



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 2021

A Happy and Blessed Easter to all our Readers!

Holy Week (28th March to 4th April) will be celebrated under difficult circumstances this year, but I ask you to look forward and follow the road map to exciting things ahead - including a Weekend of Vision and Hope! (see below).



*Rev'd joy Ludlow, Priest in Charge,
United Benefice of Thornbury and Oldbury with Shepperdine.*



Revd Joy Ludlow writes:

'A road map is not a bad way to look at the weeks and months ahead of us. Because (unless you are anything like me and directions refuse to stick in your head) maps are things we take out when we are heading out somewhere new, journeying to a fresh destination, or setting out on an adventure.

With Easter comes a very real hope and the promise of new life. So too, in these coming weeks we are therefore looking forward to slow and steady signs of new life in our church and community. In the same way as watching the spring creep in day by day, these signs start out slowly, but they carry with them the expectation of good things to come.

We still can't say with any certainty how we might look to celebrating Holy Week this year (28th March – 4th April), but do keep your eyes on the newsletter as we will do everything we can to celebrate together in fresh and exciting ways. I am definitely looking forward to our next foray into all-age live streamed (14th March), eating together virtually on Maundy Thursday (1st April), planting potatoes and baking buns (2nd April), and to simply seeing what the dawn brings on Sunday 4th, trusting that it brings with its new light, new life.

I am also enjoying looking further ahead still, making plans for our weekend of 'Vision and Hope' in July (9th -11th), organising weddings and life celebrations in the summer months, and looking to the future. This is made more enjoyable day by day by the people on the journey with me... After all, journeys that require a road map are almost always more enjoyable in good company...!



Save the date...

From 9th-11th July 2021

we are hoping to celebrate together a weekend of 'Vision and Hope'.

A Benefice weekend 'away' with a difference, all here at home!

Plans are flexible for how much will be online or in person!

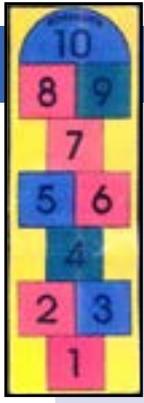
But we promise a weekend of fun, fellowship and wonderful teaching. Hoping to see you all there!



See Page 7

Hopscotch!!!

Children and Youth



Like our mouse Hopscotch is sleeping during "Lockdown"



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.



Happy Mothering Sunday to all our Hopscotch Mums, Grandmas and Carers!



Hopefully we can all meet up again in the not too distant future!

Here is a story about Isaac's Mum in the Bible. Sarah is his Mum

There was a woman called Sarah.

She loved God, but she was sad because she hadn't any children.

She would like to be a mummy and give hugs.

She thinks she is too old to be a mummy now.

One day 3 men passed the tent where Sarah lived. Abraham, her husband wanted to look after them. He asked them to stay for dinner.

Sarah went inside the tent and started to cook and bake.

Soon a lovely dinner was ready. They had some meat and some lovely fresh bread and drank some milk.

Sarah did the clearing up in the tent.

She could hear the men talking outside

Suddenly she had a big surprise!

She heard one of the men say Sarah is going to have a baby!

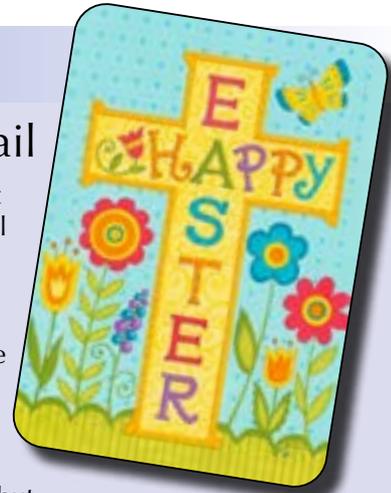
Next year Sarah would be a mummy!



Oldbury Easter Trail

This is in the planning stage: it is hoped to have an Easter Trail around Oldbury and possibly an Easter Garden outside the church to which the children from the village can contribute with painted pebbles to form a small path to the tomb.

We are mentioning this in Ch@t to encourage visitors but when I learn more I can let you know and we will also put details in 4Ward which we hope to deliver later in March. It is difficult to arrange when our church is shut!



Meg Adnams



Hopscotchers before Lockdown

Sarah thought they were joking.

She laughed and laughed and laughed.

Can you laugh loudly?

I'm too old she said I can't have a baby.

