



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



I enjoy gardening. Sometimes, in the Spring, while clearing away the previous year's fallen leaves from the flower beds, I notice something I do not recognise beginning to poke up through the soil in an unexpected place. I try to remember whether I planted anything there and try to work out what this emerging new growth might be. Did I

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put some bulbs there? Has something spread from elsewhere in the garden? Is it a weed or something lovely? Should I dig it up and put it on the compost heap, or wait and see, giving it a chance to develop a bit further?

We all long for our church communities to flourish. There are of course different ways in which a community can flourish – it is not necessarily just about numerical increase of our congregations or just about younger people joining us. We can flourish in the strength and depth of the mutual love and hospitality we show (as we have been considering in the recent discussion group conversations about 1 Peter); we can flourish in the depth of our prayer and the fullness of our worship. But whatever form the flourishing might take, we do hope and pray for growth rather than decay and decline. Importantly, we must be open to the possibility that the growth may come in a form, in a place and at a time that we are not expecting.

So as we consider the future of our churches in these increasingly difficult times, we need to be attentive to the possibility of the emergence of new shoots in places that we were not expecting, and not be too hasty to decide that this growth must be wrong because what we see is not what we intended. Just possibly it is not a weed but some new gift in our garden, something for us to nurture.



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](http://www.stmarysbruton.org)), or email [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto: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.

## Benefice Visit



This month, we will be welcoming Bishop Michael to our benefice over 2 days, Wednesday 12 March and Sunday 16 March.

Explaining the reason for the visit, Bishop Michael writes, 'In the scriptures, the Church is described as a complex and wonderful creation of shared and distinctive ministries, of mutuality and accountability of this understanding of ministry is shown in many different ways. It is in the context of strengthening

our mutuality and accountability that we are developing our practice around a systematic approach to benefice visits. In order

to strengthen the bonds of relationship that exist among us, we are committed to getting to know people, lay and ordained, across our diocese and better understand the context of their shared mission and ministries. And so, from 2025, over a two-year period every benefice will receive a visit from either their archdeacon or a bishop. During benefice visits we will also be hearing about the vision for mission in different places, and how sharing in ministry, lay and ordained, locally is enabling such vision to be lived out. These shifts in how we work are founded on our core understanding of ministry as being about the ministry of all God's people in a place, and not just that of 'the vicar'! ... We hope that these visits will help build our life together as a diocese, giving us a better understanding of what mission and ministry look like across the many and varied contexts of our diocese, and building relationships with those who share in that mission and ministry, as well as with the wider community.'

We have put together a programme for 12 March for Bishop Michael to meet and talk with a number of people from our local community, as well as our wardens and PCC members, and we look forward to him joining us for Sunday worship on 16 March. (At the time of writing, we are not certain which services he will attend on 16 March, but it is likely to include our All Age Eucharist at Bruton at 11.00am.



## News from our Parishes

We held moving funeral services in February for some faithful members of our congregations: Valerie Norton, Elfrida Routh and Jill Bishton. We will miss them all. Thank you to all who came and offered their support on the day.

Sexey's School has a new head teacher. We warmly welcome Steve Clayson to our community and look forward to getting to know him and deepening our relationship with the school.

Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower held its annual meeting and decided, with reluctance and sadness, to reduce the number of services held there each year. Services will now be held every other month, rather than monthly. This is due to the difficulty of preparing the church for services and doing the various jobs that need to be done. If anyone is willing to help, it would be most welcome.

Remember that we will be holding our annual meetings in the rest of the benefice during April. Please look out for the dates and attend if you can.

