



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

July August 2021

A year ago, our July edition of Chat expressed shock at the rapidity of the Coronavirus epidemic sweeping across Europe! Our prayers remain with all those afflicted, in our own country, – and those in “poorer” countries - facing poverty and the health needs of struggling populations. Our good wishes go to all those young people moving on this summer, - to school, College or University—or jobs, at such a difficult time. On p4 there is a kind invitation to join the wedding of Rebecca and Rob– August 27th– online– and a lovely picture of Hannah with Mum and Dad.

Following our farewell to Karl Joyce, we are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Samantha Gilman, appointed as new Head Teacher of St Mary's School (p3) - to commence in the Autumn.

The Vision of Hope weekend has been postponed and will now be on a new date in October (See Churchwardens' notes P6 and P8).

The next Ch@t will be the September edition. The dead line is the 5th of August for Article and Diary dates. Please send copy to aj.swan1@btinternet.com

Revd Joy, Andrew, Sandra, Robin, Jenny and Mike

Write:

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings. (Psalm 17)

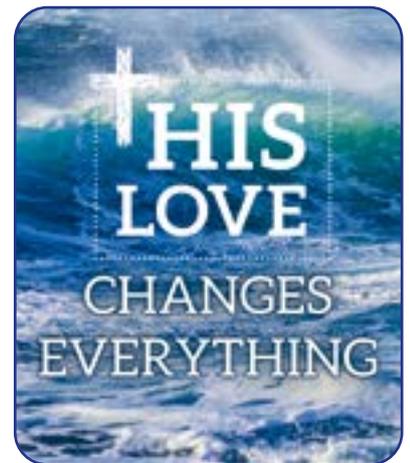
We are very sorry to have had to delay our much-anticipated weekend of 'Vision and Hope', although we are also excited and enthused for its coming 8th-10th of October. Vision for our communities is all about sharing together and talking together about who we are as a community, and where we think we are going. We are hopeful that we will continue to grow and flourish and share together in all kinds of ways, old and new, and to build together for the future.

That being said – building takes energy, and 2020 has not been particularly kind to any of us! However much we have all been doing and being from home in these past months, it is likely that every one of us is in need of rest and recovery. As the world begins to open up around us, even with the news of new variants and ongoing challenges, some of us will be feeling excited and enthusiastic. Many of us will be feeling tired and uncertain. And all of us may need a moment just to catch our breath.

So, in these coming months we will be continuing slowly on our path, looking to small times of fellowship and sharing, worshipping together in quiet ways, and resting in the peace that follows the storm. We will take pleasure in the simple moments, celebrating with wedding couples, holding our first baptism service, meeting for prayer and praise.

It may be that things don't move as fast as we might want them to. It may take us longer to get back on our feet than we first thought – and that is okay.

Please do continue being patient and kind with one another, and with us, as we each pause to take a breath, and build our strength again for all the excitement to come...

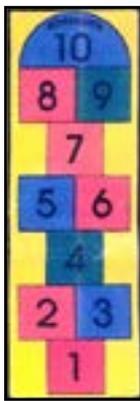


Ministry - Revd Joy

As many of you will know Revd Joy has recently taken some time off for ill health. She is recovering well, and hugely thankful to all of you for your kind messages and prayers.

She will be returning to work slowly over these coming months, so please don't be surprised if you see a little less of her than usual, or if it takes her a little longer to reply to your queries.

With huge thanks also to those who supported our ministry in her absence, and who will continue to help in the coming months. Particular thanks to our wardens, and to Monica, Matthew, Tom, Chris and David.



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.

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.

Hopscotch!!!

Story for Hopscotchers

God looked around at all the things he had made for his world.

He checked the sun and the moon and the stars.

He smelled the flowers and watched the birds flying.

He made sure the water was just right for the fish - and it was. He checked on the big animals, stroked the tame animals,

And looked under a stone to check the creepy crawly insects.

Everything was just fine!!!!

What a world said God!

It's exactly as I wanted it.

No mistakes, nothing wrong - all working well. Of course it will all need looking after.

And that's when God had his gigantic thought. His best thought - his biggest thought.

I need people, God said very loudly.

People will be able to look after my world.

So God set about making people. He took great care in making people because they were so special. He wanted people to be just like himself yet each a little different.

And very soon ... **Finished** said God. **Here are my very first people, a man and a woman. Please look after my land and plants and fish and animals** God asked them.

We will said the man and woman.

God was so happy he danced around the world with a big smile on his face! He was very pleased with everything he had made!!

