



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



The recent election of Pope Leo XIV has prompted a good deal of reflection within the Roman Catholic Church about what might lie ahead in the life of the Church. And within the Church of England there is a similar feel as we wonder about who might be appointed as the next Archbishop of Canterbury

IN THIS ISSUE

News from our Parishes

Mary, Seat of Wisdom

What is Resurrection?

Kimberley Snapshot

Prayer Ministry

Arts Events

Benefice Services

Diary Dates

Contact



and how some of the patterns, trends and (let's be frank) disputes that we are experiencing might develop over the next 10-15 years.

Most of the articles I have read about the future of the Church are moderately gloomy, whether that is the Church globally or our own little corner of the Church. It is true, there have been some articles about what is being termed a 'quiet revival'. This often centres on a recent report seeming to show a marked increase in church attendance among the younger generation. However, those optimistic articles are balanced by others that query the strength of the data in the report and the conclusions drawn from that data.

Within our own Diocese there are some who are full of optimism and hope about growth and renewal. And there are others who are not, and who struggle to connect this optimism with anything they experience from week to week.

The narrative of decline and despair is both powerful and prevalent.

But one paragraph in an article I read recently has caused me to think rather differently about all this. It was an article about the likelihood that religious life (that is, life within a religious order living according to a rule – typically as monks or nuns) will relatively soon come to an end as the number of people wishing to commit themselves to that way of life continues to fall sharply. So far, so typical of the narrative of decline. But the way in which the article ended was interesting. The author (herself a nun) wrote that she thought that the traditional form of religious life will indeed

soon come to an end. But then she wrote that this would not mean that monks and nuns would cease to live lives committed to proclaiming God's love by their actions. They would not cease to be people called to live inseparably from God's love and to proclaim that love among those whom the world overlooks, shuns or locks away. She wrote, 'What makes me really cheerful about the future of the Church, and religious life within it, is that we are becoming more like the people we serve: vulnerable, uncertain, less powerful, poorer. We will be situated outside Whitehall and Washington DC; we will gather in council flats more than cathedrals. That is to say, we will look much, much more like Christ'.



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), 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

At the start of May, the ice-cream machine did a tour of duty at the Family Fun Day at the Bruton Club. The weather was kind and the day lived up to its name. We are grateful to the Club for allowing us to pitch our stall and join them. If anyone wants to master the art of operating the machine, it is always helpful to have a few more willing hands.



Original score of Pastime with Good Company (c. 1513), held in the British Library, London

King's School Choir sang madrigals from the West tower of St Mary's on May Day morning in perfect conditions. This is becoming a tradition and in future years it would be lovely to offer the choir more support, perhaps extending to a drink and a pastry afterwards?

At St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour, we have

restarted a regular BCP Holy Communion Service. This is currently happening on the 3rd Sunday of alternative months, at 9.30 am. The next service will be on 20 July. All are welcome.

There is a 5th Sunday this month and we will once again have a single mid-morning service for the whole benefice, held at Bratton Seymour. This time, we will hold the service outdoors and share a BBQ lunch afterwards. The service will be at 11am with the BBQ afterwards, both at Bratton Farmhouse, BA9 8BY. There will be light

refreshments but you're welcome to bring your own drinks and any other food. There will be a raffle and a cake sale all in aid of St Nicholas' church.

Nick and Alyssa, who together with their daughter Florence worship at St Mary's, were married on 10 May amid much joy.

St Mary's needs some more people to help with operating the livestreaming kit for Sunday services. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please put them in touch with Harry Mills or the benefice office.

St Mary's participated in the Bruton Boost – part of mental health awareness week – by hosting a 'come and sing' event. It went really well and there are plans to repeat it. If you know of anyone who might like to join in next time (no musical knowledge required), please ask them to get in touch.

The local folk music group Somerset Russets, who have previously performed at St John's, brought their excellent show to St Mary's and entertained and educated the audience with their stories of Somerset music-making.

A Bristol-based artist called Sophie Sherwood is planning to come and make some prints from a stained glass window at St Mary's using a technique called cyanotype printing. In advance of her time making the art in the church, Sophie very kindly came and explained this technique to a group of local artists. We look forward to seeing the results of her work soon.