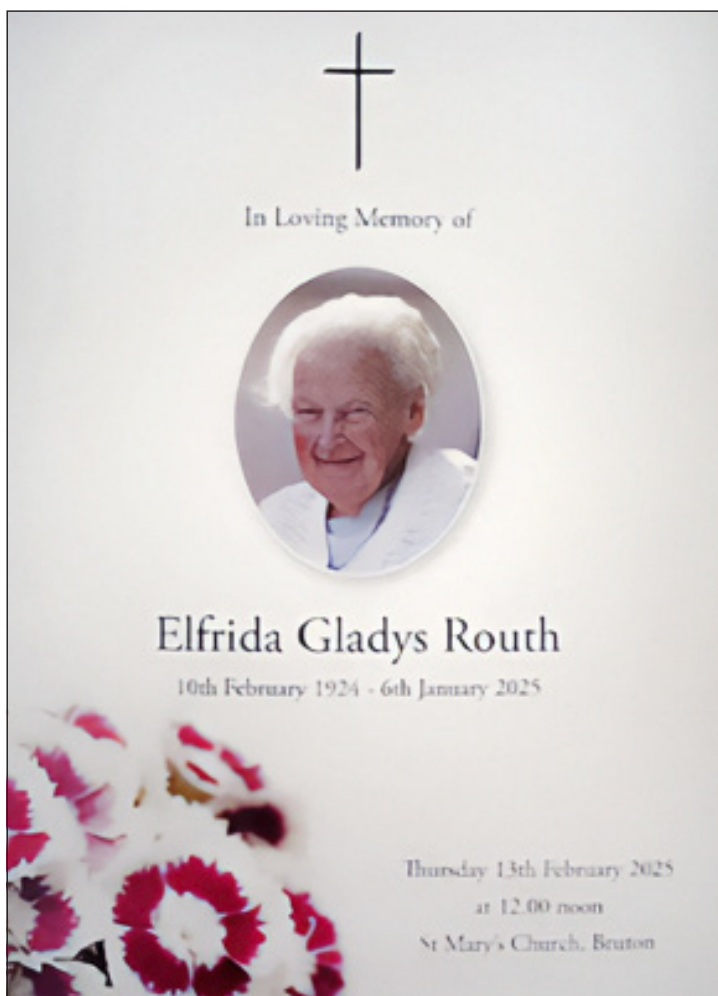
St Mary's has now received the faculty approval for the installation of two toilets and a servery. Fundraising for this project can now begin in earnest.

Mothering Sunday is on 30 March. As this is a 5th Sunday, in addition to the 8.00 am service of Holy Communion at St Mary's, there will be a single morning service at St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour at 11.00 am. It would be lovely to welcome as many people as possible from across

the benefice to that service. If you are coming, please share a lift, walk or come by carrier pigeon as parking at the church is very limited.

## A Tribute to Elfrida Routh

*10th February 1924 – 6th January 2025*



Family and friends gathered at St John's, Brewham, at 12pm on Thursday 13th February to say farewell to and celebrate the life of Mrs Elfrida Routh, who died aged 100 on 6th January, 2025.

Elfrida had a strong Christian faith, and was a committed member of St John's congregation. She was also a former member of the PCC, only retiring aged 99 in 2023.

Elfrida regularly read a lesson at morning service, and although she latterly had problems walking, she still read standing in her pew; and read her last lesson just before Christmas. Despite her physical frailty, Elfrida's mind remained as sharp as a tack. She was a very good mathematician, and even

gained a place at Cambridge University to read Mathematics – an exceptional achievement for the time. Unfortunately, the Second World War intervened, so Elfrida joined the WRENS and became a Coder stationed in Yorkshire and then Sri Lanka. Elfrida enjoyed her career with the local council in Ealing, sourcing school supplies, and she and Richard had adventures like driving across Europe to Turkey to visit her Aunt. After they retired, Elfrida and her late husband Richard left London and moved to South Brewham. Elfrida was a keen golfer and Bridge player, and she loved her garden which was always immaculate. Elfrida had many friends in the village – she was much loved in Brewham, and will be much missed.

*Caroline Rathbone*

19.02.25



## Florence & Fiona

Back in 2022 a young couple – Florence and Jack – were married in St Mary's, and a little later on, in 2023, their little boy was baptised there too. Recently Florence got in touch with us about Fiona MacIntosh – sadly no longer with us – and who was a close friend to her. She wrote the following:

*I have got a place running the London marathon and am running for St Margaret's Hospice who enabled Fiona to stay at home with us all around her.*

*I am getting so much comfort out of knowing I am raising funds to help others in this situation however it is very awkward for me asking people for money.*

*Please could I forward you the link to the donation page and if you feel able to share with anyone who knew her and may like to support the charity?*

As promised, we are sharing the link to the charity page for this, and we wish Florence all success in her training and fund raising.

**<https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/florence-patterson>**





# Electoral Roll Renewal

Please remember, as has been announced in our churches, the electoral roll is currently being renewed. Anyone who wishes to be on the electoral roll must apply to have their name entered on the new roll – there is no automatic carry-over of names from the existing roll to the new roll: if you don't complete an application form and submit it in time, you will drop off the roll.

