

STAFF

Prebendary Noël Hector (Rector) The Rectory, 32 All Saints' Lane, Clevedon BS21 6AU (Tel: 873257) eastclevedon04@outlook.com.

Associate Clergy

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) coillegillie@hotmail.com

Michael Dyne (ordinand in training) email Michael.dyne@outlook.com 07879 048531

Reader

Mrs Robb Robinson, B.Ed 4 The Close, Weston-in-Gordano, BS20 8PX (Tel: 07722438406)

Safeguarding Officer Mrs Lindsey Ivens (07702 082192)

Hall Bookings:

All Saints' Parish Rooms: Trish Dean Tel: 07763295495 (Texts preferred) email: allstntshall@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. eastclevedon04@outlook.com; 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: eastclevedon04@outlook.com



December 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)

WEEKLY BENEFICE UPDATE

New Parish Office email address: eastclevedon04@outlook.com

Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a weekly email with Readings, Prayers and Notices for the week.

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 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 Monday December 11th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday January 7th.

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For further information: Ruth Maddock 01275 870751 /
Email: ruthmaddock@gmail.com

Change of email address

The Parish Office has a new email address:

eastclevedon04@outlook.com



FIRST WORD from The Rector

The advent hymn, Longing for light, goes like this:

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us, make us your living voice.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine in the darkness.

Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

I say this because in recent years we have witnessed much of the world's horrors and troubles. Perhaps it has always been so, but with the advent of 24 hour news things come to our attention immediately and remorselessly. We have seen with eyes open wide with alarm the devastation caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the brutality that has come with it; we have seen the terror visited upon innocent people in Israel by Hamas and the suffering of innocent Palestinian people, including children and babies; we see the erosion of truth by artificial intelligence and by the blatant untruths, claims, boasts and evasions by influential senior politicians angling for popular opinion. Perhaps we know too much. It seems inadequate to offer a humble crib, a birth and a heaven's rejoicing in the face of these assaults to decency but that is what we must do. Christ is born to an imperfect world and as the story unfolds so we witness something of these "modern" themes – the Holy Family become refugees in an occupied land, Herod brutally seizes the innocent, Pilate questions truth and Christ is denied justice. In the midst of all this is Mary, a mother of a wronged son who somehow had to reconcile the love of God with the realities of the world. How strong she must have been.

If you go to Salisbury Cathedral you will see a bronze statue of Mary by Elizabeth Frink called the Walking Madonna. She is life sized, older than the normal depictions of Mary, head slightly bowed and walking away from the Cathedral. Her lined face is of one who has seen the world and its woes, but she is confident, strong and



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purposeful – striding into the world not away from it. If there is a distinction between “doing church” (merely coming to church but without much impact in life) and “being church” (carrying the faith in ones being into every department of life) – then she’s a “being” and not a “doing”. The Walking Madonna seems to say that in spite of everything there is light, truth and hope for Christ is born not because the world is pure but because it is broken, he comes as light because so many of us walk in darkness, he comes as truth because God is truth in a world distracted by lies.

We cannot take onto ourselves the burdens and suffering of the whole world. We can participate in it, we can observe and share in the realities of it all, but only God can take all of it. This is Christmas really, that in these fragile individuals, Mary, Joseph and the Christ child, the truth, light and love of God is made real which lies, darkness and hate cannot quench. John puts it the best in his Gospel which we read on Christmas Eve, “In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Life, light, grace and truth – these are the Christmas things we have to set against the anguish we see in the world. So when, in your family and in your Christmas celebrations you see these things, the love of family and friends, a kindness shown or spoken, a faith in goodness being lived out, a reconciliation, a humour and joy shared, then you know that God is among you for as John also says, “those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them”. There is so much beauty in the world.

There is kindness, hope, faithfulness, courage, loyalty and joy – these are the enduring gifts of Mary, Joseph and the Christ child.

A very happy Christmas to you.

Noel

Crib Festival is on again this year in All Saints Church from **Friday 15 December to Sunday 17 December** and help will be needed with stewarding on these 3 days please.

We are so grateful for any contributions of cribs no matter what style or size, old, new or hand made.

Contact the Parish office if you can help.



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’

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Sort code: 40-37-33

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Cheques payable to ‘East Clevedon UB’

‘East Clevedon United Benefice’

A/c no: 00334855

Sort code: 52-21-39

FROM THE REGISTERS....

