Parish officer: Wendy Harwood* - Tel: 0117 986 2323

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

## Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

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

St Francis: *vacant*

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

## Tower Captain (Acting):

*Edric Broom* - Tel: 07890 364754

## Parish Youth Worker:

*Philippa Lovell* - contact via the Parish Office

## Parish Children and Families Worker:

*Vacant*

## Caretakers:

St John's: - *Steve Spiteri* - contact via Parish Office

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*

## What are the pictures inside the front cover?

1. Mike Burke's last service at St. John's
2. Jackie reads a lesson at Mike's last service
3. Razzmatazz- a jazz evening in the Parish Hall
4. The Rector, Stephen M'Caw, with the Rev. Benard Phiri from our twin parish in Zambia after evensong.
5. Bishop Michael, the new Bishop of Bath and Wells. Bishop Michael will be visiting the parish on 5th and 6th March.

# GARAGE DOOR & PRE-FABRICATED BUILDING SPECIALISTS

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visit: [www.sdsconcretegarages.co.uk](http://www.sdsconcretegarages.co.uk)



# Message of the Month

March 2023



Ash Wednesday was on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, marking the beginning of Lent. For some Lent is a time of preparation for Easter – preparation for the sorrow of Good Friday and then the resurrection joy of Easter Sunday.

It can be quite a solemn time when we may decide to give up things (cakes? alcohol? chocolate?) or we take something up (reading a Lent book? some initiative?).

In Lent we may be reminded of how Jesus went into the desert for 40 days in preparation for his coming ministry, and then, at the end of Lent how, after 3 years of ministry, Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem and there he was arrested, tried and crucified. And this for the forgiveness of our sins. We may like to seek to accompany him in our prayers as we remember what he went through.

Lent, a solemn time; a time when traditionally there are no flowers in the church.

Indeed, no flowers in our churches.

And yet

beyond our control

beyond sackcloth and ashes

and deep solemnity

as we step out of our churches

the world is exuberant in new life

in buds and flowering bulbs and blossom

as springtime gushes forth.

The thing about God, like the thing about his creation, about nature, is that there is no stopping him; as there is no stopping the flourishing and wonder of nature blossoming.

As we step outside these early spring days let us breathe in the freshness of the air. Let us wonder at the intricate beauty of the daffodil flower ... at its fragrance ... at the blossoms bursting out in the trees. And let us give thanks.

However our churches may seem in our Lenten penitence, even so creation wakes. God breaks forth and cannot be contained.

As I write this I am reminded of 2 readings I found when I was on retreat at St Beunos many years ago:

*“God speaks through humanity and through all creation. God’s voice cannot be silenced. Like little tiny persistent violets that grow beneath concrete blocks, seeking tiny cracks beneath the great oppressive weight, the fragile, yet powerful beauty of God’s grace ultimately breaks through and leaves us in wonderment.”*

The second is about Christ in the margins:

*“Together with many other people around the earth, Celtic saints believe that mystery often reveals itself in the betwixt and between. On the banks of rivers and lakes, at the edges of fog, even on thresholds or at fences, one might suddenly glimpse what is really real, or even be caught out of oneself in the great world of spirit.*

*To be betwixt and between is to be on the margins. All mystics and every tradition have found themselves there. As Merton would say, it is only from the margin that one can see things in proper perspective; the perspective from which God sees things, the perspective of a child.”*

I am not saying that the solemnity of church is not a wonderful blessing to us during Lent. I truly appreciate it and the drawing close to God in silence, seeking forgiveness and preparing for Easter. These are important indeed. What I am saying is that God is a God of surprises and works in unexpected and often exuberant ways (sometimes when we least expect it – betwixt and between) ... and of course, he cannot be stopped!

I wish you all a holy Lent

with depth of solemnity and repentance

but also with an awareness of the beauty of God in his glorious creation

and awareness of his often hidden, unstoppable, power that can be unexpected, yet always wonderful.

*Rachel Hall*

## Revd Benard Phiri

We have had the great pleasure of welcoming Father Benard to Keynsham Parish this month. He has recently been appointed to our twin parish of Chipata south in Zambia, Rachel Shaw wrote a profile about him for the web page. Father Benard came to the U.K. to attend a conference/induction course at Canterbury Cathedral, and has been able also to visit Keynsham. His very full programme covers many aspects of Parish life. I wondered what the impact of his first visit to the UK would be; Father Benard was kind enough to answer a string of questions. How do new eyes see us?



