



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



Bruton Teasels

Have you heard of the Slow Farming Company? I have seen their signs near Clanville, just outside Castle Cary. As I understand the concept, slow farming and slow food are about finding a way of producing food that pays attention to and values the health of the soil

IN THIS ISSUE

News from our Parishes

Book Review

Advent Reading

Benefice Discussion Group

Churches of Somerset

Kimberley Snapshot

Saying Goodbye

Caring for God's Acre

Prayer Ministry

Benefice Events

Benefice Services

Diary Dates

Contact



and helps to sustain resilient ecosystems, accepting lower and slower yields than is the case with heavily industrialised and intensive farming practices.

Have you heard about slow television? I believe that this media phenomenon began in Norway, with films that ran in real time, showing (for example) a train journey through the countryside, with the film lasting as long as the journey itself – no editing parts out, no fast forwarding. It seems to be the antidote to the sort of films where every scene lasts only a few seconds before cutting to more action.

Have you heard a 'slow moment' on a radio programme, when they play gentler, softer music for a while as an attempt to aid de-stressing or decompression and help us to unwind? The BBC now has entire radio channel dedicated to this sort of programming.

Since 'slow' seems to be in vogue, maybe we should rebrand Advent as 'the slow season' in our Christian calendar. Advent is, after all, the season when we are encouraged by our liturgy and lectionary to slow down, to take time to contemplate our own life and the things of God, intentionally to make some space amid the business to consider the coming mystery of the Incarnation. In Advent, we get ready for Christmas, not by rushing around and preparing decorations, food and presents, but by slowing down and preparing ourselves. How often has Christmas itself arrived at your door before you were really ready for it? You may perhaps have just about decorated the tree and made the cake, or

whatever it is in your home, but you are in no sense ready for the beauty and the mystery and the emotion of Christmas. You may be dog-tired already and possibly fed up with carols and tinsel and mince pies. Christmas itself passes in a blur of tiredness and then it is suddenly all about New Year.

So maybe take more time during Advent this year. Slow down a bit. Make time in your day for silence, for prayers, for reading. Make space in your heart for the coming of the Christ child.



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

As part of our harvest celebrations in Bruton, we enjoyed a very fun evening of food, drink and a quiz. We are very grateful to the Bruton Club for hosting us and to Nick Chambers for writing the quiz and to Sarah Maude for being in control of the questions and answers. Also to the Mills family for organising and preparing the food.

Children from Hawk and Falcon classes at Bruton Primary School have visited St Mary's to learn about Baptism. We had a great time together and it is always fascinating to discover what young people know and don't know about our faith.

Brewham – Quiz Night!

Come along to the Brewham Quiz Night at Brewham Village Hall on Wednesday 12 November, 7pm (doors 6.30pm). Tickets are £10 to include a light supper, and teams are limited to a maximum of six people!

To reserve your team's table please contact Caroline Rathbone on 07539 676807, or email carolinerathbone@btinternet.com.

All proceeds are going towards the St John's Church
Re-wiring Appeal.



All Souls

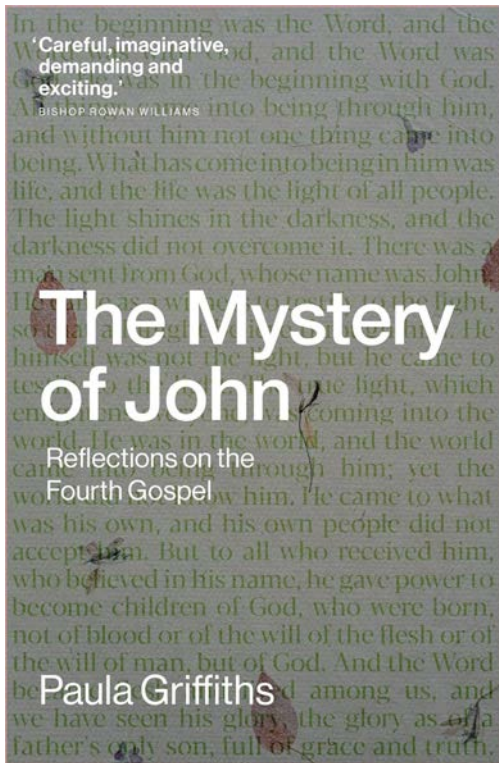
On Monday 3 November at 6pm, there will be a service for the Feast of All Souls. This quiet, reflective service will be at St Mary's, Bruton, and there will be an opportunity to light and place a candle in memory of someone who has died. If you would like the name of someone who has died to be read during the service, please pass on that request to the benefice office in advance, or sign the sheet which is on a table at the back of St Mary's.