FUNERALS

3rd November: Burial of ashes, Raymond Willis. All Saints

3rd November: Burial of ashes, Marcia Gibson. All Saints

9th November: Mary House. All Saints

BAPTISMS

19th November: Mack Prescott. All Saints

Pause for Thought

The **COLLECT** for **ADVENT**
Thomas Cranmer (1489 – 1556),

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There is said to be an ancient Chinese curse: “May you live in interesting times”. Thomas Cranmer, the compiler of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, and its second edition in 1552, undoubtedly lived during an extremely interesting time. Sadly, those times were so fractious that despite being Archbishop of Canterbury he was charged with “heresy” by Queen Mary I, and burnt at the stake in 1556.

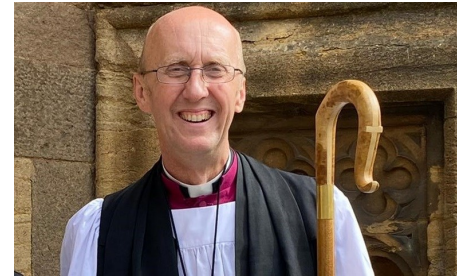
Happily, the legacy of Cranmer’s unique linguistic and liturgical gifts lives with us still in the form of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). It is still beloved by many, and its continuing influence over our current liturgies is seen in the fact that his Collect for Advent Sunday is still the one we use today.

We cannot imagine living in a world where the darkness of a winter’s night could not be transformed instantly into light at the flick of a switch. But that world of wintry darkness, physically, spiritually and politically, was the world Cranmer lived in, and he invoked that analogy to urge us to focus our spiritual lives on God as we begin a new Church Year.

One of my favourite hymns, “Lord, for the years” by Bp Timothy Dudley Smith, ends with the words “past put behind us, for the future take us - Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.” That is the spirit of hope in and commitment to Christ that Cranmer is seeking to inspire in us by this prayer. He directed that it was to be read not just on Advent Sunday (3rd Dec this year), but every day from Advent Sunday to Christmas Eve. In that way he hoped the minds of the faithful would be centred on seeking the Light of Christ in their lives, whatever their physical situation at the time.

Since we, too, are living in interesting times, perhaps we can use this great Collect in our daily prayers as our spiritual preparation to welcome Christ into our lives this Christmas.

Nicholas Maddock.



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

A unique story

When I speak to my Mum on my birthday, she often recalls to me the events that surrounded my arrival in the world. These include nearly being born in the hospital lift, my older brother being

smuggled in to see me under my dad’s overcoat and of various aunts sneaking onto the maternity ward out of visiting hours by wearing their WRVS uniforms. Each of us has a unique story about our birth. At Christmas we’ll be recounting once again the story that we share about another birth - the birth of Jesus. Across the world we’ll be re-telling and re-enacting what happened in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We’ll recall the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth in the stable, the arrival of the shepherds, the song of the angels, the visit of the Magi. Our own birth stories are unique to each of us. Jesus’s is common to us all. And not just because we all know about it. For in our recollection of Jesus’ birth, we’ll also be remembering that that in him, God came to be at one with us. In Jesus God arrived to share fully in our humanity, experiencing complete solidarity with every aspect of our human condition. Jesus is ‘God with us’ – in trenches in Ukraine, bomb shelters in Israel and Gaza, in hospital wards where loved ones die, in relationships where there is conflict and distress.

Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: ‘He became what we are so that we might become what he is.’ The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God’s life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him.

This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Bishop Michael

Light Up a Life service

Weston Hospicecare

St Mary’s Church, Wednesday December 13th, 7pm.

A special service with carols to remember loved ones.

Seasonal refreshments available.



READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 3rd December – Advent 1

Isaiah 64: 1-9 **Mark 13: 24-end**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 10th December – Advent 2

Isaiah 40: 1-11 **Mark 1: 1-8**

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, 17th December – Advent 3

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end **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.

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

3rd	10.00 am	Morning Prayer - The Rector
10th	5.00 pm	Carol Service - The Rector Sr Carol Gospel
17th	5.00pm	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
24th	3.30pm 9.00pm	Christingle - The Rector Late evening communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn & carols
25th	No Service	

Wednesday 11am Holy Communion service suspended until Spring. Please join St Mary's 10am service.

