



Ch@t



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

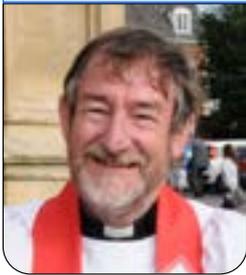
Living God's love for all

Welcome to Ch@t (Church at Thornbury)

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

May 2020

Welcome to the May edition of Chat - produced in difficult times as we struggle to come to terms with the Coronavirus epidemic! It seems ironic that this is the 75th Anniversary of VE day - when our parents/grandparents at last celebrated the end of WW2! But today's "enemy" is much more subtle - and in some ways more frightening - Nevertheless we must pull together, - as Rev'd Tom says - trust in God, and look forward in hope!



Being grateful for what we've got

In times of trouble people often turn to the psalms for comfort, but not all of the psalms are like that. Bishop Tom Wright in a recent article entitled "Christianity Offers No Answers about the Coronavirus - It's Not Supposed To" mentions some that give comfort but also points out that many are psalms of lamentation or protest. For example Psalm 88 "starts in misery and ends in darkness". Some of the psalms, like many of the prophets are voices of protest. As a teenager in the early 1960's I was very much into the protest songs of the time, and one in particular resonates with me at this time. Joni Mitchell's song "Big Yellow Taxi" contains the lyrics "You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone" and speaks to me as we lament about the many things we took for granted but are now missing with the restrictions surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of these are simple pleasures like the freedom to walk in the park as we wish, but others are more hurtful to us like being unable to see family.

Not being able to worship or share the Eucharist *in Church* is painful for many Christians although we are finding different ways around this by using modern communications technology. As a priest and being further restricted by being a vulnerable person on account of my age, I find the hardest part not being able to be there in person when people are in need of spiritual comfort, and I know many colleagues feel the same.

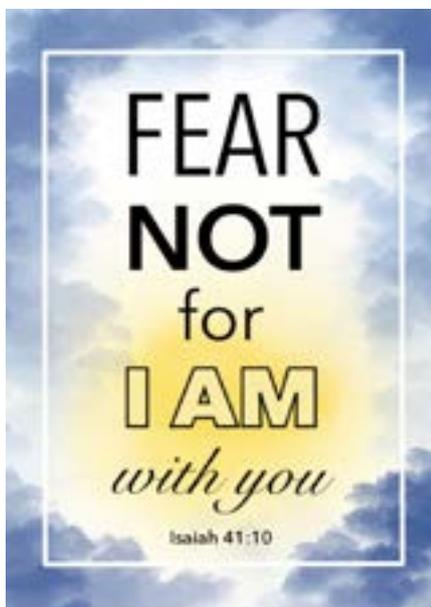
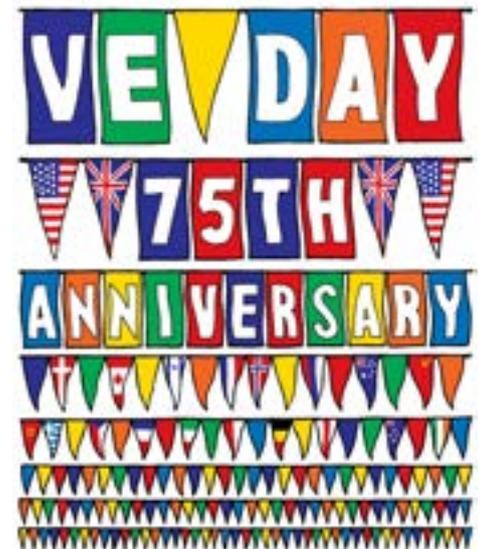
But this, too, shall pass and even if things are different afterwards hopefully we will build something beautiful together with the best of what we have learned. We are people of hope, an Easter People. Psalm 23, that great psalm of comfort, reminds us that we walk "through the valley of the shadow...." and God is with us every step of the way

Whatever we are missing at the moment, there are other joys. With less traffic about birdsong is heard more clearly and the air is cleaner. Albeit from a distance, I am able to see and talk to more neighbours and strangers than when I am in my car. Unlike so many more vulnerable people throughout the world, most of us have food and shelter. And thank God for the large army of volunteers coming forward to help in the crisis! We look forward in hope to the new social order that will inevitably emerge as this crisis is put behind us and in the meantime we thank God for what we have.

