

# contact

*The Parish of Keynsham magazine*



March 2024



The Easter dawn service in  
The Paddock behind St. John's



In our linked parish in Chipata, Zambia,  
there is a Good Friday procession of  
the Stations of the Cross



Marcia Cohen and the Pastoral team preparing the Parish Lunch. Left  
to right- Madeleine Davies, Pauline Partridge, Marcia Cohen, Judy  
Presland, Catherine Battell, Penny Garrett

Rev. Anne-Marie Bird with some  
of the choir at St. Margaret's  
Queen Charlton for evensong



# 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:** 11.30am Tuesdays

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

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

**Worship Band Practice:** Wednesday 8.00pm

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

**Mothers' Union:** 1st Wednesday - 1.00pm

**Toddlers Group:** Wednesday - 10.00am

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

## St Francis', Warwick Road

**Morning Service:** 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

**Evening Services:** as advertised

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

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

**Brownies:** Tuesday 6.00pm

**Choir Practice:** Wednesday: 8.00pm

**Choir Practice:** Wednesday: 8.00pm

**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

**CHECK WITH THE NOTICE SHEET!**

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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  
Appointment needed**

# 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:

*Vacancy*

## Team Vicar in Charge

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

## 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

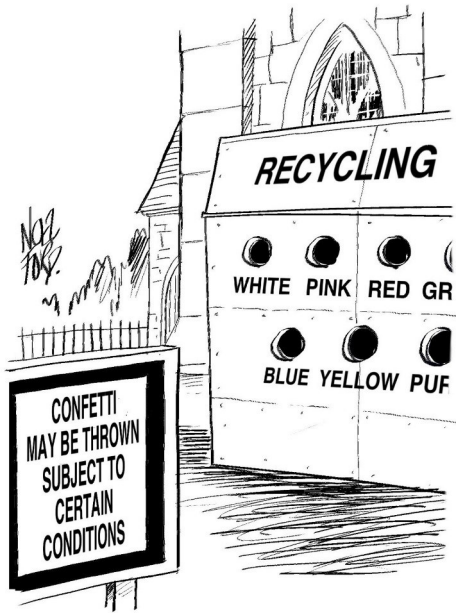
## Parish Children and Families Worker:

*Vacant*

## Caretakers: - contact via the Parish Office

St John's: - *Graham Mitchell*

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



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# Message of the Month

March 2024



As I write this we haven't quite started Lent. However by the time you read it, we are a couple of weeks into Lent and Mothering Sunday and Easter (31<sup>st</sup> March) are approaching.

Mothering Sunday coincides with Mid-Lent Sunday, a day of respite from fasting halfway through the season of Lent. This year it falls on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

I recently came across an article that talks about 'clipping the church' – some churches do this on Mothering Sunday (others on Easter Sunday or Shrove Tuesday). Clipping the church is an ancient custom. The word "clipping" is Anglo-Saxon in origin, and is derived from the word "clyppan", meaning "embrace" or "clasp". Clipping the church involves the church congregation holding hands in a first inward-facing ring around the church, then outward-facing to pray for the wider community and world. Once the circle is completed onlookers will often cheer and sometimes hymns are sung. Often there is dancing. Following the ceremony, a sermon is delivered in the church and there are sometimes refreshments. Christians adopted this tradition to show their love for their church and the surrounding people – what a lovely way of marking Mothering Sunday.

**Mothering Sunday** is a day honouring all who nurture others: mothers, fathers, carers and mother churches. On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church—the church in which they were baptised. It was on this Sunday in the year that those who were working in service were allowed home. On their way home they picked flowers to give to their mums, hence the daffodil posies we still give out in church on that Sunday. Families would prepare special meals and celebrate being together. It was a rare occasion, and all stops were pulled out to make it special. No doubt lots of hugs and kisses were exchanged with those who had not seen each other for a whole year.

Traditions and rituals like these are continued in Church to remind ourselves that our loved ones are precious and that God our parent loves us above all else. We are his precious children, and we are always in his embrace no matter what the problems are we are facing.

Mothering Sunday can often be an emotional occasion and we will mark the day with all sorts of emotions. Some will have faced a recent loss, there may be a relationship break down or other difficulties. What then can we do? There is a lot we cannot do anything about, but we can let ourselves be loved and embraced by God.

