

Newsletter



A New Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of a new Benefice newsletter. First things first, this new newsletter needs a name. Something that refers to our location; something that works equally well across the Benefice; nothing too predictable or corny. Any thoughts or suggestions? If so, please send them in by email to benefice@stmarysbruton.org.

In order to save paper, time and money, this new newsletter will be distributed by email and published on our church websites rather than being printed as was the case with the previous benefice newsletter. This obviously risks excluding those who do not use email and therefore cannot receive it in that way. So please look out for people you know who do not use email and, if you can, print a copy of the newsletter and deliver it to them. If you can't do that yourself, then please ask someone else in your parish to do that for them.



IN THIS ISSUE

News

Ideas for the future

Diary Dates

You may well ask: what is the point of this newsletter, given that we have an impressive stable of parish magazines across the Benefice? Good question. The idea is not to replicate or, even worse, compete with the parish magazines, but to offer something that is different and is specific to the church community across the Benefice. One objective is to increase a sense of belonging, togetherness and cohesion in what remains a relatively young Benefice. Another is to provide or seek information about events and ideas that are perhaps more relevant to the church community than the wider community, and which therefore might not make for good copy in the parish magazines.



People often identify internal communication as a significant problem in multi-parish benefices, and this newsletter is one way of seeking to improve the flow of information so that we can share better with one another the joys and the strains of our common ministry under God. This will only work if people from across the Benefice pass on their news, diary dates, thoughts and suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter.

So please do pass on suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter to the benefice office at benefice@stmarysbruton.org. Please remember that if you are suggesting the inclusion of a prayer request, it is essential that we have the written consent of any person whose name is published in the newsletter - we cannot publish personal information (eg that someone is sick) without that consent.

NEWS

- A programme of urgent repair work begins at St Peter's Chapel, Redlynch on 14th June
- The 'Filling Station' is planning to resume meetings in September and has had a planned meeting at Bruton School for Girls
- St Mary's Bruton welcomed a visiting group of bellringers on 26th May and our own team has begun to ring for services on Sunday again, for which we are very thankful
- The junior choir and adult choir at St Mary's, Bruton are planning to resume rehearsals imminently. Please contact Harry Mills for more information: choir@stmarysbruton.org or 01749 812114
- The Shepton Montague annual plant sale (in aid of St Peter's) and cake sale (in aid of the village hall) took place in the car park of The Newt (by kind permission) on 29th May and was a great success.



IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

The **Heartedge network** is an ecumenical network whose purpose is to offer support and encouragement to help churches and other groups or individuals develop and flourish. It is focused on 4 areas of concern and activity: Congregation, Compassion, Culture and Commerce. It offers a new way of being church. Have a look at their website: www.heartedge.org. If you are interested by what you see, please contact the Rector.



Pastoral visiting - as we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic, it will become possible once again to visit people in their homes. If you (or someone you know) might welcome a visit, please contact the Benefice Office. If you would be interested in forming part of a pastoral ministry team, please contact the Rector - it is vital that this be a shared ministry across our church communities; it is simply not possible for the Rector to do all the visiting across the four parishes himself. If there is enough interest, we could look to training people to share in this key aspect of ministry.



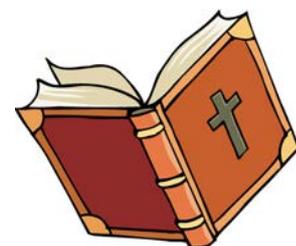
Refresher Course - the basics of Christianity. Would you be interested in a course that examines the basic building blocks of the Christian faith in a small discussion group? Many of us never received any structured teaching at the time of our baptism or confirmation; some of us might be a bit rusty; some of us might have some unanswered questions or areas of doubt. If people are interested, we could explore all this together in an open and supportive discussion group. Contact the Benefice Office if you would like to know more.

Living in Love and Faith - the Church of England is engaged in a programme of listening and learning about issues of gender, sexuality, identity and relationship. These are topics which affect us at the deepest level of our humanity and in relation to which the Church has experienced and is experiencing still great division and great pain. Living in Love and Faith is a national process of listening to the views of others in an attempt to understand better experiences and viewpoints on these matters that may differ from our own, including the way in which we understand Scripture to inform and guide us in this regard. It would be very good if we could be part of this process of learning and listening in some way in our Benefice - there are often voices and viewpoints that are not heard, and this is an attempt to enable all voices to be heard. Please contact the Rector if interested.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

The Bible - an introduction. Would you be interested in an introductory overview of the books of the Bible? We often only dip into the Bible for our Sunday readings and can often be left a bit baffled by some of what we find. An overview can help us get to grips with how we read and interpret the Bible and how we respond to it. Contact the Benefice Office if you would like to know more.



Social events - if you have ideas for social or cultural events to help us rebuild and strengthen our communities, let us know.

DIARY DATES

- 1 June: Shepton Montague PCC, 6.30pm at St Peter's Church
- 2 June: Deanery Synod, 7.30pm online only
- 3 June: The Feast of Corpus Christi, Benefice Eucharist at St Mary the Virgin Bruton, 6.30pm
- 7 June: Meeting of Parish Safeguarding Officers, 11am at the Rectory, Bruton
- 10 June: Archdeacon's Visitation (swearing in of churchwardens), 7.00pm online only
- 25 June: Wyke Champflower Annual Meeting: 7.30pm at the home of Mrs Elizabeth Winkley
- 27 June: Patronal Festival, St John Baptist, Brewham (9.30am Eucharist)

Looking further ahead.....

- 12 July: Brewham PCC, 7.30pm at Colinshayes
- 17 July: St Mary's Community Fete, Abbey Field, Bruton, 10.00am - 4.00pm

CONTACT DETAILS

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