Deanery Quiet Day 2026

On 28 March 2026 there will be an opportunity to gather with people from across our Deanery for a day of quiet and reflection before we enter Holy Week. The day will be spent at Hilfield Friary, a Franciscan community between Sherborne and Dorchester. There will be some short talks from one of the members of the community, with space for enjoying the peace and quiet.

The cost is £20. There is a limit of 30 places. If you are interested, please contact Rob Sage, the Lay Dean: robsage@uwclub.net, or telephone 01749 850934





Paula Griffiths, an Anglican priest in Saffron Walden, has written a very accessible and interesting set of reflections on John's Gospel. It is called *The Mystery of John*. It is not a detailed Bible study, nor is it a text to accompany prayer or contemplation. Rather, it is a series of themed explorations of John's Gospel, often contrasting and comparing it with the other three (synoptic) Gospels.

Griffiths takes one idea for each chapter and explores that theme through both the text itself and her own reflections on the text. Examples are: who 'the Beloved Disciple' was; the particular portrait of Jesus given by John; John and bread; light and darkness; John and the synoptics.

This is a book that assumes that the reader has a basic knowledge of all four Gospels, but does not assume any detailed knowledge, and throughout the book the author reproduces the Bible passages she comments on, making it a very easy read.

It should be of interest to anyone who finds John's Gospel intriguing or puzzling.



Advent Reading

The beautiful season of Advent, as we prepare ourselves for the great mystery of the incarnation, is a very good time to commit to the spiritual discipline of reading, prayer and contemplation.

Here are some suggestions for recently published materials, one of which might be right for you:

Waiting for Jesus, by Rich Villodas (Ebury Publishing) – a series of daily reflections and prayers on four themes: waiting, peacemaking, rejoicing, and beholding.

Donkey Roads and Camel Treks, by Gemma Simmonds (BRF) – a familiar format of bible passage, meditation, questions and prayer with a strong sense of movement on a journey forwards to meet the Lord, inspired by a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2019.

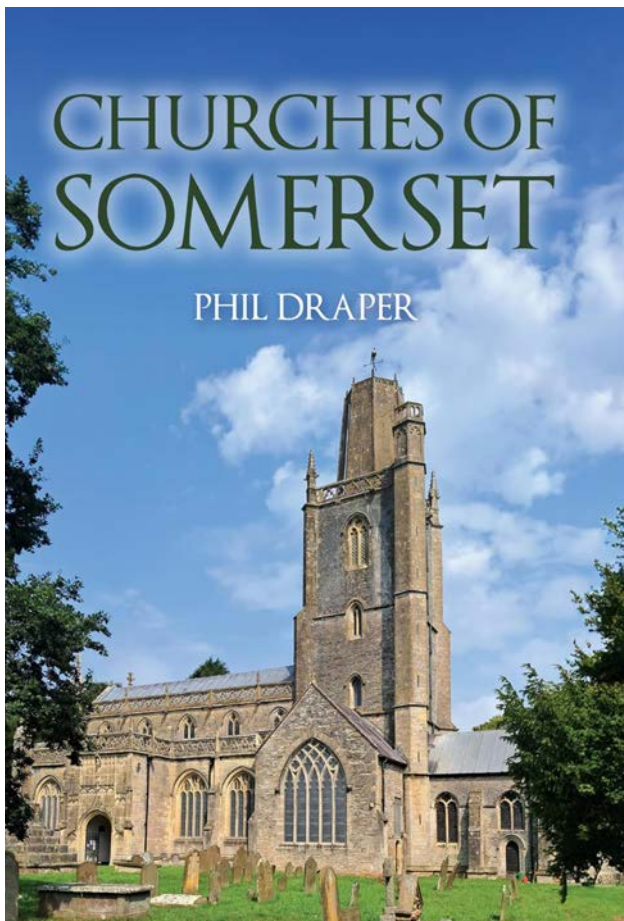
O Come Emmanuel, by various authors (Church House Publishing) – short daily reflections on the Advent Antiphons, accompanied by some beautiful drawings and links to further related online materials, including music. Some readers of this newsletter may remember the Advent Antiphons from our discussion group meetings in 2022.