### **What made an immediate impact when he arrived?**

The style of buildings, so many big buildings.

The roads-so big and mechanised with so many signs

How people work- always busy, always scurrying around not taking much notice of each other.

### **What impact did Canterbury have?**

Father Benard felt strongly the special atmosphere of Canterbury as a holy place. He loved all the different small chapels with their dedications to saints from previous times, it reminded him of the continuity of Christian worship over the ages. One major memory of Canterbury was the commitment to regular worship, with services at least twice a day every day.

### **What are the main differences between Keynsham and Chipata?**

In Chipata South Father Benard is responsible for six churches scattered over a large area, much of it rural-he spends a lot of time travelling. The congregation is usually numbered in the hundreds, music and dance are an important part of the service.

Here our four churches are much closer but the variety of worship interested him. At St. Francis' he attended a family service where to his surprise the priest wore ordinary clothes- in Zambia the priest always wears his vestments. At St. Michael's he experienced- a much more formal style in a tiny church. The small congregations and lack of children and young people in church is a marked



contrast to Zambia. Although he has not yet been here long, it has helped to reinforce his view that different people may like different worship styles, but we are all part of the same family pursuing the same purposes.

### **What does he not like?**

The weather.

*Kath McCarthy*

## **Mike Burke**

Mike and Jackie Burke are moving on to their new lives and new home in Gloucester; it is time for us all in Keynsham to say good-bye.

In his seven and a half years in Keynsham Mike has made his mark on the whole parish. Who could forget the Birmingham voice and the sharp humour, Keynsham's own Jasper Carrot, livening up many a sermon. However the formal work of a vicar within the church is only part of the story.



Since he has been in Keynsham Mike has led initiatives in so many areas. The eco-church, the community fridge, the Keynsham Music Festival and many other groups have all benefitted from his leadership. Jackie has been a steady supporter of the church, especially of the children in our community.

Mike and Jackie's last weekend in the Parish, 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January, saw a great deal of celebration. A party in the Parish Hall on Saturday followed by a cheerful service for the whole Parish in St. John's on Sunday brought his time in St. John's to a fitting climax. Mike's connection to the local music scene gave us the last song:

"It's Gonna Be All Right"

# The Ministry of Spiritual Direction Course 2023 – 2025

[www.ministryofspiritualdirection.co.uk](http://www.ministryofspiritualdirection.co.uk)



**Have you noticed people coming to you wishing to talk about God, their faith, their spirituality?**

**Different types of people in different places?**

**Have you wondered if God is calling you into the**

Perhaps this **Taster Day** will help you in your discernment

The day will provide more information about

- The subjects covered
- The pattern of a typical course day
- What being a member of the course will expect of you
- What as a member of the course can you expect of us as tutors leading the course

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023**

**WHERE: FLOURISH HOUSE, WELLS, BA5 1FD**



For more information and/or to register please email Sue Lloyd:

[director.minofsd@gmail.com](mailto:director.minofsd@gmail.com)

with your name and contact details.

Or look at our website [www.ministryofspiritualdirection.co.uk](http://www.ministryofspiritualdirection.co.uk)

**Please ensure you book for the Taster Day by 13<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Home for Good

David Kingswood writes:

Every 15 minutes, a child in the UK enters the care system. Many have suffered neglect or abuse; all will experience trauma and loss. Each one deserves a home where they will be loved, nurtured and enabled to thrive. Too many children wait too long for the stability, care and love they need.

**Home for Good** has a bold vision to find a home for every child who needs one in the UK, through fostering, adoption and supported lodgings for teenagers. We believe the Church has a crucial role to play.

There are over 50,000 churches in the UK. In every village, town and city in the country these churches serve people who want to follow the example of Jesus and walk alongside the marginalised. Imagine the transformational difference the Church could make if even more individuals and families in our congregations opened their homes to children and young people. Imagine the impact if church communities supported those families with love, encouragement, prayer and practical support.

**Home for Good** inspires and equips people, families and churches to play their part in ensuring that every child experiences the stability, care and sense of belonging they need. Through our resources, content and training packages, we equip individuals and families as they explore fostering, adoption or supported lodgings for teenagers. We mobilise churches and communities to welcome, understand and support families who love and raise care-experienced children.

**Home for Good** is not a fostering or adoption agency. It works closely with local and district authorities, adoption and fostering agencies, and supported lodgings organisations, to find resilient and caring homes. We particularly focus on finding homes for the children and young people who have waited longest.

