



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

March & April 2022

Following the Benefice weekend, the Faith Sharing Committee is planning the shape of the year ahead, from themes emerging from our Parish feedback. The theme for our March/April edition is Increasing concerns about the Environment, and we report the visit by Cate Williams and her talk on this topic!

There is a warm welcome to our new Parish Administrator Jemma Synnott. (p7)

The next Ch@t will be the May-June Edition, deadline April 10th.

Please send contributions and articles for publication in Ch@T to aj.swan1@btinternet.com

We wish all our Readers a blessed and joyful Easter!



January and February were full of opportunities to talk and share and learn more together about our care for God's wonderful world. - From Cate Williams coming to speak with us, to charging points at the Vicarage, to

planned pancakes and chat at the Church Hall! – what a wonderful way to start the New Year!

So, what next?!

In February/March/April our focus moves on to worship and teaching. An excellent few months to be thinking about how, and where, and when we worship through the beautiful season of Lent and Easter. Also, a brilliant season for trying something new. **We are planning a good and Muddy Mothering Sunday (27th March)! Perhaps you want to see the dawn rise in Oldbury, or you have a hankering for an Easter Sunday filled with new life (and plenty of baptisms) at St Mary's (17th April)?**

Do keep an eye on your newsletters for details along the way.

This is a season for asking questions. This is a season for being challenged - not just by what kind of songs we might sing in Church... but also where do we meet? How often? What do we need from Church? What does 'Church' need from us? How does our worship shape our life in the week? Where are we learning together? Where are we encountering God?

As we journey again to the foot of the Cross, I pray that we would be

asking these questions, and so many more; trusting, as always, that Jesus is travelling with us, and that the destination is well worth the journey.

Rev'd Joy



Baptism of baby Iris on Saturday, February 19th - She was a star!

LENT



He is Risen

Children and Youth

Hopscotch!!!

**Wake up mouse!
Great news!
Hopscotch Is back**



DADS & KIDS

For children of pre-school & KS1
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!

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



Come to Hopscotch

- for babies and little ones under school-age and their parents and carers!

St Mary's
every Thursday in Term-time.



HOPSCOTCH (below and below right) We made a lovely banner to welcome Jesus into the temple at Candlemas!. We have also started learning about some of the parables Jesus taught his friends.

We made plates of food for our picnic, when Jesus fed 5,000 people with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread!

Hilary



HOPSCOTCH PICNIC! below



**Next term we will begin to
Learn about the Easter story!**

Muddy Praise

Lovely celebrating the wedding at Cana ("water into wine" miracle) at Muddy Praise, with party poppers and birthday cake (it was Jude's birthday!).

See children representing the jars of water!

In February, Muddy Praise continued with messy pancake making at the Church Hall!

Muddy Praise continues at 4pm on fourth Sundays in the various Church buildings across the Benefice.

Join us on Mothering Sunday (27th March) for our first ever Muddy Praise at St Pauls!

All are welcome! Revd Joy



Muddy Praise - January

LOOKING AFTER OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

God has made the Earth. We have to look after it

Reuse things more like paper. Be better than me - I mean



I like to ride on my scooter. It's better than driving.

I tell my mum to switch off the car when we stop at lights



Use electric cars

We need lots of trees to give us oxygen

In our Worship, we have been thinking about our wonderful world. We read the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers and spent some time thinking about what the pictures were telling us. What we could learn from them and why our world is so important to us and that change needs to happen today.

Year 1 captured their reflections and we thought you might like to read some of them.

Sometimes people drop litter on the field. We need to pick it up!

Our Prayer for Our Planet

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for your gracious providing may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We need animals and insects.



Oldbury Christingle





Church Warden's Notes and Fabric Matters

St Mary's Fabric Report

Architect and Quinquennial Inspection We now have the Quinquennial Inspection report for St Mary's Church. There is no serious work required, but there are quite a few minor items that need

to be dealt with in the coming year and we are arranging to have the general maintenance works carried out.

Font floor area: The proposal to remove the wooden platform at the West end and replace it with a stone floor at the same level as the Nave aisles together with revised kitchen and storage areas has been discussed with the DAC at a recent site visit. The DAC were supportive of the scheme in principle. The next steps are to prepare the Statement of Needs and Significance, which would then allow Henry Sanders (Church Architect) to prepare a working proposal and budget for PCC discussion and approval.

