

contact

The Parish of Keynsham magazine



October 2023



At the Garden Party



Lots of Presents



With Martin Burton,
churchwarden at St. Francis

Stephen as a practical
rector



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

Choirers 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

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: - *Steve Spiteri* - contact via Parish Office

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows

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Message of the Month

October 2023

What have you been seized by that has shaped your life?



We can't avoid engagement with one of the world's most complicated crises: that of asylum seekers and refugees. Recently, an excellent sculptural exhibition in Chichester Cathedral, entitled "Resilience in Clay", has provided a fascinating glimpse of humanity from the artist Kate Viner (kateviner.com). Various life size head portraits give the thought provoking opportunity for observers to consider their responses to different "cultural values, faiths and the building of connections".

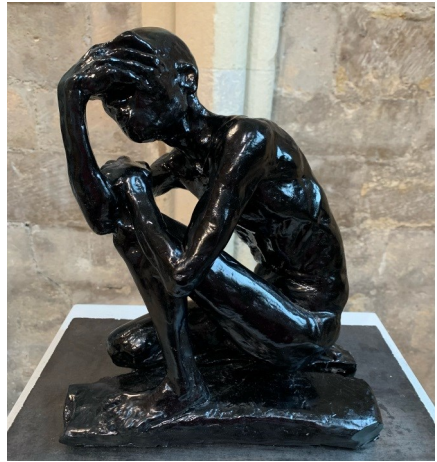
When I visited, the visual experience left me reflecting on what has "shaped" my views and behaviours in the areas of human diversity and resilience. We are all going to be affected by people who are building new lives away from persecution based on conflict and religious, social and or ethnic discrimination. I remember many years ago when interviewed for a teaching job I was asked to prepare a lesson on discrimination. I was then observed teaching it to a year 9 group! All our backgrounds are different. I think my early life, growing up in Africa and being taught at a co-educational boarding school (from the age of three and a half) developed my personal resilience. Each of us faces the challenges we encounter drawing on courage and resilience we have acquired. I'm trying to imagine what extraordinary people we will be meeting in the future as we discover the extraordinary qualities displayed by those new arrivals as they share their stories. Kate Viner is encouraging us through her artistic works to engage with all communities and to be active. In lockdown we came to recognise the importance of knowing our neighbours. We become richer for looking after each other. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine, demonstrates how resilience is tied to an unbreakable spirit. We must each reach out with hope and love.

I encourage you to explore ways to connect to the new communities now establishing themselves among us. Don't miss out on how God can show you more about yourself and others. Get involved with the human story! Exalt God and His creation! Get connected to a topical issue. Stop seeing "it" as a problem and become aware of the way you can help rather than hinder.

Jacqui Pannett

Conscience and Resilience

This sculpture embodies the powerful themes of introspection and strength in the face of adversity. Representing the intertwining relationship between one's conscience, which guides moral choices, and resilience, which enables individuals to bounce back from challenges.



Keep my anger
from becoming meanness.
Keep my sorrow
from collapsing into self-pity.
Keep my heart
soft enough to keep breaking.
Keep my anger
turned towards justice,
not cruelty.

Remind me that all of this,
every bit of it,
is for love.

Keep me fiercely kind.

Laura Jean Truman



HUMAN REFORM POLITICS: *a force for positive change*

Keynsham Town Council Grant Award 2023

St John's church members were delighted to learn that an application for a Keynsham Town Council grant has been successful.

The Town Council support many organisations and groups within the town by awarding them grants. For 2023/2024 the Council awarded up to £23,100 funding in general grants and another £15,750 for environmental projects.

St John's application was made to partly fund the cost of the King's Coronation Community events and partly to fund the renewal of lighting to the church clock, which is not only a church clock but also a public/community clock.

The old fluorescent clock lighting will be replaced with the latest generation LED floodlights, the award in the sum of £1,100 will therefore help St Johns with its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.



