

SERVICES & ORGANISATIONS

St John the Baptist, Keynsham

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

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

Evening Services - as advertised

Weekday Holy Communion: 11.30am Tuesdays

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

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

Worship Band Practice: Wednesday 8.00pm

Bell-ringing Practice: Thursday 7.30 - 9.00pm

Mothers' Union: 1st Wednesday - 1.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wednesday - 10.00am

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

St Francis', Warwick Road

Morning Service: 9.30am

1st Sunday: Eco Service

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

Other Sundays: Morning Worship

(Crèche area at back of church if needed)

Evening Services: as advertised

Holy Baptism: In public worship by arrangement

Worship Ambulance: Wednesday: 6.00 - 9.00pm

Toddlers Group: Wed: 9.30-11.45am

Thur: 1.00 - 2.30pm (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

CHECK WITH THE NOTICE SHEET!

MISSION PARTNERS:

TLM Mission partner: Bangladesh: *Dr Ruth Butlin*

CMS Mission Partners: Kenya: *Aaron Stanbury*

CMS Prayer partner: *Ruth Radley*

Chipata South Parish, Zambia.

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

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

THE PARISH OF KEYNSHAM DIRECTORY

(www.keynshamparish.org.uk)

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

Office Manager: Lin Fry - Facilities Manager: Vanessa Body

Team Rector:

Vacancy

Team Vicar in Charge

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

Pioneer Missioner:

Trevor James - Tel: 07368 526997

Readers:

Rachel Hall, June Lowe, Rachel Shaw, Paul Thurlow

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults:

Parish officer: Wendy Harwood - Tel: 0117 986 2323

safeguarding@keynshamparish.org.uk

Directors of Music / Choirmaster:

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

St Francis: *vacant*

samshackleton@keynshamparish.org.uk

Tower Captain:

Edric Broom - Tel: 07890 364754

Parish Youth Worker:

Philippa Lovell - contact via the Parish Office

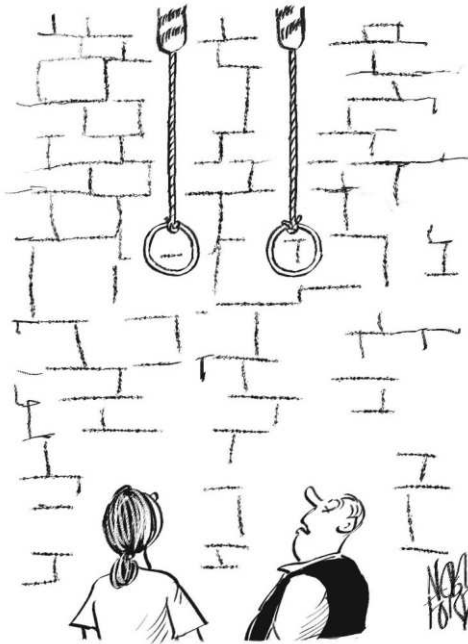
Parish Children and Families Worker:

Vacant

Caretakers: - contact via the Parish Office

St John's: - *Graham Mitchell*

St Francis: - *Jenny Minty and Katie Poynter*



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

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Message of the Month

May 2024



‘Spring forward, fall back’. This little phrase helps us to remember when to add an hour to our days and when to take it off again.

We had an hour ‘removed’ on Easter Sunday and it won’t be ‘replaced’ until October. The original idea about doing this was simply to allow more daylight time during the winter months, (and give more daylight hours for work), but it caused dissension, division and fear as people thought they were losing part of their lives. Now, we just leave large pieces of paper that state ‘put the clocks back’, or ‘put the clocks forward’ all around the house to make sure we don’t forget, but sometimes we still do!

I’d like to tell you about one of those times. Some of you may remember Reverend John Samways. One year when we were putting the clocks back, I forgot and arrived an hour early for church. John was doing a sweep around the church to scoop up anyone who had done the same thing. I was then ushered into a lounge that was full of people like me who’d lost the plot, accompanied with a shout from John to his wife Chris, “Chris, we’ve got another one!” This was Chris’s signal to make yet another cup of coffee, which was very welcome amidst the hilarity at forgetting to put the clocks back! There was a lovely fellowship for that brief time before the service actually began, something that, without our questionable memories, we couldn’t possibly have known we would be blessed with; a definite ‘God Spot’ as John called them and in which he totally believed and promoted. That day John and Chris made it possible in their own generous way, ‘springing forward’ when it was needed. The lounge was full by the way, with more chairs being transferred from other rooms to accommodate the lost souls – there were so many of us!

There is so much that we tend to take for granted, apart from confusing the clocks. Some things are a given – night turns to day, apart from some daylight obscurity by the odd eclipse or two, and day to night. The seasons are still distinguishable one from the other and the earth is still revolving around the sun. The Church calendar decrees Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas, and mostly, we can expect to keep the plans we’ve made whether

short term or long term with the fervent prayer 'All Being Well', trying *not* to take things for granted.

