

# contact

*The Parish of Keynsham magazine*



**October 2022**

# 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: 10.30am - 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: Lebanon: *Audrey & Colin Gibson.***  
**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

## Missioner and Team Vicar - St John's:

*Rev'd. Mike Burke* - Tel: 0117 909 9425

## Curate - Keynsham Parish:

*Rev'd Nigel Williams* - Tel: 07850887498

## Pioneer Missioner:

*Trevor James* - Tel: 07368 526997

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## Readers:

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

## Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

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

## Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

St John's: *vacant*

St Francis: *vacant*

## Tower Captain (Acting):

*Edric Broom* - Tel: 07890 364754

## Parish Youth Worker:

*Philippa Lovell* - contact via the Parish Office

## Parish Children and Families Worker:

*Isobel Brown* - contact via the Parish Office

## Caretakers:

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

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*

## Vacancy for a Secretary

The PCC is in urgent need of someone who would be able and willing to take the minutes at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meetings and to collate and distribute the various documents in advance of each meeting (six per year). An ability to take notes quickly and accurately and to present them concisely by computer is needed but full membership and participation in other business is desirable but optional.



To find out more please speak to a member of the clergy team or Sue Lloyd [sueplloyd54@gmail.com](mailto:sueplloyd54@gmail.com) or any member of the PCC.

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# Message of the Month

October 2022



This is a personal message to you all this month, to let you know that after much reflection I have decided to bring forward my retirement from parish ministry to the end of January 2023.

Jacky retired in October last year and since then we have been considering what the best time would be for me to join her. There have been a number of important changes in our personal circumstances recently, resulting in close family members all moving to Gloucester. We also have two wonderful granddaughters who are growing up very quickly and we want to be free to spend more time with them. We have maintained a property in Gloucester for a number of years but recently we decided it was right to release this property and to look for something that would be more suitable for our future circumstances. As a result, we have purchased a new property in Kingsholm, Gloucester and we are very excited about moving there. This will be very close to our family and to a community where we feel a strong sense of personal calling and involvement.

Serving in Keynsham parish for the last seven years has been a wonderful experience and the role as both Missioner and Team Vicar has provided me with tremendous opportunities to further explore a calling to a different kind of ministry which is more pioneering in shape and focus. I therefore feel that this will not be the end of my journey in Christian ministry but rather an opportunity to explore further a different approach drawing upon the experience I have gained in working more broadly in the local community and with those beyond the existing members of the local church communities.

I was ordained back in 1989 and I have seen some incredible changes over the years, a decade of evangelism, liturgical revision, the re-marriage of divorcees, the ordination of women to the priesthood and now as bishops, the beginnings

of new approaches to ministry, leadership and evangelism with the adoption of fresh expressions of church and pioneer ministry and now more recently, the seismic shift brought about by the historic closure of churches during the pandemic lockdown. Some themes have remained the same, the constant state of crisis surrounding church finances, the fear that there aren't enough new people arriving to replace existing members, questions asking: 'where have all the young people gone?' and occasional grumbles about the style, frequency and content of our worship service along with the odd moan that people couldn't understand my Brummie accent or sense of humour. All in all, it has been an incredible ride and no doubt, I will continue to reflect upon it in the books I write, the conversations I have and in the explanations I give to those people both outside and inside the church who still cannot understand what I do with myself all week.

Hopefully over the years I have also learnt to pronounce "Keynsham" correctly, taught you that the most important notice is '*to read the notices*', helped you to discover that the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday can be Mission Sunday and launched a Community Fridge that will continue to go from strength to strength. I have really enjoyed working as part of a wonderfully gifted and varied staff team, I have met some amazing people and I feel humbled to have served in such a strong and creative community as Keynsham. I will miss you all and may just return from time to time.

*Mike Burke*

## **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'

## Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Only four months ago we enjoyed the great excitement of the Platinum Jubilee, a unique occasion in our nation's long history. We celebrated the mixture of joy and awe and happy memories that the Queen had brought to so many local people, and we shared our love and respect with the whole nation. This long life well lived has now come to its close, and we share in the nation's grief, and pray for the Royal Family in their personal loss. Her Majesty was noted for her strong Christian faith, reaching out beyond the Anglican church of which she was the head.



We also have to adjust to a new Royal era. Our new King immediately has to shoulder immense responsibilities in his role of Head of State, while suffering his own grief.