**Home for Good** is a national charity with a local mission – we have team members and volunteers across the country, working locally to inspire the local church, build partnerships and ultimately find homes for the thousands of children who are waiting. Our impact is growing – and everyone has a part to play. But we don't just work at local level – we are committed to sparking systemic change too.

Through the stories, experiences and wisdom of care-experienced children, and the individuals and families who wrap around them, we demonstrate to those in government and positions of power across the UK that there is a better way of doing things. We build a bridge between those whose voices are too often ignored, and those who have the power to enact real change.

**Home for Good** is driven by a vision: that TOGETHER, we can find a home for every child who needs one. What part could you play?

**David Kingswood**

**Bath and North East Somerset Coordinator** | 07533 978055

Twitter: [@home4gd](#) | Facebook: [@home4gd](#) |

Instagram: [@homeforgood.org.uk](#)

Email: [dave.kingswood@homeforgood.org.uk](mailto:dave.kingswood@homeforgood.org.uk)



# SOUP LUNCH



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**12 noon-1.30 pm**

**St John's Church Hall Keynsham**

**Enjoy good food and fellowship and  
Donate to the vital work of Christian Aid**

## Did Zoroaster Invent Religion?

26<sup>th</sup> March is Zoroaster's birthday.

The world population is rapidly approaching 8 billion. These 8 billion people have, and are forming, thousands of different religions and cultures. Some estimates put these 'religious type groups' at over 4,000, but the number that is said to be growing at such a rate that the total will soon be uncountable.

Many scholars believe that religion in the form of the belief in a god, or gods, first began in Persia (modern Iran). Today in Iran the official government-backed religion is Islam and only three other religions are tolerated - Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. These three religions, however, have strict controls applied to them.

Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians and Muslims believe in a monotheistic god, that is, there is only one god. Of these four religions, Zoroastrianism is the oldest, and is believed to be the first religion in the world. Like most religions, at its centre is the constant struggle between good and evil spiritual forces. Some experts believe that Christianity, Judaism and Islam all have their roots in Zoroastrianism, which according to Zoroastrian tradition was started by the prophet Zoroaster (sometimes called Zaranthushtra).

At the age of 30, while partaking in a pagan purification rite, Zoroaster had a divine vision of a supreme being. He began teaching followers to worship a single god he called Ahura Mazda, which means the Lord of Wisdom. Religion, as we know it today, was born.

Today India has the largest number of Zoroastrians, although numbers are declining, whereas in North America, Britain, Australia and New Zealand numbers are increasing. However, in world religion terms, they are very few, about 100,000 - 200,000. This compares with the largest worldwide religion, Christianity, which has an estimated 2.2 billion believers. The second largest is Islam with 1.9 billion believers, and at the bottom of the top 10 is Judaism, with 15.3 million.

Zoroaster's birth is celebrated this month on 26 March. Little is known for sure about his life, even when he lived but it was before the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, possibly long before, as it became the state religion of the Persian Empire. It was superseded by Islam after the Arab/Muslim conquest about a thousand years later. He is said to have died aged 77.



## The Church of England makes progress towards the 2030 CO<sup>2</sup> emissions target

The Church of England saw a gradual but steady reduction in carbon in 2021, according to the latest data from its national Energy Footprint Tool (EFT). More than 400 churches across England are now reporting 'net zero' carbon emissions, as part of the most comprehensive data collection to date.

The EFT was launched in 2019 to record carbon emissions across the Church of England and is reporting data for the third time. The 2021 report includes data from church schools, clergy housing, cathedrals, offices, theological education institutions, and work-related travel, in addition to the actual church buildings, which were also recorded in 2020.

It estimates that overall carbon emissions were down by 5,000 tonnes CO<sup>2</sup> in 2021 despite buildings being open for more of the year. The data also included travel-related emissions for the first time.

The Bishop of Selby, John Thomson, who is the Church of England's lead bishop for Net Zero Carbon, said: "There are some positive indicators that the Church of England is making progress towards our target, and every effort, small or great, is important and welcome."

### Paying for Contact

There is no longer a specific charge for Contact but it still expensive to print. Many are now able to access it in full colour on the Parish Website but the printed version can be distributed to those who prefer it. Copies can also be left in public places to promote outreach. To cover these costs we would urge **all** readers to consider making a donation of **at least £5 per year**.



