

## **Welcome from the editor**

**W**hat a year it's been! And what a lot we have to look forward to in Bitton in 2012, what with another street party planned, this time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in early June, plus the Olympic torch passing through Bitton in May on its way to the London Games! Find out more on page 11.



There is also the exciting possibility of a link between Bitton and the world-famous Kew Gardens in London, re-establishing the connection made in the 19th century by the Ellacombe vicars. Read Bob Willis's interesting report on page 14.

And we will be able to toast in the New Year at the White Hart, which opened in early November after being closed for nearly three years. Kingswood MP and Bitton resident Chris Skidmore cut the ribbon at the official opening on the morning of November 4, and that evening the pub was packed to the rafters. It was a good night!

This time last year it was announced that the United Reformed Church, also known as the chapel, in Upton Cheyney was to close permanently. But the community has rallied to save it and the church has gone from strength to strength, as Stuart Turner has been reporting for us over the months. Read his latest update on pages 10 & 11.

Also in this issue there's all the information you need to take you through the festive season in and around Bitton.

Like most of you, I am looking forward to seeing Bitton's Christmas tree all lit up, and to the carol singing on the 21st, which begins at the tree at 6.30pm.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to continuing as editor in 2012.

***Becky Feather***



## Christmas letter from the vicar

**B**ut, Vicar, you don't have to go to church to be Christian!

Nor, I suppose, do you ever have to leave your couch in front of the television to support your local football team.

But commitment, excitement, achievement, satisfaction – yes, even the stimulus that follows failure – cannot be experienced away from other people. It is 'being there' that matters. It is not much of a party if you are all on your own.

The word 'company', in its Latin origin, means 'the people you share bread with'. There is no substitute for coming to Church, being part of the company – literally breaking bread when it is a Communion service. The life of faith is not about subscribing to a theoretical doctrine. It is about a journey in the company of others, trusting in God.

Someone once asked Mother Teresa to pray for them. She said: "For what?" The person replied: "For clarity." She immediately said: "No. I will not pray for that."

"But you always have clarity and certainty," came the response. "I've never had clarity or certainty," Mother Teresa said. "I only have trust. I'll pray that you trust."

So what about Christmas? The amazing thing is that God wanted our company! He was not content to act alone; it would not be in his nature. As a God of love, he wanted people who would trust him. So he sends his Son to enlist our support, to show us how we can help to make the world a better place.

On November 13, 16 people across the Kingswood & South Gloucestershire Deanery - seven of them from our benefice - were confirmed by Lee, Bishop of Swindon.

They were signing up to the team. No more sitting on the sidelines. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God was investing himself in Team Homo Sapiens. He wants players with passion and commitment. He loves us and he wants us to trust him. That is the Christmas challenge as we approach the beginning of another year.

With my best wishes for the festive season.

**Paul Denyer**

## **Christian Aid at Christmas**

*Bring joy this Christmas.* Christian Aid's challenge this year has a familiar ring – it sounds a bit like the jingle on a Christmas card so the story on the donation envelope comes as a surprise.



It focuses on 12-year-old Shukuru Binguru and 129 other children who were separated from their families during the fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks to the help of Christian Aid's partner, all the children were eventually reunited with their families.

Money donated to Christian Aid can bring joy in unexpected ways, but always by giving practical help. As usual there will be envelopes in the pews during the Christmas period.

Please help Christian Aid to continue to give joy to the poorest people of our world. And please fill in the Gift Aid form so that the tax can be reclaimed.

In addition you may like to surprise your family and friends with some unusual presents – a beehive, a couple of chickens, a flock of ducks, a herd of goats, and more. There are plenty of gifts to select in the *Present Aid* catalogues at the back of the church.