Rev Tom



May 2020



Hopscotch!!!



Like our mouse
Hopscotch is
sleeping
during
"Lockdown"



Dear children and carers,

These are very difficult times for us all but it must be especially difficult for parents and carers, trying to keep our little people occupied.

Please rest assured that you have not been forgotten and we all send our thoughts and prayers to you all.

If you are able to go out for a short walk, enjoy the spring flowers and blossoming trees. It's such a beautiful time of the year of new life and hope.

It reminded me of Jesus' parable of the Mustard Seed in Luke 13 v 18 and 19.

'Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew, became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."



Perhaps you would like to paint some eggs, fill with cotton wool and plant some mustard seeds. They grow extremely quickly!

Take care and stay safe.

Love from Hilary and all the Hopscotch team.

A Message from St Mary's School

Headmaster Karl Joyce writes



It has been a strange time at the School!

Since the Eisteddfod it seems we went into gradual lockdown!.

Until then we had been driving a new initiative, - OPAL- a scheme that puts constructive play at the heart of learning — changing policy by allowing all year round use of the field, no more staying in during wet playtimes! - Instead we have increased play activities all round school, - new wellie sheds, an outdoor mud kitchen, - and thanks to parents we have toys, games we can use on the field- even a boat donated to us which we are going to set into a beach for children to play on!

We would also like an old truck—if anyone has an old 4x4 with a flatbed we would be very interested in it for the OPAL play!.



As ever we look towards extending the wider curriculum for the children!. A large number of visitors thoroughly enjoyed our Science and Engineering Fair. Older children had Pedestrian training with the Road Safety team, and Year 3 had scooter training. The dance festival and well-attended Eisteddfod enabled our pupils to display their considerable talents, and there was a memorable visit from well-known childrens author Tracey Corderoy, who worked with all of the pupils!

As usual, we had great fun on World Book Day, everyone dressing up as their favourite fictional characters! Finally — we had a Safe Internet Day to teach, remind, and really ingrain the need to be safe and vigilant when using the internet! These events came about due to a huge team effort from all staff and parents, showing the strength of our school community and the high expectations we have at St Mary's.

As we move forward as a school we will be looking for a new deputy head teacher, Mr Pike having deservedly achieved his first headship in Wiltshire.

He has helped drive the success of St Mary's for the last five years and will be very much missed by the school community.

Currently the School is partially open, teachers, teaching assistants and administrators are in on a rota basis and are prepared to work right through to September if needed in order to do our bit to support key workers in fighting the Coronavirus. It is a privilege to lead such a devoted and hard-working staff. K. Joyce Head Teacher.

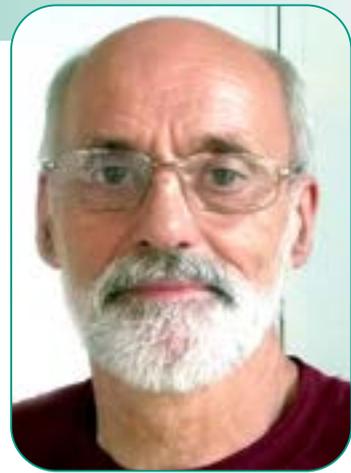
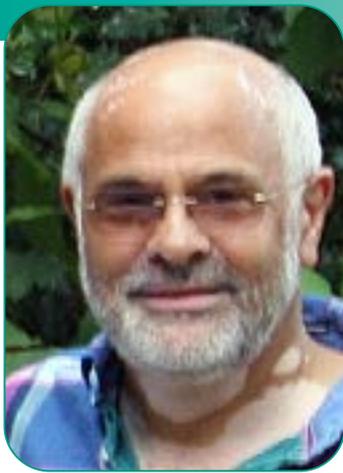
*Ed On behalf of all our readers, congratulations and many thanks to Mr Joyce and his wonderful staff, for their considerable efforts!
And good wishes to Mr Pike as he moves on to his first headship.*

Holy Week and Easter as we remember it



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
John 11:25





Greetings and News from your Churchwardens

We were very glad to see Rev'd Joy back from America (a week early! and just in time before the airports closed). We are very grateful to her for having such a "get up and go" presence in this current situation; thank you Joy for your leadership.