Plans don't always work out the way we would like them to. Perhaps we've sprung forward too soon or fallen back when we should have been more steadfast. No one needs reminding about the need to be steadfast in prayer for all the unplanned, unexpected wars and conflict happening in the world today, but underneath it all is our faith that supports the fervent hope that these circumstances will change to those ordained by our Risen Lord.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

When the Lord plans, it happens, and as he recreates each day our welfare is first and foremost in his mind. It's good to know that in these reassuring words, given to us through Jeremiah, we *have* hope to take into the future. They couldn't be more specific. In your Christmas greetings, did you receive abundant blessings of love, joy and peace and did you eagerly receive them, with the assurance of only good tidings for the future? The future will be secure if we, by the grace of God, spring forward to embrace it and do not fall back but remain bold and confident in our promised prosperity, providence and security of body, mind and spirit.

Every blessing

June Lowe

Thank You to Val Thomas and Olive Finch



Val and Olive have been counting the cash donations to St. John's for thirty years and ten years respectively. At times this essential task has been enormous, needing additional help when they have been very busy. Week after week, in all conditions, they have counted the money for all these years, always cheerful and smiling. In more recent times cash has been less prominent but it still needs counting!

They have now decided it is time to retire. We are very grateful for all their help over all these years.

It's still Easter!

In the Anglican Church Easter is behind us, we are starting to think about its aftermath of Ascension Day and Pentecost followed by Trinity Sunday. However in the Greek Orthodox Church Easter is on May 5th this year, so it is still Lent until then.

Why the difference in dates? The date of Easter depends on the phases of the moon. The Orthodox Church still calculates the date using the Julian Calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46BC. The Western Church uses the Gregorian Calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, which corrected small errors that had added up over the centuries. There is not always a big discrepancy in the dates, in some years they coincide.

The Greek Easter has its own traditions.

Alice Christofides writes:

“Greek Easter traditions have some variation over the Greek Islands as well as the mainland. Eggs are symbolic after fasting during Lent. Red is the colour for Greek painted eggs, coloured traditionally from red onion skins but now often with artificial colourings. Red symbolises the blood Christ shed on the cross, the egg Christ’s

resurrection with new life, rebirth and hope. On Easter Saturday it is back to eating all kinds of food, and enjoyment again. Greeks of all ages have a fun time trying to break family and friends’ eggs, the “kokkina avga”, with their own eggs.

I remember being in Crete one Easter, and going with candles to the large church in Rethymnon, which was kept dark until 11 at night when the priest started the sharing of candle light. After many prayers and hymns from the male voice choir, bright light celebrated the start of Easter. Immediately there were extremely loud firework explosions in the street, terrifying the children. We then had a traditional Easter meal starting around 2am in a Greek restaurant, with a first course of traditional Greek lemon and rice soup followed by delicious Easter roast lamb and many vegetables.”

Flaounes are delicious small Greek cheese and mint pastry cakes made to celebrate Easter.



Receiving the Holy Light



Admiral Kelly- Salford's unsung hero

Introduction

The Church of England has been making news with a plan for a £1,000,000,000 fund to pay reparations for the great evil of the African slave trade. It would seem to be a good time to remember the courage and dedication of the people who enforced the abolition of the slave trade, many of whom paid with their lives. In total about 1,600 slave ships were captured and 150,000 slaves freed.



The immense commitment and sacrifice by the Royal Navy, and also the army who manned the shore stations, to enforce the abolition seems to be widely disregarded. It has been estimated that one British soldier or sailor died for every nine slaves freed. The Royal Dockyard Museum in Portsmouth mounted an exhibition "Chasing Freedom" in 2007 to highlight their achievements but their role continues to be ignored.



HMS Pheasant on a Stamp

The slave trade was abolished in 1807. Up to that time the Royal Navy had helped British ships engaged in the slave trade to escape piracy and foreign slavers, but their task now became to enforce the abolition. At first naval resources were limited but after the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 the West Africa Squadron could be expanded; it

operated for the next 50 years. In 1818 Admiral, at that time Captain, Kelly, joined the Squadron in command of HMS Pheasant.

Early life

Benedictus Marwood Kelly was born at Kelly House in Devon in 1785. He joined the Royal Navy aged 13 and was appointed Midshipman on his uncle's ship, HMS Gibraltar, in 1798 and lived the extraordinarily adventurous life which seems to have been normal for naval officers of the time. He was wounded in an attack on Elba in 1801, after recovery he was appointed to HMS Temeraire

“The Fighting Temeraire” in 1804. The following year the Temeraire played a prominent part in the battle of Trafalgar. By 1811 he was in Java, where he served with distinction, but this was followed by a period ashore on half pay. In 1818 he was appointed in command of HMS Pheasant to join the anti-slavery “Preventative Squadron” which had its Navy Base on Ascension Island, where a commemorative stamp was issued.