Being on the electoral roll is a good way to participate in the life of your parish church. It enables you to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to vote for elected PCC members and to stand for election yourself.

If you have any questions, or wish to obtain a form, please contact the Electoral Roll officer for your parish, as follows:

- **Bruton (including Wyke Champflower and Redlynch):**  
Jane Bennett, 07342 175185, jimb283@hotmail.co.uk
- **Bratton Seymour:** Debbie Garrett, 07854 307864,  
dmgarrett22@gmail.com
- **Brewham:** Zena Dabinett, 01749 850441,  
zena.dabinett@gmail.com
- **Pitcombe:** Hilary Allom, 01749 813027,  
hilary.allom@gmail.com
- **Shepton Montague:** Sarah Maude, 01749 812149  
sarahjmaude@btinternet.com

## Opportunities to Help

Every so often, we put out a request for people to volunteer their skills and their time as part of our shared ministry. Usually, we do not specify the jobs that need doing, because it is better to see what people have that they are willing to give, rather than try to identify what we think are gaps that need to be filled. But we have not been overburdened with offers of help, so perhaps it might help if we did identify some areas where we could do with some additional contributions:

- Gift Aid administrator for St Mary's
- Church cleaning at St Mary's
- Treasurer at St Mary's
- Livestreaming operator at St Mary's

## Growing Good

Growing Good is a six session course helping churches explore the connection between social action, discipleship and growth. It looks at how churches can be faithful and fruitful in their action in their local communities. The course has been created by the Church Urban Fund and it works well in churches of any size and in any setting. There is a website with 'taster' videos and more detail: <https://growing-good.org.uk/>

We are planning to run the course after Easter. Bruton PCC has expressed an interest already. It would be great to have some



people from all our parishes participating. The course could just spark some ideas for good ways to express our faith in practical action, deepen our discipleship and grow our

congregations. If you are interested in joining the course, please contact the benefice office.

## Kimberley Snapshot

*Daddy, which one are you...*



...asked my six year old grandson of his Dad when he was shown this photo taken of the Kindy at Lombadina Mission at the top of Dampierland Peninsula.

John and I were serving as Lay Missionaries: John looked after the vehicles and I was a surrogate mum

to the many children who had been sent from the cattle stations to get their primary schooling. Quite often as parents you don't realise how an environment affects your children, and I'm so grateful that my sons learnt not to see any difference in their companions and were able to teach this to their own children.

*Clare Mills*

# Prayer Ministry

**We pray for Technology and its effect on our lives.**

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. *Romans 8 v 28*

Show us Lord how to use our technologies. Teach us to make deserts bloom instead of making new ones. Lead us to see how we have permitted our greed and immediate convenience to devastate the lands, the waters, the air, on which we and all your creatures depend for life.

As technology in all its forms affects our daily lives, Lord teach us to be patient and generous with those who are developing this media so that our lives will be enriched.

