

STAFF

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

Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock 3 Friary Close, Clevedon, BS21 7QA (Tel: 870751) nr.maddock@gmail.com

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Safeguarding Officer Mrs Lindsey Ivens (07702 082192)

Hall Bookings:

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

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

The Parish Office, The Rectory Tel: 873257. The office is normally open 9 am - 1 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. Phone messages and emails will be checked daily. eastclevedon04@outlook.com; www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS

All Saints' East Clevedon with St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano Mrs Kay Osborne, 2 Seymour Close BS21 6DU (342013)
Mrs Monica Gore, 4 Plumers Close, BS21 5AW (791764)

St Mary's Walton Mr Paul Middleton, 8 Edgehill Road, BS21 7BZ (341908)
Mrs Diana Fleming, Flat 5, 29 Edgehill Road, BS21 7BZ (875081)

St Paul's Walton in Gordano 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



May 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) |
| | Wednesdays | 11.00 am Holy Communion |

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 June magazine is Monday May 13th and the magazine will be in church by Sunday June 2nd.

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FIRST WORD from The Rector

I still have the bible I was given at my confirmation. Leather bound, authorised by King James, gilt edged, “bible black” with paper as thin as is possible – it is the very best of the printer’s craft. But one needs to tread with care.

In the liturgy of the church as a reader finishes a text we say, “This is the word of the Lord; Thanks be to God”. But is it? To make a subtle but significant point, we sometimes informally say “For the word of the Lord; Thanks be to God”. Do you see the distinction? The first is saying that this text is the Lord’s word but the second says that the bible more generally is.

We sanitise and ritualise texts so they seem beautiful and right, but listen to this:

“Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock” (Psalm 137) or, “May his children be orphans and his wife a widow. May his children wander about and beg, may they be driven out of the ruins. May there be no one to pity his orphaned children” (Psalm 109).

There’s more, much much more. Hear this one, “I will make the heavens tremble and the earth will be shaken at the wrath of the Lord in the day of his year. Whoever is caught will fall by the sword. Their children will be dashed to pieces before their eyes and their wives raped.” (Isaiah 13)

Why do I burden you with this? These texts, and many more, are worthy of a health warning – not suitable for children or those of a nervous disposition. I burden you with this because what we’re seeing in the world right now is the reality of the Psalms and Isaiah and all the other horrific human responses to the evils of warfare.

What’s wrong with these people? What makes someone want to attack innocent people at a music festival, killing, raping and taking hostage all and anyone they see? What’s wrong with these people who cheer on the bombers blowing up a refuge for children and families in Mariupol in Ukraine? What’s wrong with these people who intentionally kill and burn hundreds of innocent people in a music venue in Russia? What’s wrong with these people who kill over 33,000 innocent people in Gaza and those terrorists who hide among civilians using them as human shields?

What’s wrong with us who even today see 45 armed conflicts in the Middle East, 35 armed conflicts in Africa, 21 armed conflicts in Asia and 6 in Latin America – to say nothing of the Russia/Ukraine war in Europe.



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Before we write off scripture as brutal and unworthy of our better nature, I think it may be wise to pause and wonder how we'd respond if you or your loved ones were the subject of the sort of brutality meted out to so many. What would we want – peace? Yes, certainly. But revenge? Probably. The harsh words of scripture were born in the context of horror where the authors saw the very worst of humanity and their response was to seek revenge, reprisal, justice and the wrath of God. I'm not sure if I can blame them although it's impossible to say "amen" to it.

In another part of scripture, of course, Jesus says "You have heard it said "you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy" but I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be children of your father in heaven" (Matthew 5). St Paul adds, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom 12) Both the Old Testament and the New are replete with texts full of grace and goodness, texts revealing lives inspired by a compassionate faith in a compassionate God summed up, perhaps, by this - what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6)

When we walk into a church we are often surprised by the peace we find there. There is a stillness and a calm fostered by the architecture, by the light and the space. But it's more than that. In the church we find the crucifix, an image of man's brutality to man and a denial of all that is good or kind. And yet in spite of this image – or because of it – we see that God enters the dark realities of life and offers a way out. Christ was tortured and must have looked like the prisoners paraded on Russian TV after the Moscow music hall attack, yet he was brave to say "father forgive..." The altar is the focal point of a church where we celebrate Christ's ministry but recognise his sacrifice – and maybe it's that which gives peace to a church. This is a better way, a holy way, the best of humanity.

Before Easter I was glad to be able to go to the Sedar meal at the Friary in Clevedon. It was a Christian version of the Jewish Passover. It was all it was meant to be – a fellowship of people, glad to be there, sharing faith in God and food for life. It embodied both the Jewish story and the Christian one, a story which has to plumb the darkness of humanity in order to show us the peace and purposes of God.

Maybe that's why we say "This is the word of the Lord; Thanks be to God"
Noel

.....
: **Caroline and Bob Sackley** would like to thank you all for your cards, flowers,
: messages of support and prayers when our beloved daughter Jo died so unexpectedly.
: The shock and the grief are overwhelming and then we had to clear her flat. It has been a
: truly terrible time but we have known some comfort from your love. Thank you again.
:

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.

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St Paul's Church

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United Benefice Account

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Pause for Thought

St Dunstan

On May the 19th we celebrate the feast day of St Dunstan. Dunstan (909-988) born at Baltonsborough Somerset, was once England's favourite Saint, he was an English Bishop, having been successively Abbot of Glastonbury Abbey, Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury. He is noted for having restored and rebuilt monastic life in England as well as helping shape the English church. He served in the Royal Courts of several English Kings. He was England's most popular Saint for almost two centuries, there being many stories of his greatness, not least amongst them were those concerning his famed cunning in defeating the Devil.

The story goes; Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's foot when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's cloven hoof. This caused the Devil great pain, and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door.

This, it is claimed, is the origin of the lucky horseshoe.

Dunstan is mentioned many times in English literature; such as in A Christmas Carol by Dickens. He is also mentioned in an old folk rhyme:

St Dunstan, as the story goes,

Once pull'd the Devil by the nose

With red hot tongs, which made him roar,

That he was heard three miles or more.

Dunstan is the patron saint of English Gold and Silversmiths. In 2023 a pastoral area of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton was named in honour of Dunstan.

Hear O Lord, the supplications your people make

Under the patronage of your Bishop St Dunstan,

And grant that they may rejoice in peace

In this present life

And find help for life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you

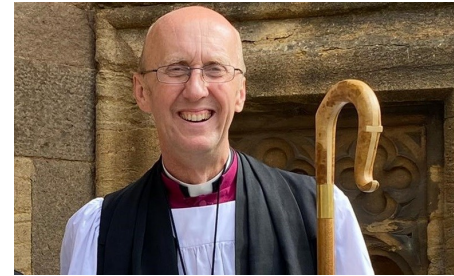
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

May 19th is also Pentecost, so may we be filled with the Holy Spirit, as Dunstan was, and like the new life we see bursting forth all around, let us be renewed and empowered to grow our faith and inspire faith in others.

Michael Dyne



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question 'To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian

faith?' The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 40% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were less than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. While only one in five of us report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources.

Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families they do come.

This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help.

Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

Bishop Michael

READINGS AND PRAYERS

Sunday, 5th May - Easter 6

Acts 10: 44 - -end John 15: 9 - 17

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Thursday, 9th May – Ascension Day

Acts 1: 1-11 Luke 24: 44-end

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 12th May - Easter 7

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end John 17: 6-19

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim;

Sunday, 19th May - Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21 John 15: 26-27 and ch.16: 4b-15

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to

St Peter & St Paul, Weston in Gordano

5th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - Michael Dyne
Sister Carol preach

12th 5.00 pm Evensong - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn

19th 5.00pm Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

26th 5.00pm Evensong - The Rector
Michael Dyne lead

Wednesday 11am Holy Communion service.

