

# Focal Point

September 2024



**Marlene Gallop  
celebrates a Big  
Birthday**

£1-20

# St Mary's Church Bitton

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Church &  
Church Farm



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# Focal Point

Bitton Churches Magazine

**September 2024**

*A monthly church newsletter serving  
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*Cover photo of Marlene Gallop  
and her grandson, Josh, was  
taken by Becky Feather.*

**There is a little more on  
Marlene's birthday on page 34.**



**ST MARY'S  
CHURCH,  
BITTON**

[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)



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Bitton  
**0117 932 8949**

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**Simon Harris**  
41 Combe Park  
Weston  
BATH  
**07714 615817**

**Vacancy**

# Services for September

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>  
September**

10.30am **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
*Patronal Festival Communion*  
*Preacher Canon Paul Denyer*

**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>  
September**

10.30am **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Family Special with the  
Scouts and the  
St Mary's Minstrels



**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>  
September**

10.30am **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Morning Worship

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September**

8.00am **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Holy Communion  
9.30am Family Café Church



**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup>  
September**

10.00am Celtic Communion  
10.45am Village Coffee Morning



**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>  
September**

10.30am **Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**  
Family Café Church and Family  
Special combine for our Annual  
Harvest Thanksgiving (see details on  
page 18)

## From the Register

**20th July Wedding**

Jade Williams to Jordan Smith



## **Benefice Prayer Opportunities**

**Sunday 1 September at 10.00 to 10.15am**  
in the Muniment Room

**Saturday 14 September at 9.00am**  
Prayer Breakfast at St Barnabas Warmley

**Tuesday 24 September at 7.30 pm**  
on Zoom

## **Church & Church Hall Bookings**

The Church Hall is available for hire and is a popular location for children's parties as well as regular events. For larger events such as community meetings or concerts the Church itself may be more suitable.

For Church Hall bookings contact Jill Gibson on **0117 932 2122**.

Rates from £12.50 per hour.

For Church bookings contact the Social Secretary, Jenny Harris by email on **djacharris@hotmail.com**

Rates from £25 per hour (2 hour minimum hire).

## **THE SISTERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE CHURCH LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY**

Gifts may be left in St Mary's Church Porch between 10.15 and 11.45 on the First Sunday of each month and will be delivered to the Sisters on the following Wednesday.

The Sisters have made a special request for toiletries:

**Shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel, sanitary towels, nappies, wet wipes, toothbrushes.**





# St Mary's Matters

*Simon Harris—Churchwarden*

## PEW MODIFICATION



After years of fund raising we are ready to take our first step in the re-ordering of the church with the pew modification starting after the late August Bank Holiday. Our aim is to allow the church to be reconfigured to give different layouts to meet various requirements. For example to give more space and dedicated seating at the rear of the Nave for the Café Church which seems to be attracting a larger attendance each month.

Newmans Joinery based in Bath will be setting up a temporary workshop in the Lady Chapel for a planned duration of 12 weeks. We have de-risked the programme with a proof of concept prototype which has attracted positive comments from those that have tested it. The pews will be detached from the wall and the blank end will be fitted with one of the reclaimed original pew ends sourced from those pews that were removed

*Continued on next page*

## **Focal Point, September 2024**

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some years ago. They will also be modified with an extended seat, and new cushions to make them more comfortable. Rest assured that this is not in anticipation of longer sermons but to allow longer duration seating for our future concerts or whatever else is on the programme.

We want to keep the church open and accessible during this period but there will be occasions when the church will need to be closed for short periods whilst the pews are moved around the Nave, in and out of the workshop, so please respect any requests from the contractors. We want to keep everyone safe and any closures should not last longer than 30 mins or so.

### **RECRUITMENT**

Our search for a new vicar continues. Our original advert went out in early Summer and attracted some interest but led by our HQ, Bristol Diocese, we agreed to re-advertise the post. In harmony with our sister churches within the benefice: St Annes at Syston and St Barnabas Warmley, we are trying to work with HQ to clear a route to re-advertise the post although we need to navigate a number of additional bumps in the road which seem to have appeared. I am sure that we will find a joint way forward but at the time of writing I cannot give a date for the advert re-release.



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# **Benefice Midweek Groups**

## *Focus on St Mark's Gospel*

**All three groups resume in September when new members will be very welcome. During September and October we are going to be studying St Mark's Gospel in 8 sessions. This is the shortest of the 4 gospels comprising 16 chapters.**

The **Tuesday Morning Group's** first meeting will be at 10.30am on Tuesday 17 September at the home of David and Stephanie Baily at Westover, Bath Road, Bitton.