**Nicola Bennetts**



## **Our churches and services**

### **UPTON CHEYNEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**Elder:** Muriel Williams

**☎ 0117 961 6843**

**Sunday services at 3pm**

**December 4**            No service

**December 11**        Led by Pam Dix

**December 18**        Carol service led by Martin Palmer

**December 25**        No service

*There will also be a coffee afternoon at 2pm on **Tuesday, December 13***

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**Vicar:** The Rev Canon Paul Denyer

The Vicarage, Church Avenue, Warmley, BS30 5JJ

**☎ 0117 967 3965**

**Lay ministers:** Mr Ken Gibson, 8 Church Road, Bitton, BS30 6HH

**☎ 0117 932 2122**

Dr David Bailey, Westover House, Bitton, BS30 6HT

**☎ 0117 932 8449**

**Churchwardens:**

Miss Barbara Merritt, 32 Bath Road, Bitton

☎ 0117 932 3926

Mr Jim Heavens, Eastover, High Street, Bitton

☎ 0117 932 5376

**Marriage, baptism and funeral inquiries:** To the vicar

## **'As Christmas Approaches'**

**An evening of Carols and Christmas Music with  
Con Brio, the renowned mixed voice choir from  
Bradford on Avon**

**St Mary's Church  
Saturday, December 3  
at 7.30pm**

**Mulled wine and mince pies to follow**

**For tickets (£8) call the Gibsons on 932 2122**

## **Carol singing around Bitton**

Everyone is welcome to meet at the Christmas tree in Bitton at 6.30pm on Wednesday, December 21.

We plan to sing carols around the village and end up at about 7.30pm with a few carols in the White Hart.

Carol leaflets will be supplied but bring a torch.

## **St Mary's services for December**

<b>Sunday, Dec 4</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sunday Funday in the church hall</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 11</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Gift Service and Nativity Play</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec 14</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Nativity at the Inn - meet in the car park at the Upton at 6pm</b>
<b>Friday, Dec 16</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Celtic Holy Communion, followed by coffee and cakes</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 18</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Saturday, Dec 24</b>	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Family Crib Service</b>
	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Saturday, Dec 25</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Praise</b>

## **Sunday Funday**

**is on December 4 at 10.30am  
in the church hall**

***'The very first Christmas present'***

Plus all the usual music, crafts  
and refreshments.

Parents are invited to stay and relax!  
Coffee, tea and newspapers will be provided

## **Decorating St Mary's for Christmas**

We shall be decorating the church on Saturday, December 17 from 9.30am and anyone interested in helping will be made very welcome.

Last year we had to trudge through the snow to reach the church - I wonder what will be in store for us this year?

**Karen Smith  
(932 3104)**

## **St Mary's December flower rota**

**December 3** Advent

**December 10:** Advent

**December 17:** Christmas Decoration



## **St Mary's Matters**

**W**e are all, young or old, members of our parish church of St Mary. But to be confirmed brings you into full membership and shows commitment and a desire to learn more about God.



On November 13, we welcomed Kate, Claudette, Leon, Emily, Alice and Evie, who were confirmed by Bishop Lee, along with another 13 people from the diocese.

Now Christmas is coming! Rush about and panic! Have you bought everything? Sent all the cards? Found the perfect present for someone – and then bought another because it didn't seem quite right?

STOP! Take a breath and remember that we have all been given the best present – God's gift of love and life, shown as a baby born at Christmas.

We celebrate Christmas at St Mary's in so many ways. On December 11 we have our Gift Service and Nativity Play at 10.30am. And a re-enactment of the Nativity at the Inn takes place at the Upton Inn on December 14. See the leaflet in *Focal Point* for details.

December 18 sees our annual Carols by Candlelight service of lessons and carols. Stay afterwards to enjoy mince pies and mulled cordial. On Christmas Eve we have a service of Carols round the Crib at 4pm and then at 11.30pm we celebrate Christ's birthday at Midnight Communion – from darkness into light. On Christmas Day there will be a quiet and reflective service of Communion at 8am and then at 10.30am Christmas Praise for all the family with the now traditional Christmas quiz!

Many services, some noisy and some quiet, but all proclaiming '*Joy to the World, the Lord has Come*'.

**Barbara Merritt  
Churchwarden**

## **Who Are Our Neighbours?**

*This is the last article in the Who Are Our Neighbours? series, in which we examine how St Mary's helps others. This month we look at Müller Homes and the Bristol Soup Run*

**O**n Sunday, December 11 at 10.30am we will hold our annual Nativity Play and Gift Service – a time when rather than receive presents, we give them.