Reverend Stephen M'Caw attended the presentation evening to accept the award on behalf of St John's



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

Margaret and Stephen's Garden Party

August 21st marked the beginning of the parish's farewells to Stephen M' Caw, our rector, on his retirement and an opportunity to meet his fiancée Margaret. They hosted a party in the lovely garden at Margaret's house which was very much enjoyed by many of the church's supporters.

The whole occasion was a distilled essence of England- the not- quite - perfect summer's day, the country house with glorious Somerset countryside around, croquet on the lawn and the essential English tea-scones with jam and cream and of course excellent cake.

We all enjoyed such a happy afternoon, an opportunity to thank Stephen for his years of devoted service to the Parish, to meet Margaret and to give them our very best wishes for the future.



Retirement Quotes

“Don't cry because it's over – smile because it happened.” ~ Dr. Seuss

“Retirement is a blank sheet of paper. It is a chance to redesign your life into something new and different.” ~ Patrick Foley

“Dare to live the life you have dreamed for yourself. Go forward and make your dreams come true.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson


Explanation of God

This was written by an 8-year-old in Chula Vista, California. He wrote it for his homework assignment, to 'Explain God'. I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

EXPLANATION OF GOD One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups but babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have. Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think then are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy,


it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This it wrong, And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway. If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It's good to know he's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And that's why I believe in God.

With thanks to Richard Graham, who not only writes our Farm Diary but helps to edit MOMSS, the magazine for Middlezoy, Othery, Moolinch, Stawell, Sutton Mallet and Greinton in Somerset.



Avon Wildlife Trust
Keynsham Group October meeting


Taking Action Today for Curlews Tomorrow!



With **Ellen Bradley**
Communications & Outreach Officer
Curlew Action
All welcome

Friday 13th October
at 7:30pm
Baptist Church Hall
High Street,
Keynsham BS31 1DS
Free parking in Ashton Way car park

Admission: Members £3.50; Non-members £4.50
Including refreshments served at 7:15pm
No booking required



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on Facebook & Twitter or at
www.keynshamawt.org

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Peter Ngoma: A personal appreciation (Died September 2023)

I first met Peter in 2018. As the churchwarden of St Paul's church, Chipata South he was helping lead a united service following a procession through the town. Charismatic, confident and encouraging, I remember thinking 'I bet he's a teacher'. Getting to know him later I found that was true – in fact he'd been head teacher of a prestigious boarding school in Msoro (that he had attended as a pupil), and was the Diocesan Education Advisor. Passionate about education, he described his vision for a church primary school in the grounds of the church. And as we in Keynsham know, that vision became a reality in 2021, when the school opened its doors to its first pupils.



Peter and Janet

Peter was someone who made things happen. A strategic thinker with a pragmatic approach, he never let lack of resources stand in the way of his vision. He was aware that the 3-classroom school would need to expand to cater for the older children, to see them to Grade 7. So earlier this year, he began the next stage, getting a group of volunteers to dig foundations and lay the concrete slab base. Walls and roof would come when funds permitted.

He was the Parish Link Coordinator at the Chipata end, and those of us on the Keynsham Chipata Friendship WhatsApp group appreciated his regular messages. Latterly the Zambia Action Group (ZAG) shared a meeting with him on Zoom, so the rest of the team could meet him 'face to face'.

When Graham and I visited again in 2022 we got to know Peter, his wife Janet and some of his wider family much better, becoming friends. He was thirsty for conversation and knowledge, nothing was out of bounds. His energy and understanding of environmental and political issues, and his activism were impressive. During the tense general election of 2021, he campaigned for the anti-corruption candidate, Hichilema. From him we learned about the undemocratic obstacles that the opposition supporters had to contend with – banning of meetings, roadblocks and intimidation.

As a young teacher, Peter came to the UK on a teacher exchange, spending a month in a Somerset secondary school. This experience was formative in broadening his outlook, skills and aspirations, and is why he argued the case for organising something similar for teachers for Chipata Parish School. He was assiduous in following proper procedures, making sure that the whole parish was in favour and that candidates were chosen fairly. We were awaiting the confirmatory message from Bishop William, giving us the names and details, when Peter met his untimely end, dying suddenly and unexpectedly on the morning of Tuesday 19th September 2023 at the age of only 58.