This can now be done going to <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/f2db93c0-0105-4c7e-869e-097521cf1b4f> or scanning the QR code. Payment can also be made by cash or BACS to Parochial Church Council of Keynsham  
Sort Code: 60-12-11 Account No: 80291295. Cheques should be made payable to Keynsham P.C.C. Please reference your payment as 'For Contact'

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

March 2023

## Living and telling the story of Jesus

In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus. This vision for us all in Bath and Wells encourages us to live out our everyday faith; responding to Jesus' life, teaching and work and to tell his story, in word and deed.

But what does this look like where you are? That's the question that Bishop Michael, as our relatively new diocesan bishop, is asking everyone to consider.

During three Zoom sessions held earlier in the year, Bishop Michael shared his thoughts on the diocesan vision and four key areas of focus he has identified as important. He wants to hear what people think about them and encouraged everyone to play their part to help shape how we can, together, live out our vision in the future.

Julia Hill, Head of Deanery and Parish Support says, "Whether you are a member of a church congregation, are in a school, a



Have your say about the diocesan vision. (Photo: Jason Bryant)

chaplains or any other context, please share your views on how we move forward together. We will be holding Zoom sessions for people to join the conversation, but we are also encouraging people to have conversations in their own setting and then share those views using a simple online form."

"We are very keen to hear a diversity of voices, including those of children and young people and have produced some guidance notes for those facilitating discussions."

The consultation closes on 30 April 2023. The responses will be collated and reviewed so we can determine our next steps. Find out more about how you can get involved at [bathandwells.org.uk/vision](https://bathandwells.org.uk/vision) ■

# News in brief

## Celebrating growing in faith

In February, after a week considering the theme of 'Everyone, Everywhere Growing in Faith', people from across Bath and Wells gathered in three venues to celebrate the conclusion of the Everyday Faith event.

Clare Phillips who attended the in Taunton gathering said she enjoyed the opportunity to meet with others to talk about and discuss faith together, "It was really great to meet so many different people, people with whom we don't normally get together. It was a good opportunity to share our faith." Everyone who attended offered sunflower seeds to take away to act as seeds of hope and a reminder of the week. [Find out more at bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/everyday-faith-event) ■



## RHS school champion

St Margaret's Church of England Primary School, Tintinhull is one of the top five green schools in the UK. The little school, which lies 4 miles west of Yeovil, has been appointed by The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) as a Growing Champion School alongside four others across the country. They will be making regular videos for the RHS's digital channels, as well as sharing tips, experiences and advice for other schools on growing flowers and vegetables ■

## Warm spaces welcomed

A 'community living room' warm space at St Paul's in Kewstoke which was set up at the beginning of this year is being embraced by the local community and helping bring people together.

Revd Gail says, "We are now getting 20-30 people coming along to our coffee mornings where previously

we only had around 8. And we are having to add more tables every week.

"We have made new friends in the village who would never have come along to the church coffee morning but who now feel comfortable to come into the community living room." ■



# Looking out for Jesus

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

'When we hoe a field, we all start in this corner and we go this way' is my favourite Zambian proverb. I've been sharing its words with people from our parishes, schools and chaplaincies as a way of inviting us all to think about how our diocesan vision can be refreshed and developed to help us look towards the future with confidence and joy.

Our vision calls us to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'. It speaks of faith in action. It makes clear that all we do is in the name of Jesus. And it's full of aspiration; living out its words is a life-long task.

But what might our vision mean in terms of what we'd like to focus on specifically? This is where my Zambian proverb comes in. For my sense is that in our common life we would be strengthened if we had a greater focus of what we're all working towards together.

To help us think about this, I'm suggesting four themes that I hope we can all get behind. The aim is not to generate a new initiative, rather it's to identify priorities for our common life upon which we can all focus. Our diverse communities

of course mean that anything we do needs to fit local contexts. But I hope the four themes can provide a common framework that will help us all.

Under our overall vision of 'living and telling the story of Jesus', the themes are: (1) Valuing and cherishing the people we already have, (2) Offering worship and sharing our faith together in new and different ways, (3) Developing our own faith and the faith of others. (4) Sharing in ministry and leadership.

I'm inviting everyone to have their say about how these could be developed, adapted or altered. Please do speak with each other and your local church, school and chaplaincy leaders about how this can happen where you are. More information to enable feedback is available at [bathandwells.org.uk/vision](http://bathandwells.org.uk/vision).

Please be part of the conversation! Your insights, thoughts and experience are invaluable in helping us think together what it means to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'.