The diocese has made a statement and prayers available to us all.

**A prayer for the new King**

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.  
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.  
Help us to work together  
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness  
flourish among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Bishop Ruth writes:**

This is a time of sadness and sorrow as we mourn the loss of our Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I want to extend my condolences and send my prayers and love and care for her family at this time.

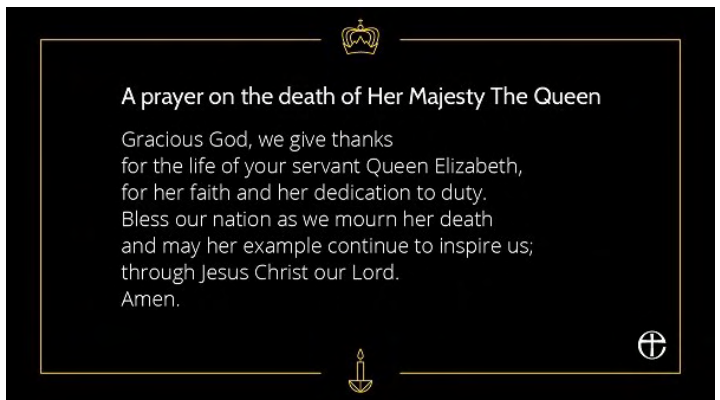
Many of us hold her with great affection and warmth and remember her fortitude, her commitment, her sense of duty and service to our country. And of course, she was marked by that wonderful grace and faith that she held so dear.

I had the privilege to be an Honorary Chaplain to The Queen for a number of years and I remember well an opportunity to meet in a small gathering. In the conversation we had I remarked on the portraits on the wall – not knowing quite what to say in the presence of Her Majesty. She was just so warm and responded with such enthusiasm and invited me to go and see the restoration work that they had done in Windsor Castle in the art gallery – and went off-piste, as it were, and took me to see and view what had happened. And that was the way in which she showed her empathy, her care – to always to have that time and moment for the individual. So today, we remember with affection, with love and give our thanks to the God she served, followed, and worshipped.

For us as a nation it is a time of mourning and marking the passing of a wonderful, great woman. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Someone who served this country well and whom we all held in esteem. So, as we bring our condolences and best wishes for the family, our prayers for them at this time of loss, may we also note our own loss and that of our kingdom here in the UK. Let us remember what she stood for. How she followed a God, whom she would share with us in her messages, in her prayers in both her care for individuals and the whole nation, not just of our country but throughout the Commonwealth. We remember her with love, with thankfulness and gratitude.

We pray now in this moment of transition and change.

Lord we thank you for our Queen. For all that she meant to each one of us. And especially we pray for her family at this time. And we ask that as we look to the future we might allow your hand to lead us and guide us as we seek what that future might bring.





## Zambia Report

This is based on the talk Graham Shaw gave to St. John's church on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Graham writes:**

I've been asked to report back on the visit Rachel and I made to our link parish in Zambia, Chipata South. We were there for a week, and you'll be reading for hours if I were to tell you about everything we experienced. So, for now I'll just give you a taster of my initial impressions of the people and church community in Chipata South.

### **Some brief background:**

Bath and Wells Diocese has had links with the Anglican church in Zambia for over 40 years. Our parish historically had links with the Anglican mission station in Fiwila, Northern Province; but that relationship had run its course. In 2018, as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the link, Rachel joined a group from Bath & Wells going to Zambia, and spent some time in Chipata South, Eastern Province. A formal link was established, with an emphasis on building a link through prayer.

The church of St Paul's, Chipata South had a vision to build a church school on land next to the church. Keynsham Parish undertook to help raise funds for this. With the intervention of COVID-19, it looked as if the whole fund-raising project would have to be postponed, until a series of coincidences led to our collaboration with a charity called Hands of Compassion, which specialises in fund-raising for Christian schools in Zambia. The end result is that the school has been built and the people of Chipata South insisted that, although the school is up and running, there would be no formal opening until someone from Keynsham came over to be part of the celebrations.

### **So, what impressions have I come back with?**

**Impression 1:** My first and overwhelming impression of our Zambian brothers and sisters is of their **warmth, hospitality and generosity:**

Our warm welcome began at Mfuwe Airport and continued from there. We stayed at the house of Angelina Ambali, a retired administrative worker with NGOs in Zambia. Her house is modern, and well-appointed, so it was a relief to be able to return there after a busy day to recover .