Peter was a faithful Christian who used his many gifts in the service of his church and community. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rachel Shaw

From The Keynsham Branch of the Avon Wildlife Trust:

October is a month of great change as the temperatures get cooler and the days shorter, leaves starting to fall and fungi appearing in rotten logs in woods. Despite this there is still a lot of interest.

The last of the summer visiting birds will be heading south, and other birds will be heading here from the north and east. The tiny Goldcrest will amazingly cross the North Sea, trebling the resident population. The populations of Starlings are also greatly increased as they escape harsher winters elsewhere.



Goldcrest

Winter thrushes are also arriving, Redwing and Fieldfares will be quickly taking advantages of the plentiful berries. Fellow travellers are ducks and waders that locate on areas like the Somerset Levels and Chew Valley Lake. Teal, Wigeon, Gadwall, Shoveler and Pintail increase the numbers of ducks above those seen during the summer months. Also heading our way Curlews, Lapwings, Golden Plover and Snipe join the throng. These flocks can sometimes be numbered in the thousands and provide spectacular sights when they move to their roosts against a setting winter sun.

Anyone wanting to hear a Tawny Owl or perhaps glimpse its shadowy form silhouetted against the last scrap of daylight should go for a stroll on a pleasant Autumn evening. In October and November these ethereal birds make their presence felt. Tawny Owls are our most abundant owl, found even in suburbia and town parks. Walking in our Community Woodlands and nearby fields look out for the various types of fungi. You may see Ink Caps on lawns, Fly Agarics beneath pines and birches as well as various mushrooms on local heaths. The Fly Agaric is a very distinctive bright red toadstool with white spots.



Fly Agaric

The Autumn colours of so many trees are a highlight. You do not need to travel to New England to see the leaf colours change from green to the brighter reds and yellows. Visiting one of the big arboretums such as Westonbirt gives the full experience but there are wonderful trees in Bath Victoria Park, as well as in the local Community Woodlands in Keynsham.

The depth of colour that develops to create these arboreal spectacles is influenced by the blend of chemical processes and weather conditions, with warmer dry days creating the deepest colours. If we get an Indian Summer this year it will lead to some wonderful colourful displays.

Andrew Harrison

Join our talks this Autumn:

Venue: The Baptist Church Hall, High Street, Keynsham BS31 1DS Time: 7:30pm - 9pm

Friday 13th October: Taking Action Today for Curlews Tomorrow

Friday 10th November: The Green Planet - Breathing Life into our World

Entrance £3.50 for Avon Wildlife Trust members; £4.50 for non-members to include refreshments served at 7:15pm. No booking required, all welcome.

Check out our website for more information: www.keynshamawt.org

manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ⊕

October 2023

Growing chaplaincy

At a time when we are hearing about the growing secular nature of our society, it may be surprising to hear that, in Bath and Wells, nearly every month there is a call from an organisation enquiring about getting a chaplain. The calls come from all types of settings - from private companies, public sector organisations and educational institutions – and in the last six years, over 60 new chaplaincies have been established.

Mike Haslam, Chaplaincy Lead for Bath and Wells says, “While some chaplaincies have been initiated by local churches, the overwhelming majority have been requested by the organisations themselves, and they have mostly never before had any Christian or other spiritual ministry in their setting. People are seeking the spiritual Christian presence a chaplain can offer - it continues to amaze me, and I thank God for it.”

Chaplains in Bath and Wells come in all forms – lay and ordained, full time and part time, young and old, from all Christian denominations. They can be found in schools and hospitals,



Chaplains are present in a range of settings across Bath and Wells.

but also in golf clubs and the courts, walking the hedgerows and at power stations.

Explaining their popularity, Mike says, “Chaplains are part of the team where they are based – dealing with the same codes, policies, culture and joys, but no-one has to talk to a chaplain so there is also that element of being a guest that can prove very powerful.”

