

Meeting Point

Volume 33, Number 3, December 2008

The community magazine for the villages of Olveston, Tockington, Old Down, Lower Hazel, Awkley, Ingst, Aust, Elberton and Littleton on Severn

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Publication date

1st of each month

**Material for January 2009 to
Editor or Deputy Editor by
5th December**



From the Editor

Unbelievably it's that time of year again to write the cards

and letters and dust off the Christmas decorations. But before we get there we have the more sombre period of Advent and I think that this time of anticipation and preparation for Christmas can produce some of the happiest experiences of the year.

To my mind some of the best music of the season is sung in Advent and there is no shortage of opportunities to join in! The Singalong is on December 6th and there are more carols on the 10th and 13th. Of course there are also the Christmas Fairs and Bazaars to attend.

If you are thinking of having real log fires, read the poem on page 25 and find out which wood is best; then sit back and enjoy it.

I need to warn everyone of the very early date for copy for the January issue. This is so that Meeting Point can be delivered before Christmas as usual.

Finally we wish all our readers happiness and joy at Christmas.

Our cover is by Ernie Baker

Meeting Point Founded in 1976 by the Anglican and Methodist churches in Olveston, near Bristol

Village People

Norma and Keith of Old Down Hill

Pat Thirkettle

Norma Richards was born on a snowy December Sunday in Almondsbury Hospital; when her mother Laura woke up from the anaesthetic, the church bells were ringing and at first she was unsure whether she was still here on earth or had gone to heaven! The family lived at Hillcrest, Old Down Hill, where Norma and Keith live today.

It was a simple, happy childhood for Norma, her sister and brother. Water was drawn from a pump for washing and drinking water was fetched from a standpipe near the road. Light was provided by oil lamps and the earth closet was outside. The cottage was only two up and two down originally and, while Norma's father worked in the quarry, her mother brought up three children, while caring for her own blind mother and also her brother, who lived in a chalet in the garden recovering from TB.

Norma went to school at Westons at the top of Old Down Hill before she was five and was collected each day by Governess Durnell who lived at The Limes in Tockington. She then went to Olveston School, where she passed the 11+ exam for Thornbury Grammar School. On that momentous day she was allowed home, after borrowing a bike, to tell her mother. Her mother sent her round to see Mrs Pursey next door in Yew Trees Cottage, who rewarded Norma with a half a crown (12½p in today's currency)!

Electricity and running water came to Old Down Hill in the 1950s. By then Norma had left school after a year in the Commercial Form dedicated to shorthand typing and book keeping. She went to work at the Bristol Aeroplane Company as secretary to the Apprentice Manager. Keith was an apprentice and organised a Jazz Evening, while playing trumpet in a Jazz band at the social Club, so they met in their teens through a mutual love of jazz. When they were married, they bought a caravan at Woodlands Park before saving up for a house in Thornbury, where their sons Nigel and Julian were born, returning to Hillcrest in 1973.

Keith was an apprentice in the Machine and Fitting shops, but took advantage of the part-time release schemes, initially to attend what is now known as Filton College, and then to Bristol College of Science and Technology to gain his Higher National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (degree level today). He worked in the technical staff departments and moved up the ranks to obtain his Professional qualifications CEng and MIMechE. For three years, he was departmental head of the In-Service Development of Concorde's engines until future development was stopped in 1985. (Concorde was finally cancelled in 1991). He then moved on to be Operations Manager for the Development Group and finally took early retirement in 1991.

Meanwhile Norma had worked at Trinity Theological College, until she gave up to nurse her mother Laura for five years before she died in 1984. Norma then worked for a few years in Southmead Hospital and Hortham Hospital. During this time she was churchwarden at St Mary's Olveston; typed Meeting Point for many years before it was computerised; was secretary to the Parish Players for a long time;

W.I minute secretary for years; and assisted Keith who was wedding secretary for the church, when she and Keith interviewed prospective married couples.

Keith was treasurer of the Angling Club at Littleton for eighteen years; a member of Thornbury Art Club and has taught water colour painting classes for the U3A for ten years. For three years Keith painted the scenery for Parish Players productions, then every year since he and Norma have done the props and Keith has helped with the scenery. They are both members of Thornbury Ramblers and Keith is a member of Probus.

Thus they are both having a very productive retirement and they wanted me to mention how they love their succession of very well fed cats! Life on Old Down Hill generally flows peacefully but I will finish with the Great Garage Fire of 1991!

In the middle of the night our dog Cider woke us up (we live next door at Yew Trees Cottage) barking frantically. On investigation, we found one of the cars in their garage (built by Keith) ablaze. A quick call to 999 was followed by trying to wake them up. By the time the fire engine came from Patchway the firemen could see the blaze from the top of Almondsbury Hill, as the second car was by then burning merrily. A second fire engine came from Thornbury and the fire was soon under control. Then the Thornbury fire engine, presumably without the hand brake on, slid slowly down the hill and into the other fire engine, which was rendered undriveable. As bystanders we were horrified by the blaze but to the firemen it was a routine event, and the crashing fire engines were rather amusing to us, but certainly not to the firemen! Norma and Keith said it was like a combination of 'London's Burning' and 'Dad's Army'!



Olveston School Annual Christmas Fayre

Marie King

Saturday 13th December 10am to Midday

Everyone is invited to come along to our traditional Christmas Fayre. There will be plenty of stalls offering festive fun and games, a chance to meet Father

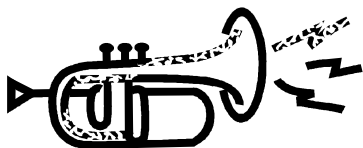
Christmas in his grotto and plenty of gifts to buy or make.

Bacon butties and other refreshments will also be available to keep you going throughout the morning.

Also at this time of year the Friends of Olveston School like to say "Thank you" to the parents and the wider community for their support during 2008. With your help we have again raised a considerable sum which has been used by the school to contribute towards the creation of a school library and other projects.

The UWE Big Band is Back!!!!!!!