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

3rd	10.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard Michael Dyne preach
10th	10.00 am	Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
13th	7.00 pm	Light up a Life service
17th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector Michael Dyne ante
24th	10.00 am 4.00pm 9.00pm	Benefice Holy Communion - The Rector Christingle - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock Late evening - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock communion & carols
25th	10.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector Sr Carol preach

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

December SERVICES

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

All Saints, East Clevedon

3rd	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	All Age Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
10th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rector Michael Dyne ante
3.00pm		Clapton in Gordano carol service- The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
17th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	4.00pm	Carol Service - The Rector, Michael Dyne assist
24th	5.30pm	Crib Service - The Rector/ The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	9.00pm	Late evening communion - The Rector and carols
25th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Communion & carols - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn Michael Dyne preach

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

3rd	11.15 am	Advent carols & Christmas fayre - The Rector
10th	11.15 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
17th	3.00 pm	Carol Service - Joshua Angle
24th		No Service
25th	10.00am	Communion & carols - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

24th December – Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Luke 1: 26-38

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Eternal God, for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life: keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man, Jesus Christ our Lord.

25th December – Christmas Day

Isaiah 9: 2-7

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.

31st December – Christmas I

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3

Luke 2: 15-21

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

A NATIVITY PLAY

The news will be welcome that once again we are to have our Nativity Play at Christmastide, and the players and others are very busy preparing it. Such a play, performed, as it will be, with a reverent love of the truths portrayed, forms a most valuable part of our devotional observance of the Feast that is the very foundation of all Christian religion. For the audience attends not only to enjoy the telling of the Story in a manner that never ceases to bring out in an Act that is intended to be an offering to the Glory of God, an offering of Admiration and Thanksgiving to Him for His gift of Life to the world.

Though we should wish to include all our people, and any others who may desire to come, in the audience, we have to make arrangements that will ensure a seat for everybody and cover our expenses without asking a price that will exclude anybody. Therefore admission will be by the production at the door of the Parish Hall* of a programme that may be purchased beforehand at the cost of either sixpence or one shilling and sixpence. The Play will be given on two consecutive nights, and therefore it will be necessary to make sure that the programme purchased is available for the night desired. The Play will be given at eight o'clock on Wednesday, January 4th, and Thursday, January 5th, and the programmes may be had at the Church Porch, from Messrs. Dyer and Sons, Bristol House, from Mrs. Nichols, Hill Road, or from the District Visitors. *Father Stothert writing in the East Clevedon Parish Monthly, December 1938.*

*The play was performed in the old Parish Hall on Old Street.

Julia Elton

ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon



Coffee at The Court, took place on 14th October, and was once again very popular. Thank you to everyone who organized and supported the event which raised £1,504 plus £803 from the Grand Draw. Well done to all!

Congratulations to Alan Smith who is 90 on 20th December. Thank you to Alan of them for all they have done for All Saints and sending Alan and Maureen our love and prayers.

The Service of Light took place on 1st November. It was a beautiful service, especially the singing by the benefice choir and the lighting of candles in memory and placing them on the altar. It was very well attended, and many people stayed to have refreshments and chat afterwards. It was also good to know that Ruth Maddock is taking over the Stepping Stones Bereavement Group from Angela Hector. This informal group meets in St Mary's hall 2 – 4 pm on the first Friday of

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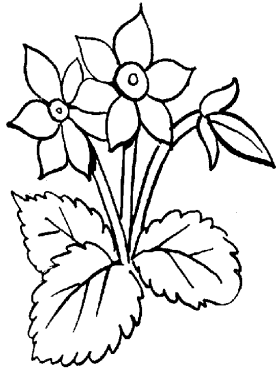
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Garden Talk

By December you will have done all that is needed to settle your garden for its winter sleep. Your bulbs will be in the ground, your tender plants under cover and your leaf cage full. Now is the moment to settle down with a cup of good strong tea and plan for next season.

How would you like your garden to develop? Is there an awkward dry corner or north facing bed in which nothing much will grow? Have some shrubs grown too big or some flowers spread beyond their allotted space? Or is

your garden simply too small for all you want to do? I can only offer some common sense suggestions with the hope I will follow them myself!

Like most gardens, we have a shady area which only gets sun in midsummer, and then only for a few hours in late afternoon. However, ferns enjoy such conditions and have filled the entire area. The ferns were donated by our next door neighbour so I am not quite sure what they are, but they look like the common male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* which puts forth lovely 'shuttle-cocks' in the spring. Wanting a bit of colour other than deep green, I planted a Brunnera early in the year which has silvery leaves and pretty sky-blue flowers, like the forget-me-not to which it is related. Ferns and brunnera make a good combination for a shady spot, but you might also try the pink or white astilbe with its feathery clusters of small flowers in July and August.

