



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Wyke Champflower Shepton Montague



Photo: Sarah Mills

If ever you have found yourself wondering what life is all about, here is a short but profound thought from Caryll Houselander:

‘Sometimes it may seem to us that there is no purpose in our lives; that going day after day for years to this office or that school or factory is nothing else but waste and wariness. But it may be that God has send

IN THIS ISSUE

News from our Parishes

Confirmation Service

Meet the Bishop

Lay Ministry

Litter Pick in Bruton

Prayer Ministry

Friends of St Leonard's

Sunday 29th October

Arts Events

Diary Dates

Contact



us there because but for us Christ would not be there. If our being there means that Christ is there, that alone makes it worthwhile'



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 (www.stmarysbruton.org), or email 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.

News from our Parishes



Photo: Chris Rolls

We celebrated the harvest across the Benefice in some style this year (Redlynch's celebrations are yet to come, see below). Our services saw good congregations and there were very happy meals shared also, as well as a very fun fair and barn dance and hog roast at the Bruton Club.

Sadly the rain did fall, despite the forecast to the contrary, so the afternoon's fun was somewhat dampened but the evening was a great success with brilliant music and calling from *Teasing the Cat* and wonderful food provided by Danela's and members of our community. It was as much fun sitting watching us all try to barn dance as it was to be doing the dancing itself as we struggled to remember all the moves and avoid falling over each other. Much fun was had by all and we carried ourselves home on our aching legs, with big smiles on our faces.

We would like to thank Caroline and Mike from the club for making this possible. They couldn't have been more helpful, and with the new PA system (which is excellent), access to the kitchen, and amazing support on the day, it really made a difference. We would thoroughly recommend this venue to anyone thinking of putting on an event in Bruton



Photo: Caroline Rathbone

Harvest donations received at St Mary's will be passed on to the Brue Larder and we are especially grateful to Sexey's School for their involvement in the service and their donations of food.

We have celebrated marriages at Pitcombe, Brewham (flowers pictured left arranged by Jackie

Garrett), and Bruton in recent weeks. One service at Brewham saw the most spectacular flower displays.

St Mary's is very grateful to students from King's School Bruton for their help cleaning the church.

Bishop Ruth, the Bishop of Taunton, is going to be seconded to the Diocese of Coventry to serve as their Diocesan Bishop for an interim period while they seek to appoint a new Bishop, the current Bishop having moved to become Dean at Windsor. We wish Bishop Ruth well and pray for her in her new role in Coventry.

(Do please submit items of news for this Newsletter from your own parish – there are things happening, and we need to hear about them and share them!)

Confirmation Service

There will be a confirmation service at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 4 November at 2.00 pm. We have a number of candidates from this Benefice. If anyone else is interested in being confirmed (candidates can be young or old, new or long-standing disciples of Christ) please speak to the Rector for further information. Please pray for those to be confirmed as they take another step on their journey of faith.

Meet the Bishop

There will be an opportunity to meet Bishop Michael on 27 November at 7.30 pm at Batcombe Memorial Hall. Bishop Michael is coming to meet people from across our Deanery to share stories of hope and encouragement, to listen to what we might have to say to him about the life of the Church in our parishes and to ask questions of him. If you wish to attend this event, please contact the Benefice office so that we can pass on numbers (for catering / parking arrangements).

Lay Ministry

If anyone is interested in becoming a lay worship leader or a lay pastoral assistant, we are looking to train and appoint people to these roles across the Benefice. In the light of current, and potentially future, reductions in the number of stipendiary clergy, the Church is going to be increasingly reliant on volunteers, lay and ordained, as we feel the pinch of our reduced income and have to cut staffing levels accordingly.

Leading public worship and offering pastoral ministry both require a distinct and specific vocation and need to be supported by training and supervision to ensure appropriate accountability. There are training courses available for each of these shared ministries, with a view to being commissioned into these roles.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please speak to the Rector for more details.

Litter Pick in Bruton

A reminder that we are carrying out a litter pick in Bruton on the morning of October 7. Meet at the Church at 10.00 am where equipment and instructions will be provided. There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Prayer Ministry



'Everyone prays in their own language, and there is no language that God does not understand.' (Duke Ellington)

Our Benefice finds itself in challenging times and it sometimes feels like there is little we can do to change things. But prayer is something that we can all do and prayer changes things.

This month will you pray for our Benefice?

Here are some specific things to pray for:

Each of the churches in our Benefice and the events we have planned:

- St John the Baptist, Brewham
- St Leonard's, Pitcombe
- St Mary's, Bruton
- Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower
- St Peter's, Shepton Montague
- St Peter's, Redlynch

Pray for the church wardens and PCCs in our Benefice.

Pray for our Rector, Jonathan.