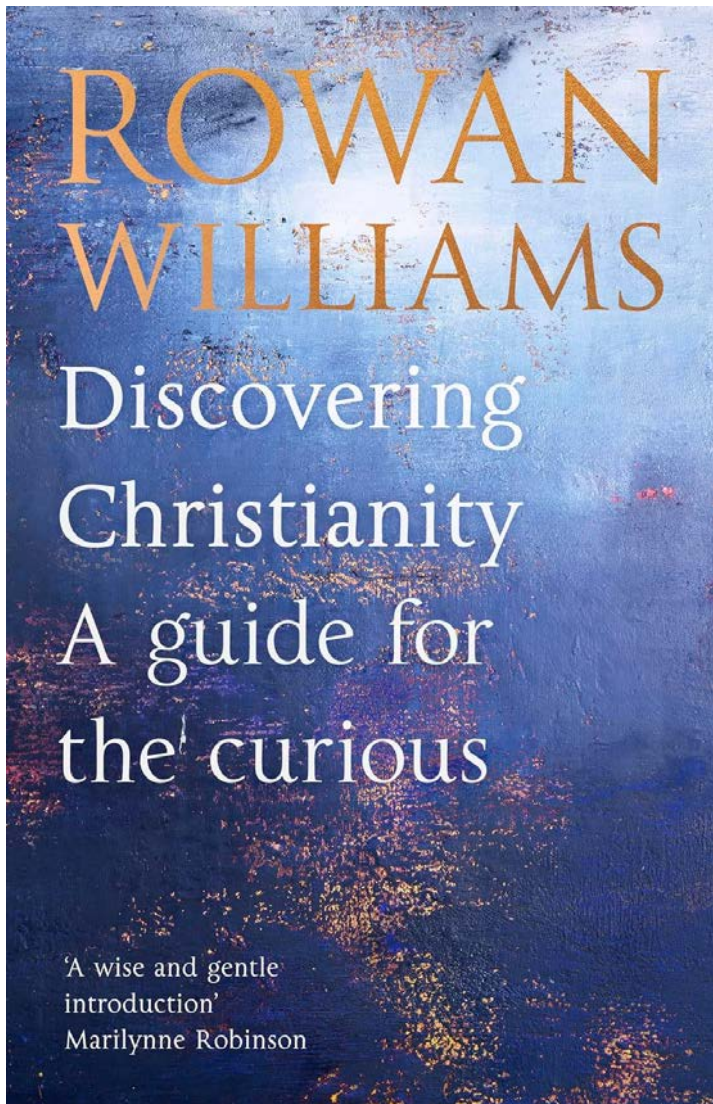
## **Wednesday Prayer Meeting**

There is a prayer meeting every Wednesday Morning in St Mary's Church, Bruton. Some of us meet to pray for our community, anyone is welcome to join us. If you have any requests for prayer, please send them to the Rector and he will let us know!

**email: [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)**



***Discovering Christianity – a guide for the curious***  
**by Rowan Williams (SPCK, 2025)**

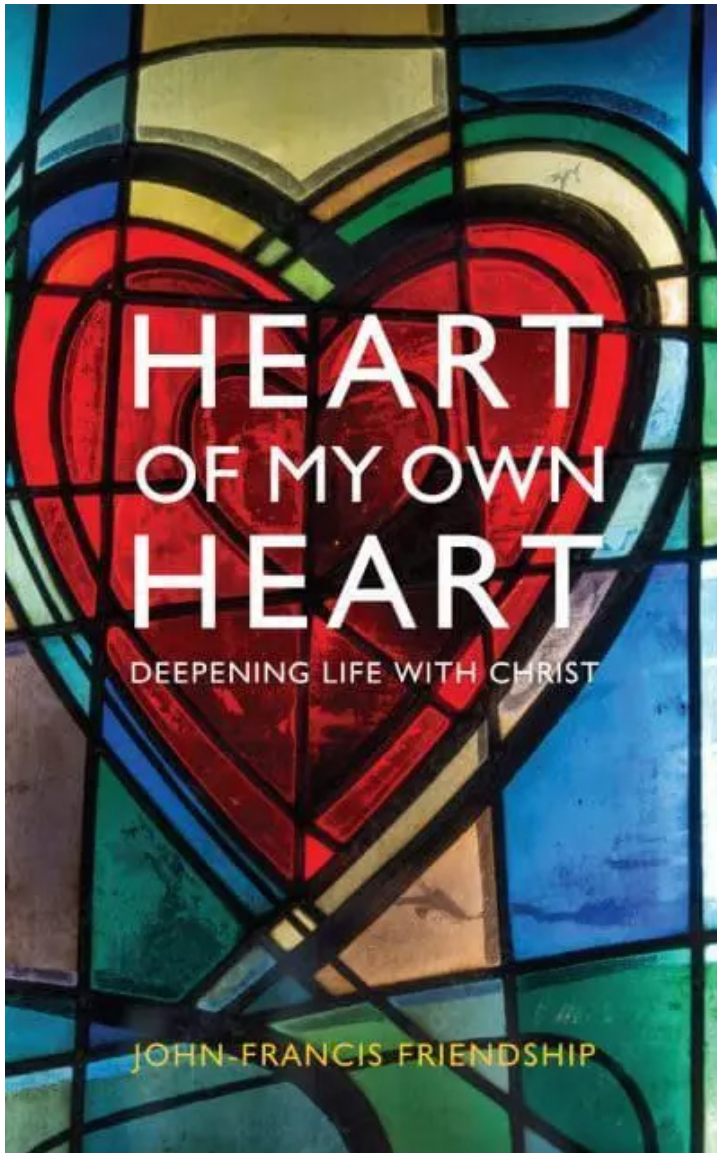


In his ministry, Rowan Williams communicates the faith in two ways: brilliant but very difficult to understand, and brilliant yet easy to follow. This short book is in the latter category. It is a gentle introduction to the essentials of the Christian faith, considering and explaining the central issues in eight short chapters, all beautifully written. He asks what faith is all about and why it matters; he explores the deep questions about being

human while remaining firmly grounded and avoiding specialist or technical language. This is a good read for those enquiring about the faith and also those who want to connect it with a deeper understanding of what it is to be human.