Remnant Wall Painting The remnant wall painting has been surveyed by McNeilage Conservation. Although the design is typical of 14th century work, the painting is believed to be post reformation due to its position on later plaster layers. The conservators have set out the work and costs necessary to stabilise the remnant. The PCC have approved the work. A Faculty is required for this work and is being sought.

Porch Doors These are now working! The only remaining item is for the porch cupboards to be painted.

Stained Glass Windows The Faculty application to have the East window and the South Chancel window removed, repaired, re-leaded and re-fixed was approved by the DAC, has completed its 28-day public notice period and has now been submitted to the Registrar for his submission to the Chancellor.

Pulley test in St Mary's office Ecclesiastical Insurance has responded to Mike D who is following up other options to have this tested provided by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

St Paul's Fabric Report The draft Quinquennial Inspection report for St Paul's Church has been received. Comments have been returned to our Architect .



Mission Matters – A Rocha UK

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. You may know it best through Eco Church. All Church of England dioceses have now registered with Eco Church. Huge congratulations to all those involved in helping us achieve the Eco Church Silver Award. We are now working towards our Gold which is really impressive!

A Rocha UK also have two nature reserves: Wolf Fields, which is an urban community nature reserve, once an abandoned area used for drug dealing and fly tipping.

It now provides local people, churches and community groups access to greenspace. Whilst Foxearth Meadows is in a rural area, dedicated to providing a wetland habitat in which rare and endangered species can thrive. **Find out more about the nature reserves and being a Wild Christian at www.arocha.org.uk.**



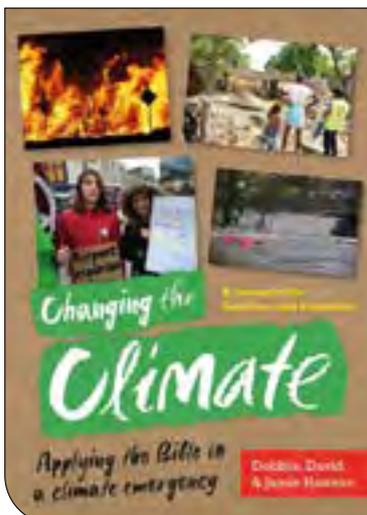
Christine Dadd Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern

Changing the Climate: applying the Bible in a climate emergency

by Debbie Hawker, David Hawker and Jamie Hawker, BRF, £9.99

The climate crisis is one of the most important issues of our time, threatening lives and livelihoods. The Bible teaches us that God the Creator put humans on the Earth to take care of it; to show love to all, and to care for the poor and vulnerable.

This workbook shows how the Bible is relevant to environmentalism, and how we can all play our part in limiting the negative effects of climate change. **Each of the 12 chapters looks at a particular Bible passage, connects it with climate action, poses questions and suggests practical steps that can be taken.**



Eco Church



Revd Dr Cate Williams

GREEN AND GOING FOR GOLD.

First we had David Attenborough (Blue/Green Planet), then Brian Cox (Universe) then Chris Packham (Spring/Summer/etc etc Watch!) Followed by the

pandemic when many rediscovered the healing power of the natural world; the value of life itself and the need for regular social contact in order to enjoy more abundant living. We have learned a lot together!!!

Then, most recently, we had Cate Williams, our Diocesan Eco-advocate who, because of Covid, sadly could not come to our Vision and Hope weekend in October. So Cate joined us on a Saturday morning this January.

A group of 24 parishioners were eager to hear Cate help us think about our Vision and Hope for our Benefice.

From the Science viewpoint (our green planet needs action to be sustainable), the Health benefits (the natural



world has restorative properties for body, mind and Spirit) and also from a Christian worldview his universe / everything is God made, God loved.

God cherished and redeemable).

Cate acknowledged our Silver award (one of only 10 in our Diocese) and noted our ambition to go for Gold!

