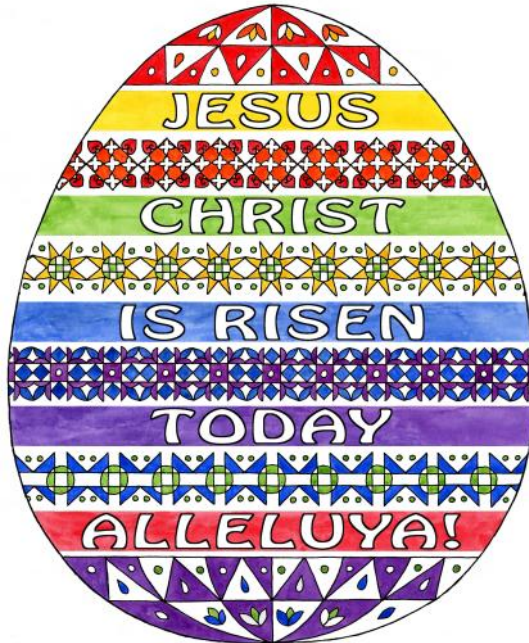


Free - donations welcome

April 2025

BATHWICK NEWS

www.bathwickparishes.org.uk



St John's
(opposite the fire station)



St Mary's
(by Bathwick Hill roundabout)

WHO'S WHO IN THE BATHWICK PARISHES

(All telephone numbers are Bath 01225- unless otherwise stated)

CLERGY

Parish Priest The Revd. Peter Edwards Contact Church Office
Bathwick Rectory, Sham Castle Lane, Bath BA2 6JL
(Normal day off: Monday)

Asst Priests Bp Alastair Redfern 07706 076203
The Revd. Antony Claridge 427462
The Revd. Richard Hunt 938529
The Revd. Robert Webb 484042

READERS Dr Marilyn Kirby 835765
Mr Marcus Wedge 07493 198778
Mr Stephen Howard 466590

READER EMERITUS Cdr. Thomas Bunn 723222

DIOCESAN SYNOD *(House of Clergy)* Fr Peter Edwards

DEANERY SYNOD *St Mary's:* Cdr T Bunn, Mr S Howard, Mrs N Parker
(House of Laity) *St John's:* Mr David Wright

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

affiliated to The Society of St Wilfred & St Hilda

St John's Road, BA2 6PT

CHURCHWARDENS

Mr Adrian Plummer 07880 701139
Mrs Di Shelley 722917

HON PCC SECRETARY

Please contact the Churchwardens

HON TREASURER

Mr Mark Humphries 07717 814508

ORGANIST

Dr David Hyatt 571037

ALMSGIVING SECRETARY

Mrs Mary Barry 464139

ELECTORAL ROLL SECRETARY

Mr Charles MacCall 428391

SACRISTAN

Mr Adrian Plummer 07880 701139

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Nadia MacCall 428391

FLOWERS

Mrs Jackie Newman 422450

CHURCH HALL HIRE

Parish Office (see page 3 for details) 447450

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
Darlington Street, BA2 4EB

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Clare Goodhart	315638
Mrs Nicola Parker	834108

HON PCC SECRETARY

Dr Marilyn Kirby	835765
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FINANCE TEAM

Mr Nick Lennard (Hon Treasurer)	07980 591449
Mr Keith Moss	445234

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID

Mrs Dawn Lennard	429277
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ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

Mr Andrew Parker	834108
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BATHWICK NEWS

<i>Advertisements</i> Mr Nick Lennard	07980 591449
<i>Distribution</i> The Parish Office	447450

SACRISTY TEAM

Mrs Molly Wedge	07493 198778
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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Nicola Parker	834108
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HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

Mr Marcus Wedge	07493 198778
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TOWER (*Bell Ringers*)

Tower Captain

<i>Correspondent</i> Molly Waterson	07790 230767
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Gary Desmond	07980 818445
Email: garyc.desmond@gmail.com or via the Parish Office	

JUNIOR CHURCH AND BABIES & TODDLERS GROUP

Mrs Nicola Parker	834108
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BATHWICK ST MARY PRIMARY SCHOOL

<i>Head Teacher:</i> Mr Kevin Purkiss,	465654
St. Mary's School, Darlington Road, Bath	

FLOWERS

Parish Office (see below for details)	447450
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CHURCH HALL HIRE

Parish Office (see below for details)	447450
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The Parish Office for both churches is based at St Mary's

Telephone and Answerphone 01225 447450

Email: office@bathwickparishes.org.uk

www.bathwickparishes.org.uk

(Mrs Kerry Hughes is usually in the church office Tuesday and Friday 9am - 12noon)

