



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 June 2021

- We pray for all those afflicted by Coronavirus throughout the world, as all nations continue to struggle with the disease, our own lockdown tightens its grip, and deaths rise!

We look forward to our "Weekend of Vision and Hope" (at home) in July!

And a huge thank you to Karl Joyce St Mary's School Headmaster, as he moves on (p4,5)



Rev'd Joy Writes:

In light of the first weddings of this year, and as the sunshine comes out and nature begins to enjoy it, I have been thinking a lot about swans...

These beautiful creatures who are symbols of love, community and tranquillity but, all the while, under the surface of the water are **paddling** frantically... A wonderful

image of our ministry in the weeks and months ahead!

It is a great delight to be preparing to slowly open our buildings again, to put back some (not all!) of those services we have known and loved over the years, to plan with families for weddings and baptisms, and to look together towards the future.

But it is not without its difficulties, as we begin to recognise the changes that this year has brought, not just with Covid, but all kinds of other things.

With *changes* to our ministry teams, our volunteers, our priorities as a benefice, - the legalities of things like marriage registrations and safeguarding practices!

All of these things mean that, as we slowly pick things up and look towards the future together, the feet below the surface of the water are very busy paddling! Not just my feet, but the feet of all those working to get us ready for the future: our wardens, our PCCs, our volunteers in every area of community life.

I am excited to be planning for the future again, and to be planning with every voice we can muster together, with APCMs in this coming month, and our **Weekend of 'Vision and Hope'** in the summer months (9th-11th July). Hopefully lots of opportunities for us all to engage with planning for the future together. **Do please get involved – use your voices – share your thoughts. But do also remember that the simplest solutions are not always as simple as they look, and that we all need to be paddling together, as we seek to live like swans, as a sign and symbol of loving community.**



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh RIP

All of us were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the age of 99, just 2 months short of his 100th Birthday!

And we think of all those loved ones, known and unknown to us, who have died in this dreadful pandemic!



Pentecost

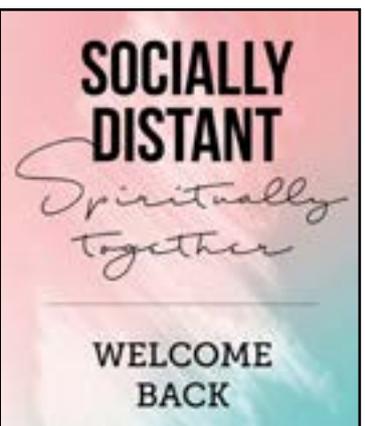
Before Christ sent the Church into the world, He sent the Spirit into the Church.

The same order must be observed today.

Parish Pump.

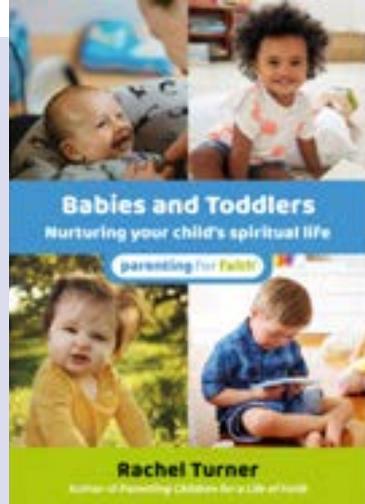
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 23rd May, 2021



Hopscotch!!!

Children and Youth



Babies and Toddlers – nurturing your child's spiritual life

By Rachel Turner, BRF. £4.99

Our children's early years are incredibly significant in shaping their mental, emotional and spiritual lives for the future. So how do we sow seeds of faith, when they are still so young?

In her recent book, Rachel Turner suggests simple, everyday approaches to help our children connect with the God who knows them. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you can help your child meet and know God, and however young your child is, God loves them and has promises for them.

Ed Rachel Turner is an author, speaker and the Parenting for Faith Pioneer for The Bible Reading Fellowship. She presents the Parenting for Faith course, a video-based resource for church groups and individuals.

Parish Pump

Like our mouse Hopscotch is sleeping during "Lockdown"



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.

Hilary Craig



The Story of Pentecost

Jesus' friends were sad because Jesus had said goodbye to them and gone to be with God in Heaven.

Jesus had promised to send someone to help them but they didn't know who it would be or when they would come.

All of Jesus' friends were together in a big room, upstairs in a house. They were talking about Jesus. Suddenly all the people in the room heard a loud noise. Phwooo!

It sounded like a strong gust of wind. Phwooo!

The windy noise swept through the house - phwooo! - and up the stairs - phwooo! and blew open the door of the room where they were sitting - phwooo!

The wind became stronger - phwooo - phwooo!

It blew on their faces, and lifted their hair, and flapped their clothes.

The friends of Jesus began to feel stronger too. They smiled and hugged each other.

Jesus had sent his Holy Spirit to them. Everything was going to be alright.

They wanted to sing and dance.

They were laughing and clapping and dancing with joy. A big crowd of people were outside the house, wondering what was going on.

Peter saw all the people and said, "I'm going to tell them all about Jesus."

So he ran downstairs and outside and he told the people how much Jesus loved them - and that they could be friends of Jesus too.

Peter and his friends told everyone about Jesus.

They weren't afraid or sad anymore.

God had sent his Holy Spirit to be with them and help them, just as Jesus had promised.

Hilary

Easter Gardens at Shepperdine, St Paul's and St Mary's



Easter in the Benefice

St Mary's Eucharist and Easter Trail

During Holy Week an Easter Trail was created around the grounds at St Mary's Church. The trail included stations beautifully depicting the Easter story. The stations started with Palm Sunday crosses/leaves in the porch reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. It ended with the Angel at the empty tomb who let the women know that Jesus had risen. On Easter Day an All Age Eucharist was held, which was also streamed via YouTube

May the rising of Jesus encourage us

May the rising of Jesus help us, and

May the rising of Jesus change us this Easter and forever. Amen



Easter at St Paul's the Hackett

It was a great joy to be able to worship at St Paul's over Easter. It began on Good Friday with a simple, but very moving, service of prayer, readings and reflection at 9.30 am. This was followed by the Easter Vigil and Service of Light on Holy Saturday.

We gathered outside in the dark (the service started at 10.00 pm!), around the Easter fire. The Pascal candle was blessed and then we moved into St Paul's by candle light. During the service we renewed our baptismal vows, shared the peace and Holy Communion.

Covid restrictions meant numbers were limited, however, everyone felt privileged to

be there. We were all very grateful to Richard Usherwood for playing the organ and providing the musical accompaniment to a very special service. It was very exciting to be able to sing together outside, under the stars, 'In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song'. The final verse ends 'Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!'. It meant so much more after the year we've all had.

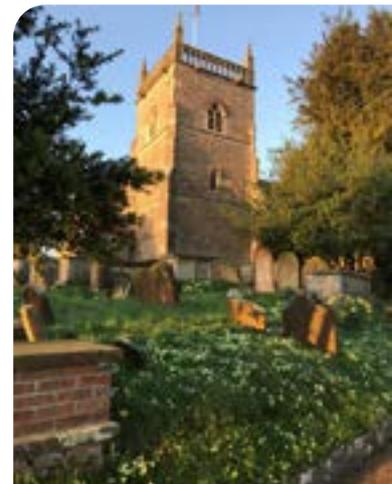


Christine Dadd

Dawn Service at St Arilda's and Songs of Praise on Easter Day at Shepperdine

We were truly blessed with a warm, sunny afternoon to celebrate the risen Christ. What a joy to be able to worship together by singing some of our favourite hymns – Jesus Christ is Risen Today, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Amazing Grace and Thine Be the Glory, risen, conquering Son! Rev Joy led the readings and prayers. (Thank you to Edward Usherwood for leading us on trumpet!)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!





A fond farewell, and Thank-you to Karl Joyce!

St Mary's Primary school and St Mary's Parish say farewell to Headteacher of 9 years, Karl Joyce. Karl will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to offer his talents to the Further Education sector. (see his article opposite).

Karl joined our school in 2012 as Head-teacher. During his time with us he has taken the school through both an Ofsted inspection in 2014, and a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) evaluation in 2017, achieving Outstanding in both.

Karl has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to encourage both the children and staff to achieve extremely high standards of teaching and a love of learning. He has built productive relationships within our whole school community, including our children and their families, the Church, the Board of Governors, the PTFA and the wider Thornbury community.

Karl has also played a significant role in the wider community, through his contributions to the Unity Alliance of Schools, which enables local schools to share best practice and continually improve. Most importantly, he has fostered a caring, whole-school ethos, with the children always at the heart of the school. We are all very sad to see Karl leave, and thank him for his dedication and hard work over the years. We wish him all the very best in his next ex-citing venture.



*Kathleen Newall
Foundation Governor*



Huge thanks, and every good wish, from all associated with both St Mary's School and St Mary's Parish, to Karl Joyce as he moves on to new ventures! And especial thanks and good wishes from the Editor!

It has been a pleasure and honour to work with Karl over the last 9 years, during which he has worked so hard to ensure that the links between St Mary's Church, and St Mary's School, "Our School", have remained strong, with his regular articles and updates! Especially throughout the difficulties of Lockdown. The Schools Initiatives include the wonderful Outdoor classroom recently designed by Mr Penny – still a work in progress!

Karl goes with our many thanks and good wishes for the future – and we hope he will keep in touch with us!

Angela Swan, Editor, on behalf of Chat magazine and all Karl's fellow-teachers– And of all St Mary's School parents, pupils and past-pupils!



St Mary's School Report

Karl Joyce writes his last article for us



As we move towards the end of the year, I am pleased to report that the whole school is fully operational, and we have not had any serious COVID19 illness concerns. We are still working in class bubbles and adhering to the government guidelines for safety i.e., staff are twice weekly tested for COVID, masks are worn by all adults when moving around the school, class-rooms are sanitised daily etc

We have had a brilliant start to term, with the re-launch of our Play activity programme OPAL. This helps us plan better and more exciting play for the children from which they enjoy learning and develop an understanding of teamwork and co-operation among other things. Having good quality play is essential to a child's development and the OPAL scheme helps provide this.

It works by dividing the school field and playground into 7 different areas of activity and the children move round these areas.

Pictures help illustrate some of the activities.

In addition to this we have opened our new outdoor classroom, designed by our deputy head Mr Penny it makes use of an environmental area that had become overgrown but has now been trans-formed into a fantastic area of sense and wonder with bug hotels, campfires, rope ladders, and outdoor classroom under canvass and lots more. *(If anyone has an old car, truck, caravan they no longer want, we can transform these into excellent imaginative play activities like the boat in the picture, please contact the office 01454 866760)*

As well as this and as part of our environmental work we have been incubating and hatching ducklings.

As this is my last article for CHAT I would just like to say how much of a privilege it has been to have been part of the St Mary's community. My family association in Thornbury goes back to 1970 when my father-in-law was the first head teacher of Marlwood. My affection for the town brought me to St Mary's almost ten years ago to work and it has been a wonderful time, packed full of memories and the making of many friends.

I will be moving on to my next chapter in life and St Mary's will continue to be the outstanding school it always has been and I am sure the new head teacher will take it to even greater heights.

I would like to thank the parents, staff, governors and the church community for all their support, what we have achieved in the last nine years has been immense and I will be forever grateful to the governors for trusting me with the leadership of such a wonderful school. And of course thank you to the wonderful children who have been on the St Mary's journey with me.
Karl Joyce



This is baby Francis



A Modern Benefice Fairy Tale

ONCE upon a time there was a Beautiful Benefice on the edge of the Cotswolds. All was well and peaceful as everybody walked the old ways. The Benefice had a Vicar, 5 Elder Vicars, 3 Readers and young flaxen-haired Curate-with-a-ring-in-her-nose ! YFHCWARIHN). This group of happy helpers all took turns to travel around the beautiful Benefice to help people and tell them about Jesus. They had meetings when everyone could learn, sing and talk to one another and be together. BUT.....one day the Vicar said that she was going away to a vast Cathedral in another Country across the fast-flowing river. Very soon after that, sad news came, when an AWFUL PANDEMIC spread through the Beautiful Benefice and the WHOLE WORLD!

WELL....The young flaxen-haired-Curate-with-a ring-in-her-nose (TYFHCWARIHN) carried on valiantly when the Elder Vicars who had walked their long journey began to rest as it was no longer safe for them to be out and about as in the old-days. She was known to be 'tech-savvy' and she, along with her Five Wise-Wardens, helped with their computer cleverness so that the good people of the beautiful Benefice could still see and chat to one another and learn about Jesus.

AND SO...the YFHCWARIHN and the people of the Beautiful Benefice all prayed that the right new Vicar would come. AND... DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? The YFHCWARIHN was chosen to be the new Vicar !!!

There was much celebration!!!! The people of the beautiful Benefice had seen how the YFHCWARIHN loved them and they too loved her. She now went to live in a house with a gorgeous garden and a G and T bar! next to the old Church and Castle built long ago.

The YFHVWARIHN wanted to talk about the new ways and the new paths to be walked together now that the ways of the former days could no longer be followed. She wanted all the people to share the adventure of finding the new ways forward for the Beautiful Benefice on the edge of the Cotswolds. They would all need to work together to share the good news of Jesus with all the people of the Beautiful Benefice and it's Beautiful Community.

The Young flaxen haired Vicar with a ring in her nose invited three learned friends, Andrew, Cate and Hilary from the big, beautiful Cathedral nearer the edge of the Cotswolds, to come and share their wisdom. They knew about walking in New Ways, when times change and New Times come. They shared their wisdom with the good people of the Beautiful Benefice so that all could join together and work to travel new ways along God's path.

The people were invited to A WEEKEND AT HOME in their beautiful Benefice to listen, talk, pray, play and dance, to find treasure , enjoy food and each other's company , whilst talking of new ways to walk together with the Young Flaxen Haired Vicar with a Ring in her nose - And share a VISION of new ways following God's ways for the Beautiful Benefice and its beautiful Community on the edge of the Cotswolds.

The people knew in their hearts it would be different and difficult but with each other and God with them there could be no better way to start a NEW ADVENTURE!!!! Especially with The Young Flaxen Haired Vicar With A Ring in her Nose who just loves to share an adventure!

Mike Spiller.

Checked by Gill Spiller - who can confirm that this story is true.

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE FAIRY TALE !

**JOIN US ON JULY 9TH TO 11TH FOR A WEEKEND OF HOPE AND VISION
TO MAKE THE TALE COME TRUE !**



Church Warden's Notes

Well! It is definitely true to say that during this year's Easter in lockdown there was much more action than last year. It was so good to be able to spend a time of prayer and reflection on Good Friday – in St Paul's, St Arilda's and then in St Mary's - which was also live-streamed.

At St Paul's on Saturday evening we welcomed Easter Sunday in a little early but joyfully! And Sunday at dawn at St Arilda's on a beautiful crisp morning, and then at 10am in St Mary's we celebrated – "Christ is Risen; he is risen indeed Hallelujah!"

With social distancing in place and masks on, Shepperdine played host to an Easter Sunday afternoon time of hymns and prayers.

Easter trails were put in place around Oldbury village and also St Mary's churchyard and both proved very thought provoking. Easter activity bags were available in both church porches (at the time of writing 45 have been put out for collection.)

Huge thanks to Revd Joy for all the work she put into Easter, to make it a truly wonderful celebration.

On three Sundays recently we have had the joy of young families taking part in the morning service from St Mary's – thank you to those families for being willing to read and lead the prayer time!.

For information about all the work that has gone on over the past 7 or so months, you need to read the report which will be compiled in time for the APCM on Sunday 23 May 2021. So much has been accomplished through the wonderful generosity of Nesta Robinson who remembered St Mary's in her will.

Thank you from us for all that you have done to help us make God known throughout our communities here in this Benefice.

Andrew, Mike, Robin, Sandra and Jenny Churchwardens of the Benefice

Give The World A Shot! – Christian Aid and VaccinAid Appeals

Coronavirus threatens the health of our neighbours near and far!!.

Together we can help the most vulnerable! Coronavirus has shown us that our futures are bound more tightly together than ever before. It has spread through the world's poorest communities, putting people living in poverty at great risk. Christian Aid is working with communities where the impact of Covid has added further pain, even more struggles and challenges to those that already existed - poverty, injustice and lack of resources.

Whilst Coronavirus impacts all of us, Love unites us all. As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we are both joyful and relieved that our loved ones are protected. But we are aware that many communities around the world are still suffering and don't have access to vaccines.

They lack the basics they need to protect themselves – very little clean water for handwashing; overcrowded living conditions which makes 'social distancing' almost impossible; and inadequate healthcare.

However, **Christian Aid** is already on the ground, helping keep people safe with practical support and you can help too. As you and your loved ones are protected, you can give thanks by giving to Christian Aid to protect those who don't have access to vaccines.

The Diocese of Gloucester is supporting Christian Aid's work. All donations will support Christian Aid's response to the coronavirus pandemic in affected communities around the world.

We are also supporting VaccinAid. VaccinAid offers people a way to donate directly towards the cost of Covid vaccination jabs for others around the world.



We are beginning to win the fight against Covid-19. But we can't stop there. Now the rest of the world needs our help. And fast. Through VaccinAid, UNICEF wants to deliver 2 billion vaccines around the world by the end of this year.

To donate, go to www.vaccinaid.org

VaccinAid complements the work of Christian Aid. We can fund vaccines directly via VaccinAid, as well as funding humanitarian relief that communities desperately need at this time via Christian Aid.

As Bishop Rachel writes *“Whichever campaign you choose to donate to you can be sure that you will be sharing Christ's hope and love with our brothers and sisters across the world who are less fortunate than ourselves.”*

www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/christian-aid-and-vaccinaid-appeals/

Christine Dadd



Hello everyone.!

As with every other organisation, MU are waiting patiently for a time when they will be able to meet again in the Church Hall, but for the moment we

remain on-line. There are meetings planned for 18 May for Peter Moore to talk to us about Grace Care Centre, and on 15 June for Jan Cooper to talk about the Barnabas Fund. Whether these take place is yet to be decided – they may have to be re-arranged for later in the year. As may our summer special, planned for 19 July, which has Pauline Farman booked so she can entertain with poems. All the up-to-date information will be in the regular church news-letter. Dates TBC.

It is with sadness that we record that both Vivienne Larkin and Angela Cole have died recently. Vivienne was a big part of the marmalade making project each year, not only helping with the making but also, with Ian, being the brains behind the pricing up of the various sized jars. This year the “Team” raised £225 for the MU project “AFIA”. Angela Cole was a “welcomed member” from about 15 years ago and then due to ill health had been an indoor member for some years before the pandemic.

This year, for the first time, we have had an MU-wide annual prayer diary and it is fascinating to see who we are praying for each day in the Wave of Prayer. How would it be to say that you lived in Te Pihopatanga O Aotearoa whenever you were asked (that's in New Zealand); it is good that we can say that we live in Thornbury and it is excellent to be a part of this super community.

As always, if you are not a member but would like to find out more, please phone a Committee Members (Monica Mullinex, Ruth Parker, Angela Edwards, Rosemary Keavey, Anne Ellis, Margaret Woodford and Pippa Davey),

Jenny Owens



Sad Farewells!

Sue Hunter - RIP

Sue Hunter, long time member of St Mary's Church and Choir, passed away on Monday 27th April. The Funeral was at Memorial Woodland

As **Rev. John Ansell**, Sue's brother-in law said, Sue was always zooming about and her family sometimes found it difficult to catch up! Thanks to ZOOM many were able to catch the celebration of her life from far and wide. Sue was a talented flower arranger and loved plants and gardens. And the chapel was appropriately decorated with beautiful arrangements of white lilies, pale pink roses and wisteria.

Two hymns "Lord of all hopefulness" and "Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord" were sung by a trio from St. Mary's Church choir who also sang An Irish Blessing by James E. Moore. Ian Philipson-Masters played the organ.

There were four tributes. **Pip, representing Sue's grand children**, Dorothy, Grace and Toby, spoke about their grandmother!. Sticky Toffee pudding featured large as did the lack of rules about bedtime! Always abundant toys, crayons and paints and outside, a big garden to explore. A stickler for table manners even when her own elbows were on the table!! *If science was the topic of conversation, Granny was always right.*

Mark, Sue's son paid a tribute to the happy childhood Sue and Chris had provided for him and Sarah, with adventurous camping holidays behind the Iron curtain. He spoke of her talents, art, dressmaking, cookery, gardening, her love of nature. Only a few days before she died they had walked through the woods near the house to admire the bluebells!

Deprived of retirement with Chris, Sue still embarked on holidays round the world as well as in the camper van. Involved in so many activities, Sue still made time to entertain! Sue was worry free from the expectation of being punctual, always convinced there was time to do just one more thing. She was critical, involved, tactless and argumentative but generous, looked on the bright side and laughed a lot.

Cilla, Sue's sister thanked Sue for being her "big" sister, teaching her to do handstands and landing in the Crab position.(many years ago now). She remembered the arguments, particularly about the merits of Elgar over Elvis and read a touching poem

Mary Leathwood, representing Sue's her many friends, remembered her endless energy, her involvement in the National Housewife's Register parties, Mumping, the twinning with Bréhan, her travel journals and the fact that no day camping was complete without a gin and tonic! During lockdown livestreamed opera, concerts and ballet had filled her days.

The reading of Psalm 23 and prayers followed before the family gathered around the coffin for the committal and blessing. A very moving moment.

Her friends write:

Ruth writes—Sue was generous, hospitable, and completely unflappable when things went wrong! How calm she was when her surplice and cassock threatened to go up in flames during an over-enthusiastic Candlelit service!



An indefatigable traveller –Sue was worryingly undaunted by her trips alone to far flung places in her campervan, - or even to Bufumbo!. Her loves other than family were her clothes, her garden, painting and biochemistry (another fire risk)!

Mike Elcock - recalls Sue was tough. Remembers an Irish holiday fond memory walking with Chris

and Sue in Ireland - 'We did a high-level horseshoe walk including the highest mountain in Ireland (Carrauntoohil) on a single memorable day -Sue loved it!'

The unexpected and premature loss of her beloved husband Chris was Sue's great sorrow – but her life—and its adventures - went on!

Everyone loved going to "Hazeldown" for Sunday lunch as Sue always did a proper roast and the garden was so lovely!

Margaret Cadwallader says "Sue made the best Sticky Toffee Pudding for miles around. Our Lunching Ladies all loved it. The other puds were just second best! But she lost the recipe!!"

Sue was willing, friendly and hospitable! She was generous and volunteered for many community activities and was NEVER fazed by anything. And a strong family person— always involved with her own children and grandchildren.

Sue was always a little late for choir practice at St Mary's — her arrival heralded by a huge CRASH of the church door as she rushed in!

Kate remembers Sue as one of the most generous and sociable people she has ever known, always interested, talking to anyone and everyone about anything.

Mandy will remember Sue's refreshing (often exasperating!) air of optimism and lack of worry. Nothing seemed to trouble her as she seemed to breeze her way through life.

Joachim remembers Sue as something close to his idea of an English Grand Dame - well-travelled, generous and interested in other peoples' views and experiences!

We will miss her terribly. We will miss the musician, the tailor, the cook, the gardener, the artist etc not to mention the BIOCHEMIST but most of all, the dearest friend.

Proficiscere, anima Christiana, de hoc mundo!

Go forth upon thy journey, Christian soul!
Go from this world! Go, in the Name of God
The Omnipotent Father, who created thee!
Go, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Son of the living God, who bled for thee!
Go, in the Name of the Holy Spirit, who
Hath been pour'd out on thee!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biNKKrdIL1k>

Sad Farewells!



Jo Andow RIP

Although well into her 90's, Jo had remained well and active until a few weeks ago. Having recently moved into 'The Hollies' in Dursley to be nearer her daughter, Jo continued as a regular Member of both "Out and About" and the Sunday Lunch Group, and an active member of the Church Flower Arranging Club - and of course a regular worshipper at St Mary's. Unfortunately recently her health deteriorated and she passed away last month.

Jo and husband and family had previously lived in Kent where she was an active member of both the Church Young Wives Group - and a Flower Arranging Club! With many others, her late husband was transferred to Filton to work on the then new Concorde project- and Jo and the rest of the family followed and settled happily here for **57 years** – for the final stage of what had been an amazingly active life! As well as her many church interests, Jo was a long time Member of the Townswomen's Guild—including many years as a committee member. She worked at Worthington's Gents Outfitters until her retirement in 1980.

Our Jo will be fondly remembered by all her friends in Thornbury.

Ed. We have recently learnt that Jo, like many of her wonderful generation, had been active in WW2, working in an Ordnance Factory, making aircraft radios by day and acting as a fire watcher by night! It's so easy to forget the huge contribution her generation made to our peaceful world!. Jo will be sadly missed by all her friends at St Mary's. Editor

Vivienne Larkin RIP

Christine Dadd writes

On Tuesday, 20 April 2021 the congregation of St Paul's The Hackett came to show their appreciation for Vivienne Larkin as she arrived for her 'laying up' at St Paul's. On a gloriously warm and sunny evening the socially distant group also included her friends from choir, Mothers Union and Falfield Women's Institute. An intimate service at St Paul's was followed on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 by her funeral service at Water-side Chapel, Westerleigh Crematorium conducted by Rev Joy Ludlow. Vivienne adored her husband Ian and family, David, Richard, Rachel, Greg and especially her grandson, Ethan. Her strong, caring faith was an example to all of us. She was an active member of the Mothers Union, previous secretary and particularly enjoyed 'marmalading' - making marmalade which was sold in aid of holidays/breaks for those in need. Vivienne definitely believed in having fun whilst fundraising! Vivienne and Ian had been treasurers of the Church Hall Committee. They both loved singing - they had been part of Thornbury Music Ministry and still sang with choirs. They also organised traditional carol singing around the streets near the Church Hall. People would come out of



their homes, make requests and sing along. They were amazed when they found their offer of a financial donation was politely declined. The singers just wanted to share the joy of Christmas. Of course, the singing ended with hot drinks and mince pies back at the Church Hall! She previously chaired and was a dedicated member of the Missions Committee for many years. She was a great support and provided wise counsel. We appreciated her organisational skills and advice. She organised fundraising events, produced posters and actively

participated in meetings. She encouraged our church to share its wealth with those less fortunate than ourselves. She kindly hosted the 'Pack and Wrap' party when Christmas gifts were prepared for visitors to the Julian Trust Homeless Shelter.

She always made fundraising events fun! We all have fond memories of the Lenten 'Super Soup' lunches. She was the consummate hostess, the tables were beautifully prepared, she printed menus and her speciality 'pear and parsnip' soup was delicious.

We were all inspired by her faith, including her poetry, an extract is included below:

She will be greatly missed, however, we know our memories of Vivienne will be a blessing.

May she rest in peace - and rise in glory.

My Love, Your Love

by Vivienne Larkin

**Lord, I feel my love for You is strong and very sure,
Sometimes You seem so near to me that it thrills me to the core,
And when the night is silent and all around are sleeping,
I feel your presence, and I know Your promise You are keeping.
Neither to forsake me, nor to leave me on my own,
With You there beside me, I will never walk alone.**





Contact details:

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

Churchwardens 01454 413650 / 01454 419082 / 01454 414727

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

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



Thornbury and Oldbury Service Dates for May - June 2021



Services will be streamed live from St Mary's
Coffee and Fellowship continues after St Mary's services via Zoom

See Weekly Newsletter for Link

A revised pattern of services is being proposed post covid. So do check details of services online nearer the time, by keeping up to date with the Parish newsletter (thornburyparish@btconnect.com), our Parish Facebook page, and the church website.

Numbers will be limited by the need for social distancing.

If you wish to attend please first contact Jenny Ovens for St Mary's and St Paul's (414727 - Jennyovensbb@tiscali.co.uk) and Andrew Gazard for St Arilda's (412153 - naitefarm@gmail.com) 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.

May Services

2nd May 10.30 Morning Prayer at St Mary's

9th May Rogation 10.30 Morning Worship
4.00 All-Age Rogation service at Oldbury

16th May Ascension 10.30 Communion at St Mary's

23rd May Pentecost 10.30 Communion at St Mary's
followed by APCM
4.00 Communion at Oldbury
6.00 Choral Evensong St Mary's

30th May Trinity 10.30 All-Age Benefice Communion
service at St Mary's

June Services – *However, these may change / be modified, so please check Newsletter for updates*

6th June 9.00 Communion at St Paul's
10.30 All-Age Morning Prayer at St Mary's
6.00 Evening Prayer Oldbury

13th June 10.30 Communion at St Mary's
6.00 Evening Prayer at St Paul's – (maybe Taize type service)

20th June – 10.30 Communion at St Mary's
6.00 Evening Prayer Oldbury

27th June – 10.30 Communion at St Mary's
6.00 Choral evensong St Mary's

The Stafford chapel will be open for private prayer
on Tuesday 18 May, 25 May, 1 June and 8 June between 2pm and 4pm.

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>

Our
Church
Mission



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 in our homes!**
Plans are flexible - clearly all will have to be online in view of the pandemic
- but watch this space.

*If Ch@t magazine is delivered to your home, and you no longer wish to receive it, please contact the church office to let us know:
01454 281900, or thornburyparish@btconnect.com.*

Ch@t

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