



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Wyke Champflower Shepton Montague



This month, we start with lines from a Pentecost poem by Joyce Rupp, *Inside each of us*:

*Inside each of us
there awaits
a wonder
full
spirit of freedom*

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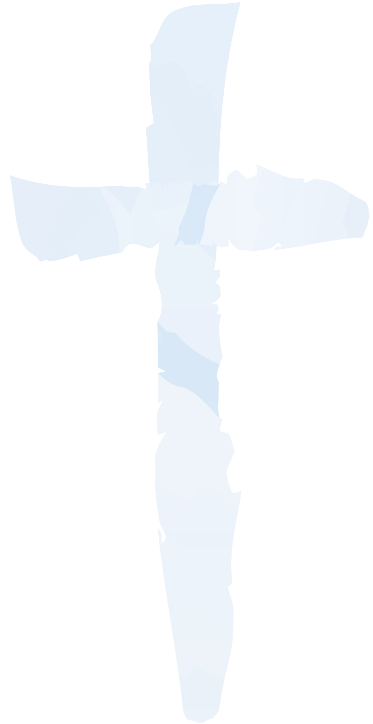
*she waits
to dance
in the rooms
of our heart
that are closed
dark and cluttered*

*she waits
to dance
in the spaces
where negative feelings
have built barricades
and stock-piled weapons*

*she waits
to dance
in the corners
where we still
do not believe
in our goodness

inside each of us
there awaits
a wonder
full
spirit of freedom*

*she will lift light feet
and make glad songs
within us
on the day
we open the door of ego
and let the enemies
stomp out*





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

Easy-to-follow details of how to receive this newsletter by email can be found on the St Mary's website (www.stmarysbruton.org), 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.

News from our Parishes

The Shepton Montague Plant Sale was, once again, a very great success – the weather was kind and many plants were sold and much tea and cake consumed. Huge thanks are due to all those who worked so hard planting and rearing plants, collecting gardening items for sale and baking cakes, as well as those who helped in any way on the day.

Bishop Michael presided and preached at a very memorable service of Holy Communion according to the 1604 version of the Book of Common Prayer, to mark the 400th anniversary of the rebuilding and reconsecration of Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower. The chapel was full to bursting and some of the choir from St Mary's sang parts of Thomas Tallis' Mass for Four Voices. David Slater played the organ and the church was beautifully decorated.

Film Night at St Peter's: *The Lesson*, 7.30pm.

Liam (Daryl McCormack), an aspiring young novelist, is hired to tutor the son of revered author J M Sinclair (Richard E Grant) and his art-dealer wife (Julie Delpy). However, he soon realises that Sinclair, his wife and their son all guard a dark past...

The Packhorse Fair returned to Bruton on the late May bank holiday. The weather was varied, but we still managed to run several stalls and raise some much needed money, as well as enjoying the community fun. St Mary's Bellringers had a very good day offering Tower Tours and Cider (not necessarily in combination), and the Friends of St Mary's did well recruiting new members and selling beautiful mugs and tea towels. A lot of work was done by a lot of people and we are all very grateful to them.

The work of repair to the nave floor in St Leonard's has been completed and looks very smart – a huge improvement over the previous metal grating above a cold and draughty void. Thanks to the Friends of St Leonard's for helping to fund this work and to Charles Brook and Peter Wyatt for arranging it.

An application has been submitted for faculty permission to construct a servery and two lavatories at St Mary's – we wait to see whether and when permission will be granted.

We said our farewells to two long-serving members of our church communities in May, with a memorial service for Kathleen Apperly at Pitcombe and a funeral for John Bishton at Bruton. Both will be much missed.

Rail Strikes, Part One

Our organist at St Mary's writes:

To use a typically English understatement, rail strikes are an inconvenience, as I found when I visited London back in April. Expensive accommodation had been booked and various plans were in place, including a fascinating exhibition at the British Museum on the life of a Roman Legionary and – a first for me – cricket at Lord's on the opening day of the first-class season. Entry to the home of cricket cost only £10, with plenty of un-crowded seating to choose from – not including the Pavilion, however, for though I happened to be wearing suit and tie, I would not be admitted as I am not an MCC member. The cricket was slightly uninspiring, though I saw the first half of what would be the highest ever first-class innings at Lord's, an unbeaten triple century by the Glamorgan captain. Play was nowhere near as enthralling as the game in early May at Taunton, which was completed in only two days, with Somerset beating Essex by three wickets. One poor chap collapsed at the tea interval but was revived by the First Aid team. Whether it was good for his health to continue watching the tantalising ebb and flow of the final session I rather doubt. For myself, I attribute my jittery organ-playing the next morning at St Mary's to my heart still racing after the thrills of Saturday. My performance of John Cage's 4'33" was not affected, however. (See my article in the May issue.) The reaction of almost everyone was respectful silence – or was it bewildered silence? Better than the talking and moving around

which normally greet my more conventional voluntaries. I was in a hurry so I couldn't stay to face questions over coffee on my choice of music. Anyway, I promise never to 'play' that piece again.