If an over-vigorous shrub is your problem then I am afraid you just have to be ruthless. Remind them that it is your garden, not theirs; show them the title deeds if necessary but do not allow them to bully you or the neighbouring plants. We have a hazel which was only a few inches tall when I planted it not very long ago. It has taken advantage of my kindness and become a large bush, encroaching on its well behaved neighbours. Now that the leaves are coming off I am cutting it back to a height of five foot which will make it more manageable. Most shrubs benefit from pruning; like unruly children they need discipline.

Finally, if your garden is too small for you there are a number of tricks which will make it appear bigger. The next Garden Talk in January will explore some of these. Until then, happy planning!

William King

the month.

We enjoyed the fellowship at the November Community Coffee Morning on the in All Saints Vestry and a good number turned up. The December meeting is at 10am on Wednesday 6th. Please join us – everyone welcome.

Thank you to our organist, Rosemary and choir who sang 'Teach me, O Lord' on 29th October. It was really lovely. Remembrance Sunday was on 12th November and Monica sent me this report: "Our now famous, Rev'd Tim Daplyn, took the service (Tim having just been in the TV and newspapers). After the service the usual procession took place to the Calvary on Walton Road. Francis Ford read the Kohima Epitaph and They shall not grow old by Binyon. Unfortunately, the traffic was very noisy so it was hard to hear but Steve Tripp played the bugle beautifully and we could hear that."

There's lots of events to look forward to in December. The Folk Concert on Friday 8th is always a fantastic evening, when BadgerSet treat us to Christmas songs, readings and comedy. Not to be missed! On Saturday 9th we are pleased to welcome back Jonathan Camp, local art historian, who will be giving a talk on 'The Adoration of the Kings' by Jan Gossaert, in the Parish Rooms. The Crib Festival starts on Friday 15th to Sunday 17th December. If you have been before you will know what a wonderful display of cribs there are - well worth a visit. Details for all these events elsewhere in this magazine.

During Advent from 1st to 22nd December on Fridays 12 noon to 1pm there will be a time of prayer in the reserved sacrament Chapel (Baptistry) at All Saints. You are welcome to come and go as you wish or stay for the hour.

The Carol Service is at 4pm on 17th December. Christmas Eve services are 5.30pm candlelight crib service and 9pm late evening service. As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday there will be a Benefice Service 10am at St Mary's. On Christmas Day there will be services at 8am and 10.30am. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and new year.

Sandra Sallis



ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano

Preparations for last Sunday's Remembrance Service in St Michaels church, commenced several weeks beforehand. Noel had kindly allocated the Rev'd Nicholas Maddock, accompanied by his eminently musically gifted wife, Ruth to lead the service.

Discussions and decisions made on a slightly revised order of service and to include data and photos garnered by a local military historian, on the 5 servicemen that fell in both world wars. It was felt that this would add an appreciation & depth to the lives and untimely deaths these soldiers & airman.

The Friends were fortunate to involve the Franklin family. Lionel LG, to read the names of the fallen and daughter Natalie who was appropriately militarily dressed on a horse, to lead the congregation from the pub to the church on the day. Lionel

had also spent extra time cutting the graveyard grass surrounding the church. On the preceding Thursday morning, a party of 5 ladies and 4 gents spent time cleaning the church interior and the exterior pathways Bristol Fashion, in preparation for the congregation.

One couldn't help but gaze in awe at the spectacular poppy displays that adorned the font and windows throughout the church. These displays were the sole work of Janie and will have taken her many hours of dedication to accomplish. She had even given 'Billy' our mascot bat, located above the entrance door, a poppy!

Sunday dawned with a shower of rain but that did not deter the team of bell ringers and the congregation of around 49 who attended the service. Nicholas lead the service which consisted of 4 hymns, readings by Mandy George and Mandi Boyd-McLaughlin plus a special altar candle lighting by Kieth Berry RM. Ben George as per normal provided the accompanying bugle calls prior and after the two minutes silence.

Personally, (as my father served with bomber command) the hymn that really brought home the emotion of the day was written by Richard Bewes and to the tune 'The Dambusters' film by Eric Coates.

And if that wasn't enough, the final hymn to finish off was Jerusalem, with music by Holst, couldn't not fail to stir the emotions of all who attended.

After the service the majority of the congregation including Ruth and Nicholas made their way to the Black Horse for coffee and or a well earned tipple.

The entire collection kindly given from the service, is donated via the Parish Council, to The British Legion.

So on behalf of all the Friends of St Michaels, I would like to give a huge vote of thanks to you all who quietly prepared, researched, cleaned, participated and supported this wonderfully emotional service. Dedicated to folk past and present who served both our King George's and Queen Elizabeth of this proud land, provinces and allies.

