



# 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

## September - October 2021

Welcome to our September/ October Chat ! At last - a wonderful light at the end of the long Coronavirus tunnel! Rev'd Joy writes about future events pending, including the **online Benefice Weekend** in October. There is a full Diary of events on the back page. Volunteers are needed to become Foundation Governors in both our church schools, at Thornbury & Oldbury – can you help?. **Hopscotch** AND **Dads and Kids** both return in September (looks like more bacon butties for Dads !). Plus a last minute report of **Rebecca Teague's wedding, to be celebrated online on 27th August - Rev'd Canon Dr David Primrose was to return to St Mary's to preside at the wedding and stay to lead our streamed Service on Sunday 29th August!**

Please send items for publication in Ch@t direct to [aj.swan1@btinternet.com](mailto:aj.swan1@btinternet.com)



It is exciting, as always, to be starting a new school year. The start of a new year brings with it new hopes and new expectations. This is a time for us to set off journeying together and to dream big!

It is delightful to be cautiously starting and restarting so many good things in these coming weeks. 'Dads and Kids' restarts this month (Saturday 11th September), we welcome back our wonderful **Hopscotch toddlers**

(Thursday 16th September), and we continue to plan for our upcoming **baptisms** (12th September and 10th October). Huge thanks to all those who have made all this possible.

These are the small signs and symbols of a new year and a fresh start for the season ahead. But they are, hopefully, just the beginning of big plans for the future as we prepare to grow in vision together on our **Benefice weekend 'inside'** (8th-10th October) and to worship together in all kinds of ways.

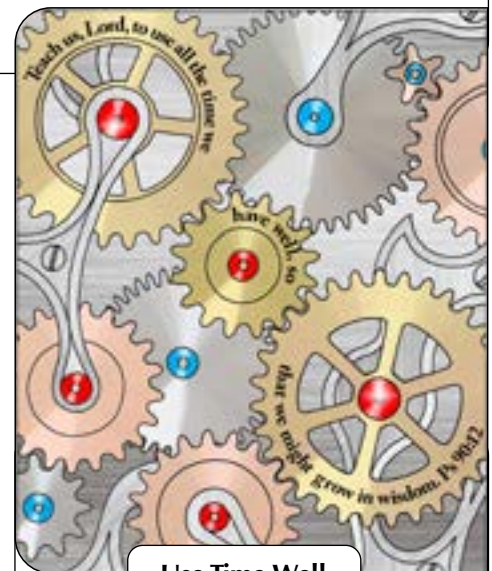
Do keep praying for new life, and new hope, as we walk together on the journey of a whole new year, remembering that we journey together, with God along for company on the road.

All our thoughts and prayers are with those starting out on new adventures, new school years, new beginnings. Would you know and trust in the God who walks with you too...

*O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.  
(Isaiah 2:5)*

Rev'd Joy

We are pleased to announce that from early September **Rev'd Sofia Ackland** will be joining us on a 6 month secondment from Cam and Stinchcombe – to give support & encouragement to us for our current & future Ministry



Use Time Well

## Heritage Open Day at St Mary's

On Saturday 11th September



From 1.30 to 4.30pm an opportunity to explore our ancient Parish Church and discover its History!

And for the young and healthy to climb the 120 ft. tower for an incredible view of the town & surrounding countryside!

An unforgettable experience. book ahead

Booking Details from Mike Dennett 01454 419082

Local Craftwork & produce for sale in support of AFIA (Away From It All)

## RIDE+STRIDE



Please support Rev'd Tom Keates on his Sponsored walk in aid of Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, on Sept 11th ( p8 )



**Hopscotch!!!**

*Wake up mouse! Great news!  
Hopscotch  
Restarts  
On Sept 16th! "*



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

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



**GREAT NEWS!  
HOPSCOTCH**

Restarts at 9am on Thursday 16th September at St Mary's  
We look forward to seeing you all again!

*Hilary Craig*



### Vision and Hope Weekend

Look forward to our Benefice Weekend indoors planned from 8th to 10th October!



### Hopscotch Picnic

We all had a lovely time at the Hopscotch picnic on the Mundy Playing Fields in glorious sunshine!



### .....AND DADS & KIDS

For children of pre-school age together with their Dads (and Granddads!)

restarts on Saturday

11th September, 10am-12 noon

in the Church Hall Eastbury Rd

– thereafter monthly on the

### Second Saturday of each month!

Aimed at Pre-school and Key Stage.

Lots of fun and crafts—and snacks!!

Bacon Butties?

## St Mary's School End of Year Service 2021

In July, we celebrated the end-of-year Leavers' Service at St. Mary's School. We also used this opportunity to say a fond farewell to the leaving staff members, including Head teacher Karl Joyce. It was wonderful to gather as a "whole School" on the school field for a morning service in the sunshine. Parents and families of our leavers were in attendance offering their love and support and Revd. Joy was delighted to share a reflection and prayers.



**Left.** Trophy pictured being presented to Class 2.

**And Above.** Class 2 with trophy – many congratulations!



Karl's leaving gift to the school was a new trophy for the end-of-year awards: a new class trophy celebrating the class that makes the greatest contribution to caring for our environment. The church environment champions would be proud!

We hope that you all have all enjoyed a restful summer.

We are excited for the year to come. and look forward to working with our new Head teacher and celebrating with the school through the new school year.

## St Arilda's News

### St Arilda's Day at Oldbury

The Oldbury Congregation were able to cool down on the very hot evening of St Arilda's Day after the annual pilgrimage from the Church to the Well where legend has it St Arilda was slain.

We enjoyed searching for the red stones as we recalled the Saint and her demise. Thanks to Christabelle's sturdy stick none of us fell in ! Some then went back to the Church at 10.00pm to hunt for Glow worms that are always prevalent at this time of year.

Martin Fardell kindly hosted us with refreshments in his wonderful garden. It felt so special gathering together after lockdown for such fellowship and laughter.

Do join us next year on the 20th July.

*Jacquie Rinaldi*





## FIRST BAPTISMS FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL.

On a lovely sunny, breezy day in late July a happy crowd of babies, children, parents, godparents and friends all gathered on the field at St Mary's Primary School to take part in a service to christen Beau and Noah.

It was a delightful and joyous occasion!

Lots of small children happily playing on the school climbing frame whilst **Archdeacon Hilary** took the service. And later our own vicar, Revd Joy baptised the babies. Noah's big brother Archie was also there and Revd Joy told us that he had been one of the last baptised in the church before lockdown.

What a wonderful day! We are hopeful that we will be able to do christenings back in church before too long but as a "first after lock down" christening this one was a delight!

*Gill Spiller*



## Build a Boat and Rise to the Moment



This year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. In November, the UK Government will host the United Nations' key climate talks, COP26. Our prayers can spur us to take action and encourage our leaders to deliver justice at COP26.

Christian Aid are joining with the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) on a pilgrimage for climate justice – from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow.

You can support them by pledging to pray for COP26 at [www.caid.org.uk/cop26prayers](http://www.caid.org.uk/cop26prayers). Christian Aid will count up all the prayers and actions in support of the pilgrimage and deliver them to decision makers in Glasgow.

**The climate crisis is a storm we all face, but we're not all in the same boat. For some, the storm is stronger and the waves are already breaking. Every day, people living in poverty battle the worst crisis they did not create. This is deeply unjust. A better way is possible. Together we can tackle the inequalities in wealth and power that have led to this climate crisis – starting now. #RiseToTheMoment #PrayForCOP26**

YCCN have built a boat that will be journeying across the UK with them. It represents our hopes that we will rise to the moment and use this year to set sail towards a more just future. Why not make your own prayer boat? You can even send it to COP26 or add them to the display in St Mary's! Get the Boat template at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).



## Can You Help? Urgently Needed

**FOUR PEOPLE** (perhaps 2 couples) to prepare and set the Church ready for Sunday Services.

Also we need Church Members to become Foundation Governors at both our church Schools, at Thornbury & Oldbury — (Vacancies anticipated shortly) Contact Church Office or Clergy for more info..



## How the choir survived in lockdown

Many of you will know that I live nowhere near Thornbury, and when last year's lockdown brought our lives to a halt I assumed that I would not see my many church choir friends for a long time. Not so! Thanks to Fiona Mitchell we met on Zoom every Friday at choir practice time for a weekly quiz. Once I'd overcome a few technical hitches, such as discovering what Zoom actually was and working out how to access it, I was able to see my fellow choristers again every week, and we all had a lot of fun with the

quiz. Each of us produced five questions per week, and a huge range of topics and question types were covered, always in a very entertaining fashion. It mattered not a jot who won, and it was such a pleasure keeping in touch with everybody.

Later on, when St Mary's was open again for worship, Malcolm decided we could record some music which could be played during the services. Again, from a personal point of view this was a technical challenge, and Malcolm kindly provided me with a microphone and headphones. Each week he sent us all some music, which we recorded individually, and which he then put together to create a complete recording. Listening to my own recordings was no fun – I sounded like a rather ancient goat – but I was pleasantly surprised when I heard the finished article.

Now at last we are back singing in services again, having all promised to take a lateral flow test every Saturday. I hope it won't be too long now before everyone can sing in church again. This last year has reminded me how much I value the camaraderie of our choir, and it's wonderful to see life gradually returning to normal.

*Mark Hoskins*



Socially distanced choir!



## ECO Church

*Guy Rawlinson writes:*

Sadly our Bee Hives are missing as our resident beekeeper has retired. The presence of hives was a definite plus to getting our Silver award and we are in negotiation with another beekeeper about placing new hives. However the earliest these will appear is next March, which is a more suitable time to

move bee colonies

## Things are glowing at St Arilda's

*as Jacquie Rinaldi and Meg Adnams write:*

Glow worms at St Arilda's were prevalent back in July on warm evenings at about dusk, usually about 9.30 / 10.00pm. Pinpricks of luminous green lights appear. Glow worms are in fact tiny beetles, commonly known as fireflies. The glow is made by the wingless females which try to attract the smaller males, who can fly, to come to mate with them. The lights are from "luciferin" which reacts with oxygen in the air to make that eerie glow. The female turns off her light and dies once she has laid her eggs and the larvae survive by injecting a digestive juice into slugs and snails. This keeps them going into adulthood which takes 3 years.

These are found in St Arilda's churchyard about the time of St Arilda's Day and on the verges down to Cowhill. South Glos Council help the Glow worms by leaving some of our grass long outside the church from April to October and switching off the nearest street lamp so the "glows" can be seen by the flying beetles. Sadly the numbers have plummeted in recent years. We hope that the prevention of too much light pollution and many un-mown verges will help their survival in rural areas.

*Ed Thank you to Guy Meg and Jacquie for the articles above! - Guy is standing in for our regular reporter Marian Stephens who is poorly at the moment - we all send good wishes for her speedy recovery*



## Special Choral Evensong

On **Sunday October 24th** we will be holding a very special and unique Choral Evensong at St Mary's.

You may not be a regular Evensong goer but this one will definitely be different and worth coming to!

**All the music has been written by members of the choir as well as the words of the anthem and both hymns.**

It is an idea which has come from tenor Mark, who says he has been thinking about a 'homegrown Evensong' for quite a long time.

**So put the date in your diaries and come along to Evensong at 6pm to listen to and support your choir**



## The Five Marks of Mission

One of the roles of Missions: Global and Local Concern, a subcommittee of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to ensure your generosity is carefully distributed to those in greatest need. To do this we adopted the Five Marks of Mission and use them to select the organisations you support.

During the 1980s, opinion among Anglican churches around the world was heavily divided between those who saw mission only in terms of personal salvation/ evangelism and those who saw it as being solely about development and social change. The Anglican Consultative Council – an international body which represents the Anglican Communion – was set the task of examining the meaning of mission. It recognised that neither did justice to the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth'. They developed the Five Marks of Mission which were adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England.

The Five Marks of Mission (sometimes called the 5T's) are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God (*Matthew 10:5-42; Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 9:1-6*) - **TELL**

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers (*Matthew 28:19*) - **TEACH**

To respond to human need by loving service (*Luke 10:25-37*) - **TEND**

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation (*Isaiah 35:1-7*) - **TRANSFORM**

To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth (*Psalms 8*) – **TREASURE**

*The Missions: G&LC poster above was created by Vivienne Larkin and is based on the Five Marks of Mission.*

*Christine Dadd, Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern*

*(On page 8 see article on Francis Hopkins, the Thornbury grocer whose bequest still benefits our local charities )*



## Giving Thanks for Our Vaccinations!

As more of us, our family, friends and neighbours receive their Covid-19 vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout.

Those people living in poverty lack the basics to protect themselves – no clean water for handwashing; overcrowded living conditions which makes 'social distancing' almost impossible; and inadequate healthcare. Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe with practical support and you can help too at [www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org). UNICEF's VaccinAid wants to deliver 2 billion vaccines around the world, to the poorest people, by the end of this year. If you would like to help 'Give the World a Shot' please go to [www.vaccinaid.org](http://www.vaccinaid.org). Please give thanks by donating to help protect our global neighbours using the links above.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*God of Hope, Sustainer of all life,*

*We give You thanks for the coronavirus vaccines,  
for the skill and wisdom of scientists,*

*NHS staff and key workers.*

*By the power of Your Spirit, may we overflow with hope and joy as we see our friends, families and neighbours protected.*

*God of Justice, Protector of the vulnerable, may we be your well-washed hands and willing feet.*

*Move us to give and act,*

*to challenge the injustices that anger You.*

*May we seek to protect all Your children, particularly those for whom the vaccine is out of reach.*

*With hope and trust we pray.*

*Amen*

## Tsunami of Grief

Although many are still suffering from the Covid 19 outbreak it seems that our efforts to overcome this dreadful illness are slowly leading to success here in the UK.

We pray this continues and our thoughts are with all those who are suffering from Covid or who have lost loved ones. Sadly we learn that Covid 19 has been overwhelming

India in recent weeks, bringing Health Services and institutions to their knees. Medical staff are struggling and death toll soars. The Barnabas Fund works with Indian Christian Leaders to provide assistance, both food and medical for all Covid sufferers. If you can help support them, please visit <https://barnabasfund.org>

What a delight for 24 Members and friends to finally be together, dressed in summery clothes, to celebrate our Summer Special on Monday 9 August in the church hall. Pauline Farman was our guest and she treated us to odes on all sorts of subjects – litter picking, cat capture, Covid19, ticks (if you want to know about that one you will have to ask someone who was there) all very funny indeed – thank you Pauline for making our first meeting, after such a long absence, so memorable.

The next meeting planned is on Tuesday 21 September when Penny Baker will tell us about KRUNCH. Please keep watching the weekly newsletter to check for details.

At our Annual Service of Praise we will be enrolling 3 new members – are you interested in joining? Please speak to one of the Committee (Monica Mullinex, Ruth Parker, Anne Ellis, Margaret Woodford, Angela Edwards, Rosemary Keavey, Pippa Davey and newly co-opted Sue Graham) they will gladly explain all about MU.

*Jenny Ovens*



*The lovely service was led by Revd Canon David Primrose. Photos show the happy couple with Hannah.*

### Wedding of Rebecca and Rob

Rebecca Teague and Rob Lillis, - supported by their little Hannah - and a wonderful congregation of 130!! (and more on-line) - were married in St Mary's Church on August 27th.



## Church Warden's Notes and Fabric Matters



### Robin Gupta writes - A Message from APCM

**Since our last APCM in October last year, Church life has continued to flourish. This is due in large part to the very many wonderful volunteers involved with our School and Church. Many, many thanks to all involved! However, some of these may need to retire /rest and so in every area we will need lots more volunteers.**

Whether this is for church cleaning, arranging flowers, mowing the churchyard grass, reading or leading prayers, serving with one of the many committees or groups, using any accounting, administrative or IT skills you may have, or singing with the choir, to name just a few, there is a place (or places) for you to help. This not only helps our Church but is also a good way for fellowship. No one is too old, as with age comes life experience and wisdom!

There are a couple of areas that particularly need highlighting. One is that we used to have four people, or perhaps couples, who helped prepare and set the Church ready for Sunday services, as now we have just one couple and need volunteers immediately please! Another is the need for Church members to become Foundation Governors at our Primary School, where we anticipate some vacancies in the near future. For both these roles, no experience or knowledge is necessary, just a willingness to help and get involved, as all necessary training will be provided. If you can sing, the choir would love to hear from you! Even if you want to sing on an occasional basis.

Please do not sit back and think you have nothing to offer. Everybody has some way in which they can, and should, be able to help at this critical time!

Please ask any of the Churchwardens about helping and they will happily direct you to the relevant person.



*Volunteers Cleaning Church Gutters  
Not All Volunteers are required to climb onto the roof! Plenty of ground level jobs!*



*Trial Fitting of new Church Doors  
We now await the glazing*



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 Sept-Oct 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 most of our St Mary's services will be either streamed live or posted afterwards: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>**



## Diary dates for end of August, September and October

Friday 27th August: **Wedding of Rebecca Teague - Revd Canon Dr David Primrose presides**

12.noon at St Mary's. Watch online <https://youtu.be/CW6PcuQKwIM>

Sunday 29th August: **Benefice Holy Communion** at St Mary's 10.30 am with Revd Canon Dr David Primrose presiding

Sat 11th September: **Heritage Open Day** St Mary's 1.30-4.30 pm To book a timed Tower visit please contact Mike Dennett 01454 419082

Sat 11th September: **Mothers Union Craft and Produce Stall** in St Mary's during Heritage Day

Sat 11th September: **Ride and Stride** in support of Gloucester Historic Churches Trust: Revd Tom Keates will be making a sponsored walk with a route taking in all our churches. To donate visit <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/thomas-keates4>

Sat 11th September: **Dads and Kids** restarts at St Mary's Church Hall 10.00-12noon. Thereafter monthly on the second Saturday of each month.

Thurs 16th September: **Hopscotch** restarts at St Mary's 9.00am. Thereafter every Thursday in term time.

Friday 8th-Sunday 10th October: **Benefice Weekend of Vision and Hope** online details see the Thornbury Benefice Website [thornburybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:thornburybenefice@outlook.com)

Sunday 24th October: **Special Choral Evensong** 6.00 pm at St Mary's - Music composed by choir members



Revd Canon Dr David Primrose

## Francis Hopkins – The Generosity of a Grocer



Many churches have been struggling financially during the Covid lockdowns. Fund raising stopped - there were no fairs, no collections during services (few services!) and even regular income from weddings etc paused. We as a parish have been more fortunate due to the generosity of past members of our congregation. I'd like to tell you a little more about just one such family.

Francis and Gwen Hopkins established a successful grocery shop on the High Street, Thornbury. Gwen kept it going when Francis was called up in 1940. He took part in the D Day landings and saw active service in France until he was wounded and finally demobbed in October 1945.

During the 1950s Francis expanded the grocery business to include a fleet of mobile vans/shops delivering beyond Thornbury—he was definitely ahead of his time! Francis became Town Mayor from 1983-84. Following his death in March 1988 he kindly left a legacy to our church.

This helped fund the extension at St Paul's which included the Sunday School/meeting room, kitchen and facilities. The Sunday School previously met in a Portacabin with a potty but few other amenities!

***The Francis Hopkins Charitable Trust Fund was set up to share Francis' generosity with Thornbury. Over the years it has given donations to lunch clubs for the elderly, the Memory Cafés, Foodbank, Debt Advice Service, as well as provided bibles for school children. We are most grateful for all legacies.***

Christine Dadd

**RIP** We are sad to hear that our friend **David Bailey** of Cromhall has recently passed away. David was a long time member of Cadence Choir and of the Alveston Singers - and will be sadly missed by his many local friends. Our sympathies are with David's wife Jill and their Family

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](mailto:thornburyparish@btconnect.com).

Ch@t

The Editorial Committee of Ch@T is: Angela Swan (Editor)  
Distribution: Diane Moyses,  
Artwork and layout: Fiona Mitchell  
Photography: Timothy Swan, Printed by Oldbury Deckers