Every blessing,  
Bishop Michael ■

# 'We are blessed here'

Elizabeth Shearcroft, vicar of All Saints, Taunton and her congregation were the first to engage with Bishop Michael's vision questions.



Members of All Saints, Taunton discuss the vision in their context.

## What prompted you to get involved?

Bishop Michael spoke about his hope for people to engage with the vision at the clergy retreat before Christmas and for us, as one of the poorest parishes in the diocese, getting on the front foot and planning for a positive future for our church seemed a good idea.

## Who engaged in the discussion?

We are blessed here. We have got a very faithful, but small worshipping community and I felt it was important that we were all involved, not just the PCC.

## How did you undertake it?

We incorporated the discussion of questions one and two into the sermon slot and we will be tackling the other questions during another service on Sunday. I shared the questions in advance so everyone had time to think

about them. Julia Hill from the Deanery and Parish Support team helped by facilitating the session which allowed me to listen and support.

## How did the session go?

It was really positive. Everyone here knows all about stewardship and prayer and are very supportive of one another here and very comfortable about growing in faith. The next questions will be more challenging for us.

## Any outcomes so far?

We are not planning on sitting still, we are changing. Not for changes' sake, but because it works. We are not going to be oppressed by what we can't do, but are going to take risks with what we can do in our small way.

## Any advice for those thinking about holding a discussion?

Tackle the questions but make sure you know where the insecurities are as well as the securities are. If you can get a facilitator that's handy, as that allows the vicar or local leader to step in and support during the discussion if needed. Read more at [bathwells.anglican.org/blessed-here](https://bathwells.anglican.org/blessed-here)

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DIOCESE OF  
**Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.

## TWAM - Tools with a mission

### Who are we?

We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to countries in Africa. These tools give the recipients the means to generate their own income, create their own businesses and build a mindset of independence, not reliance.



### What is our ethos?

TWAM was established in 1984 by Jack Norwood, John Bennett, and the Baptist Men's Movement and is based on the belief 'The Lord is close to those whose hearts have been broken. He saves those whose hearts have been crushed' *Psalm 34:18*. And 'Love thy neighbour as yourself' *Mark 12:31*.

### How do we work?

200 volunteers, based mainly in the south of England, collect unwanted tools which are refurbished by 120 volunteers at five locations, and eight support groups. These are sorted into trade kits and sent to DR Congo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### What do we need?

- Hand and power tools - required for Agricultural work, builders, masons/groundworkers, carpentry workshops, electricians, plumbers, motor mechanics and garage workshops
- Sewing machines - all types
- Knitting machines - machine wool, needles, and patterns
- Haberdashery - buttons, needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, zips, patterns
- Fully working IT equipment - desktop and laptop computers running a minimum of Windows 7, flat and widescreen monitors, tablets, network switches, routers, cables
- Ironmongery - nuts, bolts, screws, nails

Bibles in modern English

**Spread the news!** Please tell you family and friends, neighbours, work colleagues and fellow church members.

**Volunteers** are also needed for this rewarding work.

**More information** is available on [www.twam.uk](http://www.twam.uk) or [www.facebook.com/toolswithamission](https://www.facebook.com/toolswithamission) or on 0147 321 0220.



## What is Happening to Fair Trade?

The supporters of Fair Trade have been distressed to hear that Traidcraft PLC, the retail arm of the Fairtrade organization, has gone in to liquidation. They have been in financial difficulties for some time, but have now ceased trading and appointed administrators. Traidcraft began in 1979 and grew steadily over the decades, but in the last few years a succession of adverse pressures has caused business to decline. There are rumours of a new organisation taking up the baton but nothing firm.

The charitable arm of the Fairtrade organisation, which used to be Traidcraft Exchange, will continue to function under the name **Transform Trade**.

Transform Trade has written to say:

“Richard Adams, the founder of Traidcraft said: "Transform Trade has picked up the baton with their new strategy and name; the work is not done yet." This work will be:

### 1. Supporting producers

Over the years, Traidcraft did incredible work with smaller producer groups - helping them find a route to market where no one else could. We're working on plans to expand our work supporting small groups of artisans and farmers, like those Traidcraft was originally set up to help, in order to fill the gap they leave behind.

### 2. The system

Trading ethically within a system that is unjust is always going to be difficult - especially during a cost of living crisis. From the start, the odds were stacked against Traidcraft. Our campaigning and advocacy work aims to level the playing field by demanding change to the entire trading system. We've shown in the past that it can be done, but we must press on with renewed energy.