Action in West Africa

Life in the West Africa Squadron was no less hazardous than Captain Kelly’s previous appointments. He engaged the slavers, on occasions bombarded their shore stations, and freed and transported the slaves. Yellow fever was rampant, including an outbreak on “Pheasant”- the African base at Freetown, Sierra Leone, was the original “White Man’s Grave”. The Navy ships mostly took the captains and crew of the captured slavers to court in Jamestown, St. Helena. The freed slaves were allowed to settle in St. Helena or move on, many went to the West Indies, Capetown or Sierra Leone where they established Freetown. Sadly 8,000 rescued slaves died from their privations and are buried at Jamestown.

Is the pen mightier than the sword?

In 1819 Captain Kelly brought the Portuguese slaver Nova Felicidade in to Sierra Leone. He was much concerned by the condition of the slaves on board and on arrival immediately wrote to the Commissioner to have the slaves urgently rehoused ashore. This letter survived and was recorded in the Journal of the House of Commons.

He also gave evidence at the trial of the slave traders, and described in detail the full horrors of the appalling conditions in which the slaves were transported. The blend of naval detail and accuracy and Captain Kelly’s obvious compassion made a great impact. The evidence was used in 1820 by The African Institute, an influential anti-slavery organisation. The influence of his powerful words were again used twenty years later in 1840, in the prospectus of The Society for the Extinction of the Slave Trade and the Civilization of Africa, president Prince Albert. Queen Victoria was also a patron.

Later Life

Exhausted by the rigours of 24 years of naval service Captain Kelly retired due to ill health in 1822. He remained on the half pay list, being promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1852 and eventually Admiral in 1863.

After retirement he pursued a financial career in the City of London, taking a great interest in the emerging steam ship and railway companies. Although a wealthy man, he was so accustomed to the cramped living conditions of a

warship that he lived in a one roomed flat in the Army and Navy Club, to the disapproval of his friends and relatives.

His first wife Mary had died in childbirth in 1838. In 1855, aged 70, he married Juliana Boyd and in 1856 they bought Salford House and moved to Salford. The Kellys were kindly and generous



neighbours who soon became popular in the village. Their local charitable works include supporting Salford School. Juliana continued their work after the Admiral died in 1867, including building the new school in 1874. Admiral Kelly also founded Kelly's College in Tavistock.



When he died Admiral Kelly was buried in his home village of Kelly in Devon. Juliana lived until 1896 and is buried in the churchyard at St. Mary's Salford.

Kath McCarthy

I am greatly indebted to Phil Harding, of Salford Environmental Group, for permission to use his material. Phil has researched Admiral Kelly's story and published it in www.saltfordenvironmentalgroup.org.uk/history/history010.html .He was also instrumental in organising a blue plaque for Salford House and took the pictures of Salford House and the blue plaque.

Five exercises you'd be better off avoiding this Spring....

- Jumping on the bandwagon
- Wading through paperwork
- Running around in circles
- Pushing your luck
- Adding fuel to the fire





Christian Aid

Please join us for our

Christian Aid United Service

Victoria Methodist Church, Keynsham

6.30 pm on Sunday 5th May

Visiting speaker: David Hart,

Christian Aid's Somerset and Dorset

Church Engagement and Fundraising Office

“Big Brekkie” and Coffee Morning
Saturday 18th May 9.30-12noon
Keynsham Baptist Church

Cake stall



Plant Stall



**Enjoy good food and fellowship
and Save and Change lives
around the world.**

Christian Aid Week

This runs from 12-18th May this year. Resources are available via this link in the section marked (publicity) promotional pack which includes articles of different lengths, photos, logos etc.

christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/resources

Christian Aid

When Elephants fight the grass suffers. (African proverb)

Children are hungry and dying across the world because their well-fed leaders are selfish and hungry for power. Similarly, those communities most directly affected by climate change have done least to cause it.

According to the U.N. hunger is currently the leading cause of death in the world and it is entirely preventable if enough people care enough.

Overlapping crises of conflict, climate change and economic inequality have created a cycle that has undermined food security for families and communities worldwide.

The climate crisis compounds hunger. Droughts, floods and rising temperatures disrupt crop cycles and vulnerable farming-dependant families are left without harvests. Displaced by conflict, communities can no longer grow food.

Christian Aid seeks to show the love of God through practical action

Apart from its obvious immediate humanitarian relief in times of disaster, long-term projects lift families out of poverty by giving them a new start to enable them to provide for themselves.

Christian Aid works with local partner organisations who know what is needed, understand the culture, can resource locally and is less expensive.

