

Welcome to Ch@t (Church at Thornbury)

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

February 2019

In this our first edition of 2019, we send good wishes to all our Readers and Contributors for a Happy and Blessed New Year !

We report on the events of a memorable Advent and Christmas! In December Monica Mullinex produced an excellent "Experience Christmas" interactive exhibition - visited by all the pupils of St Mary's School (p2). There was an innovative service at St Mary's - with a Harry Potter Theme - very enthusiastically supported! The Church was packed for the traditional services such as the School Carol Services and the Crib service on Christmas Eve - the latter with Youth orchestra, and a very large cast ! At their Candleglow Service MU members reminisced about Christmas Customs of the past ! (p4).

Finally - the traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was beautifully sung by St Mary's Choir (see p5) - joined by some members of Octaves.

A big Thank You to all those who helped make Advent and Christmas so special!

The deadline for the next edition of Chat is February 5th. Send copy to aj.swan1@btinternet.com



Rev'd Jan writes

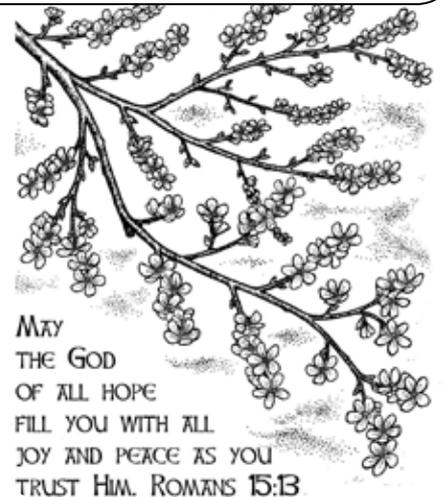
This year Easter falls late in April, so we have a month of 'ordinary time' between Candlemas at the start of February and the beginning of Lent which is on 6th March, Ash Wednesday.

Candlemas marks the end of the celebrations linked to the birth of Christ, and is the moment when we turn 'from the cradle to the cross' with the words spoken by Simeon to Mary when they met at the Temple. The 40 day old Jesus was brought to be presented to the Lord, and by the Spirit Simeon recognised him as the Messiah. He said to Mary 'A sword will pierce your own heart also', indicating the suffering that lay in wait for her as well as for Jesus.

The shadow of the cross was already sensed.

But Simeon also called Jesus 'the light that would lighten the Gentiles', and later Jesus called himself 'the light of the world'. That's why candles were traditionally blessed at this festival, to be used through the year, bringing light into the darkness.

Our task as people of faith following in his way is to shine that light, whether in times of joy or of suffering and pain. He is with us through all those experiences and has been there himself, transforming even the most terrible suffering into redemption and resurrection.



KIDS PRAISE

Sunday

10th February

4pm St Mary's



Muddy Church

17th February 2.45 at St Mary's.

"Stick Sunday"

This month we will collect sticks for a fire in the churchyard; sparks may fly! Come and join us as we celebrate the warmth and light that Jesus brings.



Stop press notice: Rev'd Jan is to take up a new post as Canon Chancellor at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff. Her last Sunday with us will be Palm Sunday, 14th April, and her licensing at the Cathedral will be on Sunday 5th May. More details to follow, but do save both dates!
www.llandaffcathedral.org.uk

Children



Hopscotch!!!

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



This term we are going to concentrate on the weather and today we were talking about the wind. In our story today, we heard about Paul who had to go on a long journey by boat. All was calm at first but then there was a terrible storm with high winds. Every-one was frightened but Paul reassured them that an angel had told him that they would all be safe but shipwrecked on an island.

This is a photo of us all in the boat - and then having our snacks afterwards!

Advent wreaths made at Muddy Church ▶



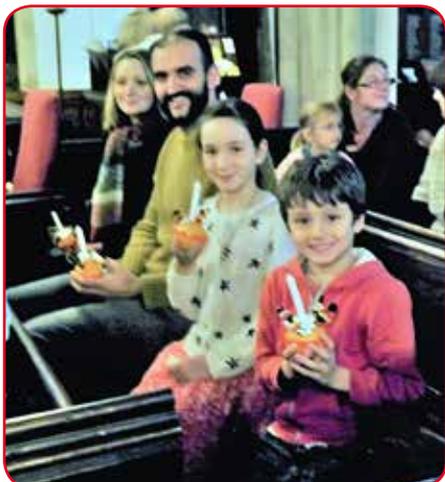
Ed Many thanks to all those who provided additional photos for this Christmas Chat - and throughout 2018 !
David Moyse, Fiona Mitchell , Rev'd 's Jan and Joy, Vivienne and Ian Larkin, Hilary Craig, Meg Adnams, and other friends, parents etc.!.
So much appreciated!.



