

STAFF

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Hall Bookings:

All Saints' Parish Rooms: Trish 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. 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 Currently vacant, all enquiries to Parish Office

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



February 2024 £1

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	11am Morning Prayer, 2nd Sunday Other services as announced
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

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 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 March magazine is Monday February 12th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday March 3rd.

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FIRST WORD from The Rector

By one of those odd quirks of the calendar, Ash Wednesday falls on the 14th February – St Valentines day. Love and ashes placed together as in the hymn has it, “Come down O Love divine, seek out this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardour glowing...O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn to dust and ashes in its heat consuming”. Strong stuff!

There seems to be no connection with romance and Valentine, the 3rd Century priest or bishop in Rome who gave his name to the 14th February, as he didn't seem to be particularly romantic or indeed at all. Rather the connection with courting couples comes from a long gone mid-February Roman festival and, as Chaucer noted, the traditional day the birds find their breeding partners.

But I wonder what these days mean to you?

I recall one particular Valentines day – the 14th February 1984 (so seared on my heart that I recall the date perfectly!) I was in London reading for the Bar but living in a cheap, damp, nasty shared house by the White City Dog Stadium. I was unattached. Think of the joy when on that day (it was a Tuesday) a Valentine Card arrived by post in a mysterious cryptic hand. Who might it be – the lovely articulated clerk in the Inns of Court School of Law? Someone from my University days? Hope sprang eternal – for at least 8 hours before it became apparent that it had come from my brother who wanted to cheer me up! Love and ashes in one go.

I make light of it because love, companionship and faithfulness is so important for us. Loves and losses are at the very heart of our lived experience. Our greatest fulfilments in life and our deepest losses are frequently lived out in our homes and hearts.

Ash Wednesday, of course, is the beginning of the penitential season of lent. During this time we recall the holiness of God, the temptations of Christ and his overcoming of them, and our own attempts to live life well. All this sits in the context of the wider world, a world beset with conflicts and problems. There is much to dwell on. Yet I suspect that for many, if we were to reflect on that we grieve for, it would be those we have loved and lost and maybe the mistakes of the heart that we made in the past.

But repentance isn't simply about regret. As a former bishop of bath and Wells used to say, “it's not about feeling bad it's living different” (sic). It's about a commitment to live well now, in the light of our needs and experience, in the light of our understanding of God and in the light of the needs of others. In other words,



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repentance is as much about how we live as to how much we feel we need to say sorry. Interestingly Jack Profumo was honoured with a CBE following years of dedicated charity work following his removal from the political world in the 1960s – repentance lived, not merely spoken.

This year, perhaps above most other years, the complex issues of love and ashes is given a new meaning in the approval late last year by both the Church of England and the Roman Catholic church of the blessing in church of same sex couples following their civil marriage. Called “Living in Love and Faith” it is the collection of resources and prayers which can be used by clergy in churches who have agreed to allow them. Let me set out two of those prayers:

“Faithful God, in whose love we are called to abide; give these your servants the grace to dwell in the gift of devoted friendship. In their life together, may they be bound in your love and promise all the days of their lives, seeking each other’s welfare, bearing each other’s burdens and sharing each other’s joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

“God of generosity and joy, with you is the well of life and in your light, we see light: we give you thanks for these your servants, for the love and friendship they share, and for their commitment to one another. As they come before you this day, trusting you as the giver of all good gifts, strengthen their love by your love, and gladden their hearts with your joy, that their journey through life may become a pilgrimage of grace. By your blessing, and with you as their companion and guide, may they rejoice in hope and be sustained in love all the days of their life and in the age to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

The church has allowed parishes to adopt the blessing of same sex marriages or to keep things as they are. Many will want to adopt it but others will prefer not to. But I think on this Ash Wednesday, St Valentines day, we may be called again to reflect on the years of pain caused to gay people by society generally and by the church in particular. It’s a fine thing to celebrate and value church tradition over 2000 years, but it is another to hurtfully reject those who can do no other than to express and share their love and faithfulness for their loved one.

Over these next few months our own parishes will be deciding whether or not to agree to opt in to the new guidance and prayers of the church. Each PCC is being asked to consider it. I suspect that opinions will vary and at times will be deeply and strongly held. But faithfulness and commitment are at the heart of all this – both in terms of human relationships and in terms of faith.

Ash Wednesday is a moment not merely to feel guilty, it is a call to live in faith and love.

Noel

Subscriptions and donations

From January 2024 the Parish magazine will be £1.00 for an individual copy but just £10.00 for an annual subscription.

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

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Sort code: 54-30-06

St Paul’s Church

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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



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 6th February and Tuesday 5th March.
Tea, coffee and cake always provided!