We know that there are a lot of phone calls being made every day to our friends, our families and our church family. If you are missing out on a chat with someone please ring one of us and we can make sure you have a regular phone call; if you need help in any way please don't hesitate to contact us (phone numbers on the newsletter) - and if you need some shopping or a prescription collected then Mike Elcock and Tom Usherwood and family are very happy to help - thanks Mike and Usherwoods. Please get in touch with us so we can get them "on the job" for you.

Some of you may be wondering about what is happening about our Church "business" during this unique time. Not everything has stopped! So here is a brief update.

- In case you hadn't heard, we unfortunately had to postpone the interviews for the appointment of our new vicar. We will let you know, as soon as we know, when these will now take place.
- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting due in April has been postponed and will now be held sometime before the end of October. As a result the position of Churchwarden has been extended to 31 January 2021. Any PCC members whose term of office was due to end this year will continue until the delayed APCM is held.
- Whilst St Mary's Church has to be kept closed, we are grateful that the stonemasons have continued carrying out the relaying of the entrance paving. However, we are not sure now when this will be completed as Mark (an RAF reservist) has been called up.
- At St Paul's Church and the Church Hall, the new audio-visual systems (with permanent projectors and new speakers) have been installed. They look good, so when we are able to return to worship and to use the Hall again, we can look forward to seeing and using the new and improved systems.
- At St Mary's, we are waiting for the Faculty (permission) for the repair of the Tower clock. The clock needs a major overhaul and repair so, once the lockdown is over, the clock will be taken away for this work to be done in Cumbria Clocks' workshop. Upon its return, electric motors will be added to allow for automatic winding. At present, volunteers (thank you!) have to climb the Tower weekly to manually wind the clock!
- We have also submitted an application to the Diocesan Advisory Council for the installation of a new audio-visual system for St Mary's Church. This will however take some time, especially as everyone is now working from home.

The Churchwardens, Joy and Tom are holding weekly online meetings, via "Zoom", to discuss parish matters. The joys of social media!

With all good wishes **Robin, Mike and Jenny**



Mothering Sunday:

Revd Tom

While churches were still open for private worship on Mothering Sunday Revd Tom celebrated the Eucharist with Ann in St. Mary's and received the sacrament on behalf of all in our benefice.

Sadly Churches are now completely closed but while we are separated physically due to current restrictions, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. The Eucharist is itself a Holy Mystery and I have

faith that despite only two being physically present on Mothering Sunday the Holy Spirit will bless the whole of our community through this Eucharist. Mothering Sunday reminds us that we are called to mother all of God's children and his creation, just as Christ wants to gather us under his protective wings, even when we are not willing!

If Diocesan Clergy wish to continue to observe the Eucharist they have been asked to do this in their own homes.

What the Archbishop says:



On 17th March, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York put the public worship of the Church of England "on hold", calling on Christians to become "a church rooted in prayer and serving others."

They urge congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor, and the most vulnerable, during the crisis.

"We may not be able to pray *with* people, but we can certainly pray *for* people. Carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it! Help keep the night shelters open where possible"

They add: "This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?"

