

Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



For the last couple of years we have been encouraged to think about the future of the Church. The COVID pandemic probably started off this need to consider afresh how and why we do things and our direction and purpose. Then we had a new Rector.

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Then we had a new Bishop. Then we had a Deanery Reorganisation. Then we had a new method of calculating parish share. All of these things have caused us to ask questions about what we are doing and how to flourish.

There is nothing wrong with this: it is natural that we should think and plan strategically and ask ourselves some difficult questions. It is important that we remain alert to the movement of the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to shape us as we seek to be God's people.

But all this forward-looking thinking and planning can be quite emotionally difficult. I think there is also a time and a place for simply enjoying where we are and who we are and what we are doing now. Time to take a moment and savour the gifts we have received and which we intend to pass on. Time to notice all that is good about being the Church in this place. And the beautiful month of May is a very good time to enjoy.



If you have something to contribute to a future edition of this newsletter, 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

We celebrated Mothering Sunday with a lovely service (and possibly even more lovely Simnel cake – thank you Anne) at St Nicholas.

We have decided to trial regular services of Holy Communion at St Nicholas, using the Book of Common Prayer. These will be every other month on the 3rd Sunday, at 11.00 am. All are welcome. We will also have a service at St Nicholas on the 5th Sunday in June, and this will be an outdoor service with a shared lunch afterwards – more details nearer the time.

Bruton Bellringers have started a truly wonderful idea of inviting nominations for people whom we would like to thank for some act of kindness or service, and then declaring that the Sunday morning bells are being rung not only to call the faithful to worship, but also to thank the nominated person. Nominations can be suggested through the Bruton Bellringers' Facebook page. Or you can email the benefice office.

All of our Annual Meetings have now been held and wardens and PCC members duly elected. We have a new warden in Shepton Montague, with Clare Payne replacing Susie Dowding. We are very grateful to Susie and look forward to Clare's ministry. Particular thanks are due to our Electoral Roll officers across the benefice, who have successfully prepared new Electoral Rolls.

We have a new safeguarding officer: Susan Mitchell from Shepton Montague has been appointed as our benefice safeguarding officer,

replacing Juliet Bowell, who was assisted by Maria Viney. Susan's contact details should be on all our websites and on posters in all our churches. The best email to use is [safeguarding@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:safeguarding@stmarysbruton.org). Please use Susan as your first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns or questions. Thank you to Juliet and Maria for all that they did in this role.

## Easter

Easter services across the Benefice were wonderful, well-attended, and there were some lovely Easter gardens!



# **Bruton Horticultural Society**

## **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning**



**Saturday 10 May 2025 at 9.30**

**Bruton Community Hall**

Donations of plants and cakes very welcome



# Bruton Boost



The Bruton Boost is a brand-new initiative from Good Company Bruton, designed to help our community build better mental fitness.

From 12–18 May you'll be able to take part in a range of free events and activities, all aimed at reducing stress, improving wellbeing, and fostering connection.

Whether you're looking for new coping strategies, a supportive space to talk, or just a break from life's pressures, you can take part FOR FREE in practical workshops, creative sessions, one-on-ones, and more.

New events are being added all the time, so be sure to check back and see which Boosts you'd like to participate in. Together we can boost Bruton's mental fitness, one conversation at a time.

The programme of free events can be found on [www.goodcompanybruton.org/brutonboost](http://www.goodcompanybruton.org/brutonboost) and includes a wide range of activities to help boost your mental fitness.

- Film screenings about men's and children's mental health by national charity Talk Club
- Brain-boosting countryside e-bike ride
- Housing advice for renters
- Anxiety, anger, and rage in perimenopause workshop

- A guided dawn walk
- A cold water dip in one of Bruton's best natural swimming ponds
- A NEW neurodiverse family support meeting
- ... and LOTS more!

We're encouraging as many of you as possible to take part in at least one Boost this Mental Health Awareness Week. So, head to [www.goodcompanybruton.org/brutonboost](http://www.goodcompanybruton.org/brutonboost) and see what takes your fancy. Happy Boosting!

## The St Mary's Choirs

We are very blessed in St Mary's to have two wonderful choirs who sing to a very high standard. It would be easy to assume that every singer in the choir is a born musician who reads music fluently and never struggles in a rehearsal. In reality, the choir is a mix of singers of all abilities who sing together for a whole raft of reasons, not least the lift it gives them to be transported to somewhere else.

The current choir has been singing together for 20 years, and in that time has built up a wonderful repertoire, and that is one of the great things about singing in church: old favourites come back around while new pieces are added all the time. This mixture of old and new keeps things fresh for the more seasoned singers, but provides a solid foundation for those who think it might be beyond them to join.

If you think you might like to sing, but worry about fitting in, then a church choir might be the perfect start. Learn at your own pace, supported by those who once started in exactly the same place!

# Redlynch Community Patch



## REDLYNCH COMMUNITY PATCH VEG BOX SCHEME

SIGN UP TO OUR COMMUNITY  
SUPPORTED VEG BOX SCHEME AND  
GET A BOX OF LOCALLY GROWN,  
DELICIOUS PRODUCE EVERY WEEK.

The Community Patch Project in Redlynch are starting a veg box scheme this year and you can sign up to receive a bag of delicious, locally produced vegetables every week!

There are two types of boxes:

- Standard £16 - 6-7 vegetable items per week
- Plus £22 - 6-7 vegetable items per week PLUS a 'lucky dip' of either a bunch of cut flowers, a range of fresh herbs, or a condiment made from patch produce (e.g. pickles, fermented goods, etc).

We will operate on a collection point model, so we have points in Bruton, Castle Cary, Wincanton, and Redlynch for you to collect your boxes from every week. The produce in each box will change every week according to what's in season, so you'll have something different to try out new recipes each time. If you're interested please get in touch by emailing [redlynch@communitypatch.co.uk](mailto:redlynch@communitypatch.co.uk).



Forsey and Son

ESTABLISHED 1946  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
MEMORIAL MASONS

Trotman

ESTABLISHED 1933  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
MEMORIAL MASONS



## DYING MATTERS: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Thursday 8th May 2025

10:00am – 1:00pm

Forsey and Son Funeral Directors, The Pavilion,  
Willowfields, Lowerside Ln, Glastonbury, BA6 9GY

Let's talk openly — over tea and cake.

Join us for a gentle, supportive event exploring important end-of-life topics: funeral wishes, pets, finances, digital accounts, how you'd like to be remembered and more.

*Free to attend. All are welcome.*

To register your interest, email [lin@forseyandson.co.uk](mailto:lin@forseyandson.co.uk) by  
30th April 2025

## Kimberley Snapshot



I know it looks strange to see a distinctly European Church in the middle of the Australian bush, but this is no ordinary church – this church was built in thanksgiving for deliverance. The German Pallotine Order of priests and brothers first went to the West Kimberley in 1901 where they established a mission and school at Beagle Bay on the Dampierland Peninsula above Broome. At the beginning of WW1 the authorities in

Broome arrested all of the German priests and brothers and put them in the Broome Jail, whereupon the town rioted and demanded that these gentle people, who were doing good work amongst the Aboriginals, should be released to continue their work. As a result, a couple of the brothers who had trained in carpentry and building designed and built – with assistance of the whole community both Aboriginal and European – this church as testament to a community united in Faith. Amongst the amazing people educated at Beagle Bay Mission was Djagwyn who was the grandfather to Patrick Dodson – the first Aboriginal Senator in the Upper House of the Australian Federal Government.

# Prayer Ministry

## Our World

*John 20 v 28-29*

Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

Lord, you know us in our innermost being, our hope, desires and life, assist us with Your Peace, Grace and love for our fellow man, help us in our doubt and unbelief. Amen.

Bountiful God, accept our thankfulness for the creation and gift of life, ours and the animals and plants. May highest praise ever rise from your fertile blue and green planet, spinning in the beauty of your order, by your eternal grace.

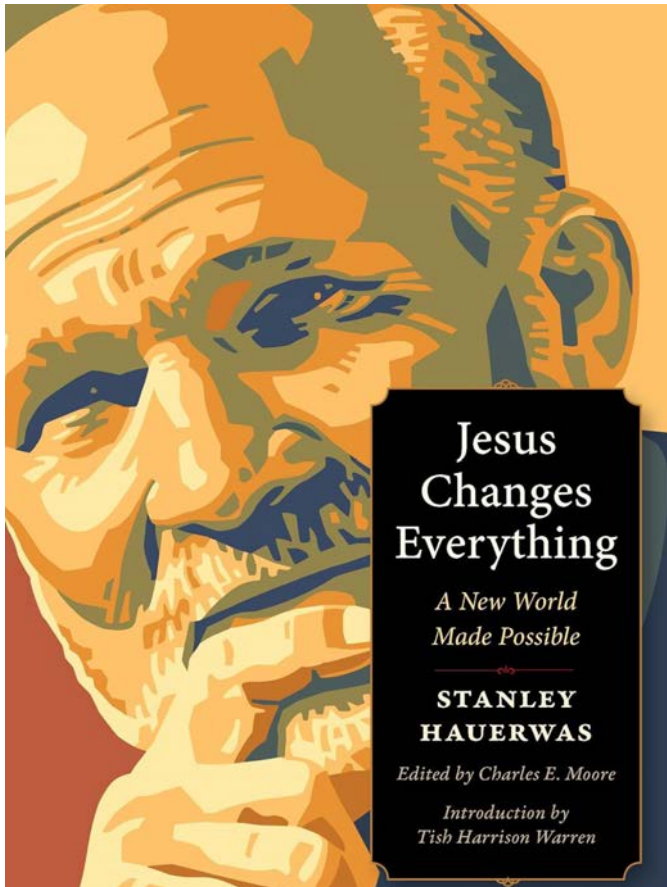
*Elizabeth Randall-Mills*

There is a prayer meeting every Wednesday morning in **St Mary's Church, Bruton**. Some of us meet to pray for our community, anyone is welcome to join us. If you have any requests for prayer, please send them to the Rector and he will let us know.

[benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)



## Book Recommendation



*Jesus does not want Christians. At least not in the sense of people who simply profess certain beliefs about him. As followers of Jesus, our beliefs cannot be separated from how we live. The temptation to separate Christian 'truths' from the lives we live is due to fear of being held accountable and leads to a duplicity that gnaws at our faith. Jesus teaches that it is by*

*our fruits that we, and he, will be known. The truth of the story we find in the Gospels is known only through the kind of lives it produces.*

### **Stanley Hauerwas.**

Stanley Hauerwas is an American theologian. He has had a huge influence on modern theology, especially in America. He is renowned (notorious?) for making statements that are arresting, provocative, bracing, even shocking. But he does more than craft catchy soundbites ('Jesus does not want Christians') – these pithy statements are always undergirded by serious thought and well-crafted arguments.

An edited collection of short extracts and re-workings of Hauerwas' writings has recently been published. It is called *Jesus Changes Everything: a new world made possible* and is published by Plough Publishing. This gives some insights into his thought without having to read his many books. We may use this as the basis of a benefice discussion group at some point in the future. Have a read and see what you think.

## Arts Events

### Events at St Mary's.

Sign up for our mailing list! It's very easy to do – just scan the QR code below using your phone's camera, and you'll be directed to our sign-up page where you can select which events you'd like to hear about. You can unsubscribe from this list any time simply by getting in touch with us.



*Sign up here*

# SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

## SOMERSET MOVIOLA

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# A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

(2024/141 minutes/15)

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide.

Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. Directed by James Mangold.

**in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**at 7.30pm**

*Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

**Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)**

**pay on the door with card**

**or at the bar with cash**

*All proceeds go towards St Peter's Church*

*For more information please contact Sarah Maude 01749 812 149*

Visit our website at: [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)



Charity No 1107649

THE SOMERSET RUSSETS PRESENT  
“MUSIC-MAKERS OF SOMERSET”

From a Bruton-born shoemaker to a Cheddar railwayman-cum-cave guide, by way of an Evercreech knife-grinder, a Brendon Hills miller and a vicar's gardener from the levels, the Somerset Russets Village Band present the music of some of the men and women who have kept the county singing and dancing over the last three hundred years. Learn of their lives and listen to their music and songs, arranged for winds, strings and squeazy things.

**Concert** in aid of  
**St.Mary's Church**  
**Bruton**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7.30pm at the church  
Doors open 6.45pm, interval and bar  
Tickets £10  
Available on the door or from  
Bruton Convenience Store, 23 High Street, Bruton



*top right - Henry Cave 1854-1907 (photo courtesy of The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library)  
above centre - The Somerset Russets at Iford Manor 2019 (photo courtesy of Richard Coles)*

# BRUTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Musical Director: Barbara Jenkinson

## Music for a May Evening

Choral classics interwoven with summery readings

Including pieces by Tallis, Stanford, Bruckner,  
Vaughan Williams & Eleanor Daley

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

Sunday 11 May 7.30pm  
Music School, King's Bruton

£10 advance/£12 on the day to include a glass of wine  
Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161  
or [www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk)





As spring turns into summer we are keeping our fingers crossed for warm and balmy evenings! On Sunday 11 May at 7.30pm we will be performing our last concert of the choral year in the Queen Elizabeth Music School at King's. This is always a very sociable event with drinks being served in the interval – and we are as optimistic as ever that this will be al fresco. Barbara Jenkinson has chosen some lovely music for this summer concert: *Music for a May Evening*. There will be some perennial favourites including Tallis' *If ye love me*, Bruckner's *Locus Iste*, *Linden Lea* by Vaughan Williams, and a beautiful piece by Canadian choral composer Eleanor Daley. There will also be French and Italian pieces, and some barbershop in the second half.

Our soloists will be Angela Ashworth (soprano), Geoff Allan (tenor) and Malcolm Parr (baritone). Clare Sydenham and Ashley Marshfield will be playing some piano duets, and there will also be readings on a summery theme. We really look forward to seeing you there!

Tickets £10, £12 on the day, children free, to include a glass of wine, from Bruton Convenience Store, 01749 813161 or [www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk).

We are always happy to welcome new singers, especially those with some choral experience: coming to our concert would be an excellent opportunity to see what we do. There's also our website at [www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bruntonchoralsociety.org.uk) Please contact Barbara at [bjenkinson708@btinternet.com](mailto:bjenkinson708@btinternet.com) if you'd like to join us for next year. You can also follow us on our Instagram account or on Facebook.

*Caroline Tickner*

**Thursday  
afternoon  
15th May  
at 3pm**



**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, PITCOMBE**  
**Tickets £10 (including tea and cakes)**

Enquiries to [c.brook@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.brook@ucl.ac.uk)

## **Concert by the Epicurian String Quartet**

**Programme to include**

**Alexander Zemlinsky String Quartet no. 1 in A major, Op 4**

**Frank Bridge Phantasie for String quartet in f minor, and**

**Beethoven String Quartet no. 11 in f minor, Op 95**

## **St Leonard's, Pitcombe welcomes the Epicurean Quartet**

On Thursday 15th May at 3 p.m. the Epicurean Quartet from Bristol is paying us another visit. The programme is as follows:

Alexander Zemlinsky String Quartet no 1 in A major, Op 4

Frank Bridge Phantasie for String Quartet in F minor, H55

### ***TEA INTERVAL***

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet no 11 in F minor, Op 95

Unfortunately, the church has neither internet connectivity nor a mobile signal so admission (£10) needs to be in cash at the door or online in advance to Friends of Pitcombe Church, Sort code 60-04-33, Account number 10501789.

Thank you, and we hope to see you there!



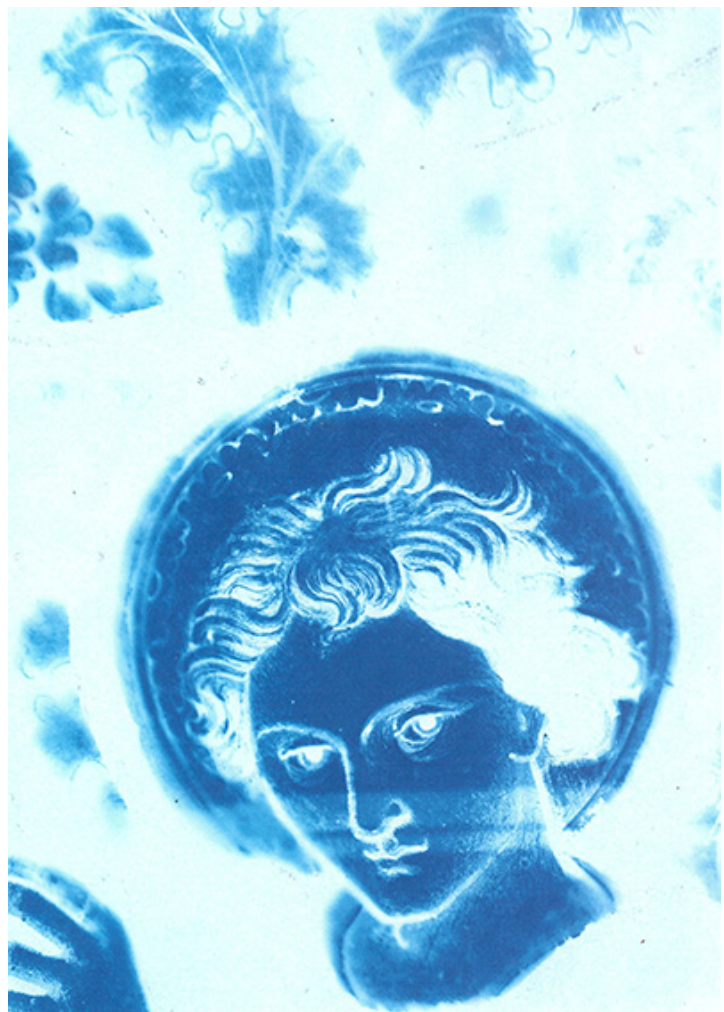
## **Sophie Sherwood, Visual Artist**

On May 31st we welcome artist Sophie Sherwood to St Mary's, where she will be using the stained glass there to produce cyanotype prints (also known as blueprints).

Sophie graduated with an MA in Photography from UWE, Bristol in 2019 using her grandmother's photographic archive to make new work, and has exhibited nationally, internationally, and online.

Sophie explores the self and nature through light sensitive materials and darkroom techniques.

Do come along to see her as she works to create some beautiful and unusual images!



## Benefice Services

Season Easter (White, Gold)	Sunday 4 May 3rd of Easter	Sunday 11 May 4th of Easter	Sunday 18 May 5th of Easter	Sunday 25 May 6th of Easter
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>	9.30am Eucharist (CW)	—	9.30am Morning Prayer	—
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP)  11am Sung Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP)  11am Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP)  11am All Age Worship	8am Holy Communion (BCP)  9am Breakfast Service  11am Eucharist
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Matins (BCP)	6pm Evensong (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>	—	6pm Evening Prayer	—	9.30am Eucharist
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>	—	—	—	—
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>	—	—	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	—

# Diary Dates

## May

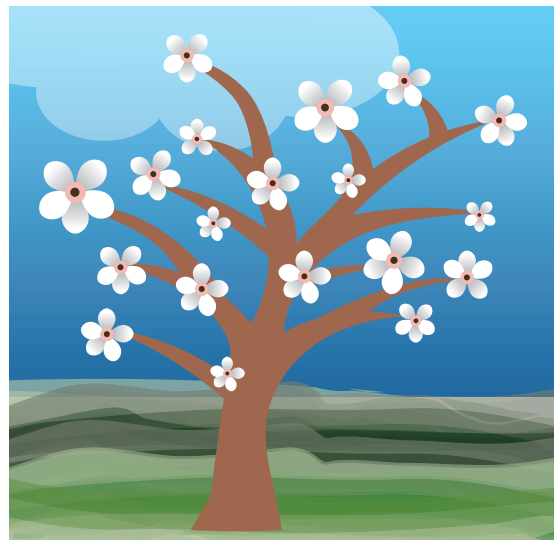
- 1 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 3 • Family Fun Day, Bruton Club, **all day**
- 3 • 80s-themed disco, Bruton Club, 7.30pm
- 6 • Shepton Montague PCC meeting, Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 8 • Shepton Montague Film Night, 7.30pm, St Peter's
- 10 • Somerset Russets, St Mary's, 7.30pm
- 11 • Bruton Choral Society concert, King's School 7.30pm
- 12 • Bruton Boost singing event, St Mary's, [time?]
- 14 • Bruton PCC meeting, [venue tbc] 5.30pm
- 15 • Epicurean String Quartet, St Leonard's, 3pm
- 16 • Pitcombe PCC meeting, Hadspen Farm, 2.30pm
- 21 • Opera: Grove & Kobbe, a talk by Elisabeth Balfour, At The Chapel, 6.30 for 7pm.
- 24 • Shepton Montague Plant Sale, St Peter's, 2–4pm
- 29 • Ascension Day service, All Saints, Castle Cary, 7pm
- 31 • Sophie Serwood Cyanotype Printing, St Mary's, **all day**

# 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)**





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