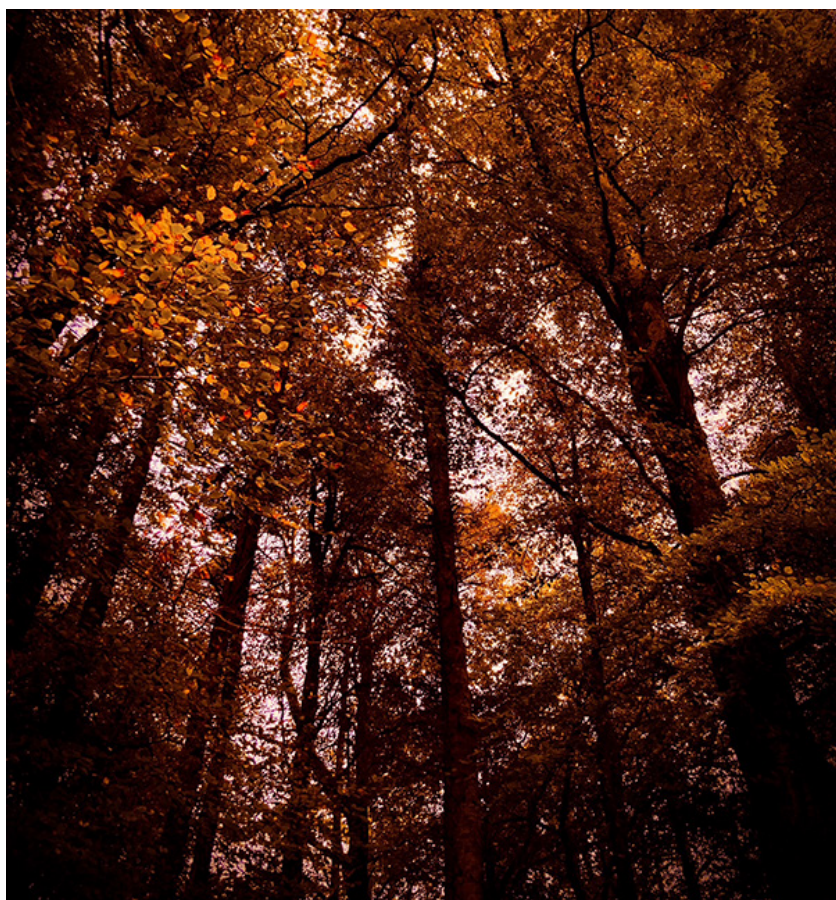




Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



*Autumn Trees somewhere near Bruton*

As trailed here last month, there was a meeting of rural clergy on 1 September to discuss with the Diocesan leadership the emerging shape of future ministry in multi-parish benefices like ours. The basic thinking

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is that, unless our financial generosity improves markedly, as a Diocese we will soon not be able to afford the current numbers of paid clergy, so we will have to reduce numbers and spread clergy yet more thinly, creating larger benefices.

In this benefice, while we do receive some generous financial support from a few people, if we look at the total numbers our income from regular donations is very low relative to our number of worshippers and our wealth. Across our benefice of five parishes, those who give regularly (which is by no means everyone who attends) give on average just £10.83 per week (less than the cost of a daily takeaway coffee), which is inadequate to pay our way. In the past, we have survived only because we have been subsidised by other parishes in the Diocese, but that subsidy is now being withdrawn and we have to meet our own costs.

The discussion on 1 September focussed mainly on the perceived need for a change of culture within our Church, moving from a model where the priest is expected to provide much of the ministry personally to a model where the priest is expected to encourage, train and oversee others to provide that ministry. The idea is that we become the sort of Church where ministry is shared among all the people. One consequence of this sort of change would be the reduction in sacramental ministry received in each parish; perhaps most obviously a reduction in the celebration of the Eucharist.

I would be very interested to know how people feel about these proposals for change. Are there people who are willing to get more involved in ministry, say by being trained to lead worship, to preach,

to visit the sick or homebound, to prepare liturgy or to take lead responsibility for aspects of church administration and finance and care of our buildings? What is your attitude to the way we receive sacramental ministry, and specifically the Eucharist – essential or expendable? I wonder whether it might be a good idea to hold a benefice-wide meeting to air our thoughts about this matter. There is only any point doing this if people are sufficiently interested that they will participate in the discussion and also, crucially, the solution (whatever that might be).

