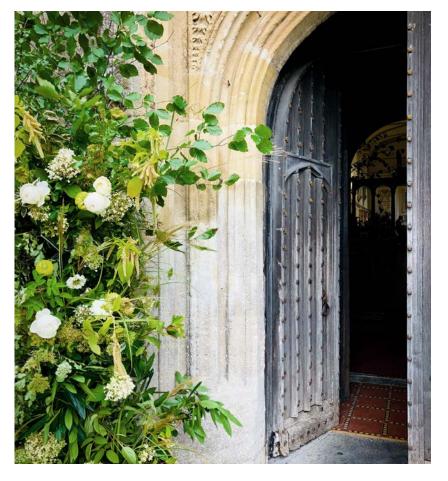


Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



The last wedding of 2025

On 1 September, there will be a meeting for clergy involved in multiparish rural ministry in this Diocese. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the future shape of ministry in benefices like ours.

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More specifically, it is to consider a type of ministry which is labelled 'oversight ministry'.

As things currently stand, we do not have enough funding to have a full-time priest in every parish (this has been the case for many years) and, as funding continues to decrease, so the number of paid clergy decreases and therefore the number of parishes which each parish priest serves increases. There comes a point when the number of parishes becomes too great, with the result that either things don't get done, or clergy collapse under the strain, or both.

Hence 'oversight ministry'. This concept is evolving and not yet fully developed (hence the meeting on 1 September). But the basic idea is that the paid, full-time minister (who is usually a priest, but not necessarily) has a supervisory role (hence 'oversight'), supporting other ministers (who are probably lay volunteers, but not necessarily), encouraging and training them and providing a structure within which there is good accountability and a coherent shared sense of purpose and direction.

That is the theory. Two fairly obvious questions arise, and there may be more. One is: what happens if there are not enough people with the necessary calling, skills and capacity to provide the parishbased ministry that (by definition) the oversight minister will not be able to provide themselves? Another is: do our existing parish clergy want to become oversight ministers? This may depend on the ultimate shape of that role, but some clergy may not want to be managers of a team of volunteer parish ministers (assuming

such a team exists) and hence less involved with delivering parish ministry and more involved with administration.

A report on the meeting on 1 September will be provided in due course, to PCCs and probably in this newsletter. In the meantime, please do spend some time thinking about how you see the future of ministry in this benefice: whether you think it is working well or not working well, the status quo of having one full-time priest for our 7 churches, assisted by the retired clergy, wardens and other volunteers, is unlikely to continue unchanged.

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

Batman or Batwoman required!

St Mary's can be a batty place and we really need someone to help clean up after the nocturnal activity of our flying friends. Especially helpful would be someone to offer to clean the pew surfaces on a Sunday morning before the 11am service. Cleaning equipment will be provided (but no batmobile, batcave or superhero costume – sorry). If you can offer 20 mins or so of your time, please get in touch.

Fifth Sunday

A few of us attended Morning Worship at Castle Cary Methodist Church on Sunday 31 August, where we were warmly welcomed. The theme of the service was hospitality – more specifically the radical hospitality of God, as reflected in the readings from Hebrews 13 and Luke 14. This theme of hospitality as something central to Christian life and worship is one of the key themes in the 'Growing Good' course, details of which have been mentioned before in this newsletter. The idea of offering inclusive and nonjudgmental hospitality in our communities feels very timely as we try to find ways to serve our communities and speak of God's love by our actions. Maybe we should look again at the relevance of the 'Growing Good' course? Details are on their website: www. growing-good.org.uk

News from our Parishes

Litter Pick

There will be a litter pick in Bruton on Saturday 4 October. We will meet at the usual time of 10am, and a kit will be provided. We will also be able to have refreshments in the hall either before and/or afterwards as there is a coffee morning happening that day!

On the Idle Hill of Summer



Following three successful themed programmes (*Dreamscapes*, *Tales and Legends* and *Arabesque*) Clare Sydenham (Piano) and David Hindley (Narrator) return with a brand new programme. *On the Idle Hill of Summer* is a themed, scripted programme

looking back over the season through the piano music of Maurice Ravel, Frederick Delius, Percy Grainger and others, with literary works by Thomas Hardy, William Shakespeare, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Matthew Arnold and more.

