

POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

July 2022

From the Rectory:

This month we hear from Revd. Chris North.

Faith on the Farm: Glastonbury Festival Church Tent

Justine and I have just returned from working in The Church at Glastonbury Festival. I thought I would share a few of my experiences.

A group of Christians from Churches across Somerset came together to form the Church for the Festival. On the first day when it was so hot we gave out cups of water to people as they arrived (over 1000 litres), whilst also providing shade from the sun. Over the week we led services, both in the tent and up in the Peace Garden. We blessed relationships and marriages, for instance one couple came, having made rings for each other in the craft field and they renewed their vows, gave and received rings and I asked God to bless them (I don't think there was a dry eye in the house!). We listened and prayed with people who were in distress, and I had the privilege to baptise and welcome two children into the family of the church.

The media got hold of our work, and on Sunday morning I was asked to speak on various radio programmes about the Glastonbury Festival and why we were there. As I got up very early in the morning, I was walking down to the Pyramid Stage when it started to rain and I saw a huge rainbow. I held off taking the photo so I could get to exactly the right place, unfortunately, in doing so I missed the opportunity... Paul McCartney in his headline performance spoke of missing the chance to say to John "*he loved him*"... For me that is why it is so important for us as the Church to be at the festival. So many people see Glastonbury as a spiritual place, and if we are not there an opportunity will have been missed. I think being there, being attentive, reaching out to people in the moment is so important.

One interviewer asked me, where would Jesus be at the festival, to which I replied "*In the dust and the mud, amongst the music and arts, alongside people telling the good news of God's love*". And so as followers of Jesus I think that is where we should be too.

If you want to know more, I will be speaking about our experiences at the next Soul Food Service in Stoke St Michael on 10th July at 6pm.

Revd Chris North

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

3rd July - 3rd Sunday after Trinity

9.30	Wanstrow	Holy Communion (<i>Martin Weymont</i>)
11.00	Leigh on Mendip	Family Communion (<i>Ian Pearson</i>)
18.00	Stoke St Michael	Evensong (<i>Jane Evans</i>)

8th July (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion BCP
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10th July - 4th Sunday after Trinity

9.30	Stoke St Michael	Holy Communion
11.00	Witham	Family Communion
18.00	Stoke St Michael	Soul Food (<i>Chris North</i>)

14th July (Thursday)

19.30	Wanstrow	Compline and Meditation
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15th July (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion BCP
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17th July - 5th Sunday after Trinity

9.30	Nunney	Holy Communion (<i>Martin Weymont</i>)
11.00	Stoke St Michael	Family Communion (<i>Martin Weymont</i>)

24th July - 6th Sunday after Trinity

9.30	Marston	Holy Communion
11.00	Cloford	Matins (<i>Jonathan Cheal</i>)

29th July (Friday)

10.00	Nunney	Holy Communion BCP
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31st July - 7th Sunday after Trinity

10.00 Witham Holy Communion (Combined Benefice Service)

Services conducted by Revd Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated

From the Registers - June 2022

Weddings:

11th June, Marston - Laurence Ludgate and Grace Merry

18th June, Marston - James Cox and Clare Miles

Funerals:

15th June, Marston - John Leach

17th June, Mells - Richard Baker

Please note: Fr Anthony is away from 30th June until 4th July inclusive and from 15th July until 26th July inclusive.

There will be NO 10am service at Nunney on Friday 1st July and Friday 22nd July.

There will be NO Evensong service at Downhead on Sunday 24th July.

Events for your diary:

Photography display by Paul O'Shaughnessy: all are warmly invited to Trudoxhill Village Hall on Sunday 3rd July, 3pm-5pm, to see a display of photography and drone photography by Paul of all of the Postlebury churches and surroundings.

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

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From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩

July 2022

'So will I'- celebrating lay ministries

On Saturday, July 2, we will be gathering in Wells Cathedral for a celebration of the gifts of all those who play a part in the life of the church and the community. The Lay Ministries Celebration also recognises those marking a milestone in their personal journey of faith and have completed one of our lay ministries courses.

Jill Perrett, Developing Ministries Adviser says, "We are delighted to be able to host this celebration of gifts and lay ministry in Wells Cathedral. It promises to be a joyous occasion. All our gifts will be reflected in this wonderfully creative service. There will be different styles of music and worship, the Weston-super-Mare dance worship group will perform to the worship song 'So Will I', and we'll also create our own 'meadow of hope'."

There will also be testimonies from people who have completed a course, from those who have explored their personal faith on 'Exploring Spirituality', to those



The Weston-super-Mare dance worship group will be performing.

looking to move on to a more defined role, like being Lay Worship Assistants, Lay Pastoral Assistants, or Chaplains.