Every Wednesday at 8.30am at St Mary's we meet to pray for our Church, our Benefice and local issues. Anyone is very welcome to join us. If you would like us to pray for something specific you could send the request to Jonathan to pass on to us.

Friends of St Leonard's

A reminder about the talk at St Leonard's, Pitcombe about church silver on Friday October 13 at 5.30 for 6.00 pm.

Dr Tim Schroder is an author of books and learned articles on silver; sometime Director of the silver department at Christie's, curator of Decorative Arts in Los Angeles County Museum, Trustee of the

Wallace collection and Prime Warden (twice) of the Goldsmith's Company, he will give an illustrated talk entitled: Church silver: 500 years of change.

Tickets (to include a glass of wine) will be £10 in cash at the door or online to Friends of Pitcombe Church, sort code 60-04-33, account 10501789. Don't forget to give your name as a reference.

Sunday 29th October

On Sunday 29 October, we hope that as many as possible will come to St Peter's, Redlynch for a harvest festival celebration at 11.00 am. This lovely chapel is at risk if it is not better supported.

For those who are able to do so and would like to, we are planning a group to walk up to the chapel together from Bruton along the footpath that starts just opposite the vehicle entrance to Durslade Farm / Hauser & Wirth and runs uphill to the East of Discove Farm, emerging through the Community Patch project right at the door of the chapel. Meet in the Hauser & Wirth car park at 10.00 am for a leisurely walk up there. If anyone would like to walk in one direction only and requires a lift, please get in touch with the Benefice office and we'll arrange transport. Of course, you could start your walk from elsewhere in the Benefice and make your own way there.

If people would like to follow the refreshments after the service with

more refreshments at the Monty, we could reserve a table or two...

Arts Events

On Friday October 6 at 7.30 pm in St John's Church, Brewham, there will be a concert given by the Somerset Russets who play and sing music of the county from across the decades. They also tell tales of these earlier music makers, adding to the evening's entertainment. It is a fund-raising concert, with a raffle and excellent prizes! Tickets are £10 (to include a drink) and will be on sale at Bruton Pharmacy, the Community Office and from Ann Saxton, and the Old Red Lion.



Film Night: the series of regular film nights continues at St Peter's, Shepton Montague with a showing of *What's Love got to do with it?* on Thursday October 12 (7.30 pm start).

On Saturday November 11, the Epicurean String Quartet will be giving a concert

SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC
in association with
SOMERSET MOVIOLA
proudly presents

**WHAT'S LOVE GOT
TO DO WITH IT?**
(12A – 1hr 49mins)

How do you find lasting love in today's world? For documentary-maker and dating app addict Zoe (Zoe Lister-Jones), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs to her eccentric partner Cal's (Emma Thompson) dismay. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour Rex (Shane Richie), this occurs as he follows his parent's example and sets for an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey from London to Lahore to marry a stranger chosen by his parents, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

**in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague
Thursday 12th October
at 7.30pm**
Doors open 6.45pm for drinks & snacks

Tickets: £7.00 (or 5 for £30) - pay on door
All proceeds go towards St Peter's Church

For more information please contact Camilla Wood on 07717 39645

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at St Leonard's, Pitcombe. They will play a programme of music by Mozart (the 'Prussian' quartet) and Beethoven (the 'Razoumovsky' quartet).

The concert will start at 3.00 pm, with an interval during which refreshments will be served. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained on the door (cash only) or in advance by contacting Charles Brook c.brook@ucl.ac.uk or 01963 351492.

Diary Dates

Coming up:

- **2 October:** Rural Ministry Forum all day at Bagley Baptist Church
- **3 October:** Deanery Synod
- **6 October:** Somerset Russets at St John's, 7.30 pm
- **7 October:** Bruton litter pick, 10.00 am
- **9 October:** Benefice Discussion Groups, 3.00 pm and 6.30 pm at the Rectory
- **13 October:** Friends of St Leonard's talk, 5.30 for 6.00 pm
- **23 October:** Benefice Discussion Groups, 3.00 pm and 6.30 pm at the Rectory
- **29 October:** Redlynch Harvest Festival: 11.00 am

Further ahead:

- **5 November:** Patronal Festival at St Leonard's, 4.00 pm
- **6 November:** Benefice Discussion Groups, 3.00 pm and 6.30 pm at the Rectory
- **11 November:** Concert at St. Leonard's Pitcombe, 3.00 pm
- **12 November:** Remembrance Sunday
- **15 November:** Bruton PCC, at Plox meeting room at 5.30 pm
- **17 November:** Pitcombe PCC, at Hadspen Farm at 2.30 pm
- **20 November:** Brewham PCC, at Colinshays at 7.30 pm
- **25 November:** Diocesan Synod
- **27 November:** 'Meet the Bishop', Batcombe Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm

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