

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

December 2016

'Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.'

The Service to mark the departure of Revd David Ager, the Associate Priest for the Blackdown Benefice, took place on the 30th October 2016 at Pitminster Church with a 'bring and share' supper to follow. A number of gifts were presented to David, by the 6 churches of the Benefice, and he takes our love and best wishes in his new role at the Bath and Wells Diocese helping those wishing to become a priest.

We have recently received a very touching 'thank you' letter from David in which he expresses his deep thanks for the love and support of the Parish (and Benefice) and it will be placed on the Parish Notice Board for all to read. A thank you letter was also received from the Taunton Foodbank for the donations made to the charity from the Harvest events.

Similarly, the service to welcome James Hall, the new Youth Worker took place at Pitminster Church and was both well attended by both the Seven Sowers and Blackdown benefices as this is a shared post. James spoke of the challenges of the role in a rural setting but also of his desire and determination to make a difference in the lives of our young people.

For the Blackdown Benefice, James work is very much centred in the schools but he will also be involved in services in the Benefice too - watch out for more news.

The Rosemary Service of Remembrance held on 6th November at Birchwood Church was well attended and allowed those who had lost a loved one to mark their memory in a quiet reflective way. As it was so well received by participants, a similar serviced will be held at Birchwood, again, next year.

Church Bazaar – 3rd December @2pm in Buckland St Mary Village Hall – Please come and bring your friends - any proceeds will help fund the work the youth worker is undertaking. Donations for stalls/raffle most welcome.

The **Buckland St Mary Community Coffee Morning on the 12th November**, in aid of the Royal British Legion, raised over £200. **The British Legion Festival of Remembrance Service**, the following day,

was well attended too and because the weather was fine – but chilly - the Act of Remembrance could take place outside at the war memorial. Grateful thanks to all those people who helped, in any way, to make these two events a successful mark of Remembrance Day and especially to all who assisted in the churchyard clean up to ensure the church looked at its best for the service.

Saturday 10th December - Community Coffee Morning at Buckland St Mary Church - 10.30 till 12 - proceeds towards sponsorship for the Machu Pichu Trek which is raising funds for St Margaret's Hospice. All welcome.

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.

Missing Ladder – It has been noted that the church's extendable ladder has gone missing. Checks have been made with both the builder, scaffolder and window contractor to see if it was taken in error but none of these firms have seen it. Please could anyone who has the ladder, or has seen it recently, get in touch with Lynda Creek, the Churchwarden, or any member of the PCC. Thank you.

Christmas Services and Events in the Benefice – please see the services pages to check the details but a brief run down is given here. The **Buckland St Mary School Christmas Carol Service** is on **Thursday 15th December 2016 at 6.30pm** and **Midnight Mass at Buckland St Mary** is at **11.00pm on Christmas Eve**. There is no service on Christmas morning at Buckland St Mary or at Birchwood.

Birchwood Carol Service is on **11th December at 3pm** (please note there is no Evening Prayer) – seasonal refreshments to follow.

There is a **Christingle service at 4pm on the 4th December** at **Churchinford Village Hall** with tea and cake to follow. Also the Corfe Christmas Tree lighting which is at 6.30pm on the 16th December – mulled wine etc afterwards.

Then we have **Carol Services at both Churchstanton and Corfe** churches on the 18th December at 6.30pm (mulled wine and mince pies served after the Corfe service and probably refreshments also at

Churchstanton) whilst the **Otterford Crib Service** is on Christmas Eve at 4pm and **Pitminster Nativity Play** is on the same day at 5pm (allow time for parking as this event is very popular) with **Pitminster Midnight Mass** at 11.00pm

Christmas Morning Holy Communion Services will be held at **Churchstanton Church** starting @ **10.00am** and **Corfe Church** @**10.30am**

Dates for your Diary

Sat 3rd December 2016 – Buckland Church Bazaar – 2pm in the Village Hall

Weds 7th December 2016 - @7.00pm - Christmas Concert in aid of Cancer Research UK (and its work at Musgrove Park Hospital) with the musicians of Castle School at **Castle School Taunton** (free admission - no tickets required - but retiring collection).

Sat 10th December 2016 – 10.30am till 12 - Buckland St Mary Community Coffee Morning proceeds towards sponsorship for the Machu Pichu Trek which is raising funds for St Margaret's Hospice.

Mon 12th December 2016 – Carol Concert in aid of Cancer Research UK @**7.45pm** with the **Queen's College Choral Society** at **Queen's College, Taunton**. £5 on the door but mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

Thurs 15th December 2016 – Buckland St Mary School Christmas Nativity and Carol Service @6.30pm in **Buckland St Mary Parish Church**. All welcome – refreshments to follow

Fri 16th December 2016 – 'Switch on' for the Christmas Tree lights at the Green in front of Corfe Church @6.30pm. Chance to 'buy a star' to hang on the tree – proceeds to charity. Mulled wine etc to follow.

Sat 7th January – Winter Walk – meet 10.30am at Churchinford Village Hall for the walk with soup and luscious puddings on return at 12.30pm (or come at 12.30pm just for the food!).

Sunday 8th Jan 2017 – Plough Sunday Service @ 10.30am at Buckland St Mary Church – refreshments to follow

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