APRIL SERVICES

ST MARY'S CHURCH (*Bathwick Hill roundabout*)

10.30am every Sunday, Parish Eucharist & Sermon

10.30am every Wednesday, traditional language Eucharist

9.30am every Friday, said Eucharist

Sunday evening services at 6pm: 6 April (Choral) Evensong

13 April Evening Prayer 20 April 4pm Evening Prayer and

27 April (said) Evensong



ST JOHN'S CHURCH (*opposite the Fire Station*)

9am every Sunday, Parish Mass & Sermon

9.30am every Tuesday, said Mass

10.30am every Thursday, said Mass

9.30am every Saturday, said Mass

Sunday evening services: No evening services during April

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

at the BATHWICK PARISHES

PALM SUNDAY, 13 April

9.00am Sung Mass St John's; 10.30am Sung Eucharist St Mary's
6.00pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, 14-16 April

10.30am said Mass each day: Mon, Weds at St Mary's | Tues at St John's

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 17 April

2.00pm Stations of the Cross St John's

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper St Mary's

followed by Watch in Garden of Gethsemane

GOOD FRIDAY, 18 April

12 noon Liturgy of the Passion St John's

2.00pm Liturgy of the Passion St Mary's

HOLY SATURDAY, 19 April

8.00pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter St Mary's

EASTER DAY, 20 April

9.00am Sung Mass St John's; 10.30am Sung Eucharist St Mary's

4.00pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's

A LETTER FROM STEPHEN HOWARD

Dear Friends,

I am of course writing this note during Lent but by the time of its publication we will all be looking forward to the joys of Easter.

In the meantime, in the Lent talks I am learning more about Jane Austen and the spirituality of romance than ever I expected to. The working out of relationships between people, commitment to each other, and the sharing of hopes and dreams.

It will no doubt crop up in a sermon sooner or later - just as if I had thought it up all by myself.

As the weeks go by I find myself thinking how lucky we are to have Bp Alastair, Fr Richard and indeed others to “mind” our affairs during Fr Peter’s absence. After one memorable sermon, when I got home I put a piggy bank on my dining table but have not yet found a use for my umbrella other than the conventional one. My apologies to those who were not in church on that day. Feel free to ask.

But here comes Easter. Some part of what makes Easter Day so wonderful is the contrast with the misery and sadness that precedes it. The nails, the vinegar, the thorns. The betrayal.

At some time in our lives there are almost bound to be occasions when most of us feel as though we are wading through a thicket and think that even if we do manage to get out, we will emerge scratched and damaged. Or maybe there are metaphorical tombs inside which lie our fears and resentments, buried sins, unhealed memories, unforgiven insults.

The spirit of Easter provides us with an opportunity to unseal all of that and let it go. To emerge from the thicket undamaged. To follow Jesus into the light and celebrate His resurrection with joy and thanksgiving. Free in earthly life and saved into the eternal.

Stephen Howard

SERVICE MUSIC AT ST MARY'S for APRIL 2025

6 April - Lent 5C

10.30am Sung Mass (Fr Richard Hunt)

E: Lift high the cross (sheet, t *Crucifer* NEP641)

O: From heaven you came, helpless babe (sheet, t CHE187)

C: Sweet the moments, rich in blessing NEH91

R: We sing the praise of him who died NEH94

setting: Inwood

psalm: 126

motet: Batten: When the Lord turned again

organ: Mendelssohn: Prelude in C minor

6pm Choral Evensong (Fr Richard Hunt)

Off: The royal banners forward go NEH79

R: In the cross of Christ I glory NEH379

introit: Shepherd: A new commandment

responses: Plainsong

psalms: 35

setting: Moore: The Third Service

anthem: Stainer: God so loved the world

13 April - Palm Sunday

10.30am Sung Mass (Bp Alastair Redfern)

Proc1: All glory, laud and honour NEH509

Proc2: Ride on! Ride on in majesty NEH511

O: My song is love unknown NEH86

C: Bread of the world in mercy broken NEH277

R: There is a green hill far away NEH92

setting: Lloyd in E flat

psalm: 31

palms motet: Gesius: Hosanna to the Son of David

communion motet: Victoria: Pueri Hebraeorum

organ: Willan: Epilogue on 'St Theodulph'

17 April - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Sung Mass (Fr Richard Hunt/Bp Alastair Redfern)

E: Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us NEH297

Footwashing: Brother, sister, let me serve you (sheet, t CHE813)

O: O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray NEH302

C: According to thy gracious word NEH270

Proc: Of the glorious body telling NEH268 (t NEH202)

setting: Casciolini: Missa Brevis

psalm: 116

motet: arr. Barnard: Ubi caritas

18 April - Good Friday

2pm Liturgy of the Passion (Bp Alastair Redfern)