So, if you would like to attend a meeting of all our parishes to discuss these issues with one another and see what suggestions emerge for how to respond to the Diocesan proposals, please email or ring the benefice office and if there is sufficient interest, we will organise a meeting.



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

### Brewham

Following the harvest service on 21 September we were host to a Christening, and over 50 people joined together for lunch in the Village Hall so all in all our Harvest Festival was a very jolly occasion indeed!



### Litter Pick

There will be a litter pick in Bruton on Saturday 4 October from 10am–12 noon. Anyone who is able to help will be most welcome. We will meet at Bruton Community Hall at 10am.

### Pitcombe

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



*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

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

*Tickets*  
**£12**  
*U12 FREE*

#### 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

### Bruton – Organ Concert by David Slater

#### *‘Inque Modum Tonitrus Vox Ferrea Verberat Aures’*

Fingers flew seamlessly across keys and swept across digital stops on Saturday 13 September, while feet glided across pedals, as David Slater treated us to a wonderful evening of organ music last month. David has been St. Mary’s full-time organist for 20 years, and how lucky we are to have him.

The concert pieces were carefully arranged in groups, and introduced us to music that many of us didn’t know. One or two we knew very well, including a spine-tingling rendition of Samuel Barber’s *Adagio for Strings*, which, as David modestly suggested, was a piece that would ‘transfer well to the medium of the organ’. Each selected piece was long enough to immerse us in its beauty, and short enough to hold our attention when listening to something less familiar.

The information accompanying each piece provided historical context and some fascinating snippets about the composers and their personalities and contemporaries. Take Buxtehude, for example, who was such an accomplished composer that J. S. Bach walked 200 miles to hear him play!

What an enjoyable evening, dedicated to the loving memory of David Mills – a fitting tribute.

### Bruton – Harvest Quiz Night

This year we are having a Harvest Quiz Night instead of a barn dance as we couldn’t get a band – the Benefice Admin needs to be quicker next year! However, we have a wonderful hog roast planned which will be supplied by Danela’s, plus we will make sure there’s a good supply of salads, quiches and other bits and bobs to cater for all. The quiz night will be held in Bruton Club’s main hall, so naturally there is access to a bar, and we will be having a raffle as well! It should be a wonderful evening, and knowing the quizmaster this year probably quite taxing at times, so come along and enjoy good food and good company. Tickets are available from both Bruton Club and Bruton Convenience Store.





## News from our Parishes

### Deanery Synod Open Invitation

The next meeting of our Deanery Synod is on 22 October at 7.30pm in West Camel Village Hall. There will be a presentation about a church growth programme called Thrive and anyone is welcome to attend, not only Deanery Synod representatives.

### Benefice Discussion Group

Our discussions about heresy will resume on 13 October. We plan to have another two sessions after that on 20 and 27 October at the usual times of 3pm and 6.30pm. Sessions will be at the Rector's flat (2 Plox Green, Bruton, BA10 0EY) and all are welcome. It would help to know numbers, so please drop a message to the benefice office if you are planning to come, indicating which sessions ([benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)).

### Opportunities galore!

We are always eager to expand our groups of volunteers across the benefice and have opportunities for help in many and various ways. Especially welcome at the moment would be help with cleaning, flowers, and secretarial support. We also need a PCC treasurer for Bruton. Generally, we are looking for volunteers as we cannot afford to pay for this work, but if anyone is able to help as a vergers for funerals and weddings (full instruction provided) then this is a role that can be paid.

## Harvest Bounty at St Mary's

St Mary's would love people to donate long life food items to be passed on to Brue Larder as we celebrate harvest together. It would be great to give their much needed service a boost.

Donations can be dropped into church in advance of the day of the St Mary's Harvest Festival service (Sunday 19 October, 11am) or they can be brought along to the service. The donation box is kept at the back of the church by the visitors' book.

To help with their logistics, long life foods really are best as perishables can't be successfully stored, and homemade items aren't allowed.

***Let's see if we can provide a 'bumper crop!'***

Aside from the superb quiz night that we have coming up on Saturday 18 October, we have another special harvest event in the form of a harvest lunch after the Sunday harvest service. This will take place in the Community Hall across the road from St Mary's.



## Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg VA

As some readers of this newsletter know well, there is a church in a city called Williamsburg in the state of Virginia, USA, called 'Bruton Parish Church'. The reason for the name lies deep in America's Colonial past: the Governor of Virginia at the time the church was founded, in 1674, was Sir William Berkeley, son of Sir Maurice Berkeley, of our own Bruton. So the church was named after our parish of Bruton.

Over the years, we have received visitors from Bruton Parish Church, including their choir, and some from our community have also been there to visit. This year, the Rector was invited to visit them – to speak at the annual lunch for the 'Friends of Bruton' and to preach at the Sunday morning services (you can watch the mid-morning service on their YouTube channel should you wish to do so – link at end of article). So, he duly hopped on a plane and crossed the pond.

After a morning walking around the so-called Historic Area of 'Colonial Williamsburg', which is a 'living history-style' reconstruction of the 18th century state capital, the associate priest, Fr Charlie Bauer, and the Chairman of the Friends of Bruton, Dr Jonathan Stolz, kindly guided and filmed a little exploration and explanation of key parts of Williamsburg, explaining the links back to the Old Country. We hope to turn that into a short piece of video that we can use for visitors to St Mary's.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZtKXfCafqk>

Next, the committee of the Friends of Bruton kindly treated the Rector to a very nice supper in a local restaurant. Fortunately the food was considerably better than that which the first settlers would have had. On the next day, the Rector donned his tidiest shirt and prepared to give a presentation to the 160 or so guests at the annual lunch of the Friends of Bruton – a charity that supports ministry and mission in Bruton Parish and which has a strong and international membership. The talk focused on the history and present day life of Bruton (Somerset) and the current state of ministry and mission in our benefice, and was made very pretty by the use of some stunning photos and a neat little video kindly prepared by volunteers at St Mary's.

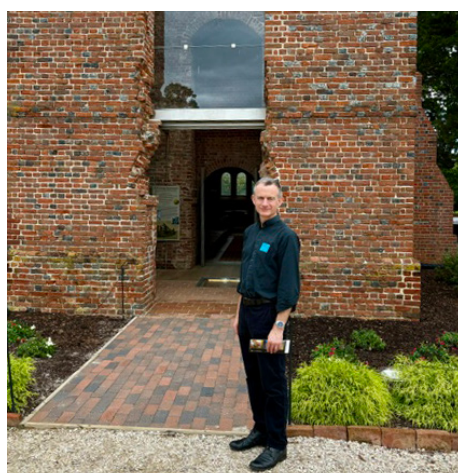
After a quick visit to the parish heritage centre and gift shop, it was time for supper with the Chairman of the Friends of Bruton at his home to hear more about their work.

Sunday services were back-to-back at 8am, 9.15am and 11.15am. Afterwards, Dr Stolz laid on a quick visit to Jamestown – the site where the first English settlers landed and established the British colony. It is a remarkable place, giving a strong sense of the spirit of endeavour and exploration that saw the colony survive and grow, including replicas of the ships in which the settlers arrived (tiny!).

After that, a dash back to Williamsburg for an evening Eucharist with students from the College of William & Mary – the local state university – followed by a simple meal with the students in the parish hall.



All in all it was a good chance to deepen the relationship between our two church communities and compare thoughts about the challenges and opportunities facing us in our respective places. Bruton Parish Church are planning a pilgrimage to the UK in June 2026, and we hope to host them for a day, which will be a good opportunity to return the warm and generous hospitality they offered to the Rector on this trip.



## Rector's Discretionary Fund

Did you know that the Rector has a discretionary fund? This is not for cocktails or trips to the opera, but for him to be able to use to meet the needs of those who come to him in some form of distress or emergency and to offer discrete help to parishioners in financial need. The money is accounted for within the Bruton PCC accounts.