**Impression 2: Zambia is a strongly Christian country.** The constitution of Zambia starts with the words:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA: ACKNOWLEDGE the supremacy of God Almighty; DECLARE the Republic a Christian Nation while upholding a person's right to freedom of conscience, belief or religion.

This means that religion is closely bound up with Zambian politics, which can sometimes be a force for good; but sometimes not. **Anglicans** form only a small part of the Christian community, but an influential one. Denominationalism is strong (rather like England until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century). "Proud to be Anglican". That also has advantages and disadvantages, like insistence on appointing Anglican teachers at a time of great difficulty in recruiting teachers.

**Impression 3: The church plays a critical role in the delivery of social services.**

This became very clear in our visit to Msoro on our second day. Msoro was one of the earliest mission stations and has the oldest Cathedral in Zambia, built in about 1910. The Dean, Dean Edward, runs the parish and the clinic. Apart from his other duties he delivers 30 babies a month! The church is a major provider of



Education. 30% schools in Zambia privately run.

Medicine. The Msoro clinic is a good example.

Community health. This includes campaigns on HIV/Aids, women's health, and the campaign against gender-based violence. Developing the role of women in society, promoted by groups like the Mothers' Union, and Veronicas, is central to this.

Local development initiatives. The "Green Anglican tree-planting campaign was launched this year. Farming and small business enterprises are supported, e.g. by Christian Aid

**Impression 4: There is a big difference between city and rural communities:**

Chipata South is a city. It has a modern supermarket [*Choppies*], and electricity, running water, and the internet. There is a relatively prosperous middle class – teachers, accountants, and business people who are well-informed. I attended an Anglican Men's meeting where we discussed colonialism, the influence of

China, the role of the Church in Zambia, and government corruption. The people are entrepreneurial, setting up their own businesses or farms. James Amanzi is making sausages and Fr. Cornelius has a fish-farm.

### **Impression 5: Zambians love protocol!**

Tuesday 28 June was the highlight of our visit: opening the new school. This was a 3 hour event, with lots of speeches, had the Deputy Regional Education Minister as guest of honour.

### **Impression 6: A living, vibrant faith and worship**

Everything is given to God in prayer. Janet Ngoma has a healing ministry, there is joyful worship and active mission to the new All Saints church. However, the church in Chipata faces similar challenges to ourselves: engagement with young people, financial challenges and reaching out to less privileged.

The visit was a marvellous experience. It had a great impact on me and I came home feeling both humbled and encouraged by all that we saw.



## Hope for Ukraine



While we have been enjoying the summer it is perhaps easy to forget that the relentless struggle in Ukraine continues, and with it the need to help the suffering Ukrainians.

Fortunately it is easy for us at St. John's to collect for Hope for Ukraine, as the Parish

Hall is a collection point. Hope for Ukraine is a group based in South Bristol, who through personal connection and experience are deeply affected by the crisis in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion. They are a registered charity. With close links to their partners in Ukraine, they send specifically requested humanitarian aid to Chernivsti, in south-west Ukraine. Whilst Chernivsti was not directly affected by the initial wave of the Russian invasion, it has seen a massive influx of refugees. The partners in Chernivsti also work with others across Ukraine to distribute the aid to people most in need, including those on the front line of the war. The August 31<sup>st</sup> edition of *The Week In* reported that Hope for Ukraine was very close to sending a second lorry load of humanitarian aid to Ukraine- 7 more pallets were needed for a full load of 52.

You can leave donated items at the parish hall Mondays to Fridays from 10-12. Community@67 is also a collection point, on Wednesdays from 10-12 and Fridays from 9-12. Hope for Ukraine only collect items requested by their partners in Ukraine. The list changes from time to time and details are available in the Parish Office. At present they are asking for:

- Non-perishable food; i.e. coffee sachets or tins, herbal or green tea, packet soups, quick cook noodles, pasta, rice, sugar, UHT Milk, Hot dog/canned meat (not spicy), sardines/canned fish, biscuits, sweet cereals. NOT baked beans or anything spicy
- Tools and related construction items; i.e. screwdrivers, hammers, saws, nuts, bolts, screws
- First aid kits (or contents)
- Generators
- 3,000 AAA batteries for 1,000 Oximeters we have been given (new in original packaging only)