A Child is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories, by Amy-Jill Levine (Abingdon Press) – a study of three nativity stories from the Old Testament (Isaac and Ishmael, Samson, and Samuel), providing a lens through which to see the birth of Jesus. It is possible that this might be the book we choose for our Advent discussion groups this year, but that is yet to be decided.

Benefice Discussion Group

The Benefice Discussion group will take a break in November and will restart at the beginning of Advent. So for those who may be interested, please note the dates: 1, 8, 15 and 22 December at the usual times of 3.00 pm or 6.30 pm. This will be Advent themed and the course materials will be announced nearer the time.

Churches of Somerset by Phil Draper



Somerset is renowned for its churches, many of which were built on the wealth of the wool industry in this area in the Middle Ages. Bath, Glastonbury and Wells were powerful ecclesiastical centres in this period, but there are many fascinating and beautiful churches to be found throughout the county's towns and villages, whether small and humble, grand or unusual. They

are found in a wide variety of landscapes, from the Mendip and Quantock hills, Exmoor, the Bristol Channel coastline and the edge of Bristol to the flat, marshy areas of the Levels and agricultural

river valleys, and two of our own churches are featured in this book: Holy Trinity, Wyke Champflower, and St Mary's, Bruton.

The distinctive Somerset church towers can be seen throughout the county and often a wealth of medieval carving welcomes the visitor. Later buildings from the Georgian and Victorian era show the changing identity of areas where industry developed and population grew into today's many faces of Somerset.

In *Churches of Somerset*, author Phil Draper explores a cross-section of historical churches throughout the county, both the well known and those waiting to be discovered by a wider audience. This fascinating picture of an important part of the history of Somerset over the centuries will be of interest to all those who live in or are visiting this splendid county in England.



Kimberley Snapshot

When were you born?

This is the Walcott Inlet – the European name for this beautiful country – but the local Worora Tribe called in *Munja*. It was the Spirit Country of the wonderful Wattie Ngerdu – a lawman and song writer (the song writers are the ones who keep the history alive). During WW2 Wattie was a coast watcher. It was his job to check the planes approaching the Western Australian coast: Japanese planes bombed Broome, Darwin and Kalumburu.

Wattie, with my friend Elkin Umbagai, were my treasured go-to people for information about the members of the community. When we first got to Mowanjum there was abject poverty, mainly because very few people were in receipt of the government allowances to which they were entitled. The reason for this was that no one knew how old the people were! So, the task at hand was to establish the ages of each and every one of the members of the community. People who had been born after the tribes were moved from Munja to Derby had been registered, but I had a large number of people whose births had not been registered anywhere at all.

Traditionally when a child reaches puberty there is an initiation ceremony – referred to by the community as becoming a young man or woman – which happens around the age of 12. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs granted that if we could get two

older people to agree on the initiation times of various individuals, they would accept that their birth year must be 12 years before that. Elkin had worked out her birth year as 1927, but Wattie had worked out his year in a unique way. His explanation is immediately recognisable: “O Missus, I became a young man in the same year that the King’s son ran off with that bad woman.” After giggling more than a little bit, I worked out that Wattie had been initiated in 1938, when he would have been 12, and therefore his birth year was 1926. We managed to assign an age to every one of our older people this way.



Saying Goodbye

Saying Goodbye, (part of Mariposa International (SG)) are coming to Wiltshire next month with a very special Baby Loss Remembrance and Support Service.

Mariposa International (SG)'s core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. With over 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity is able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye Services), for people to join together and remember the children they had lost.

On 22 November at 4pm in Malmesbury Cathedral, we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services, and as this is the most local service to you this year, we wanted to share this information with you.

So who is the service for?

Anyone who has lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

www.sayinggoodbye.org



Saying Goodbye

When a baby is lost, whether during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, it is a devastating experience for the parents and the extended family.

