

Meeting Point

Volume 32, Number 7, April 2008

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

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10th April**

From the Editor

This April's issue sees a number of fund-raising events and AGMs to attend as well as lots of opportunities to meet for coffee in the villages. Let's hope they are all well supported. Enjoy reading the updates on Haw Lane!

We are looking around for someone who might have a little time to spare to offer to Meeting Point. Unfortunately our excellent assistant editor, Carol Norman-Vincenot, is having to leave the team due to family pressures. Her resignation will take effect in June. I, or any member of the Meeting Point Committee, will be pleased to tell anyone interested what is involved.

Tucked away in Olveston School's Newsletter is a note from Miss Faye Bertham saying that she is thrilled to have been awarded the Headship at Olveston. Meeting Point sends her warmest congratulations on this appointment and looks forward to a close and supportive relationship between the Community and the School.

Our cover is by Kate Hickman.

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

Village Person: Jackie Cavanagh

Pat Thirkettle

Jackie and her husband Colin were born in Birkenhead and it is quite romantic how they met. Jackie was at the end of the gap year of a four-year degree course in Building Surveying at John Moore's University, Liverpool, and went home for the summer, hoping to find someone congenial with whom to spend a month or two, with no strings attached. Colin was also at home awaiting clearance from the M.O.D. before starting his first job in Portsmouth and he introduced himself to Jackie on West Kirby beach. They had fun together; then the clearance took rather longer than expected and they got to know each other better and decided to keep in touch. Colin moved to Bath after the Portsmouth job, meanwhile Jackie had moved from her first job near Exeter to Bristol in 1989. Colin then moved to Bristol and at this point they got married in 1990.

They lived in Bradley Stoke and met a friend who enticed them into joining Parish Players, which they did for three years, ('A Time to Dream, L'Entente Cordiale and 'A Song For All Seasons'). Jackie had found that the people of Bristol and district were stand offish, a far cry from Birkenhead (and the North of England generally). So they decided to move to The Green, Olveston in 1992 in order to be part of a friendly community and enjoy village life. While in Bradley Stoke Jackie had helped with the children's section at Holy Trinity Church and when they moved to Olveston, she helped Trevor Watkins with the Friday Night Club at the Methodist church for a number of years. It was all great fun but she was also working full time in Weston-super-Mare, and eventually she felt so drained that she had to stop.

She then fell off the radar for a few years, working and going to different churches and keeping a low profile. She started a new job at the University of Bath in 2002, in the Estates Department and is now head of the Building Section. This involves a twelve-hour day including the travelling, which leaves little time for other activities and she began to wonder how she could get a life. Her back trouble had become increasingly painful, so a few weeks ago she underwent surgery and has been convalescing at home.

Unable to drive, on January 6th she set off walking to St John's Church, Aust. As she passed St Mary's, Olveston, she saw the notice board advertising The Feast of Fools at the 10am service. Three times she walked on and came back until finally, with the bells playing, she was enticed inside intending to be as invisible as possible! Then she received a warm but not overwhelming welcome, thoroughly enjoyed the service, and has attended ever since. She appreciates the excellent teaching in the church, she and Colin went to the CHAT group, Colin went to the Mens' Breakfast and Jackie has joined the Tuesday evening House Group.

Having made a full recovery from surgery, she is hoping to change jobs in order to cut some of the travelling time. This would enable her to have a more rounded life, which would include the two of them having more time for their 500cc

motorbikes, and Jackie playing one of her two guitars, which she says is a hobby and not a talent!

South West Meccano Club

Meccano Exhibition

An Exhibition of Meccano old and new.
Hands on models to challenge. Memories of a hobby which inspired
so many engineers the world over.

Village Hall, Tockington on Saturday 19th April 2008, 10am - 4pm

Adults/Seniors £2, Children £1, Family ticket £5

Home made refreshments

Half of profits to charity

St Peter's Hospice Severnside Support Group



Sharing the Caring

Kath Burgess

SPRING FLING – on Saturday 19th April from
10.00am until 12noon at Thornbury Methodist
Church Hall. If you are looking for it, we have it,
clothes, accessories, bric-a-brac, books, jigsaws,
records, magazines, china, toys, a real Jumble
Sale. No reasonable offer refused for any item.

Teas and raffle available, all proceeds to St Peters Hospice, your local Hospice.
Please come along and have a rummage, you never know what you might find!

The Annual General Meeting of St Peters Hospice Severnside Support Group will
take place on Thursday 24th April in the Thornbury Baptist Church Hall
commencing at 7.30pm.

Please come along and support St Peters, your local Hospice.

Gift Fayre in support of Breast Cancer

This will be held in the **Parish Hall, Eastbury Road, Thornbury on Saturday 26
April 2008, 10.00am – 4.00 pm**

There will be various stalls including Fresh Coffee, Phoenix Cards etc. Entrance
by Donation.

For further details contact Mary Slader on 07747 562264

Haw Lane Revisited

Many people in Olveston will know what a monumental task South Gloucestershire has had in undertaking reconstruction of a safe boundary to the wood on Haw Lane after the Council had declared the previous construction to be unserviceable.

Now, as that work nears completion, a check on the County's extensive ground records, necessary to establish ownership and subsequent settlement of the bill for repairs, information has been uncovered revealing an ancient right of way running from Tockington to Aust which passes through the lower end of the beech wood and across by Severn View House on Haw Lane and beyond, finally linking up at the bottom of Vicarage Lane.

Unfortunately the information was not made available before the extensive refurbishment, as plans might have been made then to incorporate the necessary additional work in conjunction with it, thus avoiding extra time-consuming delays and inconvenience.