And finally..... A reminder of our forthcoming evening concert of music and singing on Sat 9th December, from 18:30 and our Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 15:00.

Derek Roberts



WALTON ST MARY

As previously reported, sadly my wife Jill died on 4th August after her 'long journey'. She was an active churchgoer all of her life and this was celebrated with a service of thanksgiving on 27th October

followed by a committal. Rev'd Nicholas eloquently officiated with support from our choirmaster Ian Hubbard and the choir who were in top-form, especially their rendition of the Nunc Dimittis. Juliet Hagley kindly provided a personal tribute linked to golfing activities and this theme was continued by Jacqui Parkins and her team with wonderful flower arrangements.



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 5th December and Tuesday 2nd January. 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.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

December 13th and January 10th

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634



**It's that time
of year again!**

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 8th 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

I expect everybody has spotted the Site Notice attached to the lychgate making people aware and giving them the opportunity to comment on the plan to put a telecommunications aerial on top of the tower. The objective is to improve mobile phone signals in our area which, at present are almost zero. There are still a number of hurdles to cross, of course; the granting of both planning permission by North Somerset (with a decision promised on 8th December) and a faculty by Bath and Wells. Personally, I feel an air of optimism is appropriate as, in this day and age usage of mobile phones has become almost a necessity.

On the 8th November we had a visit from a number of local freemasons who were celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Clevedon Masonic Club. One of the founders, Sidney Keen is buried in the church yard and after a simple dedication flowers were left on his grave.

Our service for Remembrance Sunday once again filled the church and provided us all with an opportunity to salute those who sacrificed so much. The traditional cascade of poppy petals from the tower hatchway as the 'Last Post' sounded and silence was observed, as always was a very moving experience.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd December at 10.30 am in the hall which will include a raffle and a 'bring & buy' stall.

Series of Lunchtime Hymn studies on Wednesday 6th, 13th and 20th December at 12 noon when the composers of popular Advent hymns and their messages will be explored, followed by a light lunch of warm rolls served with pâté and/or cheese.

Saturday Morning Musical Concert on 27th January at 11 am with Robin Tyacke, baritone singing 'songs from the shows' accompanied by Pamela Rudge on the piano.

Paul Middleton

Stepping Stones

After running the Stepping Stones Bereavement Support Group at St Mary's for many years, Angela Hector has taken a well earned retirement. Our thanks go to her and also to Ruth Maddock who is its new leader. Stepping Stones is from 2-4pm on the first Friday of the month in St Mary's hall.

St. Mary's flowers

5th - in loving memory of David Fleming, requested by his wife Diana;
19th - in thankful memory of the 80th wedding anniversary of David and May Maddock, married at Abbots Leigh Church on 4th October 1943, requested by Nicholas.



ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano

It was good to see a sizeable congregation in the Church for the Remembrance Day service. Dav Baulch has once again done a lot

of interesting research into those in the village who died in the two World Wars of the 20th. century, bringing them to life as he retells something of their stories.. remembering them. We are grateful to him for this labour of love.

Those of the congregation who were able and sure footed enough, went out into the churchyard in the dark , to the military graves where wreaths had already been laid . The usual ceremony with the familiar words , the playing of the Last Post (recorded in this instance) and the two minute silence , took place at the memorial inside the church. The assembled choir , under the guidance of Norma Minor, sang a short anthem “ For the Fallen” accompanied by organist Andrew Kirk(formerly music director at St. Mary Redcliffe). They made a very good sound. Nicholas , as he preached ,said this was the first time in his many years of ministry that two major wars had been in progress even as he spoke. I think we must all have been aware this year of that fact and of just how significant it is that we do indeed remember those who fought , suffered , and died for the peace we have now enjoyed for 75 years, and should never take for-granted.

A very different occasion was the early Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on Saturday the 18 th. Quite clearly a lot of preparation, hard work, had gone into what was a warm and friendly occasion. Ann Bridges was a key enabler . There were familiar faces and new ones, villagers and visitors. As usual the cake and biscuits stall was popular, but so were the turkey/ ham baps which greeted us on arrival. Very good they were , especially with the upmarket extras, M and S cranberry sauce in my case. Mulled wine too. My guess is the raffles also did well... two excellent Christmas hampers. Some stalls seemed to be rather more slow moving but financial results must await the next magazine issue! Perhaps a date nearer Christmas might have brought more children in, though I was not present throughout, and what is certain is that the adults had an enjoyable meeting on a very pleasant occasion; and that matters in a village which is still coming together again after the difficult pandemic years. That's as, or more important , than the money raised. It was good to see both Robb and Ian and Robyn and her family back in the village again, settling into new or renovated properties. Thank you to all those who worked on this Fayre before, during , and after in the clearing up. It was well worth the labour for the sense of community that was engendered.

