



# 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

## October 2020

In this edition there is a "Hello and Goodbye" article from Canon Tudor Griffiths (see below), who has been looking after our Parish for the short time prior to Oct 7th when Rev'd Joy will take up her new Ministry. Our heartfelt thanks to Canon Tudor for taking care of us - and every good wish for a Peaceful retirement with Anna in Chepstow — and lots of fun with all those grand children! We shall miss you.



### Hello! and Goodbye!

*Canon Tudor Griffiths writes*

Now this is odd. This is the first opportunity I have to say Hello in Ch@t, and it is also my last, because as Joy is licensed and takes up her new ministry on October 7th, this is the occasion at which I bow out of my all-too-brief responsibilities in Thornbury, Oldbury and Shepperdine. And all this time we have been constrained by the dreadful Covid.



**Harvest Festival at  
St Mary's 10.00am  
18th October**

So there have not been the usual opportunities to meet people in different groups and to spend time with the young people and staff

in school. But as a (very) occasional Bridge player, I know that we can only play the hand we are dealt!

For the last three years it's been my privilege to pioneer a new form of ministry in the diocese as Senior Interim Minister. It's been quite a ride – working in Cheltenham, Leadon Vale, Ashchurch, Windrush and now with you. This in addition to other consultancy type work, as well as involvement in the process of selecting candidates for ministry! My mileage has been considerable, since my wife, Anna and I live in the centre of Gloucester and so go commuting in different directions! It's good to have this post with loads of diversity before retirement, which is next. After Joy's licensing I have enough holiday to take me to retirement and moving (hopefully) across to Chepstow. Our prayers are that the fraught processes of buying and selling a house will be plain sailing!

So it's back to Wales, if only just inside. Most of my ministry has been in Wales before we came to Cheltenham in 2011. Apart from a spell as a Church Mission Society partner in Uganda in the early 90's! That was an amazing experience beginning with taking a young family into the heart of Africa with single tickets, never having been on a plane before! I have been blessed in my family. My marriage to Nelleke from Holland was tragically and suddenly broken with her death in a road accident in 1998. I have written about this in a little book called 'Jottings in Bereavement' (£5 available in St Mary's!). We were blessed with two sons who are now married and living near London. I was also blessed in the year 2000 to meet and marry Anna and we are proudly grandparents of four – two of each, including one set of identical twins.

Edging towards retirement the question comes - what was it all about then? In different countries and situations, with different people facing all kinds of issues and challenges, it's about pointing to Jesus Christ as the one who makes sense of it all. The apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings. (Phil 3:10) and again to Timothy he wrote: I am not ashamed for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he will guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.* God's great story revealed in Jesus Christ will come to glorious fruition.

***My prayer for you is that you will go on trusting and following and proclaiming with confidence the glorious good news in Jesus Christ.***

*The Lord be with you! Tudor*

## Hopscotch!!!

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

Info – Hilary Craig

At present Hopscotch is suspended due to the difficulty in socially distancing toddlers and the seniority of many of the helpers! We miss seeing the Hopscotchers with their smiling faces. We hope they have had a good summer and that it will be not too long before we are singing **'Hello Children, Hello Carers. Welcome All, welcome all, Very pleased to see you. At Hopscotch time!'**. Like our mouse Hopscotch is sleeping during "Lockdown"



## Dear "Dads and Kids" children, & parents!

What a strange year it has been, with so many of our usual activities and meetings suspended due to Covid19. We are very sorry that we have not been able to meet in past months. Please rest assured that you have not been forgotten.



We are really pleased that after Revd Joy has finished her curacy with us in August this year, that we can look forward to her return as she is licensed as priest-in-charge in October. She is definitely excited about continuing on with us!

We also continue to hope and work for Dads and Kids to return as soon as it is possible. The Church Hall will be reopening for bookings currently in the Autumn term, so we will let you know what plans we have when we can make them safely. It is uncertain currently what this might involve, but it is our definite intention to begin again (dependant on restrictions) as soon as we can.

As always, we welcome the support and help of any parents, and would warmly welcome additional hands on the team for the season to come. So if you think you might be interested in becoming a leader, or helping out the team with planning or any of the sessions, do please let us know. Otherwise, as soon as we have more details we will be sure to send them out to you all for the year ahead.

In the meantime, know our prayers are with you for a restful and enjoyable summer.