Walton St Mary, Clevedon

5th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Nicholas Maddock

12th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rector preach
Michael Dyne lead

19th 10.00 am Holy Communion - The Rev'd Ian Hubbard
Michael Dyne preach

26th 10.00 am Morning Prayer - The Rector

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Holy Communion at St Mary's

MAY SERVICES

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

All Saints, East Clevedon

| | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 5th | 8.00 am | Holy Communion - The Rector |
| | 10.30 am | Holy Communion - The Rector |
| 12th | 8.00 am | Holy Communion - The Rector |
| | 10.30 am | Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn |
| 19th | 8.00am | Holy Communion - The Rector |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion - The Rector Baptism of Bowen Bailey |
| 26th | 8.00am | Holy Communion - The Rector |
| | 10.30 am | Holy Communion - The Rev'd Tim Daplyn Michael Dyne ante communion |

St Paul's, Walton in Gordano

12th 11.15 Morning Prayer - The Rector

them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday, 26th May – Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6: 1-8 John 3: 1-17

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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 and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God,

Saturday May 18th St Mary Walton 11.00am

Yatton and Winscombe Chorale present:-

'Requiem' Gabriel Faure

'Hear My Prayer' Felix Mendelssohn

Conducted by Ian Hubbard

Organist Andrew Kirk



Free Admission with Donations towards Church Funds

Coffee/Tea and Biscuits will be provided.

ALL SAINTS THEN AND NOW

from the archives

IN THE CHURCHYARD

Two double cherries have been planted by the west door of the Church, one taking the place of a sad and badly shaped fir. In a few years these should add much to the beauty of the churchyard. Some people may like to consider planting trees or flowering shrubs in memory of the dead, rather than erecting monuments of stone, which are often very costly and seldom as beautiful. Flowers have always been symbolical of the Resurrection. One man has left it on record: "That in the winter, seeing a tree stripped of its leaves, and considering that within a little time the leaves would be renewed, and after that the flowers and fruit appear, he received a high view of the Providence and Power of God, which has never since been effaced from his soul." *Father Hoult writing in the Parish Magazine, May 1947.*

Julia Elton

ALL SAINTS, East Clevedon



My goodness, what weather we have been having, talk about "April showers", let's hope May brings us a little more warmth and sunshine.

It's been both a sad time and a joyful time over the last few weeks. Sandra wrote about Maureen Smith and her funeral in the previous magazine. Since then we have had the celebration of Ann Shopland's life, and her funeral at All Saints. And at the time of writing, we have just heard about the death of dear Ella Howcroft, another of our "choir stalwarts" who had been very poorly these few weeks and who passed away peacefully at home with her dear friends Sue and Kay (our lovely churchwarden) by her side. She will be remembered as a former churchwarden, choir member and an active participant in the life of All Saints over many years. She will be greatly missed.

The 'joyful' event I mentioned was Easter Day. We had had Maundy Thursday and Easter Eve services at All Saints which were well attended, then on Easter Day the church burst into light, colour and noise! There were 21 children, many of whom were decorating Easter bonnets with stickers and ribbons, who then sang their favourite song, "The wise man built his house upon the rock" with all the actions, which the congregation joined in with! Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the church for Easter – those who came to the church clean – Ann, Vavara, Chaz, Kate, Rose, Kay and especially Tony for working his magic with the beeswax on the pews! We had a break for refreshments, enjoying a little Ploughman's lunch and a cuppa! The flower arrangers did a magnificent job, as always. Thanks to Mo for leaving the flowers in the baptistry for the watch on

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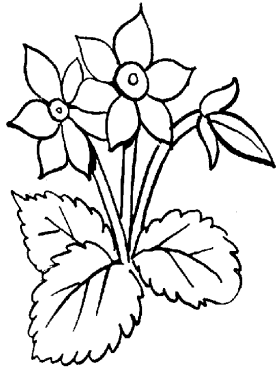
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Garden Talk

I have recently been reading about two remarkable women gardeners, Gertrude Jekyll and Vita Sackville-West. These two people were highly influential in the way we manage our gardens today.

Gertrude Jekyll was born in London six years after Queen Victoria came to the throne. When she was five the family moved to Surrey, a very different place from the suburban county we know today. There were no tarmac roads, few railways and Gertrude spent much of

her childhood wandering around fields and woodlands collecting wild flowers. As a young woman she became interested in the new developments in art and spent many hours copying the works of Turner and the Pre-Raphaelites. In middle age her sight started to fail and painting became increasingly difficult. However, she found a new interest in garden design which she put to good effect in her newly built home on a 15 acre site at Munstead Wood!

