

# POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

September 2021

## From the Rectory

The Church of England is going through a bit of an identity crisis at the moment. A rebellion has been growing within it, against those who would like to see the end of the parish system. Over the last three-and-a-half decades, ordinary parishioners have witnessed the centre of gravity in church affairs, as well as funding, shifting from the local parish towards an increasingly bureaucratic and centralised church structure. Churchgoers, volunteers and faithful church wardens who have looked after their churches for many years, and supported clergy with increasing work-loads, are becoming increasingly exasperated at what they see as an undermining of the parish system they serve.

I was ordained in 1988, and served my first curacy in one, (admittedly inner-city) parish church. In my second curacy I had responsibility for three Churches. In my first Incumbency I was rector of five, and I'm now priest-in-charge of eight churches. And yet the 'de-localisation' of clergy cover has been identified as a major contributing factor in the Church's decline.

Long before I was ordained, the parish owned its own vicarages and paid its own clergy. In 1976, the central Church organization decided that the parish was an inefficient way of running things and brought the ownership of parish assets under the control of the Diocese. From then on, the Dioceses began to have their own ideas about how best to spend a parish's assets. Vicarages were sold off. The clergy were paid from a central pot, and stipends paid to clergy were standardized, but power had shifted from the parishes to Diocesan structures, and this drift has continued so that parishes have an ever-decreasing say in how to run their own affairs.

Only this week, a letter in the Church Times, from a lay-chair of a group of parishes that have lost their house-for-duty priest to long-Covid, was told that it cannot seek to appoint a new priest because there is a 'recruitment freeze'. Yet this group of parishes has hitherto paid its parish share, and is fully able to fund a house-for-duty priest and still pay a contribution towards the Diocesan central fund from its own resources. They need nothing from the Diocese, only its blessing to seek a new appointment. Many reading this letter may only have had very occasional use for the local church and its offices, but let's not test the saying, 'you only know the true value of something when it's lost'.

**With Every Blessing, Fr. Anthony**

# September 2021

## Services in the United Parish of Postlebury churches and the East Mendip Churches

### 3rd September (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 5th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip All Age Service

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong *Jane Evans*

### 10th September (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 12th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

11.00 Witham Family Communion

### 17th September (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 19th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Nunney Holy Communion

11.00 Stoke St Michael Family Communion

15.00 Leigh-on-Mendip Harvest

### 24th September (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 26th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Leigh-on-Mendip Holy Communion

11.00 Cloford Matins *Jonathan Cheal*

11.00 Marston Harvest

### 1st October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 3rd October – 18th Sunday after Trinity

<b>09.30</b>	<b>Wanstrow</b>	Holy Communion
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Nunney</b>	Harvest <i>Lay Lead</i>
<b>11.00</b>	<b>Leigh-on-Mendip</b>	All Age Service
<b>15.00</b>	<b>Stoke St Michael</b>	Harvest

*All services are led by Rev. Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated*

## **From the Registers: August 2021**

### **Baptism**

Nicholas Kyriakos Korovilas, Leigh on Mendip, 15th August

### **Weddings**

Andrew Hedges and Amanda Bristow, Leigh on Mendip, 14th August

### **Funerals**

Katherine Louisa Bennett-Burial of cremated remains at Marston on 7<sup>th</sup> August

Eileen Haswell-Burial of cremated remains at Leigh 10<sup>th</sup> August

Bernard Dennett-Funeral at Wanstrow 11<sup>th</sup> August followed by Cremation.

Elizabeth Avis-Burial of Cremated remains at Cloford- 12<sup>th</sup> August

Lewis Gould-Funeral and Burial at Witham – 25<sup>th</sup> August

## **Events for your diary...**

**Saturday 4th September. Nunney Flower and Produce Show** at the Village Hall in Nunney. The parish will be providing teas and if anybody is willing to help or to bake, please contact Ruth Brooks on 01373 836689.

**Saturday 11th September. RIDE AND STRIDE.** Walk, cycle or drive any route, some published at [www.somersetchurchestrust.org](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org) together with sponsorship forms, (also available from The Rectory). If anyone would like to cycle with Anthony on a 25 mile route, meet at Nunney market place at 10.00am. You can choose to visit as many churches as you wish, on foot or on bike or by car and you are asked to find sponsors; half the money goes to the Somerset Historic Churches Trust and half to a church of your choice.