*Anika Gardiner*

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## **Les Herbert – Reader Emeritus**

During the communion service in St Francis church on the 28<sup>th</sup> January we were privileged to join with Les as he was presented with his certificate as Reader Emeritus in recognition of his time as Lay Reader over a period of around ten years. During that time many people benefitted from Les' ministry in a large number of ways.

This is a man of great faith who has greatly benefitted the parish of Keynsham. Fortunately, a recording of Les giving his testimony has been preserved and is well worth listening to if you get the chance. (ask Margaret if you can borrow a copy).



Les was a school teacher by profession and no doubt many pupils will also have benefitted from his teaching. Sadly, in recent years Les has been progressively suffering the degenerative effects of Alzheimer's disease which has robbed him of so much. Please pray for him and Margaret as they struggle to cope with this cruel disease.

*Robert Cook*

**christian  
aid**

**christian  
aid**

# **SOUP LUNCH**



**Saturday 23rd 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**



## 2024 Daffodil Appeal for end of life care and carers

The Great Daffodil Appeal encourages people to donate and wear a daffodil in March to support the Marie Curie charity so it can help people with any terminal illness and their families.

Marie Curie is the UK's leading 'end of life charity'. It cares for people with any illness they are likely to die from including Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, heart, liver, kidney and lung disease, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's, and advanced cancer. Today one in four people don't get the end of life care they need.

Superdrug is Marie Curie's 'headline partner' in its campaign to raise much needed funds for Marie Curie Nurses and healthcare professionals to provide expert support and hospice care. You can pick up a daffodil pin in any Superdrug store this March.

Marie Curie is dependent on public donations and last year supporters helped the charity provide direct care to more than 44,200 people across the UK via its nine hospices and through overnight nursing care in people's own homes. The money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat, which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from symptom management and day-to-day care to financial information and bereavement support.

**For information about volunteering and donation:** [mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](https://mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil)

### Editor Needed

If you would like Contact to continue we will need to find a new editor as Kath needs to retire by the middle of this year. **No editor - No Contact**

The task involves collecting useful articles and pictures about the churches both locally and nationally as well as finding other gems that readers might find interesting or amusing.

The collation and publishing of the magazine is done by Robert Cook who is happy to continue for the present.

For further information please email [keynshamcontact@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamcontact@gmail.com). There is a brief "job description" available and Kath will be very happy to discuss what is involved.

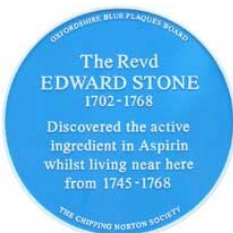
## The story of aspirin

In March we celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the production of aspirin. It was the beginning of a new era, with a cheap painkiller easily available, instead of the cannabis for milder pain and laudanum (heroin) for severe problems which had gone before.

You will probably have taken aspirin, in one form or other, many times. But how much do you know of its history? It was 125 years ago this month, on 6<sup>th</sup>

March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer first patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid). However it was not until 1971 that the mechanism of its action was explained, by John Robert Vane, a researcher at the Royal College of Surgeons who was awarded a Nobel Prize for his work.

Aspirin is based on salicylic acid, which was used in herbal medicines as far back as the Sumerians, around 2500 BC. We also know that the Assyrians (about 2000-800 BC) used willow leaves for rheumatic disease, as well as the Egyptians, to ease joint pain or inflammation. In Greece, Hippocrates (460-377 BC) recommended an extract of willow bark for fever, pain and childbirth. And even the peoples of ancient China, Rome, and Native America all discovered and used plants containing salicylic acid. Fast forward to Chaucer's 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the Knight's Tale recommends the use of meadow sweet, another source of acetylsalicylic acid, for pain.



In 1763, an English clergyman from Chipping Norton, the Revd Edward Stone, somehow discovered that willow bark relieved his rheumatic pain. He then studied it systematically and used dried willow bark from trees grown on his land to successfully treat fevers in local people. He carefully documented his work and submitted it to the Royal Society.

Progress was not rapid. In 1828, Johann Andreas Buchner at the University of Munich, purified salicin from willow bark then in 1859 Hermann Kolbe, at Marburg University, worked out the chemical structure of salicylic acid, and made it synthetically.



