



Bruton

Pitcombe

Redlynch

Brewham

Shepton Montague

Wyke Champflower



The Rector recently attended a meeting of Diocesan clergy at which there was an opportunity to comment or ask questions about the recent decisions of General Synod in relation to marriage and relationships. You may be aware that General Synod recently considered proposals from the House of Bishops regarding the possible future issuing

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of approved prayers of blessing for couples in same-sex relationships, the decision not to permit the celebration of same-sex marriages in church and the proposed revision of the current guidance regarding sexual conduct for clergy.

These may be issues that concern you personally, or they may be issues that you feel have no relevance to you at all. The meeting, and comment on this issue elsewhere, suggests that it could have potentially significant consequences for us all.

This is because some people within the Church of England are questioning whether they wish to remain part of our Church, given these developments. Indeed, some of the discussion suggests that those who are concerned at these emerging proposals may argue that it is not they who should leave the Church of England but rather those who welcome these changes should be the ones to leave, because (as they see it) it is this group that are departing from the traditional (and, in their view, correct) teaching of the Church.

If a large number of people were to leave the Church of England, or even if they were to remain but arrangements were made for them to be 'separately provided for' (as is currently the case for some of those who do not accept the validity of the ordination of women as priests and bishops), then we are looking, at a minimum, at a potentially very serious impairment of our unity, and at worst full-blown schism.

Any such developments are likely to have a serious impact on Diocesan finances, and hence the ability to fund and support our shared ministry.

Please pray for Bishop Michael, Bishop Ruth and all involved in this process, as they seek to preserve the unity and diversity of our Church.



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, 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 Re-organisation***

The proposals for restructuring the Benefices in our Deanery are now out for consultation. These have been provided to the Deanery Synod representatives and churchwardens of each parish. Please do look at them, consider them carefully and prayerfully, and make your views known. Under these proposals, our Benefice will be enlarged by the addition of a number of further parishes. It is hard to see how this will be practicable within our current structures and arrangements for ministry, so some changes to what we do and how we do it will almost certainly be required.

With this in mind, on the 5th Sunday of April (30 April) there will be an opportunity for us to come together as a Benefice and consider how we might go about managing the consequences of these changes when they happen. As examples of the issues we might discuss:

- which parishes are able to provide lay people to lead Sunday worship?
- which parishes will have to have fewer Sunday services?

- should we look at the merger of some or all of our parishes, so that we have fewer PCCs?
- who is going to do the increased benefice administration – shall we pay someone or do we have willing and able volunteers?
- which parishes are able to provide lay pastoral visitors?
- who is going to lead the engagement with schools and/or parish councils?
- what efficiencies can we make to reduce the administrative workload?
- will we combine more in the future for principal festivals, or are some parishes content not to observe these holy days at all?
- what expenses should we share at benefice level and what expenses should be borne at parish level?
- where should the Rectory be located?
- how will we organise discipleship, fellowship and prayer groups?
- should the post of Rector for the new Benefice be re-advertised?

Details of the time and place of this meeting will be advertised in due course.

## *News from our Parishes*

There will be another film night at Shepton Montague on Thursday 13 April – a showing of the Film 'the Visit'. Film starts at 7.30 pm, doors open at 6.45 pm.

St Mary's held a very productive and enjoyable spring clean on 1 April with many volunteers helping in many ways. Even the Berkeley Tomb was relieved of some ancient cobwebs.



Advance notice of the annual plant sale at St Peter's, Shepton Montague on 27 May. There will be a great range of plants for sale. Perennials, herbaceous, vegetables, salads, flowers annuals, herbs and more. Delicious cakes and produce will be on sale. There will be a variety of Kitchen and Garden Bric a brac and books and a fun raffle to be drawn in the day. Teas will available at the Village Hall from 2.00pm. £1.00 entry to the Plant Sale in the churchyard from 2.30pm. Free parking nearby.

St Mary's welcomed students from Sexey's School for their Easter service at the end of term. As the number of students attending the school increases, so it is becoming more difficult to accommodate the whole school for a single service, and we may need to find new ways of organising school services in the future.

St Mary's also welcomed some pupils and staff from Bruton Primary School for a time of learning together about Easter, tackling some tough questions about Christ's Passion, death and resurrection. Young children always ask the best questions and often have the best answers.

## Whiskey & Gin Night

There will be a whisky or gin (or maybe even both?) tasting event at St Peter's, Shepton Montague on Sunday 23 April. We are not sure which of these tipples St George preferred, but hope to find out by the end of the evening. Tickets cost £10 and there will be 40 varieties to sample. Please contact June Sykes for further details and to buy your tickets.



Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7<sup>pm</sup>  
snacks \* 40 varieties \* gin + tonics

St Peters Church+Village Hall

June@sykesj.co.uk

SHEPTON MONTAGUE



## *Litter Pick*

You may know that in March, Mill on the Brue organised a very successful litter pick in an attempt to tidy up Bruton. It was felt that once a year was insufficient to cope with the amount of litter that, sadly, is dropped on our streets and grasslands and it is hoped that other groups in the town will take a turn once a year to organise their own event. St Mary's is keen to do its share and we plan to arrange our own clean up on a Saturday morning in September. This is an advance notice but if you are willing and able in principle to help please let our coordinator, Mike Kelham, know ([mikekelham@btinternet.com](mailto:mikekelham@btinternet.com)). We also hope to put on some refreshments afterwards; if you can help with these please contact Marian on the same email address.

The date of the clean-up and further details will be announced nearer the time.

## *The Great British Bump Off*

For one night only The Bruton Players present: 'The Great British Bump Off'.

As baking fever hits the country, the village fete organisers in the usually sleepy village of Crabblebottom are delighted when celebrity chef Eduardo D'Angelo takes up residence in the village and agrees



to judge the annual cake baking competition. But this year there is a change of plan, as the bake-off turns into a bump-off.

Performed at Bruton Unionist Club - Saturday 29th April. 7.00pm for 7.30 start.

£20.00 per person - Includes a 3 course meal.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to St. Mary's Church.

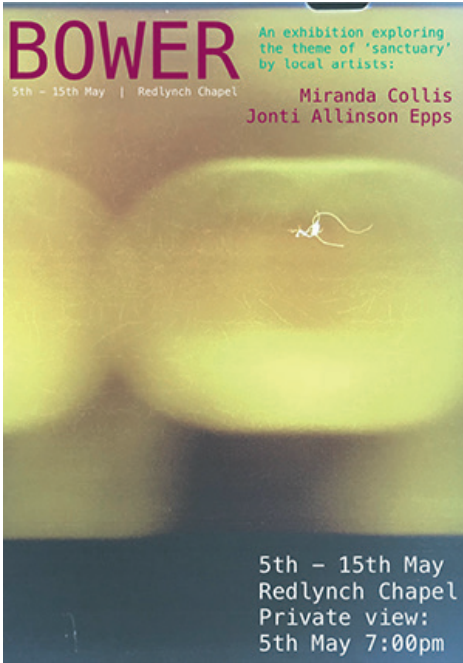
### *Request for Recipes*



The Brue Larder (our local foodbank) is launching a scheme to deliver recipes for meals that are suitable to be prepared in a slow cooker using basic, cheap ingredients to be supplied to families supported by the Larder. Generous donations before Christmas have enabled the Larder to supply the slow cooker itself to a number of households and now we are looking to have some input from local people and organisations to supply interesting recipes. Ideally one with meat and one without meat – but keep it simple! If you can accompany the recipe with a photo, these will be turned into attractive recipe cards for delivery with the food bags.



## Arts Events



In early May, St Peter's, Redlynch will host an exhibition of work by local artists called 'Bower', exploring the theme of 'Sanctuary'. The exhibition will run from 6-15 May, with a private viewing on 5 May.

On 13 May, St Mary's will host an evening of performance art, music, dance, literature. This performance will be called 'Texture' and again features local artists and their friends.



Hosting arts events is a key part of our desire that our churches should serve our local communities (see below for another upcoming concert by the Aurin Girls' Choir).

## *Free Visits to the Bishop's Palace*

The Palace Trust writes:

We would like to offer 10 complimentary entry tickets each Tuesday to one parish/benefice from across the diocese. We have chosen this day of the week because there is a Tuesday at Noon service in the Bishop's Chapel here, which would be the focus of your visit. You are welcome to bring prayers to share at the service. Of course, you can explore our 14 acre site, its wonderful gardens and 800 year old palace too. There is a prayer walk around the gardens with a theme of water, a Quiet Garden for contemplation and a lovely café for lunch, or perhaps you might bring a picnic to share. What better way to end your visit than to stroll over to the Cathedral to attend evensong at 5:15pm?

If anyone is interested in getting a group together for a Tuesday outing, please get in touch.

## *The Coronation of King Charles III*



There will be a Family Fun Day at the Bruton Club (aka the Unionist) from 2.00 pm onwards on Saturday 6 May. Activities will be free of charge and there will be live music. The Coronation will be shown on a big screen and there will be food for sale.

On Sunday 7 May our church services will mark the Coronation using some special prayers and appropriate music.

Bruton Town Council is organising a 'Big Lunch' from 12.30pm to 3.30 pm on Sunday 7 May along Lower Backway – this is a bring and share picnic.



### *The Aurin Girls Choir*

Barbara Jenkinson writes:

I am really delighted that the Aurin Girls' Choir (from Hungary) will be visiting Bruton to give the first concert of their 2023 tour. This will be their seventh visit to our town. From the Kodály Music School, Kecskemét, Hungary, they have become one of the top youth choirs in the world today, under their energetic conductor, László Durányik.

Their many achievements have included two gold medals in the World Choir Games in China, a first prize at the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and 27 first prizes in International competitions.

They will participate in some choral activities with local children in addition to their concert on Monday 26 June, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church, Bruton, so please save the date. Their last concert was a sell-out and tickets will be on sale from the end of May. (Details available soon)

It has been the tradition in the past, that families and other friendly folk have offered accommodation to the girls. If you might be able to help with this, (2 nights, 25/26 June) please contact me on [bjenkinson708@btinternet.com](mailto:bjenkinson708@btinternet.com) or 07808 300641.

Barbara Jenkinson (Aurin Girls' Choir Co-ordinator)



Aurin 20, Könyvtár, Gyöngyösi Levente előadása, Aurin Leánykar közreműködésével

### ***Diary Dates***

- 13 April - Film Night at Shepton Montague
- 17 April - Brewham Annual Meetings
- 18 April - Shepton Montague Annual Meetings
- 19 April - Bruton Annual Meetings
- 21 April - Pitcombe Annual Meetings
- 21 April - Memorial Service for Wyn Hanham, St Mary's at 2.00 pm
- 23 April - Whisky evening - St Peter's, Shepton Montague at 7.00 pm
- 29 April - Murder Mystery performance – Bruton Club

### ***Further ahead***

- 1 May - Somerscience Festival
- 5 May - 'Bower' exhibition opens at St Peter's, Redlynch
- 6 May - Coronation celebrations at Bruton Club
- 13 May - 'Texture', an evening of art, music, dance & literature at St Mary's
- 17 May - Deanery Ascension Day Eucharist – St Peter & St Paul's Wincanton
- 27 May - Plant sale, St Peter's, Shepton Montague, from 2.30 pm

## *Contact*

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