The men said it wasn't a joke.

God was going to make her a mummy.

God had promised Sarah would have her own baby to look after.

And do you know what?

Next year Sarah had a baby boy.

She called him Isaac.

She loved him very much.

I think she carried on laughing because she was so happy.

The name Isaac means laughter.



Lent Appeal - Church Urban Fund

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) was set up to support the poorest throughout England. CUF has looked a different ways of continuing its support throughout the pandemic. Edith enjoyed the company at the luncheon club. The hot meal she gets when they changed to home delivery, 'meals on wheels' is much appreciated. However, she is looking forward to the day they can all meet together again. You can donate or find out more at www.cuf.org.uk.

A Message from Karl Joyce

Head teacher of St Mary's CEVA Primary School.



It has been "strange times" indeed!. Schools have had to reinvent almost how they teach children! Our move to online learning has been a resounding success, with a mix of live- and pre-recorded lessons. The DFE set high expectations of standards eg the live online teaching was to be the same curriculum as the children were getting in school.

Our teaching was acknowledged by the Local Education Authority as being of a high standard – our teaching staff responded brilliantly to this, as did the children. I have been full of praise for the parents also, - who we know found it very hard having their children at home and teaching them, but from the quality of work across the school they have done a superb job supporting the children.

We never closed and all staff continued to be in full-time, we still had 44% of children entitled to be in school under the key worker and vulnerable pupil guidelines. We continued to celebrate our Christian calendar through our worship, including Epiphany, Saints days, Lent, maintaining our distinctive Christian character as a church school.

We also showed our diversity with a celebration of Chinese New Year projects.

Being in school allowed us to press on with developments, such as a **fantastic new outdoor classroom**; we have just secured funding for an outside sensory area and we set up a school twitter account: @St Thornbury. **The staff team have also continued to design a new and exciting curriculum which will be ready for September.**



Finally I announced to everyone that I will be leaving St Mary's in July. After nine years I feel it is time for me to move on to something else, I am hoping to become an assessor for NVQ and Apprenticeship schemes. **It has been the best nine years of my**

life at St Mary's but it is time to pass the baton on to a new Head Teacher who will I am sure continue to lead a brilliant school into the future.

Rev'd Joy Ludlow writes :

We are hugely grateful to Karl for all he has done in past years to continue the excellent links between our Church and School, and wish him well in his new Venture! We are full of hope for the future, whatever it might bring!' Please hold our governing body in your prayers over these coming months, as we seek to appoint a new head teacher for the years ahead!

Ed. On behalf of all our Readers and of all at St Mary's Church and St Mary's School we thank Karl for his wonderful leadership of the School for the last nine years!

The Ch@t Team are also grateful for Karl's support with his excellent regular articles, keeping us all in touch and ensuring the links between School and Parish remained strong and enduring.

Our Best Wishes to Karl in his new Venture.

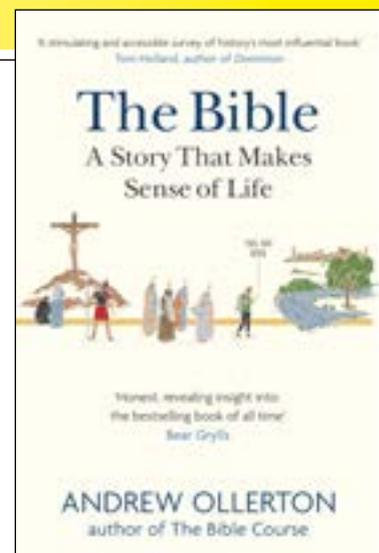
Book Review - The Bible: a story that makes sense of life

By Andrew Ollerton, Bible Society, £14.99

This book explores how the story of the Bible not only helps us understand our own lives but gives us a frame-work for making sense of life in general. We can see how the narratives in the Bible mirror the narrative arcs we go through:

'We are not Israel enslaved in Egypt, but their quest for freedom mirrors our own. We are not with Jesus on the shores of Lake Galilee, but our need for a Messiah is just as real. In our modern age, perhaps we need this grand narrative and ancient wisdom more than ever?'

Helpful diagrams and maps are integrated throughout. Wherever you stand with the Bible, whether you are seeking to find out its meaning for your own life or just want to know more about its stories, this book may be an excellent starting point.