It has become necessary, in order to reopen this vital old footpath, to erect a footbridge across Haw Lane at the point previously indicated. There will also be a short additional period of delay while archaeological investigations take place where the footings are to be dug, although this will not exceed four months. Locals have already shown great fortitude and patience waiting for the work to be done and it is hoped that the existing alternative routes through Tockington and via Vicarage Lane will not prove too difficult over the next twelve months.

The new footbridge itself will be a discreet dark green, painted iron construction and should become a small local feature when constructed with attractive stone buttresses on each side. The target date for completion is early April 2009 and official opening of footbridge and Haw Lane has been earmarked for the 1st of that month. It is hoped that a government minister will perform the opening ceremony, along with local civic dignitaries, to commemorate the finding of this crucial ancient link between Bristol and South Wales.

Plans of the route and the new footbridge will be published in the Gazette but may also be seen at South Gloucestershire Planning Dept in Thornbury, along with the ancient document itself which has caused this hiatus. Telephone enquiries should be made for an appointment to view.

Clark Andrew (Project Co-ordinator)

Forthcoming Event

Hugh Skidding

Provisional arrangements are in hand for a formal dedication of the Haw Lane wall in Olveston and it is hoped that this will shortly be followed by the opening of the road. Timing is a little problematic and various options for Spring, Summer and Winter events are being considered, the mostly likely being Spring 2009.

Initial plans include a school holiday with a procession of decorated motor vehicles leaving Olveston by way of either Vicarage Lane or Old Down Hill in Tockington converging on the Queen Alexandra Sports and Social Club where they will assemble for a grand entrance into Haw Lane and thence to the Parish Hall. Those residents of Haw Lane who have enjoyed the relative quietness and safety as a result of the reduction in traffic are being asked to decorate the re-opened road with floral arches. The authorities intend to recoup their extensive civil engineering costs by converting Upper Haw Lane into a Toll Road under the recently relaxed Ministry of Transport guidelines. A range of charges will be established for the various categories of road users such as rambles, dog walkers, horse riders, cyclists, cars and lorries (electrically powered vehicles will be exempt).

Anyone wishing to apply for the position of Master of Ceremonies and Toll Master should in the first instance provide their CV to the editor of Meeting Point on the first Tuesday in April 2008.

Friends of St. Mary's

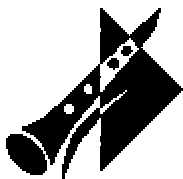
The prize winners in the draw held on 29th January 2008 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	294	Mrs. L.J. White, Olveston
£75	474	Mr. C. Malpus, Alveston
£25	461	Mr. & Mrs. R. Smith, Olveston
£20	359	Mrs. J. Hawkins, Alveston
£15	375	Mr. P.E. Savage, Kington
£15	348	Mr. E.I. Copley, Olveston
£10	490	Mr. I.J. Lyons, Cowhill

The prize winners in the draw held on 6th February 2008 at the Friends' Committee Meeting were:-

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
£150	163	Mrs. P.A. Kemp, Stoke Lodge
£75	325	Mrs. M. James, Olveston
£25	343	Mr. B. Arkell, Olveston
£20	356	Mr. D.J. Smart, Olveston
£15	194	Mrs. J. Hicks, Torpoint
£15	260	Mrs. P.R. Kerrison, Olveston
£10	510	Mr. P. Floyd, Old Down

Music in Aust Church



Something different at Aust for April! Luca Luciano, clarinettist and composer, is a classically trained virtuoso and Professor of Jazz Clarinet at the Leeds College of Music. His concert performance features a refined selection of original compositions and re-arranged jazz classics with piano accompaniment. The music has been inspired by European composers such as Debussy and Stravinsky, with some hints of folk, improvisation and a typical Neapolitan sense of the melody.

Luca will also introduce his latest CD 'Clarinet', and you can sample some of his music at <http://www.myspace.com/lucaluciano> or www.clarinetalbum.cjb.net.

Luca Luciano will be at Aust church on Saturday 12th April at 8pm. 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.

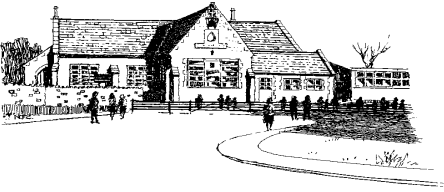
Hike for Hope.

Phil Savage thanks everyone who supported his talk on the Hike at St.Mary's on the 17th of February, and he hopes that it was enjoyed by all. Everyone continues to be most generous to the two charities, and as a result of that presentation he has been able to send a further £166 to WOW and Prostate UK. MANY THANKS.

Midsummer Ball

Tickets really are selling fast for the St Swithun's Day Ball on Tuesday, July 15th. It's being held in the marquee at Tockington Manor to launch the fundraising for the reordering of St Mary's Church in Olveston. By the time you get this issue you might just be in time to get the early bird price of £55 for a ticket, but after April 1st it's £60, I'm afraid. It's first come, first served - don't leave it too late and be disappointed. Tickets may be available from Tony Bryan on 01454 616400 or a.g.bryan@btinternet.com. General enquiries to Roly Bain on 01454 616593 or roly@rolybain.co.uk.





Olveston School News

Bannerman Road Primary School Friendships

Year 4 have made a link with an inner city school in Bristol. On Thursday 7th February they took a coach trip to Bannerman Road Primary School, Easton. Olveston School is looking forward to hosting a visit for the children of Bannerman Road this term. Bethany has written a report about the trip:

“At first we had to go on a bus. It took about 25 minutes to get there. When we got there we had to line up by the gate. Then we went into Bannerman Road Primary School. They had to quickly do the register on the white board.

After that we went outside and played a getting-to-know-you game in the playground. We asked some children if they spoke more than one language. Our group found that some children spoke English, Urdu and Arabic.

The next activity was art and we got to know a bit more about each other and our schools. We had to draw around the smallest person in the group and divide the outline. Half was to be painted as an Olveston child and half as a Bannerman Road child.

