

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

June 2015

"...as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." 1 Corinthians 3:5&6

Celebrating a new Ministry On Monday, 27th April, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, presided over the Institution of Reverend Jim Fallon, as the Rector of the Blackdown Benefice, in a service held at St Mary's church, Buckland St Mary. We welcome Jim, and his family, to the Blackdowns and trust they will have a happy and fruitful ministry with us.

Interestingly, the word 'Rector' derives from the Latin for "to set straight, guide, direct" and Jim is now tasked with keeping the churches at Buckland St Mary, Birchwood, Corfe, Churchstanton, Otterford and Pitminster on the 'straight and narrow path'.

The service of Institution had several phases: some are symbolic – such as the formal presentation of Jim as the prospective new Rector, to the Bishop. At this point the priest, church wardens and congregation are each asked to confirm their wish for the Rector to be installed and that the ministry would be supported. Jim was presented by Angela Leroy, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Patronage, and by Reverend Sue Tucker, as the representative of the Chard Benefice where Jim was Curate.

Other parts of the service are required by law: such as the solemn declarations and swearing of oaths of allegiance to the Bishop and the Crown and being formally licensed and anointed by Bishop Peter as 'cure of souls' or in modern language as "care of souls".

Once lawfully instituted, the Archdeacon of Taunton, the Venerable John Reed, installed the new Rector to his office by a number of further symbolic actions including taking hold of the church door, ringing the church bell and being seated at the prayer desk or stall.

Representatives from each of the churches within the Blackdown Benefice; from Buckland St Mary school and the Redstart Learning Partnership; from the Blackdown Mission; from the civic communities and from the Children and Families Worker were then invited, by the Assistant Rural Dean, Reverend Paul Reynolds and the Lay Chair of Ilminster Deanery, Greg Hoare, to present Symbols of Ministry to Jim such as a water for baptism, oil for healing etc.

The service was very well attended by other clergy and parishioners from throughout the Benefice as well as visitors from St Mary's Church, Chard, and other local parishes, where Jim had been Curate, and who had come to wish him well. It is a mark of his success in that ministry that so many came to do so.

After the service refreshments were served in Buckland St Mary Village Hall. Many thanks to Val Jeffrey and her helpers for organising the catering and to PCC members of our benefice who contributed to the 'feast'!

Thanks to all those who prepared the church for the service; procured the service sheets; organised parking; acted as sidesmen; played the organ and sang in the choir and any others who played a part – large or small – in making the service a joyous celebration and a rousing welcome for Jim as he began his new ministry.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 23rd April was held in Buckland St Mary Village Hall and Vicki Bell and Lynda Creek were elected unopposed as Churchwardens for the forthcoming year. Reports were delivered by the Churchwardens and Treasurer and a copy of the minutes and reports will be available in the Church Porches shortly. If you would like to receive an electronic copy please e-mail office@blackdownbenefice.org.uk and you can be sent one when it is available.

The Fete on Saturday, 4th July, will be held in Buckland House, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Norton, opening at 2pm. Jenny Pym is the co-ordinator for the event and any donations of tombola prizes, cakes, books, bric-a-brac and bottles etc. would be gratefully accepted. Jenny's phone number is 01460 234257 or bring your donation to the church during any of services. Funds raised will be used to support Cheryl Govier, the Children's', Schools', and Families' worker, in her working throughout the whole Benefice.

Benefice Prayers will be held on Friday, 5th June, in Buckland St Mary Church, at 10am. If you would like prayers said on your behalf, please contact Jim (01823 421757), David or one of the Readers. This short informal service is open to all and you will be very welcome to join the Clergy, Readers and others.

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.

Vicki Bell and Lynda Creek, Churchwardens

Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 13th June – Community Coffee Morning, 10.30am to 12.00 in aid of The Pre-School

Saturday 20th June – Cream Teas in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, 2.30pm, at Dommett Hill Farm, Hare Lane

Saturday, 4th July - the Church Fete – from 2pm, at Buckland House,

Saturday, 11th July – Community Coffee Morning –for Macmillan Cancer Support