

STAFF

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Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Lindsey Ivens (07702 082192)
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St Mary's Church Hall:	Mrs Diana Fleming Tel: 01275 875081

The Parish Office, The Rectory Tel: 873257. The office is normally open 9 am - 1 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. Phone messages and emails will be checked daily.
Eastcleveub@blueyonder.co.uk; www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

All Saints' East Clevedon with St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano	Mrs Kay Osborne, 2 Seymour Close BS21 6DU (342013) Mrs Monica Gore, 4 Plumers Close, BS21 5AW (791764)
St Mary's Walton	Mr Paul Middleton, 8 Edgehill Road,, BS21 7BZ (341908) Mrs Diana Fleming, Flat 5, 29 Edgehill Road, BS21 7BZ (875081)
St Paul's Walton in Gordano	Mrs Sue Betts, 1 Kings Road, Portishead, BS20 8HH (848645)
St Peter & St Paul Weston in Gordano	Mr John Bridges, The Bellows, Clevedon Road, Weston in Gordano, BS20 8PU (843380)

Website: www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

Facebook pages : All Saints East Clevedon Church; St Marys Clevedon;

St Pauls Church Walton in Gordano; St Peter and St Paul's Church, Weston in Gordano

The Parish Magazine

Diocese of Bath and Wells

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

Parish Office:

Tel: 01275 873257 email: eastcleveub@blueyonder.co.uk



August 2023

50P

SERVICES

All Saints', East Clevedon	Sundays	8.00 am Holy Communion 10.30 am All Age Service (1st) Holy Communion (2nd, 3rd, 4th)
Walton St Mary Clevedon	Sundays	10.00 am Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th) 10.00am Morning Prayer (2nd, 4th)
	Wednesdays	10.00 am Holy Communion
St Paul's, Walton	Sundays	11.15 am Sunday Worship
St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano	Sundays	10.00am Morning Prayer (1st) 5.00 pm Choral Evensong (2nd & 4th) 5.00pm Holy Communion (3rd, 5th)
	Wednesday	11.00am Holy Communion (in church)

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a weekly email with Readings and Prayers for the week and links to the YouTube Reflection and Monday Zoom at 10am

If you do not have internet access please contact the parish office and we will make hard copies available for you.

Please also see www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk for Clergy Reflection videos, copies of Morning and Evening Prayer and the current edition of the parish magazine.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING TIMES: The Parish Office will be open on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9.00am - 1.00pm although emails and phone calls will be answered on a daily and very regular basis. You are welcome to come to the Office on the mornings it is open or otherwise by arrangement.

MAGAZINE DETAILS

Magazine & Advertising editor: Laura Durrant
Mobile: 07890113851
Email: Laura.EastClevedonChurches@gmail.com

The deadline for copy for the September magazine is Wednesday August 16th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday September 3rd.

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FIRST WORD from The Rector

One of the secret pleasures of being a country parson was leafing through old handwritten minute books during meetings. Annual Vestry meetings were the best, seconded only by the Deanery Synod where the size of volume allowed for many years of deposit.

Now we're all "on line" this doesn't happen in the way that it once did. These days we're all efficiency. Then it was a book, well bound, kept in the safe, added to by various hands over the years. Sometimes these bound minute books would go back to Victorian days and fascinating they always were.

I recall when sitting through an Easter Vestry (in a former parish) picking up the minutes for 1916. In handwriting that reflected the pride of being in a literary parish, the minutes recorded the anxiety of making ends meet. In 1916 the clergy came free of charge, or virtually free. The parish had lands which derived an income and the diocese made up any shortfall so the Rector was paid his stipend. But the parish had to pay for repairs, heating and insurance – as well as the candles. It could barely stretch to it and the Rector lambasted the faithful and urged them to dig a little deeper. These days it would be like getting the parish share paid for us yet still not collecting enough to get by. By the way, the local farmer had cut off their gas supply so there was no lighting – he'd fallen out with the Rector!

Another was a clergy chapter meeting of 1939. It's always interesting to look back at significant dates to see what impact the international scene was having locally. On that meeting, just as the war was starting, the local clergy were bewailing the lack of young people in church confidently asserting that the "young of the day" lacked the character or discipline that their parents had which was leading to a decline in "standards" generally, but church attendance specifically. These were the "young" who would soon be called upon to liberate Europe from tyranny and who turned out to be rather good at it.

I fear I've told these stories before but I mention them because I find it reassuring that struggling to pay the bills and a lack of young people wanting to come to church is not a modern thing. I suspect these two anxieties are close companions to every generation.

But they are certainly a close companion to ours. Our bishops (who we like very much and support) are facing quite a challenge. Last year (2022) the diocese had a shortfall of £2.1 million. This year the shortfall will be £1.7 million. The collection

rate of church parish share in the diocese used to be 98% (one of the very highest in the country). It's now 86% - down 12% in just a few years. Amazingly 80% of parishes now don't pay their parish share in full and only 20% cover the cost of the clergy and other ministry they receive (including our benefice – we have consistently contributed about double). As a result the diocese is reducing clergy and diocesan staff to help manage the cost. Stipendiary clergy, currently at 178 in the diocese, will reduce to 150 by 2026 and because the diocese assumes a 10% vacancy rate (when clergy leave a parish to retire or to take up another post) that means the diocese will assume it has 135 active stipendiary clergy to pay at any one time. The houses these clergy used to live in are being sold to pay the bills but by the end of 2026 those will have been sold and the money spent. The diocesan services have also been “reshaped” saving £320,000 a year.

All this is happening because the church is getting smaller. Each year the church is about 1.6% smaller than the year before, so over a ten year period that's 16% (or a third every 20 years). Covid has accelerated this decline and it accounted for a 40% drop in young people of 16 or under at a stroke.

I'm sorry to bombard you with all these statistics but you can see something of the challenges ahead. The reality is that society simply doesn't relate to church as it once did and the nation's cultural, intellectual and spiritual life has shifted beyond most people's grasp of church. The church has seen this change coming for many years, but post Covid I think we can safely say that it is now here.

But in spite of all these difficulties there is always reason to be optimistic. St Augustine said, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you” – people are inherently spiritual and we are more than mere consumers or customers. People will always need the church because the church “has the words of eternal life” and the gospel still reaches into hearts and minds. Much modern “spirituality” is superficial and lacks a cultural or intellectual foundation and plain secular humanism provides little comfort or hope. When people encounter faith, real faith lived sincerely they find it attractive. People are often moved by being asked if we can pray for them. People still find their way to God and the church and they always will.

Recently I presided at a burial of ashes. These are always solemn moments and very poignant for the family involved. But on this occasion a member of the family brought a harp and played it at the end of the prayers. It was surprising and moving as it was beautiful and tender. It reminded me that cutting through all the statistics about the worries of the church, sincere and prayerful faith has so much to offer.

Subscriptions and donations

For magazine subscriptions and other donations to our churches please use the following details. General donations to the United Benefice can be made using the bank details provided.

All Saints Church

Cheques payable to 'PCC All Saints, Clevedon'

A/c no: 00243131

Sort code: 30-18-88

St Mary's Church

Cheques payable to 'St Mary's PCC'

A/c no: 15061094

Sort code: 52-21-39

St Peter and St Paul's Church

Cheques payable to 'St Peter and St Paul Weston-in-Gordano PCC'

A/c no: 03009475

Sort code: 54-30-06

St Paul's Church

Cheques payable to 'St Paul's PCC'

A/c no: 01125400

Sort code: 40-37-33

United Benefice Account

Cheques payable to 'East Clevedon UB'

'East Clevedon United Benefice'

A/c no: 00334855

Sort code: 52-21-39

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For further information: Angela 01275 871247

Pause for Thought

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED to Sir FRANCIS DRAKE (1540 - 1596)

*O Lord God, when you give to us your servants
grace to endeavour in any great matter,
grant us also to know that it is not in the beginning,
but in the continuing of the same
until it be thoroughly finished
which yields the true glory;
through him who for the finishing of your work
laid down his life, our Saviour and Redeemer,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In the summer of 1940 two events occurred that played key roles in saving Britain from being invaded by the Nazis, and in each case King George VI called for a National Day of Prayer in preparation.

The first was on May 24th 1940, when prayers were invoked for our troops trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk, and under heavy attack by land and air. In the event the sea remained incredibly calm, which enabled hundreds of little ships to set out across the Channel, resulting in the miraculous evacuation of 338,000 British and French troops from what had seemed an impossible situation.

Three months later Britain was facing a devastating series of air assaults from the Luftwaffe. Their aim was to destroy the Royal Air Force, paving the way for a full-scale invasion by Germany. So the King called for a second National Day of Prayer on August 11th 1940, in preparation for what we now call the Battle of Britain, and this famous prayer was at the centre of those prayers.

It was ascribed to Sir Francis Drake, a national hero and the first Briton to circumnavigate the world in 1578-80. It is based on a letter Drake wrote in 1587, its completion as a prayer being attributed to the Dean of York, Eric Milner-White, a famous compiler of books of prayers

It begins by stating what is a common experience for many – setting out on a major new endeavour or challenge. We will never face any challenge as big as Drake’s goal of sailing round the world, nor as terrifying as sailing a small boat into a war zone, or being one of the ‘famous few’ engaged in life and death aerial combat against a ruthless enemy. Our challenge might be taking on a new role at work, or at church, or in the community; it might be that we are asked to be a Godparent to a child, or a carer for an old person – the possibilities are endless.

Whatever the nature of that challenge, we are urged to see it as an opportunity to serve God and his world as Jesus did, and through doing so to hear those wonderful words of affirmation from our Lord’s Parable of the Talents: “Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matt 25: 23)

Nicholas Maddock.

Faith enhances life and can be the inspiration for extraordinary things. Our task remains not to be successful but to be faithful and that is why I remain optimistic within our restless generation and changing church and always shall be.

Noel

Wi-Fi and QR codes in church

QR codes are those odd square shaped symbols which look rather like confused chess boards. But they are very useful things as they quickly connect a mobile phone with the website they are serving.

In our churches we now have a QR code to make donations. This probably won’t be important to regular members of our churches, but for visitors or others, many of whom don’t carry cash, this will help make donating to church easy and available.

The QR codes for each church can be found at the bottom of their reports.

All Saints has very recently installed WI-FI into church. This is freely available and can be accessed in church, in the vestry and in the hall.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

9th August and 13th September

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

As you read this you may well be putting your feet up and having a well-earned rest from school, work or even church! Summer is a time for taking things a little easier and making space for rest and relaxation. But of course, many continue to work hard to make such recreation possible for us! We may want to take a moment to value all those who make our holidays possible. There's always room to say, 'thank you!'

You will be aware that I recently had the opportunity of taking a little time out for some sabbatical. Howard and I spent a month walking the Via Di Francesco, a pilgrimage walk, in the footsteps of St Francis, in Italy. We walked some 140 miles from Rome to Assisi, using local transport for the other 40 or 50 miles along the way. We took our time, not least because of the wear and tear on our hips and knees as we went up and down steep gradients. In addition, it gave us room to notice things along the way.

It is often the small, seemingly insignificant things which can get overlooked as we travel through life isn't it. How many of us make the time to 'stand and stare' as William Davies puts it in his poem, 'Leisure'? So, I found myself discovering new meaning in the unexpected moments of pause that the walk brought us. The brief conversation with Destiny, a refugee, whilst we waited at a bus stop, who generously shared his bus tickets with us. The awareness of the world of creation around us – birdsong; the quill of a porcupine on the path; a family of wild pigs running through wheat fields. The kindness and hospitality of strangers. Encountering God in new people and places.

During this month, when perhaps the business of your life is stilled a little, are you expecting to encounter God? Will he need to break in or interrupt you, or how might you intentionally make time for him? Where might you notice the glimpses of God in the world around and hear his voice speaking into your experience?

I hope that this summer you will experience not only the rest and recreational power of a good holiday but also the space to renew your relationship with God. Along with the writer to the Ephesians, I pray 'that you may have the power to comprehend, ...what is the breadth and length and height and depth,' of God's love for you.

With love and prayers
+Ruth

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

6th	10.00 am	Morning Prayer -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
13th	5.00 pm	Evensong -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn Michael Dyne preach
20th	5.00 pm	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
27th	5.00pm	Evensong -	The Rector Michael Dyne preach

Every Wednesday 11.00 am Holy Communion - check for venue

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

6th	10.00 am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
13th	10.00 am	Patronal Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Ian Hubbard Bishop Barry preach
20th	10.00 am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
27th	10.00 am	Morning Prayer -	The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

August SERVICES

Correct on going to press - please check with the parish office or
www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

All Saints, East Clevedon

6th	8.00 am	Holy Communion -	The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion -	The Rector
13th	8.00 am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30 am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
20th	8.00am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Holy Communion -	The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
27th	8.00am	Holy Communion -	The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion -	The Rector Michael Dyne preach

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

6th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Sue Betts Graham Roberts preach
13th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Michael Dyne
20th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Joshua Fowler
24th	3.00 pm	Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock Flower festival

READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 6th August – The Transfiguration

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

Luke 9: 28-36

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 13th August – The Blessed Virgin Mary

Isaiah 61: 10-end

Luke 1: 46-55

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption you visit us with your Holy Spirit and overshadow us by your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 20th August – Trinity II

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Matthew 15: 21-28

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 27th August – Trinity 12

Isaiah 51: 1-6

Matthew 16: 13-20

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

2nd July: Wishing Ross and Gemma a very happy 1st Wedding Anniversary - and lots of healthy and happy years ahead to enjoy together. With lots of love from all the family ♡ xx



10 July: Today we celebrate the 16th birthday of our dear granddaughter, Anna. How we enjoy her presence in our lives and thank God for her. Mo and Geoff King

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting please email Sandra Sallis at allsaintspcc@gmail.com. Your dedication will be on the pewsheet, magazine and All Saints Facebook page.

FROM THE REGISTERS....

BAPTISMS

23rd July: Rosie Hall, St Peter and St Paul

WEDDINGS

22nd July: Emma-Louise Nicholas and Christopher Harris, St Peter and St Paul

FUNERALS

11th July – Burial of ashes of Stuart Bradburn, St Mary's

19th July – Funeral of Ray Weaver, St Mary's

20th July – Burial of ashes of Ray Weaver, St Mary's

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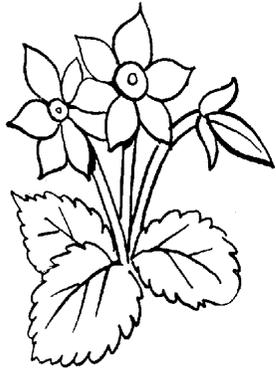
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Garden Talk

In the June edition of The Parish Magazine I wrote about some of the relentless weeds which inflict themselves on our gardens. To judge by the response, this struck a chord with several readers. This month I would like to comment on some plants which, while not exactly weeds, certainly arrive uninvited into our garden. I call these interlopers 'welcome guests'.

We have never, for example, planted foxgloves, yet every year we have a lovely display of these attractive wood-

land plants. In a recent edition of *Gardeners' World*, Monty Don demonstrated how to sow and raise foxgloves. I cannot imagine anyone needing to do this. Simply allowing a few (not too many) to seed for themselves and you will have foxgloves for life. Other welcome visitors include poppies, purple toadflax, *Oenothera* (evening primrose) and valerian, this last only moderately welcome because it is rather invasive. All four will tolerate a lot of drought.

Purple toadflax is an interesting case. For years I had been treating it as a weed, pulling it out wherever it appeared. Then last July we visited an open garden at Hem-yock in Devon. There was a lovely clump of *Salvia nemorosa* and then another clump of something that looked almost as good: purple toadflax! I suddenly realized that I had been weeding out a plant which, if left to flower, was really rather nice.

Another welcome guest, evening primrose, is coming into flower as I write. They are nothing like primroses, being much taller, but their flowers have the same creamy yellow colour as the well-known wildflower. Some varieties are fragrant at dusk, which is presumably how they got their name, and all are very attractive in a mixed bed and, of course, seed freely. They arrived mysteriously in our garden a few years ago and are now a regular feature in July and August. They are natives of North America and they love dry, sandy soils, sometimes being found at the edge of a beach.

Our modest garden is enriched by these welcome guests. Sometimes they put themselves in awkward places and have to be removed, but besides adding lots of colour they make few demands and are great survivors – ideal guests indeed!

William King

ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

WEDDING AT ALL SAINTS. – On Wednesday, July 10th, the Wedding took place of Mr. Alfred Charles Feltham and Miss Lilian Muriel Higdon. Mr. Feltham has been connected with All Saints' from the time when he was a small boy, and the Church owes much to him for his devoted work as Master of the Ceremonies and Leader of the Acolytes. It is not too much to say that the smoothness and reverence which characterise our services are almost entirely due to him. Miss Higdon has been a worshipper and a communicant at our little Church for some years. It was therefore fitting that the clergy, choir, acolytes, and congregation should unite in making the wedding as bright as possible. To his great regret, Mr. Daniel, owing to the claims of business, was unable to be present, but Mr. E. James (deputy organist), proved an able substitute at the organ. The Vicar performed the ceremony, being assisted by the Rev. H.R. Daunton, Assistant Priest. The responses, psalm and two hymns were sung by the Choir, and Father Crowder gave a short address. Immediately afterwards a merry peal was rung on the church bells. Altogether, it was a most beautiful and impressive wedding. The large number of wedding presents included (1) a cheque from friends connected with All Saints', and (2) a silver cake basket from All Saints' Acolytes and Choir. We heartily wish Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Feltham many years of health and happiness. *Father Crowder writing in the Parish Magazine, August, 1929.*

There will still be members of the parish who remember Alfred and Muriel Feltham well, and indeed their son, Brian and his wife Sheila. I certainly do. Alfred, usually known as Alfie, served in every lay capacity in the church and was churchwarden for many years. He was also the first member of All Saints' to receive a license to administer communion. Muriel, his wife, was a warm, gentle, quiet and serene presence. They gave contributed a huge amount to our church life.

Julia Elton



ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon

On 25th June Fr Tim baptized Monty Fryatt during the morning service. Baby Monty behaved impeccably and didn't seem too worried about the anointing with oil and being held over the font. It was a lovely occasion which the whole congregation enjoyed. On 2nd July it was the all-age service, again with Fr Tim (thank you Tim for your ministry). During the service Tim told us about his favourite hymn, Fight

the Good Fight. Not chosen because of his military career - please ask Tim if you didn't hear his reasons. We sang it during the service, I had forgotten what a good hymn it is as we don't seem to sing it very often. Thank you also to the music group, it is so enjoyable to have you playing at the first service in the month. Not forgetting our brilliant organists on the other Sundays.

Karen and Andy Billowes have just become grandparents, their daughter Lynn and husband Adam have had a baby boy, Alexander Andrew Timothy (some good names there!) We send our best wishes and congratulations to all the family.

Thank you to Mike Clark for sorting out the floodlight timings. If you would like to sponsor the floodlights please get in touch with me. There's a suggested minimum donation of £10 and your dedication will appear in the magazine and on the All Saints Facebook page. Thanks also to Mike Clark for setting up internet provision in church – see Mike's report below.

Community Coffee Morning is on 9th August and everyone is welcome. The next couple of events coming up will be the Hotwell Howlers on 29th September and the Harvest Festival followed by a bring and share lunch on 1st October. More details next month.

Sandra Sallis

Internet is now available! After a query from our Churchwardens about remotely controlling the heating in the Church and Parish Rooms it followed logically that an internet connection would be required. Knowing that the Parish Office has a high speed broadband service a project came to mind for a wireless point-to-point internet link across the lane, using well established technology at relatively low cost. So I became a 'cable monkey' for about a week to route the data cabling from the Client Device in the Ringing Chamber window via a Network Switch in the Organ Loft to three WiFi access Points located in the Nave, Vestry and Parish Hall. With efficient support from I.D. Technology Ltd the system has now been commissioned and QR codes are on display to enable 'Guest' log-in with ease. There will be more functions of course than heating controls, for example live streaming of Services. So quite literally 'watch this space'.

Michael Clark



Donations and payments: All Saints

My 40th Anniversary – A ‘Thank You’ 25th June 2023

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big ‘Thank You’ to all of you who so kindly sent cards, gifts and messages to mark the 40th anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood, and to those who joined me and my family for the service on 25th June. In addition to people from this benefice, we had friends from all four parishes in which I’ve had the privilege of serving, so it was a day I and my family will remember for a very long time.

I would also like to thank the people of St Mary’s for presenting me with a copy of Rob Campbell’s book “Clevedon: Places and Faces”. My family’s connection with Clevedon goes back to the late ‘fifties when my sister Francesca was a pupil at St Brandon’s – the former girls’ boarding school where Clevedon Hall now stands. In those days we lived at Wareham in Dorset, so Clevedon seemed remote and mysterious, but we love living here and Rob Campbell’s fascinating insights will help us come to know its history and past residents so much better.

But I would like to end by offering my greatest thanks to Ruth and our daughters Liz and Katherine for all their support, and for putting up with my so often ‘being around but not being available!’ It is an immense privilege to live and work at the heart of a parish, but for the priest’s family it can also be a real challenge. My children have not forgotten me telling them when they were small and I wasn’t free to play with them as other daddies were, “Darlings, I have two families – you and the parish”. That was true, but as you can imagine it was often very difficult for them. My deepest thanks go to Ruth, who has given me the most wonderful spiritual and practical support and encouragement. If you had a slice of her delicious iced fruit cake at the after-party on the 25th you had a small taste of what a blessing it has been for me to have her by my side for these past four decades!

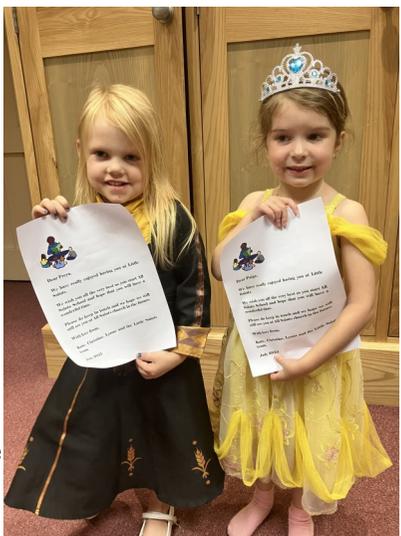
Nicholas Maddock

Little Saints

Little Saints enjoyed their summer party. They did lots of singing and dancing, played pass the parcel, and had lots of yummy food.

It was also time to say goodbye to the school leavers. We wish them lots of luck at their new schools and will miss them.

Little Saints will be back in September, 12.30-2 every Thursday during term time in the vestry. Come and join the fun!



ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano

30th June was the date of our Summer Concert which was held within the church from 19:30. The weather was not what we would have hoped for after many days of sunshine, but at least the church interior looked wonderful.

With an audience of approximately 100 filling the pews, plus 19 musicians and 11 vocalists, we had a packed church to say the least, with several folk seated in temporary aisle chairs.

To organise this type of event is a mammoth task, that can be likened to a giant jig saw puzzle, which consists of ensuring that all the relevant parts integrate together.

For example:

The church interior and exterior must be cleaned and prepared, the Friends Ladies and Gents unselfishly gave up their time. The topical (for each and every occasion) spectacular flower arrangements to be sourced and created by Janie. Refreshments for an unknown number (indeed at the time of ordering!) need to be purchased by Yvonne Jay and prepared. Wine and soft drinks (drivers/children/abstainers taken in account). The varied traditional music and musical arrangements chosen by Jill Elliott which need to suit our audience and commitment to many practice sessions. The same applies for the Chandeliers vocal group performance, under the guidance by Wendy Sergent. Setting up of the P A sound system on the night. Ordering a temporary loo for the upper parking area. Arrangements in the Court for parking spaces of both players and audience. Ferrying from the car park to the upper level for disabled folk. Transfer of refreshments from home to the church that includes, wine glasses, plastic cups, serviettes and trays. Then the actual serving of refreshments to all of the folk in the church to ensure all have a fair share! I hope I have not missed anything out! If one part of the above is omitted, then the evening could be spoilt and the good folk would not support us, as they have done for many years.

At the end of both wonderful performances, flowers were presented to Yvonne Jay, whose tireless efforts to organise never disappoints and chocolates to Jill and Wendy.

So a huge thanks to all who planned, provided, prepared, participated and gave their precious time to help what the Friends enjoy the most, to bring our community together to celebrate the joy of music and vocals, within our fantastic little church.

And finally..... A reminder of the two services for 2023. Sunday, November 12th at 10:15 meeting at the Black Horse to walk up to the church for 10:45 and Sunday 17th December for our Carol Service.

Derek Roberts

The 3 C's - Coffee (cake!) and Conversation



is a discussion group that takes place on the first Tuesday of the month from 1.30pm – 2.45pm at All Saints Vestry using “Day by Day with God” notes as the focus for discussion (notes available through the Parish Office) A relaxed and informal space to learn and encourage. We have had many interesting discussions over the months so if it's something you'd like to try out do

join us or for more information please contact Kate Hector on 873257.

Next meetings are Tuesday 1st August and Tuesday 5th September. Tea, coffee and cake always provided!

BIBLE NOTES can be ordered through the Parish Office.

We currently order in “Day by Day with God” and “New Daylight” Bible notes. These provide bite-size Bible passages explained by those who themselves have found the Bible to be a source of strength and inspiration for life. The cost per edition is £4.75.



WALTON ST MARY

On June 25th we were very pleased to celebrate with Nicholas the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Nicholas created a special service in which members of his family took part and the sermon was preached by Bishop David Jennings, a colleague and friend from one of his previous parishes. There were refreshments afterwards in the hall and it was a very memorable occasion.

We are sad to have lost a valuable and longstanding member of our congregation. Ray Weaver died after a long illness and our sympathies go to Ruth and their family. In the hall we have a lasting memento of Ray in his wonderful embroidery of the chancel, which he did for the Millennium celebrations at St Mary's. Many things have been happening in the churchyard recently. You may have noticed some new gardeners over the past few weeks. Jo Leonard joined us back in May to look after the grass to the rear of the church and Andrew Jones has now started to look after the rest. He is the son of Dorothy Jones whom many of you will remember, and many years ago he helped John Gay when he was the gardener. These new gardeners have been made necessary by Roger Britton having to take time out with a knee injury. We wish him well and hope that he may be able to return next year. The other big change in the churchyard is the removal of the box tree by the lychgate. Unfortunately this was necessary as it has had a bad infestation of Box Tree Caterpillar for last two years.

A new item in the churchyard is a board displaying the history of Walton St Mary and includes items about the church and the well. This is one of the series of history display boards that you may have noticed around the town and has been provided by Discover Clevedon. We hope that our parish will take an interest in the history and might be encouraged to come into the church or spend some quiet time in the Well Garden.

On July 15th we enjoyed our annual Strawberry Cream Tea. Although we were unable to go out into the Well Garden because of the weather, we had a very happy time enjoying good food and good company. The £400 raised will go towards church funds. We now look forward to celebrating our Patronal Festival on Sunday August 13th.

Sally King



Donations and payments: St Mary's

What is your "Ministry"?

Chaz Hector – All Saints

A bit about me

I started at All Saints Primary School in 2009 before moving to Mark College, Highbridge in 2015. In 2021 my friend and I attended Strode College in Street for a couple of mornings a week to get used to college environment as part of our Sixth Form programme. I left Mark College in June and hope to do an employability course at a Weston College campus depending on job interests.



What brought me to the Benefice?

I was born into the Benefice in 2005, the first clergy child to be born in the United Benefice. Baptised at St Mary's and confirmed at All Saints, we settled at All Saints when I was around five or six and over the years I have attended Sunday Club and Next Step.

My role in the Benefice

On a five-week rota, I make teas for the 10:30am service at All Saints. I am also part of the refreshments team for events held at Clevedon Court such as the annual Coffee at the Court and other 'one off' special occasions. This is really good for building your teamwork skills and your friendships.

More regular jobs include delivering the Parish magazine for All Saints Lane. I am in charge of the hoovering at the annual church clean. This may seem to be an easy task but if you put it all together it is actually quite full on. I also help with the Crib Festival and I like to support Benefice events when I can.

Church is a really important part of my life and it is a real blessing to join in.

PEW FOR SALE – 8 ft Victorian Oak Pew – all offers will be considered. Why not come and see it at August's 'Welcome In', please contact Sue if you are interested.



Our Mouse Musings: Did you see us at the Village Fete, we were there – dodging the dogs, running from the rain and collecting up cake crumbs. See you all at the Flower Festival. Love Miss CM

Alongside other members of a Christian Climate Action lobby, The Revd Tim Daplyn attended the Church of England General Synod meeting at York 8-11 July. Extending a personal welcome to the group of activists, The Archbishop of Canterbury engaged in a conversation about the Church's recently adopted policies of divestment from fossil fuel industries failing to comply with their international obligations under the 2015 UN Paris Climate Agreement.



Asked what more could be done, Archbishop Justin Welby said: "Climate activism for our Church and Nation is a top-down as well as a bottom-up priority in which everyone has a part to play and the whole world has a shared and vital interest."

Tim says: "We welcome the decisions to adopt ethical investment policies made by some sections of our Church however more work needs to be done by those Dioceses still dragging their feet. It will be a relief when Christians no longer have to lobby fellow Christians in order to persuade them to take appropriate and urgent action."

St. Mary's flowers

The following requests for flowers were received in July:

2nd July - in celebration of Ray Weaver's 95 birthday on 1st July, requested by Ruth;

19th July -for the funeral of Roy Weaver, requested by Ruth;

30th July- in loving memory of Christopher Flanagan, requested by Yvonne.



ST PETER & ST PAUL,

Weston in Gordano

Our Patronal Festival was celebrated on Sunday, 25th June at Evensong led by Tim Daplyn with Sr. Carol preaching. Carol gave a thoughtful sermon based on the lives of our two Saints. The choir, led by Norma Minors and Rosemary Burgon, sang "Locus Iste" by Bruckner, a sombre and soulful anthem which was well received by the congregation. It was nice to have our occasional choir and it is to be hoped they will be a regular feature.

The evening concluded, in true WiG fashion, with refreshments and oodles of scrumptious small eats – thank you to all those who organised the event.

Our "leaning cross of WiG", the cross atop the East window, had taken on a rakish lean out of the perpendicular and threatened to come tumbling down. PRJ came to the rescue and were able to insert fresh dowelling and reset the cross in a more acceptable position.

Our Village Fete, on Saturday, 15 July was a mixed event. Due to heavy rain and strong winds being forecast for the weekend, we decided to reorder the event and relocate as much as we could to the Village Hall. Considering the weather, and short notice for the change it is gratifying that some 100+ people attended and were able to enjoy strawberries and cream, cream teas and hot dogs, plus the 'pre-loved' and bric-a-brac stall, cakes and plants were well received.

Unfortunately we were unable to transfer the Pimms and bar stalls due to licensing restrictions, a pity as the Fete was a joint effort with the WiG Social Committee who would have benefitted from the sales. The Bottle Tombola likewise was cancelled – anyone interested in 100+ bottles currently lurking in our garage!!!

Having moaned about the missing Bottle stall, there is talk of our being able to mount another event later this year which would enable us to utilise these goodies,

plus use some of the other, cancelled activities.

It looks like we have made some £1,500 subject to confirmation. A fantastic result considering the circumstances.

Caroline Beekmann organised the whole event with great efficiency and innovation. She, and her stalwart helpers, deserve much thanks and appreciation. Thank you loads!!

We are sorry to say that Robb Robinson has been poorly recently and is having to take life a tad more gently. Keep taking the tablets Robb, recover well if only to keep Ian and this scribe in the straight and narrow pathways!

John G Bridges.

Mowing the Churchyard

The humus and the well -drained ground
Are reasons why it's often found
That churchyard grass grows thick and fast.
In our small village, in the past
When Sexton Burt was still alive,
He used to cut it with a scythe,
But now it's done by motor mower
Propelled along by human power.
The mower is a brute to start,
To keep it going is an art;
One cannot work in long straight swathes,
The place, of course, is full of graves
With hidden stones to snap a blade
And swell the garden centre's trade.
Some years ago we tried six sheep,
But folk complained of lack of sleep

cream, and the day comes to an end at 4pm. Sunday is a little different with our Service of Celebration at 3pm and then tea and cake to follow the service. Each day there will be a chance for you to view the beautiful flower arrangements, have a rummage through the items on the Bric-a-Brac, books and plant stalls, buy a raffle ticket and have a go on the tombola.

Thank you to Emma who will be bringing along the Village Archive sometime over the weekend, and will definitely be with us on the Monday. The Village Archive is an amazingly collection of photos and newspaper cutting about the history of the village, compiled by Emma, this is a truly fascinating set of documents.

Sue's Village Recipe Book will also be on sale over the weekend – there is still time to for you to submit your favourite family recipes for Sue to include, get them to her by the start of August – all proceeds from Sue's recipe book will go to our 'Heart of the Village' appeal.

And how about joining us for our special service at 3pm on the Sunday, there will be poems, hymns and prayers all to celebrate the glory of God's creation – from the most majestic of wild animals to the humbler yet equally precious pets that we love and care for, animals are all around us. And although we often forget that we too are animals, we are all part of our complex eco system, delicately balanced, in need of protection and very worth celebrating and very much in need of saving for future generations.

Why not make this the year that you join us for some or all of the weekend – everyone is most welcome at Walton, it's always a very enjoyable way to spend time with us here at St. Paul's.

A quick look forward to next month – our 'Welcome In' coffee morning will be on Saturday 2nd September, at 10.30am in the Church, always plenty of tea, cake and chat.

And then on Sunday 3rd September at 11.15am we have our 'Morning Gathering' led by the congregation.

Sue is sending a shout out to all of you who have any spare fruit or veg that she could use to create her delicious preserves all sold in aid of the Church – delivery to her house would be appreciated or you could drop them off here at Hill Cottage.

And finally, thank you to all those who throughout spring and summer have been leaving plants in the church porch – the money raised from their sale goes to Church funds – a particular thank you to Maureen who has provided the majority of the lovely, healthy little plants.

when people living in rural communities would come together to celebrate the first fruits of their labours in the fields – gathering in the first crop of wheat, grinding it to make flour and baking it in a special loaf to bring to their little church to be blessed and shared amongst the congregation. Come and join us and keep this tradition going and then enjoy a simple lunch after the service.

And how about joining us for another, rather more recent tradition here at Walton. On Saturday 19th August we will be having a Beetle Drive here at St. Paul's, between 3 – 5pm. Not sure what a Beetle Drive is? Well, it's a really fun and easy to pick up game for all ages, a perfect way of entertaining children this summer holiday and equally entertaining for us older members of the community, and of course there will be refreshments during the half time interval. At £2.00 for adults and free for children it's also very good value for your money, what else is so affordable.

Then on Monday 21st August, from 2pm onwards, we have a Church and Churchyard Tidy. Let's get everything ready for our annual Flower Festival on the following weekend. So get on some old clothes, a pair of gloves, come armed with a pair of secateurs or a cloth and prepare for some hard work – one of the main jobs that needs completing is sorting through all the Christmas decorations that we have here at the Church. The plan is to have a stall at the Flower Festival and sell the surplus items, and there are absolutely loads – if you have any you don't need any more then please bring them along too. And don't worry you will be amply rewarded with lashings of restorative tea and cake for all your labours.

And now for our big event – our Flower Festival. August just isn't August without our annual Flower Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend – Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th and Monday 28th. As you know this year's theme is 'At home with our

Favourite Animals', and even at this late stage there is still time to join in with the flower arranging if you fancy having a go. Just decide on your favourite animal and/or their habitat, and then recreate your idea in flowers. Maybe not quite as simple as I make it sound, but there is always help at hand from the other arrangers – we are a friendly bunch. Or how about helping out on one or more of the 3 days of our Festival – you could welcome people to the Church, or help with the refreshments, or sell raffle and tombola tickets, or even do some washing up, there is always plenty to do.

The Church will be open from 11am each day when tea and coffee and cake will be available, then from 12 noon onwards Ploughman's Lunches will be served, with Cream Teas following on from 2pm, and for the first time this year we have ice

And, when they ate Miss Green's bouquet,
I guessed the sheep had had their day.
Now is the season I like best
When grass and I both take a rest.

Edmund Harwood

(supplied by Ann Chavasse)



Donations and payments: St Peter & St Paul's



ST PAUL'S, Walton in Gordano **The Lady of Shalott (verses taken from Part I)**

On either side the river lie
Long fields of barley and of rye,
That clothe the wold and meet the sky;
And thro' the field the road runs by
To many-tower'd Camelot;
And up and down the people go,
Gazing where the lilies blow
Round an island there below,
The island of Shalott.

Only reapers, reaping early
In among the bearded barley,
Hear a song that echoes cheerly
From the river winding clearly,
Down to tower'd Camelot:
And by the moon the reaper weary,
Piling sheaves in uplands airy,
Listening, whispers "Tis the fairy

Lady of Shalott. Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

Let's hope that the weather improves somewhat in time for the school holidays – not overly hot though or we will all be complaining about that too – but just a few sunny days would be nice.

We start with a look back to July. The 'Welcome In' coffee morning had to be inside as the weather was so changeable, but this didn't put off the people from coming along. It was also an opportunity for anyone to drop off Bric-a-Brac and bottles for the Summer Fete. On the following day the 'Morning Gathering' was centred around The Lord's Prayer, with appropriate readings and hymns, and a chance to have a dry run of the Prayer Stations, also based on The Lord's Prayer, that Sue has put out around the Church - it was felt that the congregation were the right people to try them out. The Prayer Stations met with unanimous approval and are now in place throughout the summer for anyone who wishes to spend some time in quiet contemplation and/or prayer.

On the following Saturday it was our annual Village Fete. Once again the weather was less than kind, but also once again it didn't put people off from attending. With the Village Hall in use for the tea and cakes it meant that when the rain came – and it certainly did come with abundance – most could huddle inside out of the wet. For the hardier souls each stall was covered with gazebos and so it was possible to still be outside – rushing from one stall to the next. Our annual Fete is always a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends old and new some from the village, and some who once lived here and had returned for the day. Including David Harvey who now lives in Gloucestershire and had kindly agreed to come and judge the Fun Dog Show, back by popular demand, and with classes to suit all shapes, sizes and ages of dogs and their owners. Well done to the winners, both canines and humans, and well done to the winners of the children's races and the tug of war. The afternoon seemed to go so quickly, with plenty to buy, plenty to keep you entertained, and plenty of refreshments to sustain you as you wandered around the field. And thank you to Claire and John Flower for allowing us to use the field again this year.

The number of people who joined in this special occasion was up on last year despite the dodgy weather with 211 visitors compared to 156 last year – and the final

count revealed a grand total of £1791 – this will support our 'Heart of the Village' appeal to bring defibrillators to the village to be used by villagers and by people passing through the village, anyone in need.

The most important thing about our Village Fete is the joy that it brings to our community – it can be hard work to put on such an event, so thank you to all those in the Social Club and everyone else who helped (I won't name names in case I miss someone out) – your efforts are much appreciated. Thank you to all those who ran the stalls and sideshows, those who took the money at the gate and helped with the parking, to those who cooked the sausages and the burgers, served up the ice creams and the fruit squash, and the ladies doing the teas. And thank you to all of you who bought along books, bottles, and bric-a-brac, who made cakes and provided prizes for the raffle. And finally, a big thank you to all those who braved the weather to come along and spend so generously in these financially difficult times, it's so nice to see things returning to how it used to be with everyone together once again for our Village Fete.

This month looks like it's going to be a busy one starting with our 'Welcome In' coffee morning on Saturday 5th August, at 10.30am in the Church, or it might be outside in the churchyard in the glorious sunshine. As you know there is no charge for the tea, coffee and cake at our 'Welcome In' each month, but there is a chance for anyone to leave a donation if they like. This money normally goes into general church funds, sometimes for a charity like the Ukraine appeal – but for the time being any money given will go to our Churchyard Fund which covers the expenses for the maintenance of all the area around the Church. This fund has got a bit thin of recent times and is in need of a top up so that we can continue to have things looking as tidy as they do at the moment. There is also another way you can help and that is by being an Angel Mouse. For £1.00 a week you can become a regular supporter of our Churchyard Fund. Maybe you have a beloved relative or friend who has found their final resting place in the peace and tranquillity here at St. Paul's, or maybe you yourself find our churchyard a place of calm or maybe it's somewhere you appreciate as you pass through out on a walk with or without a canine companion. However you come to us please pause and take in the beauty of our churchyard – at a time when many churchyards have become neglected and overgrown, Kevin does a marvellous job keeping ours looking as it is, a space that is appreciated, well-tended and well cared for.

Sunday 6th August, we have our annual Lammas Service. Here at Walton we have a cycle of traditional rural services – starting with Plough Sunday, then Rogation, and now Lammas, and finally culminating with our Harvest Festival. Lammas is the time