



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

January 2022

Welcome to the January/February 2022 Edition of Chat!

This edition contains a last nod to our Parish Weekend and its outcome, and to our Remembrance Day Services. Plus news of a busy New Year at St Mary's School. And Hopscotch, Muddy Praise & Dads and Kids etc are all thriving after lots of Christmas Fun!

And there is lots more fun to come

Please send all items for publication in Ch@T direct to aj.swan1@btinternet.com



'I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again...'

(F. Scott Fitzgerald)

A New Year is so often a time for new things, for new challenges, for new dreams. Sometimes new things that come in an instant, but more often than not, things we have to work for - which is the difficulty of a good New Year's resolution.

Perhaps you have been waiting to hear the next steps from our weekend of Vision and Hope? But, like the best resolutions, the work is far from over! This year we are going to take time to explore together more completely the inspiration thrown up by you all in that weekend together.

Throughout the year, every couple of months, we are going to delve into your ideas and spend some time sharing what we are up to, discussing what more we could be doing, and learning together what matters to us most.

I hope very much that in our new year of adventure together we would be courageous in feeling *new things* and sharing with *new people*, not frightened of doing things differently, but excited to be doing them together.

Would that 2022 be a year filled with vision for the future and the deep abiding hope we find in Christ !!!

Revd Joy



Parish Weekend of Vision and Hope

(full report in last edition of Chat.)

See Rev'd Joy's Leader - More to Come!

The Faith Sharing Group have been reviewing this inspiring Weekend, seeking the outcomes as they affect the future direction of the Benefice! The Weekend, blessed with lovely weather, was a huge inspiration to all concerned!!

Participants produced a plethora of good ideas requiring further thought, but the clear themes that emerged included improvements to communications, lots more opportunities for us to meet together socially and a desperate need return to a more regular life!!

An immediate action will be to explore our commitment to creation—guided by Cate Williams who will share her session on the environment postponed from the Weekend.

This will now be on Saturday 29th January !

For a fuller report of the Weekend also see the Newsletter distributed on 5th December



Out and About Update

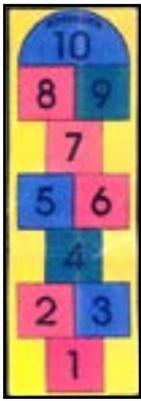
Sheila Jones writes

Two delicious meals have been enjoyed this year! The next one will be in February, then another at the end of March. For Covid precautions we are keeping numbers to about 25— and looking for venues with enough space for everyone to feel safe.

A Happy New Year to Everyone!



Hopscotch!!!



Hopscotch - for babies and little ones under school-age and their parents and carers.
9 am at St Mary's every Thursday in Term-time

Do join us!



Wake up mouse! Great news! Hopscotch Is back



Hopscotch Christmas Party

It has been wonderful to be able to meet up again this term and we have had great fun sharing the Christmas story.

We wish our Hopscotch family A Very Safe and Blessed 2022.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on Thursday 6th January.



Hilary and all the Hopscotch team



DADS & KIDS

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

10am-12 noon in the Church Hall

Eastbury Rd- every month on the

Second Saturday of each month!

Aimed at Pre-school and Key Stage 1.

Lots of fun and crafts—and snacks!! Bacon Butties!

At the December **DADS and KIDS** to we made SCARECROW NATIVITY FIGURES for our NATIVITY SCENE, plus lots of other activities. These were taken to St Mary's for display.



St Mary's C of E VA Primary – A Busy Autumn Term! We are looking forward to the New Year full of Hope.

Head teacher Samantha Gillard writes



We have had a busy term, full of learning opportunities. Making the most of visits and trips. Children have really enjoyed being back together and having some normality back in school. They have a new appreciation of learning and of the simple things like playing on the field together, singing together, Worship together and being a whole community again. We have fundraised for Macmillan, Children in Need and gave food to 'The Sisters of the Church' to give out to families in need in Bristol.



We have had a wonderful team of DIY enthusiasts come into school over half term and paint our school hall and KS1 and EYFS classrooms. This has transformed our learning environments and has enabled us to spend the money saved directly on the children. Community has been our value of the Term and we have certainly seen the Impact of what being a community is. We have also been thinking about what we can do as a school community to help look after our wonderful Planet Earth. We have read the book 'Here we are - Notes from planet Earth' written by Oliver Jeffers. This book has inspired us to think about what notes we would leave for others to keep our planet the amazing place it is.

The run up to Christmas was busy and nearly back to pre Covid times. We tried to keep it as 'normal' as much as we could. Children took part in an Advent

Experience in the Church where they toured around different stations, finding out about what Advent means to Christians. The younger pupils did their Nativity in the church, although parents could not come into the Church, it was live streamed – thanks to the great technology the church has and to the church wardens who gave up their time to assist us with the filming. Our school carol concert, again was live streamed from the church. It was so special being able to hear the children sing again.