It was really fun. We then did some singing together. The Bannerman Road children knew The Building Song and so we all sang this at the end of the afternoon. We had to leave but none of us wanted to go! We had to go and so we said goodbye and left our friends. We can't wait for them to come and visit us next term. They will be spending the day with us and they have visited our website. They said our school looks like an old house! We have got lots of fun activities planned for the day they come to visit us. That was our day at Bannerman Road School.”

Bethany Smith

Willow Wonders

The School Council took a minibus ride to Speedwell Nursery School on Thursday 28th February. Armed with Digital Blue cameras, their assignment was to photograph and film the Nursery School's willow structures. The school has two small domes and a tunnel made from willow and the children thoroughly enjoyed playing in them! We were soon joined by about ten very excited nursery children who were proud to show us around the tunnel and domes. At the moment the structures have no leaves, but from April, the leaves will begin to appear. On Friday, Naomi from Avon Wildlife came into assembly to show a PowerPoint presentation about building willow structures. The School Council also talked to the children about what they had found out. The whole school is now going to create design ideas for our willow structures. The competition closed on Friday 7th March and we began creating the willows from Monday 10th March.



My Fair Lady

John Crossley

Following the increasingly ambitious and difficult to produce Musicals performed by the Parish Players in recent years, one wondered if this year's choice of *My Fair Lady* might be a *Bridge Too Far*.

One's fears were unfounded. Linda Evans once again produced and directed a superb performance of people displaying such Thespian professionalism that one had to be

reminded that most, if not all of them, have distinguished careers in other jobs and professions.

My Fair Lady, based, of course, on Shaw's *Pygmalion*, with its superb dialogue adapted from the book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and with the wonderful music of Frederic Loewe is one of the finest of all musicals. The music directed by Chloe Allsop Jones with Janet Jones, Mike Jones and Ashley Jones was so expertly performed that one forgot that this was provided by such a small ensemble. From the moment we entered the theatre greeted by beautifully clothed Flower Girls and Costers (a clever touch this) and saw the stage set of Old Covent Garden, designed, built and painted by Andy Black and Keith Richards, we knew we were in for a treat. Expertly conceived and executed stage sets succeeded each other, rapidly and quietly changed on a darkened stage-displaying the highest degree of discipline and expertise by all those concerned: Stage Manager, Lighting and Sound etc. The success of the musical depends heavily on the leading actors. Phil Savage, well supported by Graham Clarke as Colonel Pickering, conveyed to perfection Professor Higgins; academic, bachelor, misogynist, performing the often difficult numbers flawlessly. Joanna Sawyer played brilliantly the streetwise Cockney impoverished flowerseller and her transformation from street girl to "Lady" was moving and pure magic . She must have an assured and distinguished future career on the stage. Andy Black delighted us, as usual, as Doolittle. With so many little gestures and touches, like the scratching of his flea-ridden and lousy body, he really does become the person portrayed.

Having said all this it would be difficult to single out any of the supporting cast for special mention as they were all so good.

The transformation from Street scenes to Ascot and the Grand Ball, the ladies all in a succession of stunning costumes and millinery, mostly designed and made by Gill Olewicz, but also many by the ladies themselves, was accompanied by body language conveying character change, movement and dancing choreographed by Jill Harris (it must have been hard work by all to achieve) rightly received appreciative applause. In spite of the small size of the hall, using

the auditorium as part of the stage works well. Higgins' last song used this space most effectively and this and the final short scene with the rapprochement with Eliza was a real emotional tearjerker and a most memorable end to a wonderful evening.



St Mary's, Olveston

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

What's St Mary's Church, Olveston, been up to in the past year?

What are the plans for the future?

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is to be held at **7.15 pm** on **Sunday 27th April** in St Mary's Church, directly after the Evening Service. We warmly invite all those who live in the Parish to come, listen to and ask questions about what's been happening over the past year, and to share your views on our plans for the future.

A **Booklet** will be presented at the Meeting, giving details of all the activities and groups within the church. If you can't get to the meeting, or if you would like to read the Booklet in advance, you can pick up an advance copy from the church or from Olveston Stores about a week before the Meeting.

Lip Reading Classes

A series of six classes will be held in The Armstrong Hall, Thornbury starting on Thursday 24th April at 2pm. The numbers are limited to 12. For further information telephone the tutor, Mary Hall on 01179836369 or email her on lipreadingmary@yahoo.com

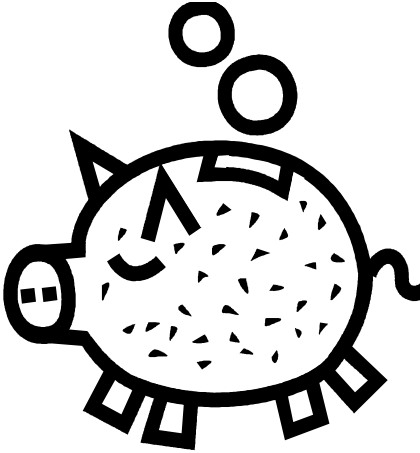


Olveston and Tockington Methodist Church

During 7-21 April we are re-decorating Olveston Methodist Hall; consequently, on Saturday 12 April and Saturday 19 April coffee will be served in **TOCKINGTON CHAPEL ONLY**.

Due to the work on the Methodist Hall, the Tockington Chapel will not be open on Friday 11 April; however,

March's exhibition on the story of Methodist Chapels in Olveston parish and the surrounding area will still be on display on 12 April.



Men's Breakfast: Money.

We chaps next meet for breakfast on Saturday 26th April at 8.30am in the Church Rooms above the Doctor's Surgery in Sundays Hill, Almondsbury. Roger Halliwell, a local Financial Advisor, will be guiding us as we consider '**Is your money working as hard for you as you did for it?**' These occasions

have been a good laugh as well as having an informative side. You are warmly invited if you are male. To book in phone Mike Keig (01454 614855) or Philip Rowe (01454 613223). Questions or suggested topics are welcome.