The spread of Coronavirus

Ven. John Barton writes

Thorough, frequent hand washing with soap and water is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the first step to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

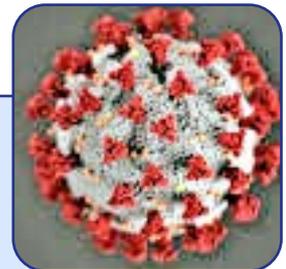
Coronavirus, Covid-19, has been in the news for months: *fear is spreading more rapidly than the disease! World Stock markets have plummeted; Sports fixtures cancelled, towns quarantined, - worldwide trade threatened.*

Statistics change hourly, so the following figures may be out of date, but we need to put this "plague" into perspective. The Ebola that swept through Africa from 2014 onwards, killed a third of sufferers, but we now have a vaccine for the disease. Past influenza pandemics were less severe— 'Asian Flu' in 1957, led to 3,550 deaths in England and Wales, about 2.4% of actual cases. In 2009, the fatality figure for swine flu epidemic was about 0.026%. At the time of writing the figures for today's Covid-19 virus suggest around 80% of cases are mild, 14% develop severe symptoms, 4% become critically ill and the death rate is 2% +

(Ed please note approx figure - only time will tell the real impact of Coronavirus).

The virus was first publicised by Dr Li Wenliang (he was censured by Chinese police for "spreading false rumours"! He himself died from the disease, but his courage saved many lives. As for the people of China where the virus originated, the Bishop of Newcastle has tweeted a Sri Lankan poster, which shows the right Christian attitude. It says, "HATE THE VIRUS, NOT THE CHINESE. Let's pray for them instead". Amen. **And do wash your hands.**

Editor: We offer you this article by the Ven John Barton, commenting on coronavirus. But we are well aware that things are changing rapidly.... (from "Parish Pump")





Are you coping with isolation? Those of us who have company are SO lucky, what about those who are alone? Please remember them, telephone or send an email to your friends, at this difficult time. If all of us keep in touch with a few in some way, everyone will feel part of the church family. I am keeping a list of everyone and it would be wonderful if you kept me in touch with any concerns, or of course one of the clergy.

As an idea, in our road we have a What's app. Group, we all have each other's contact details or at least their phone numbers, so even if you are not on the Web, neighbours keep in touch. Those who cannot shop are wonderfully helped by younger folks who offer to do the shopping! We all arranged to be outside clapping last night to thank those still at work especially the NHS. Whilst this morning some of us gathered outside our homes, separated, to exercise for a while. Next week we plan to meet at tea time with our cuppa for a chat, let's hope the weather holds!

My childhood memory is gathering primroses with my great aunt in Chewton Mendip Church to create a tomb and garden at Easter Time. We sometimes still do that at St Paul's Church, especially if we have any children to help, I shall miss decorating the church this year, as well as all the thought provoking services. It is lovely to feel that some customs are never lost.

Sheila Jones Pastoral Care coordinator Tel: 01454 412989



Belated Cheerful News

from Lucy Blenkiron about her parents who celebrated their Blue Sapphire wedding anniversary (65 years) - on 16th October 2019!

They received a second card from the Queen (they had their first on their Diamond anniversary 5 years earlier). Peter and Lucy took them back to Torquay for the week of their anniversary. They went there for their honeymoon and as far as possible have returned for a holiday at that time of year every year since. We had a lovely time visiting a lot of their favourite places and spent the actual day of the anniversary touring Dartmoor.



DURING THIS TIME OF LOCKDOWN

No one's told the daffodils about the pause to Spring
 And no one's told the birds to roost and asked them not to sing
 No one's asked the lazy bee to cease his bumbling round
 And no one's stopped the bright green shoots emerging through the ground
 No one's told the sap to rest, deep within the wood
 And stop the sleepy trees from waking, wreathed about in bud
 No one's told the sky to douse its brightest shades of blue
 And stop the scudding clouds from puffing headlong into view
 No one's asked the lambs to still the springs beneath their feet,
 To stop their rapid rush and quell each joyful bleat
 No one's told the stream to halt its gurgle or its flow
 And warned the playful breezes, not to gust and blow
 No one's asked the raindrops not to fall upon the earth
 And fail to quench the soil in the season of rebirth
 No one's locked the sun down, or dimmed the shimmer of the moon
 And even in the darkest night, the stars are still immune.
 Remember what you value, remember who is dear
 Close the doors to danger and keep your family near
 In the quiet all around us take the time to sit and stare
 And wonder at the glory unfurling everywhere
 Look towards the future, after the ordeal
 And keep faith in Mother Nature's power and will to heal

Philippa Atkins

Sent by Kate Phillipson-Masters

Smile Lines:

A young man fell asleep in the Sunday morning service, and soon began to snore. The preacher stopped and impatiently motioned to the young boy beside the man to wake him up. The boy said: "Wake him up yourself, you put him to sleep."

