

# Newsletter



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As we emerge from Covid restrictions, we have an opportunity to look afresh at the way we do things as a church community. This could be to do with our worship, our prayer, our sharing of hospitality, our growth as disciples. You might have some thoughts and suggestions for new initiatives, or slight tweaks here and there. There may be things that you have seen or heard about in other churches that you think might work well here. This could be anything from how we welcome visitors or enjoy refreshments together after services to ideas for social events or series of talks or study opportunities. Or ideas for mutual care and support within our church communities or better integration with the wider communities in which we live. Do please pass on any thoughts or suggestions to your churchwardens or 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](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.

Previous issues of the newsletter are available on the St Mary's website. If you have suggestions for the improvement of this new newsletter, do please pass them on. You may wish to offer a book review, or a poem, or a photograph, for example.

- All our churches have now responded to the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions by revising their arrangements for seating, mask-wearing and singing, while endeavouring to continue to ensure that all those who attend services feel safe and comfortable. If you have comments or suggestions in relation to this issue, please contact a churchwarden from the relevant parish, or the Rector.
- The St Mary's Community Fete on 17th July took place on a scorching summer's day and much ice cream and no small amount of cider was happily consumed. Fun was had and a good amount of money was raised - both very welcome results. Huge thanks to all involved: too many to name, but you know who you are. It was particularly good to have such strong support for the event from across the Benefice.
- St Mary's has re-opened for visiting and private prayer. Opening hours are 8.30 am (after Morning Prayer) until 5.00 pm (Evening Prayer) daily.
- Shepton Montague is gearing up for its village fete on 4 September.
- St Peter's Redlynch is looking forward to holding a Eucharist with a Baptism on 29th August - the first service there for a long time. Please see under 'help wanted' in relation to the work needed to open up St Peter's for this service.
- We are also planning to hold a meeting to discuss ideas for future ministry at and from St Peter's Redlynch (provisionally fixed for 13th September). All ideas and suggestions would be welcome as we seek to discern the way forward.
- There will be a fundraising coffee morning in aid of Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower on 14th August at the Manor House at 10.30am. Do please come and support this if you are able.
- St Mary's has begun to restart both the junior and the adult choir. Please speak to Harry Mills if you or someone you know is interested in singing with the choirs.
- St Mary's has had visits from two organists, each of whom played the organ there while a student at King's Bruton - one in the mid 1960's and the other more recently. Thanks to David Slater for permitting them to revive happy memories by playing the pipe organ once again.
- St Leonard's has managed to secure the services of two organists to play at some of their services, and it is a great joy to have live organ music to accompany the singing there once again.
- Pitcombe is looking forward to its (rescheduled) village summer party on 7th August. This is an invitation-only event, so no storming of the barricades please, and we hope that goes well.

## Lost and found!



A metal sign indicating the flood level reached in St Mary's churchyard in 1917 was stolen from the churchyard, only to turn up on eBay with the ambitious price tag of £1,800! The thieves were evidently trying to cash in on the recent media interest in Bruton as (quote) 'a celebrity and artistic hub'. HM Constabulary were alerted and we are pleased to say that the sign, sadly now sprayed an unattractive gold colour, was anonymously returned the next day.

## Help choose the next Bishop of Bath & Wells

A consultation has begun as part of the process of discerning and choosing the next Bishop of Bath & Wells. Details are available on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/who-we-are/how-the-diocese-works/new-bishop/new-bishop-consultation/>

Everyone is welcome to take part in the consultation and a questionnaire can be completed online or one can be sent out to you (email [newbishop@bathwellsanglican.org](mailto:newbishop@bathwellsanglican.org) or ring 01749 670777).



## Help wanted



We are still lacking a volunteer local coordinator of fundraising for the Children's Society, including organizing household collection boxes. More details will be posted soon on St Mary's website.

We need some help organising displays of information and postcards/leaflets for sale to visitors to St Mary's (everything having been put away during the pandemic).

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. The possibility of organising some training at Deanery level is being considered. Many of you will visit neighbours and friends already and this is a chance to provide a theological and ecclesial framework for that ministry.

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

For all the above, please contact the Rector.

## Sculpture exhibition

The Rector is planning to go to see the final major exhibition of a well-known sculptor called Peter Eugene Ball, who makes both sacred and secular pieces (and some in between). His work has been commissioned for many churches and cathedrals around the country. Have a look at his website: <http://www.petereball.com/>



## Diary Dates

- 13 August - Memorial service for Sue Britton, 12.00 noon at St Mary's
- 14 August - Wyke Champflower coffee morning, 10.30 am at the Manor House
- 4 September - Shepton Montague Fete
- 4 September - Pitcombe PCC meeting 10.00 am
- 5 September - Patronal festival at St Mary's
- 6 September - Brewham PCC meeting 7.30 pm at Colinshays
- 14 September - Shepton Montague PCC meeting, 6.30 pm
- 19 September - Harvest Festivals at Brewham with harvest lunch to follow and Bruton
- 26 September - Harvest Festivals at Pitcombe and Shepton Montague with harvest supper to follow.

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