Christianity Explored

Rev Philip Rowe

'Christianity Explored' is an informal ten-week course, starting in April, for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. No matter how long you have been on the Christian road, or even if you are still unsure what the Christian Faith is all about, there will be something for you. This course will help us to...

- Examine some of the basic themes of our faith;
- Think about why we believe what we do;
- Put what we believe into practice.

The evening sessions start with a simple bring-and-share meal, followed by a DVD presentation, then coffee or tea and a time to chat over the topic of the evening in smaller informal groups.

You don't need to know anything about the Bible. You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud, and you can ask any questions you like. Or, if you prefer, you can just come along and listen. There is an introduction to the course on

Wednesday 2nd April.

Meet in Almondsbury Vicarage on Wednesdays at 7:30pm (3 Sundays Hill, Almondsbury, BS32 4DS) Tel: 01454 613223 Email: office@stmaryssevernside.org.uk

Wild flower cultivation

Pat Thirkettle

Nowadays it's fashionable to see a picture of a beautiful wild flower meadow accompanied by an article encouraging us to cultivate them in parts of our gardens, with apparently little trouble. However the truth is rather different. Wild flowers are ephemeral, they do not last long, they are quite hard work, and it is not a matter of scattering some seeds and expecting to emulate the picture that inspired you!



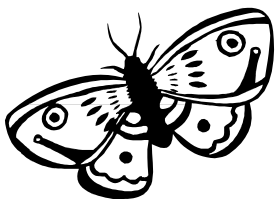
Nine years ago we purchased half an acre behind our garden, near to the cricket pitch on Old Down, to manage as a wild flower meadow. The big advantage is that Old Down had never been cultivated, so we inherited pure limestone grassland with only a thin layer of soil. Every year I record around one hundred flowers, (including shrubs trees and grasses), starting in January with the scented violet, through to the little orchid, autumn ladies' tresses, in August. There were many butterflies, moths, insects and birds but unfortunately we were not so good at identifying them. However we do recognise the six-spotted burnet moth which loves scabious and the common blue butterfly seen in all limestone areas.

The hard work started immediately, by digging up half of the bramble patch, and covering over a small area of rubbish that had been a shallow quarry, with imported soil. The recovered site from the bramble removal was seeded with a limestone grassland seed mix. Each habitat has its own flowers, and this mix included flower seeds only some of which grew on Old Down. It has been spectacularly successful, nine years later it is mostly flowers with little grass and some of the introduced flowers like kidney vetch, marjoram and basil have thrived but others never grew.

We planted a mixed hedge down one side including hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, wild privet and hedge maple. We have also planted trees including hedge maple, blackthorn and wayfaring tree. I have cheated slightly by introducing a few bluebells, windflowers and dog's mercury but they only came from Little Down and are increasing. Two other small cheats were importing primroses from a garden in Old Down and bringing in a variegated celandine from the field at the bottom of Old Down Hill!

The secret of wild flower management is to discourage all grass. Easier said than done and this is where the hard work comes in. We have two regimes, spring flowering and summer flowering. The spring flowering area is allowed to flower until around July, depending on the weather, when all the seeds are set, especially the cowslips. It is then cut down and mowed and mowed with everything removed so that no nutrients are returned to the soil. The summer flowering area is kept mowed, again removing all cuttings, until May. It then flowers with later summer flowers including harebells, ladies' bedstraw and scabious, until all seeds have set around September, when it is cut down and mowed and mowed. A few sheep or small cattle would do a better job, but they would also eat everything else!

Three years ago we introduced yellow rattle seeds that thrive on limestone, from the Cotswolds, as it is a parasite on grass and is a major component of the famous hay fields in Wharfedale. It has succeeded beyond expectation and we are scattering seeds over the areas where there is too much coarse grass. Interestingly, although I have scattered seed over the grass on the imported base soil, they haven't taken, not surprising I suppose.



The vagaries of the weather make a big difference to the flowers year by year. Last year was ideal, with a dry spring, which inhibited the grass, which usually gets a head start, followed by the wet summer, which helped the flowers. Each year some flowers do really well, and others don't, and you never know which it will be. However there are regulars which never fail such as dog daisy, wild carrot, brown and greater knapweed and scabious. It's a short

season, the flowers are really only visible in quantity from May to August, but on a sunny summer's day, Thomas's Field (named after our grandson who only lived four days) is a lovely place to be.

Thanks - John Makins

I would like to thank all those who supported me and my family during John's illness and subsequent death.

The cards, letters and flowers were a great comfort to us at this sad time.

A special thank you to those kind friends who baked cakes for after the Thanksgiving Service. Also for the comfort given by Reverend Philip Rowe and verger June Robbins.

Thank you all so much. This is a great village in which to live.

Jean Makins

WI Report

President Audrey Shepherd said we could look forward to an eventful WI year when we would be celebrating our 90th birthday in style. Members will be supporting the next group event when newly-formed Bradley Stoke will be our host. Gardening with the naked (well, nearly, and not at the Group Rally) gardeners from Malmesbury Abbey Gardens will be the main topic. Three young and enthusiastic partners from John Lewis, Cribbs Causeway, were speakers at the February meeting. Join us on the 8th April at the Parish Hall and find out what 'In a twist' means. Speaker, Mrs Hilary Severn, will explain all.



Tennis Club AGM

Olveston and Tockington Tennis Club are having their AGM on Monday 21st April at 8pm in the Tockington Village Hall. There will be cheese and wine and the chance to enter the Wimbledon Draw.

All welcome. For more information please telephone Ray Lambe, Chairman, on 01454 201589.

Marlwood School Term Dates

Apr 4 - Term 4 ends

Apr 21st - term 5 begins May 5th - Bank Holiday May 23rd - Term 5 ends

June 2nd - term 6 begins Jul 25th - term ends

Sep 3rd - term 1 begins Oct 24th - term 1 ends

Nov 5th - term 2 begins Dec 19th - term 2 ends



Village Coffee Shop

Come and support your village coffee shop run by St Mary's Church every Thursday 10 - 12 in Olveston Stores. Fresh coffee, chocolate or teas with homemade cake or biscuit for £1

STARTING THURSDAY 3rd APRIL

Chat Group: Celebrity Culture

Jackie Cavanagh

Chat group is a gathering of friends both new and old who meet together more or less monthly for fun discussions whilst enjoying wine and/or tea with some excellent food. One such discussion was Celebrity Culture, A Contradiction?

The discussion kicked off with a quote from spoof Magazine Viz which claimed "Media's insatiable appetite for stars is far outstripping our naturally occurring supply of genuinely famous people, which could reach critical levels within the decade. Government has been quick to respond by lowering the Celebrity Threshold base-rate to an all-time low of 3%."!

This quote kicked off the issue of cheapened fame, and how society currently defines celebrity, fame, culture and cultural icons. Cultural icons it seems help us to define peoples' national identity.

In ancient times, it turns out that gossip proved a useful tool to assess other people due to the limited methods of communication that were available, hence folklore and eventually legends were born of larger than life characters, such as Robin Hood and Dick Turpin.

The question was asked, who judges them to be celebrities? It was agreed that media has a large part to play in this but the way celebrity is generated and transmitted is largely hidden from view.

We don't usually get to see how the image is crafted, we just marvel at the end product. The platform-hopping between TV, Internet, magazines, papers, and mobile phones exploits an important characteristic of celebrity culture that has not previously been so apparent. Although it appears to be centred on an individual, celebrity culture does in fact have very wide-spreading roots. It operates a network in which texts from several media (film, TV, photography, print) collectively create a public profile that is not, finally, under anyone's control. One symptom of this excessive overgrowth is a shift in how celebrity culture holds our attention.

An essential of each new celebrity product, the group felt, has to be dynamically different from what the celebrity has done before, yet also reassuringly familiar. The new work must offer new satisfactions, without detaching itself completely from the winning formula. The "classic" response to this dilemma was to structure a celebrity career around a developmental narrative of subjective growth. For example, there have been the multiple reinventions practised by Madonna or David Bowie, where the celebrity's different incarnations appear to be linked by nothing but their own will to self-creation. With nothing else to lend continuity to their variable careers, we fall back on the assumption that it must be the hidden depths of their subjectivity that fascinate us so much. But the new celebrities, like other consumables, come with built-in obsolescence. Rather than developing, they are discarded. Take David Sneddon, winner of the first UK Fame Academy. His first single went straight to the top of the charts in January 2003, but by 2004

he'd quit singing. Or take One True Voice, the boy band constructed by pop stars: The Rivals. They split after releasing only two singles.

What endures now it would seem is not the celebrity, but the format. Since these undertakings are more concerned with the mechanics of celebrity culture than with any particular individual, it seems fitting that the formats have been far more successful than any of the contestants. The classic definition of the celebrity as someone who is "famous for being famous" does not begin to describe Jade Goody. She is famous for having been made famous. She is the product of our new fascination with the mechanisms that make celebrity function; think Pop Idol or even "I'm a celebrity..."

Those present for the discussion felt that fame is something one earns – through talent or achievement of one kind or another, while celebrity is something that is cultivated or, possibly, has thrust upon that person. The two are not, of course, entirely exclusive. One can be immensely talented and full of achievement and yet wish to broadcast one's fame further through the careful cultivation of celebrity; and one can have the thinnest of achievements or even be talent-less and yet be made to seem otherwise through the mechanics and dynamics of the whole industry of celebrity-creation.

Another facet, is that celebrity worship is often mixed with loathing. When reading the articles about the celebs how pleasing it is to learn that our own simpler, less moneyed, unglamorous lives are, in the end, much to be preferred to those of these beautiful, rich, and powerful people, whose vast publicity has diverted us for so long and whose fall proves even more diverting now.

Celebrity Culture, a contradiction? The group had mixed views. We, in ourselves, define our own celebrities, for instance Sir David Attenborough, Dr Martin Luther King. We define our own culture and celebrate it accordingly. Sometimes we have to accept certain "dark" parts of our culture as part of our history and origin. Celebrities are a part of our culture, and part of that culture seems to demand celebrities. The group also pondered whether or not we are actually cultivating publicity rather than celebrity?

If you would like to join us for some good old fashioned chin wagging, then please contact Sue Farr on 614861 or Angus Macaskill on 613788.

Olveston Parish Hall

Rod Williams

The Parish Hall management committee is seeking a new secretary and also a handyman prepared to do small maintenance jobs as required. The person(s) should be enthusiastic about the hall and keen to be involved in planning improvements. Please phone 612850 for more information.

Annual Parish Assembly

Valerie Tutin, Clerk to the Council,,tel 01454 613730

We are pleased to advise you that our ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY will take place this year on TUESDAY 29TH APRIL at the Queen Alexandra Memorial Pavilion at Old Down, commencing at 7.30pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to come along and find out what the Parish Council has been doing over the last year on your behalf.

The general business will be followed by a speaker from the Severn Area Rescue Association, who carried out such sterling work back in the summer flooding around Gloucester and Tewkesbury. Mr Geoff Dawe, who is Station Chairman of the Sharpness station, will be talking about that time, and the general work that SARA does in covering problems in the river down as far as Portishead with their 10 lifeboats. They do not get funding from the Government, but are a voluntary association who can be called out by H M Coastguard, Police, Fire or Ambulance Services for help. We look forward to hearing more of their work. Refreshments will follow.