- Mobility aids and prosthetics
- Blankets / sleeping bags
- Camp mats / camp beds
- Toiletries; i.e. toothpaste & toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, period products, lotion, flannels, shaving accessories
- Baby items; i.e. formula milk, food pouches, nappies, sudocrem (or similar barrier cream), bottles & brushes, dummies, soft hairbrush, sponges, wash cloths, toddler pillows + duvets
- Towels
- Laundry detergent
- Underwear all ages (new only, all ages and sizes)

Another way to help is to buy items directly from the Amazon wish list at [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DMMQJ0PR2FF2?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3DMMQJ0PR2FF2?ref=wl_share)

There have been some notable donations, perhaps the biggest is the 9 seater mini-bus given by Crofts End Church. [[www.croftsend.org](http://www.croftsend.org)]. The vehicle is being worked on to ensure it is mechanically sound, and as soon as possible it will be driven out to the community group they are working with in Ukraine. It will be invaluable for delivering aid to the east of the nation, and rescuing those who need to flee to the West.

There is much more information on the website [www.hopeforukraine.org.uk](http://www.hopeforukraine.org.uk) . It includes details of how you can make a financial donation.



## A Visit to Wells

A small group from Keynsham Parish had the pleasure of a visit to the Bishops Palace at Wells on the 6th September. Under the very able leadership of Rachel Hall and with unexpected fine weather, we saw the autumnal delights of the gardens and the extensive buildings making up the Palace.

A highlight of our visit was the Midday Service in the Bishops Chapel, where we were treated to a memorable act of worship. This included prayers offered on small slips of paper from people of all ages, and a hymn sung with much fervour. The focus of the service was Living in the Moment; those of us from Keynsham were very pleased to be welcomed by the officiating priest and other worshippers.



In the afternoon sunshine I watched a group setting up a game of croquet, while Hazel and the others went on a Prayer pilgrimage around the tranquil gardens. There were 12 prayer markers, some quite hidden and they found all but one, stopping at each to use the prayers and reflections in a special booklet. This took just over an hour and was a special and meaningful journey. It should be mentioned that the cafe offered a welcome, with food and drink being brought to our tables with a warm smile. Altogether a very special day which we were privileged to take part in.

*Morris and Hazel Power*

## The same yesterday, today and forever

Many of us know well Bob Dylan's song 'The Times They Are A-Changin'. Was it written with us in mind? None



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of us could have predicted the

changes that we have seen in 2022. The death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth, the accession of a new King, a war in Ukraine, a cost-of-living crisis. None of these were on the cards as we made our new year's resolutions on the 1st of January.

Yet happen they have. And whether we like it or not, we're forced to agree with Bob Dylan's lyrics that the times are indeed changing. What can see us though these days?

A phrase that's often used about the period through which we're going is 'unprecedented'. I'm not sure it's entirely valid! Previous generations have faced situations as challenging or more than ours – seasons of plagues, wars, famines and conquest. The times in which the New Testament was written were, for its writers, periods of profound uncertainty. Its writers faced violence and vulnerability, conflict and dispute. Yet into their times they were able to speak words of hope, confidence and assurance.

One such phrase that stands out for me is a line from the letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews was written in response to a time of persecution and the possibility of people falling back from the faith as a result. Into its time and ours, the writer of the letter makes an extraordinary claim: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8)

Just imagine! The one who walked in Galilee has been there for his people throughout time, is with us now, and will be whatever the future may hold.

So respectfully, I have to disagree with Bob Dylan. In his song he tells us that in the face of times that are 'a-changin', we'd better start 'swimmin'. Much better than hyperactive splashing, I suggest, is to live out our vision to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'. For it's as we do so that we can hold fast to the one who is constant and unchanging, who holds us always in the palm of his hands; Jesus Christ who is 'the same yesterday, today and forever.'

*Bishop Michael*

## **A statement from The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby**

It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty's extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be.

In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty's faith and confidence in the future. As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

In The Late Queen's life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others. Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, "whose service is perfect freedom" (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God's peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

"It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory.



# God in the Sciences

*by Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

## Big perspective, big questions

This summer the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when ‘astronaut’ is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth’s atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It’s the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed ‘the overview effect’. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a ‘self-transcendent experience’.

