



Bruton Pitcombe Redlynch Brewham Shepton Montague Wyke Champflower Bratton Seymour



*St Mary's, June 2026*

Discussions about the level of our financial giving to the Church usually take a fairly predictable course. First, there is the initial glazing over or switching off as the listener/

## IN THIS ISSUE

**News from our Parishes**

**Redlynch Chapel**

**Kimberley Snapshot**

**Prayer Ministry**

**Caring for God's Acre**

**Arts Events**

**Benefice Services**

**Diary Dates**

**Contact**



reader immediately and instinctively decides that this is a subject they don't want to hear about and don't want to engage with. The shutters come down...

... are you still there?

And then there comes some good, solid scriptural support for the proposition that we should be generous as God is generous. This quickly translates into the proposition that we should be financially generous to the Church, supporting the ministry of Christ in a way that goes beyond tokenism and beyond obligation and instead reflects our gratitude to God for all that we receive from God. 'All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own do we give you' (cf 1 Chron 29:14).

And next comes a reference to luxuries: those things which we spend our money on that we could frankly manage without, with no discernible adverse impact on our welfare, and which we therefore should give up, so that we can increase our giving to the Church without suffering undue hardship. If we were all willing to give up a few luxuries, or even all of them, and increase our giving to the Church commensurately (so the argument goes), the Church's finances would be radically improved and we could still manage to pay for the essentials of life as well.

This business about luxuries is where the discussion gets tricky, because one person's luxury spend may be another person's vital necessity, so any citing of examples of things we should give up in

order to help pay for the work of the Church becomes fraught with difficulty. You may see my gym membership as an unnecessary luxury (why not just go for a run and do some press-ups?) or my new car as wanton extravagance (what was wrong with the old one?), or the frequency of my haircuts as at least questionable, or the fact that I drink wine with my meal sometimes as something I should be willing to sacrifice in order to help the Church pay its bills, and as for buying a cup of coffee from a café when there is perfectly acceptable instant coffee available at home at a fraction of the price and the money saved could then be given to the poor, well the Archdeacon ought to be informed about such profligacy.

And what about holidays? Luxury or necessity? How do we feel about a Church community in which people give to the Church only a very modest amount when considered as a percentage of their income, yet spend significant money on one or more holidays away from home? Is that spending on holidays necessary and justified, or is it a sign of them having wrong priorities for the use of their money? I don't have the data, but I strongly suspect that most people in our congregations who take a holiday spend more on their holidays each year than they give to the Church. This may or may not be a problem, depending on your point of view about generosity, the ministry of the Church and holidays.

The summer months are the months when many people take a holiday – often because of the constraints of school terms or work routine. So this is a good time to pause and reflect on how important to us our holidays are.

Although this may feel like an article about Church finance and our approach to financial giving, it is in fact about our approach to holidays. If we are in a position to have a holiday, why do we do so? And when we are on holiday, what do we hope that the holiday will be for us?

Like many of us, I imagine, I am planning to have a holiday this summer. For me, the two principal reasons for taking a holiday are to disengage from most of my normal daily routines and tasks and to find some silence. A change of scenery, better weather and different food may be welcome by-products, but they are not the reasons why I go on holiday. For me, a holiday is an opportunity for a chance to be quiet, and to be quiet in order to listen. Normal daily life leaves very little space for true listening, but holidays are great for that. Away from whatever it may be that keeps us busy from day to day and demands our attention, we become free to spend longer in silence and longer listening. It is often only on holiday that I can begin to discern what is good and right in my life, and what is perhaps not. The time of disengagement enables not just a better and truer perspective, but also the capacity to notice and reflect.

So a holiday may not necessarily be an indulgent luxury, but can be an essential aspect of the life of faith, as we seek to know more deeply and to follow more closely the one who is our way, our truth and our life (Jn 14:6).



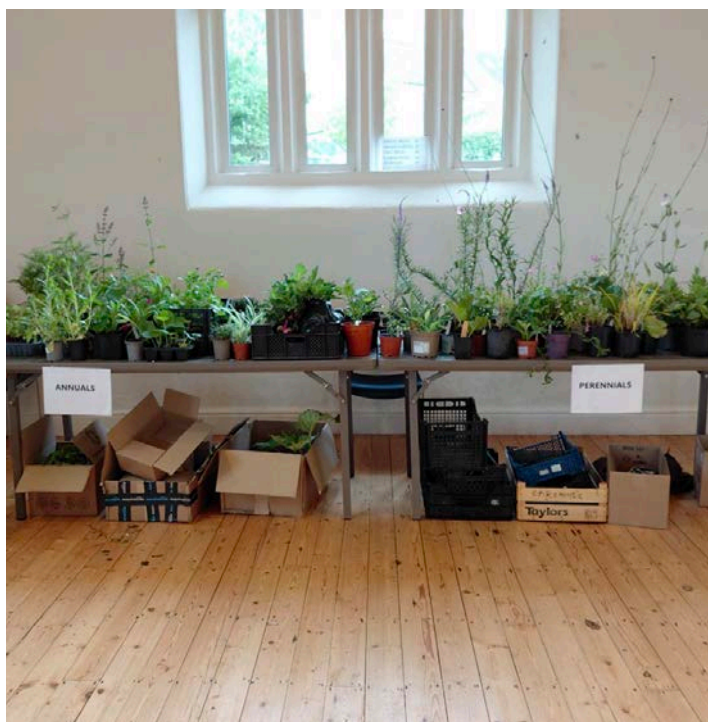
If you have something to contribute to a future edition of this newsletter, please send it to the Rector at the benefice office address.

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

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Village Hall to support Brewham PCC's Coffee Morning and sale of cakes, plants, books, jigsaws and jewellery; as well as a raffle and guess the weight of the cake and sweet jar. An impressive £734 was raised for St John's Church.



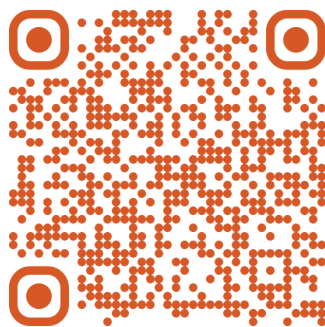
# Redlynch Chapel

## **Saving St Peter's, Redlynch**

We aim to ensure that St Peter's Chapel, Redlynch, is saved for use by future generations, and we are formulating plans on how to raise the funding to run and maintain the chapel.

David Freestone recently walked the Portuguese Camino and is donating all monies raised to this project, urging that saving a chapel like St Peter's adds to your own purpose and legacy as part of a long, and hopefully continuing, history of community and togetherness. Scan the QR code below, or follow the link, if you would like to sponsor David.

Secondly, there are plans in place to launch a '100 Club' with monthly draws for cash prizes. The first draw will be held at the Harvest Festival service which will take place at St Peter's on 27 September. After the service there will be an auction of seasonal items, including an original watercolour of the chapel. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity to join the auction from further afield and make bids by phone. Please make this a date in your calendar.



[www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)

## Kimberley Snapshot

We had been on Lombadina nearly 18 months when Dade came running to me in my veranda kitchen:

***Mummy, Mummy, look what I found...***

...a lovely little girl called Libby! She had come with her daddy from Cygnet Bay to get some supplies from our on-site shop. Cygnet Bay was where they had a cultured pearl farm, and many of the beautiful Mikimoto Pearls were grown there. They also came for some of the wonderful freshly-baked bread which the women from the camp made each day. Father Peter had brought a retired commercial baker to Lombadina to teach the women how to bake it, and everyday the wonderful aroma of fresh bread filled the air. These fabulous women taught me how to bake bread too. Other than his brother Peter, Dade didn't see many white children, let alone a *girl*, so he was pretty excited about it!



I must admit that I was concerned that Libby did not have shoes on as hook worm was rife. You can see that Dade has socks and sneakers on. Shoes were changed every second day and those not being worn were washed. Hook worm brought Giardia Lamblia, a tiny parasite, which in turn

caused Giardiasis which was not pleasant for anyone. The locals called it *Gulla-Gulla*, and catching an infection was almost a rite of passage, but it was better to do everything to avoid being a victim of it.

***Ah! The multiple joys, at times, of living in the Tropics!***

## Prayer Ministry: July & August

**Our prayer for July & August focuses on *Friendship*.**

Eternal God, so knit our wills together with your will that we may grow in love and peace with you, and with each other. Give us grace when we hurt each other to seek each other's forgiveness, and yours. Make our life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, and grant that we may reach out in love and concern for others. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Phillipians 4 v 8-9,19-20**

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. 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.

## Caring for God's Acre

### Flowers of the Meadow Part Two

For those of us who love wildflowers, painful decisions are needed in July and August as this is the time to cut our wildflower meadows whether in the churchyard, or elsewhere.



Meadows are left to grow long for three to four months during the spring and summer and then they're cut with scythe, or strimmer, and raked up. The difficulty arises in that there are always lovely flowers still there when the cut comes, and it is hard to cut them down.

