



Ch@t

Parish Church of St Mary, Thornbury with St Paul's The Hackett

Living God's love for all



Welcome to Ch@t (Church at Thornbury)

The newsletter of the Parish Church of St Mary, Thornbury with St Paul's at the Hackett

November December 2020



This Edition covers a very different Autumn and Christmas period - November 5th with no Bonfires or Bonfire parties (perhaps sparklers in the garden like Revd Joy and Hugo!) Remembrance Sunday; no parades this year, but a regular Church service with the last post and Thornbury Mayor laying a wreath on the War Memorial.

And Christmas itself who knows – perhaps no parties, no travelling - and any services still TBA.

But as Always

We wish our readers a Happy and Blessed Christmas Season



Revd Joy Ludlow writes:

It is wonderful to be writing here again, and this time as your Vicar!

In the midst of a world that is so different at the moment, in so many small ways, it is lovely to be celebrating and looking forward with all of you. With all my thanks and gratitude to everyone who works so hard to keep our community flourishing, whatever the world throws at us; and

with deep-rooted joy that I get to be here to share the future with you.

Even though some things look very different, still, the seasons keep rolling on through our year. This month we take time to remember with All Saints (1st), and **fireworks** (where I will learn how Hugo copes with sparklers in the garden), and **Remembrance Sunday** (November 8th). And soon after comes **December, Advent**, and the start of a new church year... and, as always, it is a fresh start filled with excitement and adventure. I hope to celebrate with you all those moments of Christmas we love so well, even if they do look a little different this year, from 'some' lessons and carols (20th December), to 'Bring your own' Christingle in the Vicarage Garden (13th December)!



My prayer is that we all find things to celebrate, and ways to celebrate them in community, even if it is virtually.

I can't promise a season ahead that looks the same as anything we have known before. But I can promise to be here with you to share it, and to take delight in that. After all, what is this season for but to remember things to be grateful for, and look to the future together in fellowship and hope?



Dear Friends, Thank you so much for a wonderfully appropriate and thoughtful card and present. I love the pictures and had no idea that anyone was taking any in church. And the idea of Greek on the Docks restaurant – pure genius – Anna and I will make the most of that.

It has been a joy and delight to be with you; one more time Wednesday evening when I shall be happy to be in the background and join the celebration with joy/Joy! Once again – thank you.

Every blessing, **Tudor**



Hopscotch!!!

Children and Youth

*Like our mouse
Hopscotch is sleeping
during "Lockdown"*



Hopscotch - for babies and little ones under school-age and their parents

and carers. 9am at St Mary's every Thursday in Term-time.

Info – Hilary Craig



At present Hopscotch is suspended due to the difficulty in socially distancing toddlers and the seniority of many of the helpers! We miss seeing the Hopscotchers with their smiling faces. We hope they have had a good summer and that it will be not too long before we are singing **'Hello Children, Hello Carers. Welcome All, welcome all, Very pleased to see you. At Hopscotch time.'**



"Dads and Kids"

Dear Dads & Kids, Although we can not meet due to Covid restrictions, we are still thinking about you and missing all the fun things we do together in the Construction Corner, in Peta's Pantry, in Kev's Themed Makes, the Art Table and of course the Bacon Butties!



We are busy thinking up new and exciting activities for when we can welcome you back. We would love

to recruit some new helpers to our team so we can make it even more exciting and could make it a monthly event instead of every second month. So if you have an Uncle, Grandad or Brother who would like to join our team please let Revd. Joy or the Parish office know.

Until we meet again, maybe you could do some of the fun activities from the past again. Pull-back racing cars, Parachutes, Bottle Rockets, Paddle Boats, Kites, Catapults, Volcanos or make some edible arts i.e biscuits to decorate, chocolate rice crispy cakes, ice-cream cone rockets or racing cars! Looking forward to welcoming you back as soon as restrictions allow.