After our Advent experience, we left a tree in the church with labels that the children wrote about their 'Hopes' for Christmas. Each term a different class will create a prayer station in the church representing our value of the term. Please do go into church and use the prayer station. It is there for everybody.

We hope you are having a wonderful start to the new year. That you can find peace, joy and hope in your hearts.

Happy New Year from all at St Mary's C of E VA Primary School!!!



For nothing will be impossible with God

Luke 1 v37



We live and learn by our Christian Values in an **inclusive, supportive and caring environment**.

Our children encounter a **'living faith'** through our collective worship and whole school curriculum.

They are actively involved in their learning and in partnership with parents and the wider community, the children **grow spiritually and flourish** as we prepare them to meet the challenges of education, work and life.

In December we were able to hold our lovely Candleglow service, albeit all masked up! The title "Dark to Light" was most appropriate and included some very unusual readings on the theme. We hope that you had a super Christmas and we send you our very best wishes for 2022.

Now we are looking forward to our programme of talks and meetings for 2022 – please do come and join in with any that you would like to hear.

For January and February we will hear about:

- **January 18th Barnabus Fund.** Supporting Persecuted and suffering Christians around the world.
- **February 15th Haven Memory Cafe in Thornbury**

If you are not a member but would like to find out more, please speak to anyone of the Committee Members (Monica Mullinex, Ruth Parker, Angela Edwards, Rosemary Keavey, Anne Ellis, Margaret Woodford, Sue Graham and Pippa Davey) all of whom have stayed in post for another year.

Jenny Owens



MU Looking back to lockdown

Our Branch members have remained active, albeit in different ways. Many of us, reluctantly, had to learn how to use technology to access Skype, WhatsApp, Zoom, YouTube and emails. Revd Joy hosted our first Zoom branch meeting in January 2021 and some participated in the Diocesan Lady Day Service, a members' day and monthly Cathedral prayers in our own homes. 20 editions of our branch Chitchat newsletter were sent out from November 20 till September 21.

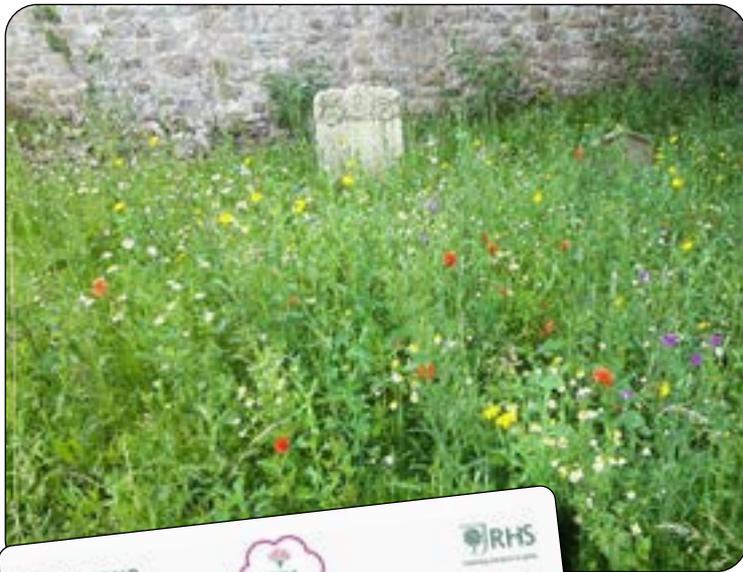
To pass the time, many members were very creative with crafting, marmalade and jam making, raising plants etc and we were able to sell many items at the Heritage Open Day in September raising a total of nearly £700 in the year for AFIA holidays (Away From It All). What an amazing achievement!

In fine weather, we managed to meet outside (well distanced) several times in the Chantry Field and celebrated Mary Summer Day on 9th August 2020 similarly. Wonderful to see each other 'in the flesh' rather than on screens or by phone.

We resumed branch meetings with a talk by Penny Baker about KRUNCH in September and worshipped together at our Annual Service in October when Joy told us about her placement in California. Rebecca and Melanie were enrolled.

Our branch membership hovers just above 50 and we would be delighted to welcome new members. Our Members are asked to keep talking about MU, wear our badge and spread the word amongst family, friends, new comers and neighbours.

Ann Ellis



From an environmental perspective

2021 "Highlights" or did the editor say High Lights?

Moon almost full, guiding the electric car to Oldbury for our Easter Service at dawn. Spring Sun shining above the garden of Jacquie & Sean, as we enjoyed the outside, Gold Eco plans were born. The rainbow, a reassuring promise from God, lights the way home from St. Paul's Harvest. At Advent Electric candelabra high in St. Mary's rest, then dim as the candle light of Christ passes and all are blest. Aspirations we have so many – Another fine crop of flowers on our Church land. Commitment to care for creation is planned, so to inspire on Jan 29th Cate Williams is on hand.

