



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Wyke Champflower Shepton Montague



We had a very good turnout for the Benefice Discussion on Sunday 30 April, when we tackled some difficult questions about the likely re-organisation of the Benefice by the addition of further parishes. There were lots of constructive comments and suggestions which we now need to collate and turn into a consultation response to submit to the

## IN THIS ISSUE

News from our Parishes

Easter Celebrations

Ascension Day

Arts Events

The Coronations of King  
Charles III

Jubilee Trees

Benefice Discussion Group

Book Review

Book Recommendation

Friends of St Mary's

Diary Dates

Contact



Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (Deanery Synod's standing committee). It was especially heart-warming to receive a prayer written for the occasion by an anonymous friend. We opened with that prayer and it set the tone for some good conversations. Thank you to all who came and contributed.

If you were unable to attend that meeting and would like a copy of the discussion paper and questions, please do get in touch and this can be supplied.



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@stmarys-bruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarys-bruton.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.

## 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 was one of a number of venues in Bruton hosting events as part of the very successful science festival 'Somerscience' on 1 May.

The annual plant sale at St Peter's, Shepton Montague will take place 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 Peter's, Shepton Montague hosted a very successful, informative and enjoyable whisky and gin tasting evening, with a befuddling array of varieties to sample. Many thanks to John Sykes and all those who helped with this event.

Mrs Winkley hosted an amazing tea for our guests from Ukraine. It was hard to tell whether they were more impressed by the alpacas, the house or the food.

The *Great British Bump Off* took place at the Bruton Club on Saturday 29 April and was a huge success. The house was packed, the actors entertained, the food was delicious and a very good evening was had by all. Huge thanks to Christine Dunn and her band of players (plus support team). All proceeds are very generously being donated to the facilities Fund at St Mary's, for which we are truly grateful.

## Easter Celebrations

It was good to be able to celebrate an Easter Sunday Eucharist in all of our churches this year, with services full of joy and well supported by the wider community.



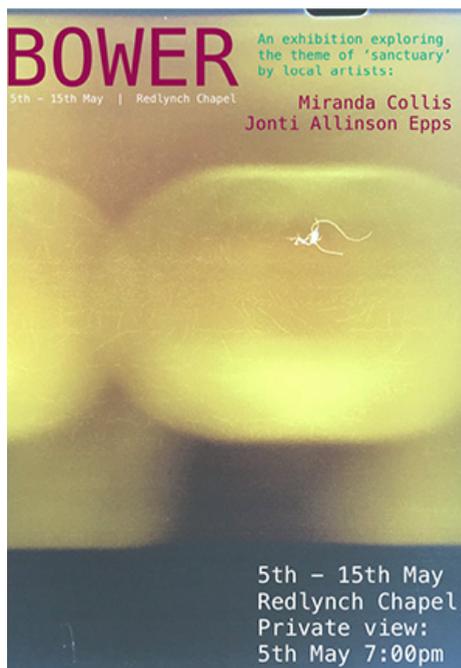
## Ascension Day

The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day (Thursday 18 May) will be held in Wincanton this year: St Peter & St Paul's Church at 7.00 pm, with refreshments afterwards. The Acting Dean of Wells Cathedral, Ven. Anne Gell, will be the preacher.

## Arts Events

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

On 13 May, St Mary's will host *Texture*, an evening of performance art, music, dance, literature, starting at 7.00 pm.



We are really looking forward to welcoming the Aurin Girls' Choir from Hungary, back to Bruton for the first concert in their 2023 tour. They have visited Bruton many times in the past, as well as other venues in the South West. 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, first prize at the Llangollen International



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

Music Eisteddfod and 27 first prizes in other International competitions. The concert on Monday 26 June at 7.30pm, is at St Mary's Church, Bruton; please put the date in your diaries as their last concert was a sell-out! Tickets are £10 in advance, £12 on the door and will be available from Bruton Convenience Store, tel 01749 813161 or online at [www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk) from May 20. The organisers are still looking for some more people to host members of the choir – please contact Barbara Jenkinson if you are able to help: [bjenkinson708@btinternet.com](mailto:bjenkinson708@btinternet.com)

Bruton Choral Society will give a gala concert in King's Memorial Hall on 20 May, celebrating its 30th anniversary. There will be a varied programme of classical pieces, opera choruses and music from stage & screen. Tickets are £10 in advance/ £12 on the door and can be obtained from Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161 or online via our website: [brutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://brutonchoralsociety.org.uk). The concert begins at 7.30 pm.