The label reads "Not for sale outside Germany"

In 1897, Dr Felix Hoffman of Friedrich Bayer and Co, managed to produce pure stable acetylsalicylic acid (ASA). His discovery was the *first time* that a drug had been made synthetically, and so it was the birth of both aspirin and the pharmaceutical industry. In early 1899 the new compound was named and registered Aspirin. The 'A' comes from acetyl and 'spir' from the first part of *Spirea ulmaria* (Meadowsweet), another botanical source of salicylic acid.

At the outbreak of World War 1 Germany forbade the export of Aspirin. The British government offered a £20,000 prize to anyone in Britain or the Empire who could provide a substitute. After many tribulations and one or two explosions George Nicholas of Melbourne succeeded. He launched Aspro, which conquered a world wide market.

So next time you take an aspirin, think of the Assyrians chewing willow leaves, 4,000 years ago.

## Strap Lines

- All the world's a stage and I sometimes feel as though I missed the final rehearsal.
- At 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. (Ann Landers)
- Don't regret growing older because it is a privilege denied to many.
- Does a church steeple with a lightning rod on top show a lack of trust and confidence?
- Funny how some old people get nostalgic about things they weren't keen on first time round.
- God grant me the facility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.
- Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly.

## Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him? This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord. Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE FLAT-PACK WARDROBE

## 30 years since the ordination of women

It was 30 years ago this month, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1994, that the first 32 women were ordained as priests in the Church of England. The service was officiated by Bishop Barry Rogerson at Bristol Cathedral.

Bishop Rogerson ordained the women in alphabetical order, so Angela Berners-Wilson was the very first woman to be ordained. She was a university chaplain. The youngest woman to be ordained that day was aged 30. The oldest was 69. By 2004, ten years on, one of the women priests had died, and 14 had retired.

Bishop Rogerson reckoned it would take 10 years before the first woman would be ordained as a bishop. In the end, it took 21 years until Libby Lane was ordained the first female bishop in the Church of England. She became Bishop of Stockport, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester.

The first woman to be ordained a diocesan bishop was the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, appointed on 26 March 2015. There are currently 25 women bishops in the Church of England.

*Kath McCarthy*



Anna Eltrincham, an old friend and now recently appointed Bishop of Ripon



# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

March 2024

## Sharing the Easter story

**W**ith Easter falling at the end of March this year, preparations are well underway for some creative celebrations across Bath and Wells during Holy Week – in our churches, in our schools, as well as in our homes and outdoor spaces.

Suzi Darwin, Children and Youth Worker at St Swithin's, Bath is one of the organisers of an event designed to share the good news by recreating the wonder of the Easter story in the city's Victoria Park, in the area below the Royal Crescent.

Between 2pm and 4pm on Good Friday, Suzi and other volunteers from six Bath churches, will be holding the [Easter Adventure in the Park](#). At stations dotted around the park they will be telling stories and engaging children in a range of ways, from waving palms to mark Jesus's journey into Jerusalem to sharing squash and biscuits at a Last Supper.

She explains, "Last year's event was really lovely, with people from different churches getting involved and acting out the Easter story at churches around the city. Around 100



Volunteers from churches across Bath will bring the Easter story to life.

people took part, some who regularly attend church and some who don't, who also enjoyed it, including some families who attend the toddler group in my church.

"This year's event is going to be very interactive. The children can get fully involved and at the end we hope to be able to give them an Easter egg and a Bible. By holding it in Victoria Park we hope that even more people can join us - and can meet and come to know Jesus."

You can find out what your church has planned for Holy Week by visiting [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com).

Looking for something creative to do at home to engage with the Easter story? Why not download our Easter Bible Chat Mat at [bathandwells.org.uk/chat-mats](http://bathandwells.org.uk/chat-mats) ■

# News in brief

## 'Puppet-packed' worship

St John's Church in Peasedown, just outside Bath, is piloting a new type of service for families with young children. Called Bubble Church, it is described as a 'puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant-fuelled, 30-minute kids and families adventure.' Bishop Michael recently attended and said, "It is fantastic to see all the children enjoying Bubble Church. It is a really joyful service and a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to worship together and share their journey of faith." ■

Find out more on these and other stories at [bathandwells.org.uk/news](http://bathandwells.org.uk/news)

## A royal visitor for Bath

Her Majesty The Queen attended a Service of Celebration at Bath Abbey in February, to mark the 850th anniversary of St John's Foundation. Queen Camilla, who is Patron of the Foundation, had tea with residents of St John's almshouses in the Chapel of St Michael Within, before walking through the city to the Abbey. The foundation provides shelter and support for older adults in the city and works with children locally ■



Credit: Beata Cosgrove Photography

## Hospital visit boosts spirits

Bishop Michael recently met patients and staff at Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton.

