

contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



November 2023



Stephen, our recently retired rector,
and Margaret at their wedding



The Church Choir support the winter events

Rev. Anika Gardiner and Rev. Anne-Marie Bird take the Harvest Festival donations to the Community of the Sisters of the Church in Bristol



Harvest Festival at our linked parish of Chipata South, Zambia

SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

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

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

Evening Services - as advertised

Weekday Holy Communion: 11.00am Wednesdays

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

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

Worship Band Practice: Wednesday 8.00pm

Bell-ringing Practice: Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm

Mothers' Union: 1st Wednesday - 1.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wednesday - 10.00am

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

St Francis', Warwick Road

Morning Service: 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

Evening Services: as advertised

Holy Baptism: In public worship by arrangement

St John Ambulance: Wednesday: 6.00 - 9.00pm

Brownies: Tuesday 6.00pm

Choir Practice: Wednesday: 8.00pm

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

St Margaret's, Queen Charlton

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

St Michael's, Burnett

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

11.15am

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

MISSION PARTNERS:

TLM Mission partner: Bangladesh: *Dr Ruth Butlin*

CMS Mission Partners: Kenya: *Aaron Stanbury*

CMS Prayer partner: *Ruth Radley*

Chipata South Parish, Zambia.

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

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

THE PARISH OF KEYNSHAM DIRECTORY

(www.keynshamparish.org.uk)

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

Office Manager: Lin Fry - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

Team Rector:

Vacancy

Team Vicar in Charge

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

Pioneer Missioner:

Trevor James - Tel: 07368 526997

Readers:

Rachel Hall, June Lowe, Rachel Shaw, Paul Thurlow

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

Parish officer: Wendy Harwood - Tel: 0117 986 2323

safeguarding@keynshamparish.org.uk

Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

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

St Francis: *vacant*

samshackleton@keynshamparish.org.uk

Tower Captain:

Edric Broom - Tel: 07890 364754

Parish Youth Worker:

Philippa Lovell - contact via the Parish Office

Parish Children and Families Worker:

Vacant

Caretakers:

St John's: - *vacant*

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system

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Message of the Month

November 2023



Remember remember, the month of November...

Remember, remember the month of November." Not quite how the saying goes, but when you pause to think for a moment, there's a lot to remember in November. First, we have 'All Saints Day,' a time to remember all the saints and everything holy. This is followed by 'All Souls Day,' where we remember all those we love but see no more. Then comes the 5th of November with Guy Fawkes Night and fireworks, a reminder that King James and his parliament survived an attack.

Soon after, we have Remembrance Day on the 11th, a day to recall the cost of war, especially the World Wars, and to remind us not to repeat such history. We pause to remember all who have died in wars and pray for peace and reconciliation.

We also celebrate BBC Children in Need around the 18th and participate in Anti-bullying Week shortly after that, a time to remember to support those in need, especially children and young people.

November is packed with national and international days for various causes that I haven't mentioned here, making it a month full of things to remember.

But how often do we find the time to pause, take a deep breath, and truly remember?

In the relentless pace of our lives, we often overlook the profound significance of remembering. However, remembering is not just an

intellectual exercise; it's the foundation of our identities and shared history.

On a personal level, memories act as our unique life's time capsule. From childhood's innocent laughter to the wisdom gained through life's trials, memories shape our values, guide our choices, and provide a sense of continuity and purpose.

On a broader scale, remembering is how we honor the sacrifices and achievements of our forebears. It preserves the traditions, customs, and stories passed down through generations, anchoring us to our roots and motivating us to carry these legacies forward.

Amid adversity, remembering offers solace, inspiration, and hope. It reminds us of our own strength and the divine strength within us, the lessons we've acquired, and the unwavering human and divine spirit of resilience. The stories of those who confronted adversity with courage remind us that we can endure and overcome.

In a world that often celebrates the fleeting and ephemeral, remembering encourages us to pause and savour the richness of the past. It urges us to appreciate the promises God made to us through history, the beauty of the world around us, and the people in our lives, fostering gratitude and wonder in the ordinary moments.

As this month unfolds, let us grasp the profound importance of remembering. Cherish your personal memories, learn from history, and carry forward the torch of our shared past into the future. Remembering is not just a mental exercise; it's a deep, enduring act of love and reverence for our lives, our God, and the world we inhabit.