## The Coronation of King Charles III

### ***At Bruton:***

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

***At Shepton Montague:***

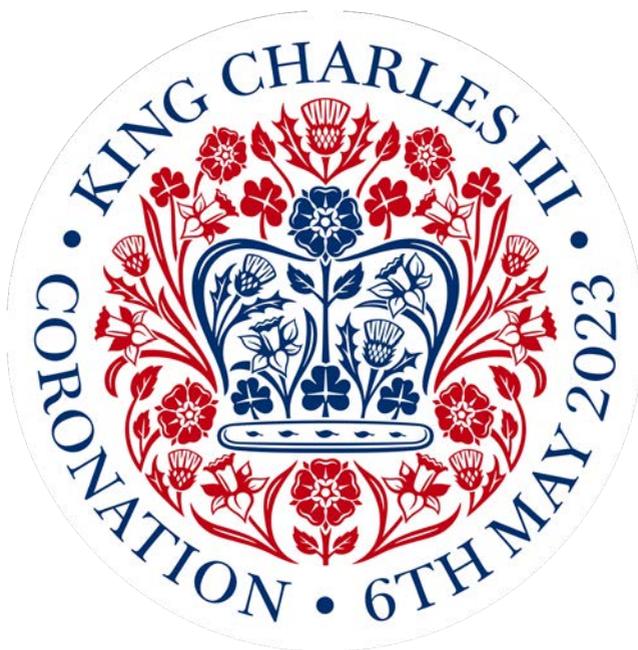
• Coronation Picnic, 7th May, 12 - 3pm in the Village Hall Garden (in the Village Hall if wet). Bring your own picnic, drinks, chairs, rugs, corkscrews (obviously says the Benefice Admin), fly swats, thermal blankets...

***At Brewham:***

- Sunday 7th Coronation Picnic, 12pm, Jerrard's Farm
- Monday 8th Coronation Tea, 3pm, Village Hall

***At church:***

• On Sunday 7 May our regular church services will mark the Coronation using some special prayers and appropriate music (services at Pitcombe, Bruton and Brewham). The choir at St Mary's have been preparing some rousing music to mark the occasion: *Zadok the Priest* by Handel; *I was Glad* by Parry; and the setting is by Haydn.



## Jubilee Trees

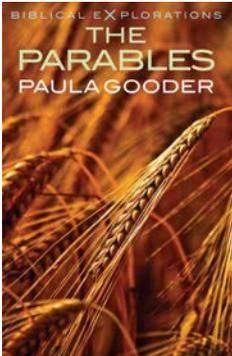


Photo: Chris Rolls

(Any photos and updates on other jubilee trees would be gratefully received...)

A cherry tree was planted in Jubilee Park during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and it was in full bloom on Easter Day. It had a challenging start, having been planted outside of the usual planting season, and then there was an extended period of dry weather. It was watered with buckets by Brutonians, and now appears to be flourishing!

## Benefice Discussion Group



In the next series of our discussions, we plan to look at the parables that Jesus told, as recorded in the Gospels. We will use Paula Gooder's book *The Parables*, which can be bought second-hand online. For these discussions, not everyone will need a copy of the book, so please don't feel that

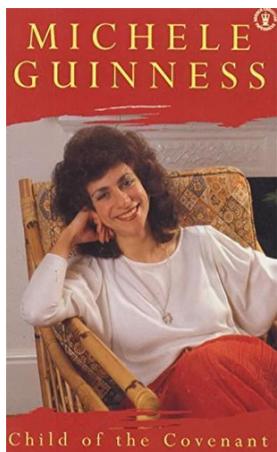
you need to buy the book if you don't want to.

As before, we will meet weekly on Mondays and will offer two groups, one starting at 3.00pm and one starting at 6.30pm, both meeting at the Rectory. The first session will be on Monday 5 June.

## Book Reviews

*A Contributor writes...*

### ***Child Of The Covenant* – Michele Guinness**



Described as ‘a humorous account of how a young Jewish girl came face to face with the Messiah and had to make sense of being both Jewish and Christian’, Michele Guinness shares some fascinating insights, some funny, some challenging, and others just culturally different to my own experiences of growing up in a Christian family.