Bishop Michael said, "It was a privilege to see our NHS in action and to see such professionalism and expertise combined with such warmth and humanity.

"It also was brilliant to meet the chaplaincy team and to see them

serving and offering kindness to people of different faiths and of none."

Colin Drummond, Chair of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust warmly thanked Bishop Michael for spending so much time with at the hospital and said, "It was a wonderful boost for patients and colleagues alike in our very busy hospital." ■

# New life for all the world

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

**S**owing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (Jn 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is

the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?

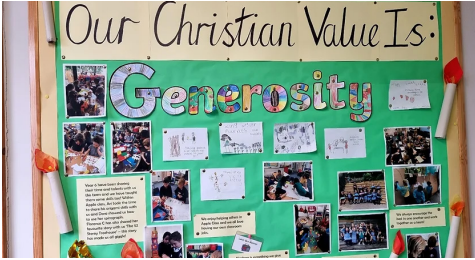
For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all ■

**Bishop Michael**

# A time to reflect

Grant Swarbrooke, Head of Swainswick School in Bath, shares their Easter plans.



Christian values underpin Swainswick's wider curriculum

## How do you mark Easter at your school?

At Swainswick we have two curriculums, our subject curriculum and our wider curriculum that focuses on the children's personal development that is centred around our Christian values. This is lived out in our Easter celebration, which the children have got total ownership of.

## What is planned this year?

We always have a beautiful music concert that is entwined with Easter. The children will be performing individually and in bands. They will write and perform their own poetry, prayers and readings.

## What message do the children take away?

Easter is a time of reflection and the story of Jesus dying on the cross offers

us a time to stop and reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. It also offers us a time to reflect about ourselves, the world around us, and each other.

That is at the centre of our values and our learning. Easter is a lovely way to encourage the children to think about those important things - in this very busy world.

## How else do you live out your Christian values?

In our lesson called Future Fridays we discuss 'Our Global Responsibility'. Every Friday the children run a refill shop for the community, and have invited speakers, such as Amnesty International and Red Card to Racism.

We've also recently introduced the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award.

## What is the award?

It is designed to equip children and young people in character education, to build their leadership skills and faith development, and to empower them to undertake a variety of transformational social action projects in their local communities.

We feel it fits well with the work we are already undertaking at Swainswick

Follow us on

 @BathWells

 bathandwells

 \_bathwells

## 8<sup>th</sup> March: Woodbine Willie, bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War - the Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (1883 –1929) had been born in Leeds, the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied at Ripon Clergy College, and was then a curate at Rugby.

By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.



One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to

cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded from both sides during an attack on the German frontline.

Cont. >>>>

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and wrote several books and a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). His books included *Democracy and the Dog-Collar* (1921) (featuring such chapters as "The Church Is Not a Movement but a Mob", "Capitalism is Nothing But Greed, Grab, and Profit-Mongering" and "So-Called Religious Education Worse than Useless").

He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. One of his celebrated quotes was: "If finding God in our churches leads to us losing Him in our factories, then better we tear down those churches for God must hate the sight of them." It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died from flu in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46. Far from recognising his saintliness, the Dean of Westminster refused burial at Westminster Abbey, because he said Studdert Kennedy was a "socialist", even though he had distrusted most politicians and had refused to join any political party. His funeral took place in Worcester, to which First World War veterans and poor working people flocked to pay their respects. <sup>[11]</sup>

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

### **Miscellaneous observations on daily life**

Evil is not effectively resisted with hatred and guns. The only response to evil that has ever worked is the response of Jesus.... And that is to lead a life of love. That means what it has always meant: visiting the sick, giving to the poor, helping those who need help. – *Jeffrey Burton Russell*

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries. – *Anon*

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important. – *Anon*

The best vitamin for making friends is B-1. – *Anon*



## Ministry Experience Scheme ‘key’ to C of E goal of reaching more young people

The Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) could play a key role in helping the Church of England achieve its goals of recruiting more people to work in ministry to children, youth and families by 2030.