Our Carol service will be happening on December 10 th at 5.00 p.m. All of any age are very welcome to that and all other Christmas events and services. A reminder that on Fridays beginning on December 1 st and continuing through Advent there will be an hour of prayer in All Saints Church Clevedon, in the sacrament chapel to the left of the main door as you enter. It will be from 12.00 to 1.00 but people are free to come and go . It will be mainly silent with some Scripture sentences to chew over and a little Taize chant. Advent is a beautiful, haunting season of hope , often rather eclipsed by anticipating Christmas. What we can all do for our World is pray for it... and that's what this time is for ; clearing a space In our lives for God to be known and the Spirit to be active. Maranatha... even so.. Come , Lord Jesus.

Sister Carol

the Bristol Zoo Project. We both enjoy music, camping, walking, exploring the countryside and foreign travel in often out of the way places - definitely not organised. We also enjoy gardening. It was a sense of full circle when John Smart became rector of All Saints! When Rosemary, Anne's sister, and family visited us from New Zealand they joined us at All Saints, and met John Smart. When John and his wife spent time in New Zealand, they met up again and Rosemary was able to host them and show them around.

Our role in All Saints

Within the church, we both feel part of an extended family. Anne sings in the choir, I take the odd photograph of church activities and we have both catered for various parish lunches and meals, and our mulled wine is well known. I also organise (!) the rota for the Sunday readings - volunteers welcome !! We both feel that membership of All Saint's brings meaning to us. It is great to be involved with parish activities and feel that we make a small contribution to the church family. The Sunday morning service is always a period of much needed peace, meaning and reflection in an often disruptive world. Anne has often said that you can feel the goodwill of all the congregation and know that whenever support is need, the Church will always be there.

ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

20th December

Alan Smith: Congratulations on reaching your 90th birthday will all my love, always, Maureen

27 December 2023

We remember with much love my dear Dad, Des Tyrrell, former organist and choirmaster of All Saints, on his birthday today. Even after all these years he is still very much missed. Mo and Geoff King

9 January 2024

James, our wonderful grandson, is 18 today. We are so blessed to have him 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.





What is your “Ministry”?

Richard and Anne Pring – All Saints

A bit about us

We are both 83 and still live in the same house in Woodland Glade that we moved into in 1965, 6 months after our marriage., although both the house and garden have been extended over the years. I was born in Brislington, Bristol where my parents attended St.

Anne’s church where my father was in the choir and my mother a Sunday school teacher. The vicar was a Rev. Smart - father of John Smart., and in the early 40’s my mother used to take both myself and John out for walks when my father was in the army during the war. Anne moved into the area from London in 1956. She joined St Anne’s choir, which lead to her interest in choral music, and we met at church functions. Anne’s mother was the guide captain and I became a senior scout leader. Anne became a nursery/infant teacher and taught at St. Philips Marsh, Bristol. On leaving school I started work as scientific assistant at Long Ashton Research Station, which had developed from the Cider Institute. (This lead to my lifelong interest in real cider!!).

After we moved to Clevedon, Anne taught at St. John’s Infant School until the first of our two children were born. Both of our children, Andrew and Elizabeth, went to All Saint’s School and Clevedon School. After a gap, Anne spent many years at nursery schools in Clevedon. I remained at Long Ashton until retiring in 1966, having acquired qualifications by part time study and becoming head of electron microscopy, teaching the techniques to staff and students and studying the fine structure of plant and fungal cells and their interactions. Anne also helped with Brownies and Guides, and became an Akela at 1st Clevedon. She also sang with Clevedon Choral Society and Gilbert and Sullivan Society. I became Venture Scout (the 16-20 age group) leader engaging in many active pursuits. Our holidays were often combined with Venture Scout camps, so our children enjoyed all sorts of activities at an early age (probably somewhat stretching Scout Association rules!!) I am still a member of Scouting, although much less active - still helping with a bit of sailing in Bristol. I also dabble in photography and volunteer at Bristol Zoo, now

FORWARD DATES

10th DECEMBER our Carol Service will be at 5.00pm.

24th DECEMBER - CHRISTINGLE at 3.30pm

24th DECEMBER - Christmas Holy Communion at 9.00 pm

There will be NO service in St Peter & St Paul’s on Christmas Day - services will be held at other churches in the Benefice.