Alan Cook, one of the speakers, says, "You never stop learning and the courses offered by the diocese are well prepared and exciting. They help you to have more understanding of how you feel to be a Christian. You don't need a degree or anything like that, you just need to be the person God made you to be."

Why not say 'So will I!' and join us at the celebration of Lay Ministries or find out more about the lay courses on offer? bathandwells.org.uk/lmc ■

News in brief

Platinum celebrations

Church communities across Bath and Wells came together over the weekend to celebrate HRH The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were cakes galore, bouncy castle, royal-themed crafts, creative flower displays and much more.

St Paul's, Weston-super-Mare was one of the churches who came together to watch the service of celebration - at the other St Paul's. There was also much fun to be had in their weekend of celebrations which was attended by 100s, raising £1,400 for Tearfund's Ukraine Appeal in the process■



Examining our history

Following over a year of detailed research, The Bath & Colonialism Archive Project, a joint initiative by Bath Abbey, Bath Record Office and Bath Preservation Trust, has launched a website containing information on the city's links to the transatlantic slave trade.

Guy Bridgewater, Rector of



Pray for young people

You are invited to join us as we hold a 'Week of Prayer for Young People' from 3 to 9 July.

Churches, groups and individuals are encouraged pray for children and young people, their families and their schools using a simple Prayer Guide with themes and prayer prompts for each day. Download it at bathandwells.org.uk/week-prayer.

There will also be daily prayer videos on our social media channels with young people and youth leaders giving voice to prayers for young people and the issues they face in the 2020s■

Bath Abbey said: "The Abbey is committed to striving for justice and the practical steps taken by the Bath & Colonialism Archive project enable the Abbey, the City of Bath, and the wider Church to examine our history with honesty and care."

Find out more about the project at bathandcolonialism.org■

A wealth of ministries

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

Half-way through the year already! Midsummer's day past. It hardly seems possible. We have now had Bishop Michael's election as our new Diocesan Bishop confirmed and we have joined together in a Day of Prayer to mark this new chapter in the life of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Praying with hope and joy as we look forward to the next part of the journey together, and with realism as we recognise the challenges we face especially with our limited financial resources.

However, we are rich in other ways. The missional and ministerial resources amongst us are strong. We continue to see people drawn to exploring ordained ministry and yet an even greater number seeking new lay ministerial opportunities. Reader training is beginning to increase once more. Chaplaincies of all shapes and sizes are developing. Recently we introduced chaplaincy to the courts in Taunton, and Weston-Super-Mare is following after. Churchwardens in this past month have demonstrated their commitment to service at the annual Visitation services.

And there are loads more ways in which the wealth of the Church is seen, through pastoral care, worship leading, and children and youth work, to name but a few. Our deaneries are working together on plans for local shared ministry focusing on the particular needs, context and gifts of each place and community. It is an opportunity for us to note God's abundant goodness to us and the gift of the people with whom we gather.

I am looking forward to sharing in our celebration of all the lay ministries across the diocese. It is an opportunity to hear the stories of one another, to reflect on creative possibilities and ways you can join in. Please respond to the invitation to come along!

Every blessing
Bishop Ruth



Streets paved with prayer

One of the speakers at the Celebration of Lay Ministries is Dave Knight, Chairman of Taunton Street Pastors.



Taunton Street Pastors on duty

What are Street Pastors?

Street Pastors are trained volunteers who care about their community and patrol their local area on weekend evenings. Taunton team's 75 volunteers cover Taunton, Bridgwater and Wellington.

What do you do?

Most of the time it is simply a case of being present, talking to those who want to talk. We are not there to preach but we do talk about Jesus a lot – it's just that we let the other person lead the conversation rather than us pushing it.

What about the other times?

Every night there is a potential for challenging situations, which may or not be realised. We know that we save about two or three lives a year and prevent a similar number of rapes,

but you can never be totally sure. Our priority is looking after those who are alone. Perhaps after becoming isolated from friends, who are in a potentially vulnerable position.

Is it safe for you?

We take safety very seriously and our training is very thorough. We know what to do, and always stay together. When I first heard of Street Pastors I was reluctant to get involved as I felt it wasn't safe, but it really is. Three years later I heard a talk on Street Pastors at my church and responded - 10 years on I'm still doing it.

Why do you do it?

It is amazing ministry! It may sound serious but we really do have a ball out there. You are in this hotspot of activity, the front line, and where street pastors have been going for some time, those streets have been paved with prayer. You are taking all that power and presence of God with you. It has to be seen to be believed. Read more at bathandwells.org.uk/street-pastors & streetpastors.org

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Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.