Sian Slade, David Shaw



On Monday December 15th the UWE Big Band will be making a very welcome return to St Mary's Church, Olveston. This year, the band is bigger than ever and it will be joined by Fascinating Rhythm, a female close-harmony group consisting of over 30 singers.

This will be a wonderful evening of fabulous, foot-tapping music. There will be a festive atmosphere in the church with special lighting effects, candles, mulled wine, mince pies and a Christmas tree.

We hope that many of you who came to the previous hugely successful concert by these wonderful musicians will want to come again and also that those unfortunate people who missed the previous concert will be desperate to buy tickets for this performance!

Tickets are available from Olveston Stores, Sian Slade (419162), David Shaw (612781) and June Robbins (617491). Tickets cost ONLY £5 and accompanied children under the age of 12 years are admitted free of charge.

This will be a night not to be missed. Last time this band came to the church there was a fabulous atmosphere with people dancing in the aisles. It will be even better this year!! Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment and bring your friends and family. It will be the best night out you will have had for ages, and all for £5. The proceeds of the concert will be going towards the church redevelopment fund.

Lost

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the flower arrangement pedestal belonging to the Parish Hall? Please tell Carmen Pitts if you do.

New Pharmacy in Alveston.

If you don't want to go all the way into Thornbury for medicines or a prescription, you can use the Pharmacy at Greenhill (next to the Post Office). I am told that you can register and leave your repeat prescription with them. Then, when you need repeat medication, you can telephone them and they will send the prescription to your doctor for signing. They will even deliver the medication to you, if asked. Ed.

Aust Music at Christmas

Some readers may listen to Johnny Coppin's popular 'Folk Roots' show on BBC Radio Gloucestershire. They will not be surprised to learn that, with material from three albums and an anthology, Johnny Coppin, one of England's finest singer/songwriters, will present a rich mix of traditional carols and new songs, together with stories, superstitions and folklore from all over the UK and beyond for Aust's Christmas concert.

Johnny Coppin made his name in the 70s with the cult folk-rock group Decameron but has worked as a solo performer for many years. Joining him for 'All on a Winter's Night' will be multi-talented musician and fine reader of stories, Paul Burgess (of the Old Swan Band), on violin and recorders, and on guitars Mick Dolan, who has worked with Steve Winwood, Dr Hook and Show of Hands.

Johnny Coppin will be at Aust church on Saturday 13th December at 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 full and £8 concessions, available from Peter or Gina Dobbins on 01454 632306 or directly from the Boar's Head, Aust, or Olveston Stores.

Carols around the Christmas tree

Christmas is coming ... and there's nothing like a good sing of carols to get you in the festive mood.

ACT (Arts and Community in Thornbury) invite you join them in St. Mary's Centre on Saturday December 13th from 10 o'clock to 12 noon.

Schools and local choirs from Thornbury and many of the surrounding villages will be singing as well, so come and join in and bring your friends for a jolly good sing and get in the mood for Christmas!



The Inner Wheel Club of Thornbury

invite you to

Celebrate Christmas with Carols and Music

on Wednesday 10th December 2008 at St Mary's Church, Olveston at 7.00pm, in support of 'Caring at Christmas'.

This charity provides for homeless people of Bristol those traditional comforts that most of us take for granted:- warmth, accommodation and food.

Their task remains as great as ever.

Advent Talks

Roly Bain

St Mary's, Olveston, is having a series of four midweek Advent Talks this year as a way of preparing for Christmas, and Roger Royle of Radio 2 fame is kicking off on Wednesday Dec 3rd at 7.30pm, closely followed by former Vicar, Anita Thorne; then comes clown and nun Sister Hilda Mary, finishing off with Lee Rayfield, the Bishop of Swindon. Each talk is about 45 minutes, followed by questions and refreshments. There's no charge but there will be a collection as you leave to help offset expenses. Any queries to Roly Bain on 616593 or roly@rolybain.co.uk

Dec 3rd	Canon Roger Royle	'A Loose Canon'	7.30pm
Dec 9th	The Revd Anita Thorne	'Advent Dreams'	7.30pm
Dec 18th	Sister Hilda Mary	'Stars & Angels'	7.30pm
Dec 22nd	Bishop of Swindon	'A Christmas to Remember'	8pm

Christmas in Littleton

Lyn Carnaby

2008 is our year of new innovations so, following the recent Harvest Festival initiative, we are now planning Christmas. The **Carol Service** will be at **3.00 on Sunday 14th** December, followed by **mince pies and mulled wine** in the White Hart. On **Christmas morning at 9.00** we will hold a **Family Service** with a warm invitation to all visitors, friends and families to join us in celebrating Christmas. There will be a special new crib for children to fill with dolls (only during the service and not for donation) and we invite children to dress up in whatever they want to wear (from Shepherds to Star Wars) for a short and jolly service. **Come and join us!**



Christmas Appeal

Last year Sister Annalise and the Community of the Sisters of the Church, in St Paul's, Bristol, gave out **560 Christmas bags, 1,200 food parcels** and gave **80** needy people **Christmas Dinner**. To help her we will have to collect and deliver any donations by **Sunday 2nd December**. (All items within date for Christmas please.) Please check the Littleton flyer (inside Meeting Point) for details of suggested donations or phone Lyn Carnaby on 412097.

Our cash **Christmas donation** will be going to "Trickledown", a charity in Mali that helps women in need set up their own businesses. It helps with initial funding and training in book keeping and organisation and returns regularly to help them develop and grow.

Times of Services for St Mary de Malmesbury, Littleton upon Severn are listed at the back of the magazine.

Oveston and Tockington Methodist Church

Tockington Chapel: Christmas Events

Jennifer Bone

Saturday 13 December 10.30 - 12 noon: Coffee with mince pies. Fair Trade Christmas stall. Recorded Christmas music.

Wednesday 17 December at 7.30 pm: The meaning of Christmas through Poetry and Music. Concert followed by light refreshments. Tickets £3, in aid of Help the Aged, from Jennifer Bone (614601), Jane Phillips (613241), Maggie Spooner (610053) and Trevor Watkins (416528).