For further details phone 0117 932 8949.

The **Wednesday Evening Group** starts on Wednesday 18 September meeting at 7.30p at the home of Ken and Jill Gibson at 8 Church Road, Bitton.

For further details phone 0117 932 2122.

The **Thursday Evening Group** starts on Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm at the home of Pete and Liz Midgley at 31 Kenilworth Drive, Willsbridge.

For further details phone 0117 932 6898.

## **Bishop Viv at Warmley on 13th October**

**There will be a Benefice Communion Service on 13th October at St Barnabas, Warmley when the celebrant will be the Bishop of Bristol, Rt Rev Vivienne Faull.**

**There will be no service at Bitton that Sunday.**

***Dr Ruth Bancewicz***

# Faithful to Scripture, Faithful to Science: Alister McGrath on science and Christian faith

***There is no Minister's Letter for September. Instead we are offering an article, one of a series, written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.***

***Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.***

Alister McGrath is well-known as a theologian, but he started out as a scientist. After becoming a Christian as a student, he wanted to learn about his new faith, so he studied theology at the same time as completing his PhD in molecular biophysics. He has not lost touch with science, but has continued to write and speak about how science and Christian faith work together. In this extract from a recently released interview, he shares his experience of being a scientist and a Christian.

"I think my most vivid experience of wonder took place in the 1970s when I was on vacation in Iran. We were travelling on a bus in the middle of the night because it wasn't hot then, and the bus broke down. We found ourselves in the middle of this solemn black desert, and the night sky shone with a brilliance like I had never seen before. That just overwhelmed me, it made me think there is something really wonderful here.

"Now, I was a Christian by that time and I knew how Christianity could answer that but it just struck me, that sense of wonder has two possible outcomes.

*Continued on page 14*

# **The wonder of the universe**

Shutterstock



## **Focal Point, September 2024**

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One is science - this universe is wonderful, what's it all about? But of course, it is also about religion, the deeper levels of things that science can't really engage. I think one of the things I have discovered over time is that maybe this sense of wonder both opens the gateway to science and to faith, and that those two together are able to answer questions which on their own they simply couldn't.

"I think science is wonderful at asking questions. Some of those questions can be answered, but very often when you do answer them, they simply open up yet more questions. But of course, there are some more fundamental questions I think science simply cannot answer - they transcend its capacities to answer, and you might think of non-empirical questions like, 'Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? What is good and how do I live a good life?'

"These are real questions and they're good questions but they're not scientific questions. And the psychologists tell us that we really need answers to those questions if we are to lead a fulfilled human existence. You find some scientists who say, 'Well because science can't answer them there are no answers to be given', but actually most realise that there are answers waiting to be discovered - it's just that science can't deliver them.

"Science fills in part of a big picture but there are parts of the picture you have to fill in from somewhere else. Science is part of the answer but only part, and faith supplements it, giving us a vision of life that is exciting and reliable, and also something that we can inhabit meaningfully."

Find more on [wondersofthelivingworld.org](http://wondersofthelivingworld.org)

# Services of Holy Communion in Warmley, Bitton and Syston

<b>First Sunday of the month</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Bitton,</b> followed by refreshments	<b>10:30 am</b> with Hymns and live music
<b>Second Sunday</b>	<b>St Barnabas' Church, Warmley,</b> followed by refreshments	<b>10:30 am</b> with Hymns and recorded music
<b>Third Sunday</b>	<b>St Anne's Church, Syston</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b> with Hymns and organ music
<b>Fourth Sunday:</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Bitton;</b> Book of Common Prayer	<b>8 am</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday:</b>	<b>St Barnabas' Church, Warmley,</b> followed by refreshments	<b>10:30 am</b> with Hymns and live music
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	<b>St Barnabas' Church, Warmley,</b> followed by refreshments and group discussion	<b>10:30 am</b> with Hymns and live music
<b>Fourth Thursday</b>	<b>St Mary's Church, Bitton,</b> followed by Tea & Coffee Morning	<b>10:00 am</b>

## **St Mary's Patronal Festival Communion Service** **Sunday 1 September 2024 at 10.30**

Preacher Canon Paul Denyer, former Vicar of Bitton  
Followed by a celebratory drink and cake

# **Eric Cooper**



Many people in Bitton will have known Eric Cooper who sadly passed away on Friday 16th August, after a short illness, and just a few days short of his 95th birthday.