Thus began her friendship with the young architect Edwin Lutyens which was to result in a series of fine houses and gardens in the Arts and Crafts style. The pair agreed that house and garden should be seen as a whole and both should blend in with the surrounding landscape. Lutyens used local stone or brick, aiming to make the building look as if it had always been there. For her part, Jekyll favoured a 'naturalistic' style of planting, avoiding straight lines and using great drifts of colour – she particularly liked grey leaved plants such as artemisia and santolina. She used her training as an artist to make her gardens look as natural as possible, although they were, in fact, meticulously planned. This was a very different approach from the formal gardens of Victorian country houses.

Vita Sackville-West carried the torch of the new gardening well into the twentieth century. In a series of articles in *The Observer* between 1947 and 1961 she gave her opinions in a forceful but often humorous vein. 'I got an Easter present (from myself and to myself) of five cubic yards of grit' she wrote one April, and 'Salvia splendens should be forbidden by law to all but the most skilful handlers', referring to the bright scarlet bedding plant of municipal gardens. Like Gertrude Jekyll, colour was all important to her but colour tastefully used. The white garden at her home at Sissinghurst in Kent remains famous and the model for all single-colour gardens. Most of us have only tiny gardens compared to theirs, but we owe much to these remarkable ladies.

William King

Maundy Thursday, depicting a garden. I'm glad I stayed for the watch, along with Kay, it was a special, spiritual experience.

The Community coffee morning was held on 10th April. The next one will be Wednesday, 8th May in the vestry. It's always nice to catch up with friends and neighbour's over a biscuit and welcoming cuppa!

Monica Gore

Avon and Somerset Police Male voice choir Saturday 13th April 2024. Saturday evening saw the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Male Voice Choir visit All Saints for a concert of amazing music, all in aid of generating church funds to assist in the upkeep of the fabric of our beautiful church building. The night was a roaring success, the music and bon homie, a tonic to the tribulations of the everyday. We were thrilled with songs from musical theatre, opera as well as traditional worship songs. The soloist was our very own Rachel Cooper from St Mary's choir, whose performance was outstanding. Although the Choir has performed at St Mary's it was their first visit to All Saints. It hopefully will not be the last. A huge thank you to all of those from All Saints who gave up their time and energy to ensure the evening was such a success.

Michael Dyne.

ST MICHAEL'S, Clapton in Gordano



Yvonne and Jill have set a date for the Summer Concert to be held in St Michaels for the evening of 14th June 2024. The program of entertainment is still in the planning stage but will be full of interesting music and songs from the groups of talented players. This will be under the auspices of Jill Elliott with the

Highly Strung band and Wendy Sargent who will lead the Chandeliers. We have always in the past been entertained by an eclectic mix of traditional and modern tunes and songs.

Any one who has attended this event in the past, I'm sure will agree that the evening will be thoroughly enjoyable. As per normal car parking will be supported by the helpful staff in Clapton Court. Limited Disabled car parking of course will be available at the top car park. We will endeavour to provide a 'shuttle' service if required, from the Court.

Refreshments to be served during the half time interval. A portaloos will be situated in the upper car park. Tickets will shortly be available from Yvonne Jay, Jill Elliott, Wendy Sargent, Phil Joyner and myself.

A group of visiting bell ringers will be using St Michaels for a session on May 1st. This from a notice passed on to me from our resident bell leader George Wyatt. He is also still awaiting an update from the diocese of Bath and Wells on the proposed replacement bell, as hopefully soon permission will be granted for the removal from its existing belfry.

Derek Roberts



WALTON ST MARY

The last month has been a busy one at St Mary's. During Lent we continued to enjoy both the Midday Prayer and Meditation each Wednesday, with the final contributions coming from Tim Daplyn and Anna Turner. All were interesting and added an extra

dimension to our keeping of Lent.

The Easter Weekend was special as always. This year it was the turn for All Saints to celebrate Maundy Thursday and Easter Eve for the benefice. They were both very atmospheric services with Easter Eve being celebrated mostly by candlelight. On Good Friday Nicholas and Ruth led our Meditation at the Foot of the Cross. Nicholas helped us to consider the crucifixion from the aspect of those who witnessed and cared for Jesus during his last hours.