I digress. Rail strikes. Unions are obliged by law to give notice of an impending strike, a fortnight I believe. So I knew that I could not return from London to Bruton on Saturday April 6 by GWR as they were on strike. South-West Trains were not on strike (though a work-to-rule and overtime were possible hazards), so I planned to return home from Waterloo via Salisbury. Checking and double-checking confirmed that my trains were running, though the first leg of the journey was cancelled owing to planned engineering work, meaning that I had to travel to Southampton and change there for a Salisbury train. At Salisbury there was plenty of time to visit the refreshment room for a welcome hot snack and cold beer before the final leg of the journey, entirely trouble-free, saw me back at Bruton on time at about 8.30pm. Almost an anti-climax after the worries earlier in the day. (What would happen if I were stranded in Salisbury? Who would play the organ next morning if I hadn't got back?)

Do your homework, check and double-check on the day of travel, and pray for a bit of luck, and your experience of a rail strike might be no worse than mine: an inconvenience.

In my second home, on the other hand, there are no laws compelling rail unions to give notice of impending strikes. Consequently I was unable to prepare in advance for what happened on an exploratory train journey on a new line. Not merely inconvenient, but alarming!

A few years ago the Sri Lankan government decided to extend the railway from the existing terminus at Matara in the south-west all the way to Kataragama in the south-east. As a town it is unimportant and sleepy but it boasts what seems a disproportionate number of expensive hotels, cheap hotels, guest houses and rooms with or without air conditioning. The need for such an excessive range of accommodation becomes clear whenever there is a major Buddhist religious event, for Kataragama is a Mecca for Buddhists: one of the three most venerated religious sites in the island, held sacred not only by Buddhists, but by Hindus and Muslims too. The extensive Sacred Precinct contains an impressive array of shrines and temples, and springs to life at dusk when crowds of pilgrims gather for the evening puja (ritual).

To be continued...



Photo: Domenico Bertazzo

General Election Hustings

At the time of going to press, we are investigating the possibility of holding a hustings at St Mary's on the evening of 13 June, to which all candidates will be invited. Further details will be made available once the event is confirmed and arrangements are finalised.

Sing-a-Ling

**Music and Movement
at the Church**

9.30-11am, 20th June, St. Mary's
Church, FREE, Drop-in

All ages
and
abilities
welcome

Join us for an intergenerational
Music and Movement session with
Sing-a-ling!

SING-A-LING
Music & Movement

Prayer Ministry

It cannot have escaped your attention that a general election is being held on 4th July. The Bible encourages us to pray for those in authority:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1&2.

With this in mind, it would be good to pray for the upcoming election. A simple prayer (taken from www.methodist.org.uk):

Loving God, now that an election has been called, hear my prayers for our country and the campaign ahead.

I pray for those who are standing for election, for their safety, and for their willingness to listen and to speak.

I pray for truthfulness and kindness to prevail as the issues are debated.

I pray that each of us will be inspired to use our voice and our vote for your goodness and glory. Inspire me, God, to Love, to Pray and to Vote. Amen.

The bishops of the Church of England are inviting us to pray using a resource called 'Pray Your Part'. This is 21-days of prayer and reflection from 14 June until Election Day. If you would like to, you can sign up to receive this as a daily email:

churchofengland.org/PrayYourPart



Packhorse Fair

The Packhorse Fair proved to be a fun day and remarkably unspoilt by the intermittent showers! At the church end we had a variety of stalls including ice cream, plants and cider, plus some very merry (if moist) Maypole Dancing to the sound of madrigals written by Henry VIII and sung by a small group from the St Mary's Church Choir. There was an art exhibition in the church, and a great many tours up the West Tower, and to cap it all off a Duck Race (1st Prize: a Megaduck) which saw the Rector and one of the Church Wardens braving the river in order to catch them all!



Sunday 30th June

We have a 5th Sunday in June and our only service in the Benefice that day will be the 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's. There will be a service at St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour at 11.00 am and it would be great if as many people as possible could join that service as part of getting to know the church community there and getting a feel for the style and content of worship at this service. It is a less formal service of 'Sunday Worship', led by a group of people from the Camelot Benefice.

Part of what we need to do over the next few months is discuss future arrangements for Bratton Seymour joining our Benefice, so this is an ideal opportunity to meet and worship together as part of that process. If you have not been to St Nicholas before, be aware that parking is very limited. (The Rector will be away at an Ordination Service that day, so unable to be there, but all are welcome to join the service.)