Veneration: Faithful cross, above all other NEH517

After intercessions/O: Jesu, meek and lowly NEH85

C: Once, only once, and once for all NEH304

R: When I survey the wondrous cross EH107/NEH95

psalm: 22

motet: John of Portugal: Crux fidelis

19 April - Easter Vigil

8pm Vigil Mass (Bp Alastair Redfern)

E: Rejoice, all heavenly powers (sheet, t NEH475)

Pss after OT readings TBA

O: Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven NEH103

C: Love's redeeming work is done NEH113

R: Good Christian men, rejoice and sing NEH107

setting: Darke in F

motet: arr. Lindley: Now the green blade riseth

20 April - Easter Day

10.30am Sung Mass (Fr Richard Hunt)

E: Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son NEH120

All: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord (sheet)

O: At the Lamb's high feast we sing NEH104

C: This joyful Eastertide NEH121

R: Jesus Christ is risen today NEH110

setting: Darke in E

psalm: 118 or Easter Anthems (if used)

communion motet: arr. Ledger: This joyful Eastertide

recessional anthem: Handel: Hallelujah! (*from Messiah*)?

organ: Widor: Finale (*Symphonie II*)

27 April - Easter 2C

10.30am Sung Mass (Bp Alastair Redfern)

E: Ye choirs of new Jerusalem NEH124

O: Jesus lives! Thy terrors now NEH112

C: Sing Alleluia forth ye saints on high NEH446

R: Now is eternal life NEH114


setting: Wilson in D

psalm: 118

motet: arr. Lindley: Now the green blade riseth

organ: TBA

CONCERTS IN APRIL AND EARLY MAY



STABAT MATER

A sequence of music marking the anniversaries of the Italian composers
Berio, Scarlatti, Nono and Clementi

St James's Sussex Gardens, London: Friday 11 April 7.30pm
 St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds: Sunday 13 April 5pm
 St Mary's Church, Beverley: Monday 14 April 7.30pm
 St Mary's Bathwick, Bath: Tuesday 15 April 7.30pm

Tickets available at www.facadeensemble.co.uk
 @FacadeEnsemble /Thefacadeensemble



St Mary the Virgin
 Bathwick, Bath BA2 4EB
 10th May 2025, 3.00–4.00 pm
 Tickets £12 at the door, £10 from
tinyurl.com/mitaSOTN

Something of the night


*Songs to the lute that explore
 the secrets of the night*



Musicke in the Ayre

Jane Hunt, Alysha Paterson *sopranos*
 Din Ghani *lutes*

ST MARY'S CHURCH, BATHWICK



LUNCHTIME MUSIC 2025

THURSDAYS, 12:30pm - 1:10pm 2025

May 8th - David Bednall - *Organ*
 Director of Choral Music, Clifton Cathedral, Bristol

June 12th - Gary Desmond - *Organ*
 Director of Music, St Mary's

July 10th - Dr Barry Rose OBE - *Organ*
 Formerly of Guildford, St Albans and St Paul's Cathedrals

August 14th - Sara Foster - *Soprano*
 Gary Desmond - *Piano*

September 11th - Gary Desmond - *organ*

October 9th - Young Musicians
 from Kingswood School, Bath

Light refreshments available before and after each recital

*Retiring collection in support of
 St Mary's Choral Bursary Fund for Student Singers*

oooo000oooo

GALA ORGAN CONCERT

Celebrating the restoration of our
 1878 'Father' Henry Willis organ in 2023/24

Martin Baker
 (Formerly, Master of the Music, Westminster Cathedral)

Friday 6th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Tickets £20/£10 (under 25s)
 Available from the Parish Office (01225 447450)
 and Bath Box Office (01225 463362)

NB: In 2026, our Lunchtime Concerts will be moving to
 the first Thursday of the month - from May 7th

Details correct at time of printing

St Mary's Church, Bathwick - Saturday 10 May

COFFEE...

Served from 10.30am
(in the church hall)

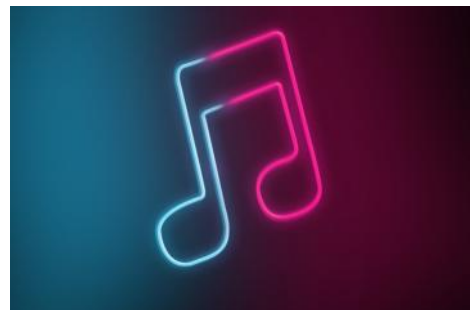


...CAKE...

Enjoy a cake with your
tea/coffee
and buy extras to take home

...CONCERT!