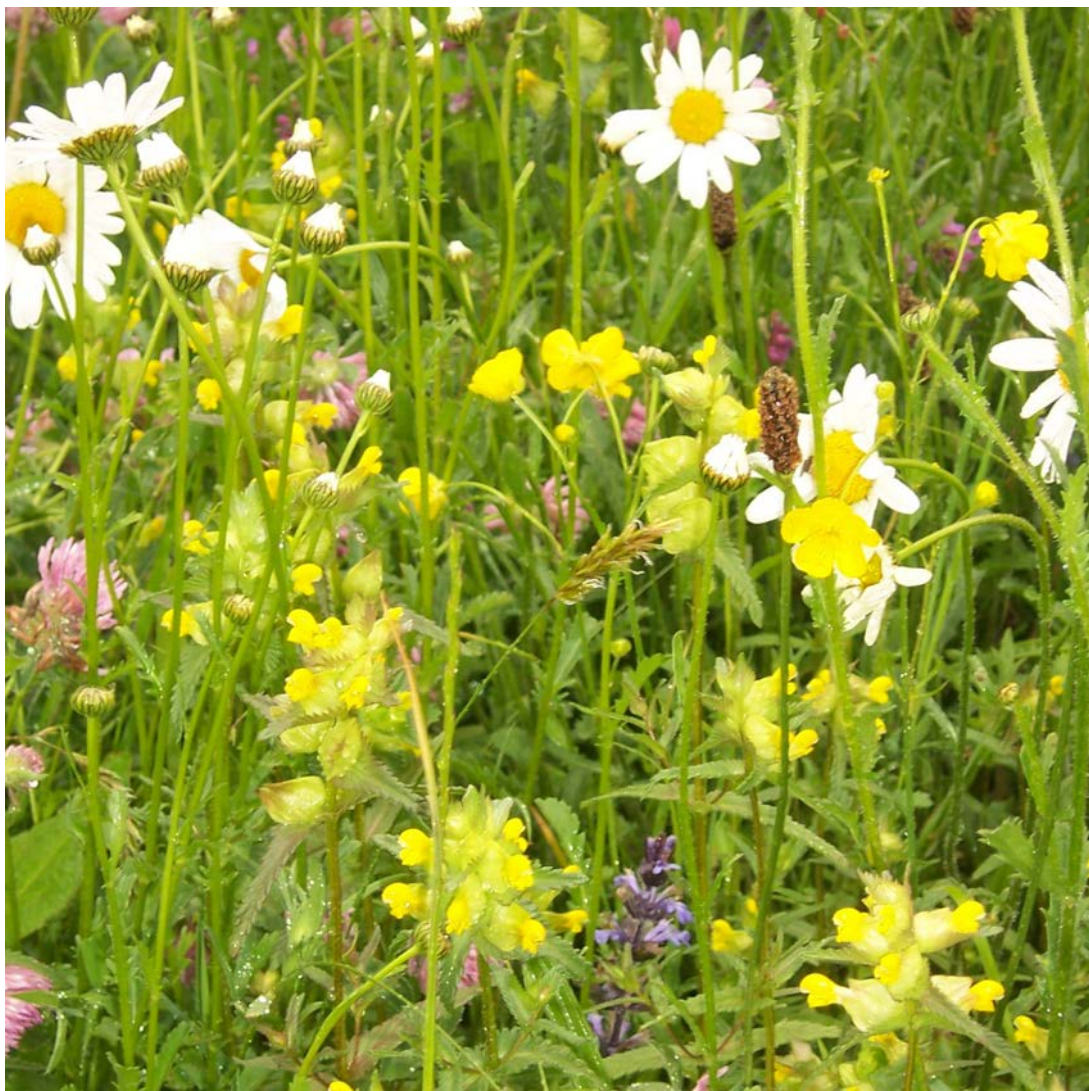
To help with this dilemma, remember that we are copying traditional hay-making, which takes place when grass is still green, vigorous, and full of nutrients for stock to eat, but also when the weather is likely to be dry enough to make hay successfully.

What about the seeds, dropping to the ground for next year's flowers? If we cut down flowers, maybe there won't be seeds? Actually, most species within a traditional meadow are perennial, so they continue to grow from year to year regardless of seeding.

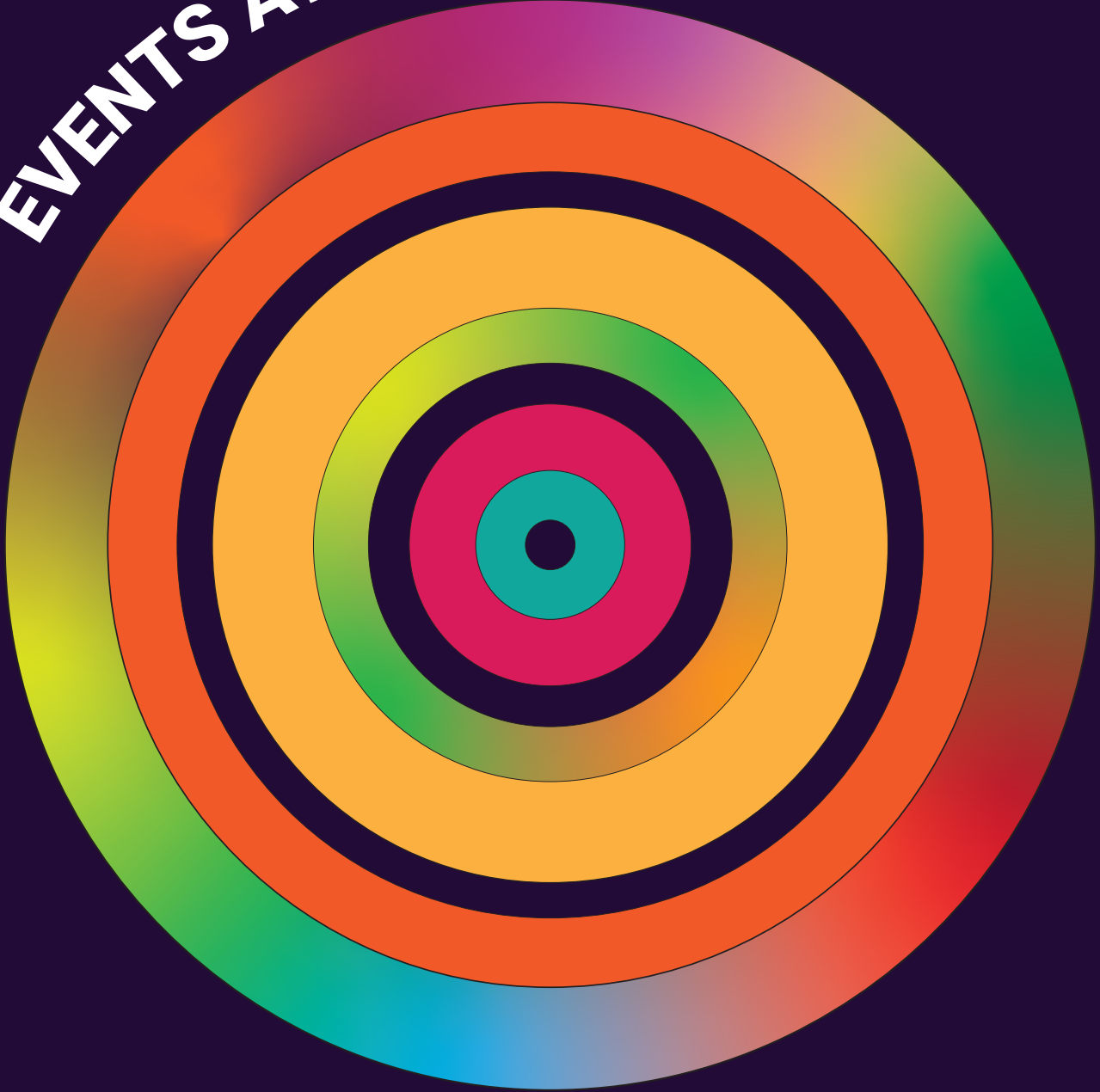
This explains why the wildflowers persist in short mown grass in churchyards, providing the grass cuttings are removed so the soil doesn't become too rich for them.

An exception to this is Yellow Rattle which is an annual so grows each year anew from seed. This flowers early and drops its seed in June or early July so won't be lost from the sward by cutting from mid-July onwards.

If you can't bear to cut down late flowering species such as Scabious, then leave these patches for later, but do aim to have other meadow areas cut, raked and ready for the autumn fungi by mid-August if you can.



# EVENTS AT ST MARY'S



**Join  
our  
mailing  
list**



# Aurin Girls' Choir, Kecskemét, Hungary

We once again welcomed the amazing Aurin Girls' Choir for a concert in June, and as promised they delighted us with their performances. A big thank you to all those who hosted and helped!



*All photos courtesy of  
Mark Pickthall  
[markpickthall.co.uk](http://markpickthall.co.uk)*

# SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

## SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents



### H IS FOR HAWK

2025/119 minutes/12A

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

*Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

**Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)**

**pay on the door with card**

**or at the bar with cash**

*All proceeds go 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)



Charity No 1107649

# Summer Treat



Come and join us on

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**SAT 18 JULY**

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3pm - 5:30pm

Brewham  
Village Hall

Cream tea with Pimms  
or soft drink



**£10**  
on the  
door

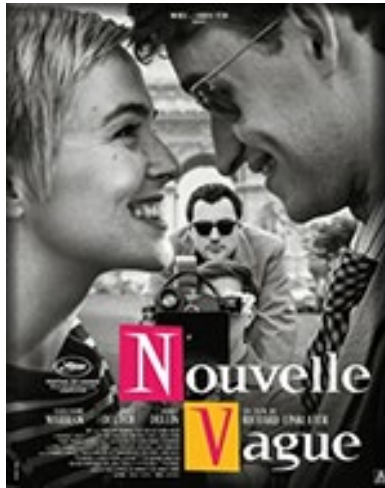
In aid of the Church and the Village Hall

# SHEPTON MONTAGUE PCC

in association with

## SOMERSET MOVIOLA

proudly presents



### NOUVELLE VAGUE

2025/106 minutes/12A

in St Peter's Church, Shepton Montague

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm

*Doors open 7.00pm for drinks & snacks*

**Tickets: £7.00 (£3.50 for under 15)**

**pay on the door with card**

**or at the bar with cash**

*All proceeds go to St Peter's Church*

*For more information please contact Sarah Maude 01749 812 149*

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Charity No 1107649

# Benefice Services July

<b>Season</b> Ordinary Time (Green)	<b>Sunday 5 July</b> Trinity 5 (Proper 9)	<b>Sunday 12 July</b> Trinity 6 (Proper 10)	<b>Sunday 19 July</b> Trinity 7 (Proper 11)
<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	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)  <b>11am</b> All Age Worship
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>9.30am</b> Matins (BCP)	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
<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>			<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)

# Benefice Services July–August

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 26 July Trinity 8 (Proper 12)	Sunday 2 August Trinity 9 (Proper 13)	Sunday 9 August Trinity 10 (Proper 14)
<b>St John the Baptist, Brewham</b>		<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW)	
<b>St Mary's, Bruton</b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) <b>9am</b> Breakfast Service <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP) <b>11am</b> Eucharist (CW1)
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	<b>6pm</b> Evensong (BCP)	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>9.30am</b> Matins (BCP)
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>			
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW1)		<b>6pm</b> Evening Prayer (CW)
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>			
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>			

# Benefice Services August

Season Ordinary Time (Green)	Sunday 16 August Trinity 11 (Proper 15)	Sunday 23 August Trinity 12 (Proper 16)	Sunday 30 August Trinity 13 (Proper 17)
<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 (CW1)	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>St Leonard's, Pitcombe</b>	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>6pm</b> Evensong (BCP)	
<b>St Peter's, Redlynch</b>			
<b>St Peter's, Shepton Montague</b>		<b>9.30am</b> Eucharist (CW1)	
<b>Holy Trinity, Wyke</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>2.30pm</b> Holy Baptism	
<b>St Nicholas, Bratton Seymour</b>			

# Diary Dates

## July

- 4 . EVENT: Pitcombe Summer Party, 12pm, Hadspen Village Hall
- 4 . Shakespeare in Lamyatt: *A Comedy of Errors*, 5.30pm
- 5 . EVENT: The Lumos Experience, St Mary's, 7pm
- 8 . Bruton PCC, Plox Office, 5.30pm
- 9 . **EVENT**: Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7pm
- 13 . Brewham PCC, Colinshayes, 7pm
- 18 . **EVENT**: *Summer Treat*, 3–5.30pm, Brewham Village Hall
- 21 . Redlynch Chapel Project Meeting
- 31 . Bratton Seymour PCC, St Nicholas, 10–11am

## August

- 8 . Brewham Plant Show
- 13 . **EVENT**: Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7pm
- 17 . *Black Cat Appreciation Day*
- 29 . Shepton Montague Village Fete, 2pm

## September

- 6 . St Mary's Patronal Festival, 11am
- 10 . **EVENT**: Shepton Film Night, St Peter's, 7pm
- 14 . Brewham PCC, Colinshayes, 7pm
- 19 . **EVENT**: St Mary's Coffee Morning, 10am, Community Hall
- 19 . **EVENT**: St Mary's Harvest Barn Dance, time tbc
- 20 . St Mary's Harvest Festival Service (11am) and lunch
- 20 . **EVENT**: Piano & Poetry Recital, St Mary's, 3pm
- 27 . St Peter's, Redlynch, Harvest Festival Service, 6pm



# Contact

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