Christian Aid writes, “Even in the midst of extreme adversity, we witness the transformative power of Hope and Compassion made possible by the work of our partners and by your generous gifts. Your support for our Middle East Crisis Appeal is a beacon of Hope, helping our partners in Gaza reach more people in need. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity, prayers and actions as we continue our shared mission to combat poverty worldwide.”

Christian Aid week is 12-18th May. Our Service is earlier on 5th May at Victoria Methodist Church. Please join us to pray for the vital life-saving work of Christian Aid. Enjoy fellowship while sharing breakfast/ coffee on 18th May at Keynsham Baptist Church(see separate notices for details) and please give as generously as you can. Every prayer, every action, every gift brings hope and life to those most in need.

There will also be an opportunity to donate online.

If you would like to help with either of the above events or be involved with future Christian Aid activities we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Tina Stubbs: tina.m.stubbs@gmail.com Phone 0117 986 9664

Wendy Robbins: wrobbins0@gmail.com

Benefact Trust announces £1.5 million for churches to achieve Net Zero goal

A £1.5 million grant that will help a group of churches pay for items such as solar panels and heat pumps has been recently announced by the Benefact Trust.

The grant-giving charity will provide additional support over two years to up to 60 'demonstrator' churches who in turn will lead the way in inspiring and encouraging other churches to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

Under the plans, £750,000 of additional funding will be allocated to support a group of churches this year with a further £750,000 pledged for 2025.

The grant from the Trust is in addition to £3.8 million allocated by the Church of England for funding and technical support to help demonstrator churches make as much progress as possible towards achieving net zero carbon by the end of 2030, in line with the Church's Routemap to Net Zero.

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, who is the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment said: "By taking practical action we show God's love for creation as well as ensuring that our buildings are fit for our worshipping life and service to local communities."

Nearly a Farewell Message

We still have no offers for a new editor for Contact, so unless there is a last-minute rush the next issue will be the last in the present form. The PCC would like a magazine to continue, and there are people considering the future of communications in the parish, which may have an impact.

If you have considered taking on the task email me at kath.mccarthy@hotmail.co.uk and we can talk it over.

Kath



manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

May 2024

Empowering young people

We are all called to live and tell the story of Jesus. For young adults this calling can sometimes be challenging, they often encounter indifference or even hostility. In Bath and Wells we strive to support our young people and encourage them to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them.

Rich Miles, Missional Priest for Youth and Young Adults says, "Young people are open to exploring who God is, who they are in God and finding the love of Jesus. So, with those things in mind, the question for us to think about is how do we as the church welcome young people and make them feel at home, in our local churches? And how do we make it feel like it's their church and that they have a part to play?"

In Bath and Wells one of the things we offer are Movement Worship Night gatherings, hosted in multiple locations across the diocese, offering young people a chance to come together and connect with God through worship, relevant bible exploration and prayer.

We're also in the process of developing a Young Leaders Learning Hub. This aims to help equip young



Movement Worship Night

young people with basic leadership skills and offer mentorship so they can serve and have a greater impact in their local church and in the communities where God has placed them.

This year we're collaborating with some of our schools chaplains across the diocese in taking young people on pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France, offering them the opportunity to experience the presence of God, through prayer, reflection and worship.

Rich says "Young people are naturally truth seeking. We hope that we can introduce them to Jesus, share with them that He's real and they can have a relationship with Him."

Find out more about resources and support for young people in Bath and Wells [bathwells.org.uk/children and young.people](https://bathwells.org.uk/children-and-young-people)

News in brief

Electric mobile pantry

The Quantock Foodbank, a vital lifeline for families in need now, has a fully electric vehicle to deliver groceries to local villages. The van, which has integrated solar panels, ensures fresh food can be transported in an environmentally friendly way. It will also collect donations, thus cutting the number of journeys made. The £80,000 cost of the truck, was funded from local donations, sponsorship and small grants.



A space to encounter God

More than 300 young people have joined A2 nights in Bath created specifically for them. 60 to 80 young people from all corners of the city attend the monthly gatherings held at St Matthew's Church. A2 doesn't seek to replace local church youth groups, but

Week of Prayer for Children and young People: 1 – 7 July

During the first week of July, the Go Team are hosting a week of prayer for children and young people and are inviting churches across our diocese to join in. A Prayer Guide for the week will be available on the diocesan website. There are themes for each day plus creative prayer ideas for using at home, in small groups and in church services. Go Team Adviser, Andy Levett commented "We'll be gathering to pray for half an hour each day and we'd love you to do the same wherever you are and at a time that suits you."

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

aims to foster unity and broader connections in the city. The formation of A2 has enabled the group to offer a city-wide Alpha course, allowing some young people to explore their faith in greater depth.

A challenge offered

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath & Wells

There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question 'To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian faith?' The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 40% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were less than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. While only one in five of us report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources. Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a

Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families they do come. This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help. Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

+ Michael Bath & Wells.