With all our blessings,

*The Dads and Kids Team*

**Although we are dependant on guidance from Govt & Diocese about getting back to running Dad's & Kid's in the Hall, the potential dates for the rest of the year are: 2020 12th Sept 14th Nov 2021 9th Jan 13th March 8th May 10th July. A letter should be coming out to all on our Dad's & Kid's contact list. If we can get some more Dad or Grandad volunteers we can run sessions every month!.**

## Smile Lines

### Moses revisited

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of

Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

### Ten Commandments

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour thy father and thy mother', she said: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: "Thou shalt not kill."

### Telling the time

The cable repairman was on my street and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

### Where?

The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered "kindergarten."

### Sorry

Our minister, an avid golfer, was once taking part in a local tournament. As he was preparing to tee off, the organiser of the tournament approached him and pointed to the dark, threatening storm clouds which were gathering. "Sir," the organiser said, "I trust you'll see to it that the weather won't turn bad on us."

Our minister shook his head. "Sorry," he replied. "I'm in sales, not management!"





## A Message from St Mary's School

Headmaster Karl Joyce writes



Sept 2020

**We are thankfully back in school. It has been a long road but also a huge team effort by the staff and parents to make sure school was ready for the start of the year. The support of the parents for the children and school has been very much appreciated in these trying times and I thank them immensely!**



Behind the scenes work has continued with re-designing of classrooms, adjustments to the curriculum and a more creative use of the school outdoor environment. Although change was imposed on us because of the COVID 19 situation it has also been a real positive for the school in that we have reflected on the learning environment and made changes which have made the school a better learning place. The staff are really excited about getting on and back to as normal as possible!.

During the summer break, head teachers were kept up to date by daily reminders regarding decisions being made at the top level for the return of schools. We were also advised by

Public Health South West about the risks in the area and I have been reassured that in Thornbury we are in a very low risk area and so was very confident returning to school and getting on with the new school year.

*Term 1 is always a time for catching up with news and beginning new ideas and topics. Having reviewed our school values we have a new set of 6 key values which we are very excited about, they are: Hope, Community, Justice, Courage, Joy and Peace. These will be at the heart of our learning and we are looking forward to developing these with the children and wider community. We are looking forward to a good year with lots of new activities and exciting events.*

*K Joyce, Head teacher, St Mary's CEVA Primary School.*



Two special MU occasions took place in August. Our committee met for the first time since February in a garden (!) and 18 of our members gathered for an hour's DIY picnic in Chantry field(!) to mark Mary Sumner Day. (See photos of well distanced members !)

MU is hoping to get back into action with our **Annual Service on Tuesday 20 October** at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm.

Unfortunately, we do not anticipate being able to serve refreshments or enjoy our usual hymn singing but it will be a blessing to be together again. If Members have collecting boxes, they are asked to bring them to this service.

Our **AGM** will be held on **Tuesday 17 November** (as we missed our March date) at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. The short business meeting will be followed by 'Call the nurse' with Helen Bullock and Meg Adnams.



The lovely MU Candleglow service this year will be at 7.30pm in St Mary's. On **Tuesday 1st December**. This service is usually in the smaller surroundings of St Paul's but with Covid-19 still around it will be easier to 'socially distance' in St Mary's. Even so, it will still be an excellent start to our Christmas celebrations.

If you are not a member but would like to find out more, please speak to anyone of the Committee Members.



## Dear Rev'd Joy,

A photo of your last service as our Curate at St Arilda's. As you can see the congregation that stayed to watch the sun set were suitably socially distanced or in their bubbles!



Have a restful two months break. Looking forward to welcoming you back as our Vicar in October.



## Happy Memories Edna Elson a much loved friend! And Full of Laughter!

**Valerie Abrahams writes** - Edna and I were close friends for many years, especially after my husband Bryan's death when she was a great support!

We enjoyed many coach holidays together, full of laughter and fun! Edna had a strong faith, which helped her through her low times - she always brightened up when I arrived with cream cakes, producing the sherry and saying and saying "let's have a glass or two - much better than a cup of tea!"

We will all miss her !!

**Paul Morrish.** "Edna was a lovable independent person, never asking for any financial help but always going out of her way to help others! . Encouraged to apply for an annual Christmas Grant available to help out elderly pensioners on benefits, her response was always "others need it more than I do! " Edna loved attending the film shows in the Church Hall when she was well enough. Any odd jobs that needed to be done in her home, or advice needed, resulted in "how much do I owe you?" When of course it was a pleasure to help her out !".