For tickets please scan the QR code, or visit: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham/t-noaxppk



News from our Parishes

Inque modum tonitrus vox ferrea verberat aures



Our organist writes: 2025 is Play the Organ Year, a project aiming to increase the number of people playing the organ or at least appreciating its music. The distinguished British organist Anna Lapwood is Patron of the campaign and writes in Organists' Review:

'The organ is a unique and fabulous instrument, and we want as many people

as possible to discover how truly thrilling it is to play one.' Aspiring students welcome!

On a personal note, July 2025 marked 25 years since I became full-time organist at St Mary's. At a rough count I must have played for over a thousand services (including weddings, funerals and memorial services) but have given a lamentably small number of recitals. Tonight's is only the fourth or fifth!

Pitcombe

The Pitcombe Harvest Lunch will be on Sunday 5 October at 12.30pm, Hadspen Village Hall. Tickets are £12, and U12s are free (poster overleaf).





Pitcombe Parish

HARVEST LUNCH

Hadspen Village Hall Sunday 5th October 2025 at 12.30pm

In conjunction with the Harvest Service at St Leonard's on the same morning at 11am. Raffle proceeds to St Leonard's for distribution to their chosen charities

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- SCRUMPTIOUS LUNCH
- · CASH/CARD BAR
- RAFFLE OF LOCAL PRODUCE



TICKETS FROM:

ANTHONY HODGES • 01963 351429 GERALD SPRATLING • 01749 812806 LISA HORLER • 01749 813615 BACS: Hadspen Village Hall
Acc Number: 21553313
Sort Code: 40-47-28
Reference: Your Surname

Benefice Discussion Group

After a longer than intended break, we will resume our benefice discussion groups this month, by spending some time with heresy. As one writer puts it, 'Heresy can be a good thing. It is natural for the human mind to ask questions, to ask, 'Why?' and if no one had ever questioned, for example, Christ's perfect divinity, the doctrine of the Holy Trinity would never have been affirmed so categorically' (Marcus Plested).

Heresy simply means 'choice', in the sense of there being a range of opinions from which this choice has been made. It now has the pejorative connotation of a false choice, that is a choice against the truth, or against orthodoxy (which means 'correct opinion'). But you may need to explore the heresy in order to be more sure of the orthodoxy.

Heretics mostly did not intend to subvert the faith. Rather, they were raising important questions in an effort better to understand the faith. If their views were rejected, they became heretics. If their views were accepted, orthodoxy was deepened and strengthened. Marcus Plested again: 'We can never be entirely right in what we say about God, but we can certainly very easily be wrong. The concept of heresy remains essential for distinguishing between an incorrect and a correct (or at least less incorrect) articulation of the faith'.

Benefice Discussion Group

In the first three sessions, we will look at some heretical ideas about Jesus – his divinity, his humanity and whether or not he could truly know suffering.

We may follow this up next month with a bit more heresy – about the Old Testament, salvation and sects.

The discussions will be based on a book called 'Heresies and how to avoid them', edited by Ben Quash and Michael Ward (SPCK, 2007). There is no need to buy the book – notes will be provided.

We will meet on Mondays 8, 15 and 22 September, with meetings at either 3pm or 6.30pm. The venue will probably be the Rector's flat at 2 Plox Green, though this will depend on numbers. It would therefore be very helpful to have a firm idea of numbers for both the afternoon and the evening sessions. If you would like to come, please contact the benefice office so we can track numbers and send you a set of notes.

Email us on benefice@stmarysbruton.org



Confirmation

There will be a confirmation service at Wells Cathedral on 18th October this year. If anyone is interested in being confirmed (with baptism beforehand if required) or knows anyone else who might be, please get in touch in good time so that we can discuss and prepare.

Prayer Ministry

Our prayers for September focus on Education

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges and universities, that they may be lively centres for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach, and those who learn, may find you to be the source of all truth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Specifically it would be good to pray for the schools in our benefice, and for head teachers, teaching and non-teaching staff, and pupils.

•••

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.

Something new in September - not another church meeting!

Do you ever feel like church is too busy and we go from one week to the next without having time to just chat? If you do, why not come along to The Chapel on Wednesday 10 September (and every 2nd Wednesday in the month). This is not another church meeting but the chance to simply chat over a cup of tea or coffee, and possibly cake.

We'll plan to be there from 9.30–10.30am (approximately). Come when you can, go when you must.

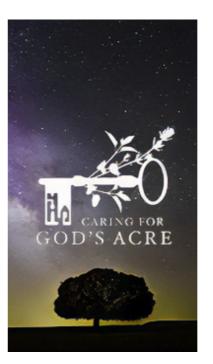
Visiting Wells Cathedral

Did you know that you can apply for a parish pass that allows you free entry to Wells cathedral? You need to download and complete a form from the Wells Cathedral website (see below) and get it signed by a church warden or the incumbent to verify you are either a communicant member of the named parish in the diocese or on the electoral role for the named parish. You take the completed form to the Cathedral welcome desk.

https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/visit/wells-passes



Caring for God's Acre



The ladybird, with its stylish and cheerful polka-dot outfit, holds a special place in our hearts. Few other insects, apart from perhaps the butterfly, evoke as many positive emotions and superstitions as the ladybird. Many cultures believe that ladybirds are a symbol of good luck and new beginnings. In fact, the belief that ladybirds are associated with positive qualities is nearly universal – from

Slavic, European, and Asian cultures to Native Americans.

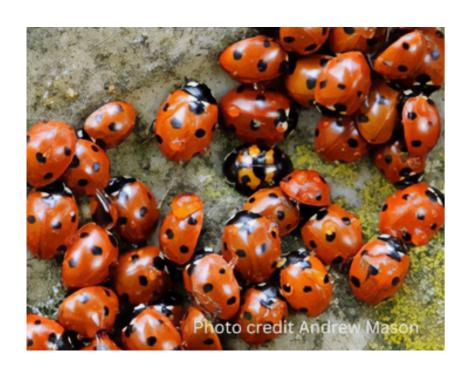
There are 46 different species of ladybirds in the UK and about 5,000 species worldwide. While some sport the classic red with black spots look, others come in shades of yellow, orange, or even black with red spots. All ladybirds are beetles and have a larval and adult form with the classic round and colourful ladybird being the adult whilst the larvae tend to be thin and black.

Many species of ladybird hatch from pupae in August or September so look out for a new generation of adults feeding up ready to overwinter. Ladybirds are voracious predators of aphids and other garden pests, serving as natural pest-control agents and helping to keep plants healthy. In fact, a single ladybird can devour up to 5,000 aphids and other plant-eating pests in its lifetime, making them invaluable allies to gardeners and farmers alike.

Despite their diminutive size, ladybirds are not without their challenges. Predators, parasites, and even rival ladybirds pose threats to their survival. Birds, spiders, and other insects prey on them. They do have defences against predators however, their bright red colour is a warning that they don't taste nice and when attacked they give off a yellow liquid which is rich in toxic alkaloids.

Churchyards and cemeteries can be great for ladybirds as they tend to be free of insecticides and full of food. There are lots of places where ladybirds can find a safe place to spend the winter, often in large clusters where they remain inactive until about March when they emerge to feed and breed. Monuments including chest tombs, gaps made by tree roots, wood piles, spaces beneath flaking bark, leaf litter, tussocky grass and drystone walls are full of potential places to overwinter.

With their rounded bodies and distinctive markings, ladybirds are easily recognisable. If you see a ladybird, take a photo or count



its spots and make a note of both spot and background colours.
The spot number indicates which species it is and not as some people believe how old it is.

Kimberley Snapshot

Frogs: A Story of the Wet and Dry Seasons

Life is never easy in the West Kimberley! Apart from being at the top of the continent, and not far from the equator, it was hundreds of miles from the nearest town and therefore also from amenities like shops or a hospital. Shopping was done usually once a month in one of the bigger towns (Broome, Derby, Wyndham or Kununurra) or, like many people, you sent an order by mail and waited for the shipment to come up by sea, or over land by Road Train. This was fine during the *dry* season, but when the *wet* season came it could – and did – cause significant delays because of the weather. I have memories of Kimberley aving to be supplied by air because the trucks couldn't get through the floods. I remember standing on the side of the road cheering when they finally did!

Quite simply the year separates into the *dry* (it doesn't rain), or the *wet* (it rains, pouring down in torrents everyday). It is also HOT with an average 38–42C°), and it steams all the time!

