

Newsletter



In the first issue, I invited suggestions for a name for this new newsletter. In the unanimous opinion of the editorial committee of one, the best suggestion to date is 'the Font'. The baptismal font is the place of welcome, a place where the Church gathers, a place of renewal. But also, the word 'font' suggests written text and the capturing of ideas in print. But you may yet have a better idea, so the competition will remain open for a little longer...

We have had a goodly number of people subscribe to the mailing list for the newsletter, but do please spread the word. Easy-to-follow details of how to subscribe can be found on the St Mary's website, or email benefice@stmarysbruton.org. Please also consider printing a copy yourself and delivering it to a neighbour who does not use email.

As we head into what used to be the holiday season, many magazines devote space to book reviews as people decide what to buy for holiday reading. Not to be outdone, we offer some suggestions in this issue. No thrillers or psychodramas, but all good reads.

If this is the first issue of the newsletter that you have seen, please do have a look at the first issue in June (accessible on the St Mary's website), and in particular at the page of 'Ideas for the Future' and get in touch if any of these ideas is of interest to you.

As mentioned in the first issue, if you have suggestions for the improvement of this new newsletter, please do pass them on: there is only any point in having a newsletter if it is providing material of interest and utility to its readers, so please play your part in shaping it.



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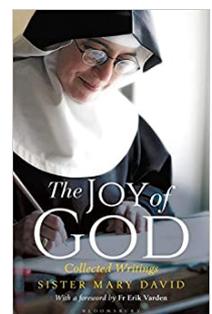
- St Mary's Bruton welcomed a group of students from Sexey's School to the 11.00 am Eucharist on 20 June; we hope this will be the start of regular visits from Sexey's students.
- The planned end of year services/leavers' services for Bruton School for Girls, King's School Bruton and Sexey's School have sadly had to be cancelled as a result of the continued coronavirus restrictions. Sexey's is planning an outdoor service at the school instead and the Rector will attend.
- Shepton Montague celebrated their patronal festival (the feast of St. Peter, 29th June) at a special outdoor Evensong, followed by a village party to celebrate and say thank you for the ministry of Jeremy Collyer as churchwarden and general all-rounder for many years.
- The works of repair and maintenance at St Peter's Redlynch have been delayed due to the contractor's difficulties with supplies and we are awaiting a new date for this work to be completed.
- Wyke Champflower held its Patronal Festival (Trinity Sunday) on 30 May with a special Evensong at which Fr Mark Ellis preached, followed by a reception in the churchyard in glorious sunshine.
- Wyke Champflower held its annual meeting on 25 June at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Winkley.
- On 25th June The Rector accompanied a group of students from Bruton School for Girls on a post-exam outing - a day's walk in the Mendips, which was a great way of building links with BSG.
- St Mary's has begun to rebuild its junior choir and Harry Mills is due to visit Bruton Primary School to explain the benefits and fun to be had through choral singing.
- The Rector is also due to visit Bruton Primary School to talk about what it is like serving as a parish priest. Hopefully the children will be able to explain how the job should be done.
- The Bruton Primary School end of year service is scheduled to take place on 23 July, with the Y6 leavers (plus parents/carers) only in the building and the service being livestreamed back to the school for the other pupils to watch in their classrooms - what an excellent use of our new livestreaming equipment!
- Across the Benefice, we hope to hold 4 baptisms and 2 weddings this summer. These promise to be occasions of great joy after so many postponements and cancellations.

Rector's Recommended Reading

'The Joy of God', Sr Mary David Totah

(Bloomsbury, 2019) ISBN 978-1-4729-7132-6

A collection of the notes, journal entries and instruction given to novices by a Benedictine nun, revealing and inviting us to discover an intentional attitude of joy even in the pain life brings.