**Eric's funeral will take place at the Westerleigh Crematorium, BS37 8QP , in the Waterside Chapel at 12.30 on Thursday 12th September 2024.**

**It will be followed by a Service of Celebration of his life at All Saints Church, Weston, Bath, BA1 4BT, at 2.30pm, after which refreshments will be served.**

All welcome to attend

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# Harvest Auction

**Monday 23 September 2024**

**The Manor Farm Barn  
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**Featuring Oldland Brass**

**Gifts of produce will be appreciated.  
Please bring these to the Barn between  
2.30 and 3.30 on 23 September**

**7.30**

**Bar opens**

**8.00**

**Harvest service**

**8.30**

**Auction begins**

**Proceeds in aid of the Royal British Legion**

# **HARVEST THANKSGIVING 2024**



This year's harvest celebrations come a little earlier than usual at St Mary's and in two parts, with the main service on 29th September and a ***Walkabout Quiz and Harvest Supper*** on Saturday 12th October.

## **FAMILY HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

**SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER AT 10.30**

**Family Café Church and Family Special  
combine with the Scouts and  
the St Mary's Minstrels**

You are invited to bring a gift of produce or non-perishable food which will be distributed by the Juice Food Bank in Cadbury Heath to needy families in the area. All items are welcome



## **Decorating the Church**

Delivery of autumnal foliage and berries from hedgerows or gardens will be welcome at the Church porch: Friday 27th or Saturday 28th at 10am.



St Mary's Church Bilton

**Saturday 12th October 2024**

# **Walkabout Quiz and Harvest Supper**

Teams of up to 6, or join a team  
on the night

Quizmaster: Kim Scudamore  
Doors open at 7pm - Questions posted at 7.30pm

Adults £10 Children £5

Tickets online at

**[www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk)**

(use QR code below)

Venue:  
St Mary's Church,  
Church Road, Bilton, BS30 6LJ  
Tel 07970 325927 or 0117 932 2122





# Hoping for good weather for the fête



**Bitton church fête will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September, with organisers hoping and praying for dry weather for this popular village and community event. All profits from the fête go towards the maintenance and running of St Mary's Church.**

Donations have been pouring in for the stalls but there is still time to donate to the **White Elephant, Books, Nearly Nu** (Clothing) and **Bottle Stall**. Small gift items for the **Tombola** are also most welcome. Thank you to all who have donated items.

Thanks also go to the many volunteers who have offered to help to make the day a success. **But more offers of help would be welcome as the fête really needs more volunteers.** Any offer of help is welcome, if only for a short time. In particular offers for:

- **The Heavy Gang** to help put up and take down the tents
- **Programme Sellers**
- **Helpers on Stalls**

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If you can help, please get in contact with the fête co-ordinator Helen Pugsley on 07767 777019. There is more on the church website [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk) or why not follow us on the St Mary's Bitton Facebook page?

### And of course –

- The fête also includes the **Dog Show** run by Highcroft Vets of Court Farm Road.
- Professor Hudd will be performing his **Punch & Judy Show** for younger audiences
- **Egg Throwing** - the fête wont end without the traditional egg throwing competition.

Sadly, this year it seems we will not have the benefit of Morris dancers as none have been available.

And for bakers there is the chance to enter the **Bitton Baker of the Year Competition** (see below for details).



**Bitton Women's Institute @ St. Mary's Church Fete**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

***Bitton Baker of the Year – Cake Competition 2024***

Could you be our best baker this year? Following last years success, we again invite you to bring your best bakes to enter into our prestigious competition.

Entrants need to have baked the following themselves and bring your effort along on the day to our stall at the Fete.

- ★★ **Adult Entry - Chocolate Cake (8"/20cm approx.)** ★★
- ★★ **Children (12 & under) – Three decorated Cupcakes** ★★

Please note, each cake will be cut for judges to taste and entries can either be donated to sell or returned to the entrant





Please call us, or pop in, to discuss your dog grooming requirements

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# **BVRA Events in September**

Is it winter already? Well no - but the nights are getting longer and as autumn approaches so does the return of Flicks in the Sticks for its 2024-25 season in the church hall. The monthly film night is hosted by Bitton Village Residents Association and managed by a team led by Bridget Hetzel. It is a real social gathering with a licensed bar and choc ices in the interval.