We told Cate about Muddy Praise, Forest School, Sustainable Thornbury. Bug hotels, Personal / Lifestyle choices. Wild meadows. Bee Hives. Oldbury Graveyard. Solar panels. These were just some of our current activities /plans

Cate recognised the size of the challenge to meet net zero targets and the need for national and international action to reach those targets. We agreed that we would work together within our Benefice church community and also with those other groups in our Community who seek to sustain and cherish the environment.

Cate gave us some scripture readings to consider... eg...'The heavens declare the glory of God'...'Consider the lilies of the fields'....

We assured Cate that we are committed to the pursuit of a Gold Award and, as far as we each are able, to make changes that will sustain the earth which God made for pleasure and his glory and declared that it was GOOD.

We thanked Cate for coming as promised, and for her commitment to continue to help us. Thanks also to the Social Committee for the sustenance afforded by the Fairtrade coffee and delicious home-made biscuits.

Mike and Gill Spiller

Some ECO Ideas following the visit of Cate Williams in January

The event made me think how we, as a Church community, can help the Climate Emergency Challenge. Many people say to me that there is nothing they can do as it is such an overwhelming problem. I do understand that point of view, but it is worth considering all the apparently insignificant things, which added together, can make a difference. With Spring now so near, I can think of a few projects that we can all do:

- sow a few wildflowers on bare earth. They will help bees and all insects with nectar. Insects are the staple diet of birds. The plants need cutting down in late summer, - make sure you take away all that you cut down
- You could leave areas of lawn for the whole summer to see how many flowers appear. This can be small areas of lawn, with a path running through it. For part of the summer, it may not look as tidy as a lawn mown with tracks but think how nature will appreciate it! As with the wildflower sowing cut it in late summer and remove the cuttings.
- If you are planting seeds in trays, only use compost that is peat free. There are plenty of peat free compost options now and Monty Don only uses peat free. Peat is too precious to be extracted
- Sink an old washing up bowl in the garden, just so that soil does not fill it up! Put in a few rocks and stones. Fill it with water and see who turns up!
- Plant perennial plants rather than annual flowers. With care and attention, you will be rewarded with flowers through the summer. The bees and insects will love it.

All this assumes that you have a garden. If you do not, join a group. Thornbury in Bloom for example, they will appreciate your support. These are just a few ideas to consider. But hopefully they demonstrate that if we all do something to help nature, we can, collectively, make a difference.

Guy Rawlinson

Much Better to use Your Loaf!

Why not try following the LOAF principles this Lent? This involves choosing food from four categories which can help you reduce your impact on the planet:

- L = Locally produced
- O = Organically grown
- A = Animal friendly
- F = Fairly traded

Why not start on Shrove Tuesday with LOAF Pancakes, making them with local free range eggs, organic milk and fair trade sugar or syrup?

Christine Dadd



Onward and Upward! Oldbury – new memorial woodland

At last it appears that the planning permission for the provision of a new burial churchyard attached to the 1920's Lower Churchyard at St Arilda's in Oldbury-on-Severn may be imminent.

We are now in discussions with our landscaper and provider of trees for the new memorial woodland. This is a complex decision and we are asking for various quotes for trees that will not be too large in the future or fail to thrive. Currently we are thinking about field maple, hornbeam, silver birch, hazel and quickthorn with possibly a special place for a Jubilee oak and a Rockhampton Red.

There will be enhanced views across the Severn as dead elms and unwanted brambles are being removed. We will have 3 planned gaps in the hedge between the churchyards to allow tractor, hedge trimmer and maintenance equipment to pass through as well as allowing passage for bats.

(The wildlife and wild flowers are very important in this setting.)

There will also be a prayer labyrinth and those at other local churches are being visited to give us ideas. We also plan more seating for visitors. We hope to arrange a "Plant a Tree" day for Oldbury residents.

Do come and visit us as Spring arrives. The snowdrops and celandines are out and it will not be long before the primroses and bluebells show themselves to cheer us!

Meg Adnams



Save Us from Nurdles!!! A Climate Horror Story!

In 2021 the X-Press Pearl container ship sank off the coast of Sri Lanka, spilling hazardous chemicals & fuel into the sea. However, the UN report found the most damage to the environment was from 87 containers of plastic nurdles – 2,000 tons – making this the largest plastic spill in history!!!. Nurdles are plastic pellets the size of a lentil, - and are the raw material of the plastics industry. Since the accident VAST quantities of nurdles have been washed ashore, up to 2 meters deep, covering hundreds of miles of Sri Lanka's pristine beaches with plastic, and DEAD MARINE LIFE everywhere.