The good work that Traidcraft pioneered cannot and will not be undone. We are committed to transforming trade.”

## A Senior's Version of Facebook

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them 'thumbs up' and tell them I 'like' them. And it works, just like Facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.



*PS: Facebook is not the only thing I didn't think had a future. 25 years previously in the mid-1980's I was a member of the launch team for the first mobile phone in the UK. My job was to write articles and press releases to promote the concept of mobile communications and encourage other journalists to write about this futuristic new technology. I wrote stories about how in the future everyone would be walking around with a handheld mobile device that would not only be used to communicate but would do remarkable things such as remotely turn your heating on and off, book concert tickets, draw the curtains at home, etc, etc, and you would even be able to see a tv image of who you were talking to. I never thought it would happen, and why would anyone want to do these things? It was science-fiction, but the pay was good. In fact, I still rarely use a mobile, although my wife insists on me having one in case she needs to contact me. The strange thing is that most of the other members of the launch team are now millionaires and I'm not! – Bob*

*Bob Peters.*

Bob is the Editor of the “Ideas Forum” of the Association of Church Magazine Editors.

## Keynsham Group Avon Wildlife Trust

“In like a lion and out like a lamb” is often used to describe the weather in March, and certainly it is possible to experience four seasons in one week, if not one day. Generally however March is a month of tantalising promise, with daylight increasing and early signs of Spring creeping in. It feels good to go outside and connect with nature, appreciating these seasonal changes. On warm, sunny days it is possible to find the first newly emerged insects, including queen bees, comma & peacock butterflies and hover-flies.



Toads in amplexus - Creative Commons

Near local ponds, look out on warm, damp evenings for toads making their way to breed, the males sometimes riding piggyback on the females (a hold called amplexus) waiting to fertilise the string of eggs as they are expelled into the water. There are specific migration road crossing points for these amorous creatures, and in some cases councils can grant road closures to protect the toads.

Near Bath one road is closed for 6 whole weeks, thanks to the Charlcombe Toad Rescue group. At some other crossing points local wildlife protectors act as traffic wardens or lollipop ladies to see the toads across roads at night. You can find out where your nearest toad road crossing point is on the Froglife website [www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/](http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/)

March is the perfect time of year to tune-up your bird song identification skills as the diversity and volume of birdsong increases. The male wren, song thrush, chaffinch, and migrating chiffchaff and blackcap are among the most prominent.

Good advice for bird watching from a pro is to put listening first - then you will see more. One of the first overseas arrivals is usually the chiffchaff with its “chiff chaff, chiff chaff” song, like the great tit’s “teacher” but more fluid and less harsh. And the song thrush’s repetitive but simple patterned phrases belie an impressive repertoire, with quite often a touch of mimicry incorporating not only the calls of other birds but occasionally man-made objects.



Chiff Chaff - Martin Farrell

If you would like to know more about bird song identification why not join our annual Dawn Chorus with our chair Dave Sage. Be warned, it's a very early start 4:30am, but well worth the lack of sleep! Sunday 23rd April, meeting at The Shallows car park in Saltford. A date to add to your diary!

Our monthly talk at the Baptist Church Hall in Keynsham at 7:30pm on Friday 10th March is "**Climate Change under our feet!**". It examines the carbon capturing allies of peat bogs and permafrost and even our own garden soil, with science podcaster Emma Brisdion. No booking required, £3 for Avon Wildlife Trust members, £4 for non-members

For more information on Avon Wildlife Trust Keynsham Group visit our website [www.keynshamawt.org](http://www.keynshamawt.org), e-mail [keynshamawt@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamawt@gmail.com), or phone Kathy 07850 508702

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

1st – 31st March: Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal

1st March: St David of Wales

1st March: Self Injury/Harm Awareness Day

2nd March: World Book Day

7th-12th March: National Carers week

8th March: National Non-Smoking Day

17th March: St Patrick's Day

19th March: Mothering Sunday

20th March: World Frog Day

22nd March: World Water Day

26th March: Passiontide begins

26th March: Daylight Saving – 1.00am Clocks go Forward 1 Hour

# Hope for Ukraine – stories of grit and grace from the Front Lines of war

By Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich.

Part narrative, part wartime dispatch, *Hope for Ukraine* transports you into the gritty reality of war-torn Ukraine—and the front lines of faith, survival, and miraculous intervention. From scrambling to escape the bombs levelling their neighbourhoods to fleeing sex traffickers in the chaos of border crossings to rescuing orphans trapped by Russian tanks, these stunning first-hand accounts tell the stories of real Ukrainians enduring terrible hardships with grit and grace.