While chaplaincy is going from strength to strength in Bath and Wells, and across the country, it’s not all sunshine and roses. Mike explains, “It can be a vulnerable position. It’s not always easy to measure a chaplaincy’s success within the frameworks of either organisation or the church. However, I have enormous hope for the future of chaplaincy as together with our churches we seek to share with our communities the good news

News in brief

Beach baptism for Jacob

On a sunny Sunday in the summer, the community of St. Peter's, Portishead gathered for the baptism of youth member, Jacob.

Explaining his choice of a baptism on the beach, Jacob says, "I wanted to do it like they did in the Bible. Someone else did it and I thought it sounded really cool, also being on the beach is really cool."

The open setting led to conversations with some members of the public, providing an opportunity to share their beliefs with others in the community ■



A new bishop for Lusaka

Archbishop Albert Chama has been enthroned as the new Bishop of Lusaka in Zambia. His enthronement took place at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Lusaka, on Sunday, 3 September. The service was a combined celebration of the Enthronement and the Diamond Jubilee of the Anglican Cathedral of

Church opens new community fridge

A community fridge has been opened at St George's, Wilton. The fridge seeks to address the problem of food waste by creating a space for local residents and businesses to exchange surplus food. It has been made possible thanks to support from environmental organisation, Hubbub UK, and sponsorship from Taunton Town Council.

The fridge will be accessible every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9.30am to 5pm. It offers individuals the opportunity to obtain up to five items of quality food that might have otherwise gone to waste ■

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

the Holy Cross.

Bishop Michael sent Archbishop Albert a message on behalf of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, saying, "Although we are separated by many thousands of miles we are together today in the gift of the Spirit and in the light of the Gospel. We celebrate your ministry and that of all God's people in Lusaka Diocese." ■

What an opportunity!

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

This week I was on a Zoom chat with some of our chaplains around the diocese. I meet regularly with eight or nine of them alongside our Chaplaincy Development Adviser Mike Haslam. These are only a few of the more than 300 chaplains we have, of all ages, lay and ordained, across Bath and Wells. There are more and more enquiries about chaplaincy from a wide range of communities. They are seeking a chaplain to offer pastoral care and well-being support for an increasingly stressed and anxious workforce. One enquiry caught my attention this week.

A local Further Education college has been saying that their first concern is for a chaplain to address the spiritual exploration of its students. What an opportunity! We know from the Talking Jesus research (2015 and 2022) that most practising Christians come to faith before the age of 18. Several of our schools, including primary, have pupil chaplains now and this is a great way of recognising that you are never too young to start in living and telling the story of Jesus!

As a child I was always struck by the

Old Testament story of the unnamed little slave girl who served Naaman's wife, (2 Kings chapter 5). Taken from her home to another country, she was the one who introduced Naaman to Elisha the prophet in Israel. As a result, Naaman overcame his scepticism, was healed from his leprosy, and discovered a faith in God.

Chaplaincy opens up a diversity of contexts in which we can share our faith and I invite you to pray for those here in Bath and Wells who are treading new ground to open up the way for others to discover the love of Jesus for themselves. However, each one of us has our own possibility of being a chaplain, coming alongside another in our daily life. Sometimes our timidity prevents us from speaking up about faith other than in church where we are on familiar territory. How about taking some time to reflect on where you might live and tell the story of Jesus outside of church, in your everyday context? Is there someone, like a Naaman's wife, who is desperate to find help and hope for a loved one but doesn't know where to find it? Maybe you are the only one who could tell them!

Bishop Ruth

God's representative

The Revd Katy Garner, the former Rector of Backwell, talks chaplaincy ahead of her licensing as Chaplain at Bath Spa University.



The Revd Katy Garner, new Chaplain for Bath Spa University.

What's prompted the move from parish ministry?

I just felt that this is where God was calling me to be, despite the fact that Backwell is a very exciting place to be right now and is growing in spirituality.

Why university chaplaincy?

You could say I am very comfortable in a student setting. After a career in nursing, and a five-year gap to have a family, I decided to get a degree. A year of Open University study, a three-year degree at the University of the West of England, a PhD and a period as a Post Doc at Bristol University followed.

