

POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

February 2022

From the Rectory:

As we start to emerge from COVID restrictions and all this has entailed for the functioning of our churches, a number of pressing issues are coming to a head. Nationally we are being asked to consider the Church of England's 'Living in Love and Faith' report, which deals with the important issue of the church's attitude towards relationships and sexuality. An initial open meeting has been organised at Holy Trinity Church, Frome on Tuesday 15th February, at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, and anyone interested in these issues is very welcome to attend. This will be followed by a five session course, which is derived from the main report and arranged by Rev. Caroline Walker, the Area Dean. Members of churches in the Frome Deanery are encouraged to attend and it will be held at Holy Trinity on the following dates:

Saturday 19 th February 9.30am – 1pm.	Learning together and Identity
Tuesday 1 st March 7.30pm – 9pm.	Relationships
Tuesday 15 th March 7.30pm – 9pm.	Sex
Tuesday 29 th March 7.30pm – 9pm.	Life together

This is part of a national consultation exercise. Views emanating from discussions in deaneries and parishes will be fed back to the national church authorities and will influence policy decisions enacted by the General Synod: for example, with regard to the marriage in church of same-sex couples.

Locally, Frome Deanery is revisiting our recent Mission Plan after a request from the Diocese to discern a vision and create a plan for the future of local churches in this area, in the light of what we have learned from the Pandemic. Financial constraints mean that the Church needs to consider very carefully the future use of resources, and the deployment of clergy in the Deanery. To start the ball rolling a questionnaire has been produced for anyone to have their say: print copies are available from the Rectory Office or from here (and/or see attached document too):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uQbp3-jPyhW87QG0IYIGWB84_u1uUUAO/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113557029456769652588&rtpof=true&sd=true

(The deadline for return says 30th January, but there will be opportunities to consider further input!) These are important issues and decisions made as a result of these consultations will shape the future of the Church of England probably forever, so if you have a view, now is the time to share it!

**With every blessing,
Fr. Anthony**

Church Services in the Benefices of Stoke St. Michael, Leigh on Mendip and Downhead and in the Parish of Postlebury

4th February (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 6th February – 4th Sunday before Lent

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion
*11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip Family Communion
15.00 Stoke St Michael Christingle

11th February (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 13th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion
11.00 Witham Family Communion
18.00 Nunney Soul Food *Lay Led*

18th February (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 20th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

09.30 Nunney Holy Communion
11.00 Stoke St Michael Family Communion
18.00 Downhead Evensong

25th February (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 27th February – Sunday next before Lent

11.00 Marston Holy Communion
11.00 Cloford Matins *Jonathan Cheal*

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2nd March - Ash Wednesday

19.00 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

4th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 6th March – 1st Sunday of Lent

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion

***11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip** Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong

**Note: Services at Leigh on Mendip. From this month, and for a trial period, there will be one service a month on the first Sunday of the month, at 11am and will be a Family Communion, (with a shorter, more informal 'Ministry of the Word'). Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer will continue at All Saints, Downhead at 18.00 on the 3rd Sunday of the month.*

Services conducted by Revd Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated

From the Registers

Wednesday 12th January, Dorothy Willcox, funeral followed by burial at All Saints, Nunney

Friday 14th January, Celebration of Life for Nigel Cowler, Marston Church

Friday 28th January, Clive Featherstone, Service at Mendip Crematorium

Note on the current Covid situation:

It is no longer a legal requirement to wear masks in Church, but please do continue to wear one if you wish and do continue to use the hand sanitiser provided. Communion will continue to be given in one kind or by intinction for the time being.

Events for your diary...

Little Saplings Carers and Tots group - Little Saplings Carers and Tots group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am in Nunney Village.

Help is needed to get out all the toys and set up the session between about 8.45 am and 9.30 am and again to put things away at 11 am, or to help with refreshments from time to time during the 9.30am - 11 am session, or to just come and talk to people. Please do publicise the sessions (which are term-time only) to carers with babies and toddlers throughout Postlebury. Currently we request a £2 donation per family per session. If you are able to help please contact Felicity Evans at: allsaintslittlesaplings@gmail.com

Meditation in Wanstrow Church - Thursday 10th February at 19.30. All welcome

Soul Food - the next informal service of prayer, praise and worship will take place in Nunney Church on Sunday 13th February at 18.00

Life Groups - meet fortnightly on Mondays. For more information contact Caroline at nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com or Justine North at justine.north@btinternet.com

Parish of Postlebury - Key Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Anthony Dickson, The Rectory, Nunney, Frome. BA11 4LZ Telephone: 01373 837337. Email: Nunney.rectory@gmail.com (day off is Monday).

PCC Secretary and Administrator: postleburysecretary@gmail.com

PCC Hon Treasurer: Mr Steve Elliott - treasurerpostlebury@gmail.com

If you would like to come off our mailing list please contact
dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com

Frome Deanery Questionnaire 2022

Greetings!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to respond to the questions below.

This questionnaire is being given to as many people as possible who worship in the churches in the Frome Deanery over the next couple of weeks. The Frome Deanery is a group of parishes within the Diocese of Bath and Wells, incorporating the parishes in Frome and surrounding villages**. As a deanery we are required by the Diocesan Board of Finance to discern the vision and create a plan for the local church... to ensure that mission and evangelism is at the heart of all that we do; that people are able to live out their vocations and enable the realignment of resources to make longings a reality.

The Church of England is facing some significant challenges and it seems right that locally we should be planning carefully for the future; using our resources wisely whilst at the same time daring to trust the Holy Spirit and proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom.

The New Year is a great time to stop and take stock before planning for the future. The last couple of years have been really tough for many people and yet there have also been unexpected opportunities, for individuals, communities and churches.

Your views are really important because you are 'the church'. The snapshot of local church life gathered via this questionnaire, will help the small group has gathered to discern God's vision, and to seek a way forward that is shaped by, recognised and owned by the local churches... ie YOU.

This information will be gathered and collated within the deanery and the section My Church will be passed back to parishes to be used by PCC in parish discussions. Any plan at Deanery level will be to support and encourage the hopes, dreams and endeavours of individual parishes.

Once again, thank you for reading this far and for taking part.

Please return this to your vicar or churchwardens as soon as you have completed it. We would like all questionnaires returned by Sunday 30th Jan 2022

The Deanery

1. Are you aware that there is already a Frome Deanery plan?

2. If so, what impact has the existing Frome Deanery plan had in your church?

3. What impact do you see a Frome Deanery plan having in your church?

4. How connected do you feel to the wider church (Deanery/Diocese)

5. What could your church do better if it were working in a creative partnership with other churches in the Deanery?

My Church

1. Which church do you attend?

2. What do you value most about your church?

3. What are the challenges facing your church in the next 3 years?

4. What has the Covid19 pandemic made more challenging in your church?

5. What opportunities have arisen due to the Covid19 pandemic for your church?

6. What does your church do well?

7. What would you like to see happening in your church in the future?

8. What do you think is the greatest gift that your church could offer to people?

My Community

1. How does your church engage with the wider community?

2. Where are the areas of need in your community where the church might have a part to play?

3. What resources might be helpful in order to reach out to non churchgoers?

4. Any other comments...

**Frome Deanery comprises the following parishes Beckington, Berkley, Buckland Dinham, Chantry, Coleford, East Woodlands, Farleigh Hungerford, Frome (St. Johns, Christ Church, St. Mary's, Holy Trinity), Great Elm, Hemington, Leigh on Mendip, Lullington, Marston Bigot, Mells, Norton St Philip, Nunney, Orchardleigh, Rodden, Rode, Stoke St Michael, Tellisford, Wanstrow, Whatley, Witham Friary.

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From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



February 2022

21st century church

In 2018 an exciting new project was launched to help us reimagine what it means to be church in the twenty first century. The Pioneer Project aimed to encourage a culture shift by appointing pioneer ministers to explore appropriate ways of sharing the good news of Jesus with different groups of people and in different places.

As a result of the project there are nine full time pioneers doing life alongside the inhabitants of nine different towns and villages across the diocese, outside existing church congregations and often on the margins of society. They include pioneers who are coming alongside families, and communities, pioneers focused on the arts and on young people.

Tina Hodgett, who led the Pioneer Project in Bath and Wells until late 2021, said, “The Christian Church in the west has been through centuries of stability. In the past most people accepted the Christian faith but society is changing rapidly and the



people have flowed away from the church door. Jesus spoke our language and pioneered a whole new way of being in fellowship with God and today’s pioneers follow in His footsteps.”

The project is not just about appointing a few people to do things differently, but inspiring everyone to see how they can share the Gospel where they are and 25 people have completed the Certificate in Pioneer Mission, a year-long course to help them do just that.