Hilary

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Calling all Hopscotchers, especially all those who will be going to School in September!.

We haven't seen you in the last year but rest assured you have all been in our thoughts and prayers.



We are going to have our picnic on Thursday, 15th July at 11:30am At Mundy Playing Field!

Please bring your own food. Everyone is welcome, including all the helpers.

Put it in your diaries.

If wet, hopefully, we will be able to retreat into church.

Resumption of Hopscotch

Depends on COVID guidelines,

Further notice will appear in the weekly newsletter..... watch this space!



Book Review

Jesus: the unauthorized biography

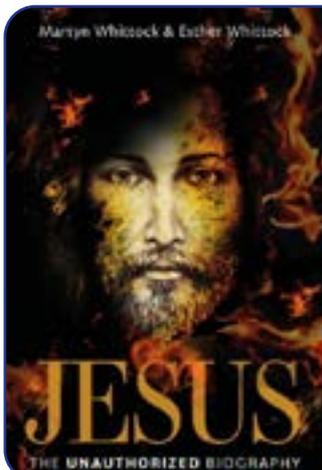
By Martyn Whittock and Esther Whittock, Lion Books, £10.99

Who was Jesus Christ, and how did He make such an astonishing impact that still resonates today?

This book explores the evidence from the New Testament gospels, early church writings, the apocryphal gospels, Roman literature, and archaeology, together providing a vivid portrait of Jesus' first-century Jewish cultural context.

As well as reviewing Jesus' life and claims, the book explains questions such as why He was at odds with religious authorities; the influence of Roman occupation; the interactions with contemporary resistance movements; and the prominent role of women in His disciple community.

Parish Pump



New Head Teacher at St Mary's C of E VA Primary School

I am delighted to be appointed Head Teacher at St Mary's. I already feel part of the school 'family' and am really looking forward to meeting and getting to know all our members of the school community. I am eager and excited to continue to build strong relationships within our community and ensure St Mary's is at the heart of it.



I am married to Rich and mum to 2 grown up children and I have a granddaughter. My family mean the world to me. My chocolate Labrador, Watson, and cat, Mr D, are also very much a part of the family. When I am not working, I like to grow my own fruit and vegetables, play the piano, read, walk Watson and spend time with friends and family. I also love horse riding but have not ridden for a couple of years. I have been teaching for 19 Years and bring experience from many settings. For the last 9 years, I have been the Deputy Head at a large primary school. During this time, I took a secondment for one year as Head of School of a local church school.

I believe that as educators we are privileged to work with children; I am committed in ensuring every child, no matter their starting point, should know and understand their own potential and have high expectations of themselves and their teachers.

The moment the children enter the school each day, I want them to feel joy and excitement; to feel part of a school family where they are supported and nurtured, their character built upon, their curiosity encouraged and somewhere they can follow their interests and dreams so that they become proud of themselves. They will have a fun, an exciting and enriching curriculum that will build their knowledge, skills and understanding through strong Christian values which will prepare them for the next stage in their education and their place in society. They will have a safe and positive environment that will allow them to flourish and celebrate their success. All of this through our Christian values which are visible, where spirituality promotes honest reflection, open discussion, considerate thought and gives us meaning and value to all things.

I love what I do, and this shows. I am known for my happy disposition, smiles and positivity that I bring into school each day and as a result a mantra evolved over the years that I am 'firm, fair and fun'. I am looking forward to continuing to build the relationship between St Mary's School and St Mary's Church and Parish and will from time to time be attending Sunday worship at St Mary's Church, so that I can get to know the parish and they can get to know me.

My door is always open, and I welcome any additional ideas of how we can continue to grow our relationship from strength to strength.



I have a love for learning and am passionate that children deserve the absolute best. I am excited and honoured to be able to lead St Mary's C of E VA School, working alongside an amazing team, including the governors, to continue to be uncompromising in providing a first-class education for our children.

*Sam Gillman
Head Teacher
St Mary's C of E VA Primary*

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.

Appointment of new Head Teacher

**Following a rigorous interview process, I am delighted to inform you that the Governing Body have appointed:
Mrs Samantha Gillman
as Head teacher of St Mary's VA Cof E Primary School.**

Samantha has a multitude of previous experience including a period as Head of a Church School, and is excited to be joining us as we strive to improve learning and experiences for all pupils through our Christian values. We look forward to Mrs Gillman continuing to lead St Mary's as the exceptional school it has always been. I am confident that the School will continue to go from strength to strength under Samantha's Leadership, and I know you will want to join me in wishing her all success in her important new role!