Kyle Duncan and Esther Fedorkevich both have deep family ties to Ukraine, and they take the reader inside the conflict, with dramatic boots-on-the-ground stories and eyewitness accounts of Ukrainian refugees, aid workers, soldiers, and families affected by the conflict.

These stories reveal the unbreakable spirit of a nation under siege. Even amid the chaos and tragedy of Europe's largest war since World War II, God is indeed at work in redemptive ways.

**Baker Publishing via Eden.co.uk, £14.99**



*As the servers's strike entered its third week, the Army was called in.*



## MOTHERING SUNDAY 19 MARCH

### Walking the Ridgeway for Fatherless Children

A great deal has been written about Mothering Sunday, drawing attention to the fantastic job that mothers do, but there has been one large group of mothers that may have been neglected — the mothers of an estimated 2 million children brought up in a fatherless home. Fortunately, they are not being neglected by a Reading charity called **Chapter 2**, that is planning to help by holding a sponsored 100km trek along the Ridgeway path, in a non-stop 24 hours walk or run that will end in Reading.

**Chapter 2** was formed in 2018 in response to an increasing number of fatherless homes and the effect it is having on children in all walks of life, particularly with boys who are suffering the most. The Centre for Social Justice — a UK think tank co-founded in 2004 by Iain Duncan Smith, Tim Montgomerie, Mark Florman and Philippa Stroud — describes the boys' plight as 'men deserts': 'Many boys are growing up in the UK with no father and are further starved of any positive interaction with men in general. They are lost in 'men deserts' with no clear path out. This is a grave situation for a boy and the consequences can be profound. Every boy is searching to understand the essence of masculinity, and they need a tried and true path to follow, trodden by men before them.'

**Chapter 2** supports fatherless boys with a mentor and positive activities to help them build a better future. One Reading participant in the walk, said: 'In Reading and the surrounding areas, there are approximately 100,000 boys. By the time they are 15 years of age, roughly 1 in 2 of them will not be living with both parents. The vast majority will be living with their mother and risk losing contact with their father. These boys will grow up to face far more challenges than your average boy. Unemployment, academic failure, depression, chronic illness, anxiety and poverty later in life are all far more likely for fatherless boys.'

The sponsored walk will benefit fatherless children, and, of course, it will help their mothers. It will be held on Father's Day, Sunday 18 June and end in Reading.

## **Book review - House of Glass by Hadley Freeman**

The author of this much-praised book is a fine investigative journalist. She found a box of letters and photographs in her late grandmother's cupboard and decided to follow the leads to discover more of her family history. It is a tour de force as journalism, but also shines a spotlight on the lives of early 20<sup>th</sup> century European Jews. The Glass family, originally called Glahs, came from a poor village in what is now Poland. When their father died, the mother and four children moved to Paris to avoid the increasingly vicious pogroms. For some years they managed, and even made a success of their different lives. The only girl, Sala, like her brothers Henri and Alex, loved Paris and made every effort to assimilate into French life. Only Jacques and their mother Chaya made no effort; indeed in all her years there Chaya spoke nothing but Yiddish, and ate only kosher. Henri was bright, studied engineering and ultimately invented the machine that made microdots, thus helping the efforts of the Resistance when the Germans invaded France. Alex became famous as a fashion designer alongside other great French couturiers. He was an amazing chancer, with manic drive and extraordinary charisma; trying to understand his survival and success is one of the joys of the book.

Sala was married off to a Jewish American, not very happily as she both missed Paris and hated New York. Her husband became successful and they had two boys, one of whom is Hadley's father. It did mean, however, that she was safe from what was happening in France. When the Germans invaded, the Jews became targets. At first they were sent to detention camps in France, later they were shipped off to the concentration camps. Alex joined the Foreign Legion! Henri, now married to the redoubtable Sonia, managed through her to remain both in Paris and at work. Sonia is the second force of nature in this book; bright, a wonderful linguist, practical and with all the right connections, she helped Henri, Chaya and Jacques' wife and baby to escape detection and find enough to live on. Only Jacques, who continued blindly to believe that the French would save him, died in a concentration camp. Even Chaya survived and ended her days in Israel.