The season begins with **Barbie** starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. More details on page 31

Also in September are the delights of the BVRA Picnic in the Park, on the Poundfield on Sunday 15th. There's a great line up of music..

BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# PICNIC IN THE PARK

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024

WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM :

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The poster features illustrations of various musical instruments including a violin, guitar, banjo, drums, and a trumpet, along with musical notes and a treble clef.



St Mary's Church Bliton  
Parochial Church Council

# PCC Report

**A phantom gardener was one of the matters discussed at the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council; (PCC) held on 15 July. Weed killer had apparently been sprayed alongside the walls but the identity of the gardener was unknown. The PCC was concerned that work in the churchyard should be approved by the Sextons, Jacqui Harris and Barbara Merritt beforehand,**

Also discussed were:

***Communion Cup:***

Since the pandemic, the cup has not been shared at communion, but instead, the wafer has been dipped into the wine at distribution. A survey of church members had been undertaken which had shown that the majority wished to maintain this position for now.

***Benefice Vacancy:***

An initial advertisement failed to attract suitable candidates and the vacancy for vicar will be readvertised.

***Table Top Tombs:***

At the request of Ann Willis, the PCC are seeking an extension to a faculty issued in 2020 to allow work on the remaining chest or table tombs in the churchyard to be completed.

***Heating and lighting in the Chapel:***

Agreement was given to a proposal to instal infra-red heaters in the chapel, which would be fitted within chandelier lighting improving the existing position. A faculty will be needed to complete this work, which should benefit from a substantial grant from the diocese.

***Outside Tap***

A cover for the outside tap has been donated by Stewart Willmott. The church warden has thanked Stewart for his work.



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### **Among other matters discussed were:**

- The Quarterly Budget profile, which shows the church is managing its finances along the lines planned at the outset of the year;
- The purchase of a new card reader for general donations;
- The start of work on the pews week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> August;
- Maintaining *SmartWater* marking of external metalwork.

### **Next Meeting**

Mon 16 Sep 2024 in the church hall at 7.30pm.

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# News from the Ringing Chamber



St Marys Bitton were proud to have a ringer in the 2024, annual bellringing competition.

This years competition was held in London. The centre of activities were at the famous Bow bells church (St Mary Le Bow).

36 teams took part. St Marys Bitton are part of the Gloucester and Bristol team.

Each team had an itinerary of towers around greater London, culminating in the competition tower, which was St Olave, one of only a few churches dating back to before the great fire of London in 1666.

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Gloucester and Bristol came joint 3rd in their selected category. All competitors received their medals at St Pauls Cathedral later that day.

St Marys Bitton are a small band of dedicated ringers. We are currently looking to recruit interested members. If you are available and interested to have a go, we practice on Monday evenings from 19:30 to 21:00.

Due to the nature of what we do, children younger than 10 years old are prevented from ringing, but always welcome to chime a bell if they so wish.

Bitton Ringers can be contacted via email on  
bittonbellringers@outlook.com

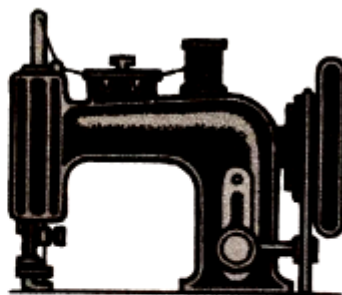
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# **Welcome to The Village Coffee Morning**

The fourth Thursday morning of the month is proving to be a popular time for a meeting in the church with a difference. For some years a special service of Celtic Communion based on the rites used by monks on St Iona has been held on the fourth Thursday morning in the chapel. The simple service has attracted a dedicated congregation, but more recently has been followed by a Tea and Coffee Morning where those who have attended the service are joined by others.

It is proving a hit with many. Twenty-five people were at the Tea and Coffee morning in July, and 19 (it was nearly more) in August.

It has been decided to rebrand the refreshments as The **Village Coffee Morning** and it will take place at a new time, 10.45. Do drop in, for the service, for refreshment, or just for a natter – you will be most welcome.