Dolphins, whales and fish eat the tiny pellets which can carry toxic chemicals. Seabirds also mistake nurdles for food which can lead them to starvation. The Sri Lankan government is calling for nurdles to be classified as 'dangerous goods' so shipping companies are required to follow strict protocols for transporting them and help with necessary emergency clean-ups! Each year 230,000 tonnes enter our oceans and within the EU alone **23 billion** (yes billion) nurdles a day end up in the environment. They are found on UK beaches!.

Nurdle pollution shows plastic is being wasted before it has even been used to make anything, which is a huge waste of resources and a threat to wildlife.

So what can we do? We can all try to do one thing, and then another one thing, for our planet. If you're a writer, write to our MP in support of stricter regulations. Why not reduce our single-use plastic consumption, for example, buy loose vegetables rather than those in plastic bags. **Share your ideas and make it your Lenten challenge!**

Christine Dadd



Nurdles



We were delighted to be able to meet again in person in January and to have as our speaker Jan Cooper, a representative for Barnabas Fund, who are sending overseas thousands of kilogram bags of a specialised formula and in this way feeding starving families.

On **Tuesday 15th March** it is our Quiet Hour to prepare us for the wonderful Easter season. Anne Ellis will lead this special time from 7.30pm in the Church Hall. On **Monday 25th April** our meeting will be about the RNLI, and will be in the Church Hall at 3pm. Please do come to either of these meetings - if you wish to become a member or find out more, do speak to any one of the

Committee who will be happy to tell you about MU. *Monica Mullinex, Ruth Parker, Angela Edwards, Rosemary Keavey, Anne Ellis, Margaret Woodford, Sue Graham and Pippa Davey*





Tom Blenkiron RIP

Tom described his childhood as idyllic. He spent a lot of time with his dad and uncle, often on the North Yorkshire Moors, enjoying an outdoor life that gave him a love of the natural world, and an enviable knowledge of it.

He could identify birds by their call, plumage or flight pattern and was generous in sharing this knowledge.

Tom was a keen walker throughout his life and passed on his enjoyment of walking to the rest of the family.

He had a deep and abiding Christian faith, but didn't grow up in a church-going family. His faith grew from playing table tennis at a youth club run by the local church every Sunday. The boys could only attend if they also went to the evening service. Over time Tom became curious about church and his faith developed from this.

Tom was kind, generous, loyal, and had a strong sense of duty and service. Attending St Mary's church from the early 1960s, he served as sidesperson, church warden, member of PCC, several committees, and as treasurer for 7 years. He helped with Christian Aid Week and delivered Ch@t magazines into his 90's.

When Tom left school he completed National Service in the RAF, then graduated from Leeds University with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and a fiancé!

He was a devoted husband to Norma for more than 67 years. They received cards and congratulations from the Queen on their Diamond and Blue Sapphire Wedding Anniversaries and had 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. Tom loved and was very proud all of them.

Tom was practical and talented. Handy around the house, he decorated, did simple plumbing and electrics, and made items of furniture. A self-taught pianist, he played mainly by ear, and as a member of Thornbury Music Ministry for many years he enjoyed singing and taking music into local prisons.

Tom belonged to Thornbury Art Club for over 50 years, enjoying club nights, and the support and friendship of the Tuesday Afternoon Studio Group. He and Norma became very accomplished pastel artists, their home like a gallery of their work. Tom also enjoyed wood carving and produced some beautiful pieces, including a love spoon carved with his and Norma's initials.

One thing about Tom that always stood out was his optimism and irrepressible positivity. He loved life, always had "a smashing time" and always said thank you.

Lucy Blenkiron



YOYO: You on your own NOT ANY MORE!

YOYO is a social group aimed at, but not exclusively for people on their own. The idea is to form a group of people who would like to meet with others on

an AD HOC basis. Friends of YOYU would be able to contact each other to meet up for:

- A coffee and chat on a rainy day

- Visit a National Trust place
- Meet for lunch or have a few members around for lunch eg on a bank holiday
- Take a guided walk following Thornbury heritage trail
- Take the bus together to Bristol and have a guided walk around Bristol harbour stopping for coffee and lunch.
- Walk around Tortworth arboretum.
- Join a craft group knitting, embroidery or tapestry in a member's home.

