

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

October 2016

'While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease' Genesis 8 v22

Church Quiz on 3rd September 2016 for St Margaret's Hospice – the quiz was well attended and raised around £235 for this very good cause and Colin extends his thanks to all involved.

The winners of both the quiz and the special 'pictures' round were 'The Dizzie Lizzies'. Thanks to all who helped and supported the event and especial thanks to Emma Lupton and Kay Wyatt for the refreshments on the night plus Jenny Pym who helped in the run up to the event.

Songs of Praise Service at Buckland St Mary Church - Sun 11th September @ 7pm – sadly there was a disappointing turn out for this event which is usually so popular. Those who did attend made a joyful sound and we intend holding a Songs of Praise each quarter so please send in your request(s) - especially for Christmas Carols or suitable winter hymns – to either royandmargeh@btinternet.com or phone 01460 234599 or the Churchwarden Lynda Creek on 01460 234248 or 07845870450 or email lyndachippie@googlemail.com

Benefice Service marking the retirement of Associate Priest, Revd David Ager – 30th October 2016 @ 10.30 at Pitminster Church – please come to hear David as he takes his last service for the Blackdown Benefice, after 7 years with us as Associate Priest. He will be greatly missed and has brought gentleness yet great depth to his ministry here.

After the service there will be a 'bring and share' lunch in the nearby Old School Room at Pitminster where there will be chance to thank David, personally, and say goodbye.

Service of Welcome for James Hall, the new Youth Worker – Wednesday 2nd November at 7pm in Pitminster Church. This is a combined benefice Service for all churches on the Blackdown and Seven Sowers Benefice. All welcome and for those unable to attend there should be further opportunities to meet James in the coming months as he starts his work amongst us.

Fundraising for the Youth Worker – this task now starts in earnest, throughout the Blackdown Benefice, as we need to find half of the cost of James' post each year: the remainder will be raised by the Seven Sowers

Benefice. The work of the Youth Worker is a very worthwhile investment in our children's' future so please give us your prayers, good wishes and support – and indeed your suggestions and help for possible initiatives.

We will be holding various events to help raise this money – including the Bazaar on the 3rd December - but we would also be delighted to receive a personal donation - or a monthly standing order – no matter how small the amount – towards the total needed. Please contact Jim Fallon, the Rector, or your churchwarden – contact details on the back of the magazine – if you feel able to help in any way at all.

Harvest services on the Blackdown – please come and support us at one or more of these services – refreshments are usually served after the service: -

2nd October – Churchstanton Church Harvest Festival @10.45am

9th October – Pitminster Church Harvest Festival @ 10.45am

Sun 9th October – Birchwood Church Harvest Festival @3pm –

Please note this service replaces Evensong.

Sun 16th October Buckland St Mary Harvest Festival @7pm at Buckland St Mary Parish Church – any monies raised from sale of donated produce will go to a local Homeless Charity.

Fri 7th October - Harvest Supper at Buckland St Mary Village Hall – @7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start cost £10pp (£5 for under 12s) for 2 courses. Choice of hot dishes (inc Veggie) for main plus choice of desserts. Further details and tickets from Ted and Val Jeffery on 01460 234379.

Saturday 29th October 2016 from 10.00am – 'Churchyard Clean Up' at Buckland St Mary church — please come and help clean up the churchyard and surrounds ready for the Remembrance Service on the 13th November. Thanks to Ted and Val Jeffery for organising this event and providing refreshments for the workers – all welcome.

Sunday 6th November @3pm at Birchwood Church – special Rosemary Service of Remembrance – a Rosemary Service is a peaceful, reflective service where we remember loved ones who have passed away.

Sunday 13th November 2016 @3pm at Buckland St Mary church - British Legion Festival of Remembrance Service – please come and remember those who gave their lives in war. Other churches in the

Benefice may also be marking this special day – please see church service listings page for details.

Churchyard Safety and Hazardous Gravestones – Bill Butt, one of the PCC members has surveyed the churchyard to identify any gravestones or other monuments which are, or are getting, into a potentially dangerous condition. Where a hazard has been noted Bill has put a warning bollard so do look out for them when visiting the churchyard but be aware there may be others which have been overlooked

Although it is the responsibility of the PCC for the appearance, care and maintenance of the churchyard, it is the responsibility of the family of the deceased person to keep the gravestone or other monument in good repair.

Despite liability lying primarily with the family, the PCC and church do have a legal duty to ensure the church and its surrounds are kept reasonably safe so we will be trying to contact the family of those persons whose grave memorials are unsafe to ask them to take steps to repair, remove or replace them as soon as reasonably practicable. Meanwhile, if you have a family member buried in the churchyard it would be very much appreciated if you could check the stability of the memorial, from time to time, and take such action as necessary to keep them safe.

Where the deceased passed away a number of years ago, it may be difficult to identify the relatives and in such cases it may be necessary for the PCC to take steps to make the grave safe. Where this happens we will display a notice on the grave advising that action will be taken unless contact is made by a set date. Again, if you see a sign and do know the whereabouts of a family member please let the churchwarden know.

Obviously, the safety of visitors to the churchyard is of extreme importance for us all so we appreciate your acting promptly if we do contact you about one of your family grave(s).

Other October Events

Sat. 8th October - Community Coffee Morning - in Buckland St Mary Parish Church from 10.30 till 12.00 in aid of FOBS

Sat 8th October Church Open Day at Churchstanton Church – please note this event has been postponed till the Spring

N.B Puddings evening that was scheduled for this date is postponed till November 11th – no further details as yet

Sun Sat 8th October @7.30pm – Quiz at Otterford Parish Hall (in Bishopswood) in aid of Otterford Church. £6pp including Ploughman's supper but BYO drinks and glasses etc. Contact John and Penny Gale on 01823 601577 or email gale.gabriel@talktalk.net to book a table

Weds 19th October – Deanery Synod meeting at Ilminster

Christmas Service dates – next month

Still Missing - 2 Tree Trunks! – these items were part of the wonderful decorations at the wedding of Jacalyn Arscott (nee Dobson) on 18th June 2016. They are approximately 3' tall and 1' wide and were left in the church by mistake and are **still missing**. Please **contact Jacalyn on 07540 971953** if you picked them up thinking they weren't wanted or have any information about their whereabouts. Many thanks.

Visits to those in the Parish – We understand the isolation that living in a rural community can bring and we want to offer support to those going through difficulties or who need someone to chat to (whether a churchgoer or not) so please make us aware – through the Rector, Churchwarden or benefice office – of any such needs. If you would like to help us make such visits do please let us know too.

Taunton Food Bank - Donations of food in tins or packets or long life cartons (within date please) are still needed as are 'Bags for Life' in which to distribute the items. Toiletries and sanitary products also needed. Donations can be left in the basket in the church.

Future dates for your diary -

Fri 4th November from 5-7pm Spooky Disco and Fireworks at Buckland St Mary Village Hall – Please note change of date

Mon 7th November – Buckland Bags to School Event – collection of old clothes to raise money for the school – drop them off on 7th November at Buckland School or at Buckland St Mary church (or church porch if locked) ready for collection early on Tuesday the 8th November – many thanks. **Please note the new date**

Friday 11th November – Puddings evening at Churchinford – details to follow

Sat 26th November – Coffee Morning at Churchinford – details to follow

Sun 8th January – Plough Service

Sat 3rd December - Buckland Bazaar – @2pm –note change of date
– in Buckland St Mary Village Hall – opened by the Rector - usual stalls, teas etc. Please let us know if you are willing to run a stall or help in any way.

Fri 3rd February 2017 – ‘Break Dry January’ Quiz in the Candlelight Inn – details to follow

Sat 25th March 2017 – Bingo at Buckland St Mary Village Hall – doors at 7pm eyes down 7.30pm - refreshments available – good prizes!

Sat 20th May 2017 – School May Fair – in the school grounds – 12.00 to 3pm – more details to follow

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

Lynda Creek, Churchwarden