

STAFF

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St Mary's Church Hall:	Mrs Diana Fleming Tel: 01275 875081

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

CHURCHWARDENS

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

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

Website: www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

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

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

The Parish Magazine

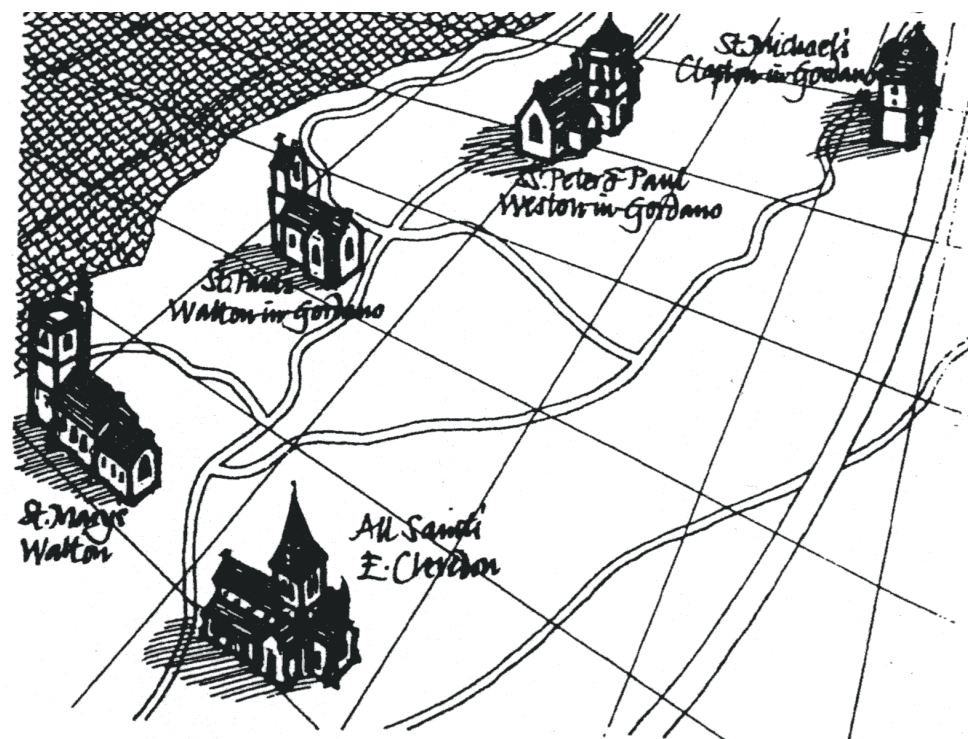
Diocese of Bath and Wells

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Parish Office:

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



February 2023 50P

SERVICES

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

HELPFUL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

MAGAZINE DETAILS

Magazine & Advertising editor: Laura Durrant
Mobile: 07890113851

Email: Laura.EastClevedonChurches@gmail.com

The deadline for copy for the March magazine is 9am Monday February 13th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday March 5th.

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FIRST WORD from The Rector

The late Queen Mother and I are beginning to agree on something. She famously didn't like receiving bad news and I'm beginning to understand how she felt.

Last year was particularly laden and weighed down by gloom and frequently by abject horror and much of this will march on into 2023 and beyond. Covid was the easier part, at least for those of us who remained healthy, it is the after effects which are more difficult to live with. We hosted the Hospicecare Southwest carol service in December and I was distressed to hear that many of their patients are those whose serious illnesses would have been detected in time, but the covid restrictions prevented a diagnosis. This must surely be repeated all across the country.

This is just one fragment of the situation today. Because of the aftermath of Covid, made much worse by the inhumane barbarity of the war in Ukraine, the economic and social consequences have reached us all. It is affecting every department of life – public services, the economy, prices but perhaps most of all our mood and confidence. The news batters us like the relentless sea batters the sandy cliffs of our coastline and many find that their mental health can be badly affected. Some even resort to “doom scrolling” as they scan their mobile devices for the constant slew of catastrophe perhaps searching for glimmers of hope. They even killed off James Bond – James Bond for heavens sake. It's not a joke really, for many enough is genuinely enough.