Many people are on their own at times, and this is just a way of getting people together in a very relaxed planned and at times spontaneous way. We meet on an AD HOC basis for a cuppa at Coffee 1 in the High street every Wednesday at 2pm for a natter. We also meet monthly at the Methodist hall (downstairs) at 2pm to chat and discuss ideas we might like to explore. Next meeting 2 pm 9/3/22 . To cover hall and refreshments there is a £2.00 cost.

Further information please contact : Val Ricketts 0773 9086462 val.ricketts@hotmail.co.uk or Jacky Cadwgan 0750 4633350

A Warm Welcome to Jemma Synnott Our New Parish Administrator.

Jemma writes:

I have really enjoyed my first few weeks in the Church office and have been made to feel very welcome! It's been lovely meeting so many new faces and being part of such a great community.

Rev'd Joy and Jenny Ovens have both proved themselves to be excellent teachers with lots of patience! I hope to have the hang of all the jobs very soon (however, I have managed to navigate the winding office staircase fairly successfully so far.)

I look forward to continuing learning, meeting more of the community and what the next few months will bring. Particularly the warmer weather, I hope!

Thank you to everyone for their kind words and support in my new role so far.

Jemma



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 :Samantha 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 March and April below.

Please double check venues/times with weekly Newsletter!



Special dates for March and April

Shrove Tuesday (1st March) Pancakes online (Zoom) Either join from your kitchen to cook, or eat your pancakes with other friendly souls, or even bring along your normal dinner just for a chance to gather informally at the beginning of the season.

Ash Wednesday (2nd March) Lots of choices from Holy Communion with Ashing at St Pauls (10 am), a service of prayer at Oldbury (4pm) and an evening Communion with Ashing at St Mary's (7pm)

Friday (4th March) 7.30pm World Day of Prayer service at the Methodist Church. 2022 is a special year for WDP in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as ladies in these countries have prepared the service

Mothering Sunday (27th March) Muddy Praise comes to St Paul's! For the first time we will be gathering for our Muddy service on Hackett Lane. Bring your wellies for a service of walking, crafts and a simple supper (all are welcome).

Palm Sunday (10th April) Hopefully we will have a donkey with us for our all-age service at St Mary's (10.30), and the choir with us for a wonderful service of choral evensong at St Arilda's (6pm)

Holy Week services:

Monday 11th April – A service of 'Nine lessons for Easter' @ St Mary's, 7pm

Tuesday 12th April – A service for Holy Week @ St Paul's, 7pm

Wednesday 13th April – Night prayer for Easter @ St Arilda's, 7pm

Thursday 14th April – Maundy Thursday AGAPE supper and service @ the Church Hall, 7pm

Good Friday 15th April – Service of reflections and music @ St Mary's, 12-1.30

Walk of witness for Oldbury, 3pm

Easter Sunday services:

6am – Dawn Service @ St Arilda's (incense may be used at this service)

9am – Holy Communion @ St Paul's followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

10.30am – All-age Communion with Baptisms @ St Mary's followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

3pm – Outdoor hymns for Easter @ Shepperdine. Dress for the weather!



The (Oldbury) Church Mouse

*"Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half split open hassocks
Here where the Vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books"*



So wrote Sir John Betjeman in his poem "Diary of a Church Mouse." We hope we don't offer the above attractions any more especially after our mammoth Spring Clean, but a mouse had taken residence in the Children's Corner beanbag which was soon disposed of!!

We waved goodbye to the little culprit one day as he /she scampered out through the south porch towards the sunny Cowhill steps.

Unfortunately he/she has somehow returned as only a short time before two Baptisms were about to take place we found that wax crayons had been nibbled and then mouse droppings were found in 2 small boxes of toys without lids! We hastily put them in my car boot ready to be taken home to wash and disinfect, (or reject altogether!) We will now have all boxes with lids on in the new Corner and hope this works! Be warned!

Meg Adnams

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

The Editorial Committee of Ch@T is: Angela Swan (Editor)
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