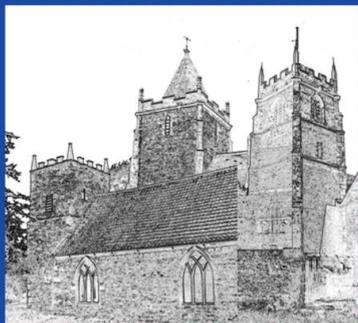


## *The Three Parishes Benefice*



St Mary's Church,  
Saltford.  
All Saints Church,  
Corston.  
Holy Trinity Church,  
Newton St Loe.



**Sunday 22nd February**

**Lent 1**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

**St Mary's Church, Saltford**

**11.15am Morning Worship**

**Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe**

**4pm Church@4**

**St Mary's Hall, Saltford**

4pm Telephone Service

**Collect**

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Readings**

Gen 2:15-17,3:1-7

Matt 4:1-11

# Church@4

Family Service every  
2nd & 4th Sunday  
at St Mary's Saltford



Lego  
Music  
Craft  
Food



All Welcome

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## **Afternoon Lent Course in St Mary's Hall**

There will be a 5 week Lent course starting on Tuesday 24th February (1-2pm)  
in St Mary's Hall, Salford.

This is in addition to the Keynsham evening Lent talks.  
Please feel free to attend whichever event suits you best.  
All welcome.

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### **Tuesday 24th February**

**7.30pm Prayer for Growth**

**St Mary's Church, Salford**

### **Wednesday 25th February**

**7.30pm Compline**

**St Mary's Church, Salford**

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## **Draw near this Lent**

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is 'Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent'. It's a very different way of thinking about the season. Often, we identify Lent as a time for prayer and fasting when we 'give things up'. More recently many have decided to adopt an opposite approach – of 'taking something up for Lent'. 'Draw near' has a much wider remit. Each week, it invites us to explore a different aspect of Christian discipleship – worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

The 'Draw Near' approach fits well with how Lent began. During the Church's earliest days, those wishing to become Christians were known as 'catechumens', people who were learning to live as disciples of Jesus. Preparation was intensive. It took place particularly in the 40 days before new

Christians were baptised on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Our season of Lent comes from this ancient practice.

When the Church began, it didn't have the trappings we're used to seeing around us such as buildings, hymn books, pews, or paid ministers. Church wasn't an institution. It was known as 'the Way'. Christians met in each other's homes and sought to work out how to follow Jesus in their every day lives. This wasn't so much about head knowledge, believing a particular set of doctrines. It was about the habits and practices that Christians constantly cultivated to help them draw nearer to God who is with us, in us, around us and beside us every moment of every day. 'Draw Near' comes out of this heritage. It's an invitation to make Lent a journey that brings us closer to God.

I invite you to make use of 'Draw Near' this Lent. It includes materials for adults, for families and for children, resources for schools and encouragement for churches. More information can be found at [www.cofeio/DrawNear](http://www.cofeio/DrawNear). As we approach Lent, let's draw near and join each other on the journey to God that is the Way.

Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

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### **Pause for Thought**

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?"

That's from the story of the wine running out at the wedding feast at Cana.

It's Jesus' response to Mary when she told him that there was no more wine left.

But it's not how John, the Gospel-writer, actually recorded Jesus' words.

He wrote, bluntly and literally,

"What to me and to you, woman?"

Let's remind ourselves that at that wedding only two people knew who Jesus was:

an ordinary human woman, Mary, Mother of God

and her son, Jesus... God in human form.

That's a pause for thought that has occupied humanity for 2000 years!

Can we step over it merely in a few seconds?

Jesus' response emphasises the unimaginable difference between himself and Mary, while at the same time emphasising the immense intimacy that sharing that knowledge has established between them.

We are so blessed. We all share that knowledge with Jesus too!

Ken Plant

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### **Sunday 1st March**

#### **Lent 2**

9.30am Morning Worship

**St Mary's Church, Saltford**

11.15am Holy Communion

**All Saints Church Corston**

4pm Telephone Service

#### **Collect**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **Readings**

Gen 12:1-4a

John 3:1-17

### **Tuesday 3rd March**

7.30pm Prayer for Growth

**St Mary's Church, Saltford**

**Wednesday 4th March**

**7.30pm Compline**

**All Saints Church, Corston**

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### **Request for more Salford Foodbank Volunteers**

Salford Foodbank Distribution Centre opened in July 2017. In the 8 years since then our volunteer numbers have gradually decreased due to some volunteers standing down due to ill health, hence we would like a few more volunteers to join our Teams.