**The next Celtic Communion and Village Coffee Morning will be held on Thursday 26th September**

**10.00am for Celtic Communion  
10.45 for The Village Coffee Morning**



**Opposite: In July, Rosemarie Grubb of Upton Cheyney (seated right) celebrated her 80th Birthday at the Tea and Coffee Morning with a special cake. Why not use the morning to celebrate your own event?**



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**Bitton Village Residents' Association**

**Invites you to**

***Flicks in the Sticks***

on

**Friday 20 September**

when we will be screening

**Barbie**

starring

**Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling,**

***narrated by Helen Mirren***

Barbie the film is a unique experience! It is a dazzling achievement, both technically and in tone. It's a visual feast that succeeds as a gleeful escape while addressing many serious issues of today.

Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

Classified as a quirky comedy it has many laugh--out--loud moments whilst subtly challenging the stereotypes of modern society. Come and see what all the hype is about and decide for yourselves!

**Doors open 7.30pm Film starts 8pm**  
**AT THE CHURCH HALL, CHURCH LANE, BITTON**  
**Drinks will be available from the Licensed Bar,**  
**Choc Ices will be served in the interval and**  
**there will be time to chat with friends**

**Admission £3**

**Everyone is welcome**



**At long last, work has started on St Mary's pews.**

The work to repair and modernise the pews will be undertaken by Newman's of Bath and is likely to last until November. The work will detach the pews from the wall panels, make them slightly shorter and widen the seat. The end that has been previously attached to the wall will have one of the decorated panels attached so that the pews will become standalone for the first time. Once that work is finished, retractable castors will be fitted by Martin Hanney of Bitton and additional cushions added,

The church will remain open during this work, although short closures will need to be made on health and safety grounds while pews are being moved. The chapel will be taken out of use for use as an on-site workshop.

It is expected that the work will be complete by Remembrance Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November, but other than for specific purposes the pews will most be placed as they are today—but with added flexibility.





## **Development Programme seeks more supporters – can you help?**

The work on the pews is part of St Mary's Development Programme. The programme aims to secure St Mary's, not only as a continuing place of worship, but as a centre for the whole community to use and to conserve and celebrate its rich heritage.

To make it suitable for a wider variety of use, it needs improvements to lighting, heating and the floor. Most of the money required to do this will come from large trust and grant funders. But it is a competitive process with lots of other organisations with equally pressing needs. Our chances of success will be much boosted by showing lots of community support for the programme.

**You can help by becoming one of our supporters. It only takes a minute, costs nothing, but is worth a great deal!**

Some people have already signed up, but the church Future Group will be making a special effort at the fête and over coming weeks to sign up many more. But you don't have to wait until then. You can sign up as a supporter online by visiting the church website [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk) and clicking on the box on the front page **OR** just email Bitton Churches Magazine [bittoncm@outlook.com](mailto:bittoncm@outlook.com) to say you would like to be signed up as a supporter.

**Cover Story**



Photo: Pam Hacker

# **Marlene's Big Birthday**

**Not everyone gets to celebrate their 80th Birthday, but Marlene Gallop did so in style on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August.**

**Family and friends filled St Mary's for the event to say Happy Birthday to a much loved Bitton resident.**

**Marlene asked for donations instead of cards and gifts has raised to date £1,025-76. which will be part Macmillan Nurses at the RUH and Defibrillator Fund for Church.**

## **Local Life**

### **NEW FIRST BUS TIMETABLE: FURTHER SQUEEZE ON SERVICE 19**

First Bus have released their new timetable for the autumn, starting on 1 September. Neither of the services serving Bitton show any sign of improvement in frequency but the company says that adjustments have been made to improve punctuality.

In respect of the 19 service, which passes through the village, the bus company states that "Late night / early morning trips will now terminate / commence from Warmley, Station Road". That is an interesting interpretation of "late night" as the latest bus in either direction reaches Cherry Gardens at 8.24pm. It is also a service reduction, as a No19 bus on the existing timetable currently runs into Bath from Bitton at 10.30pm.

It is better news if you want to go to Bristol rather than Bath as the 45 does run an hourly service and runs a late night service from the city centre at 10.40 and 11.40, with a 40 minute ride to Cherry Gardens.



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# News from Bitton WI



No usual meeting for us in August as we take a break from the norm and enjoy time out as a group. Our first get together took place in late July when I held a coffee morning in my garden. After spending the weekend making sure the garden looked it's best for my guests, I was disappointed to see rain first thing though fortunately, the sun soon broke through just as members started to arrive. Our Committee brought their homemade cakes and scones whilst I provided the drinks and enjoyable morning of chatting and catching up got underway.