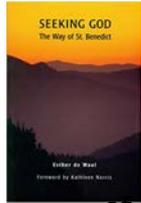


'Joy: the Meaning of the Sacraments', Peter Waddell

(Canterbury Press, 2012) ISBN 978-1-84825-279-0



- A very accessible exploration of the sacraments of the church



'Seeking God', Esther de Waal

(Canterbury Press, 1999) ISBN 978-1-85311-346-8

One for the contemplatives among you - an introduction to and commentary on the Rule of St Benedict by one of our foremost contemporary spiritual writers

Breakfast Service at St Mary's

As the title suggests this service normally starts with hot bacon rolls, tea and coffee. Unfortunately Covid has prevented us meeting in the church (St Mary's) so although you can eat your bacon roll on the Zoom call it will not be cooked by Alistair! It is a very relaxed, informal, lay-led service that currently lasts for 40 minutes. Our main focus is reading and discussing the Gospel reading for the day. Guided by questions anyone in the group can give their views or thoughts and it is a good opportunity to learn from each other. One of our musical members usually chooses and sings an appropriate hymn - when we meet in person he has the skill of getting us to sing hymns we may not know. We also have a time of prayer. If you would like to experience the Breakfast Service on the 4th Sunday of the month, currently at 10am by Zoom you would be very welcome. Once we are back to 'normal' we will revert to 9am in church. Please contact Jill Pearce: jillpearce4@gmail.com

Fellowship Group

In the coronation service of our Queen the following words were said of the Bible:

'... we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.'

In what we call our Fellowship Group, and other churches may call a house group, we explore the Bible, this most 'valuable thing', in a friendly and supportive environment. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, currently on Zoom from 8 - 8.40 pm. (Post-covid we will revert to meeting at 7.30pm and start with refreshments). At the moment we are using a book called 'Worshipping the God of all in all of life' that looks at six of the Psalms. We always end our meeting sharing anything we would like prayer for. If you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Please contact Jill Pearce: jillpearce4@gmail.com

Prayer Group

Some of us meet every Wednesday at 11am in St Mary's to pray together for the Church and the people of Bruton and the surrounding district .

John Lennon & Paul McCartney wrote in their song HELP:

When I was younger, so much younger than today, I never needed anybody's help in any way, But now these days are gone, I'm not so self-assured; Now I find, I've changed my mind, I've opened up the doors Help me if you can, I'm feeling down And I do appreciate

you being 'round.....Help me get my feet back on the ground Won't you, please, please help me?

and this is the heart cry of many people today. Jesus came to earth to provide that help - it is freely given and we can ask as often as we like - you see He knows our need long before we ask for help - He just wants us to ask.

So let us boldly approach God's throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it. [Hebrews 4v16]

Please come and join us

Could you? Would you?

The Children's Society need a volunteer local coordinator of their fundraising, including household collection boxes. More details will be posted soon on St Mary's website. Could you?

We have a few people interested in becoming part of a team trained in pastoral visiting, but there is still time to join with this initiative if you feel this is a ministry in which you could share. Would you?

We are expecting to need to put together a working party to clean St Peter's Redlynch for a baptism service on 29 August. Could you?

For all the above, please contact the Rector.

?? Puzzles ??

Here are some questions arising from the lectionary readings for Sunday 20 June (3rd Sunday after Trinity):

In the story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17), what is the best explanation for the oddity that King Saul seems not to know who David is (1 Sam 17: 55-58), despite David already being a known and trusted member of his court (see 1 Samuel 16: 14-23)?

In the story of Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4: 35-41), what is the significance of the pointed reference to crossing to the other side of Lake Galilee? And why does Mark tell us that 'other boats were with him' (v. 36) when these other boats nor the people presumably in them) are not mentioned at all in the rest of the story?

Diary Dates

- 12 July - Brewham PCC meeting, 7.30pm at Colinshays
- 17 July - St Mary's Community Fete, Abbey Field 10.00am - 4.00pm
- 22 July - Men's Supper Club meets at the Monty (invitation only)
- 23 July - Bruton Primary School leavers' service (invitation only)

looking further ahead

- 14 August - Wyke Champflower coffee morning at the Manor
- 4 September - Shepton Montague Fete

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