Blessings -The Dads & Kids Team



An Angel comes to Mary

A story we tell as we look forward to Christmas

Today I'm going to tell you a story about an ordinary girl. Something amazing happened to her one day, when she was at home, cleaning the house.

Mary was all alone in the house. She was happily sweeping the dusty floor, humming a song to herself. Suddenly she heard a strange noise behind her. It sounded like the wind, blowing through the house – but all the doors were shut!

Someone bright and shiny was standing there! It was an angel! Mary was frightened! The angel began to speak with a friendly voice. **'Do not be afraid Mary. I am an angel. I have come to give you some news. God has chosen you specially.'**

You are going to have a baby.

Mary was surprised. She wasn't even married yet!

The angel said Your son will be called Jesus.

He will be a very important man.

He will be the son of God.

Then the angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby too.

But Elizabeth is very old and everyone knows she cannot have children thought Mary. She sat down hard on a chair.

The angel smiled and said

Nothing is impossible for God.

Mary looked up at the angel.

The angel was beautiful, with smiling eyes.

I will do whatever God wants she said.

I am his servant, and now he has blessed me.

Message from the Youth Team:

It was wonderful to gather again for an all-age Harvest celebration at St Mary's in October after what has been such a long time! Our apologies for the slow return to all-age and children's Services across the Benefice, as we endeavour to keep things as safe as possible and manageable for the team on board.

All-age services will continue for the time being on third Sundays at St Mary's, and we continue to explore the return of various services (including baptisms) in the New Year.



In the meantime, hopefully our Christmas period contains fun for all the family along the way.

You are also always welcome at any one of our services. Please never worry about taking the space of anyone else. We are all equal parts of God's magnificent and diverse community!

If you think you would like to be involved in any way with the planning or help with our children's worship do please get in touch with Revd Joy. She would love to hear from you!"

Blessings, from the Youth Team



**Benefice of Thornbury Roll of Vicars
- including Revd Joy Ludlow**

Designed by **Geoff Entwistle**
Calligrapher and illustrator **Fiona Mitchell**



Revd Joy Ludlow, together with friends.
Created Priest in Charge of Thornbury and Oldbury
on October 7th by Bishop Rachel



On 7 October Bishop Rachel said to Archdeacon Hilary "I have Licensed Joy to the cure of souls in the Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury, with Shepperdine. I now charge you to install her." At that point Revd Joy was taken up to the "stall" assigned to the priest of the parishes. The "stall" is way past the choir stalls and I don't expect that Revd Joy will be sitting up there often as she will enjoy being down in and among her congregation.

As the Covid-19 restrictions were in place for this service, only a small representative number of people were present including Organist Malcolm Kittle and a small Choir. Nevertheless the service had a wonderful atmosphere. The symbols of ministry were presented to Joy – a flagon of water for baptism, the oil of healing, a Bible, a prayer book, and a paten and chalice, in her response Joy asked for the whole Benefice congregation to join with her in sharing all these aspects of our Christian faith with the communities around us.

Bishop Rachel blessed Joy in her new ministry with those superb words from Numbers:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Although this long-awaited service did not have all the people present that would normally be expected, and we could not have a giant party afterwards, we look forward to the Benefice moving forward under Joy's guidance and God's light.

Whilst the Zoom audio did not work there is no doubt that Revd Joy's family must have seen her waving madly at them from close-range to the recorder! Hopefully everyone was able to see the recording on YouTube which did have audio:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>

**It is definitely the wish of the Benefice that the Lord will bless and keep Revd Joy!
We look forward to her ministry among us!**



Lesley Lees RIP

Church choir member Lesley Lees, sadly lost her brave fight with a brain tumour on 29th September 2020 when she passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones.