Pip Lovell

St Margaret of Scotland

We usually associate St Andrew with Scotland in November, but on 16th November we celebrate a much more genuine Scottish saint, St. Margaret of Scotland.

St. Margaret was another of the formidable band of Anglo-Saxon ladies who promoted Christianity in its early years in Britain. She has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland', but began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to England in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling became the Anglo-Saxon heir to the English throne. The family fled north, at first to Northumbria.



Malcolm & Margaret
at Queensferry

Legend has it that her mother Agatha felt unsafe in Northumbria and in 1070 took ship for the continent, but they were blown north in a storm, coming ashore at St. Margaret's Hope in Orkney. Here they were met by King Malcolm III of Scotland who took them under his wing and married the beautiful princess. It is more likely to have been a carefully arranged dynastic marriage, Malcolm was already a widower with two sons. As a Scottish queen Margaret went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England. We know a lot about her life in Scotland as Turgot of Durham, the Bishop of St. Andrews, wrote her biography.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. She read passages from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. Malcolm was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. It seemed to be an affectionate marriage with Malcolm, although never a religious man, supporting her charitable works. She also helped her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Before Margaret arrived the Celtic Christian church in Scotland was in conflict with the Roman Catholic version. Margaret, helped by Lanfranc, promoted the Roman Catholic church until it became dominant. She founded a monastery at

Dunfermline in Fife, and established a ferry across the Firth of Forth to help pilgrims travelling to the holy places, which is how the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey. In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, underneath a municipal car park.

Disaster struck in 1093. Margaret was at Edinburgh Castle when her younger son brought the news that her husband and elder son had been killed at the Battle of Alnwick. She died a few days later and was buried at Dunfermline Abbey. In 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary Queen of Scots owned her head.

Allhallowtide

What a lovely old-fashioned word is Allhallowtide, rolling all together in to one the customs of an older Britain, remembrance of the Saints, the hallowed ones, who built up the Christian church, and the memories of those we have known and loved, now departed.

Hallowe'en

Before the year 835 All Saints Day was 13th May, but Pope Gregory IV changed it to 1st November, making use of the timing of the pagan Festival of the Dead. November 1st was the Celtic Samain, the beginning of the dark half of the year, when in the evening before bonfires were lit to keep witches and evil spirits at bay; naturally the people would need to gather together to party the night away.

Hallowe'en customs, always stronger in Scotland and Ireland, travelled to America with emigration. Hallowe'en had almost died away as a British celebration until the highly commercialised version was re-imported from the U.S.A.

All Saint' Day

The next day, November 1st, is the All Hallows Day, or All Saints Day in more modern terms. One of my favourite hymns tells us its exact purpose, it is

Cont. >>>

“For all the Saints,
Who from their labours rest---”
(William Walsham How. 1864)

The Church of England seems to be quite liberal as to who counts as a saint. Not just the great and the good of Christian life, but all those who supported and served the Church faithfully in humble ways. Fra Angelico’s “Fore-runners of Christ with saints and martyrs” shows a medieval view of very diverse company. We now go on to



All Souls' Day

On 2nd November. This is much more of a family occasion. In the Church of England it is “The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed” and is really an extension of All Saints, but it is a time for remembering our own family and friends who are no longer with us. The celebration lapsed after Henry VIII’s Reformation, but of more recent years, especially after the First World War, the need for a special time to remember loved ones who have died became more obviously pressing. The custom of visiting and tending graves at All Souls is not very common in Britain, but in continental Europe it is a day to visit cemeteries,



Polish Cemetery at All Souls

often with the whole family and maybe a picnic. It is a public holiday in some countries. I have a friend from a Polish family who each year at All Souls travels to the cemetery at Swindon to tend the graves of eight deceased relatives, and leave them all flowers and candles.

Here at St. John’s the Commemoration Service is held on the following Sunday, this year at 6pm on 5th November, when

for those who wish it we will remember by name those who have died. Further details are available from the parish office or the “News” section of the church website.