A tourist, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked." "Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."

The retiring sidesman was instructing his youthful successor in his Sunday morning duties. "And remember, my boy," he said, "that we have nothing but good, kind Christians in this church - until you try to put someone else in their pew."



Eco Church

Church of England sets 2030 Net Zero carbon target

The Church of England's General Synod has now set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. The original target was 2045.

At its February 2020 meeting, members voted in favour of a revised date encouraging all parts of the Church of England to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions.

The motion follows the launch of the Church of England's **first ever Green Lent (#LiveLent) campaign** for 2020.

The Church of England has also announced an **appliance-style foot-printing tool** for parishes to calculate their carbon footprint.

Following the debate, The Bishop of Salisbury, Nick Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop for the Environment said: "To reach Synod's target of 2030 we will each need to hear this as an urgent call to action. This is a social justice issue, and if the Church is to hold others to account, we have to get our own house in order."



Thoughts on Curtains

"At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom" we read during the Passion narrative from Matthew 27 v 51 as Jesus death broke through the holy curtain to allow all to enter into God's presence. This made me start thinking about how we use curtains.

- Keeping "safe" behind our curtains so that we keep our distance from visitors outside.
- Drawing shut curtains to get a little privacy in prayer or to stop neighbours looking into our lives.
- Neighbours children (here and overseas) using old curtains to make a tent.
- Opening curtains to admire God's creation this Spring, water our bean seedlings growing on the windowsill or to wave to a friend.
- This morning a bee trapped in the nets buzzed prompting me to open the window so it could continue pollinating the flowers.

Environmentally we could make further use of our curtains. Save electricity by opening them to allow natural reading light in. If it becomes too warm, rather than using a fan, close them to keep the sun out.

A final thought - if we decide to Remove our Curtains to wash them (For safety reasons please do not do this if on your own) perhaps we do not need a drier but could dry them outside in the fresh air.

Marian Stephens

Please remember Christian Aid week - 10th-16th May.

Full resources for virtual CA week events on their website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week>



May Mission: Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week takes place 10-16 May 2020 and whilst the usual house to house collection was replaced last year with a special collection in church, sadly neither can happen this year. In 2019 Christian Aid Week raised over £7.5 million. However, we can all still help through prayer.

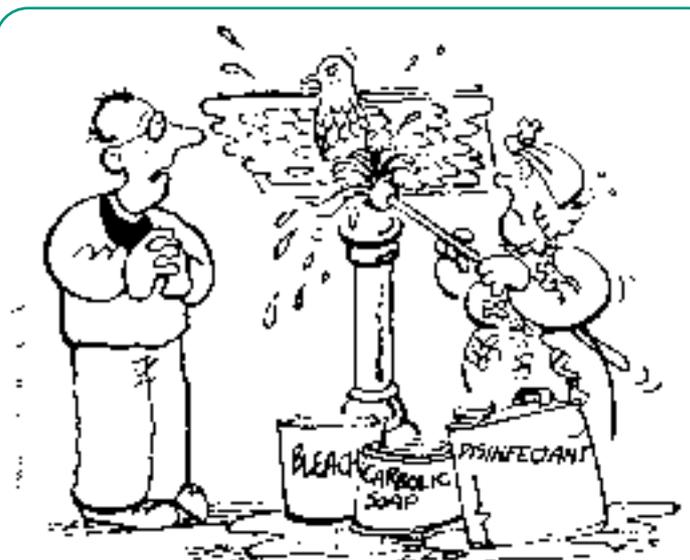
There is also a virtual Christian Aid week online. It is more important than ever that we come together as a community to worship and to share fun and fellowship. That's why during Christian Aid Week they will be live streaming worship each day, and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds.

