



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Wyke Champflower Shepton Montague



S.M: 'Community'

Whether it is 'Dry January', 'Veganuary', 'No Mow May', 'Movember' or some other programme, we often come under pressure during a particular month or season to change our behaviour in some way for the better. Diets, de-tox, 'wellness', fitness: the list goes on. This sort of 'nudging' can sometimes be

IN THIS ISSUE

News from our Parishes

Meet the Bishop

All Souls

Prize Winners

Prayer Ministry

Prayer Meetings

Arts Events

Christmas Lunch Events

Diary Dates

Contact



helpful and it is generally well meaning. I wonder what your attitude is towards such messaging – perhaps you resolutely ignore it all, or perhaps you try to follow every programme and idea in the hope of a happier, healthier life, or doing your bit to reduce the damage to our environment.

One of Bishop Michael's four guiding principles, as we try together to discern the future for our Church in this Diocese, is Discipleship. By this, he means strengthening and deepening our faith at a personal level. It means focusing more consciously and deliberately on our walk with God. At the recent Deanery Synod meeting, we discussed all four of Bishop Michael's guiding principles (the others being 'cherishing the people we already have', 'establishing new worshipping communities' and 'shared local ministry'). It was suggested that Discipleship underpins these other three areas of activity: unless we have a strong sense of discipleship and faith, we cannot know why we are doing all the other things, nor how to do them.

It struck me that there is a parallel with all of the programmes and initiatives that bombard us in daily life: unless we have a deep and sure underlying sense of who we are and what we are for, we won't know why we should (or should not) be joining in with some particular campaign: 'Is this for me?', 'How does this fit with my life?', 'Is this good?'

So: how is your Discipleship going? There are many different ways in which we can each seek to strengthen our sense of calling as disciples

of Jesus and many ways in which we can deepen our faith. For some it may be reading the Bible and other books about our faith, for others it might be attending courses or discussion groups, for others it might be pilgrimage or time on retreat. What helps one person does not necessarily help another. But doing it does help everyone.



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.

13 September: Bruton PCC meeting

News from our Parishes

Thanks to all those who helped and supported the litter pick in Bruton on 7 October. Especial thanks to Mike and Marion Kelham for making it happen and organising the team.

Dr Tim Schroder gave a fascinating talk at St Leonard's about church

silver and the social history which it reveals. Many thanks to the Friends of Pitcombe Church for such an informative and enjoyable evening.

Social history was also a key part of the hugely entertaining performance by the Somerset Russets at St John's, Brewham on 6 October. They played and sang Somerset folk songs and told the stories that lay behind them. The church was close to capacity and it was a thoroughly good evening.

On the 5th Sunday of October, we gathered as a Benefice at St Peter's Redlynch to celebrate the harvest – the last of our harvest festivals this year. It was a joyful occasion – some of us walked from Bruton to the chapel and some shared lunch together at the Montague Inn afterwards.

The Rector held an informal meeting with the PCC of Bratton Seymour on 6 October to discuss the possibility that Bratton Seymour might re-join this Benefice under the Deanery Re-organisation Plan that is currently being progressed.

Deanery Synod met on 19 November and received a presentation on finance from Matthew Pinnock, who is the Head of Finance and Operations for our Diocese.

The Christmas 'Late Night Shopping' event in Bruton is due to take place on 7 December (just about falling within Advent!). We hope

to use St Mary's church as part of the event. If you have ideas or suggestions for activities that could be arranged in the church – fundraising or just fun – do please get in touch.

Meet the Bishop

A reminder that, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, 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).

All Souls



All Souls Day is a day when we remember those who have died. All Souls Day falls on 2 November, but this year we will be celebrating it on Friday 3rd November, with a quiet service of reflection and music, including the reading of the names of the departed. The service will be at St Mary's, Bruton at 6.30 pm.

This can be a very moving service, especially for those who have lost a loved one recently.

Prize Winners

In our Benefice discussion groups, we have been looking at the Book of Psalms. You may remember that the Rector offered prizes for the best answers to two questions relating to the Psalms.

One question was what the meaning of the word 'Selah' is ('Selah' is found as a marginal note in some Psalms). Several people correctly identified meanings of this word that have been suggested by Biblical scholars, the most common one being 'pause' or 'interlude'. But there is no certainty around this meaning; it is at best conjecture. The original meaning of the term is unknown. For that reason, the prize for the best answer to this question goes to Chris Rolls, who offered an imaginative and light-hearted interpretation of the word, rather than an authoritative translation: Surrounding Everyone with Love And Hallelujahs. The acrostic pattern of this answer very much respects the poetic style of the Psalms – well done Chris!

The second question was a challenge to make sense of Psalm 8, verse 2, taking into account the considerable variation in translation in the different versions of the Bible in English. This baffling verse had us all scratching our heads. The prize for the best answer goes to David Slater. He noted that verse 2 seems to bear no relation to

the verses that immediately precede or follow it, and that none of the English, Latin or Greek translations makes any sense. In the light of that, he questioned whether there had been some error in the Hebrew text that underlies our translations, perhaps resulting from scribal error, and pointed out that the reason for such differing translations in English might reflect the translators' attempts to impose some sort of meaning where there is, in truth, none to be had. Well done David! As one Biblical Scholar puts it: 'The meaning of this phrase, however proverbial it has become, has not been satisfactorily explained'.

Prayer Ministry



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall see God.

This month, we pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by war and conflict throughout the world. We pray for those who have died, those

who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies. We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May a spirit of compassion and kindness touch them. Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Watch over the people of Gaza and Israel who hour by hour are facing

violence and fear. Supply all their needs. Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Watch over the people of Ukraine who have been forced to flee their homes, amid the bombs falling around them. Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Lead them to a place of safety; comfort those who grieve and bring healing to those in pain. Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Convert the hearts of those who commit violence and wage war. Turn them away from persecution towards peace. Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Turn hatred to understanding, and anger to compassion. Through your love, transform horror into hope. Lord, send us the gift of peace. Fill us all with your Spirit so that with one voice, throughout the world, we may cry out: Abba, Father, send your grace and your peace which surpasses all understanding. Amen

Prayer Meetings

Every Wednesday morning in St Mary's, Bruton some of us meet to pray for our community, anyone is welcome to join us. We meet at 8.30 am, immediately after the service of Morning Prayer that begins at 8.00 am. If you have any requests for prayer and are unable to come, please send them to the Rector and he will pass them on to us.

On Saturday 18 November we have an exciting opportunity to pray for the whole Benefice, in particular our finances as we all face significant challenges in balancing our budgets. We will meet to ask God to bless the finances of the parishes in our Benefice. The meeting will be in St Mary's, Bruton from 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. 'Come when you can – leave when you must!'

Arts Events

Film Night: the series of regular film nights continues at St Peter's, Shepton Montague with a showing of Barbie on Thursday 9 November (7.30pm start).

On Saturday 11 November, the **Epicurean String Quartet** will be giving a concert 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 3.00pm, 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.

On Monday 18 December, **Bruton Choral Society** will be performing their Christmas Concert.

Bruton Choral Society November 2023:

We're well into our new season now and busy preparing for various

autumnal and winter events. On Saturday 18 November we will be hosting our usual convivial coffee morning in the Community Hall, while on 30 November please wrap up warm to come to hear us singing carols at the Roth Bar and Grill as part of Bruton's late night shopping evening.

Of course the main focus of our rehearsals is this year's Christmas Concert which will be held in St Mary's on Monday 18 December. For this final event of our 30th Anniversary year we are delighted to welcome Eliza Talman (guest trumpet soloist) and Ashley Marshfield (our wonderful organist). The choir will be singing seasonal music by Bach as well as Christmas carol arrangements – more details to follow next month; tickets will be available shortly.

To keep up to date with our activities take a look at our new website www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk Please contact our musical director Barbara at bjenkinson708@btinternet.com if you're interested in joining us or indeed supporting us behind the scenes as a Friend of Bruton Choral Society.

Caroline Tickner

Christmas Lunch Events

Two events are being organised in Bruton this year for those who might like to join with others for a meal at Christmas. This might be because they would otherwise be on their own and would like some company, or because they are struggling to provide a celebratory meal for themselves for any reason.

One event is being run by 'good company', the Community Interest Company running in Bruton. This is on Christmas Day itself, from 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm. This will be a traditional Christmas lunch, held at Mill on the Brue, and it is for anyone who would like some company or is struggling to provide a Christmas meal. There is no charge for the lunch (the cost is being covered by donors), but pre-booking is essential. Details can be found online: www.goodcompanychristmas.com or speak to the Rector. People need to be referred in order to get an invitation, so do please speak to the Rector if you, or anyone you know, might be interested.

Another Christmas Meal is being offered by the **Bruton Club** (formerly the Unionist Club). This is intended for older people and takes place on Thursday 28 December. This will be a full roast dinner and is expected to start at around 1.00 pm (TBC). This is also a free event, with the cost being covered by the Bruton Club. Please keep an eye out for further information, but again, pre-booking will be essential.

Both these events need volunteer helpers if they are to happen. Please do consider whether you might be able to lend a hand setting up, serving or clearing up afterwards. Details of what help is needed when can be obtained from the organisers. We will include more details about both events next month.



Diary Dates

- 3 November: All Souls service, St Mary's at 6.30 pm
- 5 November: Patronal Festival, St Leonard's at 4.00 pm
- 6 November: Benefice Discussion Groups, the Rectory at 3.00pm and 6.30pm
- 11 November: Concert, St. Leonard's Pitcombe at 3.00 pm
- 12 November: Remembrance Sunday
- 17 November: Pitcombe PCC, Hadspen Farm at 2.30 pm
- 18 November: Prayer meeting, St Mary's at 10.00 am
- 20 November: Brewham PCC, Colinshays at 7.30 pm
- 22 November: Bruton PCC, Plox meeting room at 5.30 pm
- 25 November: Diocesan Synod
- 27 November: 'Meet the Bishop', Batcombe memorial hall at 7.30 pm

Further ahead:

- 3 December: Advent Evensong, St Mary's at 6.30 pm
- 5 December: Shepton Montague PCC, Village Hall at 6.30 pm
- 7 December: Late Night Shopping in Bruton
- 18 December: Bruton Choral Society Christmas Concert, St Mary's at 7.30 pm
- 25 December: good company Christmas Lunch, Mill on the Brue at 12.00 pm
- 28 December: Bruton Club Christmas Meal at Bruton Clu

Contact

Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector

8 Wellesley Green, Bruton, BA10 0DU

Tel: 01749 812775

email: rector@stmarysbruton.org

Benefice Office

Plox House, Silver Street, Bruton, BA10 0ED

Tel: 01749 813080

email: benefice@stmarysbruton.org