**Sunday 12th September Wanstrow Church Harvest Festival** at 18.00 at the church followed by a bread and cheese supper. Please let Liz Sargent (churchwarden) know if you would like to join the supper after the service at [wanstrowchurch@icloud.com](mailto:wanstrowchurch@icloud.com)

**POSTPONED.** The Postlebury Bellringers concert planned for 18th September has been postponed because of Covid concerns.

**Sunday 26th September.** Matins in Cloford Church at 11 am followed by a sumptuous Harvest Lunch in aid of Parish funds in Cloford Manor Barn. Tickets are £25 a head and places are limited by space. So if you would like to come please contact Richard Mawer soon, at [richardjmawer@btinternet.com](mailto:richardjmawer@btinternet.com) or on 07967 651240

**PLUS ....** We are still looking for volunteers to help with refreshments on Wednesday mornings in Nunney Village Hall from 13th September, for the new Little Saplings Carers and tots group (for all carers with children up to school age). If you can help or if you have any robust toys you can donate please contact Caroline Pomeroy ([nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com)) or Felicity Evans ([allsaintslittlesaplings@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintslittlesaplings@gmail.com))

### **Parish of Postlebury - Key Contacts**

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

**PCC Secretary and Administrator:** [postleburysecretary@gmail.com](mailto:postleburysecretary@gmail.com)

**PCC Hon Treasurer:** Mr Steve Elliott - [treasurerpostlebury@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerpostlebury@gmail.com)

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[dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com](mailto:dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com)

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells ☩ September 2021

## The search for a new bishop

**W**ith the retirement of Bishop Peter in May, the diocese is now looking to the future and taking steps to appoint the next Bishop of Bath and Wells.

As part of the process of finding our new bishop, people across the diocese are being asked to share their views. Hundreds of people completed surveys expressing their hopes for the new bishop in the summer and in September the Archbishops' Appointments Secretary and the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary will meet with various groups of people in the diocese and then hold an open public meeting, where all can contribute.

The process is taken forward by the Vacancy in See Committee, a cross-section of people from across the diocese. The Vacancy in See committee has two aims, to consult, discern and prepare a diocesan Statement of Needs, a document which reflects the hopes and challenges for the ministry of the next bishop and to portray what is

distinctive about the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The second aim is to elect six representatives to join the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) which is responsible for the actual interviews process.

Chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the CNC, is responsible for interviewing the potential candidates before a recommendation is sent to Her Majesty the Queen.

The appointment of a new bishop is made by the Queen following an established process.

Simon Hill, Archdeacon of Taunton and Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee says, 'Everyone, young and old, church going and non-church going, has been invited to share their thoughts through surveys and consultation.'

Throughout this time, if you have any queries or views you wish to contribute please email [newbishop@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:newbishop@bathwells.anglican.org). Find out more about the progress at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/new-bishop](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/new-bishop) ■

# News in brief

## Cross cultural climate crisis conference

"We need to address climate concerns in our hearts and minds." Bishop Ruth told clergy and church members from across the diocese at a climate crisis event organised with the charity Send a Cow.

The group heard Rob Walrond, rural affairs adviser, and Titus Sagala, Country Director of Send a Cow Kenya, who joined from Kenya on Zoom, tell them first-hand how climate change is forcing farmers in every country to find new ways of operating and how climate change is hurting crop yields and damaging farmland in places all across the world, from England to Kenya ■



Fr Simon was a pirate for the week at Landlubbers!

## Landlubbers Holiday Camp

Every year in Minehead the Exmoor Youth Project runs a summer holiday club for children aged 5 to 12. This year the theme was Landlubbers! The children learned all about Jesus and St Paul through song, games, story-telling and crafts. Fr Simon, vicar of Minehead, said "Our thanks go to Jess and Lynne from the Exmoor Youth project" ■

## Magnificent mural

A fantastic school mural is taking shape in Saltford Church of England primary school. Andy Gray, the diocesan faith sharing enabler, also an artist, was commissioned to create the mural. It is based off the Go team's Bible Chat Mats which are designed to encourage

children, young people, and adults to read the Bible and have conversations together. Andy was presented with 400 design ideas from the children and he wove them into what he has called "The Chat Wall, the artistic sibling of Go Team Advisers Bible Chat Mats initiative." ■