Pause for Thought

The ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, renew me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within Thy wounds, hide me.

Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.

From the malicious enemy, defend me.

In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come unto Thee,
that with Thy Saints I may praise Thee,
forever and ever. Amen.

As we approach Lent, which begins on 14th February, this prayer could be one to use through this season as we seek to draw closer to Jesus. It's an ancient Latin prayer, beloved amongst others of St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), who encourages its use in his 'Spiritual Exercises'. But its origins lie further back, in the 12th century or earlier.

It is an especially beautiful prayer to use after making your Communion, but for those who aren't able to receive the Sacrament, it is a prayer of longing to be united spiritually with Christ.

A modern language version begins: "Jesus, may all that is you flow into me," and includes these lovely lines: "Let me not run from the love which you offer, but hold me safe from the forces of evil." For me, that encapsulates why Jesus knew it was necessary that he went into the desert for those forty days and nights. Being fully human and fully divine, as the earliest Christian creed makes clear (*Phil 2: 6-8*), Jesus embraced his Father's all-powerful Love in order to face down the temptations of the world and the Devil, and so prepare himself for the trials and tribulations he knew were to come.

That is the journey each of us is invited to take with Jesus through these coming forty days and forty nights. It's a unique time in the church year when we are encouraged to design a pattern of observance that fits our circumstances of work and family commitments. That might include reading the Bible daily, having a time of prayer – either by ourselves or with a prayer partner - and perhaps joining a study group or searching the internet for some on-line teaching or reflections. Ruth and I find the Church of England's own daily "Reflections" app particularly helpful, but there are many others to choose from. And remember, the forty days of Lent do not include Sundays, when we hope you will join us in church to celebrate Christ's victory over temptations, death and the grave.

However you choose to observe it, we wish you a holy Lent.

Nicholas Maddock.



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Our precious gift As Christians, while we may look to reduce our own carbon footprint, we are called to be stewards and witnesses of a much more radical resource. The clue is in the word 'ecology'.

'Eco' comes from the Greek word oikos, meaning house, or dwelling place. Ecology is partly about our responsibility to recognise the precious gift of the Earth, as our dwelling place: to be thankful, and play our part. God made humankind to care for the earthly world: Jesus amplifies the call, as He uses 'nature' as the sign of how we can live in order to flourish and to fulfil God's will.

'Logy' comes from a Greek word logos interpreted as reason, the ordering of knowledge, logic. In John's Gospel, logos is a word to describe Jesus – through whom all things are made and from whom all true knowledge comes. Logos is the word, the source of all goodness and grace, for every human life, and for all of creation.

It is the 'logos', the word, who inhabits our lives, our creation – inviting us to recognise His light, and allow it to overcome the darkness of our own limited concerns and agendas. We meet the logos in scripture, in worship, in prayer, and deeper reflection.

In Jesus, as logos, we can find the wisdom, the resources and the commitment to play our part in caring for creation. We are able to invite others to recognise the deeper truths about Eco, our common dwelling place, and to see more clearly how we join with others to work out what to do, how to live, and honour the gift of life that we receive through Him. The Logos is the possibility of good news for humankind and for the Earth.

What a responsibility each Christian disciple is called to bear! And what grace can be ours to enable us to fulfil our calling, and help all of God's children become caught up in the praise and prayer that gives true life to our dwelling place, and to exercise our stewardship appropriately.

Read John 1v1-14. Become an ECO-warrior – committed our common dwelling place – through celebrating the power and presence of the LOGOS.

ECOLOGY: we know it makes sense.

Bishop Alastair

READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 4th February – Second Sunday before Lent

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 **John 1: 1-14**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 11th February – Sunday next before Lent

2 Kings 2: 1-12 **Mark 9: 2-9**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

Ash Wednesday, 14th February

Isaiah 58: 1-12 **John 8: 1-11**

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 18th February – Lent 1

Genesis 9: 8-17 **Mark 1: 9-15**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

4th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - Michael Dyne

11th 5.00 pm Evensong - The Rector

18th 5.00pm Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

25th 5.00pm Evensong - The Rector

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

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

4th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

11th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rector

18th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

25th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

February 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 Rector
	10.30 am	All Age Communion - The Rector
11th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
18th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn Ante communion Michael Dyne
25th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rector

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

11th 11.15 Morning Prayer - The Rector

power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 25th February – Lent 2

Genesis 17: 1-7 and 15-16 Mark 8: 31-end

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT AUCTION

A Silent Auction will be held at St Mary's Church on Saturday 9 March from 9.30 till 12.00. If you have any saleable items you would like to donate (not bric-a-brac) please contact William King on 881101.