My mum grew up in a Jewish home, and converted to Christianity in her early 20s, so I found *Child Of the Covenant* to be an interesting read for a different perspective on her broadly similar ‘journey’. When talking about her parents, Michele describes the ‘elasticity of their love’ when struggling to come to terms with her ‘marrying out’ of the Jewish faith. Whilst I have never met many of my Jewish relatives, I recall with respect a similar elasticity from my grandparents towards our family.

Written nearly 40 years ago, *Child of the Covenant* has a rele-

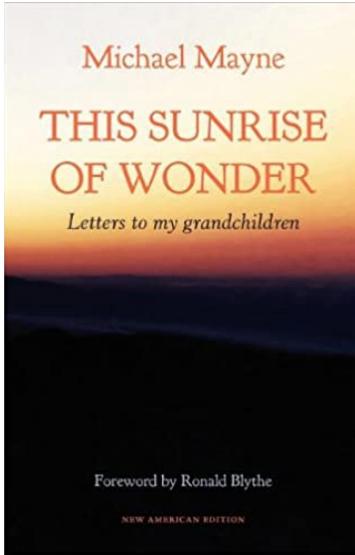
vance today in so many ways- how does it feel to be in a minority group? What is it like to have a family way of life that is completely unfamiliar to some of your peers? What traditions do we cherish, and why? Guinness (yes, she married into that brewing family!) includes the kind of anecdotes that are very relatable to everyday life across all cultures.

Her understanding of her heritage led to connections with Jesus' Jewishness and the Old Testament values and prophecies which Jesus reiterated and lived. Having recently read *Humbler Faith, Bigger God*, I was intrigued to think about this in the context of the 'parent' relationship of Judaism to Christianity. (HFBG Chap 6).

As a young Christian, Michele wrestled with holding on to those elements that were important to her and she sought to find a new way of worship where she felt she could 'fit in' and contribute, in a very unfamiliar setting for her. I found this to be an interesting insight into how others from different backgrounds might find 'trying church'. She expresses some potentially controversial ideas in the last chapter – her experiences of church weren't always welcoming ones, and I wonder which of her criticisms are a product of their time, and which might still be the case 40 years on.

As stated in the back page blurb, Michele married a Christian who became an Anglican priest. The journey is a fascinating one, and an enjoyable read.

## Book Recommendation



***This Sunrise of Wonder: Letters for the Journey*** by Michael Mayne (Fount, 1995).

Among other roles in which he served, Michael Mayne was the Dean of Westminster Abbey. He wrote a lovely book, in the form of letters to a grandchild, offering his take on life, meaning, beauty and God. It is all about 'wonder' and is full of wisdom.

## Friends of St Mary's

The Friends of St Mary's is holding an AGM on 9 May at 5.30pm in the Community Hall in Bruton. If you are already a member, or if you would like to join, please come along as we aim to elect new officers for the charity.



# Diary Dates

- **1 May:** Somerscience Festival
- **2 May:** Shepton Montague PCC meeting, 6.30pm in the village hall
- **5 May:** 'Bower' exhibition opens at St Peter's, Redlynch
- **6 May:** Coronation celebrations at Bruton Club and Brewham
- **7 May:** Coronation celebrations at Bruton and Shepton Montague and Brewham
- **9 May:** Friends of St Mary's AGM, at 5.30 pm in the Community Hall
- **10 May:** Bruton PCC meeting, 5.30 pm in the meeting room at Plox
- **11 May:** Film Night at Shepton Montague, 7.30 pm at the church
- **12 May:** Pitcombe PCC meeting, 2.30 pm at Hadspen Farm
- **13 May:** 'Texture', an evening of art, music, dance & literature at St Mary's, 7.00 pm
- **18 May:** Deanery Ascension Day Eucharist – St Peter & St Paul's Wincanton, 7.00 pm
- **20 May:** Bruton Choral Society Gala Concert – King's Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm
- **27 May:** Plant sale, St Peter's, Shepton Montague, from 2.30 pm

*Further ahead:*

- **7 June:** Archdeacon's Visitation
- **26 June:** Aurin Girls' Choir concert, St Mary's at 7.30 pm
- **26 June:** Diocesan Synod

## Contact

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