## **August Outing to Doynton**

For our August outing we had agreed to visit a garden under the National Open Gardens Scheme, which you may have seen mention of throughout my previous updates. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful open gardens in our area and this year we decided to visit Doynton House gardens. A number of these gardens open up during the week for group visits, though generally only open once or twice for the general public.

Doynton House lies in the village of Doynton a few miles from Bitton. Fifteen members, partners and friends joined me for our visit on Monday 12 August. A somewhat cloudy day, which cheered up as the afternoon went on. We were greeted enthusiastically the full-time gardener. He advised of the various areas he was working on and encouraged us to be sure to visit the meadow and bee hives as well as the beautiful gardens.

We were then met at the gate by the owner of the house, Frances, who told us more about the gardens and how they had purchased the house when her husband fell in love with the gardens. Previously the house had been owned by Mrs Pitman and needed some TLC to bring it back to life when Frances and her family moved in. The gardens were separated into various areas around the house by old walls and hedges. On our way into the garden we found the greenhouses against a tall wall housing peach and apricot trees. Frances told us that it had been the best year ever for huge juicy peaches, but they were now over, sadly!

The borders were amazing, with obelisk bedecked in clematis popping up to add colour against the greenery. I loved the rill garden, with its small canal of water leading us to a small waterfall from a large water feature pool. Either side were borders full of plants which had attracted numerous bumble bees.



**DOYNTON HOUSE: Obelisk  
bedecked by clematis**

## **Focal Point, September 2024**

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The gardener appeared to tell us about the rill garden and how this particular plant attracted bumble bees because they had longer tongues to get down into the flowers. I only wish I can remember what those plants were called!!

The vegetable garden was still full to bursting of summer fruit and vegetables. The fruit bushes were kept safely away from birds and small animals under huge netted "houses" made, we were told, from copper piping which had successfully kept the slugs away too!

It was lovely when we bumped into the gardener or his trainee to be able to chat to them and pick up tips or ask advice which they were always happy to give. Frances had mentioned to us that they had the trainee for a year from one of the organisations supported by the National Open Gardens Scheme which aimed to get women particularly into horticulture and gardening.

Our group were free to wander around the beautiful gardens, the meadow, bee hives, chickens and the pool before refreshments were served on the terrace. I have to say, the cakes made by the owner and her sister were absolutely delicious and all made using ingredients from the gardens. We had the pleasure of spending time drinking tea and eating cake with the owner and her sister who were such kind and generous hosts.

If you like gardens or gardening and want to pick up some good ideas then this is a must for a visit if you haven't been there before. Unfortunately, by the time this edition goes out, the open day on 1st September may have come and gone, but do put it in your diaries for next year!

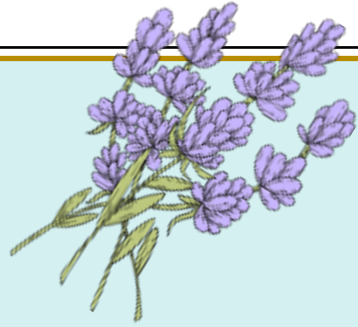
### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 9th September, 2 pm, Church Hall, Bitton. Our speaker is Sue Paterson from Greyhound Rescue. Do also come and see us on 7th September when we will be selling cakes at the Annual Bitton Fête and do remember to enter your best cake bakes into our Competition.

This month, I thought I would share my version of the lovely shortbread we had at Doynton House, using lavender from the garden. If you have a food processor, this is a quick and easy recipe.

**Karen Davidson, President**

# **Lavender Shortbread**



## **Ingredients**

**8 oz/250g unsalted butter (softened)**  
**4 oz/125g caster sugar (plus extra for sprinkling)**  
**10 oz/300g plain flour**  
**Fresh Lavender to taste (about 2 stalks).**

## **Method**

***Pre heat oven 170C/150C fan/Gas mark 4 and lightly grease a 20 cm baking tin. For ease of removing add a cross of baking paper or foil.***

1. In your processor bowl add your butter, flour and sugar together and mix into a light breadcrumb mixture. (Or by hand, crumb the butter and flour, then add sugar)
2. Add the lavender (to taste) into the mixture and pulse in the processor to break it down a little. (or chop)
3. Transfer the breadcrumb mixture to your tin and press down gently to fill the tin.
4. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes until pale golden-brown.
6. Cool on a wire rack and cut into around 16 fingers.