St Mary's Choir will give a
short concert from 11.15am



Admission free, retiring collection for our Choir Bursary Fund

St Mary's Choir at Salisbury Cathedral

On Thursday 6th March, St Mary's wonderful Choir, conducted by Gary Desmond, sang Evensong in Salisbury Cathedral.

David and I were fortunate enough to be able to go to the service, combining it with visiting a friend in Salisbury beforehand and having lunch on the way at Stonehenge (luckily we are members of English Heritage, so we avoided the £30 per head entrance fee!). Evensong was in the traditional format and the settings quite sombre, due to this being in Lent, but the singing was quite beautiful, the atmosphere enhanced, of course, by the magnificent cathedral building. A most memorable occasion.

Julia Brownbridge



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The desert bears the sign of man's complete helplessness as he can do nothing to subsist alone and by himself, and he thus discovers his weakness and the necessity of seeking help and strength in God.

Rene Voillaume. *Jesus Caritas*

LENT IN THE BATHWICK PARISHES

We will study Jane Austen, *Bath and the Future of the Church*—see below for further details.

Meetings at 7.30pm on Thursdays in Lent starting on 6th March - 10th April at St Mary's Church Hall—all welcome.

If you would like to attend please either email the parish office at office@bathwickparishes.org.uk or telephone the parish office on (01225) 447450 so we know the approx. number of people attending.

The devotional meditation on the Passion of the Lord known as Stations of the Cross will be prayed each week:

- 10am on Thursdays at St John's (from 6th March - 10th April)
- 10am on Fridays at St Mary's (from 7th March - 11th April but NOT on 4th April)

LENT GROUP 2025

Jane Austen, *Bath and the Future of the Church*

A Series of Six Lectures and Discussions

St. Mary's Bathwick
7.30pm Thursdays
March 6,13,20,27 & April 3,10



PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Lord Jesus, I see clearly now that I can only interpret life in the light of the cross. Amen



SOME CHARITY FOR OTHERS IN APRIL

ST JOHN'S CHURCH gives away 10% of its general income at the end of each year to support 12 charities. Each month we remember the work of one of these charities. Please support these good causes.

Charity for April: **THE ADDITIONAL CURATES SOCIETY**

The ACS continues its mission and aims to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of England and Wales. May we repeat as formally quoted, "when God calls people to the priesthood, he only has the laity to choose from." St. John's fully supports the help given, to strengthen the society in providing parishes with priests where there is need, and by encouraging vocations to the priesthood.

Mary Barry

ST MARY'S CHURCH makes weekly collections during the Sunday services using the "Alms" envelopes which are given away to a different charity each month. At St Mary's during April we will support:

DOROTHY HOUSE

Many of you will have had either direct experience of Dorothy House through a relative or friend, or know of it as a local charity, so the aim of this brief article is to try and share a few facts that you may not already know about our local hospice. It covers a geographical area of nearly 800 square miles and therefore has 10 local Community Palliative Care Teams caring for anyone with a life limiting illness and their families and other carers. The teams include nurse specialists who are experienced nurses with extra training in palliative care, community nurses and clinical support assistants. They can co-ordinate the patient's care and bring in other hospice services such as physiotherapy, counselling and spiritual support. They also liaise with local health practitioners such as district nurses, and support care home staff who are looking after residents who need palliative care. Over 90% of the hospice's care is provided in homes and community settings.

Dorothy House, in common with all charitably funded hospices, is facing unprecedented financial hardship. The current amount of funding that it gets from the NHS is 20% of its total running costs. Now, it is faced with the Employer's National Insurance hike of 1.2% taking it to 15%. This will cost the hospice an additional £422,000 this year, including starting to pay National Insurance contributions for staff earning £5000 or more (instead of £9,1000). Dorothy House employs a number of part time staff, including the Hospice at Home nurses who care for patients who are dying at home, usually at night so that their family can have a good night's sleep.

We will finish with a quote from a Dorothy House patient: “Dorothy House is a gift and the people who work in it, a blessing. Quite simply, thank you. Dorothy House has given me the opportunity to live my death, calmly at peace and with serenity.”

Robin and Sarah Davies

THANK YOU!

In last month's Bathwick News I asked for any unwanted blankets to be donated to the Bath City Pastors for the homeless or those who do not have enough warm clothing. I am delighted to say that several of you responded, and I am very grateful. The nights during March have been bitterly cold and therefore we have been able to hand out blankets to those who have really needed them.

Sarah Davies, Bath City Pastor.

Easter Celebrations

As most of us are aware St John's church has for sometime welcomed the Orthodox church to share their building for worship.