***Heart of my own Heart: deepening life with Christ***  
**by John-Francis Friendship (Canterbury Press, 2024)**



This is a book about God's love, expressed for us in Jesus and explored through the tradition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart is often dismissed as sentimental, kitsch and even distasteful. But John-Francis Friendship urges us to spend time with the imagery and the underlying ideas, and he connects it not only to scripture and the spirituality of the early church, but also to the very core of God's own nature, which he identifies as

love itself. This is a book that is not shy about exploring human emotion and urging us to dig deep to discover God's love.



# Bruton Boost



The Bruton Boost will take place in May 2025, coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Week (12th–18th May). This is a project being run by Good Company Bruton.

The organiser explains the project as follows:

*The idea is to create a series of free, community-led events, workshops, and activities, all focused on promoting better mental health and supporting the mental resilience of our town's residents: what we call mental fitness. We're inviting local groups, individuals, and businesses to get involved. You might want to host a mental-fitness themed event or workshop, or you might have other great ideas. Good Company Bruton can make small grants available to fund your 'Boosts'.*

*We would love to explore how you might be able to contribute to The Bruton Boost, whether by helping to promote the initiative or hosting an event. Your involvement would be invaluable in ensuring the success of this community-driven project. We'd love to include anything you do in our Bruton Boost programme, which we'll be promoting around town and online.*

*Thanks for considering this opportunity to make a real difference to our community's mental fitness.'*

If you would like to participate or want more details, please contact Alison Weir at Good Company Bruton:

[alison@goodcompanybruton.org](mailto:alison@goodcompanybruton.org)

## Breaking Bread



We have another Breaking Bread meal planned on the 8th March, 7–10pm at Bruton Community Hall.

This time we are raising money for Sudan, which has been caught up in a civil war since 2023. As of 14/11/2024, at least 61,000 people had died in Khartoum state alone, and in February 2025 it was calculated that over 8.8

million had been displaced and more than 3.5 million left the country as refugees. In June 2023 it was estimated that 25 million people, over half of the population, were suffering from famine. The UN has



described it as 'the world's largest hunger crisis'.

The ethos of Breaking Bread is an affordable meal cooked and served by volunteers which benefits a country suffering famine. We decided to design a Sudanese theme for our menu and two of us were lucky enough have a cooking lesson from Salha, a Sudanese refugee living in Bristol. Salha's father ran a restaurant in Darfur and her mother looked after the farm outside the city, which supplied the restaurant. Salha was studying a degree in business at university when the civil war broke out and she left to come to the UK. Her family are now scattered across several countries and her brothers are fighting. She now runs a catering business, @Salha's. kitchen, cooking for events and selling products on the market. Jill and I felt incredibly lucky to spend a few hours with Salha, she was incredibly warm, welcoming and generous with her knowledge, and inspirational in her smiley, positive attitude to life.

All proceeds to go to [khartoumerr.org](http://khartoumerr.org) – a grassroots organisation doing amazing work in Sudan.

Please get in touch for tickets, or if you would like to volunteer, at [brutonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:brutonfundraising@gmail.com).

Warm Regards,

*Hannah and the Breaking Bread team*

# Arts Events

## Events at St Mary's.

We are setting up a mailing list for concerts, talks and other events at St Mary's. Please sign up and tell all your friends and neighbours. It's very easy to do – just scan the QR code below using your phone's camera, and you'll be directed to our sign-up page where you can input your details, and select which events you'd like to hear about. You can unsubscribe from this list any



*for more EVENTS at ST MARY'S*

*sign up here*



*[www.stmarysbruton.org](http://www.stmarysbruton.org)*

time simply by getting in touch with us.