This fascinating book raises many questions. Those Jewish immigrants who assimilated into French life while retaining their faith were, on the whole, the survivors. There are problems of exile, betrayal, and the weakness and corruption of the Vichy government. It is over 1000 years since Britain was last invaded; we are now the 'safe house/sanctuary'. How should we behave towards refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers, and what should we expect of them? The questions are just as hard, and the answers just as elusive.

*Jenny Herbert*

We are always pleased to have contributions from Contact readers.  
Virginia Hughes has written for us:

## Spring

Brighter days with longer hours  
Many gardens full of flowers  
Flowing streams, with primrose covered banks.  
For all these gifts we must give thanks.  
Hedgerows bursting in to leaf  
With wild flowers growing underneath.

Fields of lambs are being born,  
Thousands of daisies scatter the lawn.  
Bright yellow daffodils blowing in the wind,  
Baby birds are chirping and trying out their wings.

Sometimes it rains, refreshing all.  
It helps the grass grow strong and tall  
But most of all  
The sunshine covers everything with gold.

The glorious rays of warmth and light reminds us of Our Lord,  
He rose again to give us hope and life anew,  
So we step forward, the way is clear,  
There is so much that we can do.  
With the promise of summer days to come  
Here is the Spring- at last it's begun.



- . . And don't forget to remind your readers not to be late for church on Sunday 26 March when clocks go forward 1 hour at 1am!

*Bob Peters*



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## FARM DIARY

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

**In the Field.** At the time of writing the weather is spring like. The fertiliser spreader was in action early in February. Winter jobs must have been completed! Our crops of oil seed rape, wheat, triticale and beans all require some elements in large quantities such as N, P, K, and lots of other elements in small quantities. Sulphur is one of the latter. This used to be supplied from our polluted air. Now that our air is cleaner we are having to supply it. This can be seen in your gardens as moss and lichens now grow on the trunks of garden trees more abundantly. The rape has the highest requirement. Before February is out the spreader will be supplying nitrogen to the crops. The writer looks on nitrogen fertiliser as cheaper than buying land to produce more crops. Worldwide we cannot produce enough food without adding nitrogen. Although of course there is a debate about what we should be eating.

**Protein.** According to the NFU magazine, British Farmer and Grower in March, the leading UK research institution Rothampstead has discovered that the quality of different foodstuffs needs to be factored into discussions about their relative environmental footprints. A new measure called the Digestible Indispensable Amino Acid Score (DIAAS) accounts for the different digestibility of different foodstuffs. Low DIAAS protein needs to be consumed in larger quantities than high DIAAS protein. On this measure, the climate impact of dairy and beef were almost halved. Meanwhile, many plant based products fared less well as their proteins are less easily digested.

**Farm monetary support.** Food production has been supported at least since the 2<sup>nd</sup> WW in order that food in the shops costs less. Lately, the UK government decided after Brexit (sorry) that our generous EU support would be wound down over five years to nothing. We are in year three now. The replacement was going to be enhanced payments on existing environmental agreements that over the years has had different names. These payments have allowed the author to manage low producing parts of the farm that are environmentally rich with annual and capital payments. Other capital payments have been received that enhance the environment. There are now several schemes. Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS); Countryside Stewardship; Environmental Stewardship; Country Stewardship Plus is coming. Payments under the flagship ELMS are having to be increased by 10% as the uptake has been so low. It is a bit bewildering but that is politics.

*Richard Graham*

# Parish Register & Diary for March

## BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Freya Jane MacLean Burgess	St John's
	Ben Angus MacLean Burgess	
	Elijah Paul Rees	
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Jessica Jayne Kelly	St John's

## DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Joan Lapham	92
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Tim Edmondson	56
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Roger Jones	86

## DIARY

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
1st	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
4th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
4th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
5th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
10th	1pm	NHS Blood Donation	Parish Hall
11th	12pm	Christian Aid Soup Lunch	Parish Hall
12th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
14th	7.30pm	St John's DCC Meeting	St John's
14th	7.45pm	St Francis DCC Meeting	St Francis
18th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
18th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
18th	7.30pm	Keynsham Orchestra	St John's
19th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
21st	7pm	PCC meeting	St Francis
25th	6.45pm	Choir Jam Concert	St John's
31st	1pm	Trio Paradis Concert	Parish Hall

March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's day



One of his miracles is said to be casting the snakes out of Ireland

**From St. Patrick's prayer:**

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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**Cover:**

Credit: Robert Cook

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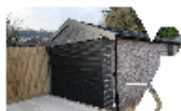
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