A look back at Advent
 To a wonderful
Christingle Service
 at St Mary's in aid of the
 Childrens Society
 - with Octaves Children's
 Choir



Octaves ▼





Christmas Eve and the magic of the Crib Service!

St Mary's was packed to capacity (350 plus!)
Thank you to the young Orchestra (see left), to ALL who took part, and to all who helped!



Note the very fetching Star and Donkey (above)! alias Rev'd's Joy and Jan!
- New Clergy Vestments for Christmas?

Harry Potter Themed Service

At the Advent Sunday Family Service we thought about exciting journeys, and found that Harry Potter's journey helped us understand more about our Christian journey - especially that love is the key to defeating evil.'

The photos show some of the great costumes. The above photo shows the prayer letters that the congregation wrote, which the children as 'post owls' brought up to the altar, with Rev'd Joy the chief owl (below).



Carol Singing

In spite of earlier torrential rain, our prayers were answered and a group of us once again had a pleasantly dry evening to sing carols and spread the joy of Christmas to the people living in the neighbourhood of the Church Hall. It's always lovely when people come out to their doors, often with children, to listen and request their favourite carols.

Vivienne and Ian Larkin

Confirmation by Bishop Robert of Tewkesbury



Bishop Robert confirmed Lisa Turner and Ronnie Walters at the morning Eucharist on December 16th.

Julian Trust Pack & Wrap Party



We were thrilled with the response to the Advent Appeal! Thank you to everyone who through their generosity, made it possible for us once again to make up presents for 243 people at the Julian Trust Night shelter. We know they are appreciated as for some it will have been the only present they would receive.

Thank you to the 18 people (see photo above) who came and 'stuffed' and wrapped the presents – team work meant we were all done in two and a half hours!.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



At the MU Candleglow service in December we were treated to Christmas Reminiscences from current MU Members — a lovely insight into traditions of the past! Imagine the excitement of little girls setting off around Hill village, carol singing and collecting for The Children's Society (just as we did at our recent Chistingle service!). Other children called at a local farm for drinks and mince pies!

There were the daughters of a vicar who was not willing to allow presents to be opened until the morning service was over and he had had his cup of coffee!

(Those daughters made sure a good deal of cold milk got into that cup of coffee!)

Another mother hid presents all over the house - -some presents took weeks to reappear as in her rush mother didn't always remember where the gifts were hidden!

Then there was a memory of a first midnight communion - when the congregation was greeted by snow falling at the end of the service. So magical!

Next meeting 7.30, Tues. 19 February - our Quiet Hour.
Visitors welcome. For info about MU, tel Ruth Parker 850667, or any other Committee Member.

Manner of speaking!?

'Are your father and your mother in?' asked the vicar when the small boy opened the door.

'They was in,' said the youngster. *'But they is out.'*

'They was in. They is out. Where's your grammar, young man?'

'She's gone upstairs, for a nap.'

February Saint

Matthias the Apostle:

the chosen one - 24 February

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly. If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you!

After Judas's suicide the early church was missing an apostle, - the remaining 11 apostles needed to choose a replacement. The qualifications for the job were special; the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection.

Possibilities were Mathias and Joseph Barabas.. The apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. Judas' betrayal had led to this opportunity for him and he was well prepared!

Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then in Cappadocia. He was possibly martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually were taken to Rome by the Empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

Music at St Mary's

4th Sunday at St Mary's Recitals at 4pm

(On January 27th, there was to be a recital by Saxophonist by Lydia Kenny, winner of the Gloucestershire Young Musicians competition. report next month)

On February 24th the Year 11 Steel band from Castle School (Steel Storm!) will be playing for us.

On March 24th the "Clarinet Choir" will visit

Entrance is free and recitals are followed by Refreshments



SUNDAY RECITAL SERIES

The excellent 4pm Sunday Recital at St Mary's in November was given by Notabene, the Bristol-based Vocal Ensemble (see above rt) with guest soprano Meg Brand. The theme was "Shakespeare's Seasons" —a sequence of songs and sonnets set to music by various composers - including Ensemble member Helen Jacobs.

The Ensemble will be returning to Thornbury in April! An excellent afternoon's entertainment!