Christian Aid already has experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis. They continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this time. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, living in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat wide-spread disease. Christian Aid will be working on the ground to limit the impact of Covid-19.

Please pray for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders.

Christine Dadd, Chair, Missions: Global and Local Concern

***Even in the darkest moments, Love gives hope.
Love compels us to fight against coronavirus
alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.
Love compels us to stand together in prayer
with our neighbours near and far.
Love compels us to give and act as one.***



Mabel, I can't help thinking you're taking this risk of bird flu a bit too seriously!

Cartoon from 2005:
Were we almost here before?
Coronavirus seems very different



Faith Sharing Group.

A lovely story of Emergency communication before phones!

The faith sharing group had a meeting today over Zoom, and one of the issues discussed was communicating- Anne Ellis gave this talk about communications 50 years ago in a Village School, when she was first teaching.

Many of us have the luxury (or necessity) of the Internet to keep in touch with friends and family- but we are very aware of folk who are not so fortunate. So what happened in the past? When I first started teaching in a village school on the Mendips I was told that when it snows we close.

The school was built in 1899 overlooking the village at the top of "Jack and Jill" hill. In fact there were hills all around which were so steep as to be impassable when it snowed. The staff and many pupils lived in scattered villages and farms.

So how did we know when the school would be closed? Fortunately the caretaker lived in a cottage at the foot of the hill and he would phone the headmaster early in the morning. The head activated the "snow list". He rang the staff who in turn phoned a few allocated families and they then rang their contacts. For those without telephones (and there were quite a few of those in the 1970s) they would be informed by the nearest household, using the older pupils as runners. If the phone lines were down then the school would be closed. Within half an hour every family knew it was a snow day what excitement!
Anne Ellis

If you have a church neighbour without Internet, perhaps could contact them and pass on Church News.



At this unusual time in our history - something none of us has ever experienced before - we know that our Members are busy praying for one another, and helping out with friends and neighbours as best they can, whilst keeping safe in the ways we have been told.

Earlier this year our ladies made 126 jars of marmalade, raising £215! for "AFIA—Away From It All holidays" - facilitating trips for those who wouldn't otherwise have a break away with family. Thanks to all for this exceptional effort! Helens jar of marmalade made to her mother-in-law 's recipe, also took first prize at Thornbury Horticultural Show in March. - praised for its excellent taste.

Of course, at the moment, our meetings have been postponed but we continue with contact and prayers of support for one another and the whole community of Thornbury. If you would like to know more about MU, please speak to one of the Members of our Committee.



St Mary's Choir members holding a Friday "Virtual Choir Practice" using the "ZOOM" conferencing application



Ed: It appears that all that singing requires frequent vocal cord lubrication

Here is some music that Malcolm was thinking that the choir might have sung during Holy Week if you want to listen to the recordings (*not a recording of the choir*)

Ubi Caritas - Ola Gjeilo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnfiL-fFMbU>

Hear my prayer O Lord - Henry Purcell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8E0dt0soWc>

Reproaches - Sanders

<https://youtu.be/scc7Lq7RE-o>

Possible Easter Sunday's anthems

Ecce vicit leo - Peter Philips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwThuURRCNw>

Haec dies - William Byrd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InsqKLskXEw>

Choir's virtual visit to Canterbury

Instead of our Canterbury Cathedral Evensong on the 22nd April we will be holding a combined virtual evensong with Goodnestone choir (Malcolm's father's choir) We will be singing - Thy Hand O God has guided.



Jo Andow Celebrated her 94th birthday in Style on 6th April!.

The Hollies Nursing Home made a great fuss of her with a party and cake. She had appreciated Thornbury cards and the family organised Skype so that she saw and spoke to relatives in Australia and Scotland. It all was a surprise!