Our current need is:-

Some fit volunteers who are free on some Thursdays to join a rota to be at St Mary's Church Hall between 12-1.30 pm to assist in unloading heavy crates from the Foodbank warehouse van and putting the individual items into our storage cupboards.

Some volunteers who are free on some Fridays to join a rota to be at St Mary's Church Hall between 10-12pm to make up food parcels and issue them to the clients who come between 10.15-11.45am.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact Norman Osborne (the Volunteer Manager) via Liz in the Office, or contact him at church.

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### **Wednesday Mornings Telephone Service**

**Ken & Teresa invite you to join them at the weekly Telephone Service on Wednesdays at 9.30am.**

**Please see below on how to join in or contact the Parish Office for help.**

**All welcome**

# ***Benefice Telephone Service***

*To join our telephone service*

~~~~~

*Dial: 03330164757*

*Room Number: 30497259#*

*Room Number: 5856#*

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## **Parish Breakfast February 2026**

Many thanks to all of you who came to the Parish Breakfast on 8<sup>th</sup> February, where £108 was raised for Salford Scouts and Guides. Breakfast preceded the Connect Service, a wonderful, interactive service encouraging us not 'to worry.' Thank-you to Pam and Christopher for leading the service and also to the team for helping set up and serve the breakfast.

The next Parish Breakfast will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, when donations will be taken for The Life Project (Bath), which provides support for people with learning disabilities. Do come!

**Julia Norris**

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## **Opportunities to Pray**

### **Morning Prayer**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday via Zoom at 8.30am

### **Prayer @ 6**

Monday to Thursday via Zoom at 6pm

## **Zoom Meeting Details for Morning Prayer and Prayer@6**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017998147pwd=L0FWMnZENHlvZ3VxS3FOeWpaNXJWZz09>

**Meeting ID: 850 1799 8147**

**Passcode: Prayer**

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

## Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

**Nigeria 2026** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March  
at 2pm  
at St. Mary's Church  
Hall, Salford.

**ALL  
WELCOME**



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led

[wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 233242

# PARISH BREAKFAST



**Sunday 8<sup>h</sup> March**

**From 8.45am in St Mary's Church Hall**

**Do come and support The Life Project (Bath) before our Sunday Service starts at 9.30am and learn a little more about this local charity, which provides support for people with learning disabilities**

**Continental breakfast to include tea/fresh coffee**

**Contact Julia Norris for more information  
(07977 956 969)**

# Corston Coffee Shop

*Held at Corston Church on the first & third Wednesday  
of each month 10.30am to noon*

*All welcome*



Our Coffee Shop is run & staffed by villagers who make & serve tea, coffee, hot chocolate & delicious homemade cakes. It's a place to meet friends & neighbours on a regular basis.

Why not come along & join us on

4th & 18th February 2026

4th & 18th March 2026

1st & 15th April 2026

6th & 20th May 2026

3th & 17th June 2026

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STARTING  
26TH  
FEBRUARY  
