



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



*Tulip Tree, St Mary's*

I think that we all know that our task as Christians is to proclaim the Gospel; at least, I hope we all know that. And I think we all know that 'Gospel' means 'Good News', the 'good news' of Jesus Christ.

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Our Diocesan strapline puts it slightly differently: 'Living and telling the story of Jesus'. As disciples of Christ, we are to proclaim the good news by our words and by our deeds.

But what is the 'good news'? If you were pressed to state it, what would your answer be?

Clearly, it must be something more than just 'the story of Jesus' in a purely factual narrative sense. It is not enough just to say that there was once this first-century Palestinian Jew, and then to recount the events of his life. Even if we include his resurrection and ascension, that is still not enough: the question arises, 'so what?', 'where is the 'good news' in that?'.

And the good news is not merely about forgiveness of sin; that is far too narrow a conception of the Gospel. There is more, much more, to Jesus than (however we might try to understand it) opening up a route to forgiveness.

Nor is the good news only about life after death – an 'entry ticket to heaven'. That again is too thin an idea to be taken seriously in the face of the way Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of Heaven and the purpose of his coming among us.

The two great festivals of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday offer us the beginnings of a better answer. If you were in church on those days and listened to the readings, the hymns, or even the sermons, you

may have been reminded about the character of God (Trinitarian) and the essence of God (loving relationship within the Trinity).

The 'good news' of Christianity is reconciliation. Reconciliation not in the sense of having debts cleared or punishment taken away or pardon granted, but reconciliation in the sense of being drawn into relationship with the triune God, being drawn into the very heart of that eternal loving relationship. The good news is an invitation to share in the divine life (2 Peter 1.4). Our task is to find ways to communicate that invitation, and to live as those who know what it means.



If you have something to contribute to a future edition of this newsletter, please send it to the benefice office address:

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

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

### St Mary's, Bruton



We hosted the Deanery Ascension Day service this year and it was good to have the opportunity not only to worship with people from across the Deanery but also to meet Fiona, Bishop of Taunton. Bishop Fiona presided, preached, and those who came enjoyed chatting to her after the service.

### Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA

We are looking forward to welcoming some pilgrims from Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA, to Bruton on 5 June. They will be visiting us as part of a UK pilgrimage and we hope to strengthen further the links between our two communities. They will be accompanied by their Associate priest, Rev'd Charlie Bauer, who showed a generous welcome to our Rector when he visited Williamsburg last year.

There will be a special sung evensong to celebrate the visit on Friday 5 June at 4.30pm, St Mary's, Bruton. It would be a shame

if the only people attending are our visitors and the choir, so do please come along if you can. Before that, Roger Gallannaugh will be giving an illustrated talk at 2.15pm, and then our guests will visit both Bruton Museum and Sexey's Hospital



## **St Leonard's, Pitcombe**

On Thursday 11 June St Leonard's will once again host a concert by the Epicurean Quartet. The programme starts at 4pm with Haydn's String Quartet in C Major, Op. 74, No. 1 which is one of his first fully mature quartets, full of fun and invention. This will be followed by Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 1 in C major, Op. 49.

We are urged not to be frightened by the name of the composer because he said that this short piece 'visualized childhood scenes, somewhat naïve, with bright moods associated with spring'.

After an interval for wine and nibbles the concert will conclude with Borodin's String Quartet No. 2 in D major – a romantic piece full of memorable tunes some of which were used in the musical Kismet. The concert will be over by 6pm.

Tickets to cover expenses will be £15 (children under 16 free) by cash at the door or online in advance to Professor C G D Brook, Sort code 30-93-84, account number 00466110. Any profit will go to Friends of Pitcombe Church to maintain the fabric of the church.

### **Shepton Montague Plant Sale**

This was a lovely afternoon on 23rd May at St Peter's Church. We had a great selection of plants, homemade cakes and Bric a brac for sale and a wonderful collection of raffle prizes. Teas were served from the village hall.

It was a wonderful community event. A big *thank you* to everyone who helped put on this event and also to those who ventured out to support us, raising over £3000 for St Peter's.

We look forward to meeting you all again at our Summer Fete which will be held at Higher Farm, Shepton Montague, on Saturday 29 August from 2pm.



## Pastoral Care Team

We are looking at the possibility of setting up a team of people to work alongside the Rector and share the ministry of pastoral visiting. Training will be provided and DBS checks will be required. If you are interested in exploring this ministry, please contact June Sykes (of Shepton Montague: [june@sykesj.co.uk](mailto:june@sykesj.co.uk)) to let her know of your interest so that we can arrange the necessary training.



# Bell Sunday

We completed The Great Cary Branch Ring on Sunday, and it was a great success. We managed to reach all of our target 44 towers and 245 bells, including Bruton, Pitcombe, and Shepton Montague in our benefice. In addition, some teams also managed to ring at some churches that are just set for chiming. They include Harry and Sarah who rang the bell at Wyke Champflower and joined us for ringing at Yarlinton, Ansford, and Castle Cary - thanks so much, Harry and Sarah! All told, over 75 ringers took part.

It was a fantastic opportunity to ring out across the whole of the Bruton & Cary Deanery, so thank you ever so much to anyone who supported this wonderful day. The ringers at Bruton really appreciated the unexpected round of applause organised at St. Mary's – very unexpected and very welcome!



# Redlynch Chapel

A project group has formed to look at possible ideas for the future use of Redlynch Chapel and the generation of the income necessary to retain and sustain the building. We are currently looking at a range of possibilities, some of which would require initial investment to improve and adapt the building and some of which may be possible in the short term.



# The Green Book

*The Green Book (BA10)* is the second eBook in the 'Colour' series of selected verses from daily works as part of the BA10 initiative. You can read the Green Book by scanning the green QR code below left:

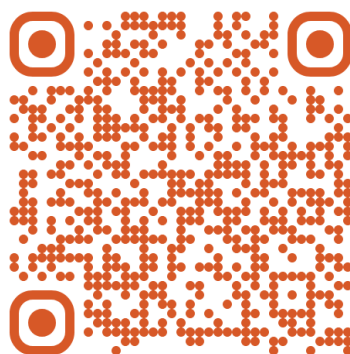


THE GREEN BOOK



David Coda

All funds raised are in aid of Redlynch Chapel, and you can make a donation through the St Mary's website, or you can scan the orange QR code below to become part of the future of this wonderful building.



## El Camino de Santiago

Starting 10 June, David Freestone will be walking his 4th Camino – the Portuguese Camino 240 kms from Porto in Portugal to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. David has previously raised over £3,000 for Children’s Hospice South West when he walked 640 miles on the South West Coast Path. Despite having walked the Camino before, this will be his first one for charity, and we are delighted that he has dedicated it to saving St Peter’s Chapel, Redlynch. We see our heritage being eroded every day and this is an opportunity for us to help reverse the trend and preserve our history. Please use the QR code on the previous page if you would like to sponsor him!



## Fundraising Support

Three of our churches are currently looking at substantial building projects (St Mary's Bruton, St Peter's Redlynch, and St Nicholas Bratton Seymour). There are two new grant-making funds which may potentially be sources of financial support: the Places of Worship Renewal Fund run by Historic England, and the Heritage Revival Fund run by the Architectural Heritage Fund. We are already looking at the National Heritage Lottery Fund in connection with the project at St Mary's.

Researching the criteria and application processes is quite time-consuming. What we need is someone willing to take the lead on investigating these, and perhaps other grant-making bodies, and help to shape applications if and when that is appropriate.

This would be overseen by the relevant PCC and supported by the Rector. If you have the right skill set and have time to devote to this, do please get in touch through the benefice office:

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

tel: 01749 813080



## Flowers of the Meadow Part One

June really is the loveliest month for meadow flowers. Hopefully many of you will have left an area of churchyard grass to grow long, either for No Mow May, or else in preparation for some nature spotting as part of Churches Count on Nature.



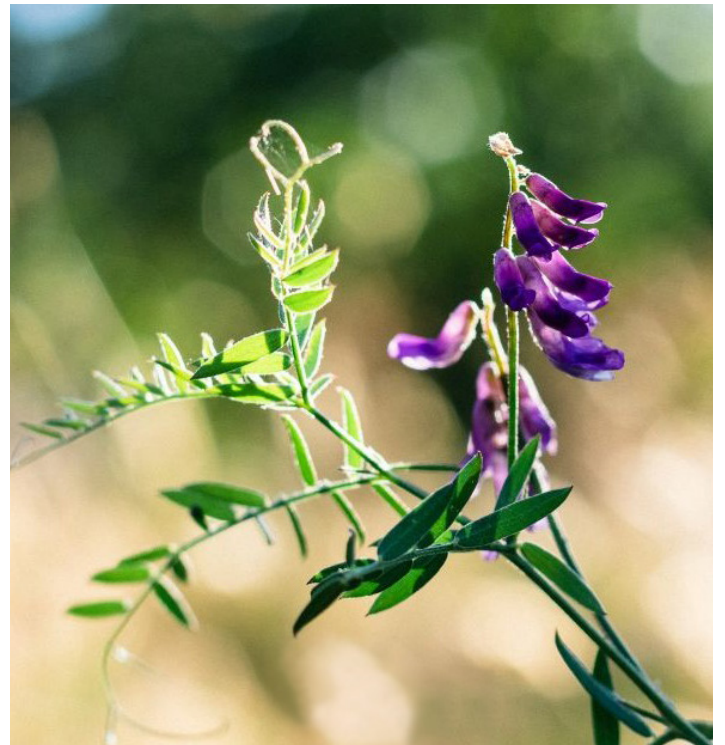
One of the most showy flowers in the meadow is the Ox-eye daisy, also called the Moon Daisy or Moonpenny. The large white petals drawing pollinators in to the bright yellow centre. Look out for a variety of vetches, members of the pea family. You may find Tufted Vetch, and if you do, look out for Six-spot Burnet moths on this one. Bush Vetch and Common Vetch are likely too, and a great many churchyards contain Bird's-foot Trefoil, also known as Eggs & Bacon because of the mix of yellow and orange on the flowers. Richard Mabey, in his fantastic book *Flora Britannica*, lists many names for Bird's-foot Trefoil, including Hen & Chickens, Tom Thumb, Granny's Toenails, Cuckoo's Stocking, and Dutchman's Clogs!

Lady's Bedstraw is often found in churchyards. It smells sweet when dried and used to be added to the hay stuffed in mattresses, particularly when preparing a bed for childbirth. Look out for the

froth of yellow flowers (other bedstraws have white flowers) and the scent of honey. The 'Lady' in the name is the Virgin Mary.

Perhaps your churchyard contains orchids, and the most common one flowering in June is Common Spotted orchid. The presence of orchids indicates an old grassland which has matured over time and developed a range of species within the soil. All orchids depend on a fungal partner, feeding the plant underground via the threadlike mycorrhizae.

Your churchyard meadow areas act as pitstops or cafes for insects and can buzz with life. Try and spend a little time enjoying them and seeing which pollinators are using them.



[www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)



## Aurin Girls' Choir (Hungary)

We are very excited to be welcoming back the amazing Aurin Girls' Choir for a concert on Monday 29 June, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Bruton. From the Kodály Music School in Kecskemét, these girls and the younger Miraculum Children's Choir have visited Bruton many times in the past and delighted us with their performances. More details will be available in the next bulletin. If anyone might be able to help with hosting the girls or staff please email Barbara as soon as possible:

**[bjenkinson708@btinternet.com](mailto:bjenkinson708@btinternet.com)**



# Prayer Ministry

## **A morning prayer for June**

Lord, help me to remember that each day is a new opportunity to serve you and so to get closer to the source of true joy. I know there will be many prudent decisions of all kinds I have to make, but help me to think of how best to serve you. Amen

If there is someone or something you would like prayer for, please let the Rector know and he will pass on the requests to the prayer group that meets in St Mary's, Bruton, on a Wednesday at 8.30am for half an hour. If you would like to join us for this prayer time you would be very welcome.

*When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words be without heart.* John Bunyan

## **Wednesday Prayer Meeting**

There is a prayer meeting every Wednesday morning in St Mary's where some of us meet to pray for our community. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you have any requests for prayer, please send them to the Rector and he will let us know.



# Kimberley Snapshot

## **Bishop John Jobst – Bishop of Broome**

The photo above was taken at Lombadina outside our bark church which withstood many cyclones. The photo features the Flying Bishop, John Jobst, who was affectionately nicknamed JJ.

He flew his light plane around the Kimberley, from station to station and from town to town, and even though some of the towns weren't much of a town back then, and he was always willing to cart something, or go out of his way, or pick up someone who was sick.



One time when I was in Broome from Lombadina I was at the Missions House when JJ dropped in and asked if any of us wanted to go on a flight to La Grange Mission, which is near Eighty Mile Beach halfway between Port Hedland and Broome. This is a full day by road but only a couple of hours by plane, and as I love flying in small planes I jumped at the chance! Besides, Broome and Roebuck Bay are truly amazing from the air. Anyway, I was taking in the sights when I noticed that JJ did not have his hands on the wheel because he was saying his rosary. To say I was a little alarmed is an understatement, until I noticed the Auto Pilot! Phew! I wasn't about to have an impromptu swim with the fishes – THANK GOD!



Bishop John Jobst was well known throughout the Kimberley as the 'Flying Bishop' for his habit of piloting light aircraft to visit his far-reaching parishioners. He was a pioneer of remote education in the north part of Western Australia, and helped to establish several schools in Aboriginal communities. He was also a founder of Notre Dame University in Broome, and a passionate advocate of indigenous land rights.

On leaving school he joined the Pallotines, and after the war was ordained as a priest on July 9, 1950. When Bishop Jobst arrived in Broome in 1951, he walked with two sticks – a legacy from his time in Dachau Prison Camp because of his refusal to serve in the army (we had another priest in the Kimberley, Father Alphonse, who had been smuggled into Switzerland by the Pallotines because of his outspoken attitude to the Nazis).

Bishop Jobst was the bishop of the Kimberley for nearly 37 years, and retired in 1995. He died, aged 94, in 2014. JJ was just one of the amazing and unforgettable people with whom I was privileged to serve in the Kimberley Region.



# EVENTS AT ST MARY'S



**Join  
our  
mailing  
list**



# BREWHAM VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
2026

## Coffee Morning

PLANTS



JEWELLERY



CAKES & PRODUCE



JIG-SAW PUZZLES

BOOKS



RAFFLE



TEA & COFFEE

FREE ENTRANCE

10.30 – 12.30 pm

In Aid of St John's Church Brewham

# SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

## SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents



### ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER

2025/161 minutes/15

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

*Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)

pay on the door with card

or at the bar with cash

*All proceeds go to 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)



# Bruton Choral Society

Musical Director: Barbara Jenkinson  
with The Echoing Air

## Dido & Aeneas: Purcell



Friday 12 June 7.30pm  
St Mary's Bruton

Tickets: ; £15/£20 (18 and under free)

Bruton Convenience Store

07794 425670 or [brutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://brutonchoralsociety.org.uk)



International, award-winning  
**Aurin Girls' Choir**  
from the Kodály School, Kecskemét, Hungary



Photo: Mark Pickthall

**A varied programme of music**  
including sacred motets, Hungarian folk songs  
and lighter pieces



with St Mary's Children's Choir  
& Bruton Primary School Singers



Conductor: László Durányik

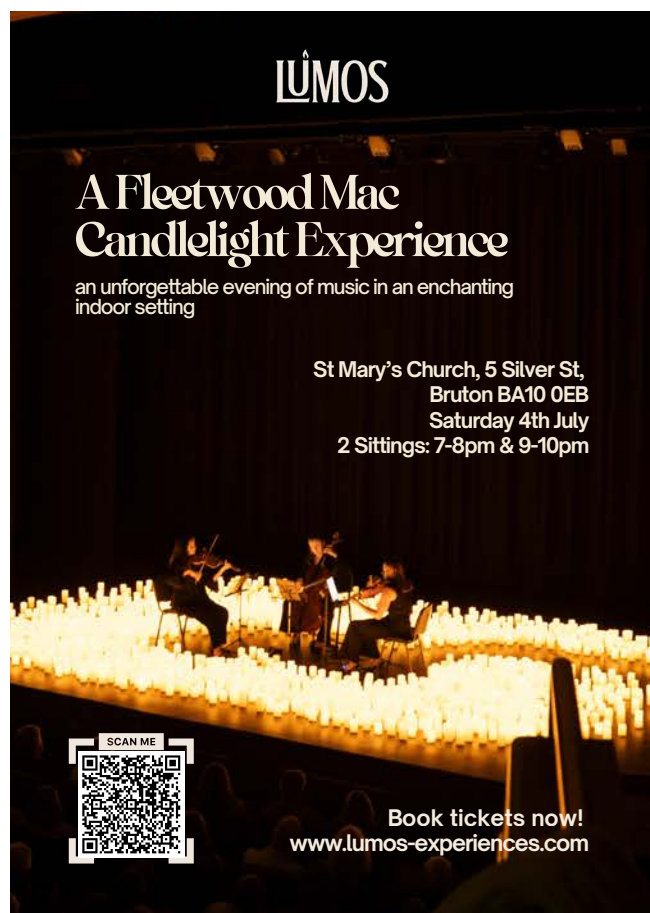
**St Mary's Church Bruton Monday 29 June 7.30pm**

**£10 advance, £12 on door (children free)**  
**Bruton Convenience Store**  
**07794 425670 or**  
**[www.brutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.brutonchoralsociety.org.uk)**



# LUMOS, A FLEETWOOD MAC CANDLELIGHT EXPERIENCE – 4 JULY

## FIRST SITTING 7–8PM, SECOND SITTING 9–10PM



Lumos brings you enchanting concert experiences paying homage to world famous artists. We've partnered with spectacular locations & churches across the UK to deliver a concert experience that is nothing short of magical. This performance will feature a String Trio playing a selection of Fleetwood Mac songs:

- Go Your Own Way
- Second Hand News
- Dreams
- Don't Stop
- The Chain
- You Make Loving Fun
- ...and many others

## TICKETS

[www.lumos-experiences.com](http://www.lumos-experiences.com)

TICKETS: [www.cabaretvoltairevents.com](http://www.cabaretvoltairevents.com)

# This is the Kit

*Bruton, St Mary's Church  
Thursday 9 July*



## New Archdeacon of Wells

It has been announced that Rev'd Jo Stobart, formerly vicar of Ilminster, has been selected to be the new Archdeacon of Wells. She will take up this role in the late Autumn.



# Benefice Services in June

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Thursday 4 Corpus Christi	Sunday 7 Trinity 1 (Proper 5)	Sunday 14 Trinity 2 (Proper 6)
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>		<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW)	
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	<b>6.30pm</b> Eucharist	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) <b>11am</b> Sung Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>		<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>9.30am</b> Matins
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>			
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>			<b>6pm</b> Evening Prayer (CW)
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>			
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>			

# Benefice Services in June

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 21 Trinity 3 (Proper 7)	Sunday 28 Trinity 4 (Proper 8)
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> All Age Worship	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>9am</b> Breakfast Service  <b>11am</b> Eucharist
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>6pm</b> Evensing (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>		
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>	<b>6pm</b> Patronal Festival Evensong	
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>		
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>		



# Diary Dates

## June

- 4 • Corpus Christi Eucharist, St Mary's, 6.30pm
- 5 • Evensong for Williamsburg visitors, St Mary's, 4.30pm
- 6 • **EVENT:** Brewham Coffee Morning, 10.30am
- 11 • **EVENT:** Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 12 • **EVENT:** *Dido & Aeneas*, St Mary's, 6.30pm
- 16 • Deanery Synod, 7.30pm
- 20 • Birthday of King Charles III
- 21 • St Peter's Patronal Festival, Shepton Montague, 6pm
- 29 • **EVENT:** Aurin Girls' Choir, St Mary's, 7.30pm

## July

- 4 • **EVENT:** Pitcombe Summer Party from 12 noon
- 4 • **EVENT:** The Lumos Experience
- 8 • **EVENT:** Bruton Primary School PSA Fete, 2pm
- 8 • Bruton PCC, 5.30pm
- 9 • **EVENT:** This is the Kit, St Mary's, 8pm
- 9 • **EVENT:** Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7.30pm
- 13 • Brewham PCC, Colinshayes, 7pm

# Contact

## **Rev'd Jonathan Evans, Rector**

2 Plox Green, Bruton, BA10 0EY

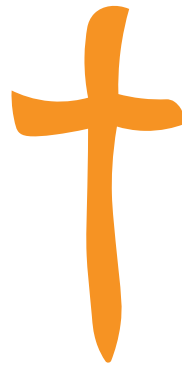
Tel: 01749 812775

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)