The Revd Helen Fraser, Head of Vocations for the Church of England, told a conference about her hope that the MES Future Youth programme - training in children and youth work for young adults as part of a year-long ministry placement, will grow following its pilot launch in six dioceses this year. The Revd Fraser said: “We often think vocation just means ordination but vocation actually is all that God calls us to - it just means ‘call’ and that can be as simple as Jesus saying to His disciples ‘come follow me’ – that is a vocation, all the way through to something very much more specific,” she said.

She went on: “For some people that will be the really clear and right outcome. But please keep an open mind and a broad mind if that is not clear to you yet because there are lots of different expressions of ministerial vocation that will all, over time, help us to be the Church that God is calling us together to be.”



MES Chair and Chair of the Future Youth Steering Group, the Bishop of Jarrow, Sarah Clark said: “It is always a great joy for me to hear the stories of so many young adults utterly alive in their faith in Jesus Christ, actively exploring their vocation while serving their local church and community with love.”

## Avon Wildlife Trust keeps us up to date

The days are getting longer. Some Spring flowers are already blooming, Snowdrops, Lungwort and a few Celandines, even one or two Daisies are beginning to flower, providing food for hungry insects on milder days. Some trees do not wait for insects to wake up to pollinate their flowers, but are *anemophilous*. Look carefully and you will see clusters of drooping flowers with no petals on Alder, Elm, Hazel, Yew. The pollen is carried by the wind and there is little need to produce nectar.



Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*)

As ever, nature does not work to rigid rules! Willow species which also produce catkins in early spring are largely *entomophilous*. The pollen and nectar produced are a particularly rich source of food for many insects and even Blue Tits, who return the favour of a free snack with pollination services. Despite the exceptionally wet winter, nature continues to surprise and delight daily, so don't wait for warm, sunny mild Spring days to enjoy witnessing the sights, sounds and smells nature has to offer.

## Trevor Stubbs has written a new book:

I am delighted to announce to all my fans that I have a new book out. It's called *Tabitha* and follows the adventures of a thirteen-year-old as she progresses through secondary school. My previous books have all been written for teenagers but this one is for adults – a book about teenagers rather than for them

Tabitha lives on an old estate in West Yorkshire on the edge of a former mill town. She has several things that make life difficult for her, not least a bully she nicknamed Gross who develops a toxic obsession for her. How does all this turn out? I describe this as a tale that both shocks and warms the heart.



I've recently come across correspondence and pictures that take me back to my first youth groups. I remember the great kids and the challenges they faced and delight now to see some of them coming up to retirement! These young people have taught me a lot over the years. Times change, of course. In the beginning we didn't have photocopiers, let alone computers, and most of the youngsters had to go to a phone box to access a telephone but, despite all that, teenage angst was just the same. We've all been teenagers at one time or another.

In the centre of the book, I have included some work by youngsters from various places around the world, including here in Keynsham. The cover, like the illustrations in my book *Stardust*, is by our very own Anna Hewett-Rakthanee.

As with all my books, all the proceeds will go to help street children in Juba, South Sudan. It is available in bookshops and online but if you buy it directly from me, the street kids will get more.

Have fun :)

Trevor Stubbs

Email: [revtrev.stubbs@gmail.com](mailto:revtrev.stubbs@gmail.com)

*Tabitha* ISBN 978-1-915288-07-3

Published by 'The Listening People'. <<https://thelisteningpeople.co.uk>>

**Patricia Lewis sent us a contribution:**

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not shouting "I'm clean living,"

I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

I say "I'm a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success,

I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not holier than thou,

I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow.

*Maya Angelou*

**The South West's biggest new woodland in a generation will be called the Lower Chew Forest  
New site at Compton Dando**

Plans for **Lower Chew Forest**, the South West's biggest woodland creation project in a generation, are close to getting the green light, but urgently need the community's help to turn the dream into reality. When put together with adjoining woodland, the proposed new Lower Chew Forest would be bigger than Leigh Woods or the Downs in Bristol, and twelve times the size of Royal Victoria Park in Bath. The 420 acres of land will be planted with 100,000 native trees, but the charity that is behind the scheme - Avon Needs Trees - says donations will make a huge difference at this critical stage.