Silver Eco Award

At Candlemas Revd Joy proudly showed the on line congregations that we now have our Silver Eco Church wooden plaque. Both Oldbury and Thornbury are Silver Eco Churches and so we now plan to work for Gold during the next few years.

Lock down has been a time for on-line learning for some people. In January I attended two Church of England Eco webinars. Both were packed with useful information. The first on Electric Vehicle charging on Church premises gave plenty of food for thought and the second featured everything you need to consider in connection with fitting solar panels. This one is being repeated on March 23rd.



We are not considering either of these projects at Church at present but the series also covers heating, lighting (which we have already attended to) and draft proofing for Churches. So if you would like to learn more you can view videos of these webinars and browse future dates on this link [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](#) *Marian Stephens*

[Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](#)

Eco Church approves 1000th award for environmental responsibility

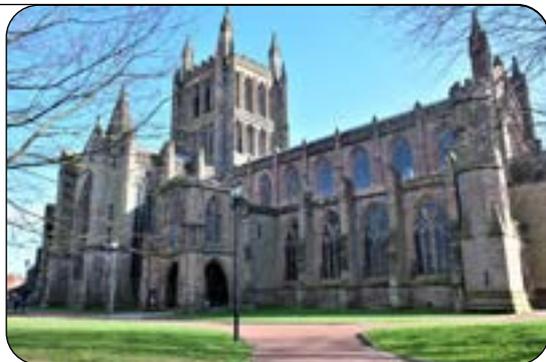
Conservation charity A Rocha UK has announced that Hereford Cathedral is the recipient of its Eco Church scheme's 1,000th award for creation care.

A spokeswoman for A Rocha UK said: "Hereford Cathedral demonstrates that even historical buildings can make great progress towards being more sustainable. The Cathedral land includes both gardens within the cathedral complex and some farms in the local area which are managed in a sustainable way."

Hereford Cathedral, one of over 3000 churches to register for Eco Church, shares eco-lifestyle tips during school visits and in its weekly church notices, including suggestions on personal consumption and carbon footprint reduction. They have made alterations to the heating and lighting across the church buildings to improve efficiency and are actively researching how best to install water harvesting systems in the future.

This is a critical year for the climate, ahead of the UN COP26 climate negotiations scheduled to take place in Glasgow in November.

Eco Church is a free online award scheme and is an A Rocha UK project. Churches can join the Eco church community by registering at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/> and completing a simple survey.



Parish Pump

From the Severn Way to the Severn Weigh

The Severn Weigh
at Oldbury Naite, BS35 1RU,
Tel. 01454 419475

is a new zero-waste Click n' Collect Service with local home delivery and even postal delivery for those living farther away. For sale are ethically sourced loose organic whole foods; natural skin care and cleaning products; sustainable household items with refills and plastic free packaging. You can browse! This has been brought to my attention by leaders of our Eco Church Scheme in Thornbury and Oldbury.

You can find out more detail on their website www.severnweigh.co.uk

Meg Adnams



We would like to congratulate our friend Dr John Faith Magolo from Bufumbo, who has recently been elected as a member of the Ugandan Parliament, representing Bungokho North (a constituency to the South of Mbale)

Currently Uganda's cases of Covid 19 stand at 1,075 with 958 recoveries



In loving Memory Helen Anne Giles

Extracts from tributes provided by Rose (Helen's Daughter) and Meg Adnams

Helen's European-wide interests in literature, (she was a librarian), in art, the theatre and opera were reflected in her lovely funeral service at St Mary's on 14th January. This was shared online by

friends who lived some distance away or had difficulties with mobility.

Helen never gave up learning and sharing. She spoke Italian, French and German well and attended Book Clubs, U3A Groups, Food Bank and classes in Bristol as well as Thornbury until the recent lockdowns prevented this.

At the end of her career she worked as a European Resident Adviser, enabling other people to find new communities.

In spite of the pain and difficulties caused by her crippling arthritis she made huge efforts to attend church and her other commitments, always smartly dressed and on time and using whatever mobility aids and cushions were necessary for the event.

This could have been a sociable coffee morning at Alexandra Lodge or a coach trip to a theatre. She remained as independent as possible and uncomplaining. She was also known for her kindness to those recently bereaved.

At Helen's Funeral Readings and tributes were shared amongst family members including her brother and 3 daughters. Her little grand - daughter was too small for this but cheered everyone with her smile. Extracts were read from

"David Copperfield" and "Alice in Wonderland" in addition to the Scripture reading. For the Lord's Prayer the glorious language was used translated from the Aramaic.