This is in aid of the restoration fund for ancient well in St Mary's churchyard.



ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

The Lychgate

In view of the recent splendid restoration of the All Saints' lychgate, I thought readers would be interested in a brief history of it. It is a particularly fine example of the genre so do go and look at it closely.

Lychgates have been a traditional feature of churches since at least the 15th century. The word 'Lych' stems from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning corpse. Many lychgates, including ours, have a lychstone. Originally a shrouded body would have been placed on this stone before the funeral, thus sheltered from the weather. Seats are provided for those keeping a vigil or protecting the body from body snatchers.

Our lychgate was erected in 1926 in memory of the Revd. F.F. Irving, who transformed the church with works of art, particularly by the famous church architect and decorator, Ninian Comper. The entrance bears the inscription, 'To the Glory of God and in grateful memory of Francis Forrester Irving Vicar of this Parish 1899-1925'. The frieze within the gate bears the words, 'Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them'. The fine masonry lychstone is supported on corbels formed by angels with hands clasped in prayer.

The design of the lychgate is thought to have been carried out by Sir Ambrose Elton since the quatrefoil side panels are based on the tracery of the Clevedon Court chapel windows. It was built by the well-known Exeter firm of Harry Hems & Sons, ecclesiastical sculptors and wood carvers. The structure is further distinguished by the fine figure of Christ, which stands proud of the entrance arch. This statue is based on the statue of 1833 by the Danish sculptor, Bertel Thorvaldsen in the Lutheran Church of Our Lady in Copenhagen. It was taken down after repeated vandalism and has been stored for many years. It is wonderful to have it back in place, now firmly anchored in place on its bracket.

Julia Elton

ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon

December seems a long time ago but I must mention events which happened after the January magazine deadline. The Art Talk by Jonathon Camp was extremely interesting and everyone who attended felt they had learned a lot. The following weekend



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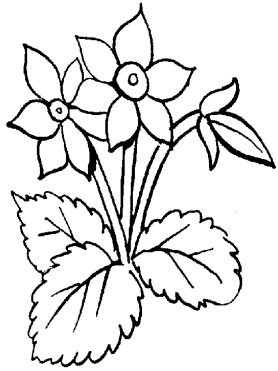
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Garden Talk

On 2 February (Candlemas Day) the sun sets at exactly 5pm in Clevedon and the Gordano Valley. The Earth is making its familiar journey around the sun and as it travels it spins like a top, one revolution a day. Unlike a top, however, which spins in a more or less upright position, the earth rotates at a jaunty angle of about 23 degrees from the vertical. The result of this is that we spend half the year angled towards the sun (spring and summer) and half away from it (autumn and winter).

Over millions of years nature has adapted to this inconvenient behaviour. Some animals hibernate, many trees lose their leaves and some birds fly south, all in response to the dark, cold days of winter. But by February things are beginning to change. We still inhabit a world which is tilted away from the sun but there are signs that nature is stirring. Bulbs are pushing their leaves above the soil; as woodland plants, they know that they must grow, flower and set seed before the trees above them come into leaf and block out the light they need.

Gardeners have long transplanted woodland bulbs into their gardens where they are lovingly watched as heralds of spring. That was in the past. Removing wild flowers is now illegal but you can find many varieties of snowdrops, crocuses, aconites, grape hyacinths and daffodils at garden centres. Little yellow aconites are often the first to appear with their characteristic green ruff around the flowers. Hard on their heels are the snowdrops. There are so many different varieties of these brave little darlings, often pushing up through frosty ground. The common snowdrop is *Galanthus nivalis* but there are also larger and double varieties. We have a few common snowdrops in our garden but they have never been very successful. I am told they can be removed and split immediately after flowering 'in the green', so I shall try to increase the stock in this way this year.

If snowdrops don't seem to like us the same cannot be said for grape hyacinths (*Muscari*). These pretty blue flowers spread to all corners but we tolerate them because they put on an attractive display when not much else is in flower. They are exceedingly tough, piercing through a double layer of protective membrane in our garden which even weeds find a challenge. Aconites, crocuses, snowdrops and grape hyacinths are the advance party of spring. They lead the way towards even more lovely things in the months to come.