**Helan Bullock.** I have known Edna for the last 16 years through Mothers Union when she was an Indoor Member.

More recently she was suffering with loss of vision and painful swollen legs - yet still always had a cheerful smile and was very grateful for lifts in my car. A very faithful, prayerful Member of Mothers Union, she joined in praying for the sick, and came to our monthly "healing Service" at St Paul's, and took her turn at reading at Evensong when she was brought by Roger and Heather. Edna really enjoyed meeting friends at the Sunday Lunches regularly held during the year. She will be missed by many people

Mick Spiller was standing in the Church Porch on a summer's evening saying goodnight to everyone after Evensong, and he asked Edna how she was feeling that evening- He thought that her reply was "I'm anaemic"- and replied " I'm SO sorry to hear that , Edna- I didn't know you were anaemic" Edna turned to him and shouted "NO! it's my KNEE! Mick" – shaking with laughter at the misunderstanding in such a short dialogue.

During Building work being done in the porch at St Mary's, we had to enter by the North Door. Edna said "I wonder if I will be able to go in the south door next time I come to Church".

Edna was granted this wish and was brought in her coffin at 5pm on Tuesday August 18th 2020 - escorted by her friends.

**The Sun was shining**



## David Carlyle RIP

Retired dental surgeon David Carlyle, of Bank Cottage Dental Practice in Thornbury, has died aged 81.

David was a familiar sight on Castle Street, cycling up to work and back every day until his retirement 20 years ago. For many years he sang in St Mary's church choir, and also regularly climbed the tower to wind the church clock.

He was on the governing body of St Mary's VA primary school, and was chair-man during its 150th anniversary celebrations in 1989.

David will be much missed by his wife Jenny, children Rachel, James and Patrick, and his seven grandchildren. A private family funeral was held on July 13 at Westerleigh

Crematorium due to coronavirus restrictions but the family plans a thanksgiving service for David's life at St Mary's Church, as soon as rules allow.

## Church Mission Society Praying and Gathering with Hope and Imagination



Alison Giblett is our Link at the Church Mission Society. She decided to stay in Kiev, Ukraine and has written to us recently to let us know how she has continued to work there, despite Covid-19 and its challenges.

"I have been keeping well and am very glad that I stayed here in Ukraine at this time and did not return to London before the borders closed. Although we have many restrictions, we have still been able to meet in small groups of up to ten. So as leaders we divided the whole church geographically and formed house churches, making sure each group had leaders and musicians. Therefore, our quarantine has been a period of spiritual growth."

Alison continued to support those with drug and alcohol addictions through the Genesis programme. She has spent a lot of time training students and trainers in how to use Zoom "We have lost some students, a few due to challenges with technology and others from the consequences of quarantine. Many people without work have gone back to their villages, where internet is limited. Others are living in very cramped flats, and with everyone at home, there is nowhere they can have a private conversation. On the other hand, some who managed to find privacy, e.g. by going out to walk the dog, were finding it easier to open up than before."



It has not all been work as Alison was able to participate in the small wedding of a friend receiving the invitation the evening before the wedding! Find out more about Church Mission Society at – [www.churchmissionsociety.org.uk](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org.uk)

*Christine Dadd: Missions: Global and Local Concern*



## Eco Church October 2020 Is there such a thing as Ethical Finance?



This is the subject for an upcoming Sustainable Thornbury/CATS Zoom meeting; particularly focusing on

As Christians we think it is important to use our money wisely so the majority of our Church Funds are already ethically invested.

Pension funds – please see their website for details. As part of our Eco Church (Lifestyle) challenges we are asked to encourage our congregation to save ethically. So here goes - if you have a few pounds or more to invest but need more info please may I recommend looking at "Ethical Consumer" magazine "Shared Interest" that supports Fairtrade producers and "Triodos Bank" based in Bristol but obviously there are other banks and organisations available.

These thoughts also fit with the One World Week theme for this October which is "It's Our World. Let's make it better" Again there is a lot to inspire on the OWW website.

To finish on a high - the Eco Champions are very excited for Revd Joy's return so that we at Oldbury and Thornbury can apply for our long awaited Silver Eco Church Award. *Marian Stephens*

## Rev'd Tom - update on Ride and Stride!



Ride and Stride in support of Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust was greatly scaled back this year due to the Covid -19 restrictions. However Rev Tom organised a shorter sponsored walk from St. Mary's, Thornbury to St. Arilda's, Oldbury and back on behalf of the whole benefice. He was joined by a few hardy companions from across the benefice.