What do think university chaplaincy offers?

Universities offer students a most exciting part of their education – they are set free, on their own, and for

some that's an amazing and life-giving experience, but for a lot of people it can be very difficult and they need support.

How will you offer support?

As this is a new role, it will first be about journeying with students and staff to determine how chaplaincy can feature in this university. There is a secret garden with a fire pit, and I can have an allotment, so there's a lot of potential for activities that tie in caring for creation, and therefore ourselves. I'll also be taking along my dog as a care dog. As a chaplain you are not necessarily talking about God, but I absolutely view myself as God's representative in that place.

What are you looking forward to most?

Ministering to this diverse, creative bunch of individuals is going to be really exciting and a real blessing for me. I hope I can become someone they can know and feel confident about to coming to with any problems, but also to share their joys.

Hear more from Katy at: bathandwells.org.uk/gods-representative

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.Keynsham Parish Youth Group go to camp!

Hello readers, Your friendly Parish Youth Worker here. This Summer Trevor Stubbs and I got to take some lovely young people to the Satellites camp in the Bath and West Showground. If you don't know, Satellites Summer Camp is a five-day Christian youth event aimed at 12–18-year-olds, led by the team at YouthScape.



Going to Satellites for the first time this year was a great experience. The young people loved it and camping together was great. We ate together and tried to keep our meals eco-friendly. We made up a cozy home tent for us all to hang out together, do henna,

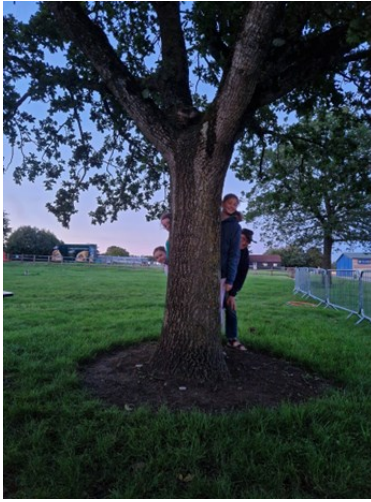
read the psalm of the day, get creative, play games or sip hot chocolate. At the main meetings the worship was fantastic, the talks and entertainment were good too and there were plenty of things to do. After the evening main meetings there were parties (like silent disco), late night worship and films on show.

During the days we could watch the World Cup or take part in different sports ourselves. Then there were venues for art, board games, morning bible study, seminars/workshops but also quieter things in the chapel, so things for all types of personalities throughout the week.

The facilities are pretty good and well cared for. There are a few minor kinks to iron out, it's only the second year of it running, but booking is easy and a fantastic time was had by all.



Youthscape provide very well for youth leaders, with free coffee and treats, resources at discount prices and talks aimed specifically at us and our needs. Child care is provided for youth workers with younger kids. We all felt safe there, so, for example, the young people can go together to a seminar while we youth leaders stay back and prepare dinner or go to a different talk. But most importantly, the young people really enjoyed every minute and want to go again (and that's even after the wet stormy weather!). I'm sure it's done great things



for their faith journey too. It really makes all the late nights and early mornings totally worth it!

I'd just like to say a Big Thank You to Trevor Stubbs, Mary and Steve Daws and the lovely parents that helped make going to camp possible and providing home baked yummy goodies! We also really appreciate all the prayers many friends and family have said for us before, during and after. So, thank you and God bless you all!

At the young people's insistence, we plan to go back again next year! So if you, or a young person you know are interested, email me on

piplovell@keynshamparish.org.uk or check out their website here: <https://www.youthscape.co.uk/satellites/home?>

Pip Lovell



Stephen our Rector is moving on

The weekend of 16th/17th September brought mixed feelings to the Parish. We have to say goodbye to Stephen M’Caw, our rector for the last 13 years, and wish him well for his new life in his supposed retirement- but how many clergy ever put their feet up?

On Saturday 16th the Parish Hall was packed for a farewell party, with so many people wanting to thank Stephen for his untiring efforts for the church and the wider community. There were speeches and lots of presents, the choir sang and many reminiscences relayed. Marion Moore made an excellent cake with all her usual flair.