Have you noticed that we now have buses on a Sunday between Thornbury and Cribbs Causeway? The 622 service leaves Olveston at 11.17, 13.17 and 16.17 reaching Cribbs Causeway Bus Station 21 minutes later, and leaves Olveston at 10.48, 12.48 and 15.48, reaching Rock Street, Thornbury 14 minutes later. Details are on the timetables on the bus stop signs at the bus shelter outside the Old Police House on the Green, and at the top of Orchard Rise.

Mayor's Grand Charity Show

The Mayor of Thornbury, Councillor Bob Griffin, invites you to the Mayor's Grand Charity Show to be performed in the Armstrong Hall on 3 May 2008. Come and be entertained - the show promises to be a sell out! The production contains a wealth of Thornbury talent and is directed by Jeanette Ward. Thornbury Castle Band will open the proceedings followed by the Thornbury Musical Theatre Group, Irish Dancers and the Northavon Youth Theatre. During the interval you will marvel at our magician's sleight of hand as he passes amongst you performing his close up magic. The second half promises to be equally exciting as it contains Thornbury Choir, TADS, concluding with a rousing sing-along with the much loved Concert Party. So come and join us either at 2.30 pm or 7.30pm. Tickets are now available from the Town Hall priced £10 raised seating/£9 on the flat with concessions of £9 raised seating/£8 flat. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. All profits from these two performances will be distributed to local Thornbury charities.

An Evening of Fashion and Jazz

This event is being organised jointly by the Thornbury branch of **Cancer Research UK**, the Rotary Club of Thornbury together with the Inner Wheel Club of Thornbury
AN EVENING OF FASHION AND JAZZ is being held in the Armstrong Hall on Tuesday 22nd April at 7.30pm

Fashion by "Just In" of Winchcombe and jazz by "The Alan Spedding Jazzmen" promise to make this a memorable evening for both ladies and gentlemen

Tickets @ £10.00 include canapes and a glass of wine

Cancer Research UK

- carry out world -class research
- ensure their findings are used to improve the lives of all cancer patients
- help people to understand cancer
- were instrumental in promoting the No Smoking ban (90% of lung cancer is scientifically proven to result from smoking)
- work in partnership with others to achieve the greatest impact in the global fight against cancer

All their work is focused on beating cancer now and in the future. Dr Paraskeva and his team at Bristol University research department have made an outstanding discovery in understanding bowel cancer. This is the second most common cause of deaths in the UK. Research aimed at reducing this is vitally important.

The Thornbury branch of Cancer Research UK has been in existence for over 30 years and has been successful in raising over that period in excess of £240,000. Rotary and Inner Wheel are proud to be supporting Cancer Research UK and are pleased to announce Berkeley Vale Motors as major sponsors

Tickets are available from Tom Grey on 01454 416269 or Sue Taylor on 01454 418974 or any member of Cancer Research UK., Rotary and Inner Wheel

St Mary's Church Walking Group Plan April, May and June 08.

April 1st: Portbury and the Zoo. Meet at 10.00 a.m. outside the Priory Arms at Portbury.

May 6th: Oldbury-on-Severn and Cowhill. (possible short church visit).
Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the large car park at the Anchor at Oldbury.

June 3rd: Ham village, the river and Whitcliff Deer Park.

Meet at 10.00 a.m. at the Salutation at Ham.

Dan Evans. Leader St Mary's Church Walking Group. Phone 625313.

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins from around the world; needless to say none was sourced locally!

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.'

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Police Report

The Safer Stronger Community Group priorities for the police remain as speeding and inappropriate vehicles on the B4461 Elberton and Rockhampton roads. The next meeting of this group (which is open to anyone on the Severn Ward) is 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th April 2008 at Olveston Village Hall, Tockington Rd.

February saw a total of 54 calls to the police and a fall to 7 reported crimes. At the beginning of the month a caravan in Aust had gas bottles stolen from outside. Stables in Ingst were attacked again where doors were forced open and quite a bit of damage caused. The Insurance company that occupies the old services in Aust had money stolen from offices.

In the middle of the month a turn-out rug was stolen from a horse in a field in Old Down and the electric fence to the field was damaged. An assault was reported in Littleton, there was also damage to a vehicle in Field Lane, Littleton.

On 19th February a house in Redhill Lane, Elberton was subject to a burglary. At about 4.45pm offenders used a couple of large stones to smash the glass to the door, they then climbed through, forced the alarm control pad and siren off the wall, then made an untidy search of all rooms and stole items such as a DVD player, Playstation, games and jewellery.

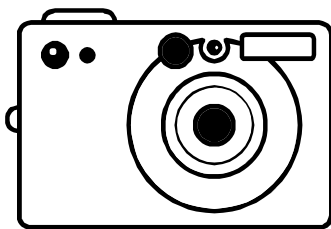
A couple of residents of Olveston tell me that they've suffered from nuisance types of incidents where large flower planters have been turned over and other similar sorts of things. I'm also going to include Olveston village and Tockington Rd when I conduct speed watch patrols after complaints at the beat surgery and from councillors.

The next beat surgeries at Olveston Stores are on 3rd April, then 8th May and run from 1030am to Middy.

Roger Hopes, PC 3404 Neighbourhood Beat Manager DC 125 Severnvale

Phone: 0117 945 5959, Mobile: 07919628625

Thornbury Library



Frightened of your new digital camera?

Thornbury Camera Club can put your mind at rest so that you - and your camera - can enjoy your summer holidays and have the photos to prove it!

Come along to a special one-off 'beginners' session' at the library on Wednesday 16 April at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 and available in advance from the library. Numbers are limited so please book early. .All proceeds are for charity.

Children's Easter holiday activities

Animal antics!