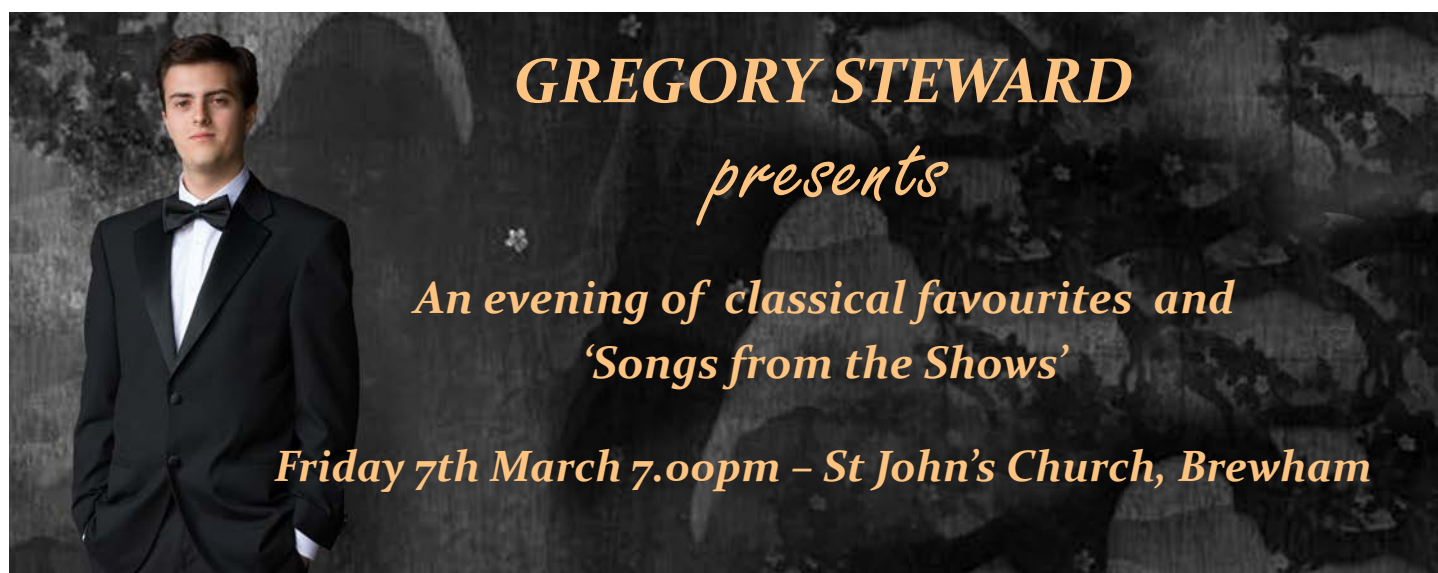
We've had some wonderful events so far, ranging from folk duo Martin & Eliza Carthy to Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate! We're currently preparing for what we hope will be another busy year.

## **Gregory Steward at St John's, Brewham, 7th March, 7pm.**

We are having another fundraising concert! This time a young tenor – Gregory Steward – will entertain us with songs from old musical shows and favourite classics. He has a lovely voice so do come along to hear him.

Tickets are £12 from Bruton Post Office, and on the door, to include a glass of wine or a soft drink.

See you there!



Bruton Choral Society

# Quiz Night

Friday 7 March 7.30pm

Bruton Community Hall



Tickets £10 to include a light buffet supper

from 01749 813976

Groups, singles, pairs, all welcome!

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# **FREUD'S LAST SESSION**

**(2023/110 minutes/12A)**

It's the onset of WWII and Sigmund Freud (Anthony Hopkins), who is nearing the end of his life, invites the celebrated Christian author C S Lewis (Matthew Goode) for a debate over the existence of God. Exploring Freud's unique relationship with his lesbian daughter Anna (Liv Lisa Fries) and Lewis's unconventional romance with his best friend's mother (Orla Brady), the film interweaves past, present and fantasy, opening out from the confines of Freud's study on a dynamic journey.

Director: Matt Brown

**in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague**  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
**at 7.30pm**

*Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

**Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)**  
**pay on the door with card**  
**or at the bar with cash**

*All proceeds go towards St Peter's Church*

*For more information please contact Sarah Maude 01749 812 149*

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## COMMUNITY CHORAL CONCERT

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

at 5pm in the Memorial Hall

at King's Bruton, Plox, Bruton BA10 0ED

With the Call Me Al Quintet and combined Choirs of King's Bruton and Bruton Choral Society. The Children's Choir is formed of pupils from Hazlegrove Prep School, Port Regis Prep School, Bruton Primary School and St Mary's Church Choir.