On Easter Day the church looked vibrant after the starkness of Lent, with flowers filling the windows, the pedestals and the newly renovated Easter Garden. The choir sang an introit at the font before processing to their stalls with Nicholas preceding them with the new Pascal Candle. They also sang an anthem during the service. Happily there was a good congregation with many visitors.

The last month has also seen the completion of the Coronation Well Project. The final event was a History Talk by Jane Lilly. We thank Jane for her fascinating illustrated talk which took us through the history of Walton St Mary and the rebuilding of St Mary's Church. The hall was packed with some of the audience sitting and standing in the foyer. After the talk the audience moved to the Well Garden where Bishop Barry blessed the renovated well. This was followed by refreshments in the hall. Our thanks to Ian and Anna for the displays which included one by Sue Morris with her book about her family history in Clevedon, at St Mary's and in the parish. Sue sold copies of her book and kindly donated the funds. The event raised £545 and also launched the Friends of St Mary's scheme which some signed up to on the day. There has been an increase in the total taken at the Silent Auction which now stands at £646.

Now is an opportunity to thank all the 'Well Wishers', Ian and Anna, William, Yvonne and Paul for all the time and effort that they have devoted to this project. On Saturday 13th May we were treated to a wonderful Coffee Concert by soprano Rachael Cooper accompanied by Sue Parker. I'm sure we all agreed with Ian when he thanked the performers and said that it was a concert that none of us wanted to end. The event raised £465.

Finally we would like to thank the clergy who have been challenged with health issues recently but who have continued to lead us as they always do. We wish them well.

UB LENT LUNCHES

During the six weeks of Lent, the benefice were able to meet for a soup lunch after the Midday Prayer and Meditation. Thanks to peoples' generosity we had no expenses and we were able to send £630.50 to the Red Cross. So, thank you to all

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:
May 3rd and June 7th

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

Fund Raising for Marie Curie Charity.

PLANT & CAKE SALE Saturday 4
May 10:30 am to 1:00 pm Manor
House Drive, Next to footpath.

Parking on Walton Street or at the
Manor House



Bible verse of the month

A verse for those seeking forgiveness

“God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from
the chaos of my life.”

Psalm 51 v 10

Taken from The Message Bible 2003



Many Thanks, Angela!

Just over twenty years ago Angela Hector and a dozen willing helpers from across the Benefice set up the Clevedon Bereavement Support Group. Initially they met each month in the Community Centre in Princes Road, as an affiliated member of 'Cruse'. The format was simple – cake and company – and it worked. Many people came and found the fellowship they were looking for after suffering some kind of bereavement, whether the loss of a loved one by death or divorce, the trauma of moving to a new area or their children leaving home, or whatever.

About ten years ago the group, still under Angela's leadership and with the new name of the 'Stepping Stones' Support Group, moved into St Mary's Church Hall to save funds, and that is where they continue to meet every first Friday of the month from 2.00 – 4.00pm. Last Christmas, after more than twenty years at the helm, Angela decided to step down, and Ruth Maddock has taken over as leader of the group with a small band of helpers.

On 5th April there was the opportunity to thank Angela for over two decades of faithful support and organizational commitment. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers, a token to enjoy a meal with a friend at her favourite restaurant, and a card signed by current members.

If you, or someone you know, has suffered any kind of bereavement, whether recently or in the past, there will always be a warm welcome, and cake at the Stepping Stones Group every first Friday of the month in St Mary's Hall.



the soup makers; to Yvonne for using the St Mary's Coffee Fund to buy the rolls, cheese and butter; to those who prepared the lunches and served us each week and, of course, to those who supported the lunches and gave generously.

Sally King

ST PETER & ST PAUL, Weston in Gordano



We are happy to advise that Noel has agreed that we should re-instate our mid-weekly Holy Communion services, subject to availability, to be held in the church now that the weather is slightly more clement. This is good news for us "out in the sticks" and we must also

thank Tim and Nicholas for agreeing to help out with yet another service for Noel to worry about.

The first mid-week Communion service will take place on Wednesday, 01 May 2024, at 11.00 am. Please note there will be no Wednesday communion on Wednesday 8th May as there will be a United Benefice communion for Ascension day on Thursday 9th May, 10am at St Mary's. The new choir cushions, given by the Jacobs family, will be a welcome change from the former thin runners.