*Ann Edis
Chair of Governors.*



A time to Wait and a time to Act—Eco Church

Not a clause specifically mentioned in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 but it does state “for everything there is a season” I have done quite a bit of **waiting** lately, as have all of us in one way or another. Although **waiting** I have been **active** in other ways - on line campaigning and learning and spring cleaning the house. I saw these young ducks **waiting** by the canal in Stroud which inspired me to think about how we **wait and act**.

With the UK hosting COP 26 in Glasgow in November this is a time for us all to **act** on Climate Change. At the moment the Environment champions are putting together some long and short term suggestions for us as Church and individuals to **act** on, to enable us to move forward with achieving our

Eco Church Gold award. Some require waiting – e.g. **waiting** to serve all that lovely Fair-trade food again. Some can be acted upon now. Please can I recommend looking at the Cof E website, walking part of young people’s **RELAY | YCCN** to Glasgow signing the **Declaration | The Time Is Now** or perhaps signing up to **Climate Campaign Organisers Sign Up - Christian Aid**. Also wait for details of local campaigning in our weekly news sheet and further news in next months Ch@t.

Marian Stephens



'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'

In December 1978, I was baptised and my journey of faith began. My church family gathered around and committed to support me in that journey of faith.

In May 1988 I was confirmed and those vows that my parents and God parents had made for me, I made for myself. Once again my church family gathered around and committed to support me in my journey of faith. In February 2020, when Hannah was baptised, you gathered around us, as her church family, and committed to support us and her in her journey of faith.

Throughout the last 18 months, with every twist and turn of this pandemic, whilst we have not been gathered together, the support of our church family has been known and felt. We are busy planning and adjusting plans for our wedding on 27th August, I had hoped when I penned this to be able to extend an invitation to you all, to join us in the church building so that when David asks "Will you, the families and friends of Rebecca and Rob, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?" You would have been with us in the church to say with confidence and commit once again with a resounding 'we will'.

As I write this we do not yet know if this will be possible (I REALLY HOPE IT IS)! What I do know is that if you are not able to be with us in person in the church building you can be with us virtually via the magic of YouTube! So you will still be able to boldly say 'We Will' and if we listen really carefully we will hear this.

Church family is so precious to all of us, it is so easy to take it for granted. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you.

Rebecca Teague



Many Happy Returns to Choir member Mike Elcock on his 70th Birthday which he shares with his triplet brothers Richard and John.

Post Lockdown House Group Meeting Signs of Re-opening!!

We were very happy the weather was so good for our post lockdown afternoon tea. So lovely to see everyone again, we are looking forward to starting up again when restrictions are lifted and we are all vaccinated !

Fleur Tweehuysen



Pentecost Sunday - Becoming Storytellers with Bishop Rachel

On Pentecost Sunday we were joined by Bishop Rachel who led the Benefice Eucharist service. She noted that during the last year there had been a lot of loss: of loved ones, the familiar, contact, education, finance and socialising. However, there had also been fresh opportunities for joy and discovery. Life would never be the same again and she hoped that we would not return to exactly how things had been before but to allow God to work within us and ask what it means to be the Church going forward.



She noted that on the very first Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the first Easter Day, the Holy Spirit came among Jesus' followers and the church was born. Life was never the same again for them and would never return to how it was before. It must have been a rollercoaster for them, like the last year has felt for us. However, the Holy Spirit is there to help, one step at a time. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus' followers to go out and tell others about Jesus and it is why we have heard the Good News today. Others won't know unless we also share our stories with those around us. We are gathered on a Sunday to be sent out to share our stories from Monday to Saturday.



She encouraged us to keep our eyes and ears open for those opportunities to be storytellers; and to grow as storytellers through the work of the Holy Spirit within us, between us and around us, every day of our lives.

"Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen".

The service is still available at www.thornburycufe.org.uk.

Christine Dadd

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

This seems to be a really good thought as we emerge through this pandemic, and MU in Thornbury will have their Summer Special on Monday 19 July at 3pm, hopefully in the Church Hall. Pauline Farman will be our guest. So this will mark our summer of hope! Please keep a watch on the newsletter nearer the time, for full details.



2021 is a profound year for Mother's Union. It is the 145th anniversary of our Founding as a Movement, and started and sustained by the strength of Mary Sumner's vision of women supporting one another, we have continued to thrive all these years later!



Mothers Union "Outside" Party in the summer!

RIDE + STRIDES



The Revd Tom is planning a sponsored walk in support of Gloucester Historic Churches on Saturday September 11th. The route will be from Shepperdine to St Paul's via St Arilda's and St Mary's.