Along with the heat, steam and water, came FROGS! Big,
Palmolive Green frogs! They inhabited buckets, pots, puddles,
baths and toilets as well as rafters and tree branches. One night
I was sleeping peacefully when all of a sudden I was being
suffocated by something that had dropped from the rafters onto

my face. I screamed! It was a good scream, well-focused, high and loud, and woke the whole community!

Quite often to assist the air flow in a house the communicating doors were not solid but had instead a wire mesh, and such was the case in the teacher's house. One day, Sue had gone to the bathroom had just sat down when and all of a sudden a frog attached itself to her derriere... SCREAM! Wire mesh broken, and Glenn had to find some brandy to calm his wife

Ah the joys of living in West Kimberley, Western Australia!



Safe Families



SEEING CHILDREN & FAMILIES FLOURISH

New Beginnings

Thanks to working for years in the education and family support system, and of course with two young children in school, for me and I'm sure many others the new year starts not in January but in September. It is a time to get back in routine with school runs, new uniforms, new classes and new teachers – along with the joy of seeing friends again. We have renewed fellowship as our church groups, coffee mornings and clubs start up again after a break. The change in season may fill us with warmth as the nights draw in and we prepare for cosy evenings by the fire, perhaps looking forward to the preparations and celebrations of Advent and Christmas.

While September marks a fresh start and a period of anticipation for many, for some families the prospect of a new start they can look forward to with hope feels painfully out of reach. Every 15 minutes in the UK, a child enters the care system to await a fresh

start – whether in a foster home, with an adoptive family, or by returning to their own family with the right support in place. Many families under social care need a friend to bring them out of isolation and into a community that can hold them, so they know they are not alone.

September this year also marks the 1st anniversary of the 'new beginning' we embarked on as a merged charity, bringing together the historic organisations of Safe Families and Home for Good. Since that merger, we have been working to bring together our vision where no family feels alone and every child has a home where they can flourish. We have been sharing with churches and community groups how we do this – through training up volunteers to offer befriending and mentoring support for struggling families, and encouraging people to consider if they could offer a home to a child or young person through fostering, adoption or supported lodgings.

This September, you could be part of someone's new beginning – whether by offering a listening ear, linking an isolated parent into a community, providing a safe place for a child, or simply praying for those involved.

You can find out more on our website safefamilies.uk, but I'd also love to invite you to our annual online Vision Night, where you can hear more about what we do and how you can make a difference. Simply visit *safefamilies.uk/vision25* to book your space. If you

can't make that date but would like to have a chat with someone to find out more please get in touch with Lauren. Give me a call on **07771 453 209** or email **laurenjewhurst@safefamilies.uk**, and I would be happy to meet with you.

Praying that God will bless you all in this new season ahead.

Lauren Jewhurst

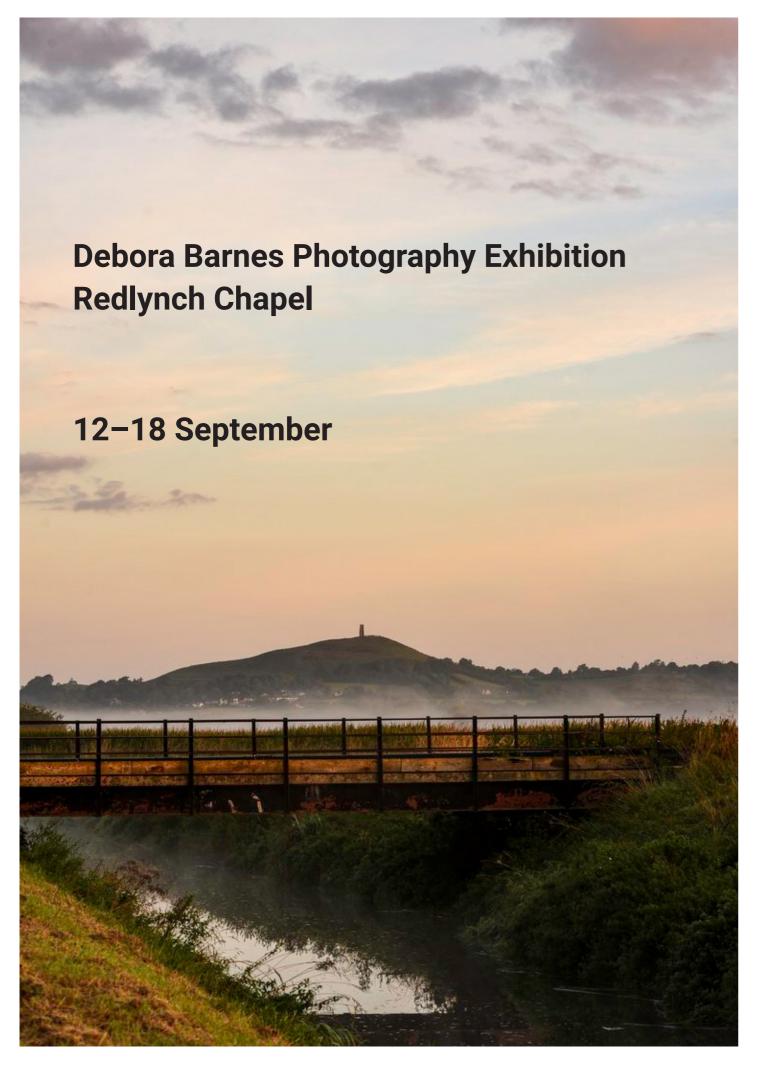
Church and Community Relationships Coordinator Safe Families and Home for Good

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.





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SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

MR BURTON

(2025/124 minutes/12A)

It's 1942 and Richard Jenkins (Harry Lawtey) is at school in Port Talbot, caught between the pressures of an alcoholic father, a devastating war, and his own ambitions. A new opportunity beckons when Richard's natural talent for drama catches the attention of his teacher, Philip Burton (Toby Jones). The young man thrives under Philip's strict tutelage and the guidance of a kindly landlady, Ma Smith (Lesley Manville). But as the acting world comes within Richard's reach, the burden of his past risks holding him back forever.

Director: Marc Evans.

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague Thursday 11th September 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



Sophie Sherwood Cyanotypes

July-August, St Mary's Church, Bruton

As you may remember from the July-August newsletetr we were lucky to have artist and photographer Sophie Sherwood in St Mary's making cyanotypes from the stained glass. Sophie returned on 20 August to resume work and below are just two samples from the images that she has made from the windows there. We're looking forward to seeing many more!



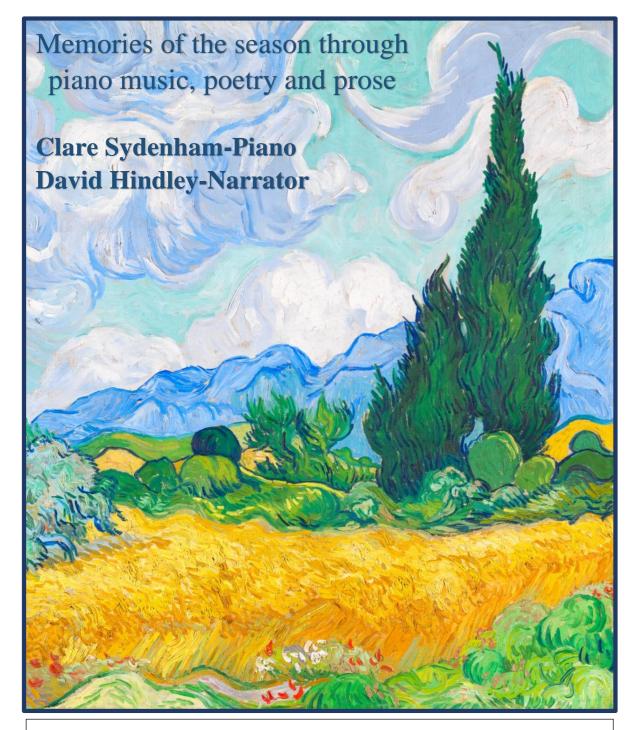






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'On the Idle Hill of Summer'



Sunday September 21st 3pm

St. Mary's Church, Bruton BA10 0EB

Advance Tickets £10 online (no booking fee), on door £12/under 18 free https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham/t-noaxppk or clare.sydpiano@gmail.com

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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/

CO?

Staying Safe Online

The internet makes life easier in countless ways – shopping, banking, keeping in touch with family, and even healthcare. But with those benefits come risks. Cyber criminals often target older adults because they may be less familiar with new technology or more trusting online, but a few simple steps can help keep you safe.

Come along to a short talk aimed at uncovering and explaining the different things that you can do to keep yourself secure. We'll look at things like how to spot scammers including how to recognise a fake phone call, email, website or even a doorstep visitor.

On top of that we'll talk about how embarassing it can feel when you think you might have been tricked, and how it can sometimes be difficult to ask for help with technology – what if someone laughs? What if your concerns just sound daft? You'll be amazed by how many people from all walks of life and with much or little experience have been victims – you should never feel alone.

Cyber security doesn't necessarily have to be complicated. A few good tricks will go a long way toward protecting your money, privacy, and peace of mind.

We hope to offer this in October, so details will follow on how to join local cyber security experts for a free talk that will demystify at least part of the tech-heavy world which we all inhabit.

If you think this would be helpful please let us know! benefice@stmarysbruton.org

Benefice Services: September

Benefice Services: September

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 7 September (Trinity 12, Proper 18)	Sunday 14 September (Trinity 13, Proper 119)	Sunday 21 September St Matthew	Sunday 28 September (Trinity 15, Proper 21)
St John the Baptist, Brewham	9.30am Eucharist (CW)		11am Harvest Festival	
St Mary's, Bruton	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Patronal Festival Eucharist (CW1)	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Eucharist (CW1)	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am All Age Worship	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 9am Breakfast Service 11am Eucharist (CW1)
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Matins (BCP)	6pm Evensong (BCP)
St Peter's, Redlynch				
St Peter's, Shepton Montague		6pm Harvest Festival		9.30am Eucharist (CW1)
Holy Trinity, Wyke				
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour				11am Harvest Festival

Catholic Mass is said every first Thursday of the month at 10am.

Upcoming services:

- 4 September
- · 2 October
- 6 November
- 4 December



Diary Dates

September

- 4 Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 5 · Pitcombe PCC, 2.30pm
- 7 St Mary's Patronal Festival, 11am
- 8 Benefice Discussion Group, 2 Plox Green, 3pm and/or 6.30pm
- 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 Montague Harvest Festival, St Peter's, 6pm
- 15 Benefice Discussion Group, 2 Plox Green, 3pm and/or 6.30pm
- 15 Brewham PCC, Colinshays, 7pm
- 20 St Mary's Coffee Morning, Bruton Community Hall, 9am
- 21 Brewham Harvest Festival, St John's, 11am
- 21 Concert: On the Idle Hill of Summer, St Mary's, 3pm
- Benefice Discussion Group, 2 Plox Green, 3pm and/or 6.30pm
- 25 · Concert: The John Martyn Project, St Mary's, 8pm
- 28 Bratton Seymour Harvest Festival, St Nicholas, 11am
- 29 Benefice Discussion Group, 2 Plox Green, 3pm and/or 6.30pm
- 30 Event: Simon Armitage, St Mary's, 8pm

Diary Dates

October

- Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 5 Pitcombe Harvest Festival, St Leonard's, 11am
- 9 Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 11 St Mary's Harvest Barn Dance, TBC
- 12 Redlynch Harvest Festival, St Peter's, 11am
- 19 St Mary's Harvest Festival, 11am
- 19 · Wyke Harvest Festival, 6.30pm
- 25 The clocks go back!

Contact

Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector

2 Plox Green, Bruton, BA10 0EY Tel: 01749 812775

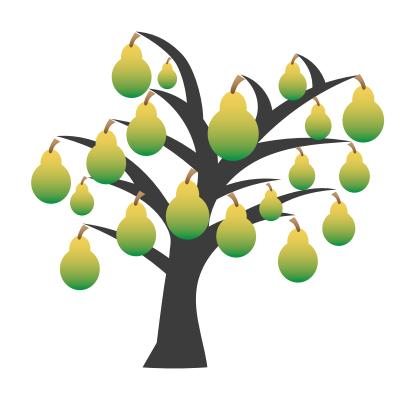
email: rector@stmarysbruton.org

Benefice Office

Tel: 01749 813080

email: benefice@stmarysbruton.org





www.stmarysbruton.org