Wednesday 9 April. This event will be *FREE* but ticket only to limit numbers. Once again first come first served so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Overdues and reservation notifications by e-mail

Last year it cost the library service over £12,000 to send out overdues and reservation notifications by post. Please help us to save money by providing us with your current e-mail address. This could benefit you as it's quicker and we could also tell you about library events/new books etc. We are also looking into the feasibility of a pre-overdue which would save you money!

Healthy living during the month of May!

Don't forget our health month in May. Lots of local groups have kindly offered to take part from Salsacise dancing to a relaxing massage, so please come along on most Wednesday and Saturday mornings in May when you can do more than just read about it, you can actually do it!

Thornbury Library Committee

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9 April at 7.30pm and you are welcome to come along at the start of the meeting to raise any issues relating to your local library. Entry is via the back door on St Mary Street.

From the Registers

2nd March : Baptism at St Mary's Olveston of Emily Kate Imogen daughter of Martin and Pauline Elms.

15th February: Burial of Ashes at St Mary's, Olveston of Stanley Micklewright

19th February: Funeral Service at St Mary's, Olveston followed by Burial in the churchyard of Emma Marie (Joyce) Watkins

4th March: Cremation at Westerleigh followed by Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's, Almondsbury followed by Burial of Ashes at St Mary's, Olveston of John William Makins.



Weather- February 2008

Marcus Bean

ITEM	DATE RECORDED	ACTUAL READINGS 2008	ACTUAL READINGS 2007	LONG TERM AVERAGE
Max Temp °C	11 th	16.9	15.8	14.9
Min Temp °C	17 th	Minus 3.7	Minus 5.2	Minus 2.4
Average Temp °C	—	6.82	7.9	6.66
Max Press. mbars	16 th	1041	1040	1040
Min Press. mbars	3 rd	991	977	996
Average Press. mbars	—	1020.7	1004.6	1015.7
Max Wind speed mph	4 th	42	51	47
Days with Gales	1 st , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th	4	1	5
Max Day Rainfall mm	4 th	9.42	11.67	15.00
Rainfall in Month mm	—	29.54	86.20	77.21

Boisterous conditions characterised the first six days of February, with strong or gale force winds and heavy rain. By the 7th the effects were felt of a very large high pressure system centred over Northern Germany bringing mainly sunny dry days and chilly nights. This pattern continued until the 21st when the high pressure slipped Southwards allowing Atlantic systems to dominate the weather. A spell of windy weather with some rain interspersed with sunshine and warm days ensued and continued to the month's end.

Resultant upon the prolonged period of anticyclonic, conditions the average pressure for the month was well above average and also the sunshine level was very high; it being the sunniest February since 1929. Rainfall was about a third of normal whilst average temperature was only moderately above that expected for this time of year. We had six air frosts and sixteen ground frosts in the month.

Yours Faithfully

Jean Grudgings

Responding “to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts” as Quakers are asked to do from our booklet of *Advices and Queries*, is often difficult and frustrating. It is easy to brush them aside if they do not fit your present needs.

An instance of this happened recently in a Quaker Service – a Meeting for Worship. A friend was seeking an inner calm by laying aside the hectic pattern of his life. After a few moments these words came into his mind and he felt a cloak of warmth and love surrounding him.

“Do not worry, all your problems and anxieties that now press upon you, will be resolved.”

At first he was puzzled what these words meant for him: he had few problems and anxieties that were pressing. Reluctantly he laid the words aside for the rest of the Meeting.

Shortly after, as a prison chaplain at Leyhill Prison, he was assisting the intake of new prisoners by recording their details. He had in front of him a young man of Indian descent, a Sikh, who was much agitated by finding himself in prison. He had been trying to enter the UK on a false passport! His concerns were for his family, how they would cope without him being there to provide and care for them. He felt isolated and helpless.

In trying to calm this young man, the words from the Meeting came into this Friend’s mind: “Do not worry, the problems and anxieties that now press upon you, will be resolved”. The Friend realised how he needed these words to say to the prisoner. As he said them, he saw their calming effect, and the young man’s face relaxed and his agitation lessened.

“Have you something to write on?” asked the young man – whose possessions had been taken from him in prison. Feeling in his pocket the Friend found the small booklet – the Quaker “*Advices and Queries*” and handed it over with a pen. The Indian took it, wrote on the inside cover, and then handed it back. He had written “God bless you”.

Church News: ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OLVESTON

April 6th Easter 3	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Family Service Breakfast Club Evensong with Choir	Rev. Philip Rowe Rev. Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Rev. David Bone
April 13th Easter 4	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 Rower
April 20th Easter 5	8am 10am 10am 6pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion with Choir Breakfast Club Evensong	Rev Philip Rowe Rev. Philip Rowe Breakfast Club Team Rev .Philip Rowe
April 27th Easter 6	8 am 10am 6 pm	Holy Communion Pet Service Evensong (BCP) with Choir	Canon David Sansum Breakfast Club Team

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

April 13th	10am	Holy Communion	Rev David Bone
April 27th	10am	Matins	Mr Paul van Rossum

Assistant Curate: Rev David Bone (01454 614601)

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

ST MARY DE MALMESBURY, LITTLETON-ON-SEVERN

April 6th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole
April 20th	9am	Mattins	Mr Don Streatfield

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

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELBERTON

April 13th	9am	Mattins	Mr Don Streatfield
April 27th	9am	Holy Communion	Rev. David Pole

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

OLVESTON AND TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

April 6th	10am	Tockington Ch	Morning Worship led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola
	6 pm	Olveston Ch	Evening Worsip led by Rev Tom Hall
April 13th	10am	Olveston Ch.	All Age Worship led by Rev.Iesinga Vunipola. The Breakfast Club will join us later in the Service.
	6 pm	Horfield Methodist Ch.	Circuit Easter Offering Service led by Mrs Rosemary Fletcher
April 20th	10am	Tockington Ch.	Morning Worship led by Mr Glyn Varney.
	6 pm	Daldry Gardens	Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Mortlock
April 27th	10 am	Tockington	Morning Worship led by Mr John Hopper Junior Church in the Wesley Rooms
	6pm	Olveston Ch.	Evening Worship with Holy Communion led by Rev Iesinga Vunipola

LIGHT LUNCHESES: Thursday 6th March at 12.15pm in the Tockington Wesley Rooms. To book your lunch please ring 416056.