***Enjoy your homemade lavender shortbread with a nice cup of tea! Any left over can be frozen for another day.***

# Puzzle Pages

## SUDUKO CHALLENGE

					1	3		
5			4	3		2		
	8	3				9		
	2		9					
	3						9	
					6		7	
		4				1	5	
		9		7	8			4
		5	2					

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Answers to both puzzles are available on the church website [www.stmarysbitton.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk) - click on **News & Focal Point** or use this QR code





# WORD SEARCH

This month's word search is connected with St Michael and all Angels, whose feast day is celebrated on 29th September the traditional feast of Michaelmas.



## You are looking for:

- |         |         |             |         |
|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Michael | Leader  | Host        | Mary    |
| All     | Stained | Defeat      | Baby    |
| Angels  | Glass   | Satan       | Jesus   |
| Key     | Sword   | Appearances | waiting |
| Crucial | Angelic | Gabriel     | Angel   |

# September Prize Quiz

*by Kim Scudamore*

**The theme of this month's quiz is 'Highways and Byways' where most (if not all) the questions or answers refer to various thoroughfares.**

1. Where was Mother Kelly's doorstep?
2. Which London Street gave its name to a popular show song and dance?
3. On which road did St. Paul have his sight restored by Ananias?
4. On which road did Nat King Cole, Chuck Berry and The Rolling Stones suggest you might get your kicks?
5. Karl Kennedy, Susan Kinski and Paul Robinson were all neighbours on which street?
6. Where did Kermit the Frog, Big Bird and Ernie first meet?
7. From which address did Stu Bailey and Jeff Spenser run their Hollywood private eye business?
8. Computers and Blues was the final album release for which hip-hop/garage band?
9. What name is given to the chocolate and marshmallow cake that was first prepared for Australian gold miners in the 19th century?
10. Which is the only Bristol alley named after a letter of the alphabet?
11. Which Roman road linked Exeter with Lincoln?
12. Where will you find 'a fireman with an hourglass' who 'likes to keep his engine clean'?
13. What did Dorothy and her friends follow to reach the Emerald City of Oz?
14. Which road did Chris Rea take up the charts in 1989?
15. The first stretch of motorway in the UK opened in 1958 and became a section of which current motorway?

## Focal Point, September 2024

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16. Where was the first motorway service station opened in 1959?
17. In which fictional cul-de-sac was the body of Trevor Jordache buried under the patio of No. 10?
18. In which Somerset village did Cyrus Clark own the tannery where his brother James had the idea of producing slippers from sheepskins?
19. Which former Cheers actress auditioned for the part in Fatal Attraction that was eventually offered to Glen Close?
20. In 1936 George Orwell took the road to where?

Please return your answers by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September by email to  
**bittoncm@outlook.com**

## August Quiz Answers

The August Quiz was themed around the salon—so the questions, and some answers, had a connection with getting your hair done.

### Answers:

(1) Clipper; (2) Scissor Sisters; (3) Curling; (4) Pete Tong; (5) Alex Ferguson; (6) Basil Brush; (7) Comb Jellies; (8) Crew Cut; (9) Good Hair Day; (10) The Barber of Seville; (11) Samson; (12) Shampoo; (13) Vidal Sassoon; (14) Mullet; (16) They found his *Head and Shoulders* washed up on the beach; (17) Peter the Great; (18) The Last of the Mohicans; (19) Hairspray; (20) Coronation Street.

### Correct answers

It was August—so that may be the reason why there were fewer entries than usual. There were two entries with a full score of answers: Terry Matthews and Sheila Read & family.

First out of the hat was Terry Matthews who wins this month's £10 John Lewis voucher.

**Prize Quiz winners receive a £10 John Lewis voucher.**

**All entries with fully correct answers are listed and the winner is then chosen at random.**

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**firas**

# The last word

## *All inclusive?*



I have no idea of the average age of the Focal Point reader, but I should imagine it is well above 40. That may be well short of the mark, but then I don't remember being an avid reader of church magazines at a young age myself.

It is difficult for a church and community newsletter of this kind to be attractive to a younger audience. One way is to start to provide many more events that are attractive to a younger age group. There is much evidence in this month's edition of that taking place. Fetes, quiz nights and outdoor music are attractive to all ages. But if we want to do more we possibly have to think more about relevance. Not to all but for key parts of the community that we may not reach. How does all that we do attract younger people?

In this edition there are two 80th birthdays celebrated. It's great that we do that and we wish both ladies many happy returns. But it would be just as good if, in a few years time, we could be celebrating much earlier life events taking place in the church and community.

Jim Heavens



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