To date, this fund has been provided almost entirely by Valerie Norton through the sale of knitted animals at her garden gate. As many will know, Valerie died in January this year. But in a wonderful gesture, Valerie's husband John has suggested that a further fund of money generated by Valerie should now be transferred into the Rector's discretionary fund. This is the money that people gave when Valerie and Judy Gallannaugh made the colourful tapestry kneelers for St Mary's. Often people gave a donation when a kneeler was made in their name or to their order. But Valerie bore the entire costs of materials herself, so these donations have simply been held in a fund. Now, John has asked and Bruton PCC has agreed that in memory of Valerie and her tireless work and her concern for the poor, these funds should be transferred to the rector's discretionary fund (which was running quite low). So, thank you John, and thank you Valerie.



### 2000 Olympics and Namaaralai

In the early 60s when the Mowanjum Community was on the verge of becoming independent from missionary outreach, they were having a meeting with a group of Ecumenical Church Leaders who were talking about their various churches.



Suddenly Elkin Umbagai, daughter of Sam Woolagoodjah, stood up and said “I don’t understand you churches – you’re all saying different things about your God and you even fight over your

God: look at Northern Ireland! You’re killing one another! We Aboriginals only have one Wandjina and we don’t fight over him!”

The picture overleaf was taken at the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The Wandjina in the picture had been made by Elkin’s brother Donny. I was sitting in the Torrent Path Choir waiting to sing the *Tibi Omnes* from the Berlioz *Te Deum*, and when I saw the Wandjina I cried while I sang these words:

*To Thee all angels cry aloud: the heavens and all the powers therein;  
To Thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry. Holy, Holy, Holy:  
Lord God of Sabaoth;*

*Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. The glorious  
company of the apostles praise Thee.*

*The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise Thee. The noble army of  
martyrs praise Thee.*

*The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee;  
The Father of an infinite majesty; Thine honourable, true, and only Son;*

*Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.*





## Prayer Ministry



### Our prayers for October focus on *Harvest*

Without Thy sunshine and Thy rain  
We would not have the golden grain.  
Without Thy love we would not be fed.  
We thank Thee for our daily bread.

### The Harvest Is Great, the Labourers Few (Matthew 9v35-38)

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Lord, we pray for all the people in our Benefice that they will know the Truth and that the Truth will set them Free.

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 – 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 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.

## 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

## BLACK BAG

(2025/93 minutes/15)

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) agent George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) faces a challenging assignment. There's a mole in the agency with plans to activate a destructive cyber worm called Severus. George is tasked with identifying the mole. His list of five suspects includes four of his agency friends and colleagues at the NCSC, with the fifth being his beloved wife Kathryn St. Jean (Cate Blanchett).

Director: Steven Soderbergh

**in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October**  
**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)



South East Somerset  
Beekeepers Annual

# Honey Show

**The Market House, Castle Cary**  
**Saturday 11th October 2025** 10.30am ~ 1.30pm

- Displaying entries from BBKA members and open to local beekeepers
- Sales of local honey
- How to help bees in our countryside
- Coffee shop and homemade cake stall
- You can even sign up to a beginners' class!

For more information contact: **Tony Johnstone**  
on **07973 341557** or [sesbkasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:sesbkasecretary@gmail.com)  
for an entry form.

**Free Entry**

We would like to thank our sponsors:

**WYKE FARMS** **The Newt in Somerset** **STUDI67 s67.uk**

The Bee Depot at Buckland Dinham, The Market Garden at Castle Cary and Schimmel Hardware at Castle Cary

We are pleased to support:

**wildlife TRUSTS SOMERSET** **Bumblebee Conservation Trust**





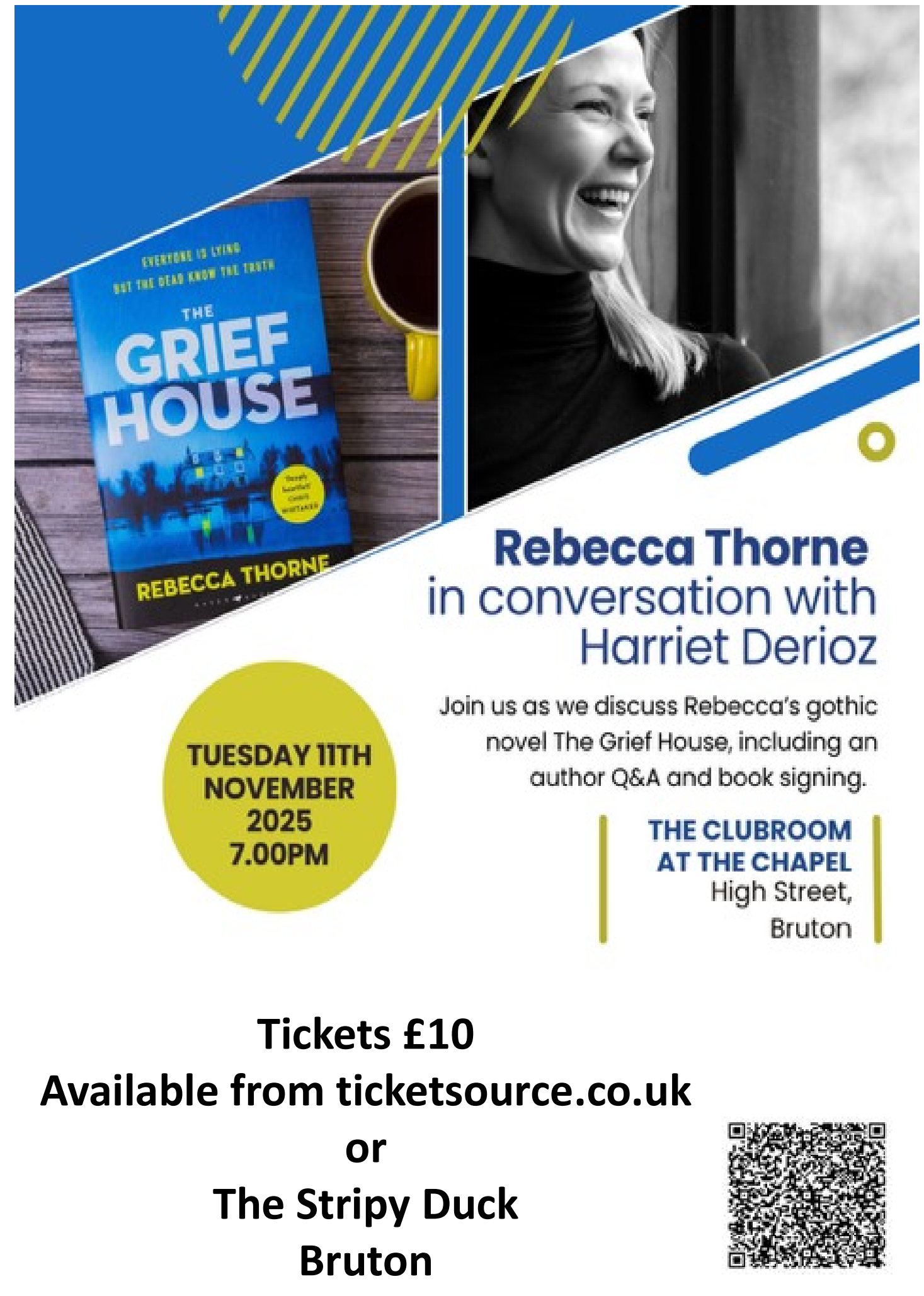
**St Mary's Harvest Quiz!**  
**Saturday 18th October**  
**The Bruton Club**

Hog roast & buffet at 6.30pm  
 followed by a quiz and a raffle

Tickets are £15 from  
 Bruton Club, Bruton Convenience Store,  
 and you can book in advance by email:  
[benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)

Bar available (likely necessary)

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



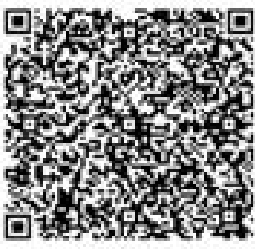
**Rebecca Thorne**  
 in conversation with  
 Harriet Derioz

Join us as we discuss Rebecca's gothic  
 novel *The Grief House*, including an  
 author Q&A and book signing.

**TUESDAY 11TH  
 NOVEMBER  
 2025  
 7.00PM**

**THE CLUBROOM  
 AT THE CHAPEL**  
 High Street,  
 Bruton

**Tickets £10**  
**Available from [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)**  
**or**  
**The Stripy Duck**  
**Bruton**



## *“Oh Come Emmanuel!”*

meditational music for advent

**Saturday November 22** at 7:30pm

St. Mary's Church, Bruton

### **Naissance**

Jon Lloyd  
saxophones

John Law  
piano/samples

Entrance price: £16 (under 18 free)  
available in advance or on the door

Atmospheric music, composed  
and improvised, crossing jazz and  
classical, with ambient minimalism.  
Piano and saxophone over subtle  
electronic textures.

Music of meditation

Music exploring  
Sound, Space  
and... Silence



Doors open 7pm, music starts 7:30pm. Drinks will be available from the bar.  
Tickets: email [benefice@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org) Website: [www.stmarysbruton.org](http://www.stmarysbruton.org)

## 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 embarrassing 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](mailto:benefice@stmarysbruton.org)**



## Benefice Services: October

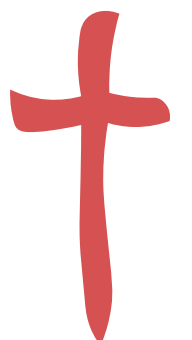
Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 5 October Trinity 16 (Proper 22)	Sunday 12 October Trinity 17 (Proper 23)	Sunday 19 October Trinity 18 (Proper 24)	Sunday 26 October Last after Trinity (Proper 25)
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW)		<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> Sung Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> Harvest Festival	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>9am</b> Breakfast Service  <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	<b>11am</b> Harvest Festival (BCP)	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>11am</b> Matins (BCP)	<b>4pm</b> Evensong (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>		<b>11am</b> Harvest Festival		
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>		<b>6pm</b> Evening Prayer		<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW1)
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>			<b>6.30pm</b> Harvest Festival	
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>				

## Benefice Services: October

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

Upcoming services:

- 2 October
- 6 November
- 4 December



## Diary Dates

### October

- 2 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 4 • Litter Pick
- 5 • Pitcombe Harvest Festival & lunch, St Leonard's, 11am
- 9 • EVENT: Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 10 • EVENT: Justin Daish (guitar), Brewham Village Hall, 7pm
- 12 • Redlynch Harvest Festival, St Peter's, 11am
- 18 • EVENT: St Mary's Harvest Hog Roast & Quiz,
- 19 • St Mary's Harvest Festival, 11am
- 19 • Wyke Harvest Festival, 6.30pm
- 20 • Benefice Discussion Group, 6.30pm
- 25 • Ukelele Concert, St Leonard's, Pitcombe, 4pm
- 25 • The clocks go back!

### November

- 2 • St Leonard's Patronal Festival, Pitcombe, 4pm
- 3 • Benefice Discussion Group, 3pm
- 3 • All Souls Service, St Mary's, 6pm
- 5 • Bonfire Night
- 6 • Roman Catholic Mass, St Mary's, 10am
- 9 • Remembrance Sunday
- 11 • EVENT: Rebecca Thorne in Conversation, At the Chapel, 7pm
- 13 • EVENT: Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 14 • Pitcombe PCC, 2.30pm

- 16 • EVENT: Alessia Bianchi harp concert TBC
- 22 • EVENT: Naissance, St Mary's, 7.30pm
- 25 • Shepton Montague PCC, 6.30pm
- 25 • EVENT: Book Talk with Luke Sherlock, At the Chapel, 7pm
- 29 • Hauser & Wirth Christmas Lights, 5pm
- 30 • Advent Evensong, St Mary's, time TBC

## Contact

### Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector

2 Plox Green, Bruton, BA10 0EY

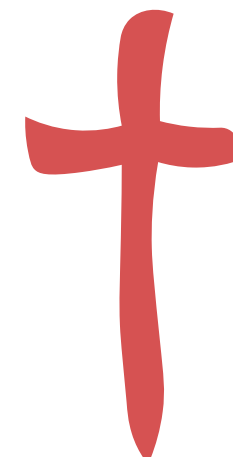
Tel: 01749 812775

email: [rector@stmarysbruton.org](mailto:rector@stmarysbruton.org)

### Benefice Office

Tel: 01749 813080

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







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