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Conductor - Ashley Marshfield, accompanied by the Call Me Al Quintet



Tickets in Advance £10.00

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Or go to: [bit.ly/4guwE7b](https://bit.ly/4guwE7b)



On the Door £12

Steve Jolliffe  
from  
Tangerine Dream

Performing  
a selection from various works including  
The Bruton Suite

Open 7pm Start 8pm  
Friday 21 March 2025  
St. Mary's Church Bruton  
Tickets from [ticketsource.co.uk](https://ticketsource.co.uk)  
Early bird £15, Standard £17.50, On the Door £20

Supergroup plays Joni Mitchell's hits

# HEJIRA



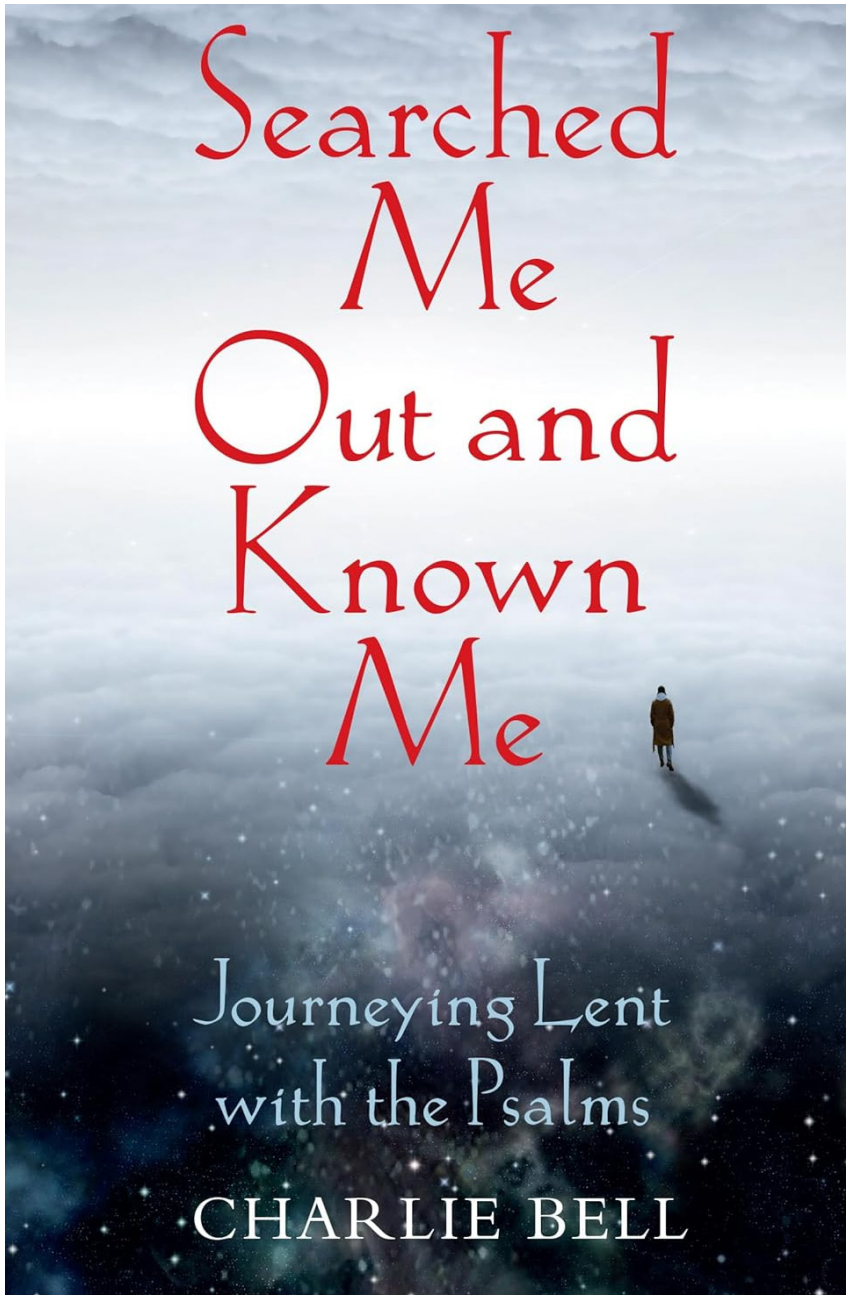
**Saturday 15 March, 8pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Bruton**

Celebrating Joni Mitchell, this 7-piece band 'Hejira' performs the greatest works of the genius singer-songwriter. Fronted by the singer Hattie Whitehead, these world-class jazz musicians capture the poetry, passion, and beauty of Mitchell's masterpieces.

