

## STAFF

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The Rev'd Tim Daplyn	1 New Park House, Old Park Road, Clevedon, BS21 7HU (Tel: 219810) coillellie@hotmail.com
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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](http://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

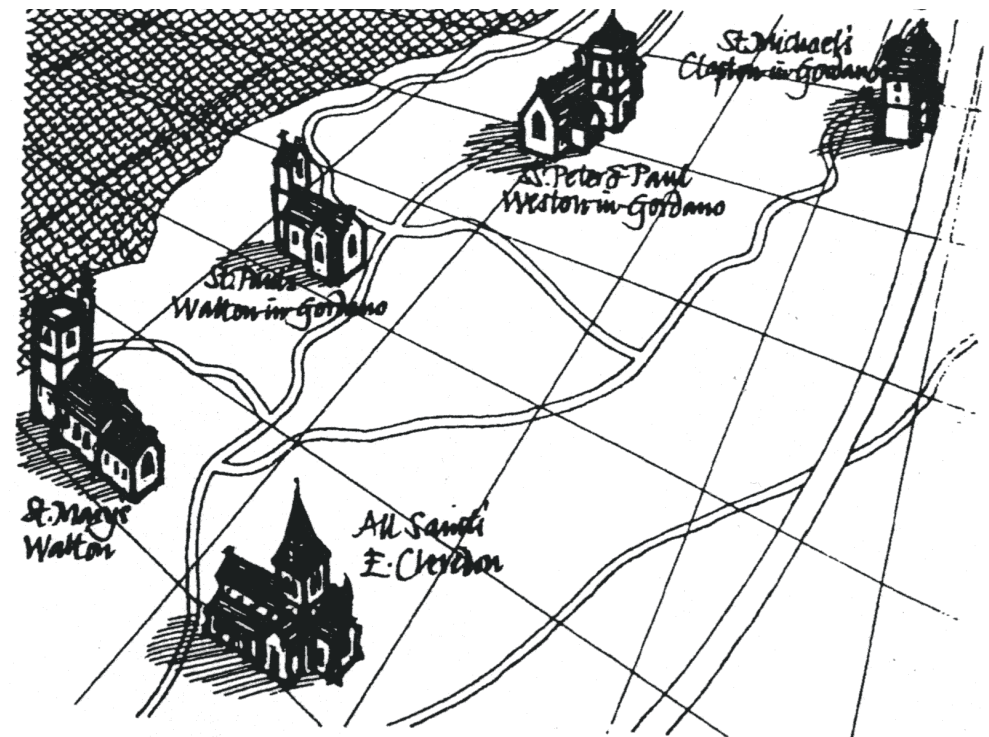
Diocese of Bath and Wells

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON**

[www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk](http://www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk)

Parish Office:

Tel: 01275 873257 email: [eastcleveub@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:eastcleveub@blueyonder.co.uk)



**January 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	10.00 am Morning Prayer (1st) 5.00 pm Holy Communion (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](http://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](mailto:Laura.EastClevedonChurches@gmail.com)  
 The deadline for copy for the February magazine is 9am Monday January 16th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday February 5th.

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## FIRST WORD from The Rector

January is the darkest month. Gone are the cheering lights of Christmas and the spring warmth seems a long way off. January is the month of deep darkness and winter cold. Even Bake Off and Strictly are finished.

In scripture, as in most spiritual reflection, darkness is a negative thing masking as ignorance, spiritual blindness and wickedness. We recall Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night (surely a symbol of spiritual ignorance) and Judas leaves Jesus at night to betray him (wickedness). As Christ dies on his cross so the sun is darkened and St Paul, using this theme when writing to the Christians in Rome urges them to “put away the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light” referring to the sins of the night.

No wonder God is associated with light and purity.

Reflecting on the last year we may well agree with these sentiments. Last year was not a good one. The horrors of Ukraine, the political shambles here, the death of our Queen, soaring inflation, high utility bills, a sagging economy, strikes reminiscent of the 1970s. Good heavens it was dark— how we need light and hope.

So as we look to 2023 we may be forgiven for needing something to lift us and to give us hope.

So let’s put darkness in a better light. Dark is good. We need darkness to sleep, to rest, to recover and to heal. Your garden needs the winter to allow it to celebrate the spring, and all life, including ours, is conducted by the metronome of light and dark, day and night. They are not simply opposites, but two aspects of a whole. Without the blessing of darkness your life would be almost unbearable.