All children are invited to bring unwrapped new or nearly-new toys, books and toiletries to be passed to the Müller Homes for distribution to families in the Bristol area who might otherwise be having a very meagre Christmas.

Working through a network of partner churches, contact is made with many needy families and support of all sorts is offered, with much of the work being focused on challenging areas in the middle of Bristol.

Not all groups are church-based. 'Grandma's' provides volunteer visitors to families affected by HIV. Other projects provide care for the elderly and there is support for orphanages in Rwanda and Romania.

Adults are invited to bring tins of soup to the service which will be given to the Bristol Soup Run Trust. This longstanding charity, whose chairman Graham Wheeler is based in Longwell Green, distributes soup and sandwiches every night at key points in Bristol.

At the same time the Trust seeks to link those they meet with other charities who may be able to offer accommodation and advice.

As we bring our gifts on December 11 we can be sure that they are going to reach many in need and perhaps make their Christmas a little more joyful.

**Pete Midgley**

## **From St Mary's parish register**

**November 6**

***Baptism: Daniel Philip White***

**November 13**

***Confirmation by Bishop Lee Rayfield: Kate Weldon, Claudette and Leon Chiddy, Emily Harrison, Alice Pugsley and Evelyn Heavens***

## **Cricket dinner**

Mike Smith, former Gloucestershire and England cricketing legend, will be our guest speaker at the cricket dinner on Saturday, January 28 in St Mary's Church Hall, beginning at 7.30pm.

It will be the usual convivial evening with a keynote speech from our president.

**Paul Denyer**

## **Upton Cheyney church update**

**R**emembrance at the Upton Cheyney United Reformed Church was a little different this year. The chapel was packed with a congregation of around 50 and the autumnal sun shone brightly as Heather Whyte led an interactive service based around peace and love.

Jeff Dando read the Remembrance words before placing a wreath on our newly cleaned and renovated memorial. The young people read out the names of the villagers who died in World War One and then they placed hearts on a map of

the world to demonstrate the idea of uniting with love and so stopping future wars – starting with love your neighbour.

Immediately afterwards, Steve Lewis, on behalf of the synod, led a review of our progress over the past six months. Many of the congregation stayed on to join in the open forum that followed. The synod's immediate feedback was of a church with a beating heart and lots of energy and buzz.

And so on to Christmas! I would like to remind you that we are joining forces with St Mary's, bringing to you the Nativity experience at the Upton Inn on December 14 from 6pm.

This is focused on young children and all are encouraged to participate. They should just turn up dressed as their favourite Nativity person - Mary, Joseph, Angel, Shepherd or King. Any role they like! No limit on the number for each role! No lines to learn! (*Don't miss the pair of donkeys*).

And then on December 21 we will bring you Carols in the Lanes, led by Jamie's singers. Watch the noticeboards and pub's Facebook page for timings and route.

If you have any ideas for church services, community events or fundraising email me at [stuart\\_turner@hotmail.com](mailto:stuart_turner@hotmail.com)

## Olympic torch coming to Bitton!

The Olympic torch will be coming through Bitton on its way to the London Games.

From May 18, 2012, the Olympic torch relay will tour the UK in the run-up to the London Games - taking 70 days, with about 8,000 torchbearers.

The torch will pass through Bitton on its way from Bath to Bristol on May 22.

Bitton Village Residents' Association has been quick off the mark with the idea of doing something to mark the occasion so watch this space!



## Sporting reads for Christmas

**T**he aforementioned curate buys so many theological books from Amazon that your correspondent has had one more task added to his huge list of uncompleted DIY after the collapse of two shelves in the bookcase. I prefer to augment my meagre collection of texts from a book shop.



Call me dinosaur, but there is something very enjoyable about seeing the huge array of beautiful illustrated dust-covers, smelling the fresh aroma of the new print and being able to browse through so many volumes at your leisure.