Palm Sunday saw Noel clamber up into our Palm Gallery for the blessing of the Easter Palm Crosses. Access to the Gallery is tortuous and needs agility and I was quite envious at the ease with which Noel performed this tradition - it's good we can continue to follow an old custom.

Robb Robinson devised and led one of the Benefice's two Good Friday meditations. A simple and meaningful service which was appreciated by those

who joined in. Thank you, Robb.

EASTER DAY saw colourful displays of flowers, all set to cheer us, and to brighten the church itself, after the sombre period of Lent - thank you, Pam and your team of flower girls for making the church look so pretty. Noel formally accepted and dedicated the Aumbry in memory of Margaret Jacobs with a goodly number of the Jacobs clan present.

DIARY DATES for your "dirries"/diaries

SATURDAY, 25th MAY, 10.00 'til 2.00 at the Village Hall, parking in the fields below the church. Our **PLANT SALE AND "NEW OR AS-NU"** clothing plus refreshments. Please contact Ann Chavasse for offers of plants, and Ann Bridges for the clothing or shoes

SATURDAY, 29th JUNE, 7.00 for 7.30. Our musical evening provided by tenor

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 7th May and Tuesday 4th June

FROM THE REGISTERS....

BAPTISMS

21st April – Olivia Rowland, All Saints

28th April – Wilf Downing, St Mary's

FUNERALS

5th April – Burial of ashes Jean and John Cannard, All Saints

10th April – Thanksgiving service for Pauline Webb, St Mary's

12th April – Burial of ashes of Derek Mitchell, St Mary's

19th April – Funeral of Pam Bluer, St Michael's, Clapton in Gordano

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING

10am - 12 noon in All Saints Vestry

Second Wednesday in the month—next meetings

8th May, and 12th June

Just turn up or contact Sandra Sallis on 878848/07443905634

On Easter Day we had a Holy Communion service here, thank you to Noel for a very thought provoking sermon where he spoke about prayer, and how that can come in all shapes and forms as we are called to lay all our cares and concerns and hopes and gratitude at the feet of Christ whose sacrifice is as much a part of our lives today as it was at the time of his crucifixion and resurrection. It was lovely to see so many people in the congregation, coming together in joy to celebrate here at St. Paul's.

Well done to Graham and Nick who hosted the Welcome In Café at the beginning of April looking very much the part in checked aprons and chefs' hats. There was a delicious selection of cake to go with the cups of tea and a wonderful turn out of people. The main topic of conversation was our annual Flower Festival and arrangements were firmed up for later in the year – more later in this report. And don't forget there is a rota at the back of the church if you would like to become part of the team hosting the monthly coffee mornings.

April's Morning Prayer was on Sunday 14th and was followed by our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting). The decision was made to replace the Parish Conversations with the return of a PPC (Parochial Church Council or Church Committee). Thank you to Brodie, Emma and Kevin, Pat and Nick, and to Noel for taking on this role. The PCC will meet quarterly. Noel thanked everyone for their continuing support as our church family navigates through this difficult time.

And now for this month. On Saturday 4th May there is a Plant and Cake Sale in aid of the Marie Curie Charity from 10.30 am to 1 pm on the Manor House drive next to the footpath that goes up to the golf course and castle, parking on Walton Street or at the Manor House. There will be a wide variety of interesting plants and plenty of delicious cake, come along and support this amazing charity to help them carry out their vital work. At the same time, starting at 10.30 am in the church, there will be this month's Welcome In Café, join in for a cup of tea and a chat. A donation from the funds raised on the day will go to Marie Curie.

Sunday 12th May we have our monthly Morning Prayer service at 11.15 am. This is an easy-to-follow service with well-known hymns – everyone is most welcome. Just a reminder that there are plenty of weekly services throughout the United Benefice each month. Please find the 'May Services' in this magazine for a full list. Looking further forward to the summer and the Village Fete on Saturday 13th July, The Rock Choir has been booked to provide live music – and don't forget to get those canine members of your family ready for the big day, yes, the Fun Dog Show is back again this year. Keep an eye on the Chronicle and here in the magazine for

updates on the Summer Fete.