Stephen has preached the Christian faith to all his flock with a unique mixture of wisdom, erudition and accessibility, combined with a strong grasp of the practicalities of looking after the churches in his care. He has also worked tirelessly for the whole community in Keynsham, it is not just the church congregation who will miss him.

Sunday brought Stephen’s last service to a packed St. John’s church, before he moves on to his new life, beginning with marriage to Margaret and a new home.



The parish now comes under the care of Rev. Anika Gardiner and the strong team of people who support the church’s work in so many ways, until a new Rector is appointed in due course.



UKRAINE

The church continues its important place supporting the people in their struggle against the Russian invasion.

God will help Ukraine to ‘destroy evil’

The Primate of the independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan Epiphany Dumenko has praised the dignity and “self-sacrificing love” shown by Ukrainian soldiers. He said that God would help the country to “destroy evil”.

He said: “We are fighting for fully understandable fundamental values: for our independence and territorial integrity, which the whole world has recognised for 30 years.

The Russian invaders constantly invent delusional, incomprehensible excuses for their attack. But these will not help them, since evil is always overcome and punished.”

The Evangelical Baptist Union of Ukraine has urged its congregations to pray for “the spread of God’s light in all spheres of social life.”

Meanwhile, a former President of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, Yuri Sipko, has fled to Germany to escape arrest in Russia. He said: “A criminal case has been opened against me – they are looking for me to put me in prison because I’ve spoken the truth that Russia waged war on Ukraine. People are dying and everything is being destroyed. It’s criminal, and they should not be doing this... I think everybody should be speaking out against it.”

29th October - Bible Sunday as Ukrainians request more Bibles

The war in Ukraine has led to a dramatic rise in the demand for Bibles, as people ask the eternal questions about life and death. The Ukrainian Bible Society reports that, in the last 15 months, some 700,000 Bibles have been distributed across the war-torn country. This is a five-fold increase on numbers handed out before the war. In 2020, some 136,767 Bibles were distributed in Ukraine.

Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society explains, “The experience of this time is that so many people are looking for Bibles and churches. We are doing everything possible to reach all the needs,

but more Bibles are needed. With the help of the Word of God, we can bring the love of God to those who need it.”

Bibles are distributed around the country, including to soldiers and civilian communities on the front line, and to those in hospital. “Wherever the Bible is taken, it is very much appreciated,” said Anatoliy.



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Natalie Morton



Featuring



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Debussy



With tea and cakes



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Admission free
Retiring collection for Church Funds



A NEW GIVING SCHEME FOR ST JOHNS KEYNSHAM!

I am writing to thank you for your support for all the churches in the Keynsham Parish, and St Johns in particular, as I am the treasurer there! It is a very time-consuming voluntary role which I have done happily for over 6 years, dreaming of the day when better systems will come to the diocese. These systems will remove hours of tedious paperwork every month, so that Jane Stockall, our stewardship secretary, can submit the forms to HMRC, and I can keep the bills paid! So you can imagine my delight to know that St Johns is now able to join the Parish Giving Scheme, which will, I believe, make a real difference to our finances.

The ministry of our church is only possible through the generosity of church members and loyal supporters of the church; there is no state aid for churches! We believe that our churches are a vital part of our growing local community and we hope you agree. We are here for the whole community. Week by week we meet to worship and to provide many activities for all ages, from toddler groups to community lunches. We are here for those big celebrations like the winter festival and the Christmas services when we all come together, and for many of our schools.

The church is also privileged to support people through life's major events; baptisms, weddings and funerals mark the milestones in our life's journey.

You may already support our church financially by a regular standing order, through our envelope scheme, or by giving in church. Your generosity is vital to enable us to continue to serve our whole community. Would you consider supporting our work by joining the Parish Giving Scheme? It is quick and easy to join, online or by telephone, and all regular gifts are covered by the direct debit guarantee. You can make a one-off gift or give monthly, quarterly or annually, and if you are a UK tax-payer you can also gift-aid it to enable us to recover a further 25% of the value of your gift from HMRC. The financial details of what is given will be confidential to our Stewardship secretary, Jane Stockall and me, but I will be aware of the overall response and will write to thank all those who respond.