Kath McCarthy

Remembering the National Service – 60 years on

Many of the older generation in Keynsham will have their own memories of National Service, the young men who went off to join up and the families who supported them. Many of my large band of cousins went off to do their National Service in a variety of roles. No one seemed to have a very positive view of the experience- it was just something you had to put up with. Those who want to “bring back National Service” all seem to be safely distanced from it.

If you have memories of National Service you would like to share please send them to me at keynshamcontact@gmail.com or via the Parish Office. After all you are a piece of living history which younger people may well find interesting.

Kath McCarthy

“This year marks 60 years since the end of National Service. The Royal British Legion and the nation will be celebrating all that a generation of young men did for this country during those years, when conscription became just a part of growing up. National Service drew in a staggering number of young men – more than two million were conscripted between the end of the Second World War and May 1963, when the last serviceman was demobbed.



Conscription had come about following the war, when there was a huge demand for military resources in Britain. Young service men were badly needed to police the Empire, and to contribute to the occupation of Germany and Japan. Yet low birth rates in Britain in the 1930s meant there were fewer young men available for military service.

In 1947 the National Service Act was brought in as a solution. It meant that young men aged 18 – 26 were required to serve in the Armed Forces for 18 months. They were sent to posts in the UK and to British garrisons around the world. Some fought on the front lines, and some worked as clerks. Some taught in the Education Corps, and some were on sentry duty.

For many of them, it would have been the first time they lived away from home, let alone left the country. National Service made great demands on them – and left them with a wide range of experiences. “

Adapted from the Royal British Legion website.

Virginia Hughes sent us this poem for Remembrance Day. It was begun by her late father, H.H.Moyser, and finished by Virginia. (Slightly abbreviated)

The Poppy

In Flanders field
The bright red of the poppy
And the red of blood intermingle
Flow and cover the field
Now friend and foe alike *Virginia continues:*
All friends now in the afterlife
Sickened by war and strife
Torn from wives and families
Leave behind sadness and grief,
The poverty and emptiness of war.
But families pray, work and get through together,
Remember their loved and fallen ones, who
In that field of blood fought bravely
To give their families freedom
And a better life.
The ugliness of war
Designed by men.
But now the beautiful poppy
In a field of red
Nature mixed with blood
Of man alike
In Flanders field.



With war and Remembrance in mind...

As long as there are sovereign powers possessing great power, war is inevitable.
– *Albert Einstein*

The belief in the possibility of a short decisive war appears to be one of the most ancient and dangerous of human illusions. – *Robert Lynd*

More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars. –
Franklin D Roosevelt

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him. – *G.K. Chesterton*

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” – *Albert Einstein*

A new kind of Remembrance poppy

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: “We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL’s commitment to sustainability.”

It has taken three years to develop the new poppy. It has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and is made from “bespoke red and green paper.” The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced.

Poppies containing plastic can be returned to Sainsbury’s stores for recycling.

Renowned composer ‘thrilled’ to write new Christmas carol for Church of England

This Christmas, the Church of England is inviting choirs across churches, schools, and communities to ‘join the song’ alongside one of the country's leading choral composers.

The C of E theme for 2023 highlights how singing can help draw people closer to God and one another, through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. The ‘song’ is a new interpretation of 'The First Nowell.' It has been given a brand-new melody by the well-known composer Bob Chilcott and is the centrepiece of this year's



Church of England Christmas focus: *Follow The Star: Join The Song*.

Bob Chilcott’s most often performed pieces include *Can you hear me?, A Little Jazz Mass, and the St John Passion*. His music has been recorded by *The King’s Singers, King’s College, Cambridge, The Sixteen, Tenebrae and The BBC Singers, among other choirs and groups*.

“It's been an absolute thrill for me to be able to write new music for 'The First Nowell,' and to be a part of the 'Follow the Star' campaign at Christmas 2023,” Bob Chilcott said. “I have aimed to make this melody easy to pick up and I hope everyone will enjoy singing it, at a time of year when the joy of singing is so central to worship and to the celebration of Christmas.”

The carol is published by Oxford University Press and features as part of OUP’s new edition of the favourite series, *Carols for Choirs 6*.

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



November 2023

Transforming conflict

Christians are called to be peacemakers. ‘Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples’ John 13:35. At their best Christian communities can reflect the Kingdom of God, demonstrating how people from diverse backgrounds and with different gifts can work together. In reality, things are not always harmonious. Anxieties about change, unexplored disagreements or interpersonal animosities can give rise to quarrels in which love and forgiveness are forgotten.

Simon Keyes, diocesan Adviser on Peacebuilding says, “Parishes can experience disputes and, just like family disputes, they are often complex. A parish which becomes a ‘house divided’ can be an uncomfortable place of anger, blame and pain. This is not easily remedied, even through dialogue or mediation.”

Simon leads the Bath and Wells Peacebuilding Network, a group of trained local volunteers, lay and ordained. Their new Peaceful Parish initiative aims to help parishes transform a conflict by approaching it



The Peacebuilding Network members as a call to repair Christian community, rather than a problem to be solved.

It rests on three core ideas – that we are fallible and all of us fall short of our ideals; that the Kingdom of Heaven is a metaphor for the kind of community we might aspire to become; and that forgiveness offers a way to loosen the grip of the past.

These ideas can be explored in workshops through scripture, personal reflection, and community conversation. Simon adds, “It is no miracle cure, but it can help people begin to think differently about past events and re-orientate themselves towards a better future. And we should all remember that conflict isn’t all negative, it can reveal unexpected opportunities for learning and growth. To rediscover ‘the miracle of diversity in unity, of the grace of God breaking down walls’, as Archbishop Justin puts it.” Find out more at bathwells.org.uk/peacebuilding ■

News in brief

New art installation for St John's

Throughout November, St John's Highbridge is displaying a new art installation, Elizabeth Woodger's 'Diagenesis'. Described as 'a beautiful and provocative reflection on our natural environment and the impact of humans up on it', it is made of a photographic print which the artist folded, rephotographed and blew up to huge size. The exhibition, and a future one planned for next year, have received funding from the Somerset Community Art Foundation ■



Bell-ringing boost

A new bell-ringers training centre has been opened at Holy Trinity Church, Street. The centre hopes to attract new and experienced ringers.

Mike Palmer, tower captain at St John's Glastonbury says, "This will provide a wonderful opportunity for people, young and old, to learn

Church and school's team effort for eco-award

After taking part in a discussion with Bishop Michael about caring for the environment, the Pupil Chaplain team at Backwell Junior School got involved in St Andrew's Eco Church application. After the church received its bronze award, the children spoke at the church's Harvest service at Moorside Farm, sharing their pride in the bronze award and their plans to go for silver ■



Find out more on these and other stories at bathandwells.org.uk/news

a skill exercising mind and body – and make a real contribution to the community.”

The new facility allows learners to develop their skills without disturbing the peace, thanks to muffled clappers and some technical wizardry which sees sensors on the bells feedback the outcome of their efforts ■

Time to re-member

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

I am shortly leaving Bath and Wells for a time to serve as interim Acting Diocesan Bishop in the Diocese of Coventry. You may know that the city of Coventry saw some very heavy shelling during World War 2, which resulted in the destruction of the Cathedral.

A new Cathedral has since been built and stands alongside the old ruin as a testament of hope. Though different in style, there's a harmony of old and new. It shows us where conflict can destroy, peace can be found as we seek to live together as the people of God.

This marrying of modern and traditional styles of architecture, helps us to consider how we fashion the life we are called to live as Christians in our communities. It is not that we put aside our differences nor require others to conform to our own shape or form. Rather we recognise the value of listening fully to others and learn to hear the voice of God. Determining to value the worth of each contribution and discerning together a faithful walk with God.

This season of Remembrance encourages us to look back and to value the contributions of those who have gone before us, giving their lives in the service of others. It is not

about glorifying the concept of war and conflict but the desire to establish a peaceful world for all. As we look back, so we are invited to look forward and commit to establishing a world where all have a place and where the Prince of Peace, Jesus, is our example.

Coventry is the home to the Community of the Cross of Nails. A community of reconciliation based around the cross fashioned by iron nails found within the ruins of the Cathedral following the fire. Its mission is to live out the practice of peace-building, encouraging people across the world to learn to be reconciled with themselves and one another, as they find reconciliation with God, through Christ.