**TICKETS**

**[https://cabaretvoltaireevents.com/  
event/hejira/](https://cabaretvoltaireevents.com/event/hejira/)**





On the four Mondays in Lent (starting on 10 March) we will meet to discuss some sections from Charlie Bell's book 'Searched me out and known me'. This is a series of Lenten reflections, using texts from the Psalms and the Gospels. You will need to get a copy of the book and pre-read the relevant section before the discussion. If cost is an issue, please get in touch and we can arrange a copy for you.

We will meet at the Rectory at 3pm and 6.30pm (choose whichever time suits you best). It would help to know numbers in advance, so if you plan to come, please contact the Rector. All are welcome.



# Benefice Services

Season Ordinary Time/ Lent (Green/Purple)	Sunday 2nd March Next before Lent	Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday	Sunday 9th March Lent 1	Sunday 16th March Lent 2
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>	9.30 am Eucharist (CW)	—	—	9.30 am Morning Prayer
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  11.00 am Sung Eucharist	6.00 pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  11.00 am Eucharist (CW1)	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  11.00 am All Age Eucharist
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	11.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)	—	9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	11.00 am Matins (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>	—	—	6.00 pm Evening Prayer (CW)	—
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>	—	—	—	—

# Benefice Services

Season Ordinary Time/ Lent (Green/Purple)	Sunday 23rd March Lent 3	Sunday 30th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Sunday 6th April Lent 5	Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>	—	—	9.30 am Eucharist (CW)	—
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00 am Breakfast Service 11.00 am Eucharist (CW1)	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00 am Sung Eucharist (CW1)	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00 am Palm Sunday Eucharist (CW1)
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	4.00 pm Evensong (BCP)	—	11.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>	9.30 am Eucharist (CW1)	—	—	6.00 pm Evening Prayer (CW)
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>	—	11.00 am Mothering Sunday Service	—	—

**Mothering Sunday 30 March: exclusive to St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour, 11am**

# St Mary's Choirs

Singing is, for some, an important aspect of church life, but if this isn't true for you one thing that is universally accepted is that singing has many wonderful benefits. These range from immersing yourself in the kind of interactive learning that deepens your knowledge of maths, languages, reading, and of course the grammar of music, through to developing teamwork skills, learning how to be a mentor, and it can even help with memory loss. Singing as a group can boost confidence and self-esteem, and because it releases endorphins, it can make us feel happy! If all of this sounds like it might be for you, young or old, experienced or inexperienced, please feel free to email [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org) and ask about it. We'd love to hear from you!





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# Diary Dates

## March

- 5 • Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes, 6pm, St Mary's
- 6 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 7 • Bruton Choral Society Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Community Hall
- 8 • Breaking Bread, 7pm, Community Hall
- 9 • Concert: Gregory Steward, St John's, Brewham, 7pm
- 10 • Lent course, The Rectory, 3 and 6.30pm
- 12 • Benefice Visit – Bishop Michael
- 14 • Bruton PCC, 5.30pm, Plox meeting room
- 15 • Diocesan Synod
- 15 • Concert: Hejira, St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm
- 16 • Community Choral Concert, 5pm, King's Memorial Hall
- 17 • Lent course, The Rectory, 3 and 6.30pm
- 21 • FoSM concert: Steve Jolliffe, St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm
- 24 • Lent course, The Rectory, 3 and 6.30pm
- 26 • Deanery Synod
- 31 • Lent course, The Rectory, 3 and 6.30pm

## April

- 3 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 4 • Bratton Seymour APCM, 11am
- 7 • Brewham APCM, 7pm
- 8 • Shepton Montague APCM, 6.30pm
- 9 • Bruton APCM, 5.30pm
- 11 • Pitcombe APCM, 6pm
- 12 • Churchyard Clean-up, St Leonard's, Pitcombe, 10am
- 13 • Holy Week commences – service details in next issue
- 27 • Concert: *Arabesque*, St Mary's, 3pm

# Contact

**Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector**  
**8 Wellesley Green, Bruton, BA10 0DU**  
**Tel: 01749 812775**  
**email: [rector@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:rector@stmarysbruton.org)**

**Benefice Office**  
**Plox House, Silver Street, Bruton, BA10 0ED**  
**Tel: 01749 813080**  
**email: [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)**





[www.stmarysbruton.org](http://www.stmarysbruton.org)