Sadly for people that lose prior to 24-weeks gestation, services to commemorate the life that has been lost are seldom held, while for parents who lose later in pregnancy, at birth or in early years, the parents are usually in the depths of grief when a service is held.

The Saying Goodbye services are the first international set of remembrance services, for people who have suffered the loss of a baby at any stage, and whether that be recently or decades ago. **They provide a time and place to acknowledge and remember your baby, whilst collectively 'saying goodbye'.**

The services also welcome anyone grieving the fact that they have been unable to have children.

The services are for people of any faith or no faith, are free to attend, no tickets need to be booked, and people are invited to bring family, friends and children with them. Held at cathedrals and similar venues across the globe, chosen for their beauty and grandeur; a wonderful tribute is created for all lost babies.

Together we will stand and say, "our children may have only been on this earth for days, weeks, months or years, but they were truly loved, and will always be missed!"



Malmesbury Abbey, Wilts, Saturday 22nd of November, 2025, 4.00pm

For up to date service details, please see www.sayinggoodbye.org

Saying Goodbye is a division of the bereavement support charity, Mariposa International, and is supported by a wonderful set of Ambassadors including Kym Marsh, Kate Ferdinand, Jools Oliver, Sally Phillips, Professor Lord Winston, Kate Beckinsale, Baroness Floella Benjamin, Nigella Lawson & more.

Redwings on the wing

Throughout Autumn something special is happening in our night skies. Huge numbers of redwing are migrating from Northern European forests, which empty of most bird species before winter strikes. Coming from Scandinavia and Russia they migrate into the UK, Ireland and western France. Bird books describe the redwing call as seeih and once you have learned it, you may hear a redwing call overhead every few minutes, wherever you are in the UK, as they pass over in a wave of birds. There are a few pairs (about 80) of redwing breeding in Scotland but really, they are a winter visitor to our shores.



Redwings are a small thrush, of similar size to our song thrush but with darker brown plumage and the characteristic flash of colour from the red feathers on their under-wings as they fly. Look out for them feeding in the churchyard, you may be seeing birds fuelling up on migration or winter visitors who will stay for a few months.

Redwings feed on berries, fallen fruit and will find soil invertebrates



in short grass, pulling up worms or digging out leather jackets. They can be seen in flocks, with other thrushes such as fieldfare, mistle thrush and song thrush, feasting on yew berries and making a real mess! Winter

Caring for God's Acre

thrushes descending on churchyard yews is one of the sights that chart the changing seasons.

You can help redwing and other thrushes by providing berry bearing shrubs and trees and thinking of your hedges as larders for weary travellers. Leave hedges untrimmed until February or early March so that birds may shelter within them and feed on hedge fruits such as hawthorn berries. Churchyards are usually free of pesticides which allows soil invertebrates to thrive, providing lots of nutritious meals. Yew trees provide both food and shelter and also give us the opportunity to really look at these lovely birds and think about the long journey they have made to reach us.



Redwing with berry in yew tree. Image credit: Andrew Fusek Peters

Prayer Ministry

In November our theme for prayer is Remembrance.

Some things to pray for:

Ourselves and people we know who feel the loss of loved ones that we would find comfort in the hope that Jesus gives us.

Give thanks for those who have given their lives for our freedom.

Give thanks for the Gospel that gives us hope and pray for those in our benefice who preach that message.

Revelation 21:4 says: *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*

A prayer by Fenton John Anthony Hart (1828-1892) you may like to use:

O Lord of all worlds, we bless thy name for all those who have entered into their rest and reached the promised land where thou art seen face to face. Give us grace to follow in their footsteps as they followed in the footsteps of thy Holy Son. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves whom thou hast called to thyself; and grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things seen to things unseen may lead us always upwards to thee, till we come to our eternal rest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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.



Benefice Events

St Mary's Events

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.



Quiz Night

Brewham Village Hall

Wednesday 12 November

7pm

(doors open at 6.30pm)

**Tickets £10 to include a light
supper**

Teams of up to six people

To reserve your team's table please contact:

Caroline Rathbone on 07539 676807

carolinerathbone@btinternet.com

All proceeds to the St John's Church Brewham

Re-Wiring Appeal



SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents

FOUR LETTERS OF LOVE

(2024/125 minutes/12A)

Based on the novel by Niall Williams. Nicholas (Fionn O'Shea) and Isabel (Ann Skelly) are soulmates destined to meet, but love's path is anything but smooth. Whilst Nicholas's father pursues a divine calling to paint, shattering their quiet life, Isabel's world falls apart after a family tragedy. Sent to a convent, she and Nicholas endure heartbreak and separation. Yet, through twists of fate, their lives intertwine in a miraculous reunion.

Director: Polly Steele

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague
Thursday 13th November
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





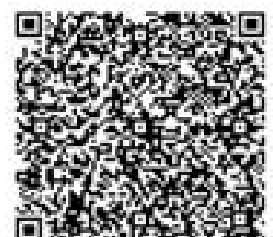
Rebecca Thorne in conversation with Harriet Derioz

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

**TUESDAY 18th
NOVEMBER
2025
7.00PM**

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

Tickets £10
Available from 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



“Music of contemplation and renewal...”

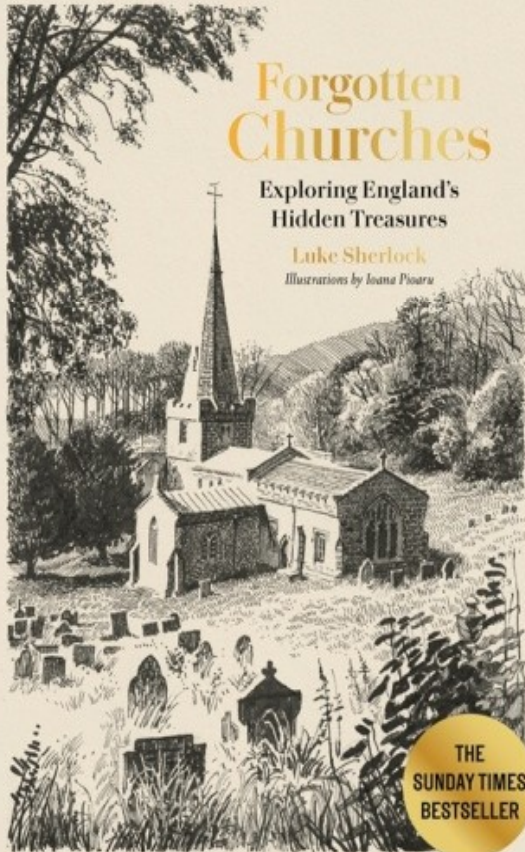
*“Sounds like the only music
you ever want to hear...”*



Photo by David Burgess

Doors open 7pm, music starts 7:30pm. Drinks will be available from the bar.
Tickets: email benefice@stmarysbruton.org Website: www.stmarysbruton.org