William King

was the Crib Festival which was amazing. All the crib scenes were great, there was so much to see, from very traditional, modern, some from other countries, the interactive crib made by the Daplyns which said 'Please DO touch' – it's surprising how many people read it as 'Do not'. Rose Hurley's knitted scene in the churchyard was very popular with everyone. A big thank you to Rosie Jackson who once again masterminded the event (and the art talk) and to everyone who submitted a crib, stewarded and provided refreshments. On the Sunday of that weekend it was the Candlelight Carol service. This was really well attended; we were desperately finding extra chairs at the back – always a good sign. The children from All Saints School read and sang beautifully, and the Little Saints children gave a lovely rendition of *Away in a Manager*. Thank you also to the church choir who sang two carols. Unfortunately, Monica didn't feel too well at the beginning of the service, but she was ably looked after by Kay and Joyce in the vestry and I'm happy to report was feeling better by the following day and able to go on her trip to Mull.

Christmas Eve - the congregation at the 5.30pm Crib Service ranged from a very tiny baby to those of us slightly more mature. It was a lovely family occasion. It always so nice to see old friends with new additions to their families. Daniel Fowler read the lesson and afterwards Noel spoke to him about his profession as an actor and how being a Christian makes a difference in his life. Thank you, Daniel, for sharing this with us. The late Christmas Eve Communion was at the earlier time of 9pm and it seemed to work very well. There was a good congregation, with regulars and visitors. Christmas Day services were also well supported as was the Benefice morning service on New Year's Eve when All Saints hosted many from our other churches.

On Sunday 7th January at the all-age communion Margaret Jackson shared her favourite hymn with the congregation. This is what she told us... *"I have chosen my grandmother's favourite hymn, "ye watchers and ye holy ones" - written by Athelston Riley and published in the English hymnal in 1906. It is an important hymn for my family, a firm favourite for many of us; my parents had it at their wedding and my grandmother would like it at her funeral. Sadly, my grandmother is not well and is being cared for at Weston General hospital, we think this hymn comforts her in the knowledge that she won't be alone in death, but as Athelston writes, will be accompanied by angels, archangels, cherubim, seraphim, patriarchs, prophets and martyrs- a whole heavenly host! To meet, as the hymn describes in the closing lines; God the Father, God the son and God the holy spirit."* Margaret's grandmother said to "belt it out" so that she could hear it over in Weston!!

Congratulations to Iris Gall who celebrated her 80th birthday on 22nd December – keep up the yoga Iris! Also to Ron Blackhurst (choir member) on his 80th on 15th January. Ron will be celebrating in church on 21st January. I hope that Kay will have had her operation (or at least a date) by the time this magazine is out, and we send our best wishes to her. The community coffee morning on 10th January was very well attended, we missed three regulars but had a couple of newcomers. The next

coffee morning is on the 14th February, 10am in the vestry, all welcome.

It was very sad to hear of the sudden death of Sue Betts (St Paul's). Sue will be known to many of you, not least for her enthusiasm for Benefice events such as family picnics and agape meals at Walton. We will miss Sue and we send our condolences to her family and friends.

Sandra Sallis



ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano

2023's St Michaels calendar ended with the annual Christmas Carol service on December 17th. The service was taken by the Rev,d Nicholas Maddock with the vocals ably led by Katie (Jill Elliott was unfortunately unable to attend) and accompanied by members of the local Highly Strung group. The church's interior had been previously prepared for the festive season, prior to the special concert held earlier in the month. With Nicholas's warm and friendly personality to the fore and indeed sat with the folk group, the 50 plus congregation thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks to all who helped and participated.

With the new year well and truly underway the Friends can start to plan a series of services/events to note on the St Michaels folks calendar's for 2024. We will plan to negotiate with Noel for hopefully at least 2 services. More details, once finalized will be published in a later edition of this magazine.

Our brand new motor mower has now been delivered and assembled, many thanks to Phil Joyner for the contact. With Lionel Franklin,s assistance, we can at least tackle the daunting task of managing the difficult task of keeping the grass in both upper and lower graveyards under control. This along with the continued help of the CCT, will allow all visitors to enjoy the unique qualities of St Michaels. Note, if the current key holders are unavailable to loan out their copy, a spare is available at the bar of the Black Horse.

And finally..... to the kind folk of Clapton who receive this magazine. Can the Friends request you complete and return to the Church office, the payment slip included by Phil Joyner, in last months edition, along with your monetary contribution, thank you.

Derek Roberts

close to the plant with a bamboo cane. Monitor the progress of the leader shoot and direct up the cane. While your plants are in their cold frame, they may get a bit leggy. Don't worry, insert some small canes/sticks for support into the pot just until they are ready to go out. At about 5 foot high on the cane, string some thin but strong wire between the canes along the row, wrapping the wire around the cane once and then horizontally onto the next cane so as to support each one with another. The ends can be put into a bush/tree/pole or anything suitable to give support.

Finally, choose the strongest shoot, cut off the others cleanly at the stem and train that shoot towards and up the cane with twigs or split old canes.

PRODUCING BLOOMS

The stems need to be supported vertically, and this is best done by tying in the stem to the cane with a small wire ring every 6 to 9 inches.

The main target among sweet pea enthusiast growers is to produce blooms with 5 flowers and long stems. To do this, the growing efforts of the flower are deflected from the growth of the leaves and shoots that originate in the 'V' of the stem. To achieve this, the first two leaves and the flower stalk are allowed to grow from the intersection, but subsequent leaves, shoots and any non-contributing growth are cut/ pinched out. When cutting blooms, cut the stem right down to the stem joint.

The accurate trimming of leaves, tendrils and shoots, is best done with fine secateurs or scissors.

LAYERING

The aim of layering is to grow a second series of blooms again to the top of the cane. The process involves unclipping each total length of growth and laying it at 90 degrees to the row, on the ground. Before layering commences some sort of plan is required to decide where each stem will lie and on which cane those stems will eventually climb. Again take great care moving the stems and avoid bending when fracturing is most likely. Layering will ensure that a second series of blooms can be grown to the top of the new cane. The chances are that not all stems will reach the top of their first cane at the same time, so this may make the choice easier of the first stems to be moved and the problem of layering too many stems at one time. Some sort of planned order is desirable really before this job starts.

SALE OF EXISTING PLANTS

To support the 2024 fund-raising, I have current sweet pea plants available for sale. Plants will be available from February onward at a cost of £2.00 each, with all income going to the plant sale for St. Peter and St. Paul's church I can be contacted by phoning 01275 848464.

Geoffrey Mitchell

Growing sweet peas

At the moment I am growing several different colours of sweet pea to be sold later at the Weston-in-Gordano Plant sale to be held next May, the proceeds going towards the up-keep of the fabric and grounds of St Peter and St Paul's church.

THE 'CORDON' SYSTEM

With particular reference to sweet peas I am very keen to help perpetuate a system that is used to create 'show' standard plants and seed for the production of the magnificent blooms that can be achieved with a bit of care by ordinary gardeners. This system, known as the 'cordon' method, is not only a hobby but achieves fine blooms, at the same time providing an interesting and occupying activity with a very satisfying and beautiful result.

PRESENT PROGRESS

I bought 7 varieties of colour and 20 seeds of each type. They were sown indoors in October. By Christmas they are 3-4 inches high and have been picked out to encourage the growth of a several strong shoots. They were transferred to cold-frames outside as soon as they had germinated and the lids have only been lowered while it was frosty. These will be ready to plant out during February. Blooms will appear in May after the frosts have gone.

PROPAGATION

To ensure that each seed has a chance of germination it is recommended that it be placed in a small quantity of water overnight. By next morning the seed case will have softened and this can be then be pricked with a needle or sharp knife before sowing half an inch deep in a tray compost, slightly watered, covered with cling film and placed in a warm position. Shoots will appear in about 10 days.

TRANSFER TO COLD FRAME

When the plants are 2 inches high, transfer each into a pot using a dibber and leaving room for root development, water and place in a cold frame outdoors. Except in frosty weather leave the top of the frame open night and day. The plants have produced two sets of leaves, shoots will appear below. Pinch out the top two sets of leaves. Grow until the plants are up to 6 inches high and ready for garden planting.

GARDEN PREPARATION/PLANTING OUT

About Nov/Dec, dig the plot over, include some well-rotted farmyard manure and sprinkle some 'growmore' or 'vitax' over the planting area. In April or May plant your sweet peas giving the long root plenty of room. Water and stake vertically



WALTON ST MARY

As Diana reported in the last magazine, we continued to meet as a benefice on Wednesdays during Advent for talks by Nicholas about two more Advent hymns, 'Longing for Light' and 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending'. This was followed by an Act of Worship. We then had a lunch together. These lunches raised

£110 for The Children's Society. This money was added to the St Mary's Christmas Card funds and the collection at our Crib/Christingle Service. We were able to give a total donation of £214.

Thanks also go to all those who so generously supported the Clevedon and District Foodbank appeal for items for their Christmas hampers. Over 600 were prepared this year for families that had been referred by schools and other agencies as being in need of extra help this Christmas.

On December 13th we hosted the Weston Hospicecare Light up a Life service, a moving occasion when candles and lanterns are lit in memory of loved ones. We enjoyed a very happy Christmas at St Mary's. It started with the Carol Service when the choir was joined by members of the Yatton and Winscombe Chorale, thanks to Ian and the choir. The feedback has all been positive and it was good to share the mince pies and mulled wine afterwards with so many visitors.

All the Christmas services went well with increased congregations and it was good to have the two United Benefice services, one at St Mary's on Christmas Eve and the other at All Saints on New Year's Eve. As always our church looked wonderful, including the well! Many thanks to all the flower arrangers.

The one real sadness of the whole season was the news of the death of Sue Betts. Sue has been an inspiration to us all, not just to the congregation at St Paul's. Her enthusiasm and creativity knew no bounds and her ability to raise money for deserving causes was prodigious.

Ash Wednesday will be on the 14th February and from the 21st, each Wednesday at noon there will be Lent talks which we hope will be followed by a Lent lunch as usual.

Silent Auction – 9th March 10.30 until noon.

Sally King

St. Mary's flowers

7th January - in loving memory of our dear friend Diane who died on 26th December, requested by Doug and Mary Pope.



ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano

Sr Carol has carried out her promise that, after two years, she should stop sharpening her quill for the monthly Parish Magazine report on WiG life.

Thank you, Carol, for writing the WiG Notes with so much feeling and interest. Two years' "temporary"

reporting is much appreciated.

Our main Christmas service, apart from Carol's excellently designed and well received Carol Service, was Christingle on Christmas Eve.

This is becoming the Christmas service for WiG and this year followed a pattern.

A good number of villagers and their children attended and were greeted by a well decorated church complete with crib scene set under the main altar, framed by the Elton stone pedestals. Noel provided a more robust knitted crib set which was set up by the children on the Perceval Memorial at the beginning of Christingle.

Our thanks to all involved in the Christingle service, Christingle makers, florists. Indeed, our thanks are due to all who, throughout the year, do so much to keep our church in good nick and so welcoming.

We have invested in the latest hymn books by Hymns Ancient & Modern. These will be introduced early February. All we need is a regular choir to do justice to the new books. We are blessed with a cadre of willing and able organists who always come and give of their time and expertise – thank you!

Whilst in a thanksgiving mood, we should not forget Noel and his team. Thank you, all of you, for doing so much for our Benefice, often with diminished resources.

WANTED!! Are you a wordsmith, willing to spend a little time each month writing jottings for the WiG Notes? Please let me know.

John G Bridges



ST PAUL'S, Walton in Gordano

From 'The Darkling Thrush' by Thomas Hardy

At once a voice arose among

The bleak twigs overhead

In a full-hearted evensong

Of joy illimited;

An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,

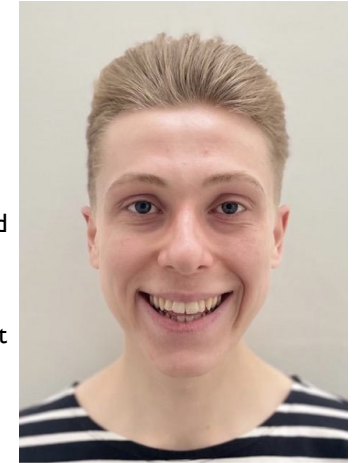
In blast-beruffled plume,

Had chosen thus to fling his soul

Upon the growing gloom.

What is your "Ministry"?

Joshua Angle



Hello, my name is Joshua and I am a Theology and Humanities Secondary School Teacher at St Bernadette in Whitchurch, Bristol. I joined the East Clevedon Benefice in 2021 and immediately felt at home. I have very happily settled here ever since.

Within the Benefice, I enjoy helping in whatever way I can and have been involved in a variety of different areas. In the past, I have given home communions, helped with the preparations for Lent groups, contributed to church clean-ups, helped to prepare for the Jubilee Cream Tea at Clevedon Court and helped in the preparations for Coffee at the Court. I have enjoyed meeting people from across the Benefice through my involvement in these events and have found that they have helped to mark certain moments within the year. I have also considered it a special privilege to share in home communions with those at home and valued the time I was able to spend with them.

On a more regular basis, I have been given the roles of alter-serving at All Saints and in helping to lead Morning Prayer at St. Paul's. In both of these roles, I have valued the opportunity to be closely involved with the liturgical life of the Church in the preparations and time between Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. I have felt these times more keenly because of my own close involvement in the preparations for them and this has helped me to think about these times in different ways.

Having explored a call to ordained ministry with the diocese, I continue to work with the Church to consider whether it is felt that I might be called to a more formal form of ministry, whether this be as a Reader or indeed through ordination.

Green dates for your diary

The Great Big Green Week (8 to 16 June) - a celebration of community action to tackle climate change. Come together to show the heartfelt, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change. theclimatcoalition.org/great-big-green-week

Churches Count on Nature 2024, part of Love Your Burial Ground Week (8-16 June), focuses on the wildlife to be found in churchyards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

Net Zero Week (6-12 July 2024), the UK's official national awareness week, brings together all the stakeholders needed to reach net zero by 2050, and to ensure Britain's energy is both secure and affordable. <https://netzeroweek.com/>

Supporting the community

Rev'd Deborah Perreau, Deanery Mission Priest for Somerset South, has received a Community Resilience Award from Somerset Council in acknowledgment of her exceptional efforts following severe flooding in the area in 2021. Deborah has collaborated with local agencies, secured additional funding for emergency flood resources, and facilitated opportunities for people to share their experiences. "It was vital that care and compassion were our outer garments but even more so a listening ear. The church takes in the battered and bruised and sends us out restored and with resilience."

Caring for those working at sea

More than 400 gift boxes filled by church communities in Bath and Wells were shared with sailors who came to Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks near Bristol. Chaplains from the Mission to Seafarers also gave out hundreds of warm hats, scarves and gloves, all knitted volunteers in the diocese. Fr Jeremy Hellier said, "95% of everything we use comes by sea, those who work on the ships that deliver the goods will be far away from their loved ones at for many months at a time."

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afair or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
I was unaware.

I want to start by saying thank you on behalf of all Sue's family for your messages of love and support, whether delivered in person or over the phone, by card, letter and email. Your love, admiration and respect for Sue shines through, and we are grateful that you felt able to share your thoughts and words with us at this most difficult of times.

Many are called to God's service and God uses many ways, many people to send out that call. Sue came to St. Paul's through the guiding hand of our Sunday School teachers – Mary Sanger-Davies and Mary Browning, two very special women who inspired Sue throughout her life.

First the choir and then the Sunday School where Sue worked alongside Mary Browning teaching the youngest children, already working with the little ones when only in her teens. Then as she described in her 'What is your Ministry' piece for the magazine Sue became churchwarden in the 1990's. With no-one to take over from Auntie Gladys, our much-loved godmother, Sue was the one 'who broke first' and volunteered. With her boys still young she could not have considered such a role without the support of her dear Roy, and her St. Paul's family particularly the other churchwardens she worked with over the years – Graham Rowles, Sheri, Brian and of course Brodie.

With the support and hard work of this amazing community St. Paul's has reached out the hand of welcome to many, touching the lives of countless numbers in this country and in many countries abroad – people who will never know Sue but whose lives have been immeasurably changed for the better.

Who can forget the Send a Cow project, so much money was raised by the tireless work of so many in the whole of Walton that there was funding to 'send' a whole farm, including fruit trees, goats and hives of bees. The Toilet Twinning has brought safe sanitary facilities and fresh running water to thousands, and of course Paula our very own Guide Dog, fully trained and now supporting someone in their daily life. Sue loved being able to welcome members of the United Benefice here to Walton for special services and for celebratory events, she had fond memories of the many joint committees that she helped with, including the creation of that wonderful

Jubilee Quilt that went on to be raffled to raise money for charity.
 And then there were the Flower Festivals, the Christmas and Easter fayres, Rogation and Harvest Festivals, the Welcome In Coffee Mornings and the many lunches and cream teas either as church events or drawing the community together as village celebrations with fun and laughter.
 The list could go on, and on – very few of us will ever come close to such achievements.
 Sue truly loved being our churchwarden, serving her church and village family, she brought so much of herself to her role and gained lifelong friends, and the confidence and joy of being held in God’s hand and in the heart of a loving community.

As I am sure you have already heard, due to the change in circumstances services at St. Paul’s will now take place monthly – where possible on the second Sunday of the month. In the months which include significant dates, for example March and Easter, there will be two services – don’t worry dates will be published either here in the magazine or in the Cross Tree Chronicle, or both.

So here are some upcoming dates:

- Saturday 3rd February - Welcome In Coffee Morning at 10.30am in the church
- Sunday 11th February – Morning Prayer at 11.15am
- Saturday 2nd March – Welcome In Coffee Morning at 10.30am
- Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday service at 11.15am
- Saturday 23rd March – Easter Fayre, between 2 – 4pm in the Village Hall, an event put on the Village Social Club with all proceeds kindly going to St. Paul’s
- Sunday 31st March – Easter Day Holy Communion service at 11.15am
- Saturday 6th April – Welcome In Coffee Morning at 10.30am
- Sunday 14th April – Morning Prayer 11.15am

And looking forward to the summer – Walton Village Fete Saturday 13th July
Ruth Long

St Paul’s Future Ministry

Sue’s death has shocked and saddened us all in the Walton in Gordano community and not least in the church. Our hearts go out to all of her family and they will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers in the months ahead. She was a very special person, the very life and soul of the community, and so much more in her own family who will grieve her loss deeply.
 But Sue’s death has, of course, raised some practical issues for us in the church

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING
10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry
 Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings
 Feb 14th, and March 13th
 Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634

FROM THE REGISTERS....

FUNERALS
 1st February - John Bailey, St Mary’s
 2nd February – Sue Betts, St Paul’s

Bible verse of the month

A verse giving thanks to God

“All together now.....applause for God!”

Psalm 66 v 1

Taken from The Message Bible 2003

You can find free Christian resources on the welcome tables at All Saints and St Mary’s. Please help yourself.



Stepping Stones 'Living with Loss'

Drop in support in times of change or bereavement

OPEN DOOR – DROP IN

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

Next meetings:
Feb 2nd, and March 1st

Tea always available!

Members of the team are able to give information
and one-to-one support if wished.
For further information: Ruth Maddock 01275 870751 /
Email: ruthmaddock@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

15th January - Ron Blackhurst: Congratulations on reaching your 80th Birthday. With all my love darling, for ever, Carol.



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.

which we need to face realistically and positively. She was our sole churchwarden, treasurer, secretary and even more significantly was the inspiration behind St Paul's somewhat unique expression of Christian faith which combined a warm-hearted hospitality and a commitment to both the community and the needs of others. She loved the church and the village – we were her second family.

Sue was irreplaceable. But, we need to consider the future.

Because our regular church congregation is so small (3 people came on Christmas day, 3 came for harvest, 6 came for Remembrance) carrying on as normal cannot be an option. So we in the church have decided that for now we will move to a service of morning prayer once a month which will be led by me, the Rector, or one of the clergy. This will allow more people in the village to feel they can come without being asked to do more than they want and to be as inclusive as possible. This will normally be held on the second Sunday of each month at the normal time of 11.15am to finish at 12 noon. From time to time the service offered will be a Eucharist depending on the season. We will also hold additional festival and seasonal services as they arise (eg Easter, Carol Service etc). We are optimistic that in this way we can move forward simply but optimistically. I am the contact for the diocese and the administration of the church will go through me. We are very grateful to Emma who is now our treasurer and to others who will care for the church day to day. The coffee morning will continue and weddings, baptisms and funerals can take place as usual and for as long as we remain viable. I am delighted to say that we are already receiving offers of help and support.

Finances are challenging. We need about £15,000 a year to maintain the church and time will tell if we can sustain it. If our monthly pattern and other events are a success, together with the community's generous fundraising, then we are hopeful that we can survive and grow.

St Paul's is a tiny church with a big heart. I am sure that with the goodwill of the community we can offer a ministry well into the future. We all want the church to survive and to be there for us when we want or need it. But the question is not whether we want it, it is do we want it enough? I am sure the answer to that is "yes".

Noel Hector (Rector)

* dates for future services, 11th Feb; 10th March (Mothering Sunday); 31st March Easter Day Communion; 14th April

Lent and Holy Week 2024

14th February - Ash Wednesday services in the Benefice

10.00am – St Mary's

6.00pm – All Saints

Lent Discussion Group

Hope Springs Eternal – five conversations from scripture bringing hope into our troubled times

Tuesdays in Lent beginning 20th February from 7.00-8.00pm in All Saints Vestry.

20th February Reconciliation in families and life (Luke 15:11-32)
Led by The Rector

27th February Good news for all of us (Matt. 5:1-12)
Led by Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

5th March Seeing the humanity in the enemy (Luke 10: 25-37)
Led by Rev'd Tim Daplyn

12th March Finding peace in times of difficulty (Phil 4: 4-9)
Led by Mr Michael Dyne

19th March Surprised by joy (John 20: 1-18)
Led by Sister Carol CHN

The sessions will be led by members of the clergy and everyone is welcome. No biblical knowledge is required. We hope to see you there.

Wednesday Meditations

A Passage, a Person and a Place

Wednesdays 12 noon at St Mary's

Five lunchtime meditations from different people telling of a passage of scripture, a person and a place which has influenced their faith and life.

Wednesdays in Lent at St Mary's Church, Castle Road, Clevedon 12 noon to 12.30pm, followed by a simple lunch in the church hall.

21 st February	The Rector
28 th February	Sandra Derrick
6 th March	Victoria Kubiak
13 th March	Rev'd Tim Daplyn
20 th March	Anna Turner

Holy Week

28th March Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Watch, 7.00pm
All Saints

29th March Good Friday Meditations 2.00pm – 3.00pm
St Mary's and St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano

30th March Easter Liturgy, 7.00pm at All Saints