Amplifying young voices

Cesca Priestley is a Growing Faith Adviser in the Bath Archdeaconry, shares why it's important to listen to young people.



Tell us about your role

I am focusing on raising the profile of the youth voice to enable young people to share their views and their thoughts. It's also ensuring they are heard by leaders across the diocese so we can really integrate them into the life of the church.

Why do young people sometimes feel they're not listened to?

Young people often feel things are decided for them, or they're not included in discussions about things set up for them.

How can we listen to young people more effectively?

Carving out time is the most important thing. Give them the opportunity to be involved. Maybe on a Sunday, but it might mean meeting them where they are. You could think of a couple of simple questions that are relevant to something you'd like their input on.

Why is it important that we hear from young people?

They're the new disciples of Jesus. To help them on their journey of faith we need to value and listen to them. Young people are also really good at sharing the Gospels and sharing Jesus. Listening to what they say often brings new and fresh ideas that everyone can share.

How are churches implementing young people's ideas?

At one church the young people said they felt they had outgrown the provision for them and didn't have a role. The leadership team listened and now the young people are part of teams such as welcome and worship. You're launching a blog for young people, how can they get involved? The content will be from young people and children. It can be a short video, an article, photo, artwork, or poem. It's for young people to read and adults to interact with too. Each blog will have a theme or a question such as the environment or mental health. Know any young people you think would like to contribute? Email cesca.priestley@bathwells.anglican.org

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DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Telling the Easter Story Through Paintings

On the Tuesday of Holy Week Tom Peryer organised a wonderful evening at St. Michael's Burnett of the Easter Story told through paintings.

Dr. Nigel Halliday is an art expert who is also the retired pastor of a community church, now living in Saltford. He treated us to an inspiring evening showing old masters which told the Easter story, expounded with evangelical zeal. Some are well known, others less so, but all were beautifully explained.

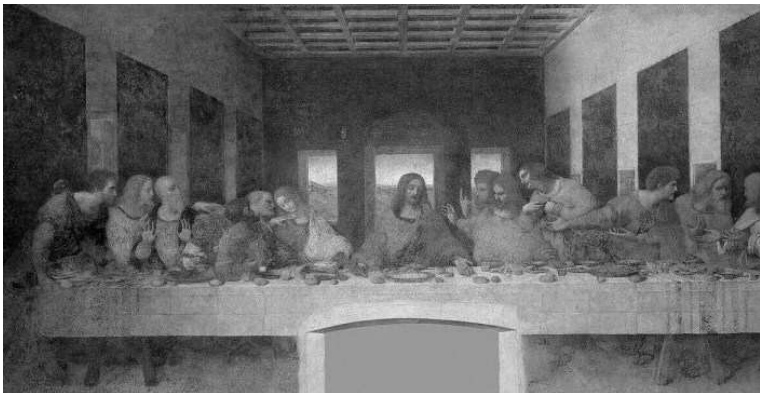
St Michael's also displayed its own treasures. An Ethiopian pulpit hanging telling about Easter is delightful, if not an antiquity.



Arriving at St. Michael's. Dr. Halliday is sitting next to the pulpit.



The Ethiopian pulpit hanging



Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper- one of the paintings expounded

Royal National Lifeboat Institution's 200th anniversary

The RNLI has been saving lives at sea around the UK and Ireland for 200 years. Since the charity was founded in 1824, its volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved an incredible 146,277 lives.

To mark the occasion a Service of Thanksgiving was held on 4th March at Westminster Abbey, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave the sermon. His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, President of the RNLI, was present, and the service was attended by representatives from every RNLI lifesaving community around the UK and Ireland. The service took place at the same time the RNLI founding papers were signed in 1824.

There were a number of events in places where the RNLI means so much to the communities it serves. Flotillas took place during the day on the River Mersey, and on the River Tyne. Lifeboats from Penarth RNLI were paraded through their town centre to remember past volunteers and to symbolise a time when lifeboats were hauled by horses.

The Irish post issued two special stamps. Dublin based artist David Rooney has created two images which show the moment of rescue between the lifeboat crew member and the person in the water. In appreciation of the RNLI and its brave volunteers, national monuments and historical buildings were lit up in yellow on the evening of Monday 4th March.



The Decline of Religion on TV

The article in the March Contact on the decline of religion on TV got me thinking of some other instances of Christian decline and you may know of others. On 1st April the BBC moved “The Morning Service” from Radio 4 to Radio 4 Extra with the warning that you might need to buy a new radio to receive it. If you are normally a listener to the service, (it really is very good), and Radio 4, you need to be aware that the Radio 4 programming timing has changed and is not necessarily the same as Radio 4 Extra. What would the reaction be if they did that to the Archers?