Brewham Village Hall

Sale of Bric a Brac

Jewellery Cakes Plants and Books

Tea and cake

Saturday 28th June 2025 from 2pm-5pm



All Proceeds to St John's Church Brewham

To donate items for sale, please telephone 01749 850543

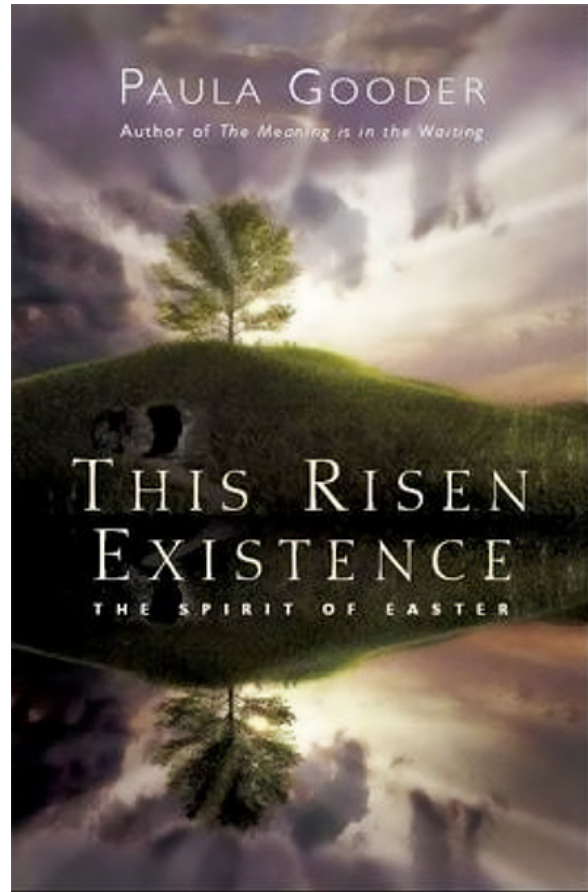
Mary, Seat of Wisdom



The Rector recently renewed his acquaintance with a rather lovely sculpture called *Mary, Seat of Wisdom*. This is a work by Peter Eugene Ball and it sits in the ante chapel at Merton College, Oxford. Jesus reaches out his hand to the person who approaches, inviting them to ponder the mystery of the Word made flesh. Mary encourages the onlooker to join her in prayer, that all those seeking knowledge and understanding may find them in Christ, the Wisdom of God. The Rector was at Merton College as guest preacher for Choral Evensong.



What is Resurrection?



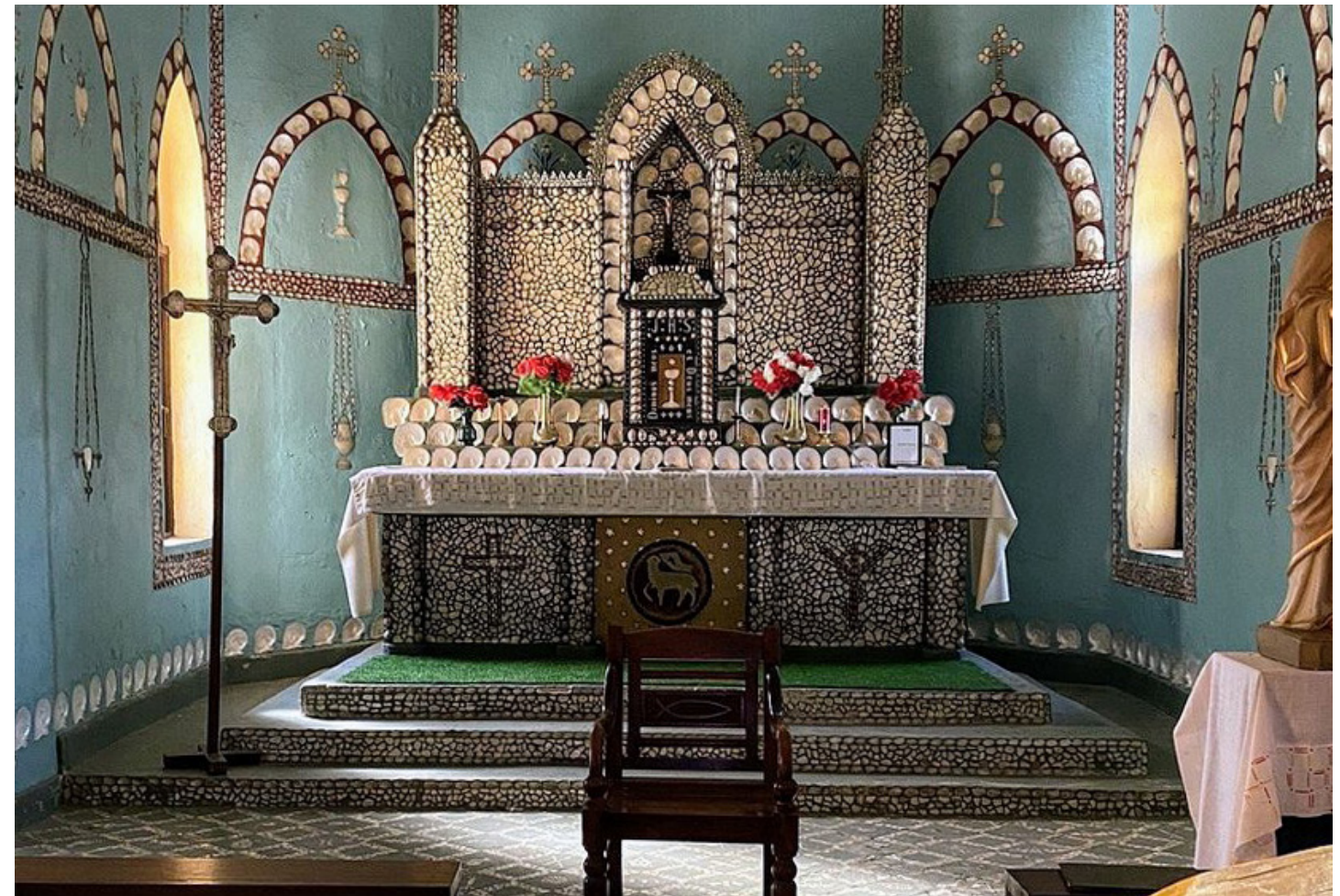
Theologian Paula Gooder writes this:

‘Belief in the resurrection is an act of rebellion against the evil, corruption and oppression that can so easily swamp us. Believing in the resurrection can be a refusal to accept that the world is as it is, that it can never change and that we must accept it simply as it is. Believing in the resurrection allows us to see the world with a long view, a perspective

that looks backwards to the resurrection and forwards to the end time, recognising traces of resurrection and end times in what is happening now. Believing in the resurrection can and should transform not only how we view the world, but how we live in it. We should become people in whom others can see new life, and people who introduce that new life wherever the world is stultifying and life-denying. Resurrection makes a difference not only to Jesus and the earliest disciples, but also to us.’

Gooder, P. (2009) *The Risen Experience: the Spirit of Easter*. Norwich: Canterbury Press.

Kimberley Snapshot



The inside of the Church at Beagle Bay Mission on the Dampierland Peninsula. Broome in the 19th and early 20th centuries was a hive of activity for the Pearl Industry and still is today, with large cultured pearl farms at Kuri and Cygnet Bays. Much of the material used to decorate the inside of the church was made out of this beautiful natural material. Pearl shell itself was treasured for buttons until the advent of plastic. The stunning altar is covered with perfectly-matched pearl shell. Beagle Bay foks are very proud of their church, and it's used for all occasions. Father Francis was the most elderly of the German Pallotines in the community – he had been sent to

Australia before WW2 because the Order knew of his opposition to the incoming regime in Germany. One day, whilst conducting a funeral, as he said 'Dust to dust...' he FELL into the grave much to the mirth of the people attending! At a subsequent funeral, one of the younger members of the community knelt beside Father Francis and held him around the waist to prevent another 'accident'!



Prayer Ministry

Our prayer for June is for *serenity and patience*.

In Isaiah 26:3,4 we read:

Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace - in peace because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

Pray for any situations causing anxiety for you, or people you know.

Let nothing trouble you;
Let nothing frighten you;
All things are passing;
God never changes;
Patience obtains everything.
One who possesses God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.

(St Teresa)

There is a prayer meeting every **Wednesday** morning in St Mary's Church, Bruton, at **8.30am** when some of us meet to pray for our community. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have any specific requests for prayer, please give them to the Rector and he will pass them on to us.



SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

A REAL PAIN

(2024/90 minutes/15)

American Jewish cousins David and Benji travel to Poland to see their late grandmother's childhood home. Benji (Kieran Culkin), an outspoken and free-spirited drifter, stands in stark contrast to David (Jesse Eisenberg), who is a quiet and practical husband and father. Their adventure takes a dark turn when the odd couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

Directed by Jesse Eisenberg.

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 12th June

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



Charity No. 1107640



Saturday 14 June 2025

St Mary's, Bruton, 8pm

Known for their rousing sea shanties and maritime tunes, The Longest Johns have captivated global audiences, and their live performances promise to deliver the same powerful energy fans have come to love. They visit Bruton for a haunting church concert to celebrate the band's latest project, Pieces of Eight—a series of eight 3-track EPs, released monthly from March to October 2025.

Tickets

<https://cabaretvoltairerevents.com/event/the-longest-johns/>



MUSIC IN COUNTRY CHURCHES

and ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BRUTON
present an afternoon of excellent music

13 July 2025 at 3.30pm

THE KALEIDOSCOPE
CHAMBER OCTET

will play

A JOURNEY EAST

an exciting programme of music for strings
by Dvorák, Bacewicz, and Enescu

Refreshments will be available.

Funds raised will support St Mary the Virgin Church.

Information & tickets at: musicincountrychurches.org.uk



ExeVox

CHAMBER CHOIR

Celebrating 20 years of song

Musical Director

Peter Adcock

Presenting

*ExeVox choral
favourites*

1870 to 2008

Biebl to Abba

Purcell to Pärt

Lotti to Lauridsen

Rachmaninov and more

**making
music**



ExeVox are a chamber choir based in
Exeter, with members from across Devon

Registered Charity No. 1166675

Saturday 9th August 2025, 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Bruton BA10 0ED
TICKETS £15.00 on the door

OR in advance at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/exevox



Benefice Services

Season (Various)	Sunday 1 June Easter 7	Sunday 8 June Pentecost	Sunday 15 June Trinity Sunday
St John the Baptist, Brewham	9.30am Eucharist (CW)		9.30am Morning Prayer
St Mary's, Bruton	8 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Sung Eucharist	8 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Eucharist	8 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am All Age Worship
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Matins (BCP)
St Peter's, Redlynch			
St Peter's, Shepton Montague		6 pm Evening Prayer	
Holy Trinity, Wyke			6.30 pm Patronal Evensong (BCP)
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour			

Benefice Services

Thursday 19 June Corpus Christi	Sunday 22 June Trinity 1 / Proper 7	Sunday 29 June St Peter & St Paul
6.30 pm Eucharist for Corpus Christi	8 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9 am Breakfast Service 11am Eucharist	8 am Holy Communion (BCP)
	6 pm Evensong (BCP)	
	6 pm Patronal Choral Evensong (BCP)	
		11 am Family Service and BBQ



Diary Dates

June

- 5 • RC Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 11 • Archdeacon's Visitation, St Mary's, 7pm
- 12 • Film Night, Shepton Montague Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 14 • The Longest Johns, St Mary's, 8pm
- 15 • Patronal Festival Evensong at Holy Trinity, 6.30 pm
- 17 • Deanery Synod, 7.30pm
- 19 • Eucharist for Corpus Christi, St Mary's, 6.30 pm
- 21 • Coffee Morning (hosted by St Mary's), Bruton Community Hall 10am
- 22 • Patronal Festival Choral Evensong, St Peter's, Shepton Montague, 6pm
- 28 • Friends of St Mary's Lecture: the Silk Road, St Mary's, 6.30pm
- 29 • Outdoor Family Service and BBQ Lunch, Bratton Farmhouse, Bratton Seymour, 11am

Further ahead...

July

- 13 • Music in Country Churches: The Kaleidoscope Chamber Octet, St Mary's, 3.30pm

August

- 9 • Exevox, St Mary's, 7.30pm

September

- 25 • The John Martyn Project, St Mary's, 8pm
- 30 • Simon Armitage, St Mary's, 8pm

Contact

Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector

8 Wellesley Green, Bruton, BA10 0DU

Tel: 01749 812775

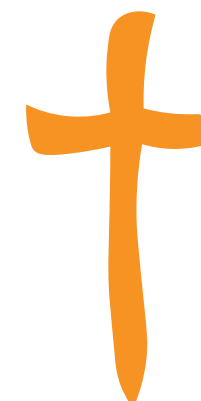
email: rector@stmarysbruton.org

Benefice Office

Plox House, Silver Street, Bruton, BA10 0ED

Tel: 01749 813080

email: benefice@stmarysbruton.org



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.



www.stmarysbruton.org