

# POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

October 2021

## From the Rectory

We are in the middle of our Harvest celebrations in these parishes, and this gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect. Whether or not this has been a good growing year, it has certainly not been a good year for agriculture. One of the saddest things that popped up on my phone recently was the picture of a cauliflower wrapped in plastic with a sticker on the side saying 'Product of Poland'. The caption underneath read, 'Two fields away from where I'm standing, there are thousands of these all rotting away because there is no-one to pick them. And yet we are importing them from Europe!'

In years gone by, the locals would have dropped everything to save a crop like this as best they could from such a disaster; not just for economic reasons, or to protect a farmer's livelihood, (though both are legitimate reasons in themselves) but because they would have felt instinctively that such neglect would be a crime against nature itself. For me this picture was also emblematic of something else. The 'conservation' of a way of life that has proved to be valuable, sustainable and life-affirming is surely part of the Christian calling.

The swift reaction of those in authority to the recent pandemic seems to have emboldened them to make all sorts of swift decisions without enough consideration of the possible unintended consequences that may unfold. Added to this, the loss of seasonal workers and the breakdown of lines of transport has left what is essentially an affluent society in increasingly dire straits.

What's the place of the church in all this? To begin with, it is to ask the compassionate questions: who will benefit from such-and-such a policy or course of action? Secondly, and more importantly, who is likely to suffer? Thirdly, it is constantly to remind ourselves and the world that, although we have become incredibly skillful at adapting and controlling nature for our benefit and flourishing, there are consequences to the changes we make, and these will not always be predictable, or indeed desirable. Lastly, it is holding the reality before us that this incredibly intricate and beautiful world is not for any one generation to do with as it wills; but rather, by God's grace, we are all merely passing through it as his 'stewards', and co workers with him, to care for this precious world and bring all things to his good and purposeful ends.

**With Every Blessing, Fr. Anthony**

# October 2021

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

### 1st October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

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

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion  
10.30 Nunney Harvest *Lay Lead*  
11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip All Age Service with Baptism  
16.00 Stoke St Michael Harvest

### 8th October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 10th October – 19th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion  
11.00 Witham Family Communion

### 15th October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 17th October – 20th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Nunney Holy Communion  
11.00 Stoke St Michael Family Communion

### 18th October (Monday)

18.00 Downhead Harvest at Green Farm Barn

### 22nd October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 24th October – Last Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Leigh-on-Mendip Holy Communion  
11.00 Cloford Holy Communion  
11.00 Marston Matins *Jonathan Cheal*

### 29th October (Friday)

10.00 Nunney

Holy Communion BCP

### 31st October - 4th Sunday before Advent

10.30 Witham Holy Communion

COMBINED BENEFICE SERVICE

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### 5th November (Friday)

10.00 Nunney

Holy Communion BCP

### 7th November – 3rd Sunday before Advent

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip All Age Service

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong *Jane Evans*

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

## **From the Registers: September 2021**

### **Funerals**

Russell Plunkett, Wanstrow, interment of ashes, 20th September

Brian Strong, Stoke St Michael, Service at Mendip Crematorium, 22nd September

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

**Harvest service with Climate Sunday - 3rd Oct, 10.30am at Nunney church** a family friendly service with refreshments afterwards supporting the work of the charity 'Send A Cow'. Please bring your Garden produce which will be sold after the service in aid of the Send a Cow and dry and tinned food will be given to Fair Frome Foodbank.

**Harvest Service - Downhead - Monday 18th October** at Green farm Barn at 18.00.

**The Postlebury Bellringers** - There will be a 'Try Bell ringing' day at St Leonard's Church, Marston on **Saturday 16th October**. If you have any neighbours or friends (or their children over 12 years old) who would like to have a go, please do put them in touch with **Helen Parkin** at **01373 836509** or **07714 504466** or **helen.parkin@icloud.com**

**Quiz night at Nunney Village Hall at 19.30 on Saturday 23rd October**, entry is £5 per person, in aid of the Nunney Church Bells Augmentation Fund. To book a table please contact **Helen Parkin** on **01373 836509** or **07714 504466** or **helen.parkin@icloud.com**

**Life Groups** - The three groups across the benefice which have just started their next programme of evening meetings. One is also on Zoom if you are unable to get out of the house. If you are interested in joining one of the groups, please contact **Caroline Pomeroy at [nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com)**

**Soul Food** - A monthly semi-formal Sunday evening service alternating between Stoke St Michael and Nunney Churches starting 2nd Sunday of each month at 18.00. The first one being on **Sunday 10th October at 18.00** in Nunney, then alternating thereafter between Stoke and Nunney.

