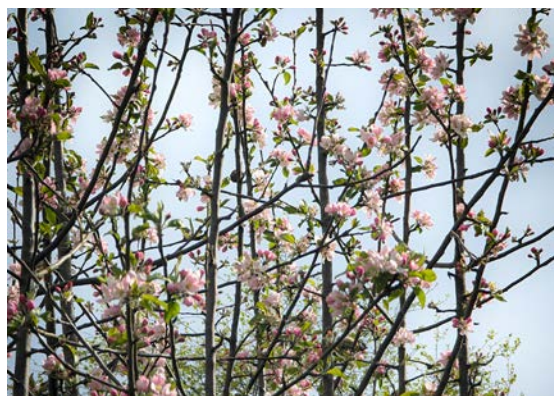


Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Wyke Champflower Shepton Montague



As many people will know, as a Deanery we have been working for some time on a plan to re-organise the grouping of the parishes in our Deanery into a smaller number of benefices, in order to be able to reduce the number of stipendiary incumbents (from 8.5 to 7). This need to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy exists because the level of giving through Parish Share has dropped, such that we are no longer

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able to afford all those posts. This process has been slow-moving, for a number of reasons, but it now looks as though we are moving towards implementing the agreed plan. This would see the parish of Bratton Seymour join our benefice. This is not yet certain and we do not yet have a firm timetable, but it feels more likely than not that this will be the outcome. The next steps will be some informal discussions with the people at Bratton Seymour to hear from them their thoughts about the life of the Church in that parish and how we might work together.

Separately, but perhaps with consequences for the shape and size of our benefice, as part of the proposed reform of the Parish Share formula (see further on this below), each benefice will be expected to be financially self-sufficient (save that some assistance will be given to the parishes in the most economically challenged areas). At present, we are heavily subsidised by other parishes in our Diocese but if the Parish Share reforms go through as proposed, this subsidy will end and we will be expected to meet all our costs without external support. This will be a very significant financial challenge for us. We expect the changes, if they occur, to be phased in over time, but we would begin to feel the effects in 2025. It is as yet unclear what the consequences would be for us if we were unable to pay in full the amount requested of us, but one possible consequence would be the further enlargement of our benefice.



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](http://www.stmarysbruton.org)), 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.

## News from our Parishes

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our celebrations of Easter. The clock change during the night of Holy Saturday may have made the vigil an hour shorter, but it did make it harder to get people into church in time for some of our earlier services, which may be a reason why numbers were down a bit in some of our churches on Easter morning. Thank you to those who made Easter Gardens, flower displays, offered chocolate eggs on the way out and made beautiful music.

We welcome Robert Mitchell as Church Warden of St Peter's, Shepton Montague, replacing June Sykes who has stepped down. We thank June for her diligent service in the role.

The Film Night at St Peter's this month will be *The Holdovers*, starting at 7.30pm.

At St Mary's, we launched our Amenities Project (installation of

lavatories and a servery) on 13 April with an exhibition of the plans and drawings for the work during the afternoon, and a gala concert in the evening. Both parts of the day went very well: we had a good number of visitors to the exhibition and the concert was highly enjoyable. We are very fortunate to have been given an amazing model of the West end of the church, showing what the proposed works will look like. This was made and donated by John Hill and is an astonishing piece of work for which we are very grateful.

During the week beginning 22 April, Rev'd Gill Sakakini brought an exhibition of paintings by American artist Richard Caemmerer to St Mary's and led an exploration of the works, which relate to the stations of the resurrection, with five groups of school children. Many visitors to St Mary's also enjoyed looking at and engaging with these paintings, and we are very grateful to Gill for enabling this.

## Shepton Montague Plant Sale

The annual plant sale will be held in the grounds of St Peter's Church on Saturday 25th May. We will have a good selection of annuals, perennials, shrubs, vegetables, and herbs, and there will be a wonderful offering of cakes, biscuits and produce and a variety of kitchen and garden bric-a-brac.

The church will be open for you to look around and enjoy from 2.30pm. The village hall will also be open and will be offering teas, coffee and other goodies. Parking will be available in the field next to the church.

Funds are being raised for the church and village hall.

## May Day Madrigals

The chapel choir from King's School, Bruton sang madrigals from the top of the tower on May Day morning at 8.00am. Quite a few people came along and listened, and then joined the choir for coffee or juice and pastries in St Mary's afterwards.

## Voluntary / Involuntary, Part 2

### ***Our organist at St Mary's writes:***

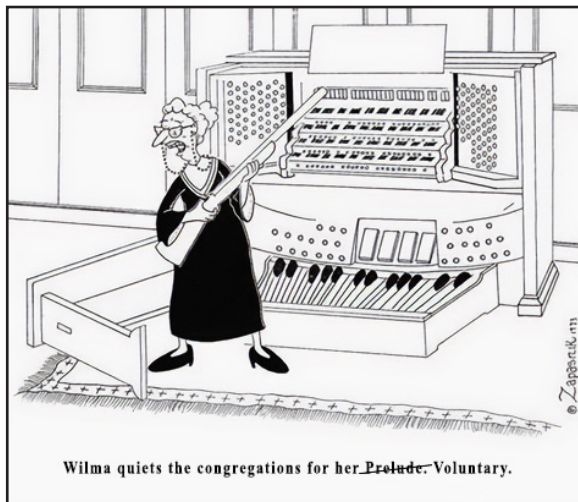
Many organs in Britain had been damaged or destroyed by Puritan principle during the Civil War and Commonwealth, but organ-building saw a renewal from the accession of Charles II (1660). The revival of the craft was headed by skilled exponents from Germany and France, and will have led to the installation of reliable and increasingly elaborate organs in many churches. This must have been an incentive to composers to write more for the organ. From the 18th century many works (still called voluntaries) entered the repertoire, specifically designed for Anglican services. It is not clear whether members of the congregation stayed to listen to the final voluntary in those days; but it is amusing to note that as early as 1712 someone disapproved of the organist's bad taste: 'I have found in myself good thoughts and dispositions [but] they have all been in a moment dissipated by a merry jig from the organ-loft'. A year earlier the writer of the splendidly titled *Great Abuse of Musick* complained of organists dismissing the congregation 'as if they played them out of a Tavern or out of an Ale-house'. So it seems that the practice of the organist putting a frivolous

end to a solemn service is nothing new, and I confess that it is not a crime of which I am innocent. Perhaps it was the gradual introduction of organ pieces at the end of services that were trivial, liturgically irrelevant, or simply too long for their tastes that led congregations to walk out, leaving the organist playing to an audience of one—himself.

This is the situation that continues today and will probably continue indefinitely. The situation, incidentally, is even worse in cathedrals at major services, because at the end the large congregation either leaves slowly and noisily, or they stay and shout at each other apparently with the express intention of drowning the organ. Anyone actually hoping to listen to the music doesn't stand a chance! As an antidote to all this unseemliness most cathedrals and many churches forbid the playing of organ voluntaries during the solemn season of Advent and the penitential season of Lent.

Many people who have read so far will probably wonder what the fuss is about. Is there actually a problem to be addressed? Does it matter if the people listen to the closing organ music or not? I think there is a problem – but I would say that, wouldn't I? Yes: a problem for the poor composer whose skilfully crafted and often liturgically relevant music deserves a better fate than to be shouted down or ignored. Yes: a problem for the poor organist who has chosen a suitable piece and practised it, but to no purpose. Given that the format of Anglican services at most churches and cathedrals is unlikely to change, (i.e. an organ voluntary is expected at the end), would it make sense to announce details of the music and encourage members of the congregation to stay and listen, particularly if the piece is relevant to

the service of the season (an example being, as quoted in my April article, *March of the Three Kings*, by Dubois, at Epiphany)? Those not staying might be asked to leave quietly and remain quiet until the end of the piece. I look forward to your reactions. But I look forward even more eagerly to the reception given to John Cage's 4'33" which I plan to play in May.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/organistsreview>

## Reform of the Parish Share

The second round of consultation regarding the proposed reform of the formula used to calculate parish share has now taken place. It seems likely that this will go ahead in broadly the terms originally proposed, but with some reduction to one element of the formula. Diocesan Synod will be asked to vote on the final proposals at its meeting on 10 July.

## Packhorse Fair – May 27

St. Mary's will be at the Packhorse Fair with stalls and children's games in the area around Bow Bridge, a duck race down the Brue, and hopefully Morris Dancing, Maypole Dancing, Madrigals, and many other events throughout the day. There will be tea and cake in the Community Hall, trips up the church tower, and we are hoping to organise an exhibition of local artists' work.

We have been allocated a large amount of space and it would be fabulous if we could fill every inch, but in order to do that we need people to **help** so that we can share the load and make sure everyone gets a chance to enjoy the day from both sides of the stalls!

***Please contact us if you would like to be part of this special event. Either email us at [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org), or phone us on 01749 812775.***

## Bruton Choral Society Spring Concert

Our final concert of this year's choral season will be an early evening soirée performance which we are calling *Now is the Month of Maying*. We are hoping for balmy summer evening temperatures, with wine being served in the interval. The music will be light-hearted and entertaining, including pieces by Eric Whitacre, Gerald Finzi, George Gershwin, Thomas Morley, and John Dowland.

Tickets will be £10 if bought in advance, £12 on the door, to include a glass of wine or soft drink, and are available from Bruton Convenience Store, 813 161 or online from [www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk).

Have a look at our website for further details about our activities or follow us on our new Instagram account or Facebook.



# BRUTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Musical Director: Barbara Jenkinson

## Now is the Month of Maying

An early summer soir  e  
of light choral music

with Angela Ashworth, Geoff Allan,  
Clare Sydenham & Ashley Marshfield

Saturday 11 May 6.00pm  
Music School, King's Bruton

Tickets £10 advance/£12 on the door  
to include a glass of wine  
from Bruton Convenience Store, Bruton Pharmacy,  
01749 812281 or [www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bرتونchoralsociety.org.uk)

## Ideas for Fifth Sundays

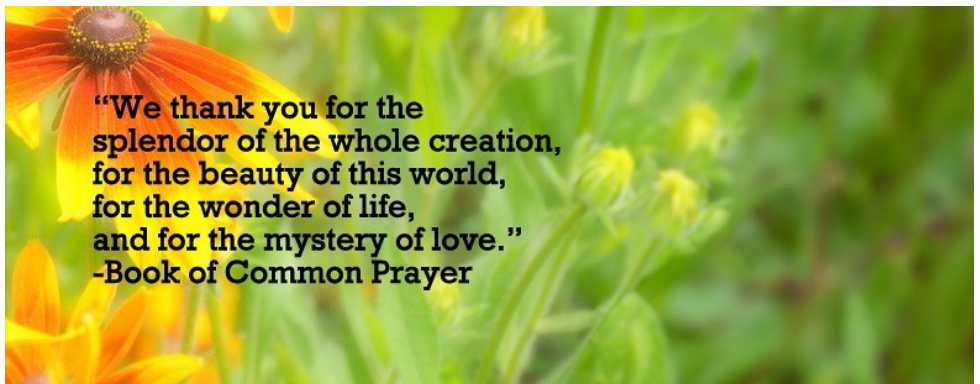
If you have any suggestions for shared activities on 5th Sundays, do please pass them on. There is a 5th Sunday in June, when we might (?) hope for reasonable weather. Would people like to meet for a picnic, perhaps with a walk? Any ideas for a place? Or would people like to visit another church and join them for worship? Please email your ideas to: [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org).

## Prayer Ministry

### Prayer for our Community

The Heavens are telling the glory of God! O God our Father, you created the world and sent your own Son to live among us. Help us to participate in the life around and within us as your life, as you living in us and we live in you.

God of love and life, renew us through the power of your Holy Spirit and teach us to love all that you have created, and to care for the earth as



your gift, and as our home. Help us to better treat our neighbours and friends and care for one another as you care for us.

## Prayer Opportunities

At a prayer meeting every Wednesday Morning some of us meet to pray for our community, any one is welcome to join us– If you have any requests prayer ,please send them to the Rector and he will advise us on the requests.

We now have a **Prayer Request** box – this box will be cleared daily by our Rector Jonathan and all requests will be treated with extreme confidence.

## Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower Anniversary

We are looking forward to celebrating the 400th anniversary of the re-consecration of the chapel at Wyke Champflower at a special service on 19 May at 11.00 am. We are expecting Bishop Michael to be with us for a service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer in the form that was in use in 1624 when the chapel was restored and re-consecrated. We also hope that some singers from St Mary's choir will contribute to our worship.



## Arts Events

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New  
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by  
Benet  
Haughton

**3rd 4th 5th May 11am to 4pm  
10th 11th 12th May 11am - 4pm  
Monoprinting demo 4th and 11th  
May 11am.**

No 6 Bruton High St, BA10 0AE

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New  
Monoprints  
by  
Benet  
Haughton

**18th to 30th May  
11am to 4pm.  
Except Sundays 19th & 26th May  
St Peter's Redlynch, BA10 0NH**

**benethaughton@gmail.com  
www.benethaughton/painter  
or contact Benet 07840 598 901**



## **Placem(e)ant: A Show of Monoprints**

Benet Haughton is a painter resident in Edinburgh who has recently started making monoprints. The show is called Placem(e)ant, a play on place and commitment coming out of the lockdown in 2020–21. Making a virtue of necessity, he spent hours drawing in the garden and these monoprints are an expression of that time. He will be making new work in No. 6 and at St Peter's, Redlynch.

There will be demonstrations of monoprinting techniques at No. 6 Bruton on Saturdays 4 and 11 May at 11am for 45 minutes. No need to book but the space is small.

Opening hours: No. 6 Bruton, 3–5 and 10–12 May, 11am–4pm.

St Peter's, Redlynch, 18–30 May, 11am–4pm daily.

For more information email [benethaughton@gmail.com](mailto:benethaughton@gmail.com) or <https://benethaughton.co.uk/>.





# DRAGONFLY

*Celtic acoustic folk trance and Eastern grooves*

*A dynamic evening of celebratory uplifting music*

*Live at*

*St. Mary's Church*

*Bruton*

*Saturday June 15th*

*From 7:30 pm*

*Bar & Refreshments available*

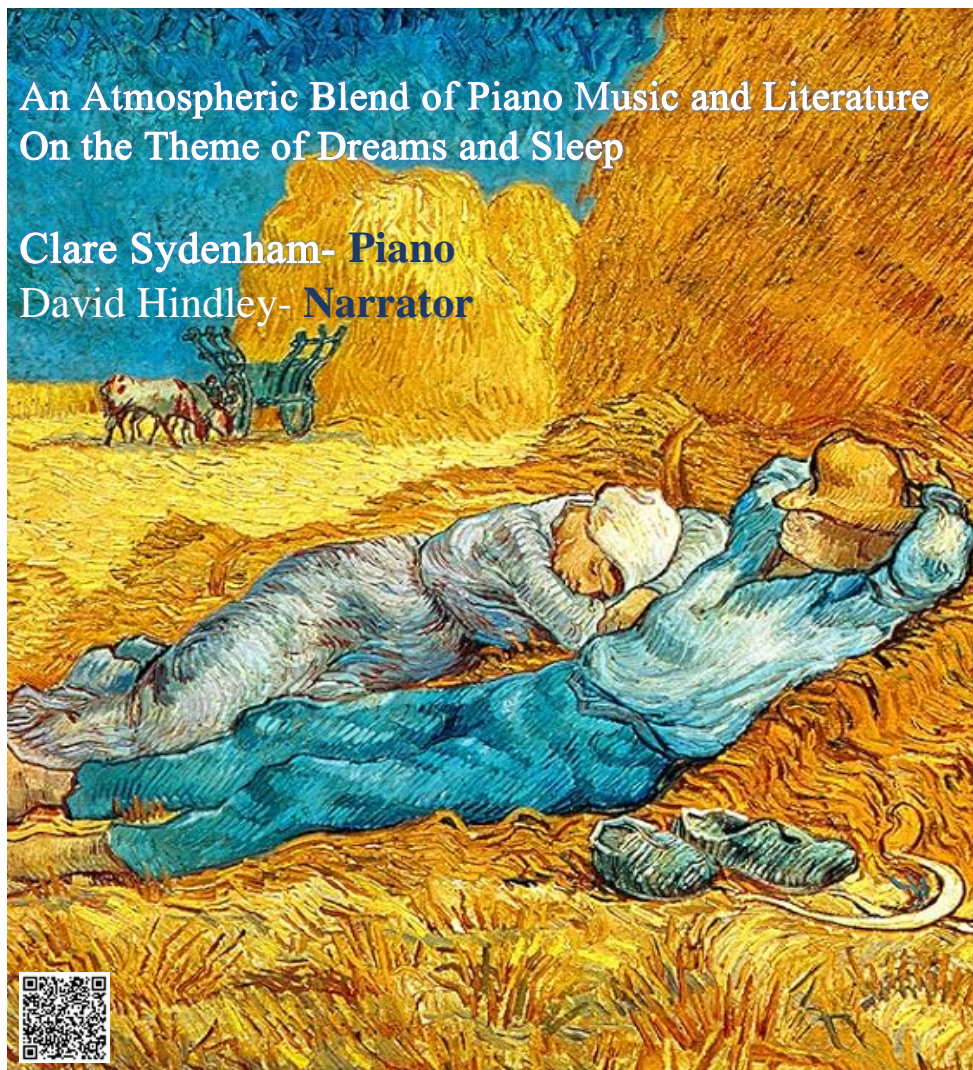
*£10*



# DREAMSCAPES

An Atmospheric Blend of Piano Music and Literature  
On the Theme of Dreams and Sleep

Clare Sydenham- **Piano**  
David Hindley- **Narrator**



Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 3pm at St. Mary's Church, Bruton, BA10 OEB

Advance Tickets £10 online <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham>

or from [clare.sydpiano@gmail.com](mailto:clare.sydpiano@gmail.com)

Tickets on the door £12/under 18 free.



## Dreamscapes

Clare Sydenham (Piano) and David Hindley (Narrator) have combined forces for a carefully chosen atmospheric programme on the theme of 'Dreams and Sleep'. The concert includes piano favourites by Claude Debussy, Camille Saint-Saens, and Sergei Prokofiev, and choice literature and poetry by William Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy, Lewis Carroll, and more.

Each poem or prose extract is set alongside – or with – piano music, and the concert promises to be an afternoon of escape into a world of reverie.



**Save the date:** Sunday 16th June 3pm at St Mary's Church, Bruton BA10 0EB. Advance tickets are £10 online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham>, or from [clare.sydpiano@gmail.com](mailto:clare.sydpiano@gmail.com).

Tickets on the door: £12

Under-18s are free.





## The John Curtice Election Survival Guide, 20 June, St Mary's, 7pm



*Photo: [www.timeshighereducation.com](http://www.timeshighereducation.com)*

The man behind much meaningful analysis of election statistics visits the South West for an exclusive event with Agile Rabbit. Sir John Curtice will be in conversation with former Radio 4 presenter

Ritula Shah to reveal what to expect in the busiest ever year of elections across the globe. Using the latest poll data, Sir John will be sharing potential outcomes and reflecting on the implications for both politicians and the electorate. Sir John famously provides poll analysis on election nights for the BBC and is a regular contributor across the media.

Sir John Curtice, Professor of Politics at the University of Strathclyde, is one of the UK's best known political scientists – a leading voice in social attitudes and electoral behaviour. He's worked with the University of Strathclyde since 1989, having witnessed the development of devolution, the independence referendum come and go, and political scandals sweep the country in an eventful 30 years.

Throughout his career, Sir John's been involved in a huge amount of BBC election coverage.

*Tickets £10 (Early Bird), £15 Standard*

*Start 7.00pm, doors open 6.00pm*

*Tickets from [www.agile-rabbit.com](http://www.agile-rabbit.com)*

## Diary Dates

- 2 May: Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10.00 am
- 7 May: Shepton Montague PCC meeting, Village Hall, 6.30 pm
- 8 May: Bruton PCC meeting, Plox meeting room, 5.30 pm
- 9 May: Deanery Ascension Day service, Milborne Port, 7.30 pm
- 9 May: Film Night at Shepton Montague, St Peter's, 7.30 pm
- 10 May: Thanksgiving for Kathleen Apperly, St Leonard's, 12 noon
- 11 May: BCS *Now is the Month of Maying*, Queen Elizabeth Music School, King's, Bruton, 6.00 pm
- 17 May: Pitcombe PCC meeting, Hadspen Farm at 2.30 pm
- 19 May: Special 400th anniversary service at Wyke Champflower, at 11.00 am.
- 25 May: Plant sale and teas at St Peter's, Shepton Montague, from 2.30 pm.
- 27 May: Packhorse Fair in Bruton, all day

### Further ahead:

- 10 June: Archdeacon's Visitation, All Saints, Castle Cary, 7.00 pm
- 13 June: Film Night at St Peter's, Shepton Montague, 7.30 pm
- 15 June: Dragonsfly, a folk concert, St Mary's, 7.30 pm
- 16 June: *Dreamscape* piano and poetry concert, St Mary's, 3.00 pm
- 20 June: John Curtice in St Mary's, doors 6.00pm, talk at 7.00pm

## Contact

**Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector**  
**8 Wellesley Green, Bruton, BA10 0DU**  
**Tel: 01749 812775**  
**email: [rector@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:rector@stmarysbruton.org)**

**Benefice Office**  
**Plox House, Silver Street, Bruton, BA10 0ED**  
**Tel: 01749 813080**  
**email: [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)**