And finally, now to the Flower Festival. Please note that this year the date has moved from the August Bank Holiday to the weekend that covers August into September – Saturday 31st August and Sunday 1st September, running from 10 am to 4 pm. This year's theme for the flowers is 'Inventions', and anyone who would like to have a go at doing an arrangement is welcome, you don't have to be an experienced flower arranger – we are a friendly bunch of people and can offer help if it's needed. There will be refreshments served over the two days and help with providing these, plus any offers of cakes will be gratefully received. If you would like to take part in any way there are rotas for both the flowers and the refreshments at the back of the church, or contact Pat (Walton village) or Celia (Walton Bay) through the Chronicle email address – waltonchronicle@gmail.com

And just a quick note, the Flower Rota for people to arrange a small vase of flowers to go on the font for the service each month, is now full – a big thank you to all those providing flowers to cheer the congregation and our visitors.

Ruth Long

AGE UK Somerset are looking for volunteers.

Age UK Somerset is looking for friendly people in our area who would like to get involved with making life happier for local older people.

As we get older those that live alone, perhaps through losing a partner, can lose the confidence or mobility to get out of the house, and find themselves feeling low and very lonely and isolated. To make life better in this area the charity provides two popular and free services which matches local volunteers with older people to share companionship. The Walk and Talk service involves spending time together each week having a gentle walk and chat together, and the Wellbeing Friends service provides a volunteer home visitor each week to offer some friendly company and a window to the outside world. Both services have been shown to improve quality of life and general wellbeing and visits can bring joy, laughter and a renewed sense of belonging and purpose for both the older person and their volunteer.

However, they are desperate for volunteers to lend a hand and be matched with the older people they have on their waiting lists for both services.

If you can spare an hour a week (flexible) and would like to feel like you are making a difference in your community they would be delighted to hear from you! Please contact them - volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk or 01823 345627.

St. Michael's Church, Clapton In Gordano



Evening Concert

Friday 14th June 2024 - 7.30pm at the church.

Featuring:

The Highly Strung Community Band

With Jill Elliot

The Chandeliers

A Cappella group with Wendy Sergeant

Tickets are priced at £10.00 each to include wine and nibbles.

**Tickets are available by contacting
Derek Roberts – 07929 852835, Yvonne James – 07796
388828 or Phil Joyner - 07970 839 390.**

***Proceeds of the concert will be donated to The Friends of St.
Michael's to enhance facilities at the church.***



THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST



The Kubiak Corner– Imaginative Cooking for One

Oatmeal fritters with avocado

This is really useful light brunch or supper, the fritters also freeze well. A little green side salad would make a perfect combination.

1 handful of bacon lardons or 2 chopped rashers of bacon or several anchovies or some cubed smoked Tofu – make your choice!

1 good handful of chopped mushrooms

2 chopped sundried tomatoes from a jar

1 tablespoon of frozen sweetcorn

1 tablespoon kidney beans from a tin

A large knob of butter or drizzle of olive oil and small knob of coconut fat

2 eggs

1 tsp dried mixed herbs

1 tsp paprika

1 good tablespoon of oats

Seasoning to taste

Method

In a frying pan place the bacon (or alternative), mushrooms, tomatoes and sweetcorn and gently fry in the butter or combination oils, adding a little water if necessary, until the bacon is cooked.

In a bowl, beat the eggs with the herbs, paprika and seasoning and stir in the oats

Pile this mixture into the frying pan and mix together. Use a palette knife to divide into 2 chunky patties and gently fry on both sides until brown.

Serve with avocado – sliced and drizzled with olive oil, balsamic glaze or vinegar and lemon juice.

And with Spring on our doorstep simply remember 'Even in the Autumn of your years, you can still plant a spring flower'

Diocese News



Electric mobile pantry

The Quantock Foodbank, a vital lifeline for families in need, now has a fully electric vehicle to deliver groceries to local villages. The van, which has integrated solar panels, ensures fresh, nutritious food can be delivered to vulnerable people in an environmentally friendly way. The £80,000 cost of the truck was funded from local donations, sponsorship and small grants.