Marian Stephens

Congratulations to our wonderful Holy Mowers who were assessed as 'Thriving' by the "South West in Bloom" Adjudicator when he visited St Mary's in July 2021!

See above and right - Lovely wild flowers surround St Mary's church





Remembrance Day Civic Service

Remembrance Day was very quiet due to Covid precautions. Although there was no parade, the Civic Service was attended by Civic leaders together with representatives of local uniformed organisations who laid wreaths on the town War Memorial situated in St Mary's Churchyard



At their well attended November meeting the **Dads and Kids group** made a Remembrance Banner which was displayed on the Stafford Chapel screen during the Remembrance day service..



Muddy Praise at St Arilda's

Our last Muddy Praise, before Christmas, was held at St Arilda's, Oldbury-on-Severn for the first time!! And was well attended by families from both Thornbury and Oldbury! **Our thanks to those who made a longer journey than usual to attend!** We began with a walk around the churchyard which was quite challenging, being on a steep hill! Interesting objects were seen and gathered, particularly colourful autumn leaves. The church layout had been recently partially reorganised after a

big Spring Clean leaving more room in a new Children's Corner for exciting play and any art and craft activities. Instead of a Bible story in the conventional way, Rev. Joy ran a Nativity Quiz for the children. She had been busy baking gingerbread figures, iced in colours. The children had to guess who they were e.g. "Mary is the blue one!" The children then made lots of stars with Amelia and helpful parents. We all made short work of the refreshments including crumpets!

We look forward to hosting "Muddy Praise" at St Arilda's at sometime again in the future!

Meg Adnams



Church Warden's Notes and Fabric Matters

The stained glass windows at St Mary's have been beautifully cleaned!

(And at a wedding last week a guest admired their glowing colours, asked about cleaning them, and Jenny Ovens explained just how it is done!)

GEZE (who supply the new doors at St Mary's) have now completed their work and we have working electric porch doors. The picture shows the plaque acknowledging the gift from the late Nesta Robinson which made the new doors possible.



After

Before

Photos - Far right- Very dirty/murky window
Above right- After cleaning - Sparkly clean window!



Presents for the Julian Trust Shelter

Thank you very much for your generosity, 210 gift bags were delivered in time for Christmas to the Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Home-less, along with lots of

warm clothes. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to review your wardrobe, they are happy to receive clothing suitable for younger adults throughout the year.



Christine Dadd
Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern

Missions: Global and Local Concern - Review of 2021

If you would like to find out more about the charities you have supported during 2021, please see the links below. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

Thank you also for continuing to help the Foodbank and the Julian Trust Nightshelter for the Homeless with gifts of food, bedding and clothing.

A Rocha UK – www.arocha.org.uk

The Children's Society – www.childrensociety.org.uk

Children's Hospice South West – www.chsw.org.uk

Christian Aid – www.christianaid.org.uk

Church Army – www.churcharmy.org.uk

Church Mission Society – www.churchmissionsociety.org.uk

Church Urban Fund – www.cuf.org.uk

Embrace the Middle East – www.embraceme.org.uk

United Society Partners in the Gospel – www.uspg.org.uk

Wycliffe Bible Translators – www.wycliffe.org.uk

Carol Singing from the Church Hall

On Wed 15th December singers assembled at the Church Hall for what has become a much-loved tradition! Its aim - to take the Good News of Christmas to families in the Church Hall neighbourhood through the singing of carols!

This much-appreciated occasion finished at the Hall with hot drinks and mince pies! Thank you to the Singers and all who joined in!



New Year Quiz *(Answers back page)*

- 1 In which year did New Year's Day first become a bank holiday in England?
- 2 Which Christian festival is commemorated on January 1st?
- 3 The New Year carol The Old Year Now Away is Fled is traditionally sung to which famous tune?
- 4 The author of the novel The Catcher in the Rye was born on January 1st 1919. What was his name?
- 5 Who wrote the words to Auld Lang Syne?
- 6 The month of January derives its name from the name of which Roman god?
- 7 The Chinese New Year in 2022 will be the year of which animal?
- 8 Which Austrian orchestra traditionally performs a concert on the morning of New Year's Day?
- 9 The tune for the New Year carol Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly comes from which country?



Examples of Rosie's artwork



Mark Hoskins



Lessons and Carols

Advent and Christmas



This year despite Covid the choir was able to lead our traditional Advent and Christmas candlelit services of Lessons and Carols, and Advent Service of Light. Also back were the Christingle and a lovely "Socially Distanced" Crib Service.

We also had two additional musical treats this year with a superb Organ Recital by Malcolm and a wonderful "Night at the Opera" with Malcolm, Rosie and Revd Joy.



Crib Service



Advent Service of



Malcolm and Rosie - Farewell

On Christmas day we were very sad to say "Goodbye" to Malcolm and Rosie who have been at the heart of St Mary's music over the last four years. Malcolm was appointed Director of Music at St Mary's Church in October 2017. Both Malcolm and Rosie are hugely talented musicians as evidenced by the recent 'Night at the Opera' and 'Organ Recital' at St Mary's.

But there has been so much more to their time with us! One of the defining features of Malcolm's tenure has been 2 years of Covid restrictions.

Malcolm managed to keep the choir active and positive throughout the entire challenging period. We held zoom rehearsals on Friday nights for over a year, with more quizzes than we can count, including Rosie's weekly 'show and tell' showcasing her real talent for drawing animal portraits. (see left)

On the musical side we were all introduced to the joys of how to record anthems on zoom which, if nothing else, made us all appreciate how much we missed singing together in the same location. Malcolm has also pushed us musically and the choir library has grown significantly with music that is new to us all. Sadly, due to Covid, we never did get to sing 'Crossing the Bar', nor did we manage our planned choir tour to Canterbury for a



Organ Recital and "Night at the Opera"



joint service with Malcolm's Dad's choir - but we hope to do both some day.

There have been other changes in the choir during Malcolm's tenure, Ray (and occasionally Joy) have joined, but we particularly think of the loss of dear friends **Helen, Lesley** and **Sue**, whom we remembered at the recent "home grown" Evensong where Malcolm was brave enough to hand over responsibility for words, music and prayers to members of Choir.

Best of all we have all appreciated Malcolm's unflinching good humour, patience, willingness to accept our many faults together with his commitment to all things musical, odd socks, Liverpool Football club and studying for a PhD. Rosie has been a real asset to the sopranos with her beautiful voice, and the fact that, at a stroke, she reduced the average age of the choir by many years.

We will miss them both and wish them all the best in this next phase of their life and hope to see them back from time-to-time over the coming years.

The Choir



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)



Link to Streamed Services from St Mary's
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZ>

Provisional dates for January and February below.
Please double check venues/times with weekly Newsletter!



January 2022

Sunday 2 January - 9.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's, 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, 6.00pm Evensong at St Arilda's

Wednesday 5 January - 10.00am Holy Communion with Healing Prayers at St Paul's

Sunday 9 January - 9.00am Spoken Holy Communion at St Paul's, 10.30am. All Age Morning Prayer at St Mary's, 6.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's

Sunday 16 January - 9.00am All Age Morning Prayer at St Paul's, 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, 6.00pm Holy Communion at **St Arilda's**

Wednesday 19 January - 10.00am Midweek Communion at St Mary's

Sunday 23 January - 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, 4.00pm Muddy Praise (Venue tbc), 6.00pm Evening Service at St Paul's

Sunday 30 January - 10.30am Baptisms at St Arilda's, 6.00pm Benefice Communion Service at St Mary's



February 2022

Wednesday 2 February - 10.00 Holy Communion with healing prayers at St Paul's

Sunday 6 February - 9.00am Holy Communion at St Paul's, 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, **4.00pm Refresh! at St Arilda's**

Sunday 13 February - 9.00am Spoken Holy Communion at St Paul's, 10.30am All Age Morning Prayer at St Mary's, 6.00pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's

Wednesday 16 February - 10.00am Midweek Communion at St Mary's

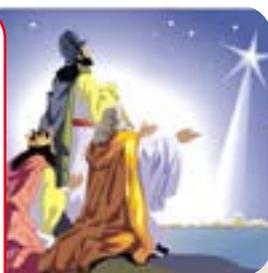
Saturday 19 February - 11.00am Baptisms at St Mary's

Sunday 20 February - 9.00am All Age Morning Prayer at St Paul's, 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, **6.00pm Evening Prayer at St Arilda's**

Sunday 27 February - 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, 4.00pm Muddy Praise (Venue tbc), **6.00pm Evening Service at St Paul's**

Quiz Answers:

1. 1974
2. Feast of the Circumcision
3. Greensleeves
4. J D Salinger,
5. Robert Burns
6. Janus
7. Tiger
8. Vienna Philharmonic
9. Wales



Visit to Llandaff

Four parishioners went from Thornbury on 2 December to a concert given by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir in aid of a Children's specialist care charity called Ty Hafan. It was held in a packed Llandaff Cathedral and as we passed the checking stage for our Covid passports and came to the steps to go in, out came Revd Jan who was on locking up duty that evening!. We had a lovely catch up before the Concert began!

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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