You are invited to keep him company on his trek.



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."



Church Warden's Notes and Fabric Matters

Ministry: Revd Joy will be getting back to work slowly and so we will see visiting Priests and our own very helpful Revds Tom, Chris and David, our Reader Monica Mullinex and Matthew Riddle taking services occasionally. We are very grateful for all of the help that is being given to Churchwardens and to Revd Joy.

Font Floor area: The carpeted floor area around the font needs to be replaced as the wood is damp and rotting. A temporary repair has been carried out to allow us to continue to use the area. Investigations and enquiries are ongoing.

Porch Doors: These are continuing in fabrication. The designers have been to site and temporarily fixed the doors in position to ensure a good fit. Various people saw the doors on the day, including our cleaning team! Now the bronze work has to be completed and the glass ordered.

Vision of Hope Weekend: In the light of the amount of planning (which needs Rev'd Joy's input) to make the weekend of Vision and Hope go smoothly, and as we do not yet know what Covid Regulations will still remain, it has been decided to postpone the event, **until 8th 9th and 10th October**. It is hoped that by then many more activities, which may have been somewhat curtailed in July, will now be able to **function fully in October**.

Works at St Arilda's: These included interior decoration, exterior masonry repairs where weathering has affected the stonework on the River Severn side of the building and new gates. Hopefully these works will take place this summer but we have to fit interior decoration around 7 weddings.

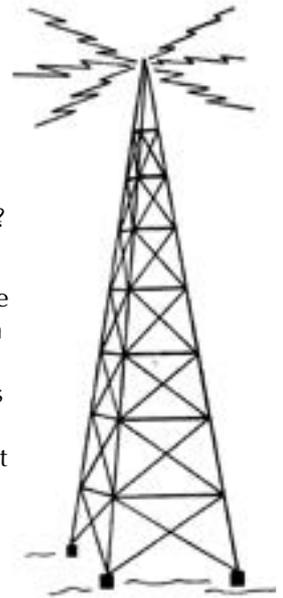
*Jenny, Mike and Robin
and Meg Adnams (for Oldbury)*

Bishop challenges the BBC on its religious broadcasting

The Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, urged the BBC to go beyond 'preaching to the converted' and to produce documentaries and dramas that challenge and inform people's world views. In Radio Times, Bishop Hartley notes that BBC is promising to have 'more content ..' but added: "If most of it ..is the God slotfor 'Songs of Praise', what's the point? Where are the documentaries that challenge us to rethink our world? Or the dramas... Helping us re-imagine human relationships? **What is the point of religion on the telly – there is no point in focussing on ritual!!**"

Bishop Hartley, - seeks insightful, imaginative programmes "going beyond stereotypes" to depict the role played by faith in the lives of millions of people. Bishop Hartley says "I don't just want to watch multi-platform worship at Easter, I'd like to ask hard questions and explore what the answers might be. Applauding Channel 4's drama series, 'It's a Sin' set in AIDs crisis of the 1980s" – the Bishop says "it shines a light on ...issues and challenges!- many resonating.. with our current pandemic crisis. We all have world views, the question is how much these help us understand one another, and what motivates us. That's what great TV like 'It's a Sin' can do!!"

Editor says "Have YOU seen " Its a Sin?" I'm afraid I haven't but will try to do so. Your comments on what the Bishop says, and on the programme, are very welcome!"



How climate change could affect even your cup of tea



Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future. It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well. Climate change may cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent!

"We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

Parish Pump

Worship at St Paul's with Revd Canon David Self

We were all grateful to Rev Canon David Self, one of our retired clergy, for leading the Holy Communion Service at St Paul's, The Hackett.

Extra pews had been moved back into the church (still with social distancing in mind) so that a larger number of people could attend the service. However, those who were disappointed because there was still not enough room, will be invited to attend the next service before any other bookings are taken.

We really do appreciate the huge amount of work that our wardens are carrying out at the moment. It was a very special service which ended with an 'organ recital' by our very talented organist, Richard Usherwood.



Christine Dadd

Mission: Global and Local Concern – Thank You for Your Support

There is a display in St Mary's Church of the organisations you have generously supported during the last year. We aim to help those in greatest need nationally as well as internationally. We also share our good fortune locally through the Francis Hopkins Charitable Trust Fund. If you would like to know more about it, there will be an article on Francis Hopkins in the September Ch@t. There is also more information in the Annual Report and Annual Review. Thank you once again, this is only possible due to your generosity.