Some people claim to have a ‘nothing but science’ approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn’t answer them. It’s important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

*This article has been reproduced, with permission, from <https://www.licc.org.uk/ourresources/connectingwithculture/>*

## St Francis Mission Project

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September a group of members of St Francis Church spent the day clearing, digging and planting the overgrown garden at the RICE Centre (Research Institute for the Care of Older people). As many of you know already Les Herbert was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2018. We regularly attend the Rice Centre where Les is taking part in one of their many studies. We find the staff there extremely helpful and caring, in



fact we feel they are like our family. Part of the treatment requires Les to wait for an hour after his injections just to make sure he's feeling OK. So we have looked out onto the garden for several years on and off. In all that time it has been rather a wilderness.



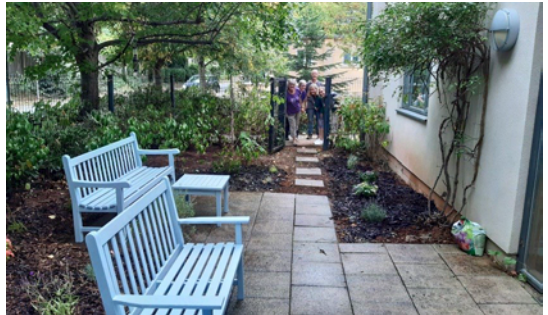
St Francis council had been debating what they could do as a mission giving idea and this seemed ideal by giving time, labour and plants to make a real difference locally. After the long dry spell, the ground was extra hard. While the gardening was proceeding one person managed to spray paint all the benches and tables! RICE Centre staff kindly came along to help and supply lovely sandwiches, tea and coffee so it was a good day but boy did we ache afterwards.





The result of all that hard work really will lift the staff and patient's spirits. It really will make such a difference with newly painted furniture, new plants, moving light and a path that no one could remember being there.

So, thank you everyone who helped in whatever way they could, planning, working hard, supplying tea /coffee/biscuits, giving money etc and bringing in freshly baked chocolate brownies. It will make a great difference to everyone who uses the centre and it shows that people care.



*Margaret Herbert and Robert Cook*

RICE is an internationally renowned research and treatment centre located in the grounds of the RUH in Bath. It is an independent charity focused on essential research and providing support for people with dementia and other conditions of older age, their families and carers; dedicated to improving the quality of life of everyone involved.

RICE established one of the first memory clinic services in the UK in 1987 – a service which has since been widely replicated and is now considered standard and best practice by the NHS For more details visit [rice.org.uk](http://rice.org.uk)

## In the garden: Hedgehogs need your help

According to Fay Vass, CEO of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society: 'Hedgehogs as we know them today have lived here for at least half a million years, but they're now facing many pressures which are causing numbers to plummet, particularly in rural areas. The reasons for their decline are complex and aren't yet fully understood.



To help us to encourage hedgehogs back into our gardens, where they are welcome because they eat snails, slugs and insects, and help keep disease and pest infections under control, the RSPCA offers some useful gardening tips:

- Cover holes: hedgehogs can easily fall into uncovered drains or holes - check them every day.
- Give hedgehogs a way out of ponds and pools: place bricks or stones at the side of ponds, or create a sloped edge on part of the pond to give them a way to climb out if they fall in.
- Check for hedgehogs before using a strimmer or a mower, particularly under hedges, where they might be resting during the day. If you're forking over a compost heap, check it first for any nesting hogs.
- Always thoroughly disturb a bonfire immediately before you light it, there could be hedgehogs nesting or hiding inside. Moving the whole bonfire by hand before setting it alight is the best way of ensuring that hedgehogs and other wildlife aren't sleeping in it.
- Make sure you dispose of litter which can be real hazard - hedgehogs can get their heads stuck in tins, plastic bags, binders from drinks cans or discarded yoghurt pots. Make sure you dispose of your rubbish safely and check there's no litter in your garden.
- Raise any netting: make sure it's at least a foot above ground level, as hedgehogs can easily become tangled up in it. Pack away or roll up fruit nets, tennis and goal nets when they're not in use. RSPCA recommends replacing any netting in your garden with solid metal mesh if possible, as it's less likely to entangle hedgehogs.
- Don't close your shed doors if you usually keep them open, as there might be hedgehogs nesting inside.

