

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

April 2014

“When I said, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your love, O Lord, supported me.” Psalm 94:18 (NIV)

This year, we are celebrating all the festivals to do with farming and agriculture - even the less well-known ones. In January we came together for the blessing of the plough. The plough was kindly provided by Mr Chris Barnes. We prayed for the land and those who work on it, and wrote prayers which we attached to the plough as it stood outside the church gates.

The next festival to be celebrated will be Rogation on 4th May. Weather permitting, we shall be outside for part of the service as we look across the fields and woodland of our parish and pray for all growing things and for new beginnings. Do come and join in as we think about the place we live, and all it means to us.

PCC Meeting on 19th February

The main items discussed were: Easter Services (to be found on Page 2), two ‘All Age Worship’ services to be held during the year the first one being Sunday 1st June at 10.30. Revd Sue Green’s last service before leaving will be a United Benefice Service at 10.30am in Pitminster followed by a Bring and Share lunch. Cheryl, our youth worker, is working well within the community and her organised weekend events are proving popular. When the interim headteacher, Nick Arnold, leaves the school at the end of this term the headmaster of Neroche will fill in on a part time basis.

Our Treasurer, Mrs Wyatt presented the accounts in preparation for the Annual Meeting which were accepted by the PCC. She then told members about the legacy left to the PCC by the late Mrs Jill Colledge which is likely to be in the region of a million pounds, with specifically £25,000 to the Building Fund and £1000 for the maintenance of the churchyard. She explained that the money is currently invested and we may not receive our share for some considerable time and need to continue fundraising for this year.

Mrs Bell reported that during the very wet winter a lot of water was coming into the tower which would need to be seen to – possibly by

repointing. The flagpole needs fixing. The Bell Ringers would hold a memorial ring for the late Mrs Colledge on 11th March.

Mr Mike Canham attended the meeting to report on the ideas of the working party looking into bringing water into the church for a toilet, servery and meeting room. Two out of four plans were to be pursued and the next step would be to meet the architect and Diocesan Advisory Committee. Mrs Creek continues to look into requirements of the insurers and a Health and Safety Assessment and Fire Risk Assessment will be made in both churches.

There will be a World War One exhibition held in the church to commemorate the centenary over the long weekend of 23rd -25th August.

A report on The Annual Parish and Annual Parochial Church Meetings which took place on Friday, 21st March will be made in next month’s Church News.

The Community Coffee Morning

Last month’s Community Coffee Morning, held by church members in aid of Fairtrade raised £169.69 for the Fairtrade Foundation and £110.30 was taken in sales. There was the usual good turn out of people to meet friends and neighbours. This was the church’s contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight.

Village and Churchyard Cleanup

The cleanup will be on Saturday, 5th April from 10 - 12noon, or any time during the morning. All help gratefully received. There will be refreshments in the church at half time.

‘Around-the-Table’ Group

We are meeting ‘Around-the-Table’ every Thursday in Lent, from 7.30 pm to 8.45 pm, at Moorseek Cottage, (For details, please contact Andrew or Vicki Bell on 01460-234463 or v-a@wabell.go-plus.net).

During Lent we are looking at the DVD of the Passion and discussing points raised by the film. The May meeting will be on Thursday, 1st May.

Benefice Prayers

These will be held on Friday, 4th April, in Pitminster church, at 10am. If you would like prayers said on your behalf, please contact Sue or David or one of the Readers. This short service is open to all and you will be very welcome to join the clergy and readers.

The **Taunton Food Bank** is grateful for all donations to help families in crisis. Supplies, to be put in the basket inside the church door, are always needed and regular donations are very much appreciated.

Dates:

Thursdays during Lent – *‘Around the Table’* group meeting at 7.30-8.45pm at Moorseek Cottage.

Saturday 5th April - Village and Churchyard Clean-up 9.30 –Midday or time to suit helpers

Saturday 19th April - Easter Bingo in BSM Village Hall

Tuesday, 1st May – Concert of St Petersburg Ensemble

Saturday 7th June - Community Choir Concert

Saturday 5th July - Fete at Buckland House 2pm

Saturday 12th July - Community Coffee Morning in the Church

Sunday 7th September - Praise Service at 6pm

Saturday 27th September - Harvest Supper in BSM Village Hall

Saturday 1st November - Village and Churchyard Clean-up

Saturday 29th November - Bazaar in BSM Village Hall

Thursday 18th December - Community Carol Service

Bernard Gready and Vicki Bell, Churchwardens