The closing music was from La Traviata but Helen had wide tastes including folk music. The opening music was "Follow the Heron" by The McCalmans! Helen had been on the Committee organising Edinburgh Folk Club when she first met Tim, leading to a long and happy marriage.

They enjoyed life in Thornbury and the 3 girls were encouraged in their school and church youth activities. Helen and Tim were volunteers in various aspects of church life.

Gemma always appreciated Helen's help in the office! The couple are both greatly missed.

So there we are, a woman of many talents and interests, but in essence a woman with the arts, communication and great courage at heart, which she placed at the service of her family and community. Should you wish to make a donation to Versus Arthritis, to help others with this condition, you can do so here: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Helen-Giles10

Helen's daughters, Rose, Alison and Laura wish to thank everyone for messages of sympathy and donations in memory of Helen made to "Versus Arthritis" care of Gulwells.



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Hello everyone

On Shrove Tuesday we had our first ever "lockdown Quiet Hour" prepared for us by Carol Self. I expect many of us were on our own, although we were invited to meet up and share the hour if we wished either on Zoom or one of the other technological mysteries of this unusual year. We opened with the words:

*God is One
God is creator,
God is present in everything
God has created
God is in you
You are one with God*

As meeting together is still not a possibility our speaker for March, Penny from Krunch, has been re-booked for September. In the meantime, we may be able to have a few more Zoom coffee mornings if members wish.

Each week in our annual prayer diary we are given the countries to pray for in our Wave of Prayer. In the earlier part of Shrove Tuesday I glanced at next week's areas and there was Mandalay in Myanmar, very much in our news at the moment with the military takeover. So then I wondered about Myanmar (Burma) and found out that it is located in

East Asia bordered by Thailand, India, China and Bangladesh. Buddhism remains the major faith in Myanmar, with Christians only making up 6% of the population. Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources including jade, oil, and natural gas but this richness is not reflected in the lives of many of its residents. The gap between rich and poor in Myanmar is amongst the biggest in the world, and Myanmar ranks just 145 out of 188 countries in human development. Challenges to family life include poverty, alcoholism, displacement and a lack of education.

Then wonderfully, I discovered MU in Myanmar celebrated its centenary in 2014 and continues to grow and flourish with more than 8,600 members today. Mothers' Union in Myanmar is a strong, dynamic and engaged group of members reaching out to their communities. Please pray for this country in turmoil, pray that MU members will continue to be the light of Christ in their communities as they work on various projects which include savings and credit groups, care for the elderly, vocational skill training, a parenting programme, orphan care programmes, health awareness programmes and campaigning against gender based violence

As always, if you are not a member but would like to find out more, please speak to anyone of the Committee Members (Monica Mullinex, Ruth Parker, Angela Edwards, Rosemary Keavey, Anne Ellis, Margaret Woodford and Pippa Davey), they will be pleased to hear from you.

Jenny Ovens

Church Warden's Notes



The Churchwardens are happy to tell you that a few more items of maintenance have been carried out during February. As part of the new Audio-visual installation the D'Arville monument has been repaired and repositioned to below the window at the Stafford Chapel end of the south

aisle. The pulpit steps have been repaired, the loose balusters re-fixed and the rope laundered. A chain has been fitted at the top of the boiler room steps together with a notice about the steepness of the steps. All these three items were identified as items for action in the 2016 Quinquennial inspection.

We have received a grant of £2,500 from the Allchurches Trust (Ecclesiastical Insurance) towards the cost for the roof alarm which has recently been installed. We also received a grant of £2,000 from Church Care (Church of England) towards the repair of the Tower clock.

The Porch doors have been a long haul, made longer by the pandemic, but they are now slowly taking shape – see photo. New water butts have been purchased and installed at St Paul's Church.

Hopefully, many of you are now being able to join in our live streamed Sunday worship on YouTube.

Jenny, Mike and Robin



St Mary's Choir - favourite music for Lent and Easter

Ian PM writes:

I do love spirituals when they are well sung and not treated as Gospel Songs. I find "Were you there?" deeply moving, and I think the arrangement by Bob Chilcott is an excellent musical and emotional setting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dE5dQOGC0gA>

When we reach Palm Sunday, the Alan Bullard setting of "The Feast of Palms" is fun to sing despite some difficult rhythms, and I think it is appealing to the listeners.