The easiest way to start supporting St John's Church with the Parish Giving Scheme is to use our 'Ways to Give' page. Please visit www.waystogive.org.uk or scan the QR code below and select our church from the list; it's under K for Keynsham St Johns. Select 'Parish Giving Scheme' and then choose to follow the link to either sign up online, register by phone or request a paper registration form.

If you need further information or want to talk this through with someone, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Anne Hewett, treasurerstj@keynshamparish.org.uk



Keynsham Macular Society Support Group

Nearly 1.5m people in the UK have macular disease, which affects people of all ages. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common condition, generally affecting people over the age of 55. It is the biggest cause of sight loss in the UK, affecting more than 700,000 people.

The Keynsham group would like to welcome people living with a macular condition and central vision loss to join our meetings. Friends, family members, and anyone wanting to learn more are welcome.

We meet at The Chocolate Quarter,
(Trajectus Way, Keynsham, BRISTOL, BS31 2GJ.)

The support group offers an opportunity for individuals to share their experiences, offer hints, and share useful information.

Anyone is welcome, but if you'd like to find out more information, please contact Jo Fishwick, the regional manager for the South West, on 07947 373 244.

Notes from the PCC – not minutes

The PCC met on Monday 4 September 2023, chaired by Stephen M’Caw. It was acknowledged that this was his last PCC in the parish, and maybe the last ever!

Plans for the Team Rector Vacancy.

There was to be a meeting on Thursday 5 October with the Bishop, Archdeacon and CPAS to discuss the steps involved with the process.

During the vacancy the PCC Standing Committee may meet more frequently to make any decisions required between PCC meetings and as a support for Anika. Anika and Lesley Organ are continuing to work on how to cover services in the months ahead.

Martin Burton, Robert Cook and Anne Hewett have expressed an interest in putting together the parish profile. They will consult widely.

Due to the reduction in clergy within the diocese and here in the parish, Anika’s license may need to be changed. It will be discussed at the next St Francis DCC meeting.

Chewton Keynsham Church Building

Members had received further updates on the progress of this quite complicated process. There are various legal implications which had been outlined by a solicitor and the PCC agreed to continue to follow these instructions. If anyone would like to know more on the details then please approach Stephen (before he leaves on the 17th) Anika or Sue Lloyd.

General Parish Items

Lin Fry, our new Office Manager has passed her probationary period. Lin is indeed a valuable addition to the Office Team.

The diocese has plans to sell both 68 Park Road and 9 Chelmer Grove and purchase a more modern rectory that is closer to the requirements of the ‘parsonage design guide,’ more easily maintained, and fits the diocesan green agenda. PCC were also of a mind to ask the diocese to take into account the position of St Francis’ vicarage and whether this remains a good location, as long as it doesn’t hinder the buying of a new rectory as this has implications on the process of the appointment of a new team rector.

A new legacy leaflet was agreed and will be issued soon.

No progress has been made as yet with the Children and Families Worker post. St John’s is advertising for a new caretaker.

Finances

Members received update on the various churches' payment of the parish share.

Latest church membership numbers had also been circulated.

Paul Trueman has very kindly offered to take over from Chris Newton as PCC treasure. The PCC duly co-opted Paul onto the PCC and then elected him as the new treasurer. Many thanks go to both Chris and Paul. This is a very vital role within the parish.

Reports

Members heard that a meeting had been held of the PCC/OCT liaison group. It was encouraging to hear how the One Community Trust is flourishing and continuing to find its identity.

Reports were available from the wardens of the 4 churches and our Zambia link.

Latest diocesan safeguarding letter was circulated and some additional comments from Wendy Harwood our PSO were shared.

Possible plans for future parish weekend were discussed.