Week of Prayer for Children and young People: 1 – 7 July

During the first week of July, the Go Team are hosting a week of prayer for children and young people and are inviting churches across our diocese to join in. A Prayer Guide for the week will be available on the diocesan website. There are themes for each day plus creative prayer ideas for using at home, in small groups and in church services.

Go Team Adviser, Andy Levett commented “We’ll be gathering to pray for half an hour each day and we’d love you to do the same wherever you are and at a time that suits you.”

A space to encounter God

More than 300 young people have joined A2 nights in Bath created specifically for them. 60 to 80 young people from all corners of the city attend the monthly gatherings held at St Matthew’s Church. A2 doesn’t seek to replace local church youth groups, but aims to foster unity and broader connections in the city. The formation of A2 has enabled the group to offer a city-wide Alpha Course, allowing young people to explore their faith in greater depth. Find out more on these and other news stories at bathandwells.org.uk/news

ALL SAINTS FLOODLIGHTING

10 May 2024

Our beloved granddaughter, Juliette, becomes a teenager today. She is such a delight and we thank God for her. Mo and Geoff King

19th May

Jenny Conybeare – Today we should have been celebrating your 80th birthday together. Thinking of you always. Love Derrick and Russell xxx

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.



Young people in the benefice

Little Saints children enjoyed taking part in the Easter service:

“What a special fun packed day! The children of Little Saints had such a lovely time at the Easter Sunday service. There was an array of colourful bonnets to decorate, which actually kept them entertained for some time! They sang a beautiful rendition of The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock to the congregation (my personal favourite), and they even had a little go on the musical instruments at the end, such dulcet tones! Afterwards there were refreshments kindly supplied by the church, as well as a cute little Easter egg hunt which went down very well with our children as you can imagine.



Thanks All Saints for a special Sunday and for creating so many wonderful memories through the years at Little Saints, it truly is a little family and we value each and every one of you involved.

Our Easter cross is proudly displayed in the church now with all of the children of Little Saints on it.”

Julia, Jude and Olivia xx

Joke of the month

What's faster, hot or cold?

Hot, because you can catch a cold!

Harry, age 6



What is your “Ministry”?

Ruth Maddock

I was born in Gravesend, Kent, where my family attended an ultra-Calvinist ‘Strict and Particular’ Baptist Chapel, in which my uncle was the Minister. So from my earliest years I spent all Sunday in Chapel – and I do me “all”! Luckily my school had a very strong music tradition, and from the age of 13 I started playing the viola in our local Youth Orchestra, and then in the Kent County Youth Orchestra. Through my love of music and my friendship with the daughter of a local Vicar I joined the Anglican church.

On Good Friday 1974 I played in a performance of Handel’s “Messiah” in which Nicholas was the Bass soloist. I was about to go to the Guildhall in London to study viola - he was a Lay Clerk in Rochester Cathedral Choir and head of music in a 1,000 pupil boys’ secondary school in Gravesend. By a remarkable ‘God-incidence’ our paths crossed again that August, when he was singing in Ripon Cathedral and I and my parents, on holiday in Yorkshire, went to the Sunday Eucharist there. From that day on our relationship blossomed, and in October 1975 we were married in Rochester Cathedral.

When I qualified as a music teacher in 1978 there was a vacancy in Nicholas’s school (God at work again!), and for the next two years we taught very happily together. Then in 1980, with my full support, Nicholas left teaching to train for the Ministry at Lincoln, where I taught in a variety of schools to support us during our time there. And that set the pattern for my life. As we’ve moved from parish to parish over the last forty years I have been a violin, viola and piano teacher, but my main focus has always been looking after our two daughters and supporting Nicholas in his parish work both domestically and, when necessary, by playing for services in churches and Nursing Homes.

Now that we are privileged to live in this lovely church property in this very welcoming benefice, that continues to be my ministry - supporting Nicholas in all that he does, and our daughters Liz and Katherine, with the joyful addition of our precious grandsons, George and Freddie, just 30 miles down the M5 in Combech. In addition since December I have been involved in leading the monthly Stepping Stones Bereavement Group, which I enjoy very much. We believe God brought us together 50 years ago, and He has guarded and guided us ever since. I feel richly blessed.