Unfortunately our Churches could not be open to welcome visitors this year but the churchyards are always available for quietness and reflection.



Thanks to the generosity of many friends and neighbours a goodly sum will go to GHCT (just over £600 pledged at time of going to press) of which half will be returned to the benefice. Thank you to all who have supported us.

*Attached is a picture of last year's "striders". Rev Tom.*



## St. Mary's Choir keeps Singing Alive and Sings for Lesley!

St Mary's Choir have brought the drought in "live" singing to an end using modern technology to synthesise performance of some favourite anthems to play in church. Each choir member records themselves singing their part kept in time by a tick-tock. The collected recordings are then combined by Malcolm to synthesise a complete performance which can then be played in church - clever stuff!!!

**Recently the choir visited Lesley Lees to sing for her in the garden. Lesley, a long standing choir member, is very unwell and listened through an open window with husband Steve.** Malcolm recorded one or two items for later use in church. The photograph shows the suitably socially distanced choir outside Lesley's open window.



## Church of England and RSCM await next steps following study into singing safety



The Church of England and Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) have been awaiting updated guidance on singing in places of worship after findings of a Government-backed study were published. The research project, known as 'PERFORM', recently published its findings on measuring aerosol production from humans. It measured singing, speaking and breathing in a zero-background environment.

Researchers reported a steep rise in aerosol mass with in-crease in the loudness of the singing and speaking, rising

by as much as a factor of 20-30. However, it was also found that singing does not produce substantially more aerosol than speaking at a similar volume.

The RSCM's Director, Hugh Morris said: "We welcome this news. Singing is of such importance in worship, and this is a really encouraging step towards its safe resumption. "It is of course vital that all choirs and singing groups follow the relevant government advice, and so we look forward to receiving the latest guidance in this important area." The Church of England and RSCM both regularly update their advice following the publication of Government guidance."

## October Saint : St Francis of Assisi love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous.

Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they be-come an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

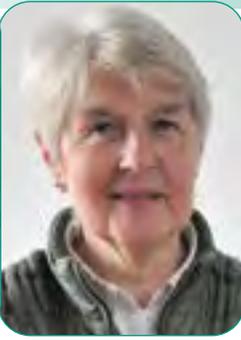
In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God



# News from your Churchwardens



## Open for Service

We have had our first few said communion services in St Mary's since lock down and all seems to be going well. We have all been enjoying sanitiser flavoured wafers. Most services have been fully booked. We are hoping to arrange a 9 am said communion service in St Paul's on Sunday 20 September. The rest of the time, the churches remain closed except for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons at St Mary's, unless there is a funeral.

Goodbye



Hello!

***We have said goodbye to Curate Joy until her installation as Priest-in-Charge on 7 October. She has now moved into the vicarage.***



## In St Mary's

The new contactless donation station has arrived and is now installed and working. We will introduce people to it when they are next in St Mary's – please bring your contactless card and try it out!



The paving in the porch has now been pointed and decorating will happen soon. Look out for up-cycled noticeboards in the porch in due course.

The paving has been replaced around the war memorial. Some other long outstanding small paving works and repairs are to be carried out inside the church whilst Centre-line are on site.

At long last the automatic door closers are on their way and we can start to have the bronze and glass doors made. If we are lucky, the doors may be with us by Christmas.

The DAC has now visited the church and has approved the installation of the new audio-visual system. We are now in the 28-day public notice period. Then we can apply for the Faculty itself.

This work now includes the moving and repair of one memorial in order to allow for the fitting of one of the TV screens. However, we cannot place any orders until we actually have the Faculty. If all goes well, we may manage to get everything installed before Christmas.

We do now have the Faculty for the repair and electrification of the clock. Cumbria Clocks should be taking it away to their workshop in early September.

List B permission has been granted by the DAC for the memorial bench and the new external Notice board at

St Mary's. The new notice board will be ordered soon. The bench is in memory of Jack Hainsworth and is to be installed in the churchyard. This is being paid for from donations made at Jack's funeral.

An order has been placed with Mike Newman (who made the disabled ramp) for minor repairs to the West Door.

A new incumbents list will be in church very soon – including Joy's name. Thank you to Fiona Mitchell. No DAC permission is required for this item.