Volunteer Cleaners at St Mary's

We no longer have a regular cleaner at St Mary's and we would like to see whether we can pull together a rota of volunteers to keep the church clean in between the big 'spring clean' sessions. If anyone would be able to commit to an hour or so of regular cleaning (hoovering, wiping down surfaces, etc), please do get in touch.

OPERA IN THE ORCHARD

PERFORMED BY THE ECHOING AIR



8TH JUNE 2024

WYKE CHAMFLOWER

TICKETS: [TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) SEARCH: OPERA IN THE ORCHARD

Wyke House, or St Mary's, Bruton, if wet. Gates at 5.15pm,
performance at 6pm. Bring a picnic and a chair!

Tickets

www.ticketsource.co.uk/theechoingair/opera-in-the-orchard/e-mdqvyv

Arts Events

We have a variety of interesting arts events coming up, beginning with Dragonsfly. Celtic Folk & Eastern Grooves combine to bring you an evening of celebratory and uplifting music. Saturday 15th June at St Mary's Church. Doors open at 7.30pm, £10 entry, bar and refreshments available. Advance tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

celtic folk and eastern grooves *An evening of celebratory, uplifting music, soaring melodies and instrumentals*

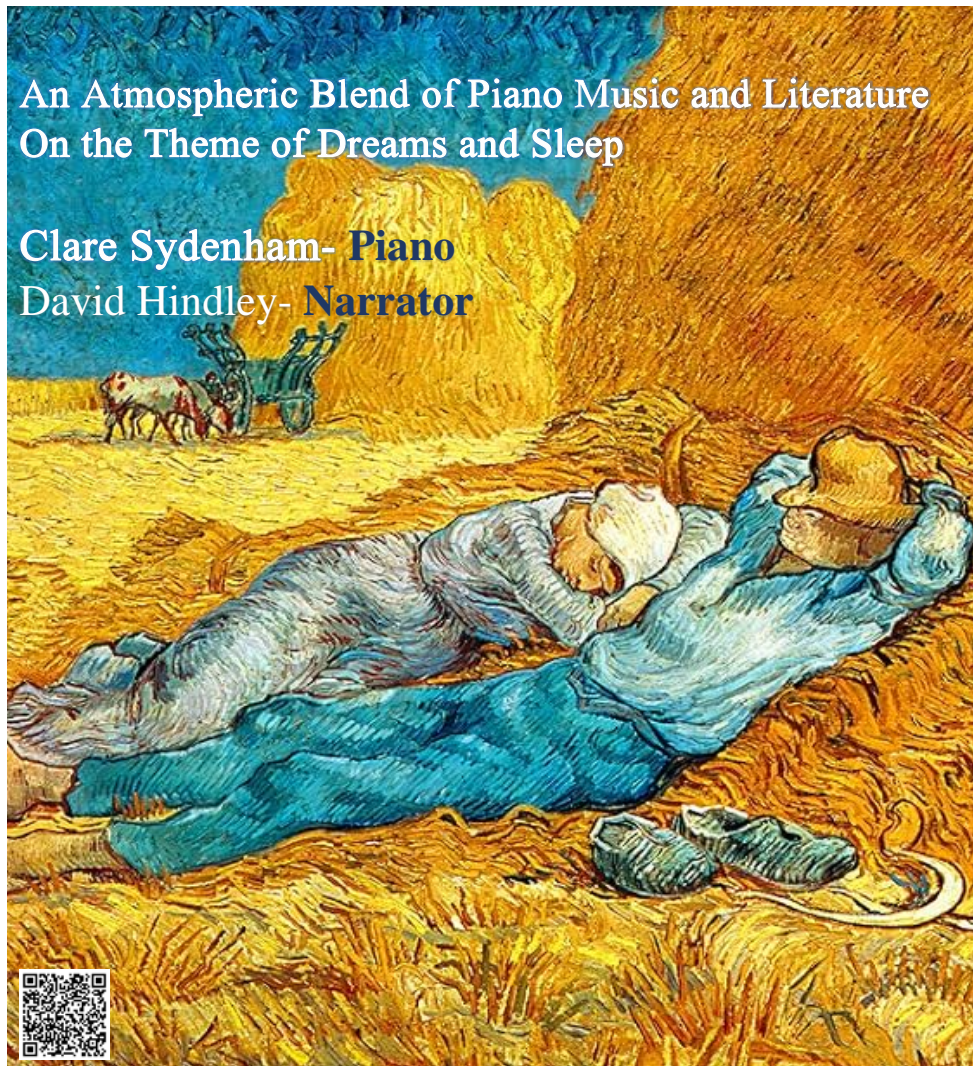
DRAGONSFLY

live at
St. Mary's Church Bruton
Saturday June 15th
Doors open 7:30 pm. £10 entry
Bar and Refreshments
Advance tickets available at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

DREAMSCAPES

An Atmospheric Blend of Piano Music and Literature
On the Theme of Dreams and Sleep

Clare Sydenham- **Piano**
David Hindley- **Narrator**



Sunday 16th June 3pm at St. Mary's Church, Bruton, BA10 OEB

Advance Tickets £10 online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham>

or from clare.sydpiano@gmail.com

Tickets on the door £12/under 18 free.