To cheer up all you music lovers in this time of isolation and lockdown choir members have chosen a favourite piece of music complete with a [web link](#) so that you can listen—so long as you are on-line when reading Ch@t Think of it as the choir's "Desert Island Disc Favourite"

God be in my head - Philip Wilby

<https://youtu.be/4NkavyhiLxo>

I first heard this when Mandy sang the solo. It was so moving and she was really touched that Philip had asked her to sing it. I never thought that I would be part of the choir and to sing it too!
Thank you Philip
Ruth Piolle

O Magnum Mysterium - Morten Lauridsen

https://youtu.be/P1NAXyXf_Ww

Heard this first sung by Exultate Singers and found it spine tingling. I little thought I would have the opportunity to sing the soprano line at an Advent Carol Service and get a compliment from Kate for my efforts! We also sang this at Olbury for Joy's first Eucharist, another moving occasion.
Jenny

Bring us, O Lord God - William Harris

<https://youtu.be/D230UAmG1-w>

My favourite anthem is unquestionably "Bring us, O Lord God". I have always loved John Donnes prayer and found the words very moving. William Harris' setting is just sublime and, for me, extremely moving. However many times I have listened to it, I still find the last few chords to be a surprise and utterly beautiful.
Ian Philipson Masters

Rejoice in the Lord alway

<https://youtu.be/mQ1cyLvdBc4>

My choice of a favourite anthem is 'Rejoice in the Lord alway'. It is generally thought to be by that prolific composer Anon but was once attributed to John Redford who lived in the 16th century. A group of friends sang it for us at our wedding 50 years ago.
Kate Philipson Masters

*Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.
Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.*

Eternal Source of Light Divine - Handel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCSQd8Nx4ml>

I would choose Handel's Eternal Source of Light Divine, also sung at our wedding by James Davies (counter-tenor) with Nigel Davies (organ) and Ken Mitchell (trumpet) who were stars. This is our favourite recording: with Iestyn Davies and Alison Balsom, which we heard together on the radio. Neither of us knew the piece, but we looked at each other and said we must have this at our wedding, we were so moved by it.
Mike Elcock

Ubi Caritas - Durufle

<https://youtu.be/l1BTWCpEFRQ>

Helen and I chose this anthem for our wedding and it was sung by the augmented church choir. The words are very appropriate for a wedding and for all times, and the music is lovely. The words and translation are framed and hanging here as a lasting memory, thanks to Fiona's calligraphy.
Mike Elcock

Ecce Novum Gaudium - Kenneth Elliott

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKZbyIUiyOs>

My piece of music is 'Ecce Novum Gaudium', a traditional Scots christmas carol, sung here by the choir of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow. Fiona and I both sang in the choir of Largs Academy school back in the 19 somethings, and this was a piece that we sang many times. Since then, every year between Christmas and New Year we sing 9 lessons and carols at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Isles, on the island of Cumbrae, under the baton of our old music teacher. Most years we still sing this beautiful little carol.
Ken

Letter from Mark

Here in my remote outpost of Thornbury (Bishopston, BS7) I have been considering my favourite hymns. The ideal hymn should inspire with both words and tune, and two stand out for me. Both have tunes composed by 20th century composers to older texts, but both display a perfect marriage between words and music.

The words to **All my hope on God is founded** are by Robert Bridges (Poet Laureate 1913-1930). He based his text on a hymn by 17th century German theologian Joachim Neander. This is a strong, optimistic expression of Christian faith; the tune, Michael, by Herbert Howells, matches the words with its broad, confident swagger. The story goes that Howells received the request to write it with the morning post and finished it over breakfast! More poignantly, he named it after his son, who died young.

How shall I sing that majesty is by 17th century Buckinghamshire rector John Mason, set to the tune Coe Fen by Ken Naylor. This hymn expresses the writer's awe at the majesty of God, and the tune matches the text in its grandeur. In the highly improbable event of my ever tying the knot, both hymns would be sung at my wedding! ??!