A few years ago Christmas Fairs/Festivals were changed to “Winter Festivals”, in case some people were offended by the word “Christmas”. Little regard was paid to the fact that many were upset by the change. I am not sure how I feel about the possibility of fixing the date for Easter, but I would hate it to become a Spring Festival, as that would seem a step back to pagan cultures.

I expect you receive Christmas cards through the post. We enjoy receiving cards from friends in different parts of the country, but this year we had no mention of Christmas on the outside of the envelopes. The USA Postal Service changed from “Christmas” to “Happy Holidays” several years ago. It is some time since the Royal Mail gave us “Happy Christmas from the Post Office”, replacing it with “Post Early for Christmas”. This year, if we had a slogan postmark it was for the British Heart Foundation.

We receive fewer cards at Easter but did not see an Easter slogan on the envelopes. In March we did have a letter with a “St. David’s Day” cancellation. I am sure he would be the first to say that the main Christian festivals should take priority over a single saint.

Edmund Prideaux

Vacancy Update

The interview for Team Rector was held in April. Unfortunately, the panel felt it was not the right fit for our parish and therefore did not appoint. While initially we may feel disappointed, it is important to discern the right person for the post which is being readvertised. So please keep praying individually as well as together.

Good dog!

Recent scientific research has found evidence that having a dog is good for you.

“Science is finally catching up with what humans have intuitively known for thousands of years.” So says Professor Emeritus Aubrey Fine of Cal Poly University, a paediatric clinical psychologist.

A recent study at Konkuk University in Korea found that participants’ alpha-band brain waves increased while playing and walking with dogs, while their beta-band brain waves increased while grooming, massaging, or playing with dogs. All participants were left feeling “less fatigued, depressed and stressed”.

In one American academic journal, *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, a study found that, overall, dog owners have a 24 per cent decreased risk of all-cause mortality, and that that percentage rises to 31 per cent for cardiovascular-related issues.

According to Tommy Wood, assistant professor of paediatrics and neuroscience at the University of Washington School of Medicine, dogs “support our health and wellbeing in many ways.”

(All very well, but as a cat person I wonder if cats aren’t even better for you!
Kath McCarthy)



Nature and science meet faith in stunning new Baptist-led films

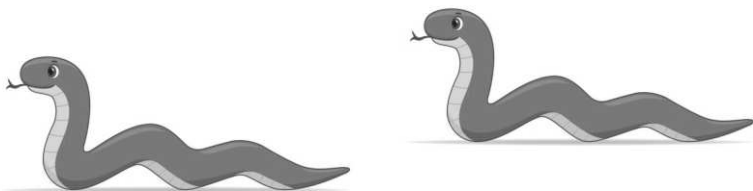
God Saw That It Was Good is a four-part film series that aims to reconnect people with the wonder of the natural world and a sense of the divine within it - and inspire a renewed vision of creation care.

The four short films focus on environmental issues around themes of coasts, sky, trees, and life, weaving stunning visual imagery with a narrative entwining science and faith. They are written and presented by the Revd Dr Dave Gregory, a Baptist minister and former meteorologist and climate scientist at the Met Office and European Weather Centre.

Dr. Gregory writes: “In our visual age, people are captivated by stunning images of our world and cosmos seen in nature and science programmes streamed to our TVs and phones. They are entranced by the wonder they see, yet often left with a sense of mystery and asking is there more to know? The *God Saw That It Was Good* films take people deeper in the wonder and mystery of the world. They enable viewers to encounter the wonder, playfulness, and connections in creation that science reveals, and through which God may be encountered.”

Noah’s Ark

Noah had built the ark and had seen the animals on two by two. Time passed and the floods went away and the animals came off the ark two by two, and Noah said go forth and multiply. Then Noah saw two snakes left on the ark, and said “Why are you still here?”. The snakes replied, you told us to go forth and multiply, but we are only adders.



The man who created Father Brown



Caricature of Chesterton
by Beerbohm

The British writer G K Chesterton was born 150 years ago, on 29th May 1874, in Kensington, West London. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father Brown stories, popular now through their adaptation for television.

He thought of himself as a journalist with good reason, composing 30 years of weekly columns for the *Illustrated London News* and more elsewhere, but he was a prolific writer in many areas, writing 100 books and contributing to 200 others, as well as composing short stories, essays and poems and creating Father Brown.

He was a tall man who weighed in at over 20 stone, and he was notoriously absent-minded – once contacting his wife, Frances, to say: “Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?” (The answer was “Home”.) Unsurprisingly, he did a great deal of writing while waiting at stations.

He was a deep thinker, usually getting the better of the many prominent men he argued against, but almost invariably retaining their goodwill, since he was a genial and witty opponent. An “orthodox Christian” who espoused Roman Catholicism (moving from High Anglicanism) because he felt it was the best resistance to the fads of the age, he was against both socialism and capitalism, materialism, determinism and “spineless agnosticism”. He fought for freedom and justice.

Chesterton was educated at St. Paul’s School and the Slade School of Art, but he is remembered more for his literary talents than his undoubted artistic abilities. Extremely quotable and read now by too few people, he composed some near-perfect lines, concluding for example that “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried”.

Tim Lenton

Lone working ‘is making millions of people ill’

The rise in lone working and the insecurity of increasing numbers of jobs are “making millions of us poorer and ill,” says a new report from Christian-based think tank, Theos. In *‘The Ties That Bind’* Theos looks at how better work can be created “by paying attention to the social dynamics – the love, even – in our workplaces.”

The report, written by ethical entrepreneur Tim Thorlby, looks at evidence around the social and health impacts of the rise in lone working and the growth of insecure work. It argues that a loss of ‘mutuality’ between the employed and their employers is making millions of people poorer and ill.

Theos estimate that before the pandemic, 27 per cent of workers worked alone for a substantial proportion of the time. Now, 59 per cent of the workforce works alone for at least some of the week. While admitting that “lone working can provide real benefits to workers who enjoy a flexibility premium,” the Theos report points out that it carries risks. “These risks are highest where little attention is paid to the quality and dignity of working relationships, and where employees are treated as ‘out of sight, out of mind’.”

The report calls for action to prevent the loss of connection between workers and protect the health of those working in these environments. The UK has one of the most flexible labour markets in the developed world, explains the report, and this can deliver benefits, both to individual workers and to the wider economy.

But there are downsides. In the UK today, the Living Wage Foundation estimate that nearly one in five workers – 6.1 million people (19 per cent of all workers) – are in insecure work. Within this, they calculate that more than half (3.4 million, 11 per cent of all workers) are in work that is both insecure and low paid. Theos calls for fair hourly pay at or above a real living wage; predictable hours and income which are changed only with fair notice; connection for workers, who should be well managed and supported and feel ‘part of the team’; and healthy work, where working supports good physical and mental health.

Peter Crumpler

Chipata

It is a great pity that the carefully planned visit to our primary schools has had to be postponed. A great deal of work has gone into organising the visit, so we commiserate with those who have done so much.



However Rachel Shaw continues to keep us in the frame with pictures and reports from Chipata

A rewilding plan turning churchyards into ‘living sanctuaries’

How can we encourage new life in our churchyards this year?

The Bishop of Norwich, the Right Revd Graham Usher, recently called for “land action plans” to be developed to encourage and enhance biodiversity across the estates owned by the Church of England. The bishop urged that churchyards should be rewilded to become “places for the living, not just the dead”. With the C. of E. responsible for around 17,500 acres of churchyard alone such a concerted push could have a dramatic impact on enhancing Britain’s biodiversity. A further 70,000 acres of agricultural land is owned by dioceses. Known as glebe land it is largely leased to tenant farmers.

Churchyards have the potential to be an oasis of wildlife across the country. As consecrated ground, they have been largely spared the ravages of industrial farming and development which has decimated Britain’s flora and fauna elsewhere. Ancient trees have been left to grow and the earth left undisturbed for centuries.

Several national schemes exist to support the rewilding ambitions of church congregations. A charity called Caring For God’s Acre provides an action pack for those considering rewilding consecrated ground, and since 2016 the Christian charity A Rocha UK has offered an “eco church” accreditation.

Making Friends with Molluscs



The Wildlife Trusts and Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) are joining forces to challenge the negative perception of slugs and snails in gardens across the UK. The 'Making Friends with Molluscs' campaign aims to encourage gardeners to reconsider the role of these often-maligned creatures in their garden ecosystems.

Slugs and snails have long been viewed as a gardener's greatest foe, but this reputation isn't deserved. There are around 150 species of slugs and snails in the UK, and only a small fraction of these pose problems for gardeners. The majority contribute positively to the garden ecosystem in a number of ways. By learning to appreciate and coexist with these creatures, gardeners can adopt a more environmentally friendly approach to gardening.

While they may not be as valued as earthworms, slugs and snails provide several important services in our green spaces. One of their most significant roles is as nature's clean-up crew; molluscs feed on rotting plants, fungi, dung and even carrion, helping to recycle nitrogen and other nutrients and minerals back into the soil. They can also clean algae off the glass of greenhouses, leaving behind their trademark trails.

Many of our much-loved garden visitors, including frogs, song thrushes, and ground beetles, rely on slugs and snails as a key food source. They also make up part of a hedgehog's diet. By supporting these molluscs, gardeners indirectly support a diverse array of wildlife. In addition, territorial slugs, such as leopard slugs, can be helpful in warding off other species of slug and therefore protecting plants from grazing.