ST PAUL’S, Walton in Gordano

The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
‘Now they are all on their knees,’
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
‘Come, see the oxen kneel

‘In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,’
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so. Thomas Hardy (1840 – 1928)

Before a run-down of festive events, a quick look back at last month. On Sunday 5th for our Morning Gathering Graham R and Sue presented the service they had used as the last part of their Lay Worship Assistant course. Well done to them both especially to Graham who spoke about Jesus in our lives. He quoted from the poem ‘Footprints in the Sand’ – very much a favourite here at St. Paul’s. To paraphrase the words of the poem – as we go through life we see two sets of footprints, our own and the Lord’s as he is never far from our side. Then at the most trying times of our lives we only see one track – ‘where is God at this moment?’ –

only one set of footprints because it is then that the Lord is supporting us, as he our daily news. But those who were in attendance remembered the bravery, and the sacrifice made by so many in war on a global scale and in more local conflicts, as carries us, we can only see his footprints. Once again Graham's talk was so meaningful and approachable, and so very appropriate at this time.

On Sunday 12th November we marked Remembrance Sunday. Sadly the number of congregation was noticeably down on recent years – despite all that is uppermost in they served their countries and left a lasting legacy for those of us lucky enough to live in democracy and peace. The collection from the service will go to the Royal

British Legion Poppy Appeal, as they carry out their work supporting the lives of service personnel.

At the time of writing we at looking forward to our Parish Conversation at the end of November, and don't forget the opening of the Village Christmas Post Box also on Sunday 26th. The Post Box will be open until Sunday 10th December so don't leave it too long to write those Christmas cards. The Post Box is at the back of the church, each card for delivery in the Parish costs just 10p – please put your money in the wall box on the back wall. All money raised from the Christmas Post Box and the collection from the Carol Service will go to support UNICEF in their vital work around the world, including working with the civilians in Gaza and Ukraine, as they strive to build a better world 'For Every Child'. If we raise £30 we can buy a Baby Delivery Kit to help a newborn baby and their mother, supporting some of the most vulnerable in times of devastation, whether from conflict or from natural disasters.

And now for this month - we have the Advent Carol Service, the Christmas Fayre, the Village Christmas Quiz Night, the Village Christmas Lunch, the Carol Service, and the Christmas Day Service all to pack in.

Sunday 3rd December we have our Advent Carol Service at 11.15am. A service which blends the anticipation of Advent and the celebration of Christmas, a mix of our favourite Advent hymns and Christmas Carols (you can never have enough occasions for singing carols). The collection for this service will be of Christmas Selection Boxes to go to the Clevedon Food Bank to bring some festive cheer to local children. If you would like to you could bring a selection box with you when you come along to our Christmas Fayre as it follows on from the service at 12.30pm also in the church. Come along and join in a lovely time - there has been a St. Paul's Christmas Fayre for all the time I can remember and that is quite a long time now.

History of Art Talk

Saturday 9th December 2023 at 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall, Clevedon, BS21 6AU

Spend an evening with Jonathan Camp, local art historian,
discovering Jan Gossaert's fabulous painting
'Adoration of the Kings'



£12 - includes a glass of wine - pay on the door

To reserve a seat or for further information contact:
Rosie Jackson on 07887 656914 or email rjackson7@btinternet.com
or The Parish Office on 01275873257
Proceeds from the talk to go towards the All Saint's Church Restoration Fund

Diocese News



A unique step of faith

It was a joyous day in Wells Cathedral on Saturday, 4 November when 86 people were confirmed by Bishop Michael, Bishop Ruth and Bishop Christopher - there were so many fitting them all in the group photo was a bit of a challenge!

Bishop Michael said, "What an amazing afternoon. It has been such a privilege to be with so many different people, each with their own story, each taking their unique step of faith and looking forward to the future together. We are all on an amazing high as a result of it."

Special visit for chaplaincy team

The Chaplaincy team at Hinkley Point C, Bridgwater received a special visitor recently, when the His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Mohammed Saddiq, paid a visit.

Lead Chaplain Ewen Huffman, the first salaried chaplain in the construction industry in the UK, and his team of seven volunteer chaplains hold spiritual ceremonies before major construction activities and regular prayer meetings for the broad mix of people employed there. The Lord Lieutenant met with Christian and Muslim members of the workforce and took part in Friday prayers.