Tuesday 23 December 6.30 - 7.30 pm: Carols on Tockington Green. Come and go as you please. In the Chapel if wet.

For further details, please see posters.

Oveston School News

Faye Bertham

The creative curriculum has certainly 'taken off' this term as Year 4 has embarked on a learning journey through space.

"We used old pillowcases to make a tie-dye picture about space. We used blue dye and coloured the pillowcases after scrunching them up and tying them with elastic bands. After changing the water twice our pillowcases were mottled blue. It took a week for them to dry and then we decorated them with planets which we could either stick or sew on and then we made rockets using felt and sticky bits n' pieces. We also made Earth out of paper mache. We did this by covering a blown up balloon with lots of gluey newspaper. When they were dry we drew the continents and coloured them either multi-coloured or green.

Other children made up plays about space and made up music which represented the planets. To help us get ideas for our space work we were allowed to watch "Star Wars!"

Making things about space was fun!"

By Robyn P and Charlie S, Year 4

The children have also been learning about the earth orbiting the sun using balls and torches in Science.

I have been amazed at their knowledge of this subject and so proud of their motivation to learn. Well done, Year 4!

From the Registers at St John the Evangelist, Elberton

Baptism on 25th September of William and Harriet Gunnery children of Edward and Lulu Gunnery.

Baptism on October 28th of William son of Phil and Claire Barnard.

Parish Players' 'OKLAHOMA'

Linda Evans, Director



Rehearsals are now well under way for Rodgers & Hammerstein's 'Oklahoma', to be presented at the Olveston Parish Hall from 17-21 March. *However, Chorus members would still be welcomed. If interested, rehearsals are on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, details from the Secretary on 01454 415979.*

A strong principal line-up with family links makes an interesting cast. The company is fortunate in having the Allsop-Jones family to form the orchestra with Chloe as Musical Director. This year Mike Jones is treading the boards as Curley McLain, whilst Andy Clarke's daughter Louise, a talented newcomer to the group, is playing Laurey Williams. Andy himself is cast as the evil Jud, a dramatic challenge. Judy Jones plays the indomitable Aunt Eller. Andy Black is the incorrigible Ali Hakim and he is also designing the set. The comedy duo of Ado Annie and Will Parker are cast by Linda Chappel and Phil Savage, who gave such a memorable performance last year as Professor Henry Higgins in 'My Fair Lady'. David Stone plays the suspicious Andrew Carnes, the long suffering 'Paw' of Annie. Colourful cameo roles are taken by the company, including Gill & Tad Olewicz, Lesley Clarke, Rod Williams, Felicity Hemmett, Lynn Shelley, Margaret Stone, Brian Brown, Bob Slade, Mike Belsten, June & Arthur Robbins, Graham Clark, Pamela McLeod and daughter Hannah. It is pleasing to note that there has been an influx of several teenagers into the production, for example Holly Phelps who takes the comedy role of Gertie Cummings.

Choreographer Jill Harris looks forward to introducing tap dancing to the male chorus and creating the Dream Ballet.

The premiere at Drury Lane in 1947 was indeed an exhilarating experience after the austerity of the post-war years, with so many unforgettable songs and the setting of the sunny corn-growing prairies of Oklahoma following the land rush of the 1900s.

This is a musical treat in a million, offering a romantic sweep of great richness in contrast to the folk melodies inherited from the Pioneers. For fifteen years, the show held the record as the longest running Broadway musical, only to be beaten by 'My Fair Lady'.

The dramatic content of the storyline and vibrant character roles give great acting opportunities to the cast and should be a tonic for Spring audiences.

Active for Life in Olveston Parish

About a dozen adults enjoyed an exercise taster session and other activities at the Olveston Parish Morning of Action on 11th October. Four people also benefitted from a massage by personal trainer and sports therapist, Anna Cornock. One person in particular reported a much greater range of movement in her shoulder as a result. Following bike checks, there should be a few more people cycling around the parish on safer cycles.

This was a joint promotion by South Gloucestershire Council and Olveston Parish Hall committee – free of charge - in response to a previously identified need for a variety of structured physical activity sessions in the parish.

However, on a warm and sunny Saturday morning, it was disappointing that no children at all attended - despite the event being publicized via posters, flyers, word of mouth and, of course, 'Meeting Point', therefore reaching every household in the parish. None of the planned children's activities took place, nor did the family health walk.

However, Anna is ready and willing to start a new 'Body Tone' exercise class for adults at Olveston Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm until 8.30pm commencing 28th January, 2009. Come along and feel the benefit!

New Governors wanted

Olveston School's Governing Body is looking for two Community Governors to join them to represent community interests. They can be people who live or work in the community served by the school but this is not essential. Potential applicants should have a keen interest in the achievement and success of the school and a commitment to team working.

Experience as a Governor is not essential either, as training and support are available.

If you are interested in this vacancy, please contact Helen Webb, Chair of Governors by email (helenw50@gmail.com)

For further information you can look at the South Gloucestershire Council website under governors (www.southglos.gov.uk)

Closing date for these applications is Wed 31st December 2008.

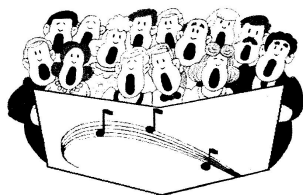
Thornbury Library

Talk on digital cameras. Wednesday 10th December. 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

Once again tickets will be available in advance, price £5, with all proceeds going to charity.

Cartoon workshop for children. Saturday 20th December 2.00pm-4.00pm

Price £2.50. This event will be suitable for children aged 7 and upwards.



come and join us at a
Christmas Singalong
at the Parish Hall, Tockington
Saturday December 6th 7.30pm
Bar and Nibbles
Tickets £4 at the door
In aid of your Parish Hall



Our Parish Matters

Andy Clarke

After such a miserable few months we might have hoped that autumn would bring the consolation of an Indian summer. Though it came, it only lasted about 3 days before more miserable weather descended, including sleet and inches of hail. Unsurprisingly some of our footpaths are consequently not in the best of condition.