Since 2019, when Avon Needs Trees was formed to tackle the climate and nature crises, the charity has planted over 35,000 native trees in the Somerset



and Wiltshire countryside. In 2023 the charity teamed up with the Forest of Avon Trust to plant Great Avon Wood, with the help of over 1,000 local volunteers.



Wick Farm

Dave Wood, CEO of Avon Needs Trees said, 'When Wick Farm at Compton Dando came onto the market we knew we had to act. It's rare for such a large amount of land to come up in one go, particularly somewhere like Compton Dando which is so close to Bristol and Bath, and we know that biodiversity recovery is far more effective across a large area. 'It really

is the biggest opportunity in a generation for us to turn around the critically low percentage of woodland cover in our region, and create a forest-sized woodland. The benefits of increasing this cover include helping to mitigate climate change, improving biodiversity, connectivity and offering a place for people to volunteer, learn and connect with nature.'

The charity is still seeking £100,000 to help buy the land and plant the trees. "With these kinds of projects, donors sometimes say they'd really like to know where exactly their money will go," Dave continued. "With the Lower Chew Forest, they'll be able to know precisely where the trees they've helped fund will be. They will be able to come and see the trees and even help to plant them. So this will be a huge new woodland created for the people, by the people." Those who make a donation are invited to sponsor a 3x3 m block of land, each contributor will receive a what.three.words location for the patch they have sponsored.

If you would like to be part of creating the Lower Chew Forest, a new woodland on the community's doorstep, please go to [www.avonneedstrees.org.uk](http://www.avonneedstrees.org.uk) to make your donation today.



Tree Planting *Credit: Alex Turner*

## Support for Russian priest who prays for peace

Thousands of Russian Orthodox Christians have been urging Patriarch Kirill of Moscow to reinstate a very popular priest in the capital, the Revd Alexei Uminsky, who has refused to recite an official prayer for Russia's victory over Ukraine.

An open letter, which attracted more than 11,000 signatures, including the heads of local charities, says: "The decree banning this priest from serving will deprive thousands of people of spiritual support – a great tragedy for many believers, for children's hospice patients, for hundreds of prisoners and thousands of homeless people."

Uminsky had repeatedly warned that he could not endorse the invasion of Ukraine. Now Russia's online news agency, Gazeta.ru, says that Fr Uminsky was banned from ministering under a decree issued by the Moscow Patriarchate, for suggesting in a YouTube interview that Christians should "pray for peace, rather than victory". The Russian news agency went on to say that Uminsky has long been seen as "a thorn in the Kremlin's side" for his anti-militarism. He was



Easter blessing for a Soyuz rocket

branded a 'criminal in a cassock' by the Russian Orthodox Church's own TV channel Spas, after calling for mercy for the opposition leader Alexei Navalny, during his prison hunger strike.

For the moment, Uminsky remains banned, and may face defrocking as a priest. More than 300 Russian Orthodox priests, who signed an appeal against the Ukraine invasion of 2022, have since been silenced, or forced to emigrate.

### Smile Lines

- Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited, until you try to sit in their pews.
- Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.



## Dramatic decline of religion on TV

There is less television being devoted to religion and ethics than there used to be. *A lot* less.

The latest statistics from Ofcom, the industry regulator reveal a dramatic reduction in television programmes about ‘religion and ethics’ broadcast by the public-service broadcasting networks (PSBs): BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5.

Comparing 2022 with 2011, peak time hours of ‘first-run’ UK origination output fell by 85 per cent; while peak-time hours of ‘all origin’ output (that is, including bought-in material) fell by 76 per cent. Channel 4 dropped from being the most prolific network to providing no output at all; and the BBC output fell by 65 per cent.

Roger Bolton, a former BBC and ITV executive and independent producer, wrote recently in the Church Times:

“All this has happened without a peep from Ofcom or the boards of the PSBs, who are supposed to protect the public interest. There have been no peeps, either, from religious leaders. They seem to be asleep, or preoccupied with their own internal issues, unaware of this wanton destruction.”

“In my opinion, television commissioners ... underestimate the power of religion and the continuing interest in it. They also seem to forget that people are moral creatures, often keen to do the right thing, but wishing to discuss and debate what that is.”

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*(From Church Times, 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024, p14)*



**“If I refer to God as ‘He’ I offend women.  
If I refer to God as ‘She’ I offend men.  
In my profession, I find it’s best  
not to talk about God at all.”**

## Notes from the PCC – not Minutes

The PCC had an extra meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February in place of a planned Standing Committee meeting.