Sue Lloyd – PCC Lay Chair



On September 7th Chew Magna Deanery met in the Parish Hall. Stephen M’Caw has been the Area Dean, until his retirement. Here the Rev. Ian Mills is being appointed as his successor by Bishop Ruth.

The Christmas Tree Festival

St John's Church will once again be holding a Christmas Tree Festival this year. This spectacular Christmas event will be open from Friday 8th December until Sunday 10th December 2023.

Local Community Groups are warmly invited to take part and invitation letters and emails have already been circulated to some groups. If, however, your organisation, church or school has not been contacted, there is still time to book a tree! Please email treefest@hotmail.com or telephone 0117 9862088 for further details or an application form.

The Keynsham Christmas Tree Festival is a biannual event that has been running since 2012. It has become a huge part of Keynsham's community Christmas celebrations and you are urged to put the dates in your diary! Thank you to everyone who contributes to and supports it.



FARM DIARY

In the Field. October is the start of the season for sowing winter wheat. In many parts of the country this will start in September. However in central Somerset, it can be too mild at this time and the crop can become very proud before winter sets in. This can encourage fungal diseases and weak plants. Winter oil seed rape is a different matter and ours was sown as usual in August. In fact, combining of the wheat was interrupted to sow the rape when 10 mm. of rain was forecast. It was judged that the wheat straw would dry faster if standing and uncut than if cut. On the day of writing this, we had contract seed cleaners on farm to clean all our seed for this year. We will buy some new seed but the majority will be home saved. We pay a royalty to the seed breeders via the seed cleaners.

Sustainable Farm Incentive. S.F.I. is DEFRA's flagship replacement for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). The latter has supported farmers for many years with a view to make sure that food prices are reasonable and farmers are supported. The latter is necessary as labour charges are higher here than that in a lot of countries which impacts directly and on most inputs. Farmers have had three years of reducing payments of BPS but DEFRA is yet to make the alternative available. Some details of the SFI are known. The idea is to support environmental initiatives. Quite high payment rates for encouraging wildlife on arable land are e.g. £732/ha. for providing winter bird food. There will be no restriction on area. Anecdotally, this option has already increased rents in Cornwall for farmers trying to rent extra land. Politicians.

Grain. The writer sells his grain through Openfield, who market a big percentage of the nations grain. According to their market analyst, Cecilia Pryce, the wheat area is quietly declining. Some is going into environmental schemes some is being built on and perhaps there are other reasons as well. This cereal produces bread, and meat and milk. At some stage the market analyst wondered whether we would have to start importing wheat to meet our own requirements. This seems to be a backward step. What will the price be? Will it be available when we want it? Will it be produced to our standards? And so on.

Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for October

BAPTISMS

6th August	George Matthew Parr	St John's
6th August	Magnus John Westgate	River Chew
3rd September	Evie Elizabeth Candido	St John's
3rd September	Hunter Michael Antony Davey	St John's

WEDDINGS

8th July	Hugh Richard & Julie Dianne Brealey (Blessing)	St John's
12th August	Matthew Daniel Kinder & Katie Isobel Bilner	St Margaret's
19th August	Connor Everton Payne & Leah Sharon Rosser	St John's

DEATHS

6th August	Doreen Daniels	95
17th August	Joyce Evans	96
18th August	Ruth Spill	89

DIARY for October

1st	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
1st	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
3rd	7pm	PCC Standing Committee	St John's Upper Room
4th	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
7th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish office
7th	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	St Francis Hall
8th	6pm	Choral Evensong	St John's
10th	7.30pm	Prayer & Vision Meeting	Parish Hall
14th	12pm	Free Community Lunch	Parish Hall
14th	5pm	Zambia Action Group Meeting	Parish Hall
15th	6pm	Impact Group for 7-11 year olds	Parish Hall
15th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
21st	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour	Parish office
21st	10am	Who Let The Dads Out	Parish Hall
27th	1pm	Trio Paradis Lunchtime Concert	Parish Hall



We thank you then, Creator, The seed-time and the harvest,
 For all things bright and good, Our life, our health, our food.

Matthias Claudius, translated Jane M. Campbell.

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