<https://soundcloud.com/alanbullard/bullard-the-feast...>

For Good Friday I would chose Phil Wilby's "Wondrous Cross". Phil takes the well-known words and gives them a real depth of meaning. After singing his version I always feel emotionally drained.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0XJYt9r-1E>

When we eventually reach Easter, it does not start for me until Stanford's wonderful setting of "Ye Choirs of new Jerusalem" has echoed around the church. It would be wonderful if it could this Easter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5alGUWpCWw>

Mike Elcock:

*Here are my favourite pieces for Lent and Easter:
Bogoroditse Devo - Rachmaninoff*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InMhSNBllg8>

Wondrous Cross - Philip Wilby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDDJEe9g868>

My Song Is Love Unknown - John Ireland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0>

Mass in B minor - Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FLbiDrn8IE>



Kate PM:

A favourite for Good Friday must be The Reproaches by John Sanders. The discordant harmonies add to the question: "O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! Answer me!"

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

I have to include Stainer's Crucifixion as well. It is a "Meditation on the Passion of the Holy Redeemer" and is a setting of a text chosen from the New Testament, interspersed with some wonderful hymns. Who doesn't love the unaccompanied chorus 'God so loved the world' and the rousing 'fling wide the gates'?

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

Mark Hoskins:

Stainer's Crucifixion was hugely popular in its time, but it is often sneered at these days on account of the sentimental nature of both the music and the words. However, I must admit to having a soft spot for it. I grew up with it, often singing in Good Friday evening performances in Bishopston in my younger days, and I still find it a stirring piece for all its faults. I particularly enjoy the rousing chorus Fling wide the gates, and at least three of the congregational hymns are first rate in my view. Above all, it's a good sing, and it always pleases me when it is revived for performance in Thornbury.

Ruth Piolle:

One of my favourite pieces is O quam gloriosum - Victoria's

<https://youtu.be/UjW0X5mrXRY>

Mandy Clapp:

Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus. Lovely lilting harmony of all parts.

<https://youtu.be/HXjn6srhAIY>

I Give you A New commandment - Peter Aston. A text taken from St Johns gospel Chapter 13 vv 34 & 35, has been set to a very simple but haunting melody.

<https://youtu.be/5jTpajj56qU>

Click on the links to hear the music.



FUN*FEASTING*FAMILIES*FAITH*Vision and HOPE Benefice Weekend AT HOME!!!!

In the past our parish has enjoyed some stimulating weekends away and we had hoped this would happen in 2021. However, the pandemic has caused us to be creative this year. We are, instead, planning a Weekend at home to take place from 9th to 11th July entitled "Vision and hope". We hope everyone will be enthused with a feeling of expectation, excitement and full of ideas for the future.

So this year we don't need to worry how to get there or things like: Will I have an en suite?

Who will look after the cat/dog/horse/guinea pig/my ten thousand chickens!! We can all just RELAX and enjoy! And of course be inspired. We want the whole church family to be involved so that as a strong team we move forward in love and hope towards a vibrant united benefice.

The plan is to have elements of worship, fellowship and learning each day and to be as inclusive as possible across the age ranges. We will begin the weekend with prayer so that the whole time is bathed in prayer. After school there will be a treasure hunt - to find something small that eventually grows into something HUGE Just as we want our vision and Faith to grow! Of course there will be refreshments afterwards!. All the events in the church will be live streamed so friends at home may join in the fun.

We will be joined by Archdeacon Hilary, Andrew Braddock from the Gloucester Diocesan Vision Team and Kate Williams is part of the team for Children's Ministry and a keen fan of Forest Church and outdoor worship.

SO we have a mixture of Finding, Foraging, Dancing, Eating Pizzas, Quizzes, praying, singing, tea party, listening and learning - WOW the list is endless. It's going to be WONDERFUL!

So how can you help? The main two things at the moment are:

- to put the date in your diary Friday July 9th till Sunday July 11th
- to start praying every day now for a brilliant uplifting Church weekend at Home!

Oh, one more thing, start talking about the weekend because if you have a friend who isn't sure about coming if they know that you are going they might just come too!