The meeting was called to approve the Parish Profile and agree the wording of the advertisement to be placed in The Church Times.

The final version of the profile had been circulated to all PCC members and there was a minor addition and a few corrections.

The Archdeacon had seen the final draft and was happy with it.

CPAS had received a copy but had not responded.

The Profile was admired for the way it looked and it was then unanimously approved and thanks were recorded to Martin's team that had put so much effort into compiling it.

The job advert had also been seen by several members and was available at the meeting.

This, again, was slightly amended to better reflect our needs and approved for publication. It was agreed to use the option to advertise for four weeks in The Church Times with the facility to readvertise further if the vacancy could not be filled the first time for no extra cost. This will also be advertised in other outlets.

The meeting agreed the parish representatives on the selection panel. These are: - Steve Scott and Sue Lloyd, St John's, Martin Burton, St Francis and Rosemary Turner, St Michael's and St Margaret's.

If all goes to plan prospective candidates will visit the parish on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April to meet members of the churches and be interviewed.

Property update – There was no news of a suitable property for the new rectory but the search is ongoing with a few possible options. (*Subsequent to the meeting the diocese has had an offer accepted on a property in Sommerdale*).

There was an update on the finances and the disposal of the Chewton Keynsham building which is still in progress.

*Robert Cook*

## FARM DIARY

**In the field.** The excessive rainfall continues. We did redrill about two acres of winter wheat that had succumbed to poor drainage but too much rain again followed; so it was not a great success. If only farmers knew the weather that was coming it would be easier to make decisions. A small dressing of nitrogen (urea) was put on the oil seed rape and triticale early last month. Our GPS guided tractor uses a base station in a village about five miles away and the repeatability (i.e. the repeatable accuracy) is so good we do not need to put in tramlines with the drill any more. We may well still do so though. As gardeners know, the grass has been growing for nearly four weeks now which is keeping the sheep happy. According to our vet, who doubles as our nutritionist, the pregnant sheep can be grazed very tightly until four weeks prior to lambing as their needs are minimal until then.

**Wool.** Another farmer was lamenting the low price for fleeces from her shorn sheep. She burnt them. It was not worth the transport to sell them. This has been reported by this farmer last year. The story is repeated because if we are concerned about continued use of mineral oil then stop wearing man made jumpers and other clothes. Replace them with woollen or natural products and we all gain. Lots of people making small changes has an effect.

**Vegan diets.** This author and producer of farmed meat is very happy for people to use a vegan diet. However, the *push* for vegan diets for us all is based on bad data, a recent report claims. Madeleine Ross of the Daily Telegraph of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 wrote about the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study that was published in 2020. It found nearly 900,000 deaths world wide in 2019 were caused by the consumption of red meat. This made it the fifth leading dietary risk factor. The study underestimated the importance of it being easier for bodies to take in proteins and micro-nutrients from meat than from plant-based food. Unprocessed red meat delivers most of the vitamin B12 in human diets and has a major role in delivering other minerals. Red meat can be part of a balanced diet. Prof. Alice Stanton of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland said this report is having a huge influence on policy-makers but some of the recommended diets would cause nutritional deficiencies especially in the young and the elderly. Collaborators of the GBD report have confirmed the error and agreed to amend future reports.

*Richard Graham*

# Parish Register & Diary for March

## DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
10/01/2024	Robert Mark Lapham	67
13/01/2024	Royston William Cocking	82
02/02/2024	Eric William Hodson	88
05/02/2024	Jennifer Mary Raynes	91

## DIARY

\* These meetings by appointment only

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Franciscan Area Day	Parish Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening*	OCT
9 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Free Community Lunch	Parish Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Choral Evensong	Baptist Church,
12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	DCC meeting	Parish Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
16 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Impact	Parish Hall
17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Youth Home Group	OCT
19 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	PCC meeting	Parish Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
25 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Compline	tbc
26 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Compline	tbc
27 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Compline	tbc
28 <sup>th</sup>	9pm	Vigil	St John's
29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Meditation	St Francis
29 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Meditation	St John's



Clergy wash people's feet on Maundy Thursday in memory of Jesus washing the disciples' feet before the Last Supper, to reinforce his instructions: ' A new command I give you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another'



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**Cover:** St John's at Dawn  
Credit: Lin Fry

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