The unsightly orange netting at the top of the tower has been replaced by tasteful black, which is barely visible from the ground. A huge thank you to Mike Elcock and Mike Dennett for doing this job, on one of the hottest days of the year!

The next (major) project will be the stained-glass windows in St Mary's. These are in a very poor state and extremely dirty. Some window works are on the current Quinquennial inspection report

## Office

Some new (second-hand) furniture has been installed in the office. This required all the old items to be dismantled and lowered through the hatch, followed by the reverse operation to get all the new items up. A big thank you to Mike Elcock for helping Mike Dennett, Robin and Jenny with this. The office computer has been serviced and upgraded with a new solid-state drive and additional memory. This should improve its performance as well as extending its life.

## St Paul's

St Paul's is generally closed at the moment, but this is being kept under review. The Church is though available for weddings and funerals. We will be having our 5-year insurance inspection in September. A quotation for a new / updated notice board is being obtained.





**Contact details:**

**Priest in Charge:** Revd Joy Ludlow 01454 853646 E: joyeludlow@outlook.com (from Oct 7th)  
**Churchwardens** 01454 413650 / 01454 419082 / 01454 414727  
**St Mary's C of E School**  
**Head Teacher:** Karl Joyce E: Karl.Joyce@sgmail.org.uk



## Restricted Service Dates for October 2020

Sunday mornings

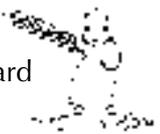
10.00 am Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's

Numbers will be limited by the need for social distancing. If you wish to attend please first contact Jenny Ovens (414727 - Jennyovensbb@tiscali.co.uk) by the Saturday before at the latest. We have to record contact details for all those attending in order to allow tracing should someone present later test positive for Covid-19.

Oldbury - Spoken Evening Prayer at St Arilda's Sunday 11th October at 6pm

Again numbers are limited and contact details will be recorded.

## October/ November Service Schedule

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- Sunday October 4th 10am. **Said Communion** at St Mary's. Booking as usual
  - Wednesday October 7th 7pm. **Rev'd Joy's licencing** at St Mary's
  - Sunday October 11th. 10am. **Said Communion** at St Mary's. Booking as usual
  - Sunday October 11th. 6pm. **Evening Service** at St Arilda's. Book with Andrew Gazard
  - Sunday October 18th. 10am **Harvest Service** at St. Mary's. Booking as usual.

**Harvest gifts to go to The Loaves and Fishes project** of The Community of the Sisters of the Church on Ashley Road. Items which will be particularly useful are: Tinned fish, meat or vegetarian items, soup, baked beans, vegetables, rice pudding, custard and fruit, dried pasta or rice, cereals, long-life milk, tea bags. The Sisters also serve hot drinks to visitors so packets of biscuits would be welcome.

**If you cannot get these items, then a monetary gift would help their work.** Please put any gift in an envelope, in the offerings bowl at the door, clearly marked "The Loaves and Fishes Project".

**NB Fresh food is not able to be used.**

Following the Harvest service at St Mary's Oct 18th at 12.30pm there will be a **baptismal service**.

Sunday October 25th 10am said communion at St. Mary's. Booking as usual.

**This service will be followed by the Thornbury APCM.**

***Thereafter, service arrangements will be decided by Revd Joy and take into account any changes in Government restrictions. Please check the weekly Newsletter for up-dates.***

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## OLDBURY NEWS

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**Meg Adnams writes;** Services at St Arilda's are presently one Said Evensong a month – next on Oct 11th at 6 pm, see above. This will be followed by an Oldbury Finance Meeting, preceding the delayed APCM and a PCC Meeting in church to be held on **Wednesday 14th October at 7.30 p.m.** Future dates when Revd Joy returns. St Mary's at Shepperdine is not being used for services (too small for social distancing!) However the organ has been put into safe keeping, and pilgrims are welcome to visit!

We send our deepest condolences to families of Martin Fardell and Ian Knapp, on the sad losses of **Clare Fardell and Allan Knapp**, buried recently in St Arilda's churchyard. The respect shown to these two people who dedicated their lives to working for their communities was reflected by those who gathered at Kington for Clare and in Oldbury for Allan. We hope there will be a Memorial Service for Clare in Thornbury at a later date. Our thanks to Canon Tudor Griffiths for travelling down from Gloucester to take both these services for their families, in such a sensitive manner.