Christine Dadd Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern



Church of England commits 1.25 million to enabling digital giving in parishes

(Thornbury ahead of the Game!) ➔

The Church of England aims to enable contactless giving in half of all parishes over the next two years.

The first pilot scheme has been launched in more than 100 churches across the Diocese of Carlisle to help encourage contactless giving, making giving easier for congregations.

The pilot will help pave the way for a 1.25m investment from the Church of England which will see thousands more churches accept contactless and digital payments over the next two years. Consideration for connectivity in rural settings has been taken into account, with churches being offered one of two types of device, depending on each parish's context.

Two further pilots will take place in other dioceses later this year before the nation-wide roll out begins.

Grace Emmett, National Digital Giving Manager for the Church of England, explained: "Experience so far is that contactless donations are, on average, three times the value of cash donations."

Parish Pump



Opening and closing churches in UK

There were an estimated 45,500 congregations or churches in the UK in 2020: 79%, in England, 8% (3,700 churches) in Wales, 8% (3,500 churches) in Scotland and 5% (2,100 churches) in Northern Ireland.

New congregations are being started or having to close all the time, and in the fifteen years since 2005 it is estimated that collectively some 3,100 new congregations have started while some 5,800 have closed, a net drop of 2,700 across the UK.

Most of the **Anglican new congregations** are in the Church of England, many of which **are planted by the larger churches**. A third of all the churches which have closed in the last 15 years have been Methodist, followed by the Anglicans and Roman Catholics (both 15%) and the Presbyterians (9%). The Baptists (7% of all closures) have also seen over 400 churches close in the last 15 years, which is one in eight of their congregations.

From UK Church Statistics - Parish Pump



Contact details:

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow 01454 419229 E: joyeludlow@outlook.com

Churchwardens 01454 413650 / 01454 419082 / 01454 414727

St Mary's C of E School Head Teacher :Sam Gillman @sgmail.org.uk

Benefice Office E: thornburybenefice@outlook.com (New email address)



Restricted Service Dates for July—August 2021

Sunday Mornings:

Services will be advertised before each weekend in the Newsletter, on notice Boards, the Parish Website and Facebook page.

Pre-booking with Churchwardens is still required due to social distancing

Also follow our YouTube page, where many of our St Mary's services will be either streamed live or posted afterwards:

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



There will be a special All Age Baptism Service on Sunday 11th July on the School Playing Field with Archdeacon Hilary



Vision and Hope Weekend

Due to the ongoing Covid Restrictions and Staff illness it has been decided to postpone this event until October 8th, 9th and 10th

(See Churchwardens' notes P6)

News from St Arilda's

An outstanding project, for which we have permission, is an extension to the Lower Churchyard into the field the church owns between this and Oldbury-on-Severn V.C. Primary School. This will include a Memorial Woodland as well as a memorial garden. Experts are spending time in this precious rural area not only in ensuring the protection of bats and nesting birds but in examining the DNA in the school pond, (adjacent), for the presence of any great crested newts. These are a European protected species. Damage or disruption to them, their eggs or habitat is breaking the law. If this cannot be avoided a mitigation licence must be applied for from Natural England with help from the ecologist.



During June/early July we hope that the planned "Countryfile" magazine podcast will be recorded in St Arilda's churchyard. Sarah Williams, editor of "Who Do You Think You Are?" magazine has been involved in preparing for this since March St Arilda's churchyard was chosen from the rural area around Bristol not just because of the setting and wild flowers but for "The Churchyard Book of Oldbury-on-Severn" produced by the village History Group and Thornbury Museum Archaeology Group in 2009.

(They are almost sold out but we gave a copy for locals to use in the Reference Section of Thornbury Library).

The purpose of the podcast is to discuss rural ancestors and how they might be traced but will also include some history and traditions from Oldbury too. I hope to let people know when the broadcast takes place but meanwhile there are lists of podcasts on the internet as the time gets closer!

Meg Adnams

Meanwhile other basic works continue e.g. work for Eco-church, strimming and mowing, removal of ivy from the stonework and cleaning. Our grateful thanks go to all the P.C.C. members and other helpers who are invaluable.

Streamed Music and Services from St Mary's may be found on YouTube by following the link below (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

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

If Ch@t magazine is delivered to your home, and you no longer wish to receive it, please contact the church office to let us know: 01454 281900, or thornburyparish@btconnect.com.

Ch@t

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Distribution: Diane Moyses,
Artwork and layout: Fiona Mitchell
Photography: Timothy Swan, Printed by Oldbury Deckers