At Waterstone's I researched for this month's article from a whole stand with 10 sections of the year's sporting publications. Most prominently on display are biographies of sporting greats, although how Chas Newkey-Burden came to write a whole book about the diver Tom Daley, who is barely out of nappies, I cannot fathom, although to be fair it is unauthorised.

Much more deserving is Paul Scholes' story of his 17 years in football, which were crowned with such phenomenal success. A footballer admired by everyone, who let his footballing skills talk for him.

Rugby provides World Cup captain Lewis Moody's *Mad Dog: An Englishmen*, which seems to catalogue drinking exploits and off-field high jinx more than the game. I prefer Jonny Wilkinson's remarkable story, with his obsession of perfecting his rugby skills.

If tennis is your sport, I recommend Rafa Nadal's *My Story*, and for athletics Usain Bolt's *9.58: Being the World's Fastest Man*. If, courtesy of the draw you got those elusive Olympic tickets for an obscure sport, I recommend Goldblatt and Acton's *How To Watch The Olympics*, which contains initiation into every sport.

Of local interest is Mike Vockins' biography of *Arthur Milton*:

*Last of the Double Internationals*, and also the book about Gloucestershire and England cricketer Alistair Hignell, who also played rugby for Bristol and England - *Matches, Microphones and MS*. This journey of discovery about living with MS after a sporting, teaching and broadcasting career is a moving testament of his brave fight in the face of adversity.

If anyone is thinking of buying their correspondent a book, it has to be *Slipless in Settle: A Slow Turn Around Northern Cricket* by Harry Pearson. His Friday back page article in the sports section of the Guardian is my favourite read of the week for its warm, affectionate and outrageous humour, and I'm sure his book will not disappoint.

Happy Christmas!

**Rovi Retsoc**

## **News from Bitton WI**

The Annual General Meeting of Bitton WI was held on Monday, November 14 in the church hall.

Janet Ballinger was re-elected as president. Four members of the committee stood down - Jean Hook, Margaret Garlick (treasurer), Cheryl Wright and Elaine Skidmore. Two new members were elected - Clementine Smith and Sue Stiling.

Membership of Bitton WI now stands at 57 and the treasurer reported a healthy bank balance!

We welcomed our speaker, Kenneth Warr, who entertained us with a talk about the early days of television news. He reminded us that November 1936 was when the news was first listened to on television. He talked about his role as an editor and some of his experiences, including coverage of the funeral of Winston Churchill.

Everyone enjoyed the evening which ended with the usual excellent refreshments.

**Elaine Skidmore**

## The Kew connection

**D**uring the father-and-son incumbency of the Ellacombes in the 1800s, which lasted for 99 years, there was a strong connection between St Mary's and Kew Gardens.



The Rev Henry Thomas Ellacombe (vicar of Bitton from 1817-1850) and his son Canon Henry Nicholson Ellacombe (1850-1919) had a strong interest in horticulture, as did many of the clergy during that period, and plants were exchanged with Kew including a sedum and a snowdrop which were hybridised by Canon Ellacombe.

The snowdrop can still be seen in the gardens around Bitton in the late winter. Soil was taken from the churchyard to Kew to enhance their soil; the Ellacombes felt that Kew's soil was not suitable for their plants!

Sir Ghillean Prance, who was director of Kew Gardens for 11 years, agreed to visit St Mary's recently and discuss the possibility of re-establishing the link. At the meeting were local historian Kay Ross, along with representatives of St Mary's, and Wendy Smale, who has carried out a lot of research relating to the relationship between clergy and horticulture, Ellacombe being one of the clergy she studied.

Sir Ghillean was surprised at the strong connection with Kew. It was a director of Kew Gardens, AW Hill, who wrote the biography of Henry Nicholson Ellacombe.

Sir Ghillean agreed to contact Kew Gardens to explore the possibility of a link. He expressed the view that Kew would be interested in the list of plants growing in Bitton as listed in the Rev Henry Ellacombe's book *History of the Parish of Bitton*, and possibly establishing an outpost of Kew at Bitton. He agreed to contact Kew Gardens to seek their views.

Wendy and Kay also agreed to visit Kew archives to search for further documents relating to Bitton.