This year their Lectionary coincides with ours which means their Easter falls the same time as ours, therefore St Marys will be welcoming St John's congregation for the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Food items Bath Foodbank are currently in need of:

Rice (dry), tinned fruit, tinned carrots and peas, long life juice and (UHT) milk.

Non food items Bath Foodbank are currently in need of:

Single bars of soap and deodorant.

Donations can be left at the back of both churches.

ST MARY'S CHARITIES FOR 2025

This is based on the decision made by the PCC on 20th November 2024 to have one local charity a month and three national charities in those months where there are 5 Sundays in the month.

January

Mercy in Action

February

Bath Life Project (this is proposed as an alternative to Bath City Pastors who have requested a pause in donations. It is a Christian local charity working with people with learning disabilities)

March (5 Sundays)

Bath Women's Refuge

April

Dorothy House

May

Bath Food Bank with Sunday May 11th for Christian Aid as we also give food donations to the charity

June (5 Sundays)

Developing Health and Independence with June 9th 2025, Pentecost, having a collection for Bathwick honorary/assistant clergy

July

Genesis Trust

August (5 Sundays)

Bath Welcomes Refugees with one Sunday for a collection for the Mission to Sea Farers as Sea Sunday falls in July

September

Bath Open Christmas

October

Goa Anglican Centre

November (5 Sundays)

Pastoral Fund with Combat Stress on Remembrance Sunday, November 9th

December

Julian House (to include the Christmas collections or The Clewer Initiative as 2024)

Cards for Easter

We now have postcards of our icon which are on sale either via the office or at the back of the Church for 50p each.



Green News

I must first point out that the article should be called the white news - my apologies.

This news is thanks to Paul Simons of the Times newspaper.

Most shocking was the weather of March 1891. February had gone out remarkably warm for late winter reaching 19C so no one was prepared when a great blizzard blew up on March 9. The storm raged for four days with howling winds bitter cold and huge snowfalls especially bad over southern England and Wales. Spectacular snowdrift up to 8m high buried houses roads and railways and there were cases of trains lost in drifts and completely snowed under. One express train that left London bound for Plymouth on March 9 vanished that evening engulfed in a snow drift on Dartmoor. It took two days before a farmer in a nearby house noticed the top of the engines funnel poking up out of the snow. He dug a path through the snow to reach the stranded passengers and crew that had been buried without heat light or food. Eventually it took 300 navvies to dig the train out, which arrived in Plymouth eight days late, something of a record for a late running train service.

Keith and Helen Moss

WALSINGHAM PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meetings are usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5pm.

The next prayer meeting will be on:

Sunday 11th May at 5pm at St John's - NO MEETING IN APRIL.

See Chris Plummer at St John's for more information or telephone her on 01249 712894 - *All welcome.*



**Lent Lunch at
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road
Thursday 3rd April from 12pm to 1.30pm**



All proceeds to various local Charities

Maundy Thursday at St John's
Lunch of soup, cheese and bread
At 1pm

Followed by Stations of The Cross
In Church at 2pm

Please come and support
donations towards cost of meal on the day



Tuesday 8th April

7.00pm

St Mary's Bathwick Church Hall

**Sushi,
Bullet Trains
& Toilet Seats!**



A talk on Japan

By Paul Chilvers

Light Refreshments
Retiring Collection in aid of
church funds

Restoration Action Group

Why do we still need the Restoration Action Group? Haven't we completed all the projects we set out to do? These are questions that some people are asking. Well, yes, we have completed all our original projects, but that doesn't mean there isn't more to do. For years we have talked about upgrading our WCs and now we are looking into solar panels, plus there is the general maintenance and decorating to consider. These things all cost money and when you look at the church's finances you will see that our expenditure exceeds our income. We have always needed some form of fund raising - before the creation of RAG it was undertaken by the Social Committee - so we hope that you will continue to support our efforts and make it possible to keep our church looking cared for in the future.

News for Spring and Summer

Travel Lecture Orkney Revisited: Westray 28th April 2025(7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall

Westray is one of Orkney's Northern Islands and although relatively small it manages to pack a lot into its 4 miles length! Its history goes back to Neolithic times and includes the famous small figurine "The Wife of Westray" which is the oldest depiction of a human face in the UK. There are also Norse/Viking settlements. There's even a castle! The spectacular cliffs at Noup Head are home to thousands of nesting seabirds including gannets and fulmars, one of my favourite British Seabirds. I never tire of watching fulmars using the wind to glide and swoop close to the cliffs, like mini albatross. Westray is also a great place to see puffins, especially at Castle O' Burrian. The sandy bays are a great place to look for waders such as turnstones and purple sandpipers. I can certainly promise you some great photos during the evening and even a couple of short video clips!