Book Talk with Bestselling Author **Luke Sherlock**



**7.00PM – TUESDAY - 25TH NOVEMBER
AT THE CHAPEL - BRUTON**

Tickets £10

Available from ticketsource.co.uk

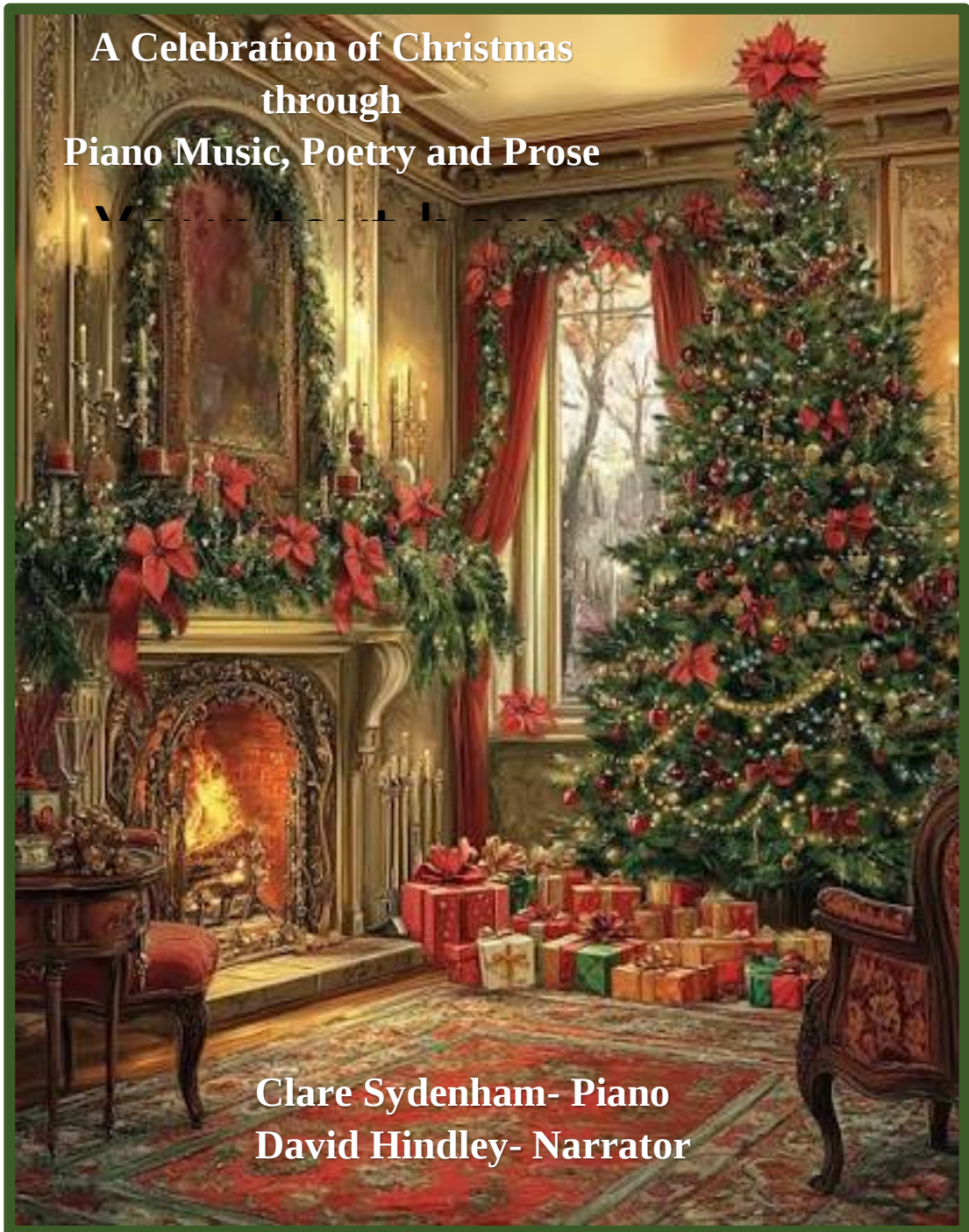
or

**The Stripy Duck
Bruton**



A Christmas Box of Delights

**A Celebration of Christmas
through
Piano Music, Poetry and Prose**



**Clare Sydenham- Piano
David Hindley- Narrator**

Sunday December 7th 3pm

St. Mary's Church, Bruton BA10 0EB

Advance Tickets £12 online (no booking fee), on door £14/under 18 free

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham/t-kdolrgr> or clare.sydpiano@gmail.com

A Christmas Box of Delights

Following the success of their recent concerts (*Arabesque, On the Idle Hill of Summer*), Clare Sydenham and David Hindley have prepared a new recital in celebration of Christmas. The programme will comprise the now familiar mixture of piano pieces and readings. Music will range from the serenity of Bach to the quirky humour of Eric Satie, while readings will evoke widely varying aspects of Christmas from the medieval Coventry Carol to schoolboy Dylan Thomas snowballing cats on Christmas Eve.

Sunday 7 December, 3pm

St Mary's church, Bruton, BA10 OEB

Advance tickets £12 online (no booking fee)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clare-sydenham/t-kdolrgr>

or from clare.sydpiano@gmail.com

Tickets on the door £14 (under 18s free)



Versing the Mystery

This collection of poems verses the mystery of God and Creation.

Exploring the stories and characters of Scripture, Classical

history and myth, the reader confronts the glory of God

and is plunged into the depths of the human condition.

There are also more directly personal poems,

of love, hate, success and failure, rooted

in the life of a rhyming sinner

inhabiting an English village

near the sea. And if none

of that appeals to you,

then at least there

are also owls

campaigning

for political

office.

POEMS BY
CHRISTOPHER VILLIERS

A reading in St Mary's, Friday 12 December, 5.30pm

The Echoing Air
and *Music For Awhile*

perform

Handel's Messiah

St Mary's Church, Bruton
on Friday 19th December, 6pm
(doors open at 5.15pm)

Tickets: Early Bird £13; Second Release £15;
On the Door £20. www.ticketsource.co.uk

Bruton & Cary Deanery



Preparing for Holy Week - *facing Jerusalem*

led by one of the brothers from Hilfield Friary

Saturday March 28th 2026

10.00am to 4.00pm

***A Quiet Day sharing
'Franciscan Spirituality'
at Hilfield Friary.***

*The day will be interspersed
with a couple of short talks
from one of the brothers
and then time to reflect
in the grounds or chapel.*

*Coming together to join the
community for Midday Eucharist
and sharing lunch together.*



Cost £20

Bring your own lunch - tea and coffee provided.

Limited to 30 places.

Contact the Lay Dean, Rob Sage, to book.

robsage@uwclub.net or 01749 850934

Benefice Services: November

Season (Various)	Sunday 2 November All Saints Day	Monday 3 November All Souls	Sunday 9 November Remembrance Sunday
St John the Baptist, Brewham	9.30am Eucharist (CW)		10.30am Remembrance Sunday
St Mary's, Bruton	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am Sung Eucharist (CW1)	6pm All Souls	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Remembrance Sunday
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	4pm Choral Evensong (BCP)		10.50am Remembrance Sunday
St Peter's, Redlynch			
St Peter's, Shepton Montague			9.30am Remembrance Sunday
Holy Trinity, Wyke			
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour			

Benefice Services: November

Season (Various)	Sunday 16 November 2nd before Advent	Sunday 23 November Christ the King	Sunday 30 November Advent Sunday
St John the Baptist, Brewham			
St Mary's, Bruton	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 11am All Age Worship	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 9am Breakfast Service 11am Eucharist (CW1)	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 4.30pm Advent Evensong
St Leonard's, Pitcombe	11am Matins (BCP)	4pm Evensong (BCP)	
St Peter's, Redlynch			
St Peter's, Shepton Montague		9.30am Eucharist (CW1)	
Holy Trinity, Wyke			
St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)		

Diary Dates

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
- 9 • Remembrance Sunday
- 11 • EVENT: Rebecca Thorne in Conversation, At the Chapel, 7pm
- 12 • Brewham Quiz Night, 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
- 24 • Brewham PCC, 7pm
- 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

December

- 4 • Bruton Late Night Shopping
- 5 • EVENT: The Unthanks, St Mary's, 8pm
- 5 • TALK: *We Three Talkings*, St Peter's, Shep. Mont. 6.15pm
- 6 • Bratton Seymour Carol Service, 6pm
- 7 • EVENT: *A Christmas Box of Delights*, St Mary's, 3pm

Diary Dates

December cont'd

- 7 • Christmas Fair, Redlynch Chapel, time TBC
- 12 • EVENT: Christopher Villiers, Poet, St Mary's, TBC
- 13 • EVENT: Jon Pickard Harp Guitar, Redlynch Chapel, TBC
- 14 • Pitcombe Carol Service, 4pm, TBC
- 15 • Bruton Choral Society Christmas Concert, St Mary's, time TBC
- 17 • Wyke Carol Service, 6.30pm
- 18 • Redlynch Carol Service, 6pm
- 19 • EVENT: The Echoing Air, *MESSIAH*, St Mary's, 6pm
- 20 • St Mary's Carol Service, 6pm
- 21 • Brewham Carol Service, 4pm
- 21 • Shepton Montague Carol Service, 6pm
- 24 • St Mary's Christingle Service, 4.30pm
- 24 • Midnight Mass, St Mary's, 11.30pm

Christmas Day Services

- St Mary's: Holy Communion (BCP) 8am
Christmas Eucharist 11am
- St Peter's, Shepton Montague, 9.30am
- St Leonard's, Pitcombe, 9.30am
- St John's, Brewham, 11am



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