Martin & Eliza Carthy

Martin Carthy and his twice Mercury-nominated daughter Eliza Carthy join forces to perform an eclectic range of songs from their vast family repertoire, drawing from the traditional canon as well the more contemporary.



Martin is a legendary ballad singer and guitarist who has influenced generations of artists, including Bob Dylan – with whom he shared an 80th birthday celebration in May 2021 – and Paul

Simon, while Eliza has been twice-nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and is a multiple-award winner at the BBC Radio Two Folk Awards.

Eliza is undoubtedly one of the most impressive and engaging performers of her generation. She has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists including Paul Weller, Rufus and Martha Wainwright, Patrick Wolf and Bob Neuwirth. More than most, Eliza Carthy has revitalised folk music and captured the most hardened of dissenters with intelligent, charismatic and boundary-bending performances.

Tickets

<http://cabaretvoltairevents.com/event/martin-carthy-eliza-carthy-bruton/>

Simon Armitage

Acclaimed poet and lyricist, Simon Armitage, grew up in West Yorkshire. A former probation officer, he is the recipient of numerous



prizes and awards, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. He has published over a dozen poetry collections, including *Magnetic Field*, and the acclaimed medieval translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, which has sold over 100,000 copies.

Armitage also writes, records and performs

with the band LYR and has received an Ivor Novello Award for his song writing. His recent book *Never Good with Horses* features his song lyrics for the first time and celebrates his ear for the music of language. *Blossomise*, his new poetry collection, is a Sunday Times bestseller. He is also the author of two novels and three non-fiction bestsellers: *All Points North*, *Walking Home* and *Walking Away*. A regular broadcaster, Armitage presented the popular BBC Radio 4 series *The Poet Laureate has Gone to his Shed*. He also contributes to Guy Garvey's *Finest Hour* (BBC Radio 6 Music).

Tickets

www.cabaretvoltaireevents.com/event/simon-armitage-poet-laureate/

OYSTERBAND

Legends on their last ever tour: from their earliest days as a noisy, politicised ceilidh band in the late Seventies, Oysterband have never stopped evolving or providing soundtracks to the changing times.

Emerging in the early 80s from their ceilidh band days they infused both the traditional and their own songs with a passion and energy



that was electrifyingly fresh for the time. Signing to new roots label Cooking Vinyl, headlining English Roots Against Apartheid, playing Glastonbury and the Fleadh several times each, touring with The Pogues in Europe and Billy Bragg in North America, and hosting the Big Session Festival, all gained them a large and loyal following both at home and internationally.

Coming to St Mary's Church Saturday 9th November, 8.00pm.

TICKETS

<http://cabaretvoltairevents.com/event/oysterband/>

Diary Dates

Coming up

- June 8 • Friends of St Mary's coffee morning, Bruton Community Hall, 10.30am
- June 8 • The Echoing Air *Opera in the Orchard*, Wyke House, Wyke Champflower, (St Mary's, Bruton, if wet). Gates 5.15pm, performance at 6pm.
- June 10 • Archdeacon's Visitation, All Saints, Castle Cary, 7pm
- June 13 • General Election Hustings, St Mary's, time tbc
- June 13 • Film Night, St Peter's, Shepton Montague, 7.30pm
- June 15 • Dragonfly folk concert, St Mary's at 7.30pm
- June 16 • *Dreamscapes* concert, St Mary's at 3pm
- June 20 • Sing-a-Ling, St Mary's, 9.30 am

Further ahead

- July 4 • Roman catholic mass, St Mary's at 10.00 am
- July 11 • Sing-a-Ling, St Mary's at 9.30 am
- July 11 • Film Night, St Peter's, Shepton Montague, 7.30pm
- July 13 • Pitcombe Village Party and Silent Auction, detailsTBC
- July 18 • Deanery Synod, North Barrow, 7.30pm
- July 22 • Brewham PCC meeting, Colinshayes, 7.00pm
- July 27 • Return of Dragonfly – TBC
- July 29 • Benefice Council meeting, Bruton Rectory, 5.30 pm

Much further ahead

- Aug 24 • Shepton Montague Summer Fete
- Sept 21 • Martin & Eliza Carthy, St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm
- Sept 25 • Simon Armitage, St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm
- Nov 9 • Oysterband, St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm

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