Her family are thankful for the many messages received and feel uplifted by love. She had the ability to spot the beauty in the mundane and magnify it into something truly spectacular, magical and fun. Whatever she did,

she did it with all her remarkable gusto and force of personality. Possessing talents of music, gardening, cooking and event organising, she will be ever-remembered for her joie de vivre and candid approach. At the age of 65, she managed to conquer her own fears and performed Rhapsody in C by Dohnanyi at St Mary's Thornbury. Have a listen to it, quite a piece for a public debut! She will be sorely missed but her musical legacy will live on in those whom she taught. *Katie Sapkota (Lesley's Daughter)*



Message from Joachim Schwander previous Director of Music at St Mary's

It is with great sadness that we have received the news of Lesley's passing. Lesley has always been somebody very special to us her warm-heartedness, her sense of humour and her clear-sighted wisdom will be unforgotten. We were overjoyed two years ago when we found that she could join the Thornbury Choir's trip to Switzerland, despite the grim diagnosis she'd received from her doctors. Lesley will be greatly missed!

Clare Mary Fardell RIP

Clare originally came from Scotland – her father was City Assessor for Glasgow. After boarding school in North Wales, Clare became a student at St Andrew's University, where she met her future husband, Martin. Clare trained as a teacher, married Martin and they moved to Bristol where Catherine, Peter, John and Alice were born and Clare taught for many years at Westwing School, Kington.

As a member of the Liberal Democrats, Clare was elected to the Town Council in 1983 and served Thornbury as Mayor in 1987. She was also elected to Northavon District Council, later to become South Gloucestershire Council, standing down only at the most recent election. Clare remained on the Town Council until her fatal illness this summer.

Always aware of the needs of the elderly, Clare started the pensioners Tea Room in the Town Hall, and helped to open the Volunteer Centre also based at the Town Hall and served on the Committee for many years.

An effective School Governor both at the Castle School and Gillingstool, Clare was also a supporter of the Holiday Playscheme. A leader in the fight to save the Town Hall building, Clare was also involved with the Arts Festival—and a familiar face in

Oldbury where she and Martin attended and supported St Arilda's church.

Clare was known as a councillor who "got things done" and will always be remembered with appreciation. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Martin and the family.

It is hoped that there will be a memorial service where people can pay their respects at a later date.

Ed This is an abridged version of Meg Adnams excellent article. The full version of which may be seen in Oldbury magazine. Clare and Martin worshipped regularly at St Arilda's Church for many years.



A Look into the past

Might give Revd Joy Ideas ?!!

A friend of ours in London works in the records office at Kew. He came across this information:

Seeing that you have a new Vicar I thought you might be interested in the attached. It is the 1851 Ecclesiastical



Return for St Mary's Thornbury. These were completed by all religious establishments as part of the 1851 census and have recently been microfilmed by the National Archives.

This particular Return was completed by the then Vicar M F Townsend and compared to others is a little short on detail. However he did appear to have a large congregation to his morning and evening services on 30 March 1851.

The Vicar, Maurice F S Townsend was Irish, born in 1791 and a Widower. He lived in the Vicarage in Castle Street with his son Henry aged 23, daughters Geraldine aged 22, and Alice aged 19. All are reported as being born in Thornbury. Supporting them they had a Housekeeper, Cook, Ladies Maid, Servant and Footman. By comparison the Vicar in 1911, Alan Whitmore Cornwall had two Servants to support him and his wife and five children. Henry E McLeod the Vicar in 1939 had 2 Servants to support him and his four siblings. ***It begs the question as to how many support your new Vicar!!!***

I have a copy of the document from the census and it says an average of 500 were attending the services each week!

Ed Many thanks to Sheila Jones for this fascinating peep into the past! (Amazing figures on the large numbers of household staff employed back then! Revd Joy does have two dogs to help her!)



A Message from St Mary's School Headmaster Karl Joyce writes

Oct 2020



Term 1 has been a great success at St Mary's. Attendance of our children has been significantly above the national figure showing which reflects how well they have settled and are feeling secure back in school.