**Music at Marston church:** Various concerts coming up in November and December, please see [www.marstonmusic.co.uk](http://www.marstonmusic.co.uk) for more information.

## **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) (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)

**If you would like to come off our mailing list please contact [dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com](mailto:dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com)**

# manna

From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



October 2021

## God calls... everyone, everywhere

**F**rom 6 February, everyone is invited to join us for a week of exploring the many and varied ways in which God calls us during our lives.

The week will kick off with an online service with Bishop Ruth at 3pm on Sunday, 6 February and from Monday to Friday in the following week we will be sharing videos from local people talking about how God calls them wherever they are. The week will close on the Saturday with on-line gatherings for people to come together to celebrate, share and reflect on what they have learnt.

Julia Hill, discipleship team leader, explains, "God has given each and every one of us our own personal gifts. Sometimes it can feel as though God only calls 'special people' but God calls us both in our everyday lives and sometimes to particular roles. We hope that by sharing the stories of how people

have recognised their gifts and responded to God's call to use them, it will help others reflect on what their gifts are and how God might be calling them. And that might be as simple as telephoning a friend in need, or praying for a neighbour."

"If we look in the Bible we can see God calls a huge variety of people and you need to only look at the disciples to see that they didn't always get it right. In God's eyes, everyone is worthy of being called."

Join us in February to hear the stories from a whole range of people and perhaps be inspired yourself.

To find out more about the 'God calls... everyone, everywhere' week, visit: [www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere) ■



# News in brief

## Preparing to welcome Afghan refugees

Many areas across the diocese of Bath and Wells are preparing to receive Afghan refugees. It's not yet known how many families will be coming, but in such as Bath and Weston-super-Mare, organisations are already making preparations.

[Bath Welcomes Refugees](#) have put out a call out for non-perishable foods, toiletries, and cleaning products and set up three collection points.

Organisations across the diocese will also be looking for volunteers to help and support those families in need. Check your local organisations for more information. Or keep an eye on our social media channels where we will share details as we receive them ■



## Plant a tree in partnership

In November global leaders come together in Glasgow at COP26 to talk climate change. In Bath and Wells we are asking people to come together with farmers in their local area to plant trees. Farmer and our Rural Affairs Adviser, Rob Walrond, who is in talks with organisations who may supply the trees, says, "It's a great way Christians can make a practical difference in their communities. The fruits of these partnerships will benefit us all." [Visit our website](#) to find out more ■

## Modern Anti-Slavery Day

An estimated 40.3 million people in the world today are trapped in some form of modern slavery, including thousands of people in the UK.

[Anti-Slavery Day 2021](#) on the 18 October is a day to raise awareness of the need to eradicate all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation.

This year, Sunday the 17 October the Church of England national online service led by Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones Bishop of Tonbridge will be on the topic of modern slavery. 17 October will also be an opportunity for churches to focus their services and prayers on modern slavery to help raise awareness of the issue ■

# Made for a purpose

By Trevor Willmott, Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Bath & Wells

**W**henever I listen to one of Jesus' searching questions I find myself

thinking "What would I do in these circumstances?"

If I were casting my nets, and Jesus said "follow me", would I do it? I imagine many of us would be hoping that we never have to find out.

All too often it's assumed that being called is just about the religious life to a particular ministry, lay or ordained in the life of the Church. Of course, it is about that for some of us, and thank God for that, but in the New Testament, vocation or calling has a much wider understanding.

St Paul talks to the Corinthians about this more general call when he writes "Now there are varieties of gifts but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Every one of us is called to use the gift or gifts we've been given

to help build up the body of Christ. That "building up" can never be confined to what we do on Sunday. Building up is about using the whole of life, including Monday to Saturday. The very act of working or being at home, school, work, leisure is vocational. Our daily behaviour becomes a sacrament and an offering.

The realisation that we are being called comes in many different ways. For some, it's like a sudden flash of light as came to St. Paul on the Damascus road. But for others, it's just not that clear. In my earlier work as a Director of Ordinands and Vocation, I listened to many people who described their sense of calling as a feeling of discomfort. "Like having a toothache" someone said -their "yes" a moving towards a sense of peace and clarity.

Perhaps, as you read this, you know what God is calling you to do. Perhaps you're still searching. But remember, God has made you for a purpose. And God will work that out, but in his own time, not yours.

With my prayers and blessing  
+ Trevor

# Where I am meant to be

Tracey Staples, Church Administrator, Exmoor explains why she feels her role is her ministry.



Tracey Staples, Church Administrator,  
Exmoor

**Why do you feel your role is your ministry?**

I feel it is where I am meant to be. It is where God has called me – