



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



In the graveyard at Shepton Montague

Is your body a finely-tuned machine? I recently read an interesting magazine article about human health. The author was critical of the approach of most modern medicine towards our bodily health. Medicine, he wrote, treats the body as if it is a complex machine:

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when bits are not working in quite the way they should, or if they become diseased, medicine seeks to heal the defects by a process of mechanical and chemical ‘tinkering’. We are offered technological solutions for our bodily ailments and our problems are approached exclusively at an individual level: the doctor’s concern is only with the body in their consulting room.

But the author of the article argued that our health should be understood not in such an isolated and mechanical way. Health, he argued, should be seen as membership within a community, not as individualistic self-optimisation. We are healthy when we enjoy good relationships. Our bodies are not self-contained entities, but complex organisms. A living body must maintain its association with things that lie beyond its boundaries, such as (most obviously) air, food and drink, but also shelter, clothing and companionship if it is to be truly ‘whole’ and healthy. Whereas a machine that is out of fuel or switched off remains nonetheless a machine, a body without connection to these resources is a corpse, not a human being. A human body lives and thrives by its involvement with other bodies and other creatures.

The author wrote movingly about his grandfather’s final year before his death, which was anticipated as he was known to have an incurable and progressive disease. During that final year, his grandfather not only retained but increased and deepened his relationships with family, friends, hobbies and passions. This was

not a mad-dash bucket list exercise, but a deep enjoyment of what made him thrive and what made him whole. He died happy and, strange as it may seem, he died healthy.



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

Bruton

At St Mary’s, we were delighted to receive not one but two sets of visitors from the U.S.A. who are descendants of John Ames, who emigrated from Bruton to Virginia in 1634, and who is commemorated in the glass in the South West window. Both sets of visitors were delighted to see the window as they traced their Somerset ancestry. Andy Pickering from Bruton Museum kindly met with the first family to give them more details of their Brutonian relatives. Lori Mayfield and her son Ames also worshipped with us at the 11am Eucharist.



American visitors: descendants of John Ames

As many readers of this newsletter know, but perhaps not all, Alice and Jonathan Evans are in the process of re-organising their housing arrangements. They will now base the family home not at the Rectory in Bruton, but at their former family home in Hampshire. Alice will live there and Jonathan will join her there on his days off and when on leave. While in Bruton, Jonathan will live in a flat at Plox Green. It will still be possible for Jonathan to hold small meetings at the flat, just as it was at the Rectory, and his study will be there, along with the benefice phone line. Alice will visit Bruton from time to time, but will be based in Hampshire. The intention is that the Rectory will be let to tenants, but Jonathan and Alice have reserved the right to move back in if their new arrangements don't work out well.



St Mary's hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation on 11 June, at which church wardens from across our Deanery were admitted to office. Archdeacon Anne Gell led the service and preached and we are grateful to all those who helped prepare and serve refreshments and made the visiting churchwardens and clergy feel welcome.

Shepton Montague

Film Night at Shepton Montague in July features *Maria*, showing on Thursday 10. Released in 2025 with a running time of 122 minutes, (certificate 12A), it was directed by Pablo Larrain and stars Angelina Jolie as the American-Greek diva. Set in Paris in 1977, the film covers the last seven days of Maria Callas' life, recalling her triumphs as she deals with her own depression against the unwanted attention of the paparazzi, eager to witness her downfall.

August's Film Night (Thursday 14) brings us *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*. Also released in 2025 (124 minutes long, certificate 15) Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) is now a widow and single mum helped by her family, friends and former lover (played by Hugh Grant). Back to work and on the apps, she's pursued by a younger man (Leo Woodall) and possibly her son's science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor). Directed by Michael Morris.

The much-loved Shepton Montague Fete will be held in the usual attractive garden venue (Higher Farm, BA9 8JJ – follow the signs!) on Saturday 23 August, 2pm. Cream teas, Brickells ice cream, a bar and a BBQ, bric-a-brac, books, a bottle stall, birds of prey, plants,

cakes, a bouncy castle, children's games / games-of skill, skittles, a coconut stall, and detectorists will all be on offer!



Brewham

Overleaf is a photograph of the Brewham Bric-a-brac Sale of the Century ready to go. This was held recently in Brewham Village Hall. The event raised over £1,000 towards a new electrical and heating system for St John's Church.

Brewham hosted the celebration of 100 years of the Bruton and District Horticultural Society. A summer party was held in perfect weather in North Brewham's, village hall, and Alison Bleasdale got to cut some pretty magnificent cakes!



'A Change is as Good as a Rest', Or 'Variety is the Spice of Life'

Our organist at St Mary's writes:

For the entire period of twenty years from 2005 during which I have been full-time organist at St Mary's (and probably for some years before then) the Mass setting sung on Sunday mornings at the 11.00 am service has been the New People's Mass by Dom Gregory Murray. Admittedly, there have been experiments, but they were not well-received. Accordingly, we persevered with the New People's Mass, which has the virtue of being easy to sing (and to play on the organ) though it is not particularly interesting musically: I have not heard a single comment about it – favourable or unfavourable – in twenty years.

And so, because the tired old clichés above may retain some validity, but not without thought and consultation, the decision has been taken to introduce a different Mass setting at St Mary's: the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne (1995). Musically it is straightforward without being banal. Its approachable style and repeated thematic content should make it familiar after a few services. Music copies will be handed out with hymn books before each service. The Mass of St Thomas will be sung for the first time on Sunday 6 July, when the congregation will benefit from the vocal support of the choir, who will have been rehearsing the new setting for several weeks beforehand.

Obviously, it is to be hoped that the Mass of St Thomas will find favour with congregational singers. Confidence should increase with familiarity: you may even find that you enjoy the new setting! Your responses whether positive or negative, will definitely be welcome after a few weeks. I am sure that the Rector and the Choirmaster would agree with me when I say that the worst possible feedback would be no feedback – i.e. complete apathy.

Sing up!





The picture is of a meeting on Lombadina Mission, and just over the back of the photo is a tidal creek – It looks idyllic doesn't it? Well, it is! It was the place where I had one of my most interesting and informative conversations with two of the most incredible men I have had the privilege to know, and who were leading lights in getting recognition for much of the traditional law. Ubi Mowal and Ubi Barung – leaders from Mowanjum Community – had come across from Derby to attend the funeral of the wife of the Headman of the One Arm Point Community. The story begins with our Community Nurse, Anne, going to One Arm Point to carry out the weekly Health Checks.

Anne was about to come back to Lombadina when the Headman came to the clinic to ask for some paracetamol for his wife. Anne decided to go and check her first, and upon examination determined that it was necessary for her to be transferred by the Royal Flying Doctor to the Derby Hospital, where it was decided to transfer her immediately to Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital. After many tests and scans, the decision was made to return her to her 'own country' – a term which relates to where they believe their spirit was born and lives. I was sitting on a rock, extremely upset, and I remember Mowal saying 'But Clare, it's normal when you get old to become frail, and we expect that we will have pain, but this is part of our journey'. Barung jumped in: 'when we die we go back into our land and we are put back into it with our spirit! Our lives are a journey with our spirit, and we can't be separated from it: that's why our land is important. It's our duty to rebuild our land, and care for it, and part of that care is going back into it when we die, and it's a joy to be buried with our spirit!' Mowal just kept nodding his head in agreement, and we left our rock and went to the party to celebrate her life.

This was so different from 18 months earlier when the Mowanjum Community had celebrated the birth of a Worora baby girl. The father was up at Pantijan (their cattle station) and was flown back to see his beautiful daughter. The whole community celebrated – we had a new baby Then, tragedy. The baby inexplicably died, and

never have I seen such mourning: the wailing went on for days. I was told that this was because she had never had a chance to be part of the full community, nor was she able to contribute to their lives or the lives of her spirit land or her spirit animal.

These lovely people value life in all its parts – even the bad parts – because they believe that all those parts are a design for life, the good and the bad together.

Musical Notes

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 firm tradition and in future years it would be lovely to offer the choir more support, perhaps extending to a drink and a pastry afterwards!



Prayer Ministry: July

Our prayer for July focuses on *Unemployment*.

Colossians 3v16:17:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Let us pray

O Lord and heavenly Father, we commend to thy care the men and women of this land who are suffering distress and anxiety through lack of work. Strengthen and support them we beseech thee; and so, prosper the counsels of those who direct our industries that people may be set free from want and fear, to work in peace and security for the relief of their necessities and well-being of the nation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Industrial Christian Fellowship)



Prayer Ministry: August

Our prayer for August focuses on *Everyday Life*.

Psalm 27v 4:5:

One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Let us pray

O God, open our eyes to wider horizons than we have imagined, and unstop our ears to hear your voice in unexpected places. Enlighten our hearts to know your presence, that we may be freed from our self-centeredness and find you everywhere and in all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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.



Fifth Sundays

There are five Sundays in August but there is no plan for an activity or event on the fifth Sunday in place of the usual mid-morning service (the 8am BCP Holy Communion will still go ahead at St Mary's). Suggestions for something we might do together that day would be most welcome: please send them in to the Benefice Office. In the past, we have chosen to attend a service at another local church, enjoyed a walk, a shared lunch, and visited the Quakers! All suggestions are welcome.

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.



SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

MARIA

(2025/122 minutes/12A)

Paris, September 1977. Riddled with depression and sadness, legendary opera diva Maria Callas now leads a reclusive life away from the public eye. Despite her failing voice, the famed American-Greek soprano still harbours hopes of making a grand comeback. But Maria has already caught the unwanted attention of persistent paparazzi eager to witness her downfall. As vivid flashbacks reveal moments from her glamorous yet tumultuous career, a tragic narrative unfolds over the last seven days of the influential singer's life - a story filled with dreams, hardship, passion, and disappointment.

With Angelina Jolie and Pierfrancesco Favino. Directed by Pablo Larrain.

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 10th July

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



OPERA IN THE ORCHARD

PERFORMED BY THE ECHOING AIR



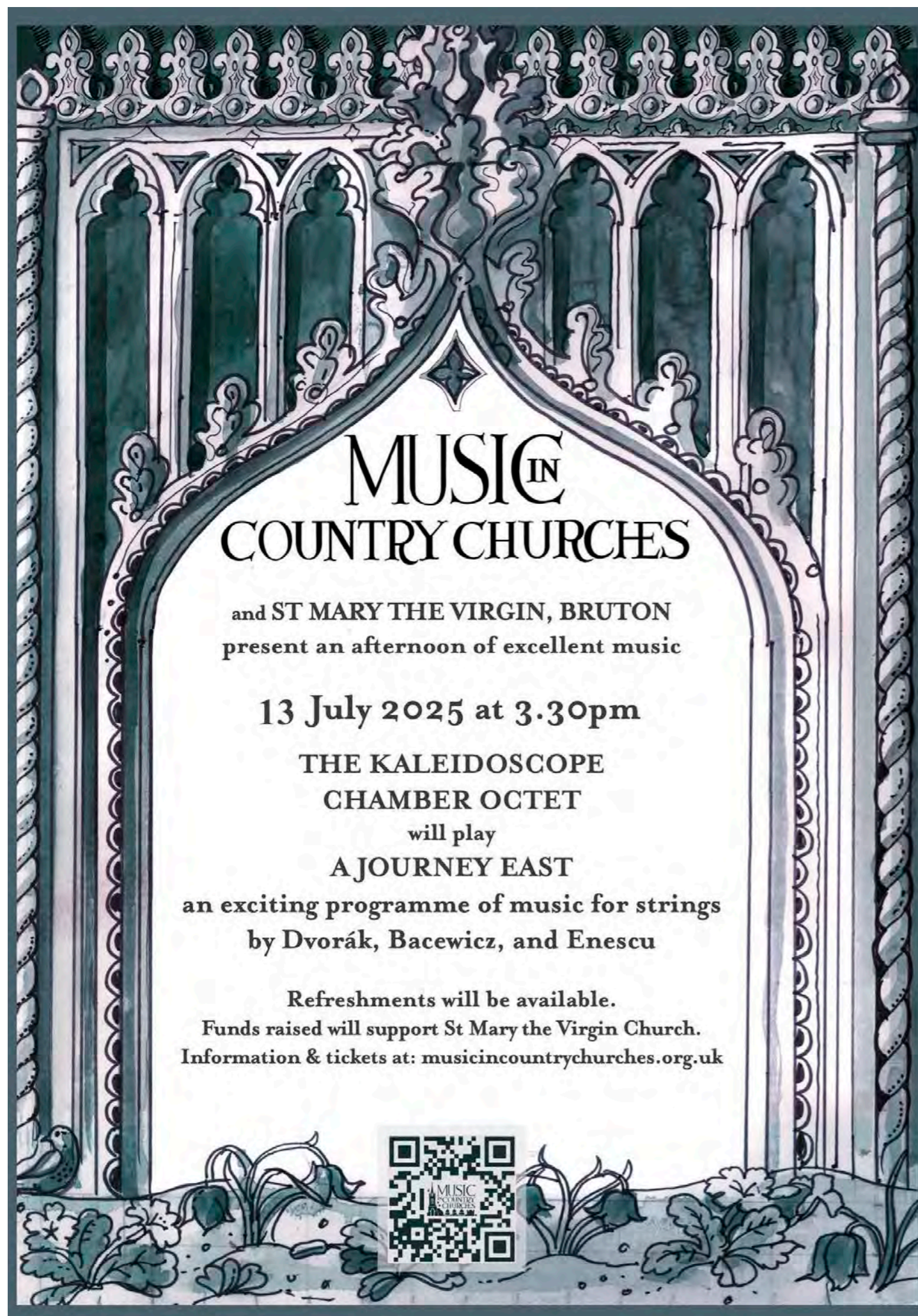
12TH JULY 2025

WYKE CHAMPFLOWER

TICKETS: TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK SEARCH: OPERA IN THE ORCHARD

An evening of opera in the beautiful gardens at Wyke House, just outside Bruton, Somerset. The Echoing Air ensemble – a company of six opera singers accompanied by pianist Libby Burgess – perform a variety of famous and contrasting scenes from opera, together with a picnic interval on the lawn by the lake.

Tickets: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/theechoingair/opera-in-the-orchard/e-mogxrm>



Sophie Sherwood Cyanotypes

Artist and photographer Sophie Sherwood will be working in St Mary's all day on **2 August** producing cyanotypes from the stained glass (see examples below).



Do pop in and say hello!



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



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



SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY

(2025/124 minutes/15)

Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) navigates life as a widow and single mum with the help of her family, friends, and former lover, Daniel (Hugh Grant). Back to work and on the apps, she's pursued by a younger man (Leo Woodall) and maybe - just maybe - her son's science teacher (Chiwetel Ejiofor).

Director: Michael Morris.

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 14th August

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





**Debora Barnes Photography Exhibition
Redlynch Chapel**

12–18 September



Organ Concert

given by
David Slater

SAT 13 SEPTEMBER
7pm, St Mary's, Bruton

SAVE THE DATE!
Programme details
and tickets
to follow.

The John Martyn Project

8pm, Thursday 25 September, St Mary's Church, Bruton

Six established musicians from the world of folk, pop and soul teamed up for a special concert at the Jazz Cafe in London to celebrate the wonderful musician John Martyn. The concert was such a success, they took the show on the road for a sell-out tour. The band features Blythe Pepino, Kit Hawes, Pete Josef and Sam Brookes, who reinterpret the many different aspects and eras of Martyn's music. Join The John Martyn Project in the beautiful surroundings of St. Mary's for an evening of reverence to a unique musical soul.



Tickets

<https://cabaretvoltaireevents.com/event/the-john-martyn-project-bruton/>

Simon Armitage

8pm, Tuesday 30 September, St Mary's Church, Bruton

Join the Poet Laureate for an entertaining evening of readings from his two new poetry books: *Dwell*, inspired by the Lost Gardens of Heligan with stunning illustrations by Cornish print-maker Beth Munro, and then hot-off-the-press in September, *New Cemetery*. The event includes the chance to ask questions and Simon will sign books afterwards.



Tickets

<https://cabaretvoltaireevents.com/event/simon-armitage-poet-laureate-bruton-2025/>



Pilgrimage to Taizé

Wendy, School Chaplain to Sexey's School, writes:

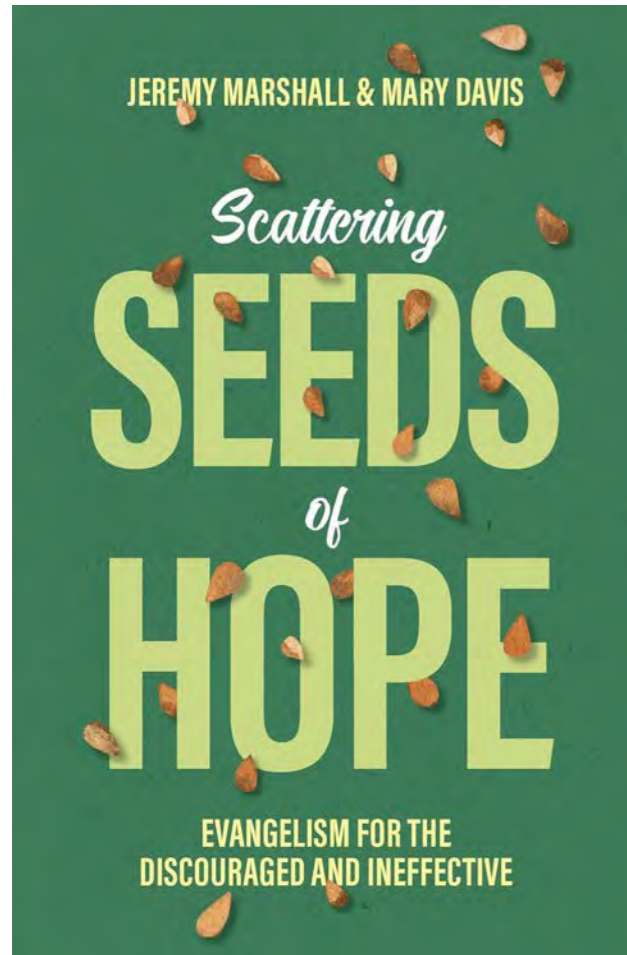
On 19–27 July a small group of teenagers will be joining the Bath and Wells Pilgrimage to Taizé. They will be joining other sixth forms and colleges from across Somerset within the Diocese. This is the second year running, and hopefully there will be many more as other young people hear about this wonderful, life-changing experience, and all the fun to be had. It's a privilege to see their faith grow during the week.

Taizé is in the Burgundy region of France. It is a Christian Monastery with the encouragement and spiritual growth of young people at its heart. Last year there were several thousand young people from across the world during the week we were camping there. Despite the size of the event there is still a warm community feel amongst everyone. During the week there is a daily Bible Study, plus prayer and worship throughout the day, including ten minutes of silence three times a day. In the evening there is time to relax and socialise.

We would appreciate your prayers for *safe journeys*
and *time away from home*.



Book Review



Sometimes I read a book that I enjoy at the time but I don't remember much about it after a while. Recently I read a book that I know I will keep going back to.

It's written by Jeremy Marshall and co-authored by Mary Davis. Jeremy Marshall was CEO of C. Hoare & Co, the private bank from 2009–2016. (You may know that the Hoare family, who still own the bank, owned the Stourhead estate.)

Back to the book! It's called

Scattering Seeds of Hope and has the rather off-putting subtitle of 'Evangelism for the Discouraged and Ineffective'. As the friend who gave me the book said, she didn't give it to me because she thought I was discouraged and ineffective, but because she found it such a helpful book.

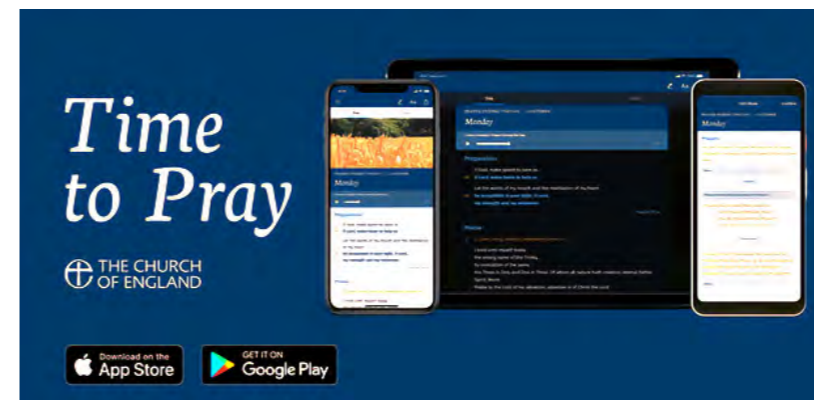
The book came about when Jeremy was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He felt compelled to talk to people about his faith. If like me you find the thought of doing that daunting this is a very helpful and encouraging book. It is a short book with 113 pages and ten chapters.

It includes a lot of practical advice about talking to people about our faith, such as simply saying that you went to church if someone

asks what you did at the weekend. The person you're talking to may want to ask you questions about church, but equally they may not be interested and may change the subject. Sowing seeds involves something very small, that can grow. The book also explains how Jesus often used stories in his ministry and if we know bible stories we can retell those in our conversations, when it's pertinent to do so.

I found it a very liberating book as Jeremy makes it clear that our job is to simply sow the seeds and we leave God to do the rest.

There's an app for everything!



Time to Pray presents everything you need for prayer during the day or night, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the

Church's year. It now contains full audio of both services, every day.

- Access *Prayer During the Day*, together with full text of psalms and short readings from *Common Worship: Time to Pray*.
- Follow a simple pattern of daily prayer that varies according to the season and day of the week.
- Access *Night Prayer*, together with guidance on sustaining a pattern of regular prayer.

Time to Pray is completely free to use.

Benefice Services

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 6 July (Proper 9)	Sunday 13 July (Proper 10)	Sunday 20 July (Proper 11)
St John the Baptist, Brewham	9.30am Eucharist (CW)		9.30am Morning Prayer
St Mary's, Bruton	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Sung Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am All Age Eucharist
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Matins (BCP)
St Peter's, Redlynch			
St Peter's, Shepton Montague		6pm Evening Prayer	
Holy Trinity, Wyke			
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour			9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Benefice Services

Sunday 27 July (Proper 12)	Sunday 3 August (Proper 13)	Sunday 10 August (Proper 14)	Sunday 17 August (Proper 15)
	9.30am Eucharist (CW)		9.30am Morning Prayer
8am Holy Communion (BCP) 9am Breakfast Service 11am Eucharist	8 am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am All Age Worship
6pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Matins (BCP)
9.30am Eucharist		6pm Evening Prayer	
			9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

Benefice Services

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 24 August (Proper 16)	Sunday 31 August (Proper 17)
St John the Baptist, Brewham		
St Mary's, Bruton	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 9am Breakfast Service 11am Eucharist	8am Holy Communion (BCP)
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	6pm Evensong (BCP)	
St Peter's, Redlynch		
St Peter's, Shepton Montague	9.30am (Outdoor) Eucharist	
Holy Trinity, Wyke		
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour		



Diary Dates

July

- 3 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 7 • **Funeral:** Barry Netherway, Pitcombe, 2pm
- 8 • **Memorial:** Terry Wiltorn, St Mary's, 3pm
- 10 • Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 12 • Pitcombe Party, Hadsphen Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 12 • **Concert:** Opera in the Orchard, Wyke House, 5.15pm
- 13 • **Concert:** Music in Country Churches presents The Kaleidoscope Chamber Octet, St Mary's, 3.30pm
- 14 • Bruton Boost Singing Group, St Mary's, 5pm, **TBC**
- 17 • Bruton Primary School Fete, 3pm

August

- 2 • Sophie Sherwood Cyanotypes, St Mary's, all day
- 7 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 9 • Brewham Village Show, 9.30am–4.15pm
- 9 • **Concert:** Exevox, St Mary's, 7.30pm
- 14 • Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 17 • Black Cat Appreciation Day, all day
- 23 • Shepton Village Fete, 2pm
- 25 • Bank Holiday

Diary Dates

September

- 4 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 5 • Pitcombe PCC, 2.30pm
- 7 • St Mary's Patronal Festival, 11am
- 9 • Shepton PCC, Village Hall, 6.30pm
- 10 • Bruton PCC, Plox Office, 5.30pm
- 11 • Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 12 • Deborah Barnes Exhibition, Redlynch Chapel: ends 28 Sept
- 13 • **Concert:** Organ Recital, St Mary's, 7pm
- 14 • Shepton Harvest Festival, St Peter's, 6pm
- 15 • Brewham PCC, Colinshays, 7pm
- 20 • St Mary's Coffee Morning, Bruton Community Hall, 9am
- 21 • Brewham Harvest Festival **TBC**
- 21 • **Concert:** *On the Idle Hill of Summer*, St Mary's, 3pm
- 25 • **Concert:** The John Martyn Project, St Mary's, 8pm
- 28 • Brewham Harvest Festival **TBC**
- 30 • **Event:** Simon Armitage, St Mary's, 8pm

Contact

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