We have been doing a whole school project on Thornbury. Each class has taken an aspect and explored the theme. Topics have included, looking at the growth of Thornbury, places in and around Thornbury, water development in Thornbury, castles in the community, symbolism in the crest of Thornbury, study of the original families of Thornbury. The children have learnt what it is like to be historians.

A highlight of the term was the blessing of our new Remembrance Garden in the playground. This was done with Revd Tudor in an outdoor worship we had on the playground with the Year 6 class. During the service the children were also awarded their Bibles from the church.

I was also privileged to attend the licensing of Revd Joy. It was a lovely occasion and we are looking forward to many years of close links with the church.

We are also currently working on a new curriculum for the school which we hope to introduce in term 3. It is an exciting time for the school as we move forward with new staff and new ideas.

K Joyce, Head teacher, St Mary's CEVA Primary School.

Eco Church October 2020

'Local Food What's So Good About That?'

Zoom event

As members of an Eco Church how can we best respond to concerns about the environmental impact of what we eat? One of the best ways is to buy local produce. But is local better than organic? What about all the plastic in a poly tunnel? Where does gin stand in the ethical lineup?

Two local groups the local Church's Thornbury and District Make Poverty History group and Climate Action Thornbury and Surroundings (CATS), which is a part of Sustainable Thornbury, are coming together to organise an 'online' celebration of local food and drink.



The event will mark both One World Week and Ethical Consumption week, which were both towards the end of October and will aim to highlight the benefits of shopping locally, both for us and the wider international community.

The event will take place on Zoom, on Monday 2nd Nov, from 7:30 - 9:00pm and will feature local suppliers, producers and

growers. After a short presentation from each, there will be time for questions and debate.

All are welcome to join if you'd like to, please send an email to: danny_bonnett@yahoo.co.uk

Mark Wallis and Danny Bonnett. Marian Stephens



Thanksgiving and Hope

At a very lovely, reflective service on 20 October, MU Members were able to renew their baptism promises. Later in the service Revd Joy spoke movingly of the thankfulness she has that she has been licensed to stay with us in this Benefice and the hope we all have to share with those in need, even in the most hopeless of situations.

Other News

Due to the difficulties that Covid presents us with, we will not be meeting in November for our delayed AGM but we are looking forward to **Wednesday 2 December when it is our Candleglow service, this year moving to St Mary's.**

This service is our opportunity (and anyone who might like to join us) to prepare for the Christmas season not this year, probably, one of rush and bustle and huge preparations but more one of thankfulness and joy at the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ – sent for us – God's light entering a dark world.

If you are not a member but would like to find out more, please speak to anyone of the Committee Members, all of whom have stayed in post for another year.

Jenny Ovens



***Even darkness is no darkness with you, the night is as clear as the day:
Darkness and light to you are both alike.***

Psalm 139:11.

I wonder how you are coping with all the various restrictions imposed upon us by Covid-19. They seem dark times in many ways but as the psalmist says, darkness and light are all alike with God. Where are you finding your light in the darkness, and is it really that dark?

The restrictions under which we are living to protect one another undoubtedly cause us concerns yet compared with some who are living under draconian regimes we still have many freedoms. We may be restricted in our access to our churches, but we still have the freedom to worship in different ways without fear of persecution.

We may be restricted in terms of who and where we can meet but we do live in a welcoming community and so many have risen to the challenge of supporting one another in these difficult times in so many ways whether it is the occasional phone call, the spot of shopping for someone, or just holding them in our prayers.

One of the things that Ann and I have been doing is having a daily walk around the lanes and byways around our area. Although there are things we feel sad about, there is also so much joy to be shared, especially the precious gift of being with one another.

Here are some examples of the light and the darkness:-

We miss regularly seeing our family, but on our walks we have had many socially distanced chats with people we have not seen for a while and made many new acquaintances as we have met others doing the same walks.

We have been saddened that so many of the surrounding fields are now covered with housing but we have been touched to see families enjoying new homes and their children playing together in the parklands and playgrounds provided. We hope that they will experience the same welcome we received when we moved to Thornbury so many years ago.



We are sad to see St. Paul's Church with notices saying there is restricted opening at the moment but experience joy in being able to see the beauty of God's creation all around us, especially in the hedgerows, the crops in the fields and the many animals, domestic and wild that have also become our friends.

Whatever darkness you are experiencing at this time I pray that God's light may shine in your darkness and that you might share that light with others,

“May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace”.

Numbers 6;24-26.

Revd Tom.

Missions: Global and Local Concern

Advent/Christmas Appeal for Julian Trust Night Shelter for the Homeless

The needs of the homeless and rough sleepers are even greater this year in these challenging Covid-19 times. We will still be supporting the Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless, however, sadly we won't be able to hold a 'Pack and Wrap' party, nor gift wrap the presents. The gifts this year will be packed in clear bags only.

Please can you donate any of the following items:

- 1 small bar of soap
- 1 small bar of chocolate (100g only, no larger bars please)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube of toothpaste (100ml)
- 1 **pocket sized** pack of paper tissues
- 1 small bottle of hand sanitizer/hand gel (100ml)
- 1 Face mask/covering

We need your help even more this year to ensure each person receives a 'Covid-19 Safety Pack'. No larger bars of chocolate please as they won't fit in the bags! We are looking for small sized items. Please give early so 'Covid-19 safety measures' can be implemented. Thanks

There are boxes in St Mary's Church for donations and at 22 Siband Road, Thornbury. Thank you in anticipation. If you have any queries please do ring me on (01454) 414396.

Christine Dadd, Missions: Global and Local Concern



To love a human being is to accept him as he is;
if you wait until he is different you are only
loving an idea
- JULIAN OF NORWICH





News from your Churchwardens

Church Services

We look forward to our first service with Joy as Priest-in-Charge on Sunday 11 October. Joy and the Benefice Churchwardens are meeting on 17 October to discuss service in the future and over the Advent and Christmas season.

Goodbye

We said goodbye to Canon Tudor on Sunday 4 October. We recorded our grateful thanks to him for looking after us all for the last two months with a gift for Tudor and his wife – a voucher for his favourite restaurant, and we wish him well in his retirement.

In St Mary's

- The 5-year insurance inspection by Ecclesiastical Insurance took place on 14 September. Nothing serious was raised and we now await the official report. It is quite likely that we will have to have a roof alarm fitted.
- Some other long outstanding small paving works and repairs have been carried out inside the church by Centreline.
- We now have a date of 23 October for the fitting off the GEZE automatic door closers. However, this does not mean that the glass doors are arriving! It was decided that it was safest to carry out final measurements after the floor mounted door closers had been fitted. This seems to have been going on for years but we are getting there!
- Audio-Visual. We are now awaiting the Faculty from the Chancellor. He has raised some additional questions to which we have responded. We are discussing with Noiseboys what is required to add the ability to live stream services.
- The clock is now with Cumbria Clocks. It is hoped to have this back very soon.
- We are expecting Jack Hainsworth's memorial bench and the new external Notice board at St Mary's sometime this month.
- A new incumbents list is now up in church and looking lovely. Thank you to Fiona Mitchell.
- We have now started to obtain quotes for the required work to the stained-glass windows.

St Paul's

- The 5-year insurance inspection by Ecclesiastical was carried out on 14 September. Nothing major arose. Some minor tidying up of materials (now done) and some tree pruning is required.
- A quotation for a new notice board is being obtained.



Church Hall in times of Covid

The church hall committee found out that you can only keep people locked down for so long. Back in June and July some of the church hall users were wanting to restart their regular meeting in the church hall.

However before you can return to normality it is necessary

to be aware that the hall must operate within the covid government guide lines by offering a clean and safe place in which to meet. In addition to the environment we needed to be aware of additional risks that covid brings. We prepared a Risk Assessment for the hall to cover the use of the hall within government regulations. From a safety point of view we needed to ask all groups to produce a Risk Assessment appropriate to their groups use within the hall risk assessment.