As usual there is no admission charge as we invite donations (Gift Aided if possible as this raises more for Restoration Funds). There will also be a raffle with the star prize being a bottle of NZ Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc from Coolwater Bay winery, which reminded me of the of the main settlement on Westray that hugs the shoreline of the beautiful Pierowall Bay.

Everyone is warmly welcome, so why not invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you? I can certainly promise you some great photos during

the evening and even a couple of short video clips! If you would like any more information, please have a chat with me.

Future Dates for your Diary:

Travel Lectures: Monday 2nd June 2025: Exploring Papa Westray (7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall) More information in next month's Bathwick News.

We then take our usual summer break before restarting **Monday 29th**

September with the first of a new series of Aussie Lectures beginning with Cairns in northern Queensland.

A Japanese Adventure - Tuesday 8th April (7pm St Mary's Church Hall)

If you have always wanted to know what a holiday in Japan might be like now is your chance to find out. Come and hear Paul Chilvers talk about his experiences with **Sushi, Bullet Trains and Toilet Seats!** Surely that piques your curiosity.

ST MARY'S SUMMER FETE ON 21ST JUNE.

While RAG have been busy working on planning this, **we really do need your help if this is going to be a success.** We need the following:

- Prizes for the Big Raffle (speak to Nicky Parker if you can help with these)
- A wide range of items including **plants, preserves, crafts, bottles** for the Tombola. (plus of course **cakes on the day**)
- There will also be our usual **White Elephant Stall** so think of us while you are de-cluttering.

We **REALLY NEED new people to get involved** as the Summer Fete is our main fund-raising event. So, if you can help in anyway, PLEASE speak to myself or Andy and Nicky Parker. New ideas also very welcome!

Marilyn Kirby

Monday 28th April
7:30 pm, in St Mary's Bathwick
Church Hall

Orkney Revisited: Exploring Westray

An illustrated travel lecture by
Dr Marilyn J. Kirby



Themed Raffle and Light Refreshments
Retiring collection in aid of
St Mary's Restoration Appeal



St MARY'S CHURCH BATHWICK

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 21 JUNE: 2-5pm

Great stalls from Cakes to Cuddly Toys and White Elephant too!

Plus

Delicious Refreshments: B-B-Q, Cream Teas & Pimms Bar

(in aid of St Mary's Church Funds)



Nick on a High

Dorothy House arranged for mad volunteers to fly down a long Zip Wire stretched across the garden in front of The Royal Crescent.

Nick is grateful to his friends and family who sponsored his flight with £655 plus Gift Aid and the event has made £70,000 so far!

Nick Lennard



JUMP!



Fly!



Survive!



Bishop's letter by Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

'God is good... all the time!'

When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to 'walk the way of the cross', to notice God's grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life. And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fulness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! 'God is good... all the time!'

Bishop Ruth



St George's Day - 23rd April

When we think of St George we probably picture an heroic knight slaying a ferocious, fire-breathing dragon. As the country's patron saint St George's story is as iconic as his white and red flag. But like many early saints, the exact details of his life remain a mystery. To try to get closer to the truth behind the legend these are some facts from the fiction.

- **St George wasn't English.** Although hailed as a national hero, he was actually born in Cappadocia - modern day Turkey - in the 3rd century AD. He died in Lydda, the Roman province of Palestine - modern day Israel - in AD 303. It is believed that his tomb was in Lod and became a centre of Christian pilgrimage.
- **He wasn't a knight either.** Although he is often depicted as a knight in shining armour, the truth is less fanciful as it is more likely that he was an officer in the Roman army.
- **He was a martyr.** Like many saints, St George was described as a martyr after he died for his Christian faith. He refused to make a sacrifice to pagan gods during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian in the early 4th century.
- **He never visited England.** His reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe and his feast day – 23rd April – was celebrated in England from the 9th century onwards. He became popular with English kings and Edward I (1272-1307) had banners bearing the emblem of St George - a red cross on a white background - but St George's cross was not used to represent England until the reign of Henry VIII.
- **The dragon was added later.** The story goes that St George rode into Silene - Libya today- to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans, a story which post-dates the real George by several centuries. This story was developed and popularised in the Middle Ages to represent the battle between good and evil.
- **St George was a saint for 1,000 years before the 'holiday'.** He was canonised in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius, who claimed he was one of those 'whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known 'only to God'. The feast day of St George, 23 April, has been celebrated in England for hundreds of years. This is possibly the date of his martyrdom and following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar.