As I leave here, I do so with plenty of memories, many happy, occasionally sad. Often the latter are those where I have got things wrong and failed to live up to my calling to be the grace-filled child of God I long to be. So, if I have let you down, I am sorry and please pray for me, as I will for you, that God continues to reconcile us to Himself and to one another. And as we hold our acts of remembrance this month, may we become re-membered (put back together), as the people of God. **Bishop Ruth**

A symbol of reconciliation

The Revd Martin Kirkbride, newly retired Rector of St John's, Wellington served in the Royal Navy for 16 years. He has recently received a special stole from the Falkland Islands.



The Revd Martin with his stole.

What's special about this stole?

It was made for me by the charity Scarves for Falklands Veterans in recognition of my service both in the conflict and my work since then with veterans. Like their scarves, it is made from 100% Falklands wool and is the exact colour and pattern of the South Atlantic medal.

How did you come to support Argentine as well as British veterans?

In 2013, a representative of the pilot responsible for the sinking of HMS Coventry came over to meet me at Coventry Cathedral to present a letter from him, as he couldn't attend for political reasons. They specifically wanted it presented in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

How has that relationship developed?

From 2013 onwards I started to

develop more contacts in Argentina and that came to a wonderful focus in December 2020 when the University of Buenos Aires ran a half-day conference on the Falklands/Malvinas Conflict. I was asked to close the whole conference with the Coventry Prayer of Reconciliation, in both languages, which was incredibly moving.

What can we learn from that?

We as church have a lot to learn from them about reconciliation. We are good at forgiveness, but reconciliation is different. It is about truth and justice and there is a price to pay and of course that is difficult.

Do you continue to share the message of peace & reconciliation?

Yes. After the lectionary Bible of St John's got lost recently, we commissioned a new one and it features a dedication to all who died in the 1982 conflict and the Coventry Prayer of Reconciliation in both languages. The first to read from it was a parishioner whose ship was damaged in the conflict and lost two crew. Hear more from Martin at bathandwells.org.uk/symbol-reconciliation

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Bath & Wells

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PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AT ALL TIMES AND ON EVERY OCCASION.

(EPHESIANS 6:18)



Sanctuary
Garden

**DAILY PRAYER
RHYTHM**
Monday-Friday

7.15am-8.00am: **BE STILL**- Begin the day being still as we listen to audio books or the Bible.

12.30pm-1.00pm: **BE THANKFUL**- Stop to give thanks and pray for family, friends and the community.

6.15pm-6.45pm: **LECTIO FAMILY**- With the kids in mind, together we'll gather around material from the interactive Lectio Family App.

7.00pm-7.30pm: **LECTIO/COMPLINE**- End the day with a blend of traditional compline and material from the Lectio 365 App.

Wild about Community

The Community of Sisters of the Church

Last week I delivered the harvest donations from St John's to The Community of the Sisters of the Church who are based in St Paul's, Bristol. They were gratefully received and wished me to pass on their thanks to all who contributed.

The Sisters are an Anglican order who aim to bring much needed help to the many homeless on our City's streets and to the many more who are struggling to make ends meet. The convent is open to them on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. No judgment is made and each person is given a carrier bag of groceries, along with hot drinks and sandwiches while they wait to be served. Their dogs are also fed! Prayer requests are taken and incorporated in chapel services each day. Many of the volunteers have known what it means to be homeless or in need and have become a valued and much needed part of the convent's 'family'.

At the moment there are only two Sisters living at the convent, one of whom is in her 70s and awaiting a shoulder replacement. They have therefore had to take on a paid helper three mornings a week. They've recently lost their storage facility and are having to build their own on the side of the Convent at a cost of £15,000. To add to these struggles, more and more folk are arriving at their door in desperate need. They are currently giving out 300+ bags of groceries over the three mornings and, as winter approaches, there will be many requests for help to top up gas and electric meters so that the less well off can keep warm and feed their families.

Having been made aware of these many and increasing demands, I asked what help was needed. Sister Theresa asked if we can:

- Keep Sisters Theresa and Rose and their many volunteers in our prayers.
- Make regular food donations throughout the year (you can drop off tins/ packet goods in the Parish office Monday-Friday 10am-12 noon).
- Provide financial help if you are able (if so, please contact Anne-Marie Bird by email annemarie.motherbird@gmail.com or through the Parish office.).

