

# POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

August 2022

## From the Rectory:

I am sure I am not the only one who has cringed at the unedifying debates between the contenders for the leadership of the conservative party aired on television over the last few weeks. Of course, whoever becomes Prime Minister will have the unenviable job of tackling the many increasingly- urgent problems we face. But the process of choosing a leader shows us what can happen to people of broadly the same ideology when power is at stake: they turn on each other, and it all gets a bit personal. We have come to recognize that the tone of such discourse is set by the adversarial nature which seems almost 'hard-wired' into our party-political system.

In a recent article, American Franciscan writer Richard Rohr asks the simple question- 'would you prefer a friend that is always right, or one with whom you always feel connected?' Of course, we would rather be in relationships of mutual trust and understanding. It would be difficult to feel a connection with a friend who is 'always correct'. In fact, a friend who is 'always right' could become pretty obnoxious!

In the Gospels Jesus stresses the importance of people remaining connected. In the parable in John's Gospel, he is the vine and we are the branches- he connects us to God, who is the ground of our being, and we can only bear fruit as we remain connected. These days, everyone seems to be trying to prove that they are right. We have almost a collective incapacity to admit failure, to admit that we are ever wrong, which makes us frauds most of the time. But Jesus is calling forth a very different kind of human being.

Rohr continues: 'Many of us grew up thinking God wanted us to be right, to be correct, even to be perfect. But God wants people who are in right relationship, which means that we are open; that we can listen to others with understanding and compassion.'

It means that we can admit when we're wrong without feeling threatened.

People who live the vulnerable life of connection and relationship will bear much fruit. These are the people we can trust, like, and admire. And yet many of us are afraid, or forget, to be the very thing that we admire most. Again, Jesus has told us the way: he is the vine, we are the branches. 'None of us can be, or need to be correct, but we can always be connected.'

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**

**5th August (Friday)**

**10.00 Nunney** Holy Communion BCP

**7th August - 8th Sunday after Trinity**

**09.30 Wanstrow** Holy Communion (*David Gatcliffe*)

**11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip** Family Communion (*David Gatcliffe*)

**18.00 Stoke St Michael** Evensong (*Jane Evans*)

**11th August (Thursday)**

**19.30 Wanstrow** Compline and Meditation (*Malcolm Parr*)

**12th August (Friday)**

**10.00 Nunney** Holy Communion BCP (*David Gatcliffe*)

**14th August - 9th Sunday after Trinity**

**09.30 Stoke St Michael** Holy Communion (*David Gatcliffe*)

**11.00 Witham** Family Communion (*David Gatcliffe*)

**18.00 Nunney** Soul Food (*Chris North*)

**19th August (Friday)**

**10.00 Nunney** Holy Communion (BCP)

**21st August - 10th Sunday after Trinity**

**09.30 Nunney** Holy Communion

**11.00 Stoke St Michael** Family Communion

**18.00 Downhead** Evensong

**26th August (Friday)**

**10.00 Nunney** Holy Communion BCP

**27th August (Saturday)**

**16.00 Marston** Wedding of Mark Godfrey & Zara Gugen

**28th August - 11th Sunday after Trinity**

**09.30 Marston** Matins (*Jonathan Cheal*)

**11.00 Cloford** Holy Communion

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*Services conducted by Revd Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated*

**From the Registers: July 2022:**

**Weddings:**

**30th July, Nunney - Peter Cubitt and Jessica Pembridge**

**Please Note:** Fr Anthony is away from 5th August - 16th August inclusive.

**Parish of Postlebury - Key Contacts**

**Priest-in-charge:** Rev. Anthony Dickson, The Rectory, Nunney, Frome.  
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**PCC Secretary and Administrator:** postleburysecretary@gmail.com

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

## Bishop's letter

I'm new around here. Following retirement from ordained ministry last year Somerset has become my adopted county and Bath and Wells my adopted diocese. Sally and I are delighted to be full time now in this lovely and stimulating area. We join many of you who have been part of this diocese and county for a lifetime or for decades, and also some who have recently arrived like us.

We have chosen to be here. Others arrive here because of a range of circumstances and decisions. Perhaps sometimes the journey seems haphazard or inexplicable. Some people come here as refugees fleeing persecution, injustice, or war, especially from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine. They arrive with uncertainty, and often anxiety or trepidation in an unknown and entirely new place far from home.

In our churches and Christian communities, we are committed to welcome everyone – those settled here and also those who are newer. We know we are sisters and brothers in God's family, regardless of background, nationality or indeed any other thing which distinguishes us. God's family is the family of humankind. It's not that we pick and choose whom to call family; we share the same flesh and blood.

St Paul tells us that each one of us has been adopted into that family which is divine and human. God sent Jesus "so that we might receive adoption as children" enabling us to be gifted with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 4:4-7)

We don't belong out of personal choice, in contrast to my decision to chose here as my adopted diocese and community. We don't pick and choose our ultimate citizenship. God chooses and calls us without us desiring or deserving such adoption. That's why, following God's adoption of us, we never select who to welcome into our church or parish. All belong and all are welcome without hesitation.

We have been adopted into God's family and we are thrilled to adopt everyone into our communities. Thank you for welcoming me!

+Christopher Foster (Honorary Assistant Bishop Bath and Wells)