- Keep any dangerous chemicals or tools well off the ground. If you need to dismantle your shed, check carefully underneath the floor first for nesting or hibernating hedgehogs.
- Avoid slug pellets and pesticides as these can poison hedgehogs and should only be used as a last resort. Instead, try using one of many natural alternatives, such as sprinkling crushed eggshells or coffee grounds around the plants you need to protect. If you must use pellets, place them under a slate that is inaccessible to hedgehogs. The outdoor use of slug pellets containing metaldehyde was banned in Great Britain from March 2022.

## Forgive the wasps - and learn to understand them



Chances are that you were irritated by wasps this summer – there were a lot of them about. But did you know what they were really looking for?

According to Prof Seirian Sumner, a behavioural ecologist and entomologist at University College London, we should try to “understand what wasps want, and what they’re doing at certain times of the year.” In

early and mid-summer “they’re not that interested in sugar, they want meat. The adults are vegetarian, but they hunt prey to feed to the larvae, who give them a sugary reward,” she says.

“Then, when the larvae pupate [in late summer and early autumn], there’s fewer that need feeding, and they don’t need to hunt, so wasps are sort of furloughed. And then they go in search of sugar, usually in flowers. But your prosecco, or beer, or jam sandwich is just as appealing.” Her advice, then, is to distract wasps from yourself by offering them meat in early to mid-summer, and a saucer of cider or some jam on a lid in late summer and early autumn.

Sumner stresses that the world would be much worse off without wasps: they are excellent at pest control and are also fine pollinators. More on wasps in her book: *Endless Forms: The Secret World of Wasps* (HarperCollins)

# Trio Paradis Cafe Concerts at St John's this Autumn

Trio Paradis are a classical piano trio who perform feel-good daytime Café Concerts at community venues. As well as music of all styles in beautiful arrangements for piano and strings, designed to appeal to a broad audience, there is the added attraction of home-made cakes, tea and coffee which can be enjoyed in the pop-up cafe half an hour before the concert starts - an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones. The trio are members of Musicians South West who bring live music to new audiences, particular those with limited access to concerts. All ages are welcome, including young children, and the atmosphere is very informal.



Trio Paradis play a Café Concert every last Friday of each month at 1.00pm at St John's Church (Jan-Nov), moving to the church hall from 30th September for the autumn/winter months. Concerts last c45 minutes and entry is by donation, with a retiring collection, to ensure it's affordable for everyone - a 'pay-what-you-feel' system.

"We love the audience to be really involved with the concerts and are looking for more volunteers to come along from 12 noon and help to set out tables and chairs and run the café", says organiser and pianist Jacquelyn Bevan. "We also invite people to bring a home-made cake as their donation . The emphasis is on friendship and involvement, and we often include audience requests for pieces of music which fit the theme of a particular concert. Please get in touch if you would like to know more by emailing Jacquelyn at [trioparadis@icloud.com](mailto:trioparadis@icloud.com).

Dates for the autumn are: 30th September *A Rainbow*, 28th October *Travelling with the Gypsies* and 25th November *Winter Wonderland*. More information about the programme can be found at <http://www.trioparadis.com> and the trio's Facebook page: search @trioparadisbath. There is no need to book, but come along early to be sure of a table as seating is limited and the concerts are very popular.

## A Poem for the Queen

### A Long Life is Ended

An aged heart flutters  
And ceases to beat  
A long life is ended  
But not in defeat!  
For ninety-six years  
Of duty and love  
A long life inspired  
By her God above!

For seventy years  
The crown she did wear  
And “Long live the Queen!” –  
God answered our prayer!  
But now she is with Him  
God’s true to His word  
We’ll ask Him for guidance  
For King Charles the Third!

*Nigel Beeton*



### Strap lines

- Actions speak louder than words, but not as often.
- Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't. (Erica Jong)
- Comment in a local newspaper: 'We are pleased to announce that the violent storm which virtually destroyed the local church last Friday did no real damage to the town.'
- Friendship happens when people know a lot about you and like you anyway.
- God isn't politically correct; he's just correct.

## St John's DCC meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

To open the meeting Nigel Williams reflected on the rainbow over the Palace following the Queen's death and the rainbow that was God's covenant in the story of Noah's Ark. He continued with a prayer.

