

Newsletter

Bruton

Brewham

Pitcombe

Redlynch

Shepton Montague

Wyke Champflower



Bishop Trevor Willmott led a very joyful Benefice service at St Mary's on 3 October as Jonathan was formally made Rector of the Benefice. The choir sang, the bells rang, the organ played and the gathered congregation sang heartily. We enjoyed a very good reception afterwards at At the Chapel where conversation and food and drink were plentiful and good. Many thanks to the many people who worked hard to organise this in advance and make it all run smoothly on the day.

In his address, Bishop Trevor reminded us that a vital aspect of our humanity is the recognition of our own needs and our own weaknesses. In a culture that prizes strength, self-sufficiency and invulnerability, as Christians we have a

different message and a different approach to life that is more honest and which makes for deeper and stronger relationships with one another and with God: we admit our need of each other and of God; we admit our dependence, and this makes us stronger - both as a community and as individuals.

As the Church struggles to identify a path forwards that is realistic about our limitations, this was a very timely reminder that we are followers of one who became vulnerable for our sakes; showing us 'a still more excellent way' (1 Cor 12: 31).

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If you have something to contribute to a future edition of this newsletter, do please send it to the Rector.

Easy-to-follow details of how to receive this newsletter by email can be found on the St Mary's website, or email benefice@stmarysbruton.org. If you are aware of someone who might like to receive it but does not use email, please consider printing a copy yourself and delivering it to them.



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Baptism at Wyke Champflower:

We enjoyed a lovely celebration with the Tuke family as Edward was baptised at Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower on 19 September.

Harvest:

Brewham and Shepton Montague held very successful harvest meals after their harvest festival services, which were very well attended and generated a great sense of community - huge thanks to those who worked so hard for both events, and to the McDonald Watsons for hosting the lunch at Brewham in their gorgeous barn. Pitcombe and Bruton have also celebrated their harvest festivals and Wyke Champflower will do so at Evensong on 17 October at 6.30 pm - all are welcome to that service.

St Peter's Redlynch:

A reasonable number of responses (13) have been received to the questionnaire regarding the future of St Peter's chapel. These are now being considered.

Rev'd. George Beverly:

George Beverly, the chaplain at King's Bruton, was ordained deacon at Wells Cathedral on 25 September; we rejoice with George and wish him well as he continues his work at King's and also serves his title at a parish in Yeovil.



Responses:

Thanks to those (it was a select few!) who responded to ideas or questions raised in previous issues of the newsletter - about discipleship courses, about our reactions to online services, about the possibilities for social events and other activities. This is very helpful in working out what to offer in the future.

Concert at St Leonard's

On 6 November at 3.00 pm at St. Leonard's, the Epicurean String Quartet will be giving a concert including music by Beethoven, Michael Nyman and Haydn, with an interval during which tea will be served. Tickets £10 at the door, but pre-booking essential (no admission without prior booking).

Please contact Charles Brook to book seating: c.brook@ucl.ac.uk or 01963 351492.



Hospitality



A lovely comment received from a visitor to one of our churches:

‘As a recent visitor (twice in fact) to St Mary’s Church for the 11am service, I wanted to say how very welcome we felt as we entered the church, being met with smiling faces and helpful people. On our second visit we were immediately recognised which was lovely. We very much hope to visit your splendid church again before too long.’

The hospitality we show to one another and to visitors is central to our witness to the love of God. Our central act as a church is sharing a meal (the Eucharist), as Christ shares himself with his church. One of the highlights of the benefice service on 3 October was the reception afterwards at At the Chapel. Not only was the food and drink excellent, but so was the atmosphere. Visitors from Christchurch chatted to people from this Benefice and other invited guests. At a time when the prevailing mood is relentlessly critical and negative, we managed to create together a wonderful oasis of gladness. There was a tangible sense of positivity and being relaxed in one another’s company. This was noticed and commented on by many and is surely something we must try to hold onto and make the distinctive feature of our life together: church as a place where people are glad, friendly, hospitable, welcoming.



Community Gardening

Mill on the Brue have a large and lovely kitchen garden which is in need of some tending - the pandemic has affected their staffing and finances badly. They supply food to, among others, Bruton Primary School for school lunches. The plan is to get together a band of happy volunteers to assist with some gardening to keep it under control and in shape. The group will meet once a week, on Thursday mornings, and work for a couple of hours before sharing a coffee and a chat. This is an excellent opportunity to join in with a great community-building project, help MoB and the school, and help one’s own mental and physical health - all at the same time. If you would like to know more, please contact the Rector or Flora Rawlinson-Plant at Mill on the Brue.



Help wanted

We sometimes receive requests from people looking for details of family members who have lived, been married or buried in one of our parishes. We don't have complete records and those that we have can be difficult to find and are not indexed, so that searching them can be time consuming. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to act as a point of contact for such enquiries, across the benefice, and correspond with those who enquire, helping them to make progress or informing them that we have no record, etc?

Diary Dates

- 17 October - Wyke Champflower Harvest Festival, 6.30 pm at Holy Trinity
- 20 October - Bruton PCC, 6.00 pm at St Mary's, Bruton
- 24 October - Redlynch Harvest Festival, 11.00 am at St Peter's chapel
- 30 October - Diocesan Synod, 9.30 am (venue tbc)
- 2 November - All Souls Service, 6.30 pm at St Mary's, Bruton
- 6 November - Pitcombe PCC meeting, 10.00 am at Grove Farm
- 6 November - concert: Epicurean String Quartet, 3.00pm at St Leonard's, Pitcombe
- 7 November - Patronal Festal Evensong, 6.00 pm at St. Leonard's
- 8 November - Brewham PCC meeting, 7.30 pm at Colinshayes
- 28 November - Benefice Choral evensong for Advent, 6.30pm at St Mary's, Bruton

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