The candlelit Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
always a highlight of Christmas, was sung by St Mary's Choir augmented by some musical friends - and joined by members of Octaves



Book Review

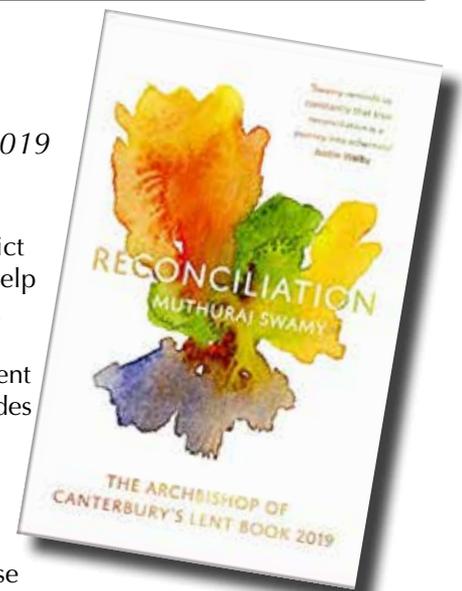
Reconciliation

the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2019

By Dr Muthurai Swamy, SPCK, £9.99

What is the role that ordinary people play in conflict and division – and reconciliation? This book will help you to begin a ministry bequeathed to us by Christ Himself. It calls for stronger relationships among church members; building connections with different denominations, as well as maintaining open attitudes towards those of other religions and ideologies.

The 40 meditations consider impediments to reconciliation, risking the self, the benefits of humility, self-criticism, radical openness and peace with justice. **Reconciliation** is suitable for use at weekly gatherings or for everyday devotion during Lent.



Oldbury Advent Service of Light

This lovely service was conducted by the Revd. Joy - seen here lighting some of the candles!

Special Diary Dates February 2018

These dates are additional to the regular Sunday Services 8.00am, 10.30am, and 6.00pm St Mary's. 9.15am St Paul's. Hopscotch 9.15am Thursday in term-time St Mary's.

All-age services etc highlighted.

Special adult occasions in Capitals

Sunday 3 February. CANDLEMAS

10.30am St Mary's **FAMILY SERVICE**

CHORAL EVENSONG 6pm St Mary's

Sunday 10 February 4pm St Mary's **KIDS PRAISE**

Sunday 17 February STICK SUNDAY. St Mary's **2.45 MUDDY CHURCH**

Saturday 23 February 7pm **Church Hall Film Night.**

Sunday 24 February 4pm St Mary's CONCERT - CASTLE SCHOOL STEEL BAND

Sunday 3 March 10.30am St Mary's **FAMILY SERVICE**

ASH WEDNESDAY 6th March.

EUCHARIST WITH ASHES at 10am and 7.30pm at St Mary's.

Looking Ahead - Easter dates

Good Friday 19 April, Easter Sunday 21 April, Easter Monday 22 April.

St Arilda's Oldbury

Sunday 3 February, CANDLEMAS Service at 6pm with Rev'd Jan.

Sunday 10 February, at 10.30am, REFRESH! entitled "WHATS THE CATCH?" with Rev'd Jan

Sunday 17 February, 6pm, CW communion with Revd Joy

Sunday 24 February, 6pm, EVENSONG led by Matthew Riddle.



St Mary's Shepperdine

Sunday 24th February, 9.30am, BCP communion led by Revd Joy.

Join us for Choral Evensong On CANDLEMAS Sunday, 3rd February, 6pm at St Mary's Thornbury,



Fairtrade Fortnight

25th February to 10th March.

This year's theme focuses on Cocoa.

A Fairtrade Producer is visiting – look out for details.

Traidcraft is celebrating its 40th Birthday – please support by buying Fairtrade from them – available in Thornbury from URC Church every Saturday morning.

Film Night at the Church Hall



will be held on Saturdays

Feb 23rd, March 30th

All films start at 7pm.

Entry Free - no tickets!

Programme details will be in weekly Newsletter 2 weeks prior to showing

RIP. Memories of Rae and Howard (below)

RIP. Rachel Greener Forster

Rae first came to Thornbury in 1964 with husband Les and children Jill and Trevor. After a time in Abingdon and then abroad, they eventually returned here to retire. Rae was active in St Mary's Church - appreciating the friends she made, especially after Les died.

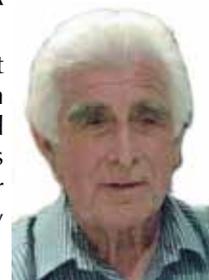


An MU member, and active on the Social committee, Rae was cofounder - with Mabel Boyse - of the Lunch Club - a forerunner of today's "Sunday Lunch" and "Out and About". A lady of faith, strength of will and determination. Our sympathy is with Jill, Trevor and her five grandchildren.

RIP. Thomas Howard Lloyd

Howard Lloyd was an ICI man all his working life, and a strong Labour supporter. A quiet Welshman, his passions were Family, Rugby and Bird Watching - a long time volunteer at WWT Slimbridge, Howard led the U3A Bird Watching Group.

A much-appreciated Holy Mower at St Mary's, and a regular attendee at the 8am Sunday Service, Howard is greatly missed by Mary, his wife of 52 years, and all his family. The Tribute was given by Gaynor and Moira, and a poem tribute written by granddaughter Jasmine, was read by Paul.



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.



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