- **England isn't the only country to celebrate St George.** He is truly an international saint as England is not the only country or region to claim him as its patron saint. He is shared with Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia among others.
- **People turned to St George for protection.** During the Middle Ages, people believed that St George was one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' – a group of saints who could help during epidemic diseases. His protection was invoked against many fatal and infectious diseases, including the Plague and Leprosy. From around 1100, St George's help was also sought to protect the English army – for example, in Shakespeare's *Henry V*, and the famous battle cry 'Once more unto the breach, dear friends', Cry 'God for Harry, England, and St. George!' Five hundred years later, during the First World War, a ghostly apparition of St George is said to have aided British troops during their retreat from Mons, and the naval commander of the Zeebrugge Raid cited the saint as inspiration.
- **St George represents those we honour.** The Order of the Garter, founded by Edward III in 1348, is the highest order of chivalry in the country. To this day St George's cross still appears on the Garter badge and his image is the pendant of the Garter chain. In 1940 King George VI created a new award for acts of the greatest heroism or courage in circumstance of extreme danger. The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon, with this image also adorning many of the memorials built to honour those killed in the First World War.



A fascinating story of our Patron Saint whose day we mark with traditional English understatement.

Jenny Jones

MONTH'S MIND

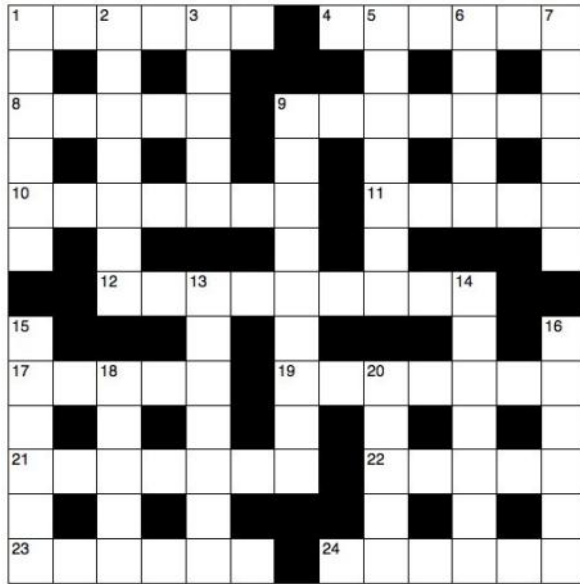
Please pray for those whose anniversary of death falls in April

- 1st John Danson, Muriel Bird, Martha Bell, Frances Brady, Thomas Leigh
2nd Arthur Payne, John England, Brian Carter
3rd Amy Mogg, Laura Maslen, Ethyl Medlycott, Sam Bailey, Renaut Drayson
4th Thomas Brown, Arthur Fudge
6th Alice Worthington, Emily Hill, Reginald (Rex) Thynne
7th Herbert Dutton
8th John Craddock, Thomas Macknight-Heward (Priest), Alfred Wyatt,
Frederick Gane, Daisy Slade, Florence Curtis
9th Donald Tibbenham (Priest), Angelina Dunn, Sydney Walter Wellington Terry
10th Irene Cannings
11th John Fudge, James William Pimm, Bruce Eyers
12th Marion Stack, Elizabeth Bacon, Cecil Pitcairn, Beatrix Hardick, Leslie Jones,
Jean Kemmery
14th Alice Mary Moon
15th Francis Heriz-Smith
16th Phyllis Staddon, Norah Elizabeth Rowe, Margaret Yates, Sheila Lockyer
17th Amy Turner, Robert Harding, Kathleen Thynne
18th Laura Bradford, Herbert Pinchin, Agnes Drake, Sara Tilley, Eila Harper,
Alfred Ledbury, Frederick Dyer
19th Richard Merrett, Maud Norton, Olive Preddy, Colin Carruthers
20th Barbara Rumbold, Aileen Young, James Pimm, Edmund Kirby
21st Eliza Lockyer, Lilian Winter, Helen Ward
22nd Douglas Moore, John Rowe (Priest), Leslie Coward, Leonard Davies,
Lucy Redpath, Beatrice Ellis
23rd Ellen White, Douglas Fear, Anna Thompson, Aileen Godden, Cecilia Ozzard,
Brian Fenton
24th Ernest Hayward, Bryan Shelley, Barbara Munro
25th Mary Lavington, Master Baster, Francis Jarvis (Priest), Mabel Harrold,
Alice Jefferis, Wallace Hamilton Barker (Priest), Gillian Ann Roessler
26th Elizabeth Owen, Lucy Rogers, Harold Kirkham (Priest), Norman Stillman
27th James Brown, William Young, Charles Maslen, Alice King, Lilian Schilling
28th Wallington Cox, Elsie Cook, Winifred Shrewsbury, Alice Harrison,
Hattie Lowe, Peter Nicholls, Albert Gear, Noreen Gilliat
29th Barbara Meyrick, Matthew Powell
30th Maud Stephens, Julie Tudor

**Rest Eternal Grant To Them O Lord and Let Light Perpetual Shine On Them.
May They Rest In Peace and Rise In Glory.**

**If you would like a name included in the Month's Mind,
please speak to the Clergy or leave a message at the Parish Office**

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Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 'The human mind or soul' (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — '
(Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem...