The Convent, the Sisters and all that they do is remarkable, heartwarming and very much appreciated by those they serve. Please can we help them continue this essential work.

Anne-Marie Bird



Chew Valley Choral Society

Come and join us for an evening of Christmas music!

We will be singing *The First Nowell*, a lovely piece by Vaughan Williams which includes some well-known tunes. We will also be singing a short and joyful mass by George Malcolm, *Missa ad Praesepe* ("Mass at the Crib").

And of course no Christmas concert would be complete without some carols!

Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bishop Sutton, BS39 5XS

Tickets: £15 (£6 for children and students)

Available through our website or on the door

www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk

Keynsham Winter Festival

This year here in Keynsham **Friday 24th November** is a big date for the diary, when the Keynsham Winter Festival will set us up for the Christmas season. It runs from 6.00-9.00 pm, the procession will start at the Memorial Park gates and finish at the main stage just outside St. John's. The church will be open during the evening.

All the usual activities will be in full swing – late night Christmas shopping, the funfair and street entertainers will all be there as well as the many events in the library and The Space . There will be some new additions - Santa is very lucky, he will have a cosy grotto to keep warm during his visit, and the Leisure Centre will be open with a host of entertainments.

Santa will be guided by lanterns made by local children in workshops, as he makes his way to the big light switch on.

See you there!

Keynsham Orchestra

www.keynshamorchestra.org.uk



CONDUCTOR: Phil Draisey LEADER: Andrew Rees
SOLOIST: Mark Gateshill

Bruch: Violin Concerto No.1

Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

Barber: First Essay for Orchestra

SATURDAY 25th November 2023 4pm

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, KEYNSHAM

Please note that this
concert is at 4pm

Tickets:
£10 Adults,
£8.50 Concessions
(under 18s free)
Tickets available
on the door



Spiders

On a chill November morning
A spider's web, bedewed
With the moisture of the dawning
Will cheer our wint'ry mood.

'Tis one of nature's wonders
'Tis lovely to behold
Till a moth, unwary, blunders
Into its sticky fold.

The spider's role is savage
Its killing bite is sure.
Sweet nature then will ravage
'Tis red in tooth and claw.

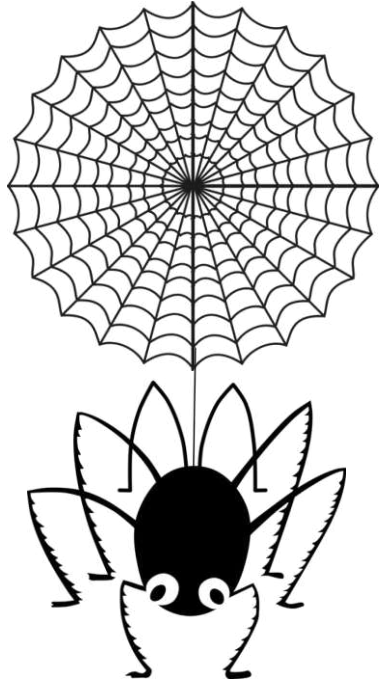
Such goings-on we pardon,
We do not moan or grouse
If kept within the garden –
But not inside the house!

For webs across the doorway
Or underneath the bed
Are pretty much a sure way
To get *me* seeing red!

No house stays clean and tidy
When spiders are about,
Their webby messes spidery –
You cannot help but shout!

I wish, to our eight-legged friends
I could request, "Oh, please,
"Just go outside, don't be a pest!"
But I don't speak spider-ese.

By Nigel Beeton



St John's Christmas Tree Festival - Friday 8th - Sunday 10th Dec 2023

This wonderful biannual event is coming very soon! Local Community Groups are warmly invited to take part and there is still time for community groups/ local schools etc to book a tree! Please email treefest@hotmail.com or telephone 0117 9862088 for further information.

The organising committee are beginning to look for volunteers to cover the three day event and lists will shortly be going up in the back of the church. It is great fun and we urge members to sign up for a slot, help is needed for stewarding, serving refreshments and preparing and dismantling the festival.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to and supports it, let's make it another joyous event.