## **Gardening with Rob Allen**

**A**s I was writing my article for *Focal Point* last December, we were experiencing extreme cold temperatures and snow.



This year in November we have above average temperatures of 15 degrees Celsius! It does have its advantages as it is wonderful to enjoy fuchsias in full flower, dahlias in bloom and herbaceous plants throwing up new flowers.

As I've previously mentioned, buying presents for a garden-loving person can be easy and relatively inexpensive, which is more than welcome in the current economical times. My feeling this year is that pot plant sales could be very good. When we are looking at the way we spend our hard-earned money, what better value for money than a present that provides (in some cases) scent and colour, and not an item placed in the back of the cupboard!

I suggest old favourites such as cyclamen, solanum (winter cherry) or a poinsettia. Cyclamen should be kept in a cool place, frost-free and away from draughts. They come in a wide range of sizes and colours, and, if well cared for, can last for many years. There is no mistaking solanums in the garden centre, with their bright orange berries that look like miniature oranges, but keep them out of reach of young children.

Poinsettias are the most challenging to keep; liking a warm room, the compost needs to be kept damp, not too dry or too wet. My dear Gran knew how to look after poinsettias, she could keep them going to well after Easter. I do well to keep one going until the end of January.

There are no gardening tasks this month, but don't forget the birds, and how about a trip to Westonbirt to see the stunningly lit tree trail?

All it remains is for me to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

**Rob Allen**

## **News from the Upton Inn**



Christmas Day is already fully booked at the Upton but we would love to see you here for a drink on the big day if you're out for a morning walk.

There is no better time of year to be a publican. It's always a pleasure to enjoy a drink with good friends over the Christmas period; with the fire lit and the decorations up, the Inn really does lend itself well to the festive season.

December 14 sees us hosting the third annual Nativity @ the Inn and this year is set to be the best ever. See the leaflet enclosed in *Focal Point* for details.

Merry Christmas everyone!

**Jamie Pike**

***Due to the cancellation of Flicks on  
November 18***

**Bitton Village Residents' Association**

invites you to

**Flicks in the Sticks**

on

**Friday, December 2**

for

**The King's Speech**

**Admission is FREE**

**Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8pm**

**The Church Hall, Church Lane**

**Drinks will be available from the bar and  
choc ices will be served in the interval**

## **Something to smile about**

Jan Wookey found some lovely proverbs while going through correspondence from an old friend, and kindly sent them to *Focal Point*. Here is one of them.

### **The value of a smile**

*It costs nothing but creates much.  
It enriches those who receive, without impoverishing  
those who give.  
It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes  
lasts forever.  
It creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in a  
business, and is the countersign of friends.  
It is rest to the weary, daylight to the discouraged,  
sunshine to the sad, and nature's best antidote  
for trouble.  
Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen  
for it is something that is no earthly good to anybody  
until it is given away.*

## **Tea Club**



### **Tuesday, December 6**

Christmas lunch at The Trooper. Meet at the White Hart  
at 12.15pm

### **Tuesday, December 20**

Christmas tea and sing-song with Mike Renton

*Meetings are held in St Mary's Church Hall on the first  
and third Tuesdays of the month from 2.30pm to 4pm.  
These are open meetings - everyone is welcome!*

## Beekeeping with Brenda



**P**eople often inquire about why I keep bees. I set forth on my beekeeping journey some six years ago when, with an experienced beekeeper, I collected my first swarm from Bath. I quickly discovered beekeeping is hard work, involves getting stung frequently, and then there is the messy job of collecting honey.

So why do I continue? I am able to visit the mystery of the distant past each time I watch my bees coming and going, in and out of their hive, to an era before mankind was born. The magical dance of bees and flowering plants began millions of years ago when insects and plants evolved to mutual benefit.

Early, somewhat insignificant, flowers learnt that by excreting their sugary juices, they could attract foraging insects to partake of a welcome feast, and much later, using scent and vivid displays of colour, could direct bees deep into their nectaries. On the way in to collect nectar, the bees pick up pollen on their hairy bodies which is then dusted off onto the female stigmata of the next flower they visit, pollinating the plant. The fruits that form enable plants to spread and diversify, clothing our planet in beauty.