Tina concludes, “We’ve made distinct progress in becoming more pioneering, innovative and imaginative since 2018. The culture shift has started!”

Read the report at bathandwells.org.uk/pioneering-report ■

News in brief

Funding step forward for flood church

St. Peter and St. Paul's Church Muchelney, near Langport on the Somerset Levels, has moved a step closer towards becoming a community hub after receiving a £12,500 grant from South Somerset District Council. The grade one listed church was a focal point for its community during the floods of 2013/14 when the village was cut off for more than ten weeks. The latest grant, together with £44,000 already raised will go towards the estimated £75,500 needed for the first phase of the development; to build a toilet and put in mains water. Churchwarden Sarah Nicholas said, "We can make the church building the heart of the community again." ■



Looking out to the town and beyond

New Minster for Taunton

On March 13, St Mary Magdalene, Taunton, is designated to become Taunton Minster. Already the civic church for the town, as a minster it will play a more active role in bringing together and supporting the whole town and wider area. Revd Tobie Osmond, Vicar at St Mary Magdalene says, "This is particularly important as the town adapts to meet the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic." ■

Join with us this Lent

Join with us this Lent as we explore 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God'. There'll be a range of resources focusing on the themes of offering and receiving welcome, hospitality, inclusion, and generosity as a way of better knowing and understanding others, ourselves, and God during

Lent 22 and beyond.

The resources will include videos of new residents of Somerset, weekly bible reflections with study questions, a weekday video and conversation starter, and useful links relating to the themes. Find out more at: bathandwells.org.uk/lent-2022 ■

A signpost to God

By Rob Martin, Honorary Assistant Bishop for Bath and Wells

2 022 has begun, with all its potential for joy and for sorrow. What lies ahead I wonder? Will Covid define us, as it continues to exert its baleful influence and disrupt our plans? Or will the joy of faith-filled lives trump the gloom? Rejoice in the Lord always, begins our key passage from Philippians. Amen!

New Year resolutions - have you made any? They are rooted in a godly desire to improve our lives. They say 60 per cent of us make them, but only 8 per cent stick with them! I'm part of the 92 per cent, who try, but usually give up. Sometimes something sticks.

Two years ago, following a diocesan initiative to encourage more prayer, I resolved to get the Lectio 365 app. It has helped me ever since. I'm guided to sit, read, reflect and prepare for my day's activities. It's a form of Lectio Divina, similar to Dwelling in the Word, used in Bath and Wells, which encourages us to mull over God's word, in our own personal time, and in the company of others, allowing God to speak to us.

Lectio 365 ends in this prayer: Father help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to all I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do, and say.

Our pioneers reach out to those around them, building relationships and using ever more creative ways, to point people to God. Cocktail bars, art work, pizza evenings, outdoor activities, pilgrim walkways... the list is gloriously endless! The Lectio prayer reminds us that everyone is a channel for God's grace, a signpost to God. By encouraging others to grow in spiritual awareness, we can all be pioneers in our own situation.

Bishop Rob



A pioneering journey

Trevor James became a pioneer in Keynsham in November 2019



Trevor James (centre)

What led you to become a pioneer? The journey started before knowing

pioneering was even a thing. I just felt called to stop doing the ministry that I was doing; it wasn't stop and leave, it was simply stop and so I knew something was coming.

How has your role developed over time?

It's been a journey. I came with lots of plans. Six months in and we had lock down which transformed everything. It got to a point where I thought I'd got this wrong; do I need to just hand my notice in? But God being God just transformed the journey and that's where the Sanctuary Garden came in.

What's the Sanctuary Garden?

It is a holistic space on the river where I do a regular prayer meet for people to come and be together at the beginning of the day in God's presence. I have also met pastorally in the garden with a bunch of folks, including young people. The things that we've done through the garden space have been so fruitful it has completely shocked me.

Who are you engaging with?

The people that I am meeting wouldn't go inside the church. It's not because there is anything wrong with it, it's just not how they live out their faith. That's especially true of the younger ones.

What have you learnt about pioneering?

The element of play. The more I push into the adult and the strategic side I don't see fruit. When I let go and allow myself to be a child in God, to enter the playground of His Kingdom and play with Him in ministry, it is so freeing and fruitful. Read more from Trevor at bathandwells.org.uk/keynsham-pioneer

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Bath & Wells

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