The poster is framed in red and features holly leaves and berries in the corners. The title 'CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL' is in large red letters. Below it, the location 'ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, KEYNSHAM' is written in black. The event schedule is presented in a table with Christmas trees as decorative elements. At the bottom, it lists 'LIVE MUSIC', 'REFRESHMENTS', and 'CRAFT STALL', along with 'ADMISSION FREE' and 'PROGRAMME - £1'.

	<i>Friday 8th Dec</i>	<i>Saturday 9th Dec</i>	<i>Sunday 10th Dec</i>
	<i>3-8pm</i>	<i>10am-6pm</i>	<i>12.0-5pm</i>

LIVE MUSIC **REFRESHMENTS** **CRAFT STALL**

ADMISSION FREE **PROGRAMME - £1**

Saltford Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy a game of Scrabble? Saltford Scrabble Club has vacancies for a few new members. We are a small friendly group with players of mixed abilities, which meets on Monday afternoons from 2pm-4pm in an upper room at Saltford Hall. Our members live in Keynsham and Saltford, with a few from further afield.

We play a game of Scrabble followed by tea and a biscuit, then a second game with a different opponent. The cost is £2/session to cover expenses; scrabble boards are provided. There is a lift at Saltford Hall if the stairs are a problem.

You are welcome to come for a taster session to see if you would like to join us. Contact either Maggie Dale on 01225 873484, email

dale.home2@btinternet.com, or Kath McCarthy on 01225 344066, email kath.mccarthy@hotmail.co.uk



Looking Ahead - next Contact

The next issue of Contact will be the combined December /January edition. Please remember that if you have any contributions, or any activities you would like to publicise, we need to have the details by **15th November**, not only for Christmas activities but also for everything right up to the end of January.

As always you can email to keynshamcontact@gmail.com, or send or drop things in to the Parish Office.

Kath McCarthy

Notes on the Vacancy

Now that our rector, Stephen, has retired the parish is now officially **In Vacancy** and a specific process has to be followed in order to select and appoint a new Team Rector.

In October some members from the PCC and the DCCs met with the Archdeacon, Adrian Youings, the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) Patronage Secretary, Mike Duff and the Deanery and Parish Development Adviser, Claire Horton to commence the recruitment process

The responsibility for the appointment lies with three parties who all have to agree on who to appoint.

- 1) The Archdeacon representing the diocese,
- 2) CPAS as patron representing the national church
- 3) The PCC representing the parish.

Before the post can be advertised the PCC has to produce a **Parish Profile**. This is effectively the brochure to enable the candidates to see if the job of Team Rector for Keynsham Parish is one to tempt them to apply. This means that it has to grab their attention and excite them to the opportunities and challenges if they were to become Team Rector.

The PCC has appointed a group consisting of Steve Dawes, Anne Hewitt, Robert Cook and Martin Burton to develop the profile and ensure the parish is prepared for the recruitment process. There are a number of actions to be undertaken for which your support is needed

- The church website needs updating and refreshing, not only for the new Rector but for anyone wanting to know more about the churches and what goes on. If anyone has web editing skills, please contact one of the group or Martin Burton (mburton401@yahoo.co.uk)
- We need photographs of people taking part in activities within the parish, they must have consent of the people in the photograph and be of good resolution
- Brief quotes about what you value as being a member of a parish group or church so, if someone or something makes your church special – what would you say?

- The PCC will be hosting a session to help the parish identify what sort of person we need as a team rector and what are the strengths and opportunities we can offer but also acknowledging any challenges facing the parish.

Once the Parish Profile is approved the PCC will appoint its representatives to be on the selection process. The post is then advertised and a shortlist produced. Candidates will visit the parish and meet key people to help them see if we are a suitable match after which the appointed group will conduct interviews. The successful candidate then has to give three months' notice.

This is not a quick process. There are many more vacancies than candidates so we have to make the role as attractive as possible but also be open and honest about the parish. At present the current rectory is not considered adequate for a future Rector and the diocese is actively looking to sell it and purchase a more suitable property.

The most important action everyone can take is to pray for everyone involved both within the parish and externally and also for Anika and those supporting her during the vacancy

Robert Cook



Archdeacon



Mike Duff



Claire Horton

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.

– *GK Chesterton*



Avon Wildlife Trust

Keynsham Group November meeting

The Green Planet

Breathing life into our world

With BBC Wildlife Film Producer

Paul Williams

Friday
10th November

at 7:30pm

Baptist Church Hall

High Street,

Keynsham BS31 1DS

All welcome

Admission: Members £3.50; Non-members £4.50

To include refreshments served at 7:15pm

No booking required



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FARM DIARY

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

In the Field. A harvest report was requested. 2020 was one of low yields. Followers of Jeremy Clarkson will know he had a profit from 1500 acres or so in the Cotswolds of £150 approximately. Throughout the country the yields and thus profit were extremely low due to the dry summer. 2021 and 2022 harvests were very good throughout the country and in 2021 the costs had not started to rise so big profits were made. By 2022 input costs had started to rise and so excellent yields produced profits lower than the year before but still very respectable. This year's yields were mediocre and input costs were the highest this author has ever known and so it is expected that profits will be down again. Such is the life of a farmer. As with the rugger or cricket internationals, one has to take the rough with the smooth. Come November most autumn drilling will be complete as well as crop conservation which will have ended with the maize harvest.

Technology. Readers of the national press may be aware that in San Francisco there are two companies that have driver-less taxis on the streets. They rely on cameras all round the vehicle along with a host of electronic controls to safely navigate. Down on the farm in deepest Somerset, we have had auto steer tractors for a decade or more. If you look over the hedge, you can tell the farmers with such ability as the rows of emerging crops will be arrow straight. Our main tractor was changed in the summer and it has self steer ability which relies on a neighbour's base station and our driver's mobile phone. Steering on modern vehicles is fully hydraulic and so lends itself to remote control. The accuracy is stunning and repeatable from year to year at about plus or minus an inch. The driver remains with the vehicle. This accuracy increases efficiency of operation with for example fertiliser spread more accurately. Overlapping and misses are a thing of the past. We have added this facility to our farm sprayer with its 21 metre booms. It helps to be computer literate now to drive this tractor and sprayer. We might add it to the combine as one cannot accurately tell where the edge of the table or header is. Ours is 15 feet wide. A full header at all times will add to efficiency here. The combine already has a GPS receiver and on board monitoring of yield and moisture so that at the end of the field the SD card can be removed and put in our office computer to display a yield map of the field. Poor areas can be examined and/or treated. It is exciting down on the farm.

Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for November

BAPTISMS

Date	Name	Church
01/10/2023	Stanley Leonard Kenneth Saunders	St John's

DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
11/09/2023	Anthony Brown (Tony)	91
28/09/2023	Lygia Barry	62
06/10/2023	Ronald Abram	93

DIARY

* By Appointment Only

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
1 st	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
1 st	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening *	OCT
4 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour *	Parish Office
4 th	10am	Who Let The Dad's Out	St Francis Hall
4 th	12pm	Free Community Lunch	Parish Hall
5 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
5 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
5 th	6pm	Commemoration Service	St John's
7 th	7.15pm	PCC meeting	Parish Hall
11 th	10am	Children's Society Coffee Morning	Parish Hall
12 th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
14 th	7.30pm	DCC meeting	Parish Hall
18 th	9am	Vacancy Vision meeting	St Francis
18 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour *	Parish Office
18 th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
19 th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
19 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
20 th	7pm	CTKS Council meeting	Parish Hall
24 th	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
25 th	4pm	Keynsham Orchestra concert	St John's
27 th	7.30pm	DCC meeting	St Michael's

The Gunpowder Plot

On 5th November 1605 Guy Fawkes conspired to blow up the houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament. At that time many Roman Catholics still wished to overthrow the Protestant monarchy; the Gunpowder Plot was part of this unrest. The failure of the Plot was commemorated for centuries by a compulsory special church service and other public celebrations, such as ringing church bells. It added to the busy calendar of Protestant celebrations that contributed to life of 17th-century England, and has evolved into the **Bonfire Night** of today.



Guy Fawkes is arrested



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and Hero**

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1 The Park, Keynsham
T: 0117 986 3354

Cover: Credit: Lesley Organ

Poppies knitted by ladies of the Keynsham British Legion.

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