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



I could help you.

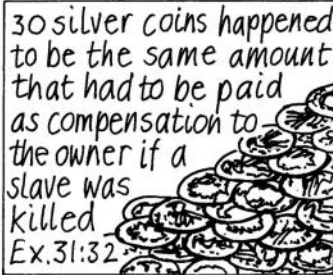
We'd be happy to pay you



How much?



30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed Ex.31:32



I'll let you know when Jesus is alone.

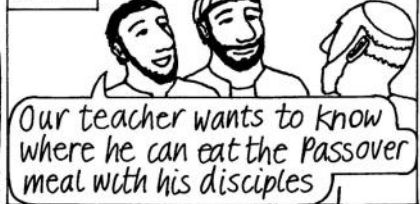
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?

Go into the city and follow the man carrying a water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house owner



Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples

The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



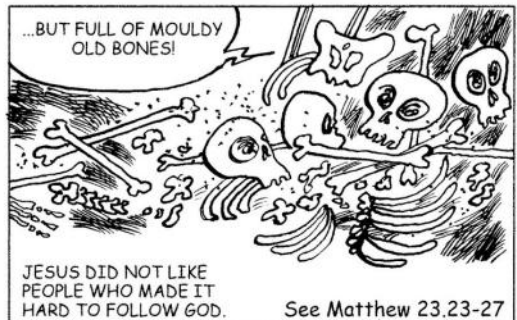
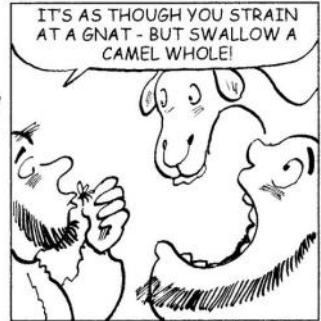
Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



"Some tough talking"



JESUS DID NOT LIKE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT HARD TO FOLLOW GOD.

See Matthew 23.23-27

Answers to March crossword

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

Bathwick Baby & Toddler Group Job Vacancy

We are looking for someone to lead our Babies & Toddlers Group on Wednesday and Friday mornings. For full job specification and details of remuneration please contact the parish office on (01225) 447450.



Fun and friendly drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their parent/carers.

Wednesday & Friday mornings 9.30am-11.30am inc. school holidays

**at Bathwick St Mary's Church Hall
£2 per family**



The Bathwick Baby and Toddler Group meet at Bathwick St Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am-11.30am (including school holidays).

We are a fun and friendly drop-in group for babies, toddlers, and their parents, grandparents and carers, currently offering indoor and outdoor activities and play for babies and toddlers and singing at the end of each session.

The entrance fee is £2 per family, which includes fruit juice, breadsticks and fresh fruit for the children, and coffee and tea all morning for the adults.

Sessions are set up and run on a rota basis by church volunteers. We are always thankful for anyone who is able to offer his or her time to help.

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PUBLIC WORSHIP WITH THE CHURCH DAY BY DAY

SUNDAYS

ST JOHN'S



9.00am MASS & SERMON

followed by breakfast in the hall

6.00pm EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

*(usually 2nd Sunday of each month;
4pm November-March)*



ST MARY'S

10.30am EUCHARIST & SERMON

followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the hall

*(this service is live-streamed whenever possible
on the Bathwick Benefice News Facebook page)*

6.00pm CHORAL EVENSONG *(usually 1st Sunday of each month)*
or **(SAID) EVENSONG** *(except 2nd Sunday of each month)*

USUAL WORSHIP ON WEEKDAYS

WEDNESDAYS: St Mary's 10.30am TRAD. LANGUAGE EUCHARIST

THURSDAYS: St John's 10.30am MASS

FRIDAYS: St Mary's 9.30am EUCHARIST

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) by arrangement:
Please speak to a member of the ministry team

Applications and Enquiries for Baptisms, Weddings, etc,
Please ask at Church or Tel (01225) 447450 for an appointment

***The "Bathwick Parishes Weekly Noticesheet" is available in Church,
by e-mail on request and at www.bathwickparishes.org.uk***

The Clergy wish to receive information about people who would welcome a visit at home or in hospital. The Sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Oils are reserved for ministry to the sick and housebound. For further information about any aspect of the Christian Faith, please contact the Church Office.