**Vision & Prayer meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022.** It was noted that the topic of the meeting is 'Next Steps for Developing a Shared Vision' and will be structured around the Vision morning held in May, a paper written by the Children and Family 'core group' plus feedback from the Congregation and House groups.

**The Church Building.** The 'Building for the Future Group' met with Architect George Chedburn and Clare Younger on 9th August 2022 to discuss possibilities for the reordering of the church. The DCC agreed to expenditure to produce further design sketches.

It was noted that the application for a faculty for a new church lighting system will be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee shortly.

**Staff and Clergy.** The DCC noted

candidates for the role of Music Director will be interviewed 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (*following the meeting Samuel Shackleton was appointed to the role - Good news!*)

the group discussing a vision for children and youth work will consider the vision alongside the job description for a Children and Family worker

Bath & Wells Diocese proposal to reduce clergy posts in Keynsham from 2.8 to 2. This will mean Mike Burke, an important link with the community will not be replaced when he retires in January. People will have to adjust to a new pattern of worship going forward as there will be 2 clergy to cover 4 churches.

**Sunday Worship.** Papers submitted by 1) Mike Burke giving his personal reflection of a vision for St John's, and 2) Steve Daws giving his vision for managing the change of the Hall service returning to church were noted and discussed. Possible patterns of services will be discussed in more detail at the Vision and Prayer meeting in October.

**Mission.** The Warm Keynsham initiative was noted. The aim is offer somewhere for people to gather to keep warm during the winter months e.g. parish hall when not in use. Town Councillors are engaging with the scheme and the hope is for a pop up café aided by a small grant.

**Finance** The Treasurer informed the meeting that there is still £60,000 to pay towards this year's Parish Share.



It was noted that income from the hall this year is likely to be less than in previous years and there had been unforeseen expenditure that had not been budgeted for. The DCC has recently agreed an increase in hall hire charges which will include an additional surcharge towards heating costs in the winter months.

**Reports** The Pastoral Team report and Music reports were noted

### **Miscellaneous**

All were in favour of installing a new alarm and CCTV system at a cost £5,000 as the current system is no longer fit for purpose

It was noted that replacement hall windows & emergency doors have been installed in the Parish Hall

Details for a proposed church family weekend at Greatwood Camp, Ramscombe 9th-11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were noted.

**These are not official minutes**

*Deborah Hall - St John's DCC Secretary*

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## **Notes from the PCC (Not Minutes)**

The PCC met in St John's Church on the 6<sup>th</sup> September with 17 members present. Stephen M'Caw chaired the meeting and, in the absence of a secretary, Sue Lloyd took the minutes.

- The Churches Together CAP (Christians Against Poverty) agreement has now been signed by all parties. There will be a CAP focus on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- There has been no success in finding a secretary for the PCC. Robert will arrange an appeal in Contact.
- There was discussion around the appointment of a replacement Children's and Families Worker now that Izzy had not renewed her contract. The core group looking at this had met with Tony Cook from the diocese and were re-evaluating the role of youth and children/families work in the parish prior to preparing a new job description.
- Mike Burke has spoken to all ministers of the town to see if as many church and other buildings can be made available when not otherwise in use but warm from other events that people can go to keep warm if they are struggling to heat their homes. The town council are supporting the idea.

- The diocese needs to reduce paid clergy numbers to save costs and the deanery plan shows Keynsham losing one post. During discussion on this topic Mike shared news that he will be leaving parish ministry at the end of January 23 and moving to Gloucester. He is working on ensuring that his current responsibilities are covered.
- The arrangements for the sale of Chewton church are becoming clearer with an interested party considering purchase. It will not after all be vested in the diocese so the sale price, less fees, will be held pending discovery of descendants of the original benefactor who, legally, has first claim.
- The Zambia Link group had prepared a paper setting out various proposals they hoped the PCC would endorse. After discussion the PCC agreed to continue to support the link in any ways that we could manage.
- Parish Share payments are mostly up to date. Church membership has declined but not as much as might have been feared.
- No arrangements have yet been made for a Parish Away Weekend but a proposal to have a church Family Weekend away in June next year at Great Wood Camp in Ramscombe, Over Stowey next June was approved.
- PCC members were reminded to repeat their safeguarding training every three years and advise Wendy Harwood.
- One Community Trust have begun 2 new initiatives. Wild Wellbeing, and a group for improving mental health and support for parents of teenage children. More information is available on their Facebook page
- Stewardship focus is coming up at the end of October and ideas for encouraging giving are needed.
- To note the date of Installation in Wells Cathedral of Bishop Michael on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm.