Millions of years after the arrival of bees, such fruits provide food for both man and many other creatures, giving us apples and strawberries, tomatoes and plums in abundance each summer. Bees and many flowering plants now completely rely on each other to survive. The bees rely on nectar from flowers to give them the energy to fly and keep warm, and pollen is used by nurse bees to produce bee milk which they feed to the larvae.

Nothing more is needed by the bees except for water and propolis, a sticky substance contained in tree buds, and with it, the bees seal up cracks in their hive. Incidentally, bees have discovered other uses for propolis. Should they find an intruder mouse in the hive, stealing food or taking refuge

during winter, they will sting and kill it, but it being too large to remove, they mummify it, covering it with a layer of propolis. Very clever.

This pulse of the beehive is normally hidden from view in the cold month of December, but once the days start to lengthen again in January, life will resume in the depths of the hive as the queen once more commences to lay her eggs.

We wish our bees a Very Happy Christmas and hope they stay safe and warm in their cluster until spring arrives.

**Brenda Claxton**

## **All aboard the mobile library**

The mobile library is a free service that runs across South Gloucestershire.

It runs to a fortnightly timetable and you can get on at any stop. A range of fiction and non-fiction titles is always in stock, plus large print and children's books. If we don't have the author or subject you require on board, it can be reserved for free to be collected next visit. We also stock talking books (in CD and cassette format), jigsaws and films and TV shows on DVD.

You can use the mobile library service even if you also use another library, so South Gloucestershire and B&NES' library cards or Active Cards are valid on board. There is a lift for people with mobility problems.

We visit Bitton and Beach on alternate Thursdays. The dates for December are the **1st, 15th and 29th**, and for January the **12th and 26th**. The library is in **Cherry Gardens** from 10.35am to 10.50am, **Aubrey Meads** from 11am to 11.35am and at **Beach House Farm** from 11.45am to noon. Find out more at [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries) or by phoning 01454 868006.

**Neil Weston**  
**Librarian**

## **A post-Christmas walk**

Bitton and Hanham Abbots parish councils run a series of walks and the next one is on Wednesday, December 28 at 10.30am.

Meet at Bitton Station for Keynsham and return by 12.30pm. Just what you need after all that turkey!

## **November's quiz answers**

Last month's quiz had cryptic clues to well-known fruits. Here are the answers: **1** Blackberry; **2** Gooseberry; **3** Conference Pear; **4** Victoria Plum; **5** Damson; **6** Blueberry; **7** Quince; **8** Greengage; **9** Apple; **10** Medlar; **11** Nectarine; **12** Ugli fruit; **13** Kiwi; **14** Bananas; **15** Lychee; **16** Fig; **17** Grapes; **18** Sloe; **19** Pomegranate; **20** Redcurrant.

We also allowed some alternatives answers - crab apple and pineapple for the 'unhappy fruit' clue and orange for the 'royal fruit' clue. For 'resembling food of the gods' we allowed both ambrosia apple and honeydew melon.

And here are the people who got them all correct: Jan Wookey & friend Diane, Margaret & Bruce Sutton, the Perretts, the Bitton bellringers, Gill Dugay & Hannah Moore, Elaine Poole and Robert and Judith Butson. Well done to you all!

But there can only be one winner and the first name out the hat this month was Elaine. Your prize is on its way!

### **January deadline and quiz answers**

**Please send your copy and quiz answers to 18 Church Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HH by December 13.  
Or email [bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk](mailto:bittonfocalpoint@live.co.uk)**

## **The Christmas brainteaser**



The clues are associated with Christmas, and are a mix of factual, cryptic and anagrams based on music, literature, pantomime, film and general knowledge.

Take the first letters of each answer and rearrange them into a festive, two-word, message. Good luck!