However Peter Cabban, Olveston Parish Footpaths Warden, tells us that stile-replacement is under way locally and some are being changed for kissing-gates to

aid the less nimble. The Tockington to Olveston footpath is rather the worse for wear at present but it is hoped that it will be brought back to standard soon. Where other paths have become overgrown, it seems that this stems from under-use. Perhaps the advice is "use 'em or lose 'em". Peter is pleased to announce that publication of a new Parish Footpaths Booklet may soon be complete.

A number of pavements and footpaths in the residential parts of Olveston are becoming increasingly difficult to use, as hedgerows and garden frontages have become overgrown. We are hoping that this message will prompt residents to inspect their own areas to see if they can improve things for the rest of us. Where the Council bears any responsibility for work, we intend to see that action is taken too.

Sadly, October has brought the sad news of the passing of one of the Parish's most valued, and perhaps unsung, members. Roly Jackson was a man who served the Parish in very many ways over a lifetime spent living here. He was born in November 1928 and lived his early years at Ingst although he later became a resident of Olveston. This ex-Rolls Royce employee retired early at 55, leaving him with plenty of time to express the love he felt for the Parish by becoming involved in the running of so much that has gone on here.

He had a keen interest in sport, especially football, cricket and in later years, golf. He showed an interest in Parish Hall business, in providing a local youth club, and was a member of the Sports and Social Club at Old Down. Indeed, as a Parish Councillor during the 80s and 90s, he oversaw first the building of an extension and later the rebuilding of the remainder of the Pavilion at Old Down, which was completed in 2001. It was largely due to his efforts in acquiring grants for these projects that work there was possible. Our present Chairman June Lyons remembers him well as a dedicated member of the Parish Council who regularly volunteered to organise the Budget for the Annual Precept. He served on all the sub-committees, including the one that liaised over the building of the second Severn Crossing. He later went on to become a District Councillor but he always remembered the interests of the Parish that he loved. He was a man who always listened to the views of parishioners and dealt with problems with discretion and integrity.

He was a keen gardener too and held an allotment on the edge of the village. In his later years Roly also sat on the Parochial Church Council and will be remembered as a true servant of the Parish he so cherished and which now cherishes his memory. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

Roly would undoubtedly have been pleased to see the resurgence of the Parish Hall, including the reinstatement of the Annual Harvest Supper - a huge success.

Now, as the wind howls and dark nights prevail, we can at least look forward to the celebrations to come in December. To that end the Parish Council wishes all its parishioners a very happy Christmas and a New Year full of hope and success.

St Mary's Olveston - Christmas Gift and Food Collection

Rowena Winkler

We are going to repeat our very successful gift and food collection for the CRISIS CENTRE in St. Paul's – one of Bristol's vital links of care, concern and practical help for the many homeless people, and those with life-disrupting problems, living in Bristol.

Please do have a look at the list, in Olveston Stores or on the large COLLECTION BOX which I will put at the back of the church, just inside the door, from the beginning of December. Here are some suggestions:

Small cakes/biscuits/mince pies

Chocolates and sweets

Soap

Razors

Tissues

Pants (male and female)

Vests

Socks

Deodorant

Toiletries

Gloves/scarves

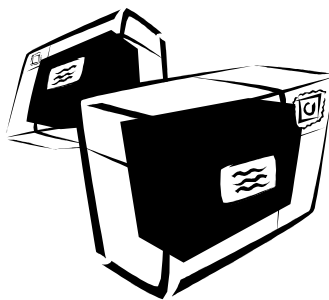
Towels

Small, nearly new or new, children's toys and books

PLEASE, NO SECOND HAND CLOTHES OR BEDDING

Please do not wrap anything – gifts will be delivered to the Crisis Centre at the end of each week in December. If you wish to make a donation of money, cheques should be made out to 'Crisis Centre Ministries' and left in the box, in a sealed envelope.

CCM works so hard throughout the year to help these vulnerable people – let us make our contribution by giving them something to remind them of the true spirit of Christmas. Questions? – Collection required? Call Rowena on 202-511.



St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group

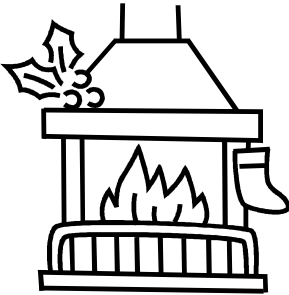
Kath Burgess

The **Annual Bazaar** for St Peter's Hospice will take place in the Armstrong Hall on **Saturday 6th December between 10.00am and 12noon**. Variety of stalls including Cards and Calendars, 30th Anniversary Cookbook, Crafts, Home-made preserves, Cakes and Puddings, plus many more.
Raffle and Teas. Entry by Donation.

Thank you for supporting St Peter's – your local Hospice.

Logs to Burn

This poem was provided by Tessa Floyd with good advice about which logs are best for burning.



Beech-wood fires burn bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year:
Store your Beech for Christmastide,
With new-cut Holly laid beside.
Chestnut's only good, they say,
If for years 'tis stored away;
Birch and Fir-wood burn too fast,
Blaze too bright and do not last,
Flames from larch will shoot up high,
Dangerously the sparks will fly.
But Ash-wood green and Ash-wood brown
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown

Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter's cold;
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke;
Elm-wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold.
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread,
So it is in Ireland said.
Apple-wood will scent the room,
Pear-wood smells like flowers in bloom,
But Ash-wood wet and Ash-wood dry
A King may warm his slippers by.

Thornbury Christmas Fairs

On Saturday 6th December the Plain and Castle Street will be hosting the third **Food Fair** of the year with the emphasis on shopping and ordering for Christmas. You could make up a hamper of local produce from the wealth of butchery, poulterers, wine merchants and sweet delights available, many with a seasonal theme and packaging. The **Arts Club** is holding an **exhibition** of works in The Chantry and Christ the King have their **Christmas Craft Fair** in the historic Porch House.

Up in the St Mary's Centre for the first time we are welcoming a **Gift Fair** of wonderful locally designed and produced presents – jewellery, ceramics, glass and organic cosmetics to name just a few. Not only all this but many **local shops** are also entering into the spirit of the day and there will be **music** in various different locations. SO avoid the Bristol queues and buy something individual for your loved ones and support your local town.

News Around - Severn Vale Art Trail.

Jane Parfitt

We are delighted to say that the Severn Vale Art Trail is to go ahead again in 2009 between the 2nd and the 10th of May. The trail extends from Almondsbury to Berkeley on either side of the A38. It will be preceded by a "Showcase Exhibition" in Thornbury Town Hall during the Thornbury Arts Festival week, which runs from 17th to the 26th of April, and will display examples of the Artists' work.

A wide range of Arts and Crafts is to be found on the Trail. Work by local Artists includes painting, sculpture, batik, textiles, basket weaving, pottery, stained glass and jewellery. Watch out for the colour brochure to be widely distributed. Copies will be available nearer the time from the Town Hall and your local shops, pubs and restaurants. These will show an example of each Artist's work, their venue address and times of opening. From this you will be able to organise your own trail to make an entertaining excursion. A clear map and signs will show the location of each venue. All work is of high quality and Artists will be on hand to explain how they go about their work.

It is hoped that you will also be able to see some of the Artists' work in Thornbury shop windows. The Thornbury Arts Festival committee is pleased to offer this Visual Arts aspect to its already popular festival week and are keen for local Artists to share and promote their work. It is certainly fascinating to discover the talent and variety of Arts and Crafts on our own doorstep.

We are grateful this year to be supported by The Castle School Visual Arts Department, who are keen to build contacts with local businesses, which will benefit their students. If you would be able to share your business skills through talks or demonstrations for pupils, please contact the number below for possibilities to be discussed.

Any new Artists wishing to take part in the Art Trail are very welcome to contact Jane Parfitt on 01454 414221 by the end of January, while there is still time to subscribe and to find out about the conditions of entry. The sooner the better to allow time to gather your work together. There may be a possibility of sharing a venue if necessary. Meetings are arranged during which you will be able to meet other Artists. We are very keen for local businesses wishing to promote local Art, to advertise in the brochure and they are also asked to enquire through the above number.

If you have already visited the Severn Vale Art Trail in previous years you will know what a pleasant experience it is. Please tell your friends! So do remember that in May you have a treat in store when you can savour a variety of Arts and Crafts produced by our local Artists, some of whom have exhibited at the RWA, all of whom show great talent and expertise.

A Thank You to Olveston

Andrew and Emma McKenzie (nee Hitch)

Despite now living in Dorset and, before then, travelling the world, my long term boyfriend proposed to me in my home village of Olveston, at the top of Vicarage Lane, with the view of the fields, the river, the bridges and the Welsh hills stretching ahead of us. Six months later, we married in St Mary's Church on a sunny October morning.

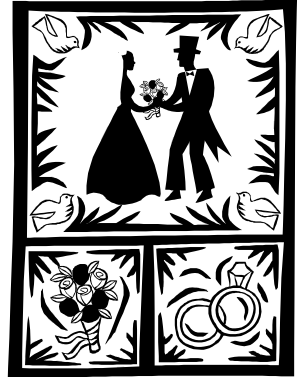
Having spent all my childhood in Olveston, it was the most perfect place to be married and meant a great deal to me.

We would like to thank the Church community for their enthusiasm and support in planning, arranging and conducting our marriage ceremony and their part in making our day so special.

Also, our many friends and family remarked on how beautiful the village was, how friendly and welcoming people were, whether in the pub, the church or the street, and how tranquil the village atmosphere appeared to be.

It evokes the feeling that we should reflect, perhaps more often than we do, how lucky we are to live or have lived in Olveston – it is a special place.

“Mid pleasures and palaces
Far may we roam
Be it ever so humble
There's no place like home”.



Friends of St. Mary's

The prize winners in September's draw, held on 29th September 2008 were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	276	Mrs. L. Evans, Alveston
£75	329	Mrs. J. Hawkins, Alveston
£25	397	Mrs. G.M. Crossley, Tockington
£20	186	Mr. G. Clark, Olveston
£20	188	Mrs. J. Williams, Pilning
£15	485	Mrs. S.E. Lyons, Ingst
£10	477	Mrs. C.M. Pitts, Olveston

The prize winners in October's draw, held on 6th October 2008 were:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	396	Mr. J. Crossley, Tockington
£75	411	Mr. R.J. Lloyd, Tockington
£25	202	Mrs. R. Jackson, Olveston
£20	468	Mr. G. Clark, Olveston
£20	343	Mr. B.R. Arkell, Olveston
£15	300	Mrs. J. Rawles, Olveston
£10	387	Mrs. M. Baker, Olveston

Are you eligible for a Grant?

Limited funds are available from the Thornbury Grammar School Foundation, at the discretion of the Trustees, for Educational Grants as follows:-

To promote the education (including social and physical training) of persons who are:

- (a) under the age of 25 years who are resident in the Parish of Thornbury, or
- (b) who are attending, or have attended Marlwood School, Alveston.

If you feel you qualify under these categories and are in need of financial assistance, further information and application forms may be obtained from:-

Peggy Belbin, Thornbury Grammar School Foundation,
19 Ashgrove, Thornbury, BRISTOL, BS35 2LH

Tel: 01454 414203 or e-mail: belbinashgrove@aol.com

Thornbury Camera Club News and Tips

NEWS

Congratulations to club member Christopher Isherwood who had two photographs selected for the 2009 St Peter's Hospice charity calendar. The club **programme for December** starts on the 1st with speaker Lyn James LRPS, subject "People and Places", an audio visual presentation of candid photography combined with travel.

4th "Port Talbot 5 way Battle", an external competition.

8th Ted Wilson presents "Exposure", a demonstration explaining the technicalities of exposure using prints.

15th Judging of Internal competition No3 "Open".