## FARM DIARY for September

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

In the Field. For much of England in the exceptionally dry weather, the cereal, oil seed rape and bean harvest was completed two weeks earlier than usual. A two or three day variation in harvest date is much more normal. Now we need rain in order to be able to work the land to plant the next crop. The first of these is the oil seed rape which we have found the hard way is best planted or sown in August. 7 mm. rain events are enough to germinate this. August is our third wettest month of the year here in central Somerset. September is drier. Perhaps this year will be different. Farmers are entirely dependent on the weather unless they have an irrigation system. This tends to be restricted to water hungry and high value crops such as potatoes. Surprisingly, there have been good yields around most of England including with us. The excessively dry weather is impacting livestock farmers as there is no grass for them. Winter rations are being fed. These will need replacing later at great cost.

Ploughing and Hedgelaying Match. Bridgwater and District Agricultural Society are holding their annual match in Cannington this year at TA5 2HW on Saturday 17th September from 9.30 a.m. and starting at 10 a.m. Signposted on the A39 as you leave Bridgwater going westwards. Last year it was an excellent day for farmers and families and non-farmers. The writer likes to see horses ploughing.

Sky Lanterns. The N.F.U. is running a campaign to ground these. When lit and launched they tend to land on farmland. With wire in their construction they are a menace to wildlife and to farm animals. At your party please think of these and don't use them.

*Richard Graham*



"Never mind, let's just be happy that Baz came to church in the first place."

## FARM DIARY

In the Field. You will have seen a lot of fieldwork by now. Winter barley is sown at the end of September and winter wheat at the beginning of October. This year we are replacing our spring barley with winter triticale. The latter is a cross between rye and wheat. It grows strongly and there is less need for weed killers and fungicides. It is sold as a replacement for feed wheat. We started growing spring barley when all winter crops were killed due to excess rainfall and flooding a few years ago. It has taken us a long time to decide it is not ideal for our soil type and spring weather pattern. Farmers will be leaving their animals outside for as long as possible as winter feed stocks are already being used in the dry conditions earlier. Ground conditions are one of the biggest reasons to house stock. Cereal prices are still double what this author is used to. Fertiliser prices are triple and fuel double. Crazy times.



Boer Goats

Allergies. Food and irritant allergies are increasing world wide. In an article in the Farmers Weekly of 9th September, in a study of 1300 children, it was found that farm children suffer less than city children. It is suggested that farmyard/ barn dust and micro-organisms in raw milk are providing protection. It is well known to farmers that grazing livestock need their immune systems challenged at an early age. Our drive for more sterile environments is leaving our children's immune systems in a under-developed state. Stephen Holgate of Southampton University is quoted as saying, "By not having a protective umbrella boosted in the first few months of life, we are depriving our immune system of the intelligence to be able to suppress the allergic pathways." This author did implore his daughter-in-law to feed peanut butter to his latest grandchild to guard against nut allergies.

*Richard Graham*

# Parish Register & Diary for October

## BAPTISMS (St John's)

7th August Alice Lucy Pamela Georgia Scudamore  
 Harry Bryce Russell Durk  
 Sylvia Anica Carrick  
 Preston J King

4th September Ollie Beau Piotrowski  
 Satine Margaux-Fox Jones  
 Faith Amber Yvaine Jones



## WEDDINGS (St John's)

6th August David Roger Ford & Angela Smith  
 13th August Ronald Kenneth Samuel Shaw & Stacey Louise Fry  
 20th August Richard George Spear & Harriet Elizabeth Ruth Chapman

## DEATHS

Date of Death	Name	Age
8 <sup>th</sup> July	David Michael Kerly	75
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Eleanor Hilda May Spill	96
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Barbara Mary Lees	91
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Ronald George Peacock	89
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Diana Joan Hitchings	84

## DIARY FOR OCTOBER

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity / Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
4 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	PCC Standing Committee Meeting	Upper Room
5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Prayer & Vision Meeting	St John's
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish Office
16 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
19 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Wives Group	Parish Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis
23 <sup>rd</sup>	12pm	Church Meal	Parish Hall
26 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Pastoral Lunch	Parish Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	1pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Light Party	Parish Hall



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