

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

July 2015

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”
Matthew 25 v40

The Church Fete – the Rector, Jim Fallon, opened the fete at 2pm on the 4th July; his first as Rector of the Blackdown Benefice. Although at times clouds threatened the day stayed dry and a good crowd of people enjoyed the many stalls and activities set in the gardens of Buckland House. Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Norton for, once again, generously opening their lovely home and grounds as a setting for the fete.

The splendid sum of £1,232.46 was raised, which was only very slightly down on 2014. The monies will go to the Local Management Group (LMG) who manages the work of Cheryl Govier, the Youth Worker for the Blackdown and Seven Sowers Benefices, to help meet the cost of this role. Cheryl's work is vital in bringing the churches in the 2 benefices closer to families, children and schools and we were grateful, particularly, for the support given to this cause by Otterford and Corfe churches and from the Friends of Buckland School (FOBS) and the Pre-school.

Organising a fete is a mammoth task in co-ordination and persuasion so special thanks to Jenny and Rick Pym for taking on this role again and for all the hard work they put into making the fete a success. Thanks also to the “heavy gang” who spend a considerable amount of time and effort in collecting and, later, returning all the tables, chairs, trestles, crockery, skittles etc.

Thanks to those who held stalls and activities – not forgetting those who made cakes or made or donated items - which made the fete a fun place to visit and, also, to those most essential people – the providers of delicious refreshment!! Finally, thanks to all those parishioners and visitors who attended and spent their money and to Kay Wyatt, as treasurer, for counting it all up so we had a result by the end of the day!

Buckland St Mary Community Coffee Morning - The annual coffee morning, held by the Buckland Flower Ladies and the family of the late Suzette Webber, took place on Saturday the 11th July in the church of St Mary the Virgin. As usual some amazing flower arrangements were on sale as well as a cake stall, raffle etc and refreshments were served, too. The event was well attended and raised £302.42 for Macmillan

Cancer Relief which was an excellent result for a coffee morning! Thanks to the ‘Flower Ladies’ and their family and friends for making the flower baskets, also those who brought along cakes etc, ran stalls or otherwise kindly helped or supported the event.

Church Improvements – The Buckland St Mary Parochial Church Council (PCC) held a special meeting at the parish church on the 29th June 2015 to discuss the ideas for church improvements that parishioners have submitted. In particular, options for providing a kitchen and toilet were looked at so that use of the church can be made easier for all. There are various ways the end result can be achieved and these will be explored further. Some visits to other churches are being made to see how such facilities can be installed without detracting from the beauty and sacredness of the church. Further updates will be given from time to time but the PCC would welcome more ideas.

Morning Prayer Days and Times for the Blackdown Benefice

As explained in the July CBO News, Daily Prayers will be held in one of the churches in the Benefice and the list below gives the details. All are welcome to attend this service which lasts for approximately 30 minutes of prayers and readings.

Monday - Buckland St Mary @ 9.30am led by Revd Jim Fallon

Tuesday – Corfe @ 9.30am led by Revd Jim Fallon

Wednesday - Otterford @ 9.30am led by Revd Jim Fallon

Thursday - Churchstanton @ 9.30am led by Revd Jim Fallon

Friday - Birchwood @ 9.30am led by Associate Priest the Revd David Ager or a Reader

Saturday - Pitminster @ 9.30am led by Revd Jim Fallon.

Contacting the Rector – Reverend Jim Fallon has an Open Office on Tuesdays at The Vicarage in Pitminster (TA3 7AZ) if you wish to see him. It would be helpful if you could please ring 01823 421757 to agree a time. Please let Jim, David Ager or one of the churchwardens or Readers know if there is anyone who needs support and pastoral care from the church so such assistance can be arranged.

Vicki Bell and Lynda Creek, Churchwardens

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 1st August – 2.30 to 4.30pm, Cream Teas in Rene Marker's Garden, Paddock Cottage, Meanwood, TA20 3RF in aid of the Exeter Renal Unit.

Saturday, 8th August – 10.30am Buckland St Mary Community Coffee Morning in the church – run by Neil and Kathy Arnold in aid of Taunton Food Bank.