2026



# Wonderfully Made

## CRAFT CLUB

IF YOU LOVE CRAFTING, JOIN US ON  
THURSDAYS 1 - 2.30PM  
IN ST MARYS HALL

ANYONE OF ANY SKILL LEVEL IS MORE  
THAN WELCOME, JUST BRING ALONG  
YOUR CHOSEN CRAFT AND ENJOY



# Corston Soup & Pudding Lunch

Held at Corston Village Hall on the second  
Wednesday each month from 12.30 - 1.30pm



***Our Soup & Pudding Lunch is run & staffed by villagers who make & serve soup, bread & puddings. Come and meet friends & neighbours on a regular basis. We will be taking a break in August but will return on the following dates:***

***11th February 2026***

***11th March 2026***

***8th April 2026***

***13th May 2026***

***10th June 2026***

***All welcome***





# Little Blessings

## UNDER ONES

ST MARYS, LITTLE BLESSINGS IS A SAFE, WARM AND WELCOMING PLACE FOR NEW PARENTS AND CARERS WITH BABIES UP TO ONE YEARS OLD. A LOVELY PLACE TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND EXPLORE THROUGH SENSORY PLAY, STORY TELLING AND SONG TIME WITH YOUR BABY.

TUESDAYS 10:30AM - 12PM (TERM TIME)

### INFORMATION



01225 8722275



ST MARYS CHURCH HALL, QUEEN SQUARE,  
SALTFORD, BS31 3EL

FIND US ON FACEBOOK @ LITTLE BLESSINGS AND ST MARY'S TODDLERS

St. Marys  
Saltford



# ST MARY'S TODDLERS

THURSDAYS  
9:30AM- 11:30AM  
(TERM TIME)

ST MARYS  
CHURCH HALL,  
SALTFORD

For babies and  
children aged 0-4

## INFORMATION

 01225 872275

 St Marys Church hall , Queen  
Square, Saltford, BS31 3EL

*Find us on Facebook*

# REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN ST MARY'S HALL

MONDAY

10.30am Vast UK - weekly  
2pm Mobiflex - weekly

TUESDAY

12.30am Little Blessings - weekly  
4pm Wecil - weekly  
6.30pm Somatic Movement - weekly

WEDNESDAY

10.30am Vast UK - weekly  
4.30pm Wecil - weekly

THURSDAY

9.30am St Mary's Toddler Group - weekly  
1pm Wonderfully Made - weekly (wef Feb)  
8pm Bath Circle of Magicians - fortnightly

FRIDAY

10am Foodbank - weekly

SATURDAY

9am Perform - weekly  
10am Farandole Dancers - monthly (3rd Sat)

SUNDAY

8.45am Parish Breakfast - monthly (2nd Sun)  
10.15am Refreshments after Church - weekly

**If you would like any information about hiring St Mary's Hall,  
please contact The Parish Office.**

**Thank you**

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### **Supporting the Mission and Ministry of St Mary's Church**

If you would like to make an online donation to support the ongoing work of St Mary's please click on the donate button. It will redirect you to our online giving page. You can also give in other ways like standing order, through the contactless device in church, through our website or by cash. For more information about how to give, please speak to Pam F our treasurer and she will be able to help you.

[Donate](#)

### **Lent Talks**

The Lent Talks will take place at the Keynsham Baptist Church on the following dates, from 7pm for refreshments, with a 7.30pm start.

**24 Feb: Rev Kevin Durrant**

**“Love your Neighbour - a biblical introduction”**

**3 Mar: Rev John White (Hazelnut Project, Bristol):**

**“Love your Neighbour and creation care”**

**10 Mar: Luke Walton (Bible Society):**

**“Love your Neighbour and the media”**

**17 Mar: Rev Aidan Watson (St John's):**

**“Love your Neighbour and young people's ministry.”**

**24 Mar: Caroline Sadd (St Dunstan's):**

**“Love your Neighbour and Easter”**

As in previous years the Church will be laid out in cafe style.

All are welcome.

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# *Mothering Sunday*

## *15th March 2026*



*An invitation for you to join us to celebrate  
Mothering Sunday*

9.30am

*Communion Celebration Service  
at St Mary's Church, Saltford*

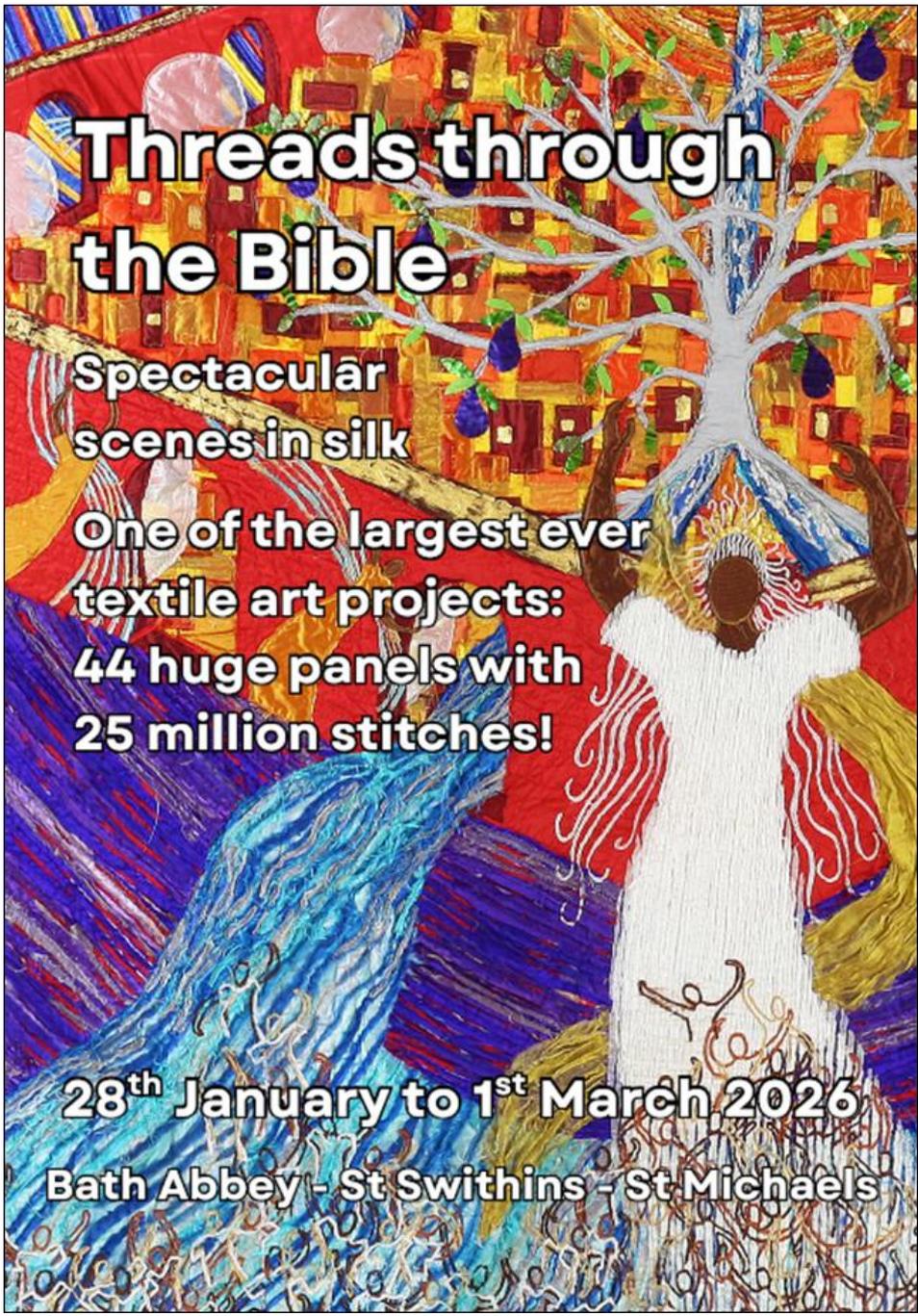
11.15am

*Family Service  
at All Saints Church, Corston*

11.15am

*Celebration Service  
at Holy Trinity Church, Newton St Loe*





# **Threads through the Bible**

**Spectacular  
scenes in silk**

**One of the largest ever  
textile art projects:  
44 huge panels with  
25 million stitches!**

**28<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**Bath Abbey - St Swithins - St Michaels**



**'breathtaking!' 'stunning!' 'inspiring!'**

**A vibrant combination of 44 huge panels**

Threads through the Bible is an astonishing display of textile art inspired by three parts of the Bible. Textile artist Jacqui Parkinson retells the stories in a vibrant combination of silks, paint, metallic leathers and gold leaf – with 25 million stitches!

Jacqui has a national reputation for spectacular, large scale work. This is one of the largest textile art projects, ever. The 44 panels are nearly 3m high with extraordinary variety. Some panels are startling and dramatic, others complex and dazzling.

**Ten years' dedication: three great sequences**

Jacqui has been working for ten years to create three great sequences. Two have toured many cathedrals and been seen by over a million visitors. Now for the first time they are joined with 'Threads through the Cross' to complete this extraordinary and inspiring project in 2025.

**'Such artistry and vision. What a privilege to be able to stand and stare.'**

**Threads through Creation** – astonishing colours and patterns. Twelve huge panels bring wonderful imagination to the creation story in the first pages of the Bible.

**Threads through the Cross** – dramatic and moving. Eighteen huge panels retell moments from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

**Threads through Revelation** – startling and spectacular. Fourteen huge panels re-imagine the strange visions in Bible's last book.

**'we have been "blown away!" Such amazing creative design and spiritual depth'**

Perfect for all ages: you'll find the work breathtaking and inspiring.

Children love it. And anyone who stitches will be fascinated to see Jacqui's unique techniques.

**28th January to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
Bath Abbey - St Swithins - St Michaels**

For more information about visiting the exhibition go to [bathabbey.org](http://bathabbey.org)



## Safeguarding

If you have cause for concern regarding the safety of a child or vulnerable adult it is vital that you contact our Benefice Safeguarding Officer.

### Safeguarding Officer

Jane George 01225 872275

[safeguarding@stmsaltford.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:safeguarding@stmsaltford.onmicrosoft.com)

# Contact Us

## **Rector**

Revd Nigel Williams

(Day off Friday)

07850 887498

Rector@scnbenefice.org.uk

## **Administrator**

Liz Benden

(Day off Friday)

Parish Office Opening Hours

(term time only)

Tues - Thurs 9am-12pm

01225 872275

scnbenefice@gmail.com

## **Readers**

### **(Lay Ministers)**

Teresa Austin

07763 208664

Robin Dixon

01225 359014

Ken Plant

01225 872904

## **Church Wardens**

Ian (Saltford)

01225 872275

Julie (Corston)

07983 910796

David (Corston)

07703 398811

Harvey (Newton)

07711 506676

Matthew (Newton)

07469 377438

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