Mark Hoskins

Ed: Everyone who attends St Mary's Church will know our friend Mark, who has sung tenor in the Choir there for many years! Mark is also a Sports Commentator for local radio.



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St Mary's C of E School - Head Teacher: Karl Joyce

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All services and events in Benefice previously advertised for May have been cancelled during the Coronavirus Lockdown

However, resources, services and reflections from the past weeks are available on our benefice Facebook page and the parish website, for use in our own homes



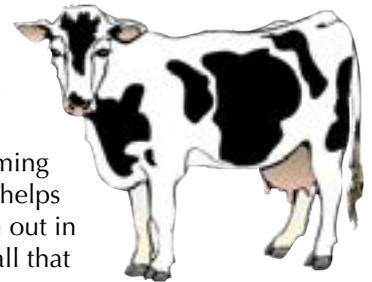
A Country File from Oldbury

An abridged version of report for "4ward" from Meg Adnams - our long-time Oldbury correspondent, now in sheltered accommodation in Thornbury. Meg keeps a close eye on Oldbury matters!

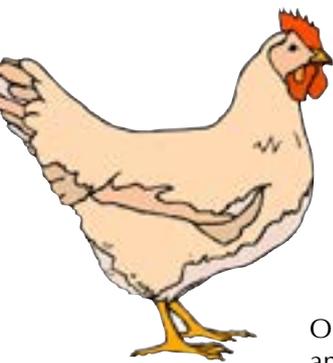
I miss my regular visits to Oldbury and Shepperdine especially the views from the churchyard and the peaceful serenity of Shepperdine. My grateful thanks to Revd Joy and colleagues for on-line news and Services. And to all those who work from home or commute to their jobs keep the country running at this difficult time.



In rural areas, farmers meet new challenges! These include our farming Oldbury Churchwardens Andrew Gazard, and Sandra Grey , who helps on husband Andrew's farm at Shepperdine. There, cows have been out in the fields day and night since the end of March. The grazing is not all that good - due to very mixed weather over the winter.



There were awful floods before the covoid-19 pandemic, but a teensy bit more rain now would help! The milk tankers are work-ing full-on to meet the demand of Supermarkets but will this lead to shortages of cheese and butter later? The herd of 40 cows at Manor Farm, smaller than usual, will all keep their calves. Prices are uncertain and rigid rules about social distancing at the cattle markets must be in place.

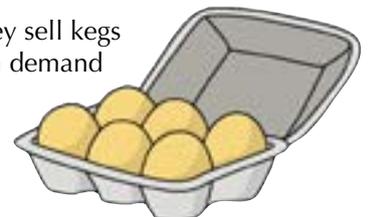


Andrew Gazard took delivery of a new flock of 12,000 chickens on March 27th. They arrive at 16 weeks old but don't lay eggs until at least 18 weeks. By 20 weeks of age 75% will be laying, rising gradually to 93%. The first 2 weeks are spent by Andrew walking through them indoors in newly cleaned sheds so they can learn where the nest boxes are! Soon they will venture into the great outdoors.

Andrew continues with his egg deliveries. Extra eggs are needed whilst people work from home but they apparently eat fewer potatoes! (Farmers are advised to plant less next year). Families are eating more pasta it appears. Andrew finds chicken feed has to be ordered well in advance - deliveries are taking longer.

On his travels Andrew has met commercial cider makers with problems - they sell kegs and cans. Less kegs needed whilst pubs are shut, but there's a big increase in demand for cans/bottles in supermarkets as people stay home.

Thank you to the volunteers led by Chris Awde who have kept Oldbury Community Shop running, and provide a home delivery service for those in several villages. Kington, Oldbury, Nupdown and Shepperdine- with bread, eggs, milk fresh veg. and meat.



"4Ward" magazine has managed some fascinating articles, updates and puzzles etc in a bumper April edition. However it may be quite some weeks before another mag. can be produced to cheer our days.

Meg Adnams.



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Ch@t

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