NORTHWICK LUNCHEON GROUP: This meets at 12.30pm on Wednesday 5th March. To book your lunch please ring 416528.

PRAYER MEETINGS: Thursdays at 2.15pm in the Olveston Vestry.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Saturdays 10.30am – 12 noon. On the 12th and 19th in Tockington Chapel and on the 5th and 26th in the Olveston Methodist Hall

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. This months meeting is on the 22nd April.

CONTACT PERSON: Rev'd 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.

Requests for prayer can be posted through the letter box or sent to us by mail or email.

Please add a name or initial to identify your request. As we also visit other churches and events, please check Notice Board or contact

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

THE OASIS CHURCH, OLDOWN

April 6th	6.30pm	Ceri Morgan-Davies
April 13th	6.30pm	Mrs Pat Monks
April 20th	6.30pm	Julian Richards
April 27th t	10.00am	Paul Ashford

For further information please contact Olwen Wonnacott (412141) or Paul Ashford (07774-110814) email: **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 613134 or 632564. 'Happy are the people whose God is the Lord'.

BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP IN OLVESTON - well not so much in Olveston these days as we concentrate on serving the community primarily in other areas of Bristol and Thornbury. As followers of Christ our heart is to be where the Lord wants us to be most effective and currently we are establishing our presence in North and East Bristol as well as continuing to work with the other local churches in Thornbury and in the heart of Bristol amongst the most needy. 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
8.30am - Mass 11.00am - Family Mass 6.30pm – Mass

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS), Thornbury - Meeting for Worship Sundays
10.30am. The Tudor Room, The Chantry, Castle Street

Diary Dates for April 2008

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

1 st Tue	Walking group Tockington Toddlers Royal British Legion – Women’s Section	10am at Portbury 10-12noon WR 7.30pm DGCL
2 nd Wed	Olveston Parish Historical Society -Roy Gallop - “The Lost Parts of the River Severn and Bristol Channel” Christianity Explored 1 st Meeting	7.30pm MH 7.30pm Alm. Vicarage
3 rd Thu	Village Coffee Shop opens + Beat Surgery Olveston Baby and Toddlers Whist Drive – all welcome	10 -12 Olveston Stores 2.30 – 4.30pm MH 7.30pm DGCL
4 th Fri	End of School Term St Mary’s Church Choir Practice	7-8pm
5 th Sat	Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning	10.30-12.00 noon
6 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club – Medium 633262	9am Sugar Loaf
8 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers Olveston WI	10-12noon WR 7.30pm PH
9 th Wed	Royal British Legion – Men’s Section Thornbury Library Committee	7.30pm DGCL 7.30pm
10 th Thu	Thornbury Rambling Club – Short T: 885654 Olveston Baby and Toddlers Whist Drive – all welcome	10am Venue tba 2.30 – 4.30pm MH 7.30pm DGCL
11 th Fri	St Mary’s Church Choir Practice	7-8pm
12 th Sat	Aust Village Hall Coffee (and cake!) Morning -All welcome Coffee Morning Tockington Chapel Open Weekend 12-13 th Music in the Church at Aust -Luca Luciano	10.30-12noon AVH 10.30-12 noon TMCh 8pm AC
13 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club - 0117 9628479 Medium	Avon Walkway 9am
15 th Tue	Tockington Toddlers	10-12noon WR
17 th Thu	Thornbury Rambling Club- Short T: 633262 Olveston Baby and Toddlers Whist Drive – all welcome	Easter Compton 7pm 2.30 – 4.30pm MH 7.30pm DGCL
18 th Fri	St Mary’s Church Choir Practice	7-8pm
19 th Sat	Meccano Exhibition St Peters Hospice Spring Fling Coffee Morning	10am - 4pm PH 10 – 12noon TMH 10.30-12 noon TMCh
20 th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club -T: 0117 9518913 Long	8.30am Bredon Hill
21 st Mon	Tennis Club AGM School Term 5 Begins	8pm PH

22nd Tue	Tockington Toddlers Parish Council Meeting An Evening of Fashion and Jazz	10-12noon 7.30pm 7.30pm	WR AP AH
24th Thu	Lipreading Class Olveston Baby and Toddlers Whist Drive – all welcome St Peters Hospice AGM	2pm 2.30 – 4.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	AH MH DGCL TBCh
25th Fri	St Mary's Church Choir Practice	7-8pm	
26th Sat	Men's Breakfast Gift Fayre for Breast Cancer Thornbury Rambling Club -T: 633262 Short Olveston Methodist Hall Coffee Morning	8.30am 10am – 4pm 10am 10.30-12 noon	 Rm over Alm. Surgery TPH Pilning
27th Sun	Thornbury Rambling Club -T: 414022 Long Marlwood School Car Boot Sale Annual Parochial Church Meeting – St Marys	9am From 9.30am 7.15pm	Wickwar St M.
29th Tue	Olveston Parish - Annual Parish Assembly Tockington Toddlers	7.30pm 10-12noon	AP WR

Key: **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, Olv.; **StMA** Almondsbury Church; **TBCh** - Thornbury Baptist Church; **TMCh** – Tockington Methodist Church **TMH** – Thorn. Methodist Hall; **TPH** – Thornbury Parish Hall **URC** - Thorn United Reform Church; **WR** – Wesley Rooms; **AC** - Aust Church

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