So as we approach Ash Wednesday on the 22nd of this month and with it the beginning of lent we may be feeling that we've also had enough.

You've heard it before, but it must be worth repeating that the story of Christ is good news. Yet again we'll hear of his ministry, his betrayal, his turmoil in the garden, his arrest, trials and crucifixion. We'll hear of the sad moral weaknesses of his disciples and the corruption of the powerful which killed him. We'll hear of the useless popular culture of the crowd which couldn't discern good from bad and we will be confronted with death.

Good news? Yes, because we'll also hear of the astonishing loyalty of Mary his mother and Mary Magdalene (surely the most misrepresented woman in the bible). We'll hear of the touching kindness of Nicodemus and of John's support of Christ's grieving family. And, of course, we'll hear of the surging optimism of the resurrection. The story of Christ touches upon the very depths of the human experience and this gives us hope. Our lives are never perfect or easy and at times we are sorely tested. But our faith in God revealed in Christ means that if we follow his lead we will be drawn into goodness, a goodness which is stronger than death.

As I celebrate a wedding in church I notice that it is celebrated almost directly underneath the rood – with it's crucified Christ. The joy under the death. On



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occasions I draw the attention of the couple and the congregation to it because it seems so jarring – how can celebrate in the light of Good Friday? We can do so because the cross was a beginning and not an end – it is a symbol of hope and not of despair. It is a symbol of the power of sacrificial love, loyalty and faith which is and always will be more powerful than greed, hate or conflict.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter reminds us again that there is no darkness which God cannot overcome. We follow the way of the cross not to escape bad news but because of it.

So I urge you, this year perhaps more than most, to be part of the healing which following Christ brings. This lent we have our Wednesday meditations and weekly small groups considering the bible readings for the week. Our services will reflect the journey of Christ's passion and all the more as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

We don't need to hide from bad news. We need to understand it, and understand how God in Christ has overcome it to give us a hope and a future.

Noel

St Mary's recital

St Mary Walton Church - Saturday February 11th , 11.00am

Morning Recital by Rachael Cooper – Soprano

Accompanied by Sue Parker

Including Classical and Music Theatre favourites

followed by Tea/Coffee

Free admission - Donations to support Church funds



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

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

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Sort code: 54-30-06

St Paul's Church

Cheques payable to 'St Paul's PCC'

A/c no: 01125400

Sort code: 40-37-33

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Cheques payable to 'East Clevedon UB'

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A/c no: 00334855

Sort code: 52-21-39

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 3rd February, 3rd March, 14th April

Tea always available!

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

For further information: Angela 01275 871247

Pause for Thought

First Meeting

(to Diane)

When I first met you I knew I had at last come home,
Home after wandering, home after long puzzled searching,
Home after long being wind-borne, wave-tossed, night-caught,
Long being lost.

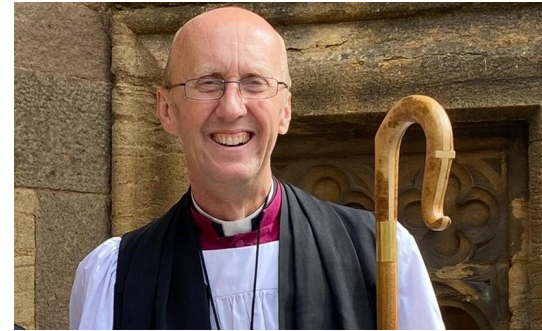
And being with you as normal and needful and natural
As sleeping or walking; and I was myself, who had never
Been wholly myself; I was walking and talking and laughing
Easily at last:

And the air was softer and sounds were sharper
And colours were brighter and the sky was higher
And length was not measured by milestones and time was
Not measured by clocks...
And this end was a beginning...
And these words are the beginning of my thanks.

A.S.J Tessimond

This beautiful poem speaks of how the world seems to change when we meet someone who we really love. It brims over with thankfulness and optimism which stands in stark contrast to the lack of fulfilment experienced before. Although clearly this poem is about human relationships it could equally be about faith. Encountering God is transforming, filling our experience of life with new meaning. Read the poem both ways – a wonderful relationship either way.

Noel



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

A better way

Culture, it's said, is 'how things get done around here'. This suggests that our understanding of the world is largely formed by

our experiences and what we're accustomed to. That's all fine until everything around us, as it does, keeps on changing. Then we're then set on a collision course between how we think things should be, and how they actually are. Anybody aged over 40 who's had to ask a nine year old how to use their new phone will understand this dilemma perfectly.

Cultural collisions aren't just restricted to technology. They affect churches too. Many of us grew up with a model of church set up by the Victorians. This mostly meant that each parish had one church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. Yet even this was new in its day. Look much further back and things worked very differently. The New Testament speaks of churches where lots of different people played many different roles, each operating out of the particular skills and gifts given them by God. In Ephesians the writer describes a church where 'some [are] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers'.

So what would be the right model of church for our day? The Victorians' assumption that the vicar would do almost everything would seem to be a crying waste of the gifts and passions that together we share. And as more of our clergy care for three, six or more parishes, the nineteenth century model is increasingly leaving our vicars tired, overstretched and liable to burn out.

We need a better way; one that draws on the rich talents, abilities and skills that our church members have. Here in Bath and Wells we're calling this 'shared local ministry'. Examples of what that can look like exist in many places around our diocese. Neither first century nor nineteenth century, but an emerging twenty first century way of how we want 'to get things done around here'. A better way to inhabit well the faith we've inherited in our time and generation.

Bishop Michael

READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 5th February – 3rd before Lent
Isaiah 58: 1-9 Matthew 5: 13-20

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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.

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Sunday, 12th February – 2nd before Lent
Romans 8: 18-25 Matthew 6: 25 - end

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 19th February – Sunday before Lent
Exodus 24: 12 - end Matthew 17: 1-9

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.

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

5th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - Mrs Robb Robinson
12th 5.00 pm Evensong - The Rector
19th 5.00pm Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
26th 5.00pm Evensong - The Rector, Preacher Sr Carol CHN
5th 10.00am Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
Every Wednesday 11.00 am Holy Communion - check for venue

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

5th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
12th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rector
19th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rector
26th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard
5th 10.00am Holy Communion - The Rector
Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Feb/March SERVICES

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

All Saints, East Clevedon

5th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	All Age Holy Communion - The Rector Michael Dyne ante communion
12th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn Michael Dyne ante communion
19th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
26th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rector, Preacher Rev'd Tim Daplyn
5th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

5th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Sue Betts
12th	11.15 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
19th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Mr Joshua Fowler
26th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Mrs Robb Robinson
5th	11.15am	Morning Prayer - Sue Betts

Sunday, 26th February – Lent I
Genesis 2: 15-17 and ch 3: 1-7 Matthew 4: 1-11

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 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.

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

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ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

AN OUTING FOR THE LADS

(January 11th)

Fabulous – a super success!. These are just some of the words which the boys of the choir would use to describe our evenings entertainment at the theatre at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday evening last. The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* was excellently performed by a cast which included that grand comedian “Sandy Powell”* who had the audience rocking with laughter and loudly responding to his wit and comic capers. The colourful costumes and ballet dancing against such realistic scenery provided all with a feast of entertainment and there was never a dull moment. The cannibals and under-water scenes were particularly impressive as was the arrival of the witch who was greeted with time honoured boos and catcalls of the audience. Last, but certainly not least we remember the refreshment – ice-cream, chocolates and sweets – a real treat. Our sincere thanks to all the kind folk who arranged this happy evening. *Roland Taysum writing in the Parish Magazine, February 1964.*

**Albert Arthur Powell, 1900-1982, known as Sandy Powell. He worked on radio, television and pantomime. He became famous for his catchphrase, ‘Can you hear me mother?’ with which he introduced his radio shows from the 1930s.*

Julia Elton



ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon

I’m writing this mid-January and already Christmas seems a long time ago. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our wonderful Christmas services. The church was packed for the candle-light crib service on Christmas Eve, with people of all ages from babies to more mature! Noel led the service and Fr Tim got us all involved in singing a carol about the Nativity which was great fun. The late service took place at 10pm, led by Fr Tim, this was a beautiful and reflective way to start Christmas. Fr Tim also led the Christmas Day morning services which were well attended. We will miss Fr Tim and Anne Daplyn during January while they are away in Assisi as Tim undertakes his duties as a Franciscan. It was lovely to have The Very Rev’d David Frayne lead the service and give the sermon on the Epiphany (8th January). Fr David and Liz are valued members of the congregation and we are lucky to have them.

Some of us attended the funeral of Sheila Whiteley at WSM crematorium on 10th January. The moving service was led by Noel with a poem read by Sheila’s eldest

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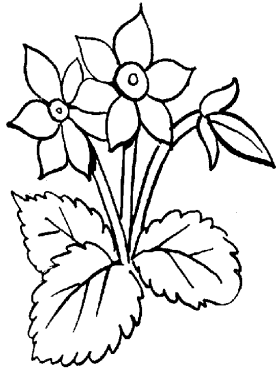
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Garden Talk

February is not really a great gardening month, so, as this is a church magazine, I thought I would invite you to join me on an imaginary walk through the garden of the church's year.

Lent is not far away and the first plant we notice is the lovely Lenten Rose, actually a hellebore whose flowers may be white, pink or purple. Like most hellebores, its flowers tend to face downwards so it is easily over-

looked, but its appearance is a sign that spring is really on the way. The last two weeks of Lent are the season of Passiontide, and here we notice the Passion Flower, a vigorous climber whose showy blue flowers contain reminders of Our Lord's passion. The corona represents the crown of thorns, the styles the nails with which his limbs were hammered to the cross and the stamens the five wounds to his body. The only problem is that these beautiful flowers do not normally come out until well after Easter.

One plant which does flower on time, however, is the Pulsatilla or Pasque Flower which adorns the rockery in April. Pasque, of course, is another word for Easter and derives from Passover. The Pasque Flower is naturally pale purple but white varieties are available. It is really an anemone and grows wild in many parts of Europe.

I have not been able to find a flower which is specifically identified with Whitsun, but the name means 'white Sunday' because churches were traditionally decorated with hawthorn, the mayflower. The girls would dress in white, too, and I think it is sad that this great festival now goes largely unnoticed in the secular world.

Continuing our tour, we reach a shrub which is a blaze of shiny yellow on Midsummer's Day. This is the Hypericum, or St John's Wort, and it may well be named after St John the Baptist whose birth is celebrated on 24 June. The variety I would recommend is 'Hidcote' which makes a fine hedge and seems impervious to all that nature can throw at it.

Another festival is St Michael & All Angels and my Michaelmas Daisies always come out right on cue on 29 September. They are lovely flowers at a time of year when most others are going over. Finally we come to Christmas and the Christmas Rose is one of the first hellebores to come out. Unlike its Lenten cousin, the Christmas Rose is always white, a shy thing of beauty at the darkest time of the year.

William King

daughter Charlotte, supported by her sister Becki. Noel read a letter from Sheila's sister in New Zealand, who was watching on the video link. Isn't that a brilliant idea brought about by covid (one of the few positives) enabling those who are unable to attend a funeral at the Crematorium, for whatever reason, to watch at home if they have a computer.

The funeral of Sheila Duncan takes place at All Saints on Friday, 20th January. We send our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

The January coffee morning was well attended by most of the usual gang, we missed a few of you, especially the loss of Sheila Whiteley, and welcomed a newcomer.

The next one is on Wednesday 8th February, everyone is welcome.

Thank you to Mike Clark for the new LED lights in the parish rooms, and Mark Craddy for making good where the old ones were. I actually thought the whole hall had been redecorated until Kay told me that Mike and Mark had worked their magic.

The New Monthly Bible Study starts Tuesday, 31st January in All Saints Vestry from 7pm—8pm. Noel will lead the group. This is a benefice group and people are warmly welcomed from across the benefice. The next one will be Tuesday, 28th February. Also remember the 3 Cs – coffee (cake!) and Conversation monthly discussion group that meets in the vestry – next one is on Tuesday, 7th February, 1.30pm -2.45pm. Please speak to Kate Hector if you would like to know more or if you would like to try 'Day by Day with God' Bible notes which can be ordered in.

Sandra Sallis



ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano

With the festive season now behind us, the Friends of St Michaels will start planning a fresh new program of services in St Michaels church for 2023.

The main priority must be, with the guidance and cooperation of

Noel, to arrange service dates/times and the allocation of a Vicar to lead each event, in our calendar for the coming year. Added to this will be our annual Summer concert. All services and Summer concert will be announced once the dates and times have been verified.

Thus with these in place we can notify and involve our friendly local players, Jill and Highly Strung to support each of the forthcoming services and the concert.

George and his team of bell ringers continue to practice and perform throughout the year as well as providing tuition to youngsters from the local schools in this skilled art.

The church itself will be opened each Sunday for quite contemplation and visitors from approx 08:30 until 15:30. Outside of these hours, for reference, a spare key is held in the bar in the Black Horse public house, from normal mid day opening.

And finally..... On behalf of the Friends of St Michaels I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2023.

Derek Roberts



WALTON ST MARY

Although it now seems a long time ago, it's good to look back at happy memories of Christmas at St Mary's.

On December 14th we were the Clevedon host church for their annual service, Light up a Life, organised by Weston Hospicecare. It was a beautiful service with the church decorated with coloured lanterns, each in memory of a loved one and there was also a time for the lighting of candles as their names were remembered.

The Carol Service was very well attended and thanks go as always to Ian for his inspirational leadership of the musical life of the church. Thanks also to those who came and expanded the choir including the young singers Alice, Eila and Rosie. The church was beautifully decorated by our flower arrangers.

The Crib Service with Christingles was a very happy time with many adults and excited children. Reverend Walter assisted Nicolas with the service and the puppets helped with the carol singing from the pulpit. It's always such a treat to see that the church is still part of the young families' celebration of Christmas. It was good to welcome more visitors to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. A special thanks also to Nicholas who also led these two services.

There has been some progress on the Well Project. It has been decided to lower the ground around the well to expose more of the stone. A stone mason has come to look at the job and we await developments.

Looking forward, a series of Coffee Concerts is being planned for this and the spring months. The first will be on February 11th when Rachael Cooper, soprano and music teacher will perform a programme for us. Rachael sings with us in the choir but with her voice reigned in, do come and hear it in its full glory!

Also in February Lent begins and with it a chance to meet each week with others from the benefice. The first of the Lent Lunches will be on March 1st (St. David's Day).

Ending on a sad note, we lost a loved member of our congregation when Jeremy Spratt died in the middle of last month. Our thoughts are with Lois and with Jeremy's family.

Sally King

Just to prove we were young once!
We would like to say thank you for the cards and prayers for our platinum wedding anniversary which was on 27th December 2022. I was overwhelmed when the Rev Nicholas Maddocks announced it on Christmas Day and gave me a lovely card.

*Many thanks,
Ruth and Ray Weaver*



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Little Saints

Do you have a preschool age child? Are you looking to meet friendly people while your child plays?

Little Saints meets every Thursday during term time, from 12.30-2 in All Saints Church vestry.

It is for preschool children and their parents/carers, and includes a story, craft activity and songs, plus a hot drink for the adults.

£2 donation per family. People are very welcome to bring a picnic lunch with them.

For more information contact the parish office on 01275 873257.

Running the London Marathon

All Saints parishioner Nathan Charles is taking on a big challenge for a cause that is very close to his heart. In April he will be running the London Marathon to raise money for the Stroke Association.

In August 2017, the lives of Nathan, his wife Maddy and their family were turned upside down when Maddy's father suffered a brain stem stroke. Whilst he defied the odds and survived the stroke he was left with locked in syndrome.

Nathan said: "Over the last 5 years I have had the pleasure of seeing him teach himself to communicate, talk, eat, and regain some movement. As a result he is able to control his own environment including an electric wheelchair.

Independence is so important to people in this position and we are so grateful that we get to spend days out as a family that we thought had been taken away from us. "

Now Nathan, a keen runner, wants to do what he can to raise money for the Stroke Association, the UK's leading stroke charity, which delivers amazing, life-changing support to over 70,000 stroke survivors and their families each year. Without people raising funds for the Stroke Association they could not provide the support and research that they do.

If you are able to support Nathan in his fundraising visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nathan-charles-lm2023.

Every little helps. Thank you.



ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano

Christmas came and went! As did New Year; possibly we are still recovering from both and orienting ourselves into 2023 with all that may lie ahead.

What a good occasion the Advent Carol service was with the church cheerily full of villagers. Norma and the choir had worked hard on the music; the readings were very well done with a memorable cockney landlady at the Inn (Angela Borland) and familiar carols were entered into by all. Afterwards folk were in no hurry to depart as they drank mulled wine and ate mince pies and other goodies, so magically produced by faithful members of the congregation. Thanks to all who helped to make this the heart warming, sociable, occasion that it was.

Interestingly all Carol services were well attended in the benefice this year. Robb reports on the similarly full church for the Christingle on the 24th. Later that evening there were around 25 folk at the Christmas communion service, which was not bad given that there were other celebrations in the benefice. The 'midnight' congregation was an unusual mix of folk, some of whom were here visiting their families for the festival. To preach in such a context is challenging, I find, but also a great privilege.

As we enter the Epiphany season we seem to be getting back into our stride in the renovated building. Any contributions toward the great cost of that are still very welcome.

It seems astonishing that Lent will have begun before the March magazine is out. I will be keeping a time of intercession on Thursday evenings during Lent only, between 8.30 and 9.00 pm, alone, in my own home. We did this last Lent when some folk found it helpful to do likewise, in their own homes, but with a sense of solidarity that we were praying together in spirit at that time. Sadly the theme for prayer is still Ukraine. It can be helpful to use the Jesus prayer ('Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on.. us, them.') Or possibly take another phrase or few words from the psalms..or the Lord's Prayer. To intercede is to 'go between' God and other people or situations, in the stream of Christ's own prayer for us all. However we choose or are led to pray we are standing (in fact probably sitting) before God with the people on our heart. I shall end with the saying of Compline at 9.00. Or perhaps you might find it helpful to say Compline between 8.30 and 9.00 pm with an intention for Ukraine.

As we face up realistically to these challenging times may we also trust in the greater reality of God's unbreakable Love, with us and for us in all circumstances.

And on a final note, my landline number has changed. It is now 01275844328.

Sister Carol

What a joy and blessing it has been to have lots of people in Church since our reopening on Advent Sunday. Christingle was no exception. With the willing help of Ann Bridges and Caroline Beekmann the Christingle oranges were prepared the day before – thank you ladies, they looked amazing – and on Christmas Eve the Church was readied and candles lit on windowsills as well as in every holder we have. Noel led the service in a packed church with loads of children eager to tell him of their hopes and wishes for Christmas, about the symbolism of the Christingle and then to tell again the Nativity story. We distributed the Christingles and then came that almost magical moment which always brings a lump to my throat. All the 27 children, some in their parents' arms, held their lit Christingles and, and, in a darkened candlelit Church, sang 'Away in a Manger'. Refreshments followed the service and the joy and excitement continued. Our grateful thanks to Norma for playing the organ and to the chaps who cleared up and washed up while we prepared the Church for the evening service. That was another lovely gift and very much appreciated.

Robb Robinson

Words of thanks are due to the village Social Committee for lighting the churchyard Christmas tree, very festive and picturesque; thanks also to the Parish Council for providing the tree itself, a very handsome specimen and a welcome addition to the WiG village's season's lighting. We should not forget the clergy and volunteers who all helped make this year's Christmas a special one.

Thank you all.

The Carol Service is reported on elsewhere but it was a happy service, simple carols for the congregation plus two choir-only versions sung by the newly reconstituted choir led and organized by Norma Minors. The choir proper will sing at a restricted number of "high days and holy days" during the year; if you would like to join us please let Norma know.

George Wyatt and his merry band of ringers have rung at several services. It's good to have the bells being put to good use. Another group of helpers who are often unsung, but not unnoticed in this case.

The Dry Rot repairs have been completed and the church looks good, and complete, once again. The repairs have been paid for but not without digging deep into our reserves which are now almost non-existent. It's heartening to have so many villagers, and non-villagers, offering help especially during this period of hiatus. Thank you.

John Bridges

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday is on the 22nd February and services for the beginning of lent will be

St Mary's 10.00am

St Peter and St Paul, Weston in Gordano, 11.00am

All Saints 6.00pm

"Music which moves me" – Lent Meditations

During lent we will hold our usual meditations on Wednesdays at St Mary's beginning on Wednesday 1st March at 12 noon followed by a bread and soup lent lunch at 12.30. This year the meditations will take the form of a piece of music introduced and then played by a musician (a member of the benefice or invited musician) which will have a personal significance to the person introducing it and which reflect something of their faith. Ian Hubbard will lead the first one on the 1st.

"Jesus then and now" – weekly groups to consider the scriptures

Each week in lent we will produce a written reflection on the readings for the coming Sunday (which will be available in church) and hold small groups to consider them. Regular dates and venues will be on the weekly church pewsheets and in the March magazine. The groups will usually be

Tuesday 28th February Boxwood Cottage, Weston in Gordano, at 11.00am followed by a bring and share lunch, led by Robb Robinson

Tuesday 28th February All Saints Vestry 7.00pm-8.00pm led by Noel or another member of the team.



Introduction to the Season

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.



Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.
(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. Gloria in excelsis is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.



ST PAUL'S, Walton in Gordano

'The South wind brings wet weather,
The North wind wet and cold together.
The West wind always brings us rain,
The East wind blows it back again!'

A very appropriate poem given to me by Jocelyn Davis six years ago, she had found it in one her cross-stitch magazines. Mind you by the time you are reading this we might well have had snow to go with all the rain. Sue was telling me that the adults at High Down School are not allowed to use the word 'snow' just in case the children overhear them – so they call it precipitation instead. You can just image it 'Mrs Betts, Mrs Betts when's it going to snow!' from thirty over excited six-year-olds. Whichever form of precipitation you have been experiencing I hope you are keeping warm and dry.

After sending out our best for a Happy New Year last month, Sue wants to wish everyone a 'Hairy' New Year as well – she has been noticing Maureen's beautiful head of hair and John's sporty moustache.

Just a quick note – the final total for our Christmas Fayre was a brilliant £700. With the money from the Christmas Post Box, the Footie and Sweep Sweepstake, the Carol Service and Christmas Day collections we raised an amazing £300 to go to UNICEF – that will be six Midwifery Kits to go all around the world to support vulnerable mothers and babies, just think of those little ones wrapped in a cosy blanket and your love. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

Looking back to January it was lovely to have Michael with us for the our first service of 2023, thank you to Noel for taking the service and to Michael for his thought provoking sermon delivered with confidence and conviction. Michael will be spending time here in the United Benefice while he furthers his training, we look forward to welcoming back to St. Paul's again soon.

January was a dreadfully wet month but well done to those hardy souls who braved the weather and joined to sing a Wassailing song, written specially for the occasion by Sue (where does she find the time), on Friday 13th in the Old Village Pound Garden. There was a good turn out and plenty enough mulled cider for everyone to be warmed, thank you to Katherine and Seamus for the use of the garden and a big thank you to 'the three little boys' for hanging the toast on the apple tree (all part of the wassailing tradition).

Then on Sunday 15th we had our Plough Sunday service to celebrate those who work on the land and to bless the plough, seed and soil, and pray for a good harvest this year. Thank you to Josh for so ably taking the service. Well, that should have set the village up for the growing season to come – from all possible points of view! This month will begin with our 'Welcome In' on Saturday 4th at 10.30am in the Church. Come and join us for a cup of tea and a piece of home-made cake. On Sunday 5th we have our Morning Gathering followed by a simple lunch and our

Parish Conversation. There will be all manner of things to talk about including if anyone has any ideas for a charity that we could support throughout the year. Think back to our 'Send a Cow' appeal, and our delightful mascot Daisy, when we were raising enough money to send a cow to Africa and ended up sending a whole farm, not only a cow but goats and chickens and even bees. And then there was the play equipment we funded for Barton Camp – a local charity providing holidays for children who otherwise would not get the opportunity. Then there is Paula our very own guide dog – it was wonderful to be able to support the Guide Dog Association in their amazing work and to follow the progress of our little puppy as she completed her training and then became a working dog giving vital daily help to her owner. And who can forget all the delicious rock cakes made by Maureen (a particular favourite of Sue's eldest Sam), all the tea cosies crocheted by Joan, and the mountains of ironing and the making of pots and pots of marmalade done by Sally and Gordon – all as part of our fund raising. As the late Queen said in one her Christmas Day speeches – we cannot all do something momentous, but the importance is in 'doing small things with great love', which after all we are all pretty good at.

Another topic of discussion is plans for the Coronation in May.

So how about coming along on the Sunday and sharing your ideas, as always everyone is most welcome.

Don't forget to get your frying pans out ready for making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday – February 21st. And then it is Lent, and this year's Lent giving will kick off our year-long charity fund raising, leaflets will be included with March's Chronicle. And now for the beginning of next month. The 'Welcome In' will be on Saturday 4th March at 10.30am, and a simple lunch will also be provided if you care to stop on and help with tidying up the Church – the kitchen needs a good sorting out, and the Christmas decorations currently housed in the tower need to be thinned out and divided into those to keep and those to be sold at the Flower Festival later in the year. A jolly good Spring clean is needed ready for the next day and our annual Thanksgiving Service, Sunday 5th March at 11.15am. Sue will once again be explaining our Church finances by the means of cake'o'nomics – a huge cake will be involved so not quite like the Chancellor's budget or financial statement, but probably making more sense.

Finally, our Mouse Musings: Well, I never. We mice thought that Sue was going to leave the blessed seed, after Plough Sunday, at the back of the Church – for us. And then she, and the little girls with her, went and threw it out on the grass for the birds. But don't worry we mice are even now putting on our wellington boots to go and get it. Don't forget our little feathered friends will also need feeding, especially at this time of the year. Love Miss CM



ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

8th February and 8th March

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634

FROM THE REGISTERS....

FUNERALS

9th January – Roger Gray, All Saints

10th January – Sheila Whiteley, All Saints

20th January – Sheila Duncan, All Saints

31st January – Jeremy Spratt, St Mary's