We concluded that as the hall had not been used for four months we could thoroughly clean the hall during August in readiness to welcome groups back in September when schools re-opened.

We needed signage to remind people to keep two meters apart, to limit the number of people in the toilets at any one time, to clean all touch points and surfaces used when they have finished. So we had to have a sanitizer at the entrance and sanitizers in the toilets, baby changing room and the kitchen.

We provided disinfectant, sanitizer, wipes and gloves to enable them to leave the hall safe after use.

All groups need to record everyone who attended the hall at each event. This can be by using either a QR code (can be scanned using the NHS application on a smart phone) or return to pencil and paper to take down details.

The hall welcomed its first group on the 9th September and by the end of October we will have two art groups once a week, Music with Mummy meet twice a week, Kumon education group meet twice a week, two separate play groups meet once a month, JIGSAW (who hire toys out to families with children who have disabilities) meet once a month, Thornbury Magazine meet once a month. Babies and Toddlers, Guides/Brownies and Rainbows, six U3A groups are making plans to restart as soon as possible. There are three more groups planning to restart in January 2021.

All this assuming Covid does not put a spanner in the works!



Alan Mullinex



Contact details:

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow 01454 853646 E: joyeludlow@outlook.com (from Oct 7th)
Churchwardens 01454 413650 / 01454 419082 / 01454 414727
St Mary's C of E School
Head Teacher: Karl Joyce E: Karl.Joyce@sgmail.org.uk



Restricted Service Dates for November-December 2020

Sunday mornings 10.00 am Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's

Due to Covid Crisis Services will be much curtailed. Numbers will be limited by the need for social distancing. If you wish to attend please first contact Jenny Ovens (414727 - Jennyovensbb@tiscali.co.uk) by the Saturday before at the latest. We have to record contact details for all those attending in order to allow tracing should someone present later test positive for Covid-19. Similarly contact the Oldbury Wardens to book places at St Arilda's.

November/December Service Schedule For Thornbury Churches & St Arilda's Oldbury

Services will be much curtailed due to COVID Crisis, and numbers limited. To check details of services nearer the time, and to book a place in the church, do please keep up to date with the Parish newsletter (thornburyparish@btconnect.com), on our Parish Facebook page, and on the church website. Do also follow our YouTube page, where many of our services will be either streamed live or posted afterwards:

- Sunday 1st November All Saints 10am Communion (St Mary's)
- Sunday 8th November **Remembrance Sunday**
 10am Communion (St Mary's) & **Act of Remembrance (Minutes silence, Last Post, wreath laid by Mayor)**
 6pm Communion service (St Arilda's)
- Sunday 15th November 9am Communion (St Paul's)
 10am All-age Service (St Mary's)
- Sunday 22nd November 10am Communion (St Mary's)
- Sunday 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent
 9am Communion (St Paul's) 11am Communion (St Arilda's)
6pm Service of Light (St Mary's)
- Wednesday 2nd December 7.30pm MU Candle glow (St Mary's)
- Sunday 6th December 10am Communion (St Mary's)
- Sunday 13th December 10am Communion (St Mary's)
3pm 'Bring your own' Christingle (Vicarage garden)
 6pm Service of Light (St Arilda's)
- Sunday 20th December 9am Communion with carols (St Paul's)
 11am Communion with carols (St Arilda's)
 6pm "Some' lessons and carols (St Mary's)
- Thursday 24th December **Christmas Eve. ONLINE Christmas Story**
- Sunday 27th December ONLINE Morning prayer on Zoom



Services for midnight or Christmas morning in the Benefice are still to be to be announced ... Midnight or morning? If you have strong feelings about what you would like to see, do please get in touch with wardens or clergy. And please keep an eye open for updates as we get nearer...

All of these services are subject to change and amendment following guidelines given. However, in whatever ways you might choose to celebrate this year, we are praying that you have a blessed, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas!