

STAFF

Prebendary Noël Hector (Rector)	The Rectory, 32 All Saints' Lane, Clevedon BS21 6AU (Tel: 873257) eastcleveub@blueyonder.co.uk
<i>Associate Clergy</i> The Rev'd Sister Anita CSC	St Gabriel's, 27a Dial Hill Road, Clevedon BS21 7HL (Tel: 544471) anita@sistersofthechurch.org
The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock	3 Friary Close, Clevedon, BS21 7QA (Tel: 870751) nr.maddock@gmail.com
The Rev'd Tim Daplyn	1 New Park House, Old Park Road, Clevedon, BS21 7HU (Tel: 219810) coillellie@hotmail.com
<i>Lay Ministers</i> Mrs Angela Hector, M.Sc.	52 Thackeray Avenue, Clevedon, BS21 7TA (Tel: 871247)
Mrs Robb Robinson, B.Ed	Boxwood Cottage, Clevedon Road, Weston in Gordano BS20 8PU (Tel: 399097)
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Lindsey Ivens (07702 082192)
Hall Bookings: All Saints' Parish Rooms:	Trish & John Dean Tel: 07763295495 (Texts preferred) email: allsntshall@gmail.com
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)

Sec of Friends of St Michael's Clapton in Gordano - Louise Russell 07968109741

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

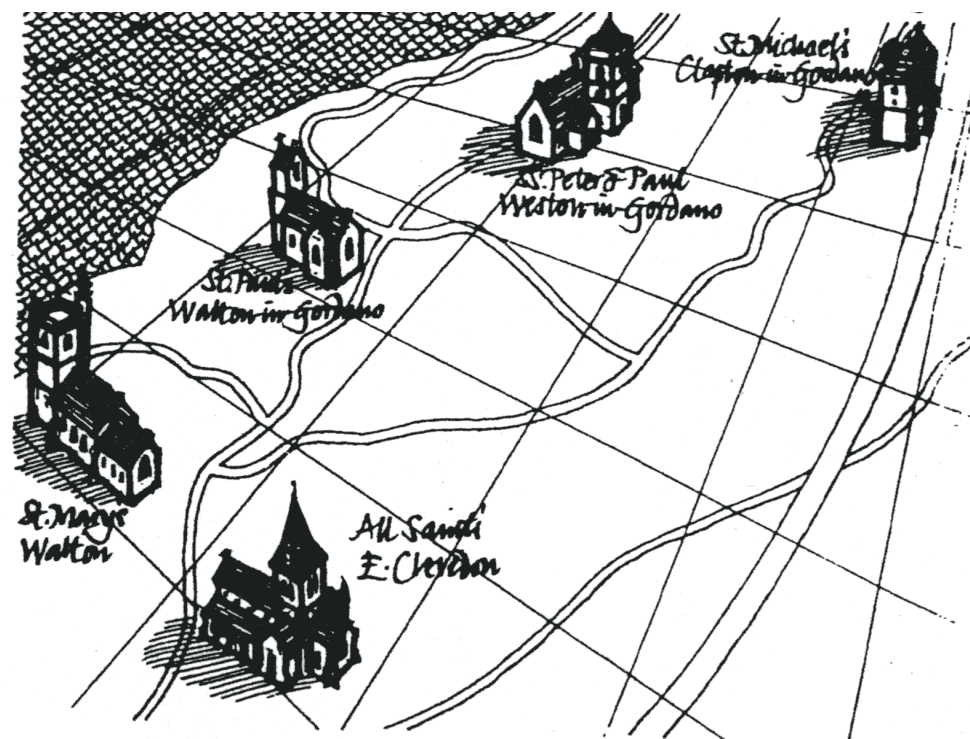
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Parish Office:

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



December 2022 50P

SERVICES

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

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 January magazine is 9am Monday December 19th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday January 1st.

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FIRST WORD from The Rector

On or about the 14th January 1904 King George V enlarged his impressive stamp collection. He had one of the very best stamp collections in the world and delighted in bringing into his albums the colourful and varied stamps from the Empire.

In 1904, and then even more so into the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s, stamp collecting was “a thing”. Under thousands of Christmas trees small boys (for it was mainly boys) would receive with much delight a new album, a new collection of first day covers or a new copy of the Stanley Gibbons guide to the stamps of the world. The celebration of the Incarnation brought with it a slew of philately – as well as other things. Don’t get me wrong, I myself have never been a collector, nor indeed seen the interest in it, but hobbies, like life, are unpredictable.

The stamp George V bought, of course, was different. It was an unfranked Blue Mauritius, from the far flung outpost of Empire, to the value of £1,450 and it was the rarest stamp one could buy. To put this in context, a house in Clevedon in 1904 was worth about £225 – the stamp being worth over six times a family home. It caused something of a stir all those years ago and many were aghast at the cost, although where Royalty goes fashion often follows and the King’s stamp collection helped inspire a generation of boys and men to begin a collection of their own.

Of course, the first commercially available Christmas Card on which to stick one’s stamp was only produced in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. It depicted a Victorian family of a well to do kind raising a glass of wine in a toast to the recipient, the happy scene being also surrounded by smaller scenes of generosity and gifts to the poor. Sir Henry was a shrewd person. He’d noticed the increasing fashion of producing hand-made Christmas cards to give to family or friends one would not see at Christmas, and he realised that printed cards would be a perfect match for the newly introduced Penny Post - which he himself had just introduced!

Today we send by post about 150 million cards – by far and away the biggest postal delivery of the year, and although the numbers are falling year on year most of us are still cheered by the clatter of the letter box. By the way, the Royal Mail only stopped Christmas Day deliveries in 1960.

So it was with some interest that I noticed a particular Christmas stamp this year. It’s a current one, ready to be sent now – in Ukraine. It depicts a divided image, made up of two equal halves. On the left-hand side is a comforting image of a Christmas tree lit up and decorated in the warm glow of a home. Sitting on the floor, with her back to the tree, is a woman (a wife I think or perhaps a mother),



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head bowed in prayer and reflection. We see just half the tree, for on the right-hand side the trunk of the Christmas tree becomes a broken wall and sitting by the wall is the image of a sheltering Ukrainian soldier surrounded by a dark scene lit only by a far off explosion of a shell. Clearly the woman is thinking of and praying for her loved one, and the soldier is similarly thinking and praying for her.

I found it very moving.

We celebrate peace at Christmas and rightly so. In the carol services we shall sing “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright” and “Hark, the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King; peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled”. We sing this because we believe in the peace which Christ embodied, a light shining in the darkness which the darkness has not overcome. Christ urged us again and again to strive for peace, to be people of reconciliation – to pray for enemies and to treat others as we’d wish to be treated. This message never tires, although we can be almost immune to it.

There is no peace in Ukraine yet. Think how many must long for a Christmas they knew before the war. Think how precious a simple card and stamp from a loved one must be for so many – an expression of love and of longing for peace and home.

You may not collect stamps, you may even begrudge sending out cards. But never tire of Christmas. Peace is not guaranteed for any of us whilst evil and lies persist. At Christmas we celebrate the gift of love, hope and peace which is a holy thing and more powerful than any expression of hate. As we celebrate Christmas we will remember in our prayers and worship those whose lives have been divided by war and as we write, send and receive our cards and gifts may we be reminded of the light, peace and goodness of Christ and try, as the Ukrainian stamp does, to reflect this in our own life.

Have a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Noel

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

7th December and 11th January

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634

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

Stepping Stones ‘Living with Loss’

Drop in support in times of change or bereavement

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**2 – 4pm on the first Friday of each month
at St Mary’s Church Hall**

Next meetings 5th Jan and 3rd Feb

Tea always available!

Members of the team are able to give information
and one-to-one support if wished.

For further information: Angela 01275 871247

Pause for Thought

Minstrel's Song by Ted Hughes

I've just had an astounding dream as I lay in the straw.
I dreamed a star fell on to the straw beside me
And lay blazing. Then when I looked up
I saw a bull come flying through a sky of fire
And on its shoulders a huge silver woman
Holding the moon. And afterwards there came
A donkey flying through that same burning heaven
And on its shoulders a colossal man
Holding the sun. Suddenly I awoke
And saw a bull and a donkey kneeling in the straw,
And the great moving shadows of a man and a woman—
I say they were a man and a woman but
I dare not say what I think they were. I did not dare to look.
I ran out here into the freezing world
Because I dared not look. Inside that shed.

A star is coming this way along the road.
If I were not standing upright, this would be a dream.
A star the shape of a sword of fire, point-downward,
Is floating along the road. And now it rises.
It is shaking fire on to the roofs and the gardens.
And now it rises above the animal shed
Where I slept 'til the dream woke me. And now
The star is standing over the animal shed.

This poem by Ted Hughes seems to capture something of the mystery of the incarnation. It's dreamlike quality has both the familiar and the extraordinary combined but it is the sense of unease which we are left with which is most effective. Is the incarnation a simple and reassuring thing or is it reflective of the "fear of the living God"? The Christ is born in the familiar surroundings of the animal shed but comes with the energy of the creation itself – the huge action of God condensed into a point of fire, light and human reality. Does God come to reassure or to judge – or perhaps both?

Noel

East Clevedon Parishes *CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022*

Sunday 11th December

3.00 p.m. Carol Service at St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano
4.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight at All Saints', East Clevedon

Sunday 18th December

3.00 p.m. Carol Service at St Paul's Walton in Gordano
5.00 p.m. Carol Service at St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano
6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight at Walton St Mary, Clevedon

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Crib Services

3.30 p.m. Christingle at St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano
4.00 p.m. Christingle at Walton St Mary, Clevedon
5.30 p.m. Crib Service at All Saints', East Clevedon
including candlelit procession to crib with carols

Late Night Christmas Communion

10.00 p.m. at All Saints', East Clevedon
10.00 p.m. at Walton St Mary, Clevedon
10.00 p.m. at St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 a.m. All Saints' Church, East Clevedon
All Age Communion with carols at
10.00 a.m. St Mary's Church, Walton, Clevedon
10.00 a.m. St Paul's, Walton in Gordano
10.30 a.m. All Saints' Church, East Clevedon



READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 4th December – Advent 2

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Matthew 3: 1-12

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 11th December – Advent 3

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Sunday, 18th December – Advent 4

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Matthew 1: 18-end

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

SERVICES TO BE HELD IN CHURCH

4th 5.00 pm Holy Communion - The Rector

11th 5.00 pm Evensong - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn

18th 5.00 pm Carol Service - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn

25th No service

1st 5.00pm Holy Communion The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

Every Wednesday 11.00 am Holy Communion - check for venue

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

4th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rector

11th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

18th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
6.00 pm Carol Service - The Rector

25th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

1st 10.00am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Sunday SERVICES

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

All Saints, East Clevedon

4th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30 am	All Age Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
11th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	4.00 pm	Carol Service - The Rector
18th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rector
25th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
1st	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

4th	11.15 am	Advent Carols - The Rector
11th	11.15 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
18th	3.00 pm	Carol Service - Mr Joshua Fowler
25th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector

Saturday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9: 2b-7

John 1: 1-14

Eternal God, Who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known that revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill your hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Sunday, 25th December – Christmas Day

Isaiah 9: 2b-7

Luke 2: 1-20

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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 our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord.

FROM THE REGISTERS....

BAPTISMS

November 20th: Evelyn and Harrison Wood, St Mary's

FUNERALS

November 29th: Colin Greenhill, St Paul's

CONFIRMATIONS (Taunton Minister)

November 5th: Rob Bethell

ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

OUR OCTAVE

All Saints Tide has a deeply special meaning for us in East Clevedon, having been commemorated with a solemn significance for one hundred and twelve years.* This year, Solemn Evensong on the Eve of All Saints was celebrated, to our great joy, with our fellow Christians from [All Saints'] Wrington and [All Saints'] Wraxall. It was a luminous fellowship indeed, and after a beautiful service they joined us in the school for refreshment.

The next night, All Saints, we were again in our lovely parish church in recognition of "the great multitude whom no man can number, who stand before the Throne of God clothed in white robes with palms in their hands". Saints, as someone has said, are uncomfortable company for they are a constant challenge to us to live righteous lives, to be confident of Resurrection in a painfully difficult time, when the Church needs every effort we can expend.

All Souls' Day is to include among the departed, sinners as well as saints. It is a time of very special, and perhaps very private prayers, and we know them to be effective. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

In a local, parochial sense – and the parish has always been a great strength to the Church of England, it is always very moving to remember in prayer those who have served our church, those who live on not only in Christian timelessness, the Christian Eternity, but through our efforts.

Among them are countless women. We would like to record here that few have been as selfless and diligent and concerned as Marjory Clark.** She has a unique sense of rising to an occasion with a kind of dignified warmth, and the bounty of good heart. *Father Marriott writing in the Parish Magazine, December 1972.*

*Our church was built in 1860.

**Michael Clark's mother whom many of us will remember with great affection.

Julia Elton



ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon

Several from All Saints attended the Churches Together in Clevedon service in October hosted by Living Waters at Clevedon School. The theme was the climate emergency and the church response. One of the speakers was 'Captain' The Rev Tim

Daplyn and his 'Stoker' Billy Bones who was sat on their Christian Climate Action (CCA) tandem. Thank you Tim and everyone who took part in the service it certainly made us aware we can all play our part towards saving the planet. Tim and Billy were out and about during Extinction Rebellion gatherings in Bristol, Bath and London during the build-up to COP27 which took place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in November.

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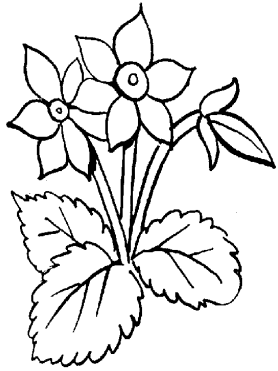
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Garden Talk

Yesterday I went to the dentist. That might seem an odd way to start a gardening column but if you knew my dentist you would understand. He is a gardening enthusiast, especially in the field of evergreen shrubs and trees.

'Have you bought an olive tree yet, William?' he asked (we are on first name terms).

I have never expressed a wish to own an olive tree, but my dentist clearly thinks I should have one. After some

further gardening talk I finally persuaded him to look at my teeth. Lying in the chair with my mouth wide open, I was not able to respond to his gardening advice so he had a captive audience.

In many ways, though, my dentist was right. Gardening is more than about flowers, fruit and vegetables: the evergreen trees and shrubs which provide shelter and privacy in a garden make a calming backdrop to the showier specimens. They are particularly valuable in the winter months when colour is at a premium. We have a lovely golden euonymus in our garden which demands nothing more than a light trim in spring or early autumn. It received no water in this summer's drought and was fine. We also have an elaeagnus and a laurel which together cover the back fence with a curtain of green throughout the year. And we have a sweet smelling bay tree which is getting rather out of hand. In the front a viburnum comes into its own in December with lovely cream flowers which last throughout the winter.

Most garden evergreens are exotics but there are a few native evergreens. Pride of place goes to the holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) which reproduces readily in the wild. There are a number of cultivars for the garden, including 'Golden King' with yellow-edged leaves. Another English native is the yew which makes a fine, but slow growing, hedge. A yew or holly hedge is a good alternative to box, another native, but one which is now suffering badly from box blight.

A tree which hails from the Mediterranean but has made a home in the Clevedon area is the holm oak, *Quercus ilex*, which is, in fact, an oak not a holly. It loves the salt-laden south-westerly winds so familiar to us all and can be found growing wild in woodland everywhere. We have one in our garden and it is a fine evergreen bush which would love to become a tree, so it suffers the indignity of regular trimming.

William King

Did you hear the bells ringing at All Saints on 1st November – George Wyatt explains why at the bottom of this article.

The Service of Light on 2nd November, led by Noel, was a very moving occasion, especially lighting candles in remembrance of loved ones and then placing them on the altar. The benefice choir sang beautifully, both accompanying the hymns and also singing 'Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace' (John Wesley). Anne and Richard Pring organised lovely refreshments and everyone had an opportunity to chat after the service.

Thank you to everyone involved in the November all age service. Andrea English chose the hymn 'Amazing Grace' with an explanation of what it meant for her. Then Rob Bethell, who had been confirmed at Wells Cathedral the previous day, spoke about his journey to confirmation. Rob made special mention of Jean Jones who had made him so welcome at All Saints. Then Joshua Fowler told us how he has been on a journey to find his vocation, whether it be in ordination or teaching. Remembrance Sunday took place on 13th November and following the service in church we walked to the Calvary on Walton Road. The names of the East Clevedon fallen were read out and Steve Tripp played the bugle. The flower arrangements in church were amazing. Thank you to everyone involved.

The next coffee morning will be on 7th December - this is a week earlier than usual. Then we meet on 11th January - everyone is very welcome.

As I write I'm looking forward to finding out more about Fra Angelico's 'The Annunciation' with local art historian Jonathan Camp on Saturday 3rd December, the Folk Concert on 9th December and the Crib Festival from 9th to 11th December. All three events are well worth attending if previous ones are anything to go by!

Christmas at All Saints - Carol Service 4pm on Sunday 11th December; Christmas Eve - 5.30pm candlelight crib service (for all ages) and 10pm Late Night Communion. Christmas Day - 8am Holy Communion and 10.30 All age Communion.

Sandra Sallis

All Saints Day Peal

All Saints has five bells set up for change ringing and a Peal was rung to celebrate the patronal festival (All Saints day). Firstly, a peal is when the bells are rung in a continuous mathematical sequence that ensures the bells are eventually rung in every sequence possible, this typically takes around three hours to do so. Most church's with change ringing bells often have peals rung for special religious festivals and community celebrations. Most towers have had a handful of peals rung on their bells over the last century or so.

All Saints has five bells which is unusual as towers typically have sets of six bells or eight bells and All Saints bells hadn't yet had a full peal rung on them, also unusual. The main reasons for no successful peals up until now is that the bells of All Saints are rather challenging to ring, I'm aware of an attempt in the 1970s by the St Mary

Redcliffe ringers, where they underestimated the difficulty of the bells and had to stop part way through, we took our peal attempt slow and steady and made sure that maintenance was carried out before setting off on our performance.

The peal took us 2 hours and 58 minutes to ring and was rung by a North Somerset band. This peal being the first successful on these bells also happened to be the 3000th rung by our oldest and most experienced ringer who rang the second to this performance, which made this peal even more special.

Peal band as follows: Treble: Matthew RT Higby (Timsbury); 2nd: Barrie Hendry (Wedmore) 3rd: Andrew H Ball (Conductor) (Winford) 4th: Matthew C Gardiner (Yatton) Tenor: George E Wyatt (Clapton in Gordano)



ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano

Starting with the good news. Beth & Jim Humphries, (incidentally both are bell ringers) were married in our wonderful old church on Sat 12th November. To set up this

important date was not an easy task for the couple, as they had to literally jump over a fair number of hurdles to get to the finish line. Good luck to them and wishing the couple a bright and happy future from all of us.

After the ceremony, there was a magical transformation of St Michaels interior! Just like that!

On the very next day, Sunday 13th we held Clapton village Remembrance Memorial Service at 11:00. The Rev'd Tim Daplyn lead the proceedings. The congregation numbered around 50 for the marking of cessation of hostilities in November 1918.

In these uncertain times it is now even more important to remember the wounded, fallen and missing, bringing home to us all the cost to humanity, and the terrible consequences of war. The service followed our traditional opening with a single horse rider leading the majority of the congregation meeting at the Black Horse public house and walking to the church along Clevedon Lane.

The Friends wish to thank to all who help to clean, prepare and decorate St Michaels for both the wedding ceremony and service. Especially Jaynie who created the stunning Remembrance poppy floral exhibits and to all who attended the service. Thanks as well to the staff at Clapton Court for their cooperation and use of their facilities both days for car parking for the wedding guests and service congregation.

And finally.....an entry for your diary, Sunday 11th December at 15:00, our Christmas Carol service to be held in St Michaels. Along with the extremely able accompaniment our local musicians, the Highly Strung group. All are indeed very welcome to attend.

Derek Roberts

Folk at Christmas—get your tickets now!

Tickets are now on sale for the 'event of the year' BadgerSet's Annual Christmas Concert. Included in the £10.00 price are seasonal refreshments including mulled wine.

As you probably know, this is always a very well supported event so get your tickets soon.

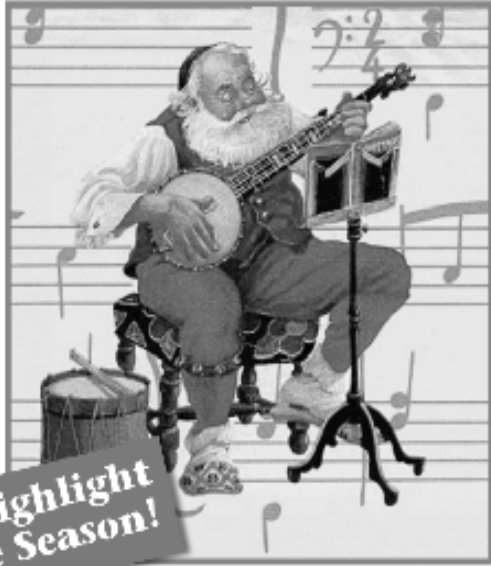
We very much look forward to welcoming you on the night.

The concert will be taking place at All Saints' Church on Friday 9th December starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from The Parish Office, 01275 873257 or eastcleveub@gmail.com, Monica Gore, 01275 791764, Mo King on 07377 387722 or mo.king@sky.com

Proceeds are in aid of All Saints' Church Interior Restoration.





**The Highlight
of the Season!**

Folk at Christmas

*Eleven-strong folk band BadgerSet
presents a miscellany of Christmas-themed
songs, dances, readings and tunes.*

**All Saints' Church, East Clevedon
Friday 9th December at 7.30pm**

Tickets £10.00 including seasonal refreshments
Available from: The Parish Office (01275 873257),
Monica Gore (01275 791764),
or Mo King (07377 387722)

Proceeds in aid of All Saints' Church Interior Restoration



WALTON ST MARY

My my, how time rushes by. Soon it will be Christmastide and the delight of crackling fires, chestnuts roasting and presents a-plenty to be opened.

CHRISTMAS hath darkness

Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.
Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

We were pleased to again welcome our friends from St Peter & St Paul's for the funeral of one of their stalwart members Jean Carrad (1933 - 2022). Jean was a former churchwarden, choir mistress in the village church and director of the United Benefice choir for many years. A full church and an overflowing choir was an indication how sorely she will be missed.

Our Bible Sunday service included the visit of Judith Sawyers who gave a most interesting talk on the work of the Wycliffe Bible Translators. She told us that even though over 1000 translations have been completed (bear in mind, according to Google there are 7378 languages in active use worldwide) 1 in 5 people are still waiting for a Bible in their first language !

Remembrance Day Service, so well choreographed and conducted by Nicholas Maddock was a credit to the occasion. Churchwardens Diana and Paul read out the names of The Fallen, David played the Reveille and petals cascaded down from the bell tower as the two-minute silence was observed. All so moving,

Finally, some reminders:

the food bank collections at the back of the Church continue, so please give generously

Our Social Committee will be holding a Christmas Coffee morning with bumper raffle prizes in the hall on 3rd December at 10 o'clock and our Service of Nine Carols and Lessons will take place on Sunday 18th December at 6 o'clock.

Have a holly, jolly Christmas everyone.

Paul Middleton



ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano

Let the mountains break forth with singing, and the hills with righteousness, for the Lord, the Light of the World, draws near with power.

Advent Sunday, the start of the Churches year, will have seen the congregation here back into its ancient and loved church. As I write the work is proceeding well towards that. My guess is that, good as it will be to return to the Church building, we will miss the light bright attractiveness of the village hall, though not the work of preparing and packing up! Still we are very grateful indeed for how well it has served our purposes. It's not been a hardship.

On Saturday 3rd December we have the Christmas fete between 10.00 and 12.00 in the Village Hall. This is usually a good event. I am not sure where proceeds from that fete go but it reminds me that we are still short of £8.000 needed for the restoration expenses.

On Sunday the 18th at 5.00 pm is the Carol service, in the Church. And at 10 p.m. on December 24th, a Saturday, the Christmas 'midnight' communion service. The church building is lovely for both these occasions and the Carol service popular in the village for all ages. Please come and celebrate!

Four of us, by chance, from four different churches in the benefice were fortunate, for differing reasons, to be present at the installation of Bishop Michael in Wells Cathedral along with more than a thousand other people, the majority wearing dog collars. Parking was a problem!

Apart from the joy, for me, of meeting up with 'auld acquaintance' from my years in Vicar's Close, the service was unusual and impressive. Twice the Bishop was ritually questioned by children; at the great West door as he entered:

"We greet you in the Name of Christ. Who are you and why do you request entry. Why have you been sent to us?"

How do you come among us, and with what confidence?

And later, at the enthronement, "Jesus said, 'truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it'. Bishop Michael, always remember that you are first a child of God." That was moving.

There was a wonderful, rather spine tingling, musical / choir background to the reading from Acts 2 v 1-22 (no named composer: was it improvised?) and hymns both traditional and modern. Before the sermon was Siegfried Sassoon's wonderful "Everyone suddenly burst out singing" set to music by David Bednall formerly organist in Wells "Oh but everyone was a bird, and the song was Wordless; the singing will never be done." Bishop Michael was amusing in his sermon and there was a distinct sense that he is more than happy to be in Somerset! I think that bodes well. We discover his first, ignored, Christian name is Noel! For an hour or so our spirits were lifted from the prevalent anxieties and burdens of our times, though these were not forgotten, and it was uplifting to be amongst so many fellow Christians.

LOCAL CLEANER



If you are looking for a cleaner please contact me on 07702082192 or lindsey.ivens@btopenworld.com

References provided

LIFE Bible Bookshop

Open Mon - Sat 10am – 1pm (Excluding bank holidays and annual holidays see website)

A place to see, hear, touch and share God's Word. Bibles, Books, Cards, Gifts, Second-hand books, Church supplies, Dated readings and more. We provide a personal, bespoke ordering service to churches and individuals. Tea & Coffee provided in The Living Room.

Open the Scriptures Mon - Sat 10am A shared Bible reading and reflection. Tea / coffee available.

LIFE, 13 The Centre, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UW 01934 418109 07717 323890 www.life-wsm.org FB @LifeWsm @LifeLivingRoom





All Saints' Church East Clevedon BS21 6AU

We have great pleasure in presenting our very special

CRIB FESTIVAL

*Come along and see our wide and varied interpretations
of the traditional nativity theme in the beautiful setting
of All Saints' Church.*

The church will be open 10.00am to 4.00pm every day from

Fri 9 - Sun 11 December 2022

*Light refreshments will be available.
Entry free but donations welcomed.*

Remembrance Day followed, with our service in the Village Hall. More than 30 villagers were present for what was again, an impressive act of worship and remembrance. Tim Daplyn as a military man himself preached well on remembering as opposed to the dis-membering of war. Daveran Baulch, from the village who has researched the war records of people from the village gave us the details of some of their lives, including that of Richard Perceval in the 11th century, fighting in the same territory in the Holy Land as some who later died in World War One.

It was particularly good to have amongst us Jane Eccleston, brought from her Clevedon Nursing home by a relative who had just flown over from America for a family funeral elsewhere.

I was unable to be at Jean Carrad's Funeral in St Mary's but a report of that is appended.

We are very pleased that John Bridges continues to make progress after his lengthy stay in hospital. We greatly miss Margaret Jacobs presence at worship and continue to pray for her, for diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

I always find Advent a poignantly haunting season, beckoning us into the profound mysteries of God and eternity. It's also a season of Hope.

'Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Sister Carol

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jean Carrad was held at Walton St Mary Church on October 20th. Family and friends from far and wide were there including daughter Elizabeth, son Chris from New Zealand and nieces from North Wales. Sadly Jean's brother William was not well enough to travel. Jean would be pleased to know that Ernest Woolford, her piano partner, was there.

Noel delivered a beautiful eulogy speaking of Jean as a special, caring, supportive friend and musician who shared her talents generously. Special prayers, written by Sister Carol, were said with love by Ann Bridges, Carol being unwell.

The music, some chosen by Jean, was lovely throughout the service. The anthem 'Lead me Lord' was sung by a large United Benefice Choir, which included a number of singers from St Peter and St Paul. We think/hope it made Jean smile.

Ann Chavasse



ST PAUL'S, Walton in Gordano

In the bleak mid-winter
 frosty wind made moan,
 earth stood hard as iron,
 water like a stone:
 snow had fallen, snow on snow,
 snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
 Angels and archangels
 may have gathered there,
 cherubim and seraphim
 thronged the air;
 but only his mother
 in her maiden bliss
 worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
 What can I give him,
 poor as I am?
 if I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man
 I would do my part,
 yet what can I give him:
 give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)

We start this month with a few words from Sue:

We were all truly sorry to hear of the death of Colin Greenhill. For many years he had been struggling with ill health and the resilience he had shown throughout this time has been amazing. In better days Colin contributed so much to our village community both Church and Hall – a helping hand when one was needed. Always a willing host, when as a couple Anne and Colin threw open the doors of their beautiful home and garden for all kinds of village events including music evenings, open gardens, and most memorably tossing pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Our love and prayers go to Anne and the family at this sad time.'

'Remembrance Sunday is always a very moving occasion but as the war grinds on relentlessly in Ukraine, living in the grip of war today, it is not just an Act of Remembrance but reality. Thank you to Nicolas for leading the service and how wonderful to have Ruth to play the organ for us. We finished the service by



CHRISTMAS

FAYRE

St Paul's

SUNDAY 4th

DECEMBER

FROM 12.30

HOME MADE

REFRESHMENTS

ALL KINDS OF STALLS

BACON ROLLS

ALL WELCOME

INCLUDING MUDDY
BOOTS AND DOGS!

Churches Together United Service

The recent Churches Together in Clevedon United Service, led by Daniel Sibthorpe, focused on climate change and had three main speakers, David Hart from Christian Aid and Tim Daplyn from our benefice.

David Hart spoke of the invaluable work of Christian Aid in the countries that are most affected by climate change and invited further discussion in the churches through their Climate Justice Conversation initiative.



Tim, and his companion Stoker Bones (see above), told Aesop's Fable of the crow and the pitcher. In a memorable 'show and tell' he illustrated how small things done in cooperation with others add up to make a difference in the fight against climate change. The fable tells of a thirsty crow who found a pitcher with water in the bottom which she couldn't reach and that was too heavy to tip over. She realised that if she put a pebble into the pitcher it raised the water level slightly. Having added some more pebbles to the pitcher she reflected that this process was going to take a long time, so she invited some other crows to help her with the project. Before long the water came to the top of the pitcher and they were all able to relieve their thirst.

Living Waters Church, who hosted the service at Clevedon School, provided refreshments and there were various stalls highlighting climate action in Clevedon. This gave a good opportunity for members from churches in Clevedon to meet and chat before and after the service.

walking around the churchyard and visiting the graves of our fallen – the three men who died in the service of our King and Country in the Second World War.'

What a beautiful day for the Installation of our new Bishop Michael Beasley. Wells was thronging with people all making their way towards the Cathedral. As we entered the building, an hour before the service was to begin, most of the seating was already full. Taking a seat at the very back I did wonder how much I would see, but it did give me a chance to enjoy the splendours of Wells Cathedral. One thing truly drew my attention - the figure of Mary as she was highlighted by the beautiful autumn sunshine. As I sat there wearing a poppy of remembrance all those mothers who have lost sons, especially due to conflicts, were brought to mind. Before the service began there were a number of processions including those who are part of the Cathedral team, but also members of the Clergy representing churches from all over the Bath and Wells region – of course this included our very own Noel and Nicolas, but I also caught a glimpse of Martin beaming as usual. But where was the Bishop? As the ceremony started a procession reached the huge west doors that were immediately behind me, these were flung open to allow the rays of the setting sun to enter the Cathedral along with our Bishop – he entered surrounded by light. What a fitting symbol of the start of his journey with us. Although I was right at the back I could see through the multitude of heads all those speaking from the pulpit including the Bishop's sermon. He invited us to take home a hazel sapling to plant either in our own gardens or in our churchyard, as a symbol of his love spreading throughout the whole diocese. As we all left the Cathedral clutching our little gifts it looked like we were leaving with a party bag – how appropriate for such a joyous occasion.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to Sarah's Flower Arranging class, as we prepare for Christmas.

We start this month with the Christmas Quiz in the Village Hall on Friday 2nd December, details in the Chronicle.

Don't forget there's no 'Welcome In' coffee morning this month as on the next day we have a wonderful welcome waiting for you at our Christmas Fayre.

But first on this Sunday (4th December) at 11.15am we have our Advent Carol Service – join us for an always popular service with a mixture of well-known Advent Hymns and Christmas Carols. And then following straight on at 12.30pm we have our Christmas Fayre also in the Church. Come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon with a wide range of stalls, including home-made crafts, cakes, jams and pickles, and Christmas decorations - and of course plenty of delicious refreshments. Tickets

will be on sale for our Grand Christmas Hamper, always a prize well worth winning. If you have anything to add to the hamper or any other raffles prizes or any cakes, please bring them on the day. And remember that if you've ordered a Christmas Cake from Sue then this is the time to pick it up from the Church. Christmas here at St. Paul's is always a truly lovely time, so why not get your celebrations off to the perfect start and join us for this festive day.

The Village Christmas Post Box closes on this Sunday – giving the helpers at the Fayre a chance to hand out the cards to those in attendance. If you are out and about, maybe walking the dog, it would be great if you could pop into the Church and deliver any of the cards that are left after the closing date. In anticipation of your unfailing generosity, thank you to you all for using this service and supporting Unicef in their continuing work to help mums and babies around the world. Details of just how much money was raised through the Post Box and the collection from the Carol Service will be in next month's magazine.

Sunday 18th December we have a busy day with our Village Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30 lunchtime. There will be tickets in this month's Chronicle, and also at the back of the Church – there is no charge but please bring a plate each of savoury food, anything from sausage rolls to crisps and snacks. A delicious selection of puddings will be provided. Please remember to each bring a present for Father Christmas's sack – he'll be visiting us after lunch, make sure you're listening out for his sleigh.

With lunch finished and clutching your gift from Father Christmas's sack it's then straight up to the Church at 3pm for this year's Carol Service. Always a highlight of the year – a chance to celebrate together and to sing out at the top of your voices as we enjoy all our favourite carols.

Just a quick note for your diary – there will not be a service here on January 1st 2023 (yes, I'm mentioning the new year already) so the next weekend will count as the first of the month with the 'Welcome In' on the Saturday at 10.30am, and our new format of worship – Morning Together - trialled successfully in November, followed by our lunch and our Parish Conversation on the Sunday.

And finally – 'WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS'



received Nomleas Sekonga from the Solomon Islands to live in our Vicarage for a year. We met him on a freezing February morning at Heathrow and all he wanted to

see were sheep. They don't have sheep in the Solomon Islands, so that talking about the Good Shepherd made no sense, so the local term used was the "Good Cowboy." It doesn't catch the real meaning, but it was a start. Like us they could have done with a glossary.

Bible Sunday celebrates the gift of the Bible, but without a guide we can often miss important insights and regrettably sometimes even misunderstand what the authors were trying to convey. Perhaps our now Bibles should have a glossary.

Bishop Barry

On Friday 11th November whilst I was busy arranging flowers on the welcome table a gentleman came in to church. It was 10.50am. And, after I'd greeted him he asked if the bells would be ringing at 11am. I explained that the bell would be tolling on Sunday when we would be processing to the Calvary after the church service for our act of remembrance. He explained that his dad was an 'old soldier' and he had recently died. I said he was welcome to stay and observe two minutes silence and, if he liked, I would join him.

Both Kay and Vera were in church at the time so, as the clock struck the hour, we stood, heads bowed, all four of us in a line at the front of the church. It was rather poignant and the gentleman, Adrian, thanked us for sharing the moment with him. He lives in Nailsea and was meeting a friend near the church when he decided to come in and remember his dad Ken who had served with the 'Glosters' in places such as Monte Cassino during the Second World War. I do hope he found some comfort in our beautiful church.

Monica Gore



What Did The Bible Authors Mean?

Have you ever wondered whether what we hear or read in or from the Bible is what

the original authors intended? Let me give you an example: Despite the original Greek text describing Church Leaders in the formative years of Christianity as “slaves” few of the English translations use that word. Instead they use “servant,” which doesn’t quite convey what the authors intended.

Why? Well we might think that it was thought inappropriate to call such revered people “slaves”. Nevertheless are we missing something important by not translating the original text by, “slave”?

Christianity was born within the Jewish religion and it inherited the Old Testament, which it took seriously, so if all the references in the Old Testament to the Hebrew word for “slave” were examined, the result would be interesting. We would discover there were, amongst others, two distinct categories, the one which could be described as “institutional slavery”, which is how we would use the term. The other was that which could be described as “religious slavery”.

Abraham, David, the prophets are all called “slaves of God”. Such people discerned God’s will for them and carried it out. We can take an example from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, where he writes about Christ as, “Emptying himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

Jesus is described as a “slave”, who discerns God’s will that he should go up to Jerusalem and there give his life as a ransom for many. In consequence God rewards him, by giving him name, which is above every name.

On Bible Sunday, St Mary’s, Walton listened to Judith Sawyers, from the Wycliffe Translators. She is part of a team which has been translating the New Testament into the local languages found in the Central African Republic, once part of the Belgian Congo. At the end of each of these versions of the New Testament there is an extended glossary where titles and words which are used in the New Testament are explained, so despite seeing the world from their own culture there is a window into the culture of the early Christian writers.

Olga and I had an opportunity to discover how important that can be. In 1978 we

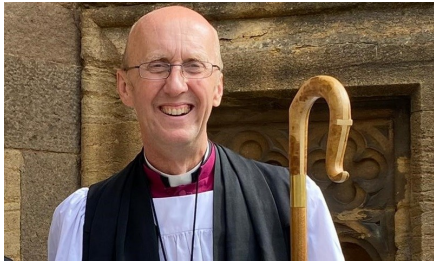


And our Mouse Musings: We mice are getting excited – yes, it’s the World Cup and we have our ticket for the ‘Footie and Sweep’ sweepstake. And of course, we are very excited as we get ready for the big day - no, not the final – Christmas Day, and plenty of

mince pie crumbs. ‘We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year’.

A very moving Remembrance Day service was held at The Calvary in Clevedon. Special thanks go to Dave H and Russell W for tidying up the memorial area and Steve T for playing the trumpet.





LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Called to walk the way of the cross

A message from the Rt Revd Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

As I prepare to be installed as the 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells on the 12 November, I have been reading and re-reading the charge given to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury when I was legally confirmed as bishop back in June. The charge can be found on the diocesan website. Please do take a look at what it says. The charge is terrifying. It calls me to walk the way of the cross. It urges me to rely not on my own strength, but on that provided by the Lord. The charge asks me to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' (Proverbs 3:18). It reminds me that I am to be the shepherd of the flock entrusted to me. It also includes calls to be committed to the highest standards of safeguarding and care of the environment.

Reading my charge makes me wonder whether I have been invited to impersonate the Archangel Gabriel! Thankfully it also includes words which act to make the whole thing possible. Chief among these is this phrase: I am called to 'build a church where each stone is valued'. Drawing on the writings of the First Letter of Peter (see Chapter 2), the charge calls me to remember that I'm not doing this all alone. We are doing it all together.

I've already been discovering this as I've travelled around Somerset attending worship in different churches and meeting new clergy colleagues. The installation will see people gather from across the county, committing together to our vision of 'Living and Telling the Story of Jesus'. Undertaking that task with authenticity and integrity is the greatest charge of all. It's one that I'm looking forward to sharing with you.

Every blessing

Bishop Michael

Walton St Mary Light up a Life Service for Weston Hospicecare

St Mary's is pleased to be able to host Weston Hospicecare on the 14th December at 7.00pm for their annual lantern lit Light up a Life fundraising and memorial service. This is open to anyone and everyone but would be especially helpful for any who have lost a loved one and who may find Christmas a difficult time. There will be refreshments afterwards and people to talk with about the work of the hospice or bereavement.

All Saints Church Cleaning Day

I am hoping to have a cleaning day on Saturday 3rd of December from 10am until 1pm. I will be supplying a ploughman's lunch for anyone who can help.

If you can come please let me know, I look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Kay Osborne

Sending our prayers and congratulations to Rob Bethell on his confirmation at Wells Cathedral .



Why do they do that? A monthly look at what the church does and why.



This month:

Since when have we sung carols in church services?

A carol is a traditional, rhythmic song originally intended for dancing or jollity and they derive, at part at least, from the French carole although their history may be much longer. They are inherently “popular” rather than particularly cultured. So, one from 1350 goes, “honnd by honned we schulle us take...” as the carol accompanied a folk dance. Because of the character of the folk carol it was particularly suited to Christmas and the taking of strong drink!

In the medieval church the carol was introduced to include some jollity into worship – both in and out of church – and were a welcome change from the Latin plainchant and following St Francis’ introduction of the crib scene Christmas began to include at least some of the marks of our current practice.

During the 15th century there was a huge increase in carols, some of which hold echoes even today (The Cherry Tree, for example) and many encompassed local traditions.

The Reformation and Puritanism banned such festivities, and although they were reintroduced after the Commonwealth, their popularity declined until the 19th century. In 1822, faced with the extinction of many carols, some were “rescued” and printed before they passed from memory. During the Victorian era more and more were collected and printed, especially W. Sanday’s Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern (1833), Neal’s Carols for Christmastide (1853) and finally Stainer’s Christmas Carols New and Old (1871) which brought the singing of carols into every parish church.

If there was a danger now it is that knowledge of carols is shrinking once again to just a favoured few as church attendance declines – all the more reason for us to sing with jollity and confidence and even with a glass of something to gladden the heart!

Noel



An Evening of Art for Advent
Join us for a fascinating exploration of Fra Angelico's 'The Annunciation' with local art histoian, Jonathan Camp.

7.30pm on Saturday 3rd December at All Saints' Church Hall, Clevedon

£12.00 (includes a glass of wine/soft drink)

please pay on the door

For further details: Rosie Jackson 07887656914 or Parish office on 01275 873257

Little Saints

At Little Saints the children have been enjoying listening to different stories from the bible, and then taking part in a fun craft activity about the story. They are getting very handy with glue and stickers now!

Christine read them the story of Joseph and his magnificent multicoloured coat, and after they created their own Joseph, each proudly wearing a very colourful coat.

Another story they liked listening to was the Lost Sheep, and were all very excited when Kate told them that there were 12 sheep lost in the church for them to find. It didn't take them long, and after the sheep had all been rounded up they had fun creating their very own sheep using glue and cotton wool.

Little Saints is for preschool children and their carers, and focuses on having lots of fun and getting creative, while hearing lots of stories from the bible. The group meets every Thursday during term-time, from 12.30-2 in the vestry and new faces will always receive a warm welcome. Suggested donation £2 per family. People are very welcome to bring a packed lunch with them if they would like to.



All Saints School

The whole school visited Wells Cathedral for our school pilgrimage. During the day the children had a tour of the cathedral, drew the World gaia exhibit and took part in a craft activity.



The Infants have been learning about the different animal groups. They had some special visitors—Mabel the dog, and Biscuit and Brownie the guinea pigs were the mammal visitors, and Raphael the reptile joined in too. Mrs Carey also bought in her fish.

The whole school took part in a Remembrance Service led by the Rector Noel. Each class took a poppy wreath they had made and laid them at the alter, and then observed a minute's silence.



ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

27 December We remember on his birthday my dear Dad, Des Tyrrell, former organist and choirmaster of All Saints. He is still loved and missed every day. Mo and Geoff King



9 January 2023 Our fantastic grandson, James is 17 today. We are so grateful to have this lovely young man in our lives. 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.