

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

September 2014

“let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever” Psalm 40:11 NRSV

Harvest Services

Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held in Birchwood at 3pm on 12th October, and in Buckland on 19th October, at 7pm.

Parochial Church Council Meeting

At the PCC meeting on the 16th July, the plans for recruiting a new incumbent were discussed. It is hoped the replacement for Sue Green could be in place by the middle of April next year.

Following a recent Ofsted inspection Buckland School had been placed under ‘special measures’, the PCC was advised, although the inspectors acknowledged that progress had been made in rectifying the issues identified. Vicki Bell said that the school will be monitored regularly with the aim of achieving a ‘Good’ rating within 12-15 months. From the Autumn Term the children will be able to display their Religious Education work on a display board in the church. This was seen as a first step towards strengthening the links between younger people and the church community.

The first cheques from Jill Colledge’s bequest have been received: £1,000 for the Churchyard and £25,000 for the Building Fund. Enquiries have been made as to when funds from the Memorial Fund would be received as until then we still need to fundraise to cover running expenses. Once the regular income was in place both the St Mary’s Friends and the 100 Club could be wound up or transferred.

The Finance sub-Group of the PCC had looked into setting up a Community Fund, to support the parish in general, once the income from the Memorial Fund started. It seems that, as a charity, opening such a fund could make keeping the church accounts more complex. It was agreed that the church could instead work alongside other organisations, in fundraising events, and pass on profits, directly.

Work was underway to deal with leaks and other repairs to the Tower and, at the same time, a general survey of other possible defects in the Tower would be undertaken ready for consideration at future meetings. The “Suggested Improvements List” would be discussed at later PCC meetings, too, once the regular income is being received. Meanwhile, action would continue to improve, gradually, the interior of the church. As part of this move, the church clean up

on the morning of the 1st November would also involve a ‘deep clean’ inside the church as well as outside

The PCC is still in need of a secretary and it was agreed that once the regular income was in place it would be possible to offer a payment if someone would take on this role.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 18th September, 2014, at 7.30, at The Old Post Office, Bishopswood. A fundraising meeting would be arranged for November 2014.

‘Around-the-Table’ Group

There will be no ‘Around-the-Table’ group meeting in September, but it will be on 1st October at Moorseek Cottage as usual. (For details, please contact Andrew or Vicki Bell on 01460-234463 or v-a@wabell.go-plus.net).

Benefice Prayers

These will be held on Friday, 5th September, in Corfe Church, at 10am. If you would like prayers said on your behalf, please contact David Ager or one of the Readers. This short informal service is open to all and you will be very welcome to join David and the 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:

Sunday 7th September - Songs of 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
Saturday 28th March – Easter Bingo in BSM Village Hall
Thursday 23rd April – Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Vicki Bell and Lynda Creek, Churchwardens