1. According to the carol, six of these animals were busy laying'
2. The boy's at home! (*cryptic*) (7)
3. He reputedly made the first cracker (*surname only*)
4. Author of 'The Father Christmas Letters' (*surname only*)
5. Composer of the 'Messiah' (*surname only*)
6. The Latin name for poinsettia
7. Brenda Lee's popular Christmas song from the late '50s (6,6,3,9,4)
8. What parents often hope for! (*cryptic*) (6,5)
9. Christina Rossetti wrote the words to this carol
10. Where it was 'always winter but never Christmas'
11. Cliff Richard's chart-topping single in December 1988 (9,3,4)
12. Re zoo grebe scene (*anag*) (8,7)
13. This is used as a Christmas decoration (6)
14. One of Santa's reindeer\* (6)
15. James Stewart stars in this Christmas favourite
16. Tenor's bare bird (*anag*) (5,9)
17. Who is to 'rest merry', according to the carol?
18. Item of clothing associated with Christmas

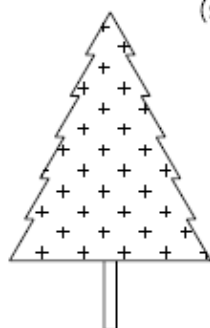
**\* Only one of Santa's reindeer can be the correct answer in order to complete the festive message**

**Name:** .....

**Contact:** .....

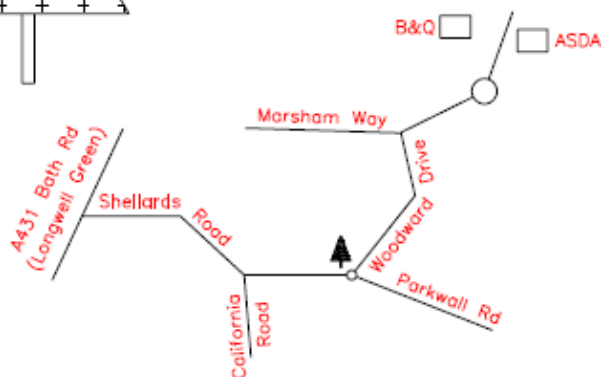
## Local Christmas Trees

from John James - Oldland  
(supplier of Bitton`s Tree)



various species from 5' to 20'  
cut from a local plantation  
re planted to ensure a sustainable supply

trees are cut & available from early December  
to ensure freshness



## The Rabbit Retreat

**Luxury holiday  
boarding for  
rabbits,  
guinea pigs  
and hamsters.**



*For the times when  
you need to take a holiday,  
have a hospital visit,  
are away on business  
or visiting friends.*

4 Fairway Close, Oldland Common, Bristol BS30 9SA  
Telephone: 0117 932 3047, email: [donna@rabbit-retreat.co.uk](mailto:donna@rabbit-retreat.co.uk)

[www.rabbit-retreat.co.uk](http://www.rabbit-retreat.co.uk)



for guys and girls @ 127 Bitton High Street  
Open Monday to Saturday

*127 Hair and Beauty*  
*Tel 0117 329 8960*

## **Professional**

- Cutting
- Barbering
- Lashes
- Make-up
- Microdermabrasion
- Retail Products and lots more
- Colouring
- Waxing
- Massage
- Nails

*[www.127hairandbeauty.co.uk](http://www.127hairandbeauty.co.uk)*

## Alan Painter & Son

A family business for three generations offering professional exterior and interior painting and decorating services locally

- Traditionally trained
- Quality workmanship
- Paperhanging specialists
- Friendly and reliable
- Competitively priced.
- No VAT added

**Contact Alan on 01179 322253 or Steve on 07853 250035**



## YOGA c l a s s e s

A gentle approach to Yoga in ST MARY'S  
CHURCH HALL on Wednesday evenings at 6.30  
to 7.45. Contact PAM JEFFERY (BWY Dip)  
at 01761453115

email: [pam.jeffery@virgin.net](mailto:pam.jeffery@virgin.net)

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

## Handyman for hire



- Flat-pack furniture assembly
- White goods and small furniture removals
- Garden maintenance/clearance
- Internal/external painting
- Bicycle maintenance/repairs
- Oddjobs and bits and bobs



**Contact Ryan on 07790 974792 for quotes and enquiries.**