Continued >>>

Follow these five tips to live harmoniously alongside slugs and snails:

Provide shelter:

Create habitats for slugs and snails by leaving log piles, mulch, and natural debris in garden areas. These spaces offer shelter and a food source for these creatures, and it may make them less likely to venture out into your vegetable bed.

Selective planting:

Choose plants that are less attractive to slugs and snails or are more resilient to their feeding habits, such as lavender, rosemary, astringia, hardy geraniums, hellebores and hydrangeas.

Barriers:

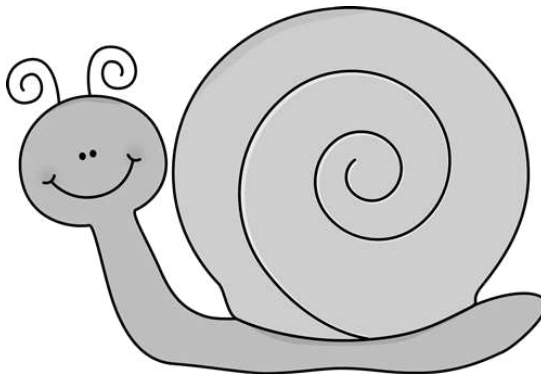
Implement barriers – such as copper tape and wool pellets – which may provide some protection for vulnerable plants from slug and snail damage.

Handpick and monitor:

Regularly inspect plants for signs of slug and snail damage, and manually remove any you find, relocating them to your compost heap or areas with less vulnerable plants. Consider evening patrols with a torch, as slugs and snails are most active at night-time.

Encourage predators:

Create a haven for natural predators of slugs and snails, such as ground beetles, song thrushes, frogs, and toads, by providing suitable habitats, such as long grass, log piles and wildlife-friendly ponds. Predators help to naturally regulate slug and snail populations, keeping their numbers in balance.



FARM DIARY

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

In the Field At the time of writing, the weather is spring like and the rain has stopped. This allows field work to be done. On sandy soils, it can be done immediately. On soils with some clay, a few days of dry weather need to follow each other for field work. We have given up on the field beans which should have been sown in early



November; but it was too wet. Looking at the poor profitability of the crop over several years has resulted in us scrapping this crop. We will plant an herbal ley in its place in our crop rotation. The herbal ley is supported by the government in its SFI or Sustainable Farm Incentive and can be used for our livestock production. A certain member of our farm partnership keeps on talking about an SFI option for wild flowers which cannot be so used. It pays more. If this covered the whole farm he could do more sailing...What we then do with our machinery and with people's need to eat is not clear.

Solar Farms In an article by Matt Ridley in The Daily Telegraph on 3rd April 2024, he reminded this author that in the Middle Ages a third of agricultural land was used for energy - harvesting wind, water use, hay for horses. With our level of self-sufficiency as a country, the author thinks we should not go down the route of using more land for energy again. We need more land not less for crop production. The sun's energy can supply nature's solar panels, plants, and we can use the bread or lamb. At the moment, these cannot be made any other way. Electricity can be made elsewhere - e.g. the roofs of industrial buildings.

Patrick Holden and sustainable farming Holden is the organic farming pioneer and adviser to the King. In the interview reported in The Daily Telegraph of 14th March 2024, he talks of regenerative agriculture and how livestock have an important role to play in feeding the soils. This message is getting missed as figures such as Sir David Attenborough are calling for less meat eating to save the planet. When Holden wrote to Attenborough to ask if he was prepared to be involved in a discussion on sustainable agriculture the answer came back that he didn't know enough about farming. His TV scripts imply otherwise. "It's not the cow but the how."

Richard Graham

Parish Register & Diary for May

BAPTISMS

31 st March 2024	Ella Coultish	St John's
7 th April 2024	Evie Beck	St John's

FUNERALS

Date of death	Name	Age
13 th March 2024	John Maggs	93
9 th March 2024	Lynn Cannock	63

DIARY *These meetings by appointment only

Date	Time	Activity / Event	Venue
1 st	2pm	Mother's Union	Parish Hall
4 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
4 th	10am	Who Let The Dad's Out	St Francis
5 th	6pm	Impact	Parish Hall
5 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
5 th	7.30pm	Youth Home Group	OCT
7 th	7.30pm	Keynsham Parish APCM	Parish Hall
11 th	12pm	Free Community Lunch	Parish Hall
12 th	6pm	Choral Evensong	Baptist Church
18 th	9.30am	Clergy Consultation Hour*	Parish Office
18 th	10am	Who Let The Dad's Out	Parish Hall
19 th	6pm	Impact	Parish Hall
19 th	6pm	Youth Group	OCT
19 th	7.30pm	Youth Home Group	OCT
25 th	8.30am	Tea, Toast & Prayer	Parish Hall
29 th	12pm	Pastoral Lunch	Parish Hall
31 st	12pm	Trio Paradis lunchtime concert	Parish Hall