Praying for football success

As a pioneer in Whiteway in Bath, Rachel Spence journeys alongside her community in a host of ways, this includes helping to set up her local community football team, Whiteway FC. Now Club Secretary as well as a keen supporter, Rachel says, "It is a special team, established by a local man who caused trouble in his community in the past and now wants to give back. He started the football team to give the young men in his community all the benefits being part of a team offers and hopefully prevent them going down the path he went down. Every team member is sponsored, and St Barnabas' is one of the sponsors."

With tasty refreshments, sausage baps, hot mince pies and delicious homemade cakes, there will be plenty to keep out the cold. How about taking a turn at stirring the Christmas Pudding and making a wish, Sue and I used to do this at school every year. I once wished for a guinea pig, and come Christmas morning there she was – shows that it must work. The Christmas Pudding will then go on to be cooked and served at the Village Christmas Lunch. Then there are all the stalls – Christmas decorations, handicrafts, bric-a-brac and tombola. And of course there will be a raffle including a Christmas Hamper – you can't have an event at Walton without a raffle.

If you've ordered a Christmas cake from Sue this is the time to pick up your order, and a perfect chance to bring your Christmas cards to go in the Village Christmas Post Box.

Come and join us, you will be sure of a wonderful, warm festive, Walton welcome. On Friday 15th December starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall we have the Village Christmas Quiz Night, organised by the Village Social Club. There is still time to contact Graham Matthews for a ticket at £5.00, just gather up 4 for a team and remember to bring your own drinks and glasses. (Telephone 07513 111891 or email g.matthews1@hotmail.com)

Sunday 17th December, a busy day ahead, firstly our Village Christmas Lunch at noon in the Village Hall. Please bring along a plate of savoury food, mince pies and desserts, including the Christmas Pudding from the Christmas Fayre, will be provided. It would be good to have an idea of how many people will be coming to work out the number of jacket potatoes that will be needed – please contact Sue. Don't forget to bring a parcel for each of you to go into Santa's sack.

Then at 3pm it's all up to the church for the Carol Service. A wonderful service with readings and poems, and a chance to sing out all those well-loved carols. There is no service here on Christmas Eve or Sunday 31st December, but join us on Christmas Day at 10.30am for a joyous service of celebration.

A few dates for January 2024:

Saturday 6th – Welcome In Coffee Morning, 10.30am in the church

Sunday 7th – Morning Gathering, 11.15am

Saturday 13th – Walton Wassailing, 6.30pm at the Village Pound

Sunday 14th – Holy Communion, 11.15am

Sunday 21st – Plough Sunday Service, 11.15am

Sunday 28th – Morning Prayer, 11.15am

WISHING YOU ALL A PEACEFUL AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US
HERE AT ST. PAUL'S



Our Mouse Musings:

'We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. And please don't forget to 'bring us some figgy pudding'.

Love from Miss CM and all the mice xxx

Update on our Lunchtime Advent Hymn Series

We can now give you more details about our Advent Hymn Series. We will meet in St Mary's at 12.00 noon on the three Wednesdays listed below.

On December 6th we will explore the history and significance of "O come, O come Emmanuel". Dating from the 13th Century and sung to a plainsong tune this popular carol is one of the oldest Christian hymns still in regular use.

On December 13th, by contrast, we will look at the beautifully lilting words and music of "Longing for Light we wait in darkness" by the contemporary hymn writer Bernadette Farrell. She shows us how our words and actions can bring in God's Kingdom today.

On December 20th we will conclude this series with the classic "Lo, he comes with clouds descending". Combining stirring words by Charles Wesley with a great tune by his brother John, this Advent favourite has been made yet more magnificent thanks to a last verse arrangement by Sir David Willcocks.



These hymns will form part of a short Act of Worship after which, at 12.30pm, we will go into St Mary's Hall for a light lunch of warm rolls served with paté and/or cheese, plus tea, coffee or squash, for which a donation of £3.00 is requested. We warmly invite you to join us as part of your preparations for Christmas.

Nicholas Maddock.

East Clevedon Parishes CHRISTMAS 2023

Sunday, 10th December

*3.00 p.m. Carol Service at St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano
5.00 p.m. Carol Service at St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano*

Sunday, 17th December

*3.00 p.m. Carol Service St Paul's, Walton in Gordano
4.00 p.m. Carol Service, All Saints
6.00 p.m. Carol Service, St Mary's*

CHRISTMAS EVE

*10.00 a.m. United Benefice Service of Advent 4
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

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

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
10.30 a.m. St Paul's, Walton in Gordano
10.30 a.m. All Saints' Church, East Clevedon*