22nd Lee Preston FRPS presents mounted prints on the subject "Silence, Echoes, Patience and Grace".

TIPS

Christmas is fast approaching, so it's a good opportunity to capture the spirit of celebration by photographing the Christmas lights; this can also apply to other celebrations such as carnivals, fairs, and festivals.

Lights always show up best at night, and seasonal snow or reflections from wet surfaces can enhance your composition; use a wide angle lens to capture more Christmas lights. Consider taking shots at twilight, especially if there is interesting foreground; the extra light from the moon can provide more detail without spoiling the night scene. If you want a sharp image and aim to capture both the Christmas lights and their surroundings you must use a tripod, as you will need an exposure of several seconds, and it's impossible to hand hold your camera that long. Alternatively, a half second exposure for hand held photographs might produce some interesting light trails while keeping your original subject recognizable.

The Club welcomes new members and meets on Monday evenings at The Old Bakery Annexe, Thornbury. Contact me, Peter Haworth, for more details on 01454 612441.

Police Report for October 2008

PCSO Kelly Dimery

Firstly I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The police priorities from the Safer Stronger Community Group are youth issues/anti-social behaviour in Olveston and speeding vehicles on the B4461 at Elberton.

In relation to the issues in Vicarage Lane Park, Olveston the police have stopped and checked a few groups of youths, over the past weeks; the results are as follows:

- None of the groups was in possession of alcohol.
- Some youths were from outside the village but were with friends from the village.
- Advice was given to the youths about the problems that have been occurring. PC Hopes and I are still monitoring the situation and the park is being checked on a regular basis.

Speed checks are still being carried out on the B4461 Elberton Road by PC Hopes and myself.

Crimes for the month;

- 01/10 Theft of a garden bench from an address in Olveston.
04/10 Theft from a motor vehicle in Laxton Close, Olveston where a laptop and CCTV equipment were taken.
04/10 Break-in to a detached garage in Olveston, nothing taken.
12/10 Daytime burglary at an address in Tockington where electrical items were taken.
31/10 A 13 year old intoxicated female taken home to parents.

Contact numbers:

999 for emergencies.

All other incidents and crimes MUST be reported on 0845 456 7000 .

PC Roger Hopes

PCSO Kelly Dimery

07919 628625

07917 586645

0117 945 5959

0117 945 5964

Highgrove House

Another visit is planned for May to view the gardens (date not yet known). If you are interested I am taking names now – telephone Dan Evans. on 625313.

Can I remind you that, unfortunately, If you came last year, you cannot come again!

Olveston Preschool Devastation

On returning from the summer holidays, staff, parents and children were delighted to find a total make-over at Olveston Preschool at the Parish Hall, Tockington. After receiving a long-awaited grant and lots of help, the children now had a free-flow learning environment with outdoor garden space and many new resources.

However the delight was soon to turn to disappointment when the Preschool Leader and Deputy found complete destruction when they called in for some preparation work, the day before Preschool was due to re-open after the half term break.



To their horror, fire extinguishers had been released causing devastation and ruining furniture, books, dressing-up clothes, musical instruments ... to name but a few. In addition, smashed alcohol bottles and vomit was found on the children's snack bar and splinters of glass were still being found on children's belongings and play equipment, two days after they returned!

It is with complete dismay that we understand this destruction was caused by local sixteen year olds, many of whom we suspect may have attended this very Preschool when they were 3 and 4 years old!

Thank you to all those people who gave up valuable time away from their own families to ensure the preschoolers could be welcomed back to a safe environment after their break.

WEA Calligraphy Course

Kate Cannell

The Thornbury branch of the WEA is run by a group of local residents through the national organisation and puts on courses on all sorts of different subjects. **Starting on Wednesday 7th January 2009 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm**, and on each Wednesday until the 18th February (7 meetings), there will be a course on "**Calligraphy for All**" in the Chantry, 52, Castle Street, Thornbury. Everyone is welcome, beginners and the more experienced, young and old. The total fee for 7 classes will be £51, free to those in receipt of means-tested benefits and to some learners aged 16-18.

For anyone wanting more information, or to book a place, please ring Kate on 01454 610071 or James on 01454 415165 or email Simon on s.cannell@hefce.ac.uk.

WI Reports

Joyce Davies

In October we had another celebratory meeting when Mrs Carole King, Avon Federation Chairman, visited us to present the 'Chairman's Rose Bowl' to Mrs Carmen Pitts for her service to WI as Secretary, and for her dedication to St Mary's Church and the local community over many years. Mrs King said of the nominations put forward this year, the decision to award the Rose Bowl to Mrs Pitts was unanimous

Anne Boulton



In November more than the usual number of members gathered on a cold evening, drawn by the lure of a talk by one of their fellow members. They were not disappointed in the skill and expertise of Kate Hickman, Meeting Point illustrator. Kate deftly constructed four attractive flower arrangements suitable for the festive season. She likes to see variegated plants in her garden in winter as they always add a bright touch to the scene, and spoke warmly of retail outlets in the Thornbury area which supply all her flower-arranging needs. Four lucky

raffle winners each went home with a delightful floral prize.

Rita Garlick thanked everyone who had brought a Samaritan box. The collection of more than 30 toy-filled boxes will soon be on its way to deprived children in Bosnia. The December meeting will be a party which should be a sparkling occasion, or perhaps will go with a bang – Rita asked everyone to bring a decorated cracker!

Cricket Club News

150 Club Winners, November:

£50 Robin Davey

£15 Mike Rowen

£ 5 Jerry Walker

Christmas Bonus: John Fox and Deborah Biggin

Latest £25 Bonus Ball Winners:

18th October Dave Gardner

25th October Tony Williams

1st November Barbara Binns

8th November Dave Gardner

Diary Dates:

Fri 28 Nov:

MGM Sports Cricket Kit Sale at Olveston Sports & Social Club

Fri 9 Jan:

Sports Quiz at Olveston Sports & Social Club

Fri 28 Feb:

General Knowledge Quiz at Olveston Sports & Social Club

Tony Gardner 07889 727729 www.olddowncricketclub.co.uk

Body Tone



**A new exercise class for adults
Olveston Parish Hall
Wednesdays 7.30pm-8.30pm
£3.50 per person
Starts 28th January 2008**

**Any questions?
Please contact Anna Cornock
ACE Health and Fitness
07825 236 326
annamiss@hotmail.co.uk**

Thornbury Library

Christmas opening hours
Wednesday 24 December – 9.30-1.00
Thursday 25 December – CLOSED
Friday 26 December – CLOSED
Saturday 27 December – 9.30-5.00
Monday 29 December – 9.30-5.30
Tuesday 30 December – 9.30-5.30
Wednesday 31 December – 9.30-5.00
Thursday 1 January - CLOSED
Friday 2 January – CLOSED
Saturday 3 January – 9.30-5.00

Yours faithfully

David Bone

I am writing this on the 5th of November, before the fireworks begin. “Remember, remember the fifth of November...” – and if you can’t remember how it goes on (or never knew in the first place) then ask somebody who is likely to – somebody from OPHS perhaps.

At least, anybody reading this is likely to remember today for a different reason, not early seventeenth century political shenanigans, but a political outcome of truly dynamite proportions in the American election, so much so that people, ten, twenty, even fifty or sixty years from now will be saying: “Where were you when Barack Obama was elected?”

None of that occurred for another equally momentous event some 2,000 years ago. Nobody of importance noticed, for a start. All right, some wandering gurus did, – they had even anticipated it, they *said*. And it got noted down in one of the equivalent of the provincial newspapers. Oh, and some shepherds knew, according to another account. Both accounts, mind, with the benefit of hindsight! And his mother and father, of course; his mother in particular, she stored everything that happened in her heart.

So, time for us all to remember what Christmas is about. Perhaps, as I said in one of these pieces two years ago (remember?) with all the pressure we put upon ourselves at Christmas to *give* – time, money, presents, and so on, – we need, as it were, to turn those words of St Paul (Acts 20.35) about it being “more blessed to give than to receive” the other way round (even allowing that he is quoting a lost saying of Jesus, which nobody else could remember, it seems). At Christmas, the most important thing, the most blessed thing, is to *receive*. Receive the Christ-child into our lives, take on board his message of God’s love for us and of peace to all mankind. That’s a gift worth waiting for, and remembering!

From the Registers at St Mary’s

On 19th October: **Baptism** of Ellie Jane, daughter of Mark and Kate Lanfear, and of Charlotte Amelie Rose, daughter of Jonathan and Helen Oates.

On 26th October: **Baptism** of Isabella Alexandra, daughter of Ian and Julia Johnstone.

On 11th October: **Marriage** of Andrew McKenzie and Emma Hitch.

On 18th October: **Marriage** of Christopher Looker and Marie Amos.

On 14th October: **Thanksgiving Service** for the life of Rowland John Jackson.

Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

Dec 7 th	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Breakfast Club Evensong with Choir	Rev Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Mr Denis Jones
Dec 14 th	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Canon David Sansum Mrs Janet McBride Breakfast Club Team Rev Philip Rowe
Dec 21 st	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Breakfast Club Carol Service with Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe Rev Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Rev David Bone
Dec 24 th	4pm 11.15pm	Christingle Holy Communion with Choir	Rev.Philip Rowe & Rev Helen Webb Rev Philip Rowe & Rev Roly Bain
Dec 25 th	8am 10am	Holy Communion Family Service	Rev Roly Bain Mr Denis Jones
Dec 28 th	8am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Feast of Fools Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Canon David Sansum Rev Roly Bain Rev Philip Rowe

Information on services correct at time of going to press.

CONTACT PERSONS:

The Rev Philip Rowe, (01454 613223); email: office@stmaryssevernside.org

Please contact Philip about Baptisms, marriages, funerals or other matters at any time, but please try to avoid Thursdays except in an emergency.

Mrs. June Robbins, Verger 01454 617491

Internet: www.stmarysolveston.org.uk/index.html

PRAYER GROUP: Mondays, 3.00pm in the Church (except third Monday)

WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION: At 9.00am led by the Rev. Roly Bain

CHAPELRY OF ST JOHN, AUST

Dec 7 th	8 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 14 th	10 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 21 st	8 am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 24 th	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
Dec 28 th	10am	Morning Prayer	Rev David Bone

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone (01454 614601)

Church Wardens: Jo Jenkins (01454) 632838 and Janet Ford 633300

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

Dec 7 th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev.David Pole
Dec 14 th	3pm	Carol Service	Rev D Pole
Dec 25 th	9am	Short Family Service	Mr D Streatfield

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

Dec 14 th	9 am	Matins	<i>Mr Don Streatfield</i>
Dec 15 th	8pm	Carol Service Rock House	<i>Rev D. Pole</i>
Dec 25 th	9am	Family Holy Communion	<i>Rev D. Pole</i>
Dec 28 th		No Service	

Contact person: Rev. David Pole (01454 414810); www.sthelensalveston.org

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Dec 7 th	10am 6pm	Tockington Ch. Olveston Ch	Morning Worship led by John Hopper Evening Worship led by Glyn Varney
Dec 14 th	10am 6.30pm	Olveston Ch. Olveston Ch.	All Age Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney The Breakfast Club will join us later in the Service. Carol Service with St Andrew's Choir led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola.
Dec 21 st	10am	Tockington Ch.	Christmas Family Service led by Rev. Iesinga Vunipola.
Dec 25 th	10.15	Tockington Ch.	Christmas Celebration Service led by Mr Glyn Varney
Dec 28 th	10am 6pm	Tockington Ch. Olveston Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mrs Rosalie Doyle. Evening Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney.

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 4th Dec in the Tockington Wesley Rooms at 12.15. To book your lunch please ring 416056.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 10th Dec. To book your lunch please ring 416528

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Olveston Vestry ex. Dec 25th.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Saturdays 10.30am – 12 noon in the Olveston Methodist Hall. Sat 13th in Tockington Chapel.