Sent with love to you all from Gill and Mick Spiller and Anne Ellis

A year of coronavirus

The Ven John Barton considers the sorrows of the past year and opportunities going forward

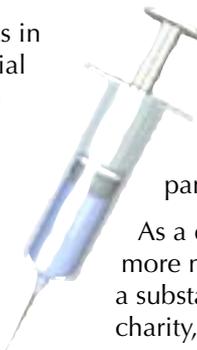
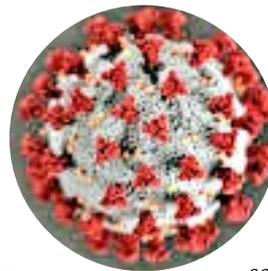
The Queen recently spoke for the whole country when she said that many are, "tinged with sadness. Some (are) mourning the loss of those dear to them and other missing friends and family members, distanced for safety. When all they really want ... is a simple hug or a squeeze of the hand."

We may have become accustomed to wearing face masks in public, keeping our distance from others, cutting out social gatherings, and attending church services online, but 'no touching' seems the cruellest of punishments.

As one vicar friend of mine said, the Church has had to learn a lot from lockdown:

"That Zoom is no substitute for meeting together, sharing warmth, laughter, tears – and drinking from the same cup. We have a commonality in Christ, whoever we are. Christianity is more 'us' than 'me'.

"Also, we cannot ignore those who will bear considerable cost arising from the pandemic. People have lost loved ones, businesses, confidence, jobs. It is vital that the church becomes a place of hope – not glib, clichéd words – but solid hope drawn from Scripture and made real in action. The church could become a real hub of the local community.



"But we have to rethink much of what we do and how we say things. The money has all but gone now and the church has to refocus on how it attracts people, what it says in plain English, how it presents itself and provides a warm welcome to those who haven't a clue what Christianity is, and all this on a very tight budget!"

He's got to be right. And some of us could begin to apply some of his ideas right now, even before the pandemic is under control.

As a direct consequence of lockdown, many of us have much more money in the bank than we bargained for. We could send a substantial sum to our local church, and some to an overseas charity, to make some of those ambitions come true. With time on our hands, we could earmark an hour or two for emailing or phoning those in our address book who live alone. We could buy extra supplies for a food bank on our next visit to the supermarket.

And we must ask God to make our church more comprehensible to those who consider themselves outsiders.



Contact details:

Priest in Charge: Revd Joy Ludlow 01454 419229 E: joyeludlow@outlook.com

Churchwardens 01454 413650 / 01454 419082 / 01454 414727

Benefice Office E: thornburybenefice@outlook.com (New email address)

St Mary's C of E School Head Teacher: Karl Joyce E: Karl.Joyce@sgmail.org.uk

Restricted Service Dates for March - April 2021

Sunday mornings

10.00 am Morning Prayer

There are no congregations in church at the present time

These services will be streamed live from St Mary's

Coffee and Fellowship continues after these services via Zoom



Services will be much curtailed due to COVID Crisis. No congregations at present.

*To check details of online services nearer the time, do please keep up to date with the Parish newsletter (thornburyparish@btconnect.com), on our Parish Facebook page, and on the church website. **Do also follow our YouTube page, where many of our services will be either streamed live or posted afterwards:***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>

And ... Something to look forward to! A Parish Weekend!

9th -11th July 2021 we are hoping to celebrate together a weekend of 'Vision and Hope'. This will be a Benefice weekend 'away' with a difference, ALL HERE AT HOME! Plans are flexible for how much of this will be online or in person, but however we manage it, It should be a weekend of fun, fellowship and wonderful teaching. Hoping to see you all there! **See page 7** for more information

Thornbury Easter Trail

We hope to put an Easter Trail around the outside of St Mary's church which will be there from Palm Sunday, to consist of up to 6 'stations'. We are looking for more of the wonderful 'scarecrow' figures which people kindly produced at Christmas. Ideally, we would like Jesus plus 12 disciples and some angels (but all are welcome!). We would need them on Saturday 27 March – so if you would like to join in and make any of these figures please let me know - many thanks. *Monica:*

tel 413 975, alamo.23@blueyonder.co.uk

Holy Week 28th March to 3rd April.

Sunday 14th March All-age Live-streamed Worship

Maundy Thursday 1st April Eating Together

Good Friday 2nd April Planting Potatoes and Baking Buns

Easter Sunday 4th April What the Dawn Brings!



See Weekly Newsletter for up-to-date information



Streamed Music and Services from St Mary's may be found on YouTube by following the link below (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNkUbB6tYzHdbDPJFSkdaZA>