

BUCKLAND ST. MARY CHURCH NEWS

January 2017

'There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.' Proverbs 23v18

Church Bazaar – a very successful Bazaar was held on the 3rd December 2016 and a total of £945.70 was made which will be used to support the work of the church Youth Worker, James Hall. Many thanks to all those who helped or supported this event but especially to Kay Wyatt who organised it. See you next year!

Thanks also for those who attended the December **Buckland St Mary Community Coffee Morning**, in aid of sponsorship for the Machu Pichu Trek and Community Project to raise funds for St Margaret's Hospice. Although sparsely attended the event raised £67.05 and Colin McDonald who is undertaking this endeavour sends his thanks for your support. Thanks especially to Jenny Pym who made some delicious cakes for the event and helped on the day too.

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.

The Birchwood Carol Service on 11th December at 3pm was very well attended as usual and was led by Andrew Bell. Afterwards the congregation was served with mulled wine and mince pies. Many thanks to Sandra and Frank Aplin and Mike Fortune for the seasonal refreshments and for decorating the church so beautifully – it really is a very special 'church in the wood' and if you have never been there then do come to one of our services.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – 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.

The **New Year's Day service** is a whole benefice service and will be held at **Otterford Church at 10.30am** with refreshments to follow.

On **Sunday 8th Jan 2017 @ 10.30am** a **Plough Sunday Service** will be held at **Buckland St Mary Church** led by Andrew Bell. Whether you are a farmer or not this is the service to celebrate the start of the agricultural year and bless the land for the forthcoming year – refreshments to follow.

Whether you are a Christian or not you may have questions you wish to ask about the meaning of life, the universe and everything! Well now is your chance to explore these areas and also, on the way, hear the basics about Christian faith by coming along to the **Alpha course starting on the 17th January 2017 and subsequent Tuesdays** (although you do not need to attend them all so come when you can) **at the Queens Arms pub starting at 7pm**. The course is being run by James Hall, the Benefice Youth worker – please see advert elsewhere for more details.

If you need to walk off the Christmas excesses then there is a **Winter walk on Sat 7th January 2017** starting at **10.30am at Churchinford Village Hall** followed by soup and luscious puddings. Even if you don't do the walk **you can still come for the food at 12.30**. This event is raising funds for the church at Churchstanton.

Dates for your 2017 Diary

Sat 25th Feb – Buckland Big Breakfast at Buckland St Mary Village Hall (veggie options available too) to raise funds for Fiveways School in Yeovil. See advert for details but **expected start at 8am till 11.00am**

Weds 1st March – Ash Wednesday Service for whole Benefice, to mark the start of Lent, **@10.30am at Corfe Church** (no refreshments).

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.

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 - Male voice Choir (and friends) Concert in Buckland St Mary Church – details to follow

Lynda Creek, Churchwarden