It’s this aspect of darkness which our more contemplative spirituality draws upon. Called the via negativa (the negative way) it accepts absence as an acknowledgment of what should be present. So in trying to find the mystery of God in our life we can be assisted in our quest by removing from our life what might otherwise be a distraction. So silence, simplicity, waiting and fasting are all examples of what we might call negative spirituality – or dark spirituality. These are not punishments but merely attempts at listening.

Have you ever been to a café or restaurant which is so noisy that you can’t hear clearly what your companion is saying? Have you ever felt that you want to turn the “muzak” down so that everyone else can speak more softly and be heard? That desire is in spiritual terms the negative way – cut out the intrusion to hear God more clearly.

Classically this understanding of darkness, or negative spirituality, was recorded by St John of the Cross who referred to the “dazzling darkness of God”. He argues that God is so bright, so much defined by light, that rather like looking too long into the sun, everything around it appears dark. The dark isn’t bad, wicked or evil, but simply a contrast to the light. His “dark night of the soul” is not a period of deep doubt, but quite the opposite. It is the moment of revelation of God’s presence

within us – the moment of maximum illumination – making all our person seem as darkness in comparison.

My favourite Psalm is 139 (“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me”). It explains how God is interwoven into everything, that he knows us intimately, and that there is no place and no darkness where God is not. The first section ends, “If I say the darkness shall cover me then my night be turned to day. Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.” God is everywhere – in the life of light and in the healing rest of dark.

This is surely the point. God is as present in darkness as in light. All of us experience dark times, bereavement, loss, depression and winter blues among them. But God remains with us if we can but adjust our eyes to see him. Who knows what 2023 will bring. Let’s hope for goodness, peace, optimism and better times. But God will be with us whatever.  
Have a happy, light (and dark) new year.

Noel

### ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

11th January and 8th February

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634

### 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  
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Next meeting Feb 3rd.

Tea always available!

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and one-to-one support if wished.

For further information: Angela 01275 871247



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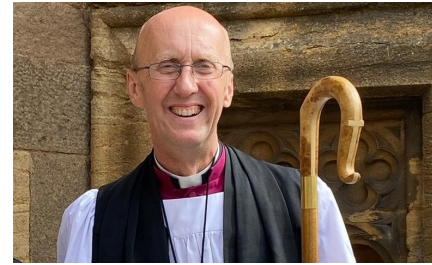
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## Pause for Thought

“This contemporary prayer by Janet Morley speaks of waiting and silence – the darkness of not knowing what will happen. Rather than being a fearful thing, this prayer fills it with expectation that the creative act of God will enable our unknowing to be perfected. It’s a good prayer for a new year when so much is uncertain.  
*Noel*

For the darkness of waiting  
Of not knowing what is to come  
Of staying ready and quiet and attentive  
We praise you God.  
For the darkness and the light  
Are both alike to you.  
For the darkness of staying silent  
For the terror of having nothing to say  
And for the greater terror  
Of needing to say nothing  
We praise you O God.  
For the darkness and the light  
Are both alike to you.  
For the darkness of loving  
In which it is safe to surrender  
To let go of our self-protection  
And to stop hiding back our desire,  
We praise you O God.  
For the darkness and the light  
Are both alike to you.  
For the darkness of choosing  
When you give us the moment  
To speak, and act, and change,  
And we cannot know what we have set in motion,  
But we still have to take the risk,  
We praise you O God.  
For the darkness and the light  
Are both alike to you.  
For the darkness of hoping  
In a world which longs for you,  
For the wrestling and the labouring of all creation  
For wholeness and justice and freedom,  
We praise you O God,  
For the darkness and the light  
Are both alike to you.



## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

**Are you looking out for Jesus?  
By Michael Beasley, Bishop of  
Bath and Wells**

In January, our churches enter the season of Epiphany which my dictionary defines as ‘a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization’. I wonder what your epiphanies have been? When have you seen things for the first time? Experienced the penny dropping? Understood things in a new way?

In our churches, the readings for the Sundays of January are all about moments that revealed who Jesus is. The arrival of the wise men showed that Jesus is for everyone, not just the people of Israel. Jesus’s baptism revealed his relationship with his Father and the Holy Spirit. The production at Cana of enough top-quality red plonk to take several baths in made clear the abundance of God’s love for us. The end of the Epiphany season, the feast of Candlemas (actually 2 February), marks the moment when Jesus was seen as ‘God’s salvation for all peoples’ (Luke 2: 31). The challenge with epiphanies is whether we’re looking out for them. If our eyes are wide shut, we don’t see an awful lot. Sometimes we need to stand in a different place to spot things we haven’t perceived before. So the question I’d like to ask you as our new year begins is ‘Where and when are you looking out for the Jesus who has been revealed to us?’

A practical step you might take to help you on your way is to sign up to be part of the ‘Everyday Faith’ events that will be happening around our diocese from 29 January until 4 February. The aim of these events is to help us look at our faith afresh and see things anew from some different perspectives.

I’m going to be taking part in the Everyday Faith events and they’re going to be great. As we enter a new year, why not come and join me? After all, an invitation to an epiphany isn’t something that comes your way every day!

*A very Happy New Year to you all,  
Bishop Michael*

### FROM THE REGISTERS....

#### BAPTISMS

10th December – James Reed, St Mary’s

#### FUNERALS

7th December -Burial of ashes of Alison Matthews, St Michael’s, Clapton in Gordano

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 1st January – Christmas 2

Isaiah 63: 7-9      Matthew 2: 13-end

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 8th January – The Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6      Matthew 2: 1-12

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 15th January – Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49: 1-7      John 1: 29-42

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 22nd January – Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9: 1-4      Matthew 4: 12-23

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

### St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

#### SERVICES TO BE HELD IN VILLAGE HALL

1st	10.00 am	Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
8th	5.00 pm	Evensong - The Rector
15th	5.00 pm	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
22nd	5.00pm	Evensong - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
29th	5.00pm	Holy Communion - The Rector
5th	10.00am	Morning Prayer - Mrs Robb Robinson

Every Wednesday 11.00 am Holy Communion - check for venue

### Walton St Mary, Clevedon

1st	10.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard
8th	10.00 am	Morning Prayer - The Rector (lead) /pr Michael Dine preach
15th	10.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
22nd	10.00 am	Morning Prayer - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock
29th	10.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
5th	10.00am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

## January/February SERVICES

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

### All Saints, East Clevedon

1st	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
	10.30 am	All Age Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn
8th	8.00 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Very Rev'd David Frayne
15th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rector (lead) /pr Michael Dine antecomm:
22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
29th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard
5th	8.00am	Holy Communion - The Rector
	10.30am	Holy Communion - The Rector

### St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

1st	11.15 am	Morning Prayer -
8th	11.15 am	Holy Communion - The Rector
15th	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Mr Joshua Fowler
22nd	11.15 am	Morning Prayer - Mrs Robb Robinson
29th	11.15am	Morning Prayer - The Rector
5th	11.15am	Morning Prayer - Mrs Sue Betts

may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Sunday, 29th January – Epiphany 4  
2 Kings 17: 8-16                      John 2: 1-11

God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Generous Lord, in word and eucharist we have proclaimed the mystery of your love: help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

18th December - Dear Andrew, Christmas wishes for you - we love you and so wish you were with us. xxx



9th January - Our fantastic grandson, James is 17 today. We are so grateful to have this lovely young man in our lives. Mo and Geoff King

*If you would liker 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.*

**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 from Parish Office) A relaxed and informal space to learn and encourage. Please contact Kate Hector on 873257 if you would like more information.

Next meetings are 10th January, 7th February, and 7th March. Tea, coffee and cake always provided!

**To order bible notes please contact the Parish Office.**

# ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

*from the archives*

It was with regret we said good-bye to some of our elm trees by the Churchyard gate; but the falling of an immense bough during the last gale indicated that they were unsafe, and when examined by competent persons they were found to be in a thoroughly rotten condition, so that in every way it was much better they should be felled before any damage was done. The work of destruction was carried out with great care by the estate workmen, under the direction of Mr. W. Brown\*, and not even the wall on either side of the road was injured, which speaks volumes for their skill.

Some may have noticed that we have been renewing our climbing rose trees, which add so much to the beauty of the Churchyard, the old ones being quite worn out, though they are left in the ground till the new ones have made good progress, to avoid the bareness which would result from their removal. We are also hoping to plant some flowering shrubs in the coppice by the Church path, which at present looks so ragged and untidy. As the care of the churchyard is a considerable expense, and may appeal to many who do not take a special interest in the services of the Church, possibly some such persons may be kind enough to send some small donations towards its upkeep.

\*Foreman of the Clevedon Court Estate, living at 5 All Saints' Lane (from 1901 Census).

*Julia Elton*



## ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon

Well done to Jacob Dimery and his friend Matt Green on undertaking a 24 hour walkathon across the Clifton Suspension Bridge at the beginning of December, raising money for

Movember charity. They were inspired by their own experiences of mental health struggles. Jacob sadly lost a friend to mental illness nine years ago and has done endurance tests previously to raise money in his memory. I'm sure parents Maria and Neil Dimery are very proud of Jacob's achievement for such a good cause. December started with the church clean on 3rd December. There were lots of willing hands to make the church sparkling for Christmas. Special mention for Tony who polished the pews and to everyone who took part. The 'Art for Advent' talk took place that evening and was very informative and enjoyable. Thank you to Jonathan Camp, the excellent speaker, Rosie Jackson who organized the event, and all who helped.

The December coffee morning was well attended, and we enjoyed plenty of chat and refreshments. The church Christmas tree arrived during the morning which was decorated by Kay and Monica with help from Susan and Mark. We next meet on 11th January, everyone is welcome. I have sad news that one of our coffee morning regulars, Sheila Whiteley, sadly passed away on 8th December. We will

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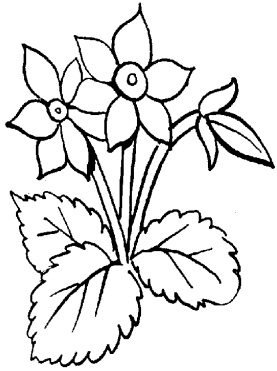
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## Garden Talk

January is not a great time to be out in the garden, but it is a good time to be making plans. What are your ideas for your little patch of Somerset next season? Are you thinking of a radical remake or just a few new plants to complement last year's display? And what lessons have you learnt following the unprecedented (literally) heat of 2022?

As usual, the best advice remains Beth Chatto's dictum, 'right plant, right place'. Like most suburban gardens,

ours is surrounded by four foot and six foot fences which inevitably create areas of shade. This creates opportunities, however, to grow some of the lovely plants which will not only tolerate shade but actually prefer it. One which I shall be looking out for over the next few weeks is *Brunnera macrophylla* which we once planted at our previous house. We had a bed which got no sun at all and having tried a few things without success we came across this ground cover plant with pretty pale blue flowers like forget-me-nots. It soon covered the entire bed. After a year or so I had an idea to use the spot for a fernery so it had to go.

At our present house I think I might do the same thing in reverse. Our shady corner by the side gate has three ferns which do well but are, frankly, rather boring. I think we could make better use of the spot and a brunnera would provide colour from spring to mid-summer and again in the autumn. I have already moved a cranesbill *Geranium macrorrhizum* to the same area which is looking quite happy in a shady spot. Other plants which enjoy some shade are hellebores, Japanese anemones, hostas and bergenia (elephant's ears) although this latter is not a favourite of mine. There are also many species of euphorbia which will flourish almost anywhere, but they are invasive so introduce with caution!

Some shrubs also prefer a shady site, notably the well-known hydrangea which also needs plenty of water. Some years ago I planted out our Christmas tree (Norwegian spruce) and for the first few years it suffered badly in the summer with branches dying off. Last year, however, despite the intense heat at times, it did well and I can only suppose it was because the neighbouring holm oak had grown up enough to shade it from the worst of the sun's glare. A good example of trees looking after each other.

*William King*

miss Sheila and send our sincere condolences to Charlotte, Beckie, Andrew and their families.

The Christmas Folk concert was a great success once again. Unfortunately, I missed it because I had a bad cold but I am reliably informed that it was a brilliant evening, with singing, Morris dancing and jokes. Thank you so much to everyone involved. The Crib Festival returned for a second year and was equally as impressive. Thank you to everyone who donated cribs, of all kinds and from all over the world. Once again thanks to Rosie who was the inspiration behind it and everyone who helped. Lastly a thank you to our wonderful churchwardens Kay and Monica; Trish, our church treasurer and hall manager (among other things); all the stewards, servers, flower arrangers, choir, organists, music group, cleaners, PCC members, Little Saints helpers, Kate in the office, and all our wonderful clergy. THANK YOU! Happy New Year to everyone.

*Sandra Sallis*

The Christmas carol service was a great success, and it was lovely to see so many people in church enjoying the festive songs. Children from All Saints School sang Starry Night beautifully, and Little Saints performed a very cute nativity tableau for Away in a manger. (accompanied by a pair of singing puppets). The choir performed sang two delightful pieces: There is no rose and Born in the night. The mince pies and mulled wine after went down a treat too!

Little Saints enjoyed their Christmas party on the 15th December. They sang songs, had lots of nice food, played pass the parcel and enjoyed a very special performance for some singing puppets. Thank you to everyone who gives up their time to help at the group, the children love going every week, and we all really appreciate the effort that all the volunteers put in. The group next meets on Thursday January 12th, 12.30-2 in the vestry. All preschool children and their parents/carers are very welcome.

*Laura Durrant*

## ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano



Firstly the Friends of St Michaels wish to pass on to everyone, all the very best for this Christmas season. With this festive month we doubly celebrate the birth of Jesus and looking forward to better things ahead in life that each New Year heralds on January 1st.

Our annual village Carol service was held in St Michaels on December 11th and ably led by the Rev'd Nicholas Maddock. He is always welcome to lead our services as his personality shines through. His cheerful personality warmed the congregation of 82 in our church, despite the cold weather that day. We were supported again by 11 members of the local and talented Highly Strung ensemble, led by Jill Elliot. We can always rely on them for a spirited and uplifting accompaniment to boost the singing. Jaynie once again decorated the interior of the church with colourful festive offerings, that as ever both blend and showcase the respective seasonal celebration of each service throughout the year. A minor last minute issue, that

could have been, was quickly and efficiently avoided by the inspired collaboration of Jill and Nicholas. Phew, a close call there!

After the service, our trusty team of village Ladies supplied us with tea, coffee and mince pies from the temporary servary in the North Chapel.

And so I wish to thank all who contributed to the success of the Carol service, including those background folk, IE the staff at the court for designating the car parking, cleaning and preparation of our wonderful old church, and of course the congregation that continues to supported us.

And finally..... The Friends will be holding an AGM in the early months of 2023. Notification will be sent out as to date, time and location.

*Derek Roberts*

## WALTON ST MARY



On November 20th Noel conducted the Baptism of Evelyn and Harrison Wood. The family had travelled from Plymouth to have the service at St. Mary's where they have relations locally. It was a lovely service and both children behaved impeccably ! The parents are intending to move to Clevedon and have booked a date for

their wedding here in February.

We started the "warm space" initiative at the beginning of December offering a hot drink and pastoral support if needed. We were grateful to receive the sum of £500 towards the cost of heating etc.

Our Christmas Coffee morning was a lovely festive occasion helped along by mulled wine and delicious mince pies! We made a total of £455 in aid of church funds so many thanks to everyone involved in helping us to reach such a splendid total.

It was good to welcome at least 3 generations of the extended (and extensive!) Reed and Petersen families to St. Mary's Church on Saturday 10th December for the Baptism of their newest member, baby James Reed Petersen. James and his parents Emma and Andrew live in the USA where James was born on 9th September 2022.

The Reed family have a considerable connection with St Mary's: James' grandparents live on Old Park Road and both his Mum and his aunt Kate were themselves baptised here. It was a delight to be able to show them their own baptism records in our register that dates back to 1870.

Grandmother Wendy was also involved in the church children's group in the 1980s and 90s.

*Diana Fleming*

### St. Mary's flowers

In loving memory of:-

Andrew James Blease, requested by his wife June;

Bill Cox, requested by his wife Jeannie and family;

### Wednesday Coffee at St Mary's

As you may have seen on the pew sheets we will be offering coffee in the hall each Wednesday morning immediately following the 10am communion service. This is to serve two ends; it will be a chance to get together socially during the gloomy winter months and it is also our contribution to the Warm Welcome initiative which is happening in most of the churches in Clevedon. We have been given a grant by the diocese towards the heating costs.

The Warm Welcome Campaign is the platform that Churches Together in Clevedon have chosen to use to advertise their free warm spaces. It also links with North Somerset Council's Community Living Rooms and will be advertised online, by posters and also in the Foodbank parcels. The stipulation is that the space must be warm, welcoming and safe and that the refreshments must be free. We know that St Mary's is a hospitable church and this gives us a chance to help those who are struggling with their heating bills.

We hope that you may want to drop in, either just to have a coffee or to the communion first at 10am.

*Sally King*

### Pilgrim Group for 2023

In November, Rev'd Tim Daplyn gave an excellent series entitled 'Pilgrimage – Faith for the long haul' which gave people an opportunity to reflect together on ways in which they might maintain their calling to be Christian 'through all the changing scenes of life....' Several people expressed an interest in continuing this exploration in a small group setting, so we have decided to start up a monthly Benefice Pilgrim group to be held on the last Tuesday of the month from 7pm – 8pm in All Saints Vestry starting on 31st January. This group will be suitable for everyone and will be a chance to share and explore one's faith with others. Each session will stand alone and will be led either by Noel or another member of the clergy.

Next meetings on Tuesday, 31st January, 28th February, 28th March. Tea and coffee provided.

*Kate Hector*

when we remember the Wise Men's arrival in Bethlehem bearing gifts as they came to honour the baby Jesus. A time to reflect on what gifts we could bring if we were in their position. We will then follow on with a simple shared lunch and our Parish Conversation – why not come along and have your say on all matters 'churchy' including any ideas for events for the upcoming year.

Then on Friday 13th January everyone is most welcome to join in with the Wassailing at the Old Village Pound Garden, opposite Cross Tree Cottages, watch out for further details in the Chronicle. Wassailing is an ancient custom in this part of the country, it was thought that singing to the trees in the cider orchards would encourage a good harvest of apples that year – let's hope that it works for our Jubilee apple tree in the churchyard as that's only just over the wall.

The celebration of Plough Sunday, on 15th January, is also an old tradition, dating back to at least the 15th century and probably much further. In it's more recently revived version is a way to say thank you to all those who work on the land as they embark on a new season of farming and to ask God's blessing for the harvest to come. Rather different from its origins when it seemed to be a way of extending the feasting at Christmas with yet more boiled suet pudding and ale. I also think it's appropriate that it seems to coincide nicely with getting those seed catalogues out and ordering your seeds for the year to come.

We close with an actual blessing based on an ancient Celtic prayer:

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your field and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

A happy, healthy and peaceful (and boring) New Year to you all, from all at St Paul's.



And finally, our Mouse Musings: Well, we would rather 'take' a pile of cake crumbs, but here is a seasonal message from our little mice cousins in Scotland -

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And the days of auld land syne.  
For auld land syne, my dear  
For auld land syne,  
We'll take of a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld land syne.

Love Miss CM

Mike Mander, requested by his wife Carol and family;  
Bob Sutton, requested by his wife Christine.



## ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano

Advent Sunday saw us return to our cherished Church building, now very clean with beautifully renovated pews, newly tiled aisle and wooden flooring. What a triumph! More importantly, about 50 people were present to celebrate with us from the village and beyond. All who had helped in the restoration and cleaning were thanked for their efforts. It was heartening and joyful that so many friends were present. Thank you.

Noel pointed up the purpose of the building as a place for worship certainly and the spiritual life but also as a focus of village tradition, history and present community. There was a bit of a warning that even such an historically interesting church could close. Upkeep of the churchyard, the trees as well as the building fell on the parish alone, something not always realised. He asked for the Friends of the Church to be restarted to enable us to continue,

This becomes more important as the present congregation ages. As I write, church warden, treasurer and reader are all unwell. Congregations since Advent Sunday have sadly been small because of illness, the weather and the dark. The last is the 'big issue' I think. Our exile however has, I think, helped to strengthen a sense of togetherness and more informality and humour. Small but enduring! It's remarkable how much still gets done, with Christmas tree and lights in place as usual.

Ann Chavasse will report on the Christmas fete. The Carol service, Christingle and festival services must wait till the next magazine.

January 1st is not just the start of a new calendar year... it's also a festival in the church's year, recalling the Naming of Jesus. In the old fashioned phrase 2023 is the year of our Lord, whose Name is above every Name. All time and all history is in Gods keeping.