DISCUSSION GROUP: A Discussion Group covering topical subjects is held on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Meetings commence with coffee 10.30am for 11.00am. at White horse Cottage, Church Hill.

CONTACT PERSON: Rev Iesinga Vunipola. 01454 412269; Iesinga@hotmail.com

THE VINE, AWKLEY

The Vine, Pilning Street, Awkley

We meet in a relaxed, informal manner for worship, prayer and conversational Bible studies and incorporating Communion, normally on Sundays at 10.30am and Mondays and Wednesdays at 7.30pm. As we also visit other churches and events, please check our Notice Board or contact us. If you would like us to pray for you, your requests can be posted through the letter box at The Vine or sent to us by post or email. Please add a name or initial to identify your request.

Mike and Barbara Matthews, tel. 07840793772 or email thevine_awkley@hotmail.com

9.00pm Wed Dec 31st New Year Prayers

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

Dec 7th	6.30pm	Simon Adair & Stuart Tett
Dec 14th	6.30pm	Colin Lewis
Dec 21st	6.30pm	Christmas Readings & Carols
Dec 25th	10am	Paul Ashford
Dec 28th	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies

For further information please contact Olwen Wonnacott (412141) or Paul Ashford (07774-110814) email: [**Paul@CalebGroup.net**](mailto:Paul@CalebGroup.net)

AUST EVANGELICAL CHURCH offers a warm welcome to Family Worship at 11.00am and to Evening Worship at 6.30pm. For more details, please phone 632564. 'Happy are the people whose God is the Lord'.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN OLVESTON - Our Sunday morning meetings are held at The Grange School in Warmley at 11 am, but the life of the church continues in a variety of forms, locations and styles throughout the week. Please contact the Fellowship Office in Almondsbury on 01454613305 for more information or on the internet at www.bcfnet.com

RC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, Thornbury - each Sunday
8.30amMass **11.00** Family Mass **6.30pm** Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury Meeting for Worship Sundays 10.30-11.30 The Hanover Room The Chantry, Castle St Wheelchair accessible. Anyone can come but children welcome with prior notice.

National website www.quaker.org.uk

Bristol area www.bristolquakers.org.uk

Local contact Elizabeth Sidwell 412975

Diary Dates for December 2008

The information given below is believed to be correct as we go to press.

2 nd Tues	Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion -Women	10.00-12.00 7.30	WR DGCL
3 rd Wed	Severn Vale Flower Club - Members' Christmas Lunch Margaret Walker 'A Celebration--' Historical Society " Portable Antiquities" Advent Talk with Roger Royle	12.00 7.30 7.30	AH MH St M
4 th Thu	Coffee Shop-Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers Thornbury & District Flower Club - Open Demonstration 'Christmas Miscellany'	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30	MH AH
6 th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Thornbury Christmas Fairs St Peter's Hospice Annual Bazaar Christmas Singalong	1030 -12.00 10 - 2, maybe later 10.00-12.00 7.30	AH PH
7 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club Combwich Medium 0117 9518913	9.00	
8 th Mon	Severn Vale Flower Club Practice-A Christmas Card	1.30	AH
9 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers WI Christmas Party -American Supper Advent Talk with Anita Thorne	10.00-12.00 7.30 7.30	WR PH StM
10 th Wed	Royal British Legion Men Inner Wheel- Celebration of Christmas in Words and Music- for Caring at Christmas Digital Cameras – talk Thornbury Library Pilning Village Pantomime Tel 633786	7.30 7.00 7.30-9.00 7.30	DGCL StM village hall
11 th Thu	Coffee Shop-Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers Thornbury Rambling Club TBA Short 414410 or 0117 9659242 Thornbury & District Flower Club Practice Class- 'In the Spirit of Christmas' Pilning Village Pantomime Tel 633786	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 10.00 7.30 7.30	MH TMH village hall
12 th Fri	Pilning Village Pantomime Tel 633786	7.30	village hall
13 th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Olveston School Annual Christmas Fayre Carols around the Christmas Tree, St Mary's Centre, Thornbury Pilning Village Pantomime Tel 633786 Music in the Church at Aust Johnny Coppin	10.00-12.00 10.00-12.00 10.00-12.00 1.00 & 6.00 7.30	vill. hall AC

14 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club Blaise Castle Short 0117 9409742		
15 th Mon	UWE Big Band Concert	7.30	St M
16 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Parish Council meeting	10.00-12.00 7.30	WR AP
17 th Wed	Christmas Charity-Poetry & Music	7.30	Tock. Ch.
18 th Thu	Coffee Shop-Olveston Stores Olveston Baby & Toddlers Advent Talk with Sister Hilda Mary	10.00-12.00 2.30-4.30 7.30	MH StM
19 th Fri	School Term ends		
20 th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning Cartoon workshop for children – Thornbury Library	10.00-12.00 2.00-4.00	
21 st Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club Ozleworth Medium 0117 9104974	9.00	
22 nd Mon	Advent Talk with the Bishop of Swindon	8pm	StM

Looking Ahead to January

7 th Jan	Visit to Slimbridge - St Mary's	11am	
7 th Jan	WEA Calligraphy course	7.30-9.30	Chy
8 th Jan	Mother & Toddler group re-starts		
24 th Jan	Burns Night	7.30	Olv Vicarage
28 th Jan	Body Tone exercise class starts	7.30-8.30	PH

Key: AC Aust Church **ACR** – Almondsbury Church Rooms; **AH** – Armstrong Hall, **AMC** – Alveston Methodist Church; **AMH**- Alveston Methodist Hall; **AP** – Alexandra Pavilion, **AVH** – Aust Village Hall; **CCCP** – Castle Court Car Park; **CH** – Cossham Hall; **Chy** – Chantry; **DGCL** – Daldry Gardens Community Lounge; **EVH** – Elberton Village Hall; **MH** – Olveston Methodist Hall; **OS** – Olveston School; **PH** – Olveston Parish Hall; **StM** – St Mary's Church, Oliv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **URC** Thorn United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms; **AC** - Aust Church

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