

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

March 2017

'See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?' *Isaiah 43 v19*

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE – the Ash Wednesday Benefice Service – to mark the start of Lent - will be held on the **1st March @ 7pm** at **Buckland St Mary Church** (not Birchwood as stated in last Month's CBO). The move was made as sunset is still quite early so access is safer at Buckland where the lighting is better. Apologies for the late notice. Refreshments to follow.

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE - the 2017 Buckland St Mary Annual Parish Church Meeting – will be held now on the **19th April in Buckland St Mary Village Hall @ 7.30pm**. The change of date was made because the previous date fell on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week and was thus not appropriate. All parishioners and interested persons are welcome to attend; tea/coffees to follow. This meeting appoints the Churchwarden and PCC members for the year and gives an opportunity to ask about the income and spending and the facilities and activities of Buckland and Birchwood churches.

Mothering Sunday Service at Buckland St Mary – on the 26th March 2017. This service will be the new style shorter family service which is suitable for all ages. Refreshments to follow and a gift for every mother.

Alpha Course – The Alpha Course is continuing **on each Tuesday from 6.45pm at the Queens Arms pub at Pitminster with the last session on the 21st March 2017.** The evening start with a free light meal (although donations welcome) and a short video and gives a chance to explore life and faith, and share your views (non-Christians welcome) in an open and informal environment. James Hall, the Benefice Youth worker, leads each event and you can come to just to a single event too.

Lent course – starting on **Thursday 2nd March @ 2pm** and running for **5 weeks. Please contact Revd Jim Fallon for details of the venue (tel 01823 421757).** The course will be light and informal sessions following the York Course Lent programme. You don't need to attend every session so why not come along and try one: you do not need to be a churchgoer just someone with an enquiring mind! Tea/coffee will be served and there is no charge for attendance.

The **Community Coffee Morning** on the **11th March** is from **10.30 till 12 Noon** and is to raise funds for the Friends of Buckland School (FOBS). Please support the coffee mornings if you can as they give a chance for the whole village and surrounds to enjoy time together.

Community Coffee Mornings for 2017 – if you would like to run a Community Coffee Morning, at Buckland St Mary Church, for a charity of your choice, please contact the co-ordinator, Margery Harkness, on 01460 234599 or email royandmarge@btinternet.com Coffee mornings are usually held on the 2nd Saturday of the month but other dates may be possible so please enquire if a specific date is wanted. Currently, there are spaces in May, June, August and September and December.

Easter Services – a forewarning of our services in the Blackdowns for Holy Week and Easter so you can get them in your diary. Details of refreshments are set out where known but may be available at other services too. More details next month.

Monday 10th April – 9.45am at Corfe Church
Tuesday 11th April – 7pm at Pitminster Church
Wednesday 12th April – 9.45am at Churchstanton Church
Maundy Thursday 13th April – details to follow next month

Good Friday 14th April 2017 – Walk of Witness - meet at 12.45pm at Otterford Church for refreshments, including hot cross buns, then **walk to Birchwood Church for a short reflective service @ 2pm.**

Easter Sunday 16th April – 6.45am sunrise service at Otterford Church with the lightening of the 6 Paschal candles. Bacon butties served afterwards around the bonfire.

10.30am Benefice Easter Service at Buckland St Mary Church. Easter Egg hunt and refreshments after the service.

Church Roll – The Roll gives the list of people in a Parish who have formally become members of their parish church and wish to support it. It does not cost anything to join your church although many church members do choose to donate to the church to support such initiatives as the Youth Worker.

We will be writing to current members in the next few months to check that the personal information held about each member is correct and complete. We are required to check the accuracy of

personal information held under the Data Protection Act 1998. If you wish to become a church member please contact your local churchwarden or the Rector Jim Fallon (contact details on the back cover).

Statistical Records - in addition, during next few months, you may see that a note is being kept of those attending services. This recording is being carried out so we can complete the necessary statistical record for the diocese on our 'worshipping community'. Any queries or concerns please speak to your churchwarden or the Rector Jim Fallon

Benefice Services –where the churches of Buckland St Mary, Birchwood, Otterford, Churchstanton, Corfe and Pitminster come together to share a service. It gives a great opportunity to visit a new church, meet new people (or old friends) and see how they do things elsewhere; as each church has its own style and atmosphere. A **Benefice services is held on the 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month** – the CBO services pages will show you where the service will be held that month. Please let us know if transport is an issue for you attending.

REMINDER – the **Benefice Office at Churchinford Village hall has closed** however the same services are **now available at the Vicarage at Pitminster on Mondays from 9.30 till 1pm**. This move allows considerable savings to be made on overheads and you are still able to use the photocopier, for church related activities, on this day.

Dates for your 2017 Diary

Weds 1st March @7pm – Ash Wednesday service at Buckland St Mary Church – NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Thurs 2nd March for 5 weeks – Lent course – at 2pm. Please contact Revd Jim Fallon (01823 421757) for details of venue.

Sat 25th March – Bingo by FOBS at Buckland St Mary Village Hall. Doors open 7.00am for a 7.30 start. Good prizes and refreshments available.

Sun 26th March @10.45 - Mothering Sunday service at Buckland St Mary Church – see above for details.

Sat 13th May 2017 – School May Fair – in the school grounds – 12.00 to 3pm – more details to follow. N.B. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Sat 20th May 2017 – Benefice Concert including Male voice Choir and bands etc (and friends) Concert in Buckland St Mary Church – details to follow

Sun 21st May – Rogation Ramble – walking from Churchstanton Church to Otterford Church and ending at Birchwood Church with various refreshment breaks and short worship opportunities at each church. More details next month.

Lynda Creek, Churchwarden