*Sister Carol*

We would like to thank everyone who came to support our Christmas Fayre on Dec. 3rd. and we were pleased with the result considering the number of other events happening the same day. We were so grateful for the all the help with decorating the hall and for the many donations of raffle prizes, cakes, plants, jewellery, warm scarves and hats etc... 'Christmas shopping done!!' Thank you to everyone who worked so hard raising £650 towards the final few thousand needed to settle the dry rot bills.

Ann Chavasse



## ST PAUL'S, Walton in Gordano

'Again the robin waxes tame  
And ventures pitys crumbs to claim  
Picking the trifles off the snow  
Which dames on purpose daily throw  
And perching on the window sill  
Where memory recollecting still  
Knows the last winters broken pane  
And there he hops and peeps again'

From 'January' John Clare (1793 – 1864)

Let's just pause awhile to reflect on last year – 2020 and 2021 were both momentous years, but 2022 brings to mind that saying 'may you live in interesting times', on the face of it what reads very like a blessing is thought to be a traditional Chinese curse. The year began with Russia invading Ukraine – right from the start the devastating effects of this action were apparent, who can forget the hordes of terrified people trying to move west, crowding train stations as they desperately sort some measure of safety. But very few of us would have imagined the global repercussions that are reverberating still evidenced in the in the almost incomprehensible rise in the cost of living. The rest of the spring was overshadowed by the conflict (or maybe my memory is failing me) – but as we moved into summer at least in this country we had the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to celebrate as the whole nation and the Commonwealth came together to mark Her Majesty's reign and thank her for her years of dedication and service. And for those of us who enjoy the 'beautiful game' we had the Lionesses' victory to celebrate in the Euro's in July. But then we had the heatwaves – for anyone who still saw the prospect of Climate Change as an abstract notion, here it was - right here, right now. As we moved into autumn we transitioned from one Prime Minister to the next – a few bitter words as a rather long drawn-out process came to its conclusion, but the country was set to move on. Then the Queen, working up to her very last days, died. That was when you saw the best of this country – the awe-inspiring precision of a state funeral and all that that entails, the collective grief and gratitude of the nation, and the dignified grace of a family in mourning. And then from the sublime to the

ridiculous – as our new Prime Minister brought the country to its financial knees, was forced to unapologetically resign, and yet another new Prime Minister (the candidate that wasn't thought quite good enough just such a short time ago) was hastily installed in Number 10. Writing this still only halfway through December, in bitterly cold weather, with yet more industrial action to come, and England's men having been knocked out of the World Cup, at least we can look forward to being cheered by our Christmas cards as we receive them in the post in February! What a year – let's hope that 2023 brings us all the boringness that we could ever want. Before we go on the talk about the new year, we have a few words from Sue: 'For Colin's funeral, at the end of November, Anne had asked us not to dress soberly so that the service could truly be a joyful celebration of his life lived to the full. Anne then opened her beautiful home to us so that we could raise a glass and share our fond memories of a man who touched the lives of so many.'

'The first Sunday in December was busy here at Walton. We began with our Advent Carol Service, packed with all our favourite traditional Christmas Carols and Advent hymns, including my all-time favourite 'O come, O come Emmanuel'. Noel noted that 'St. Paul's doesn't really do Advent' as he gazed around the church vibrant with the colours of Christmas. And then it was onto the Christmas Fayre, still in the church. The stalls were overflowing with everything you could possibly need for Christmas, from bunches of holly and evergreens to holly table decorations, Christmas cakes, chutneys, even knitted Christmas puddings. The bacon rolls were back again, by popular demand, Noel said that his was the best bacon roll he had ever had cooked in a vestry. Sounds like a competition in the making 'The Great British Bacon Roll – cooked in a vestry', one for the United Benefice for next year? Thank you to everyone who helped at the fayre and to everyone who came along and joined in this lovely village occasion, at the time of writing, very nearly £600 has been taken, but most importantly of all is that a most enjoyable time was had by all.'

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Christmas charity – Unicef's mother and baby appeal – there was a record number of cards in the Village Christmas Post Box. We'll let you know how much we have raised for Unicef in next month's magazine along with a quick report on our other Christmas events.

And now to this year – 2023 – there will be no service on Sunday 1st January, but the following weekend things will be back on track with our 'Welcome In' coffee morning at 10.30am in the Church on Saturday 7th.

The next day we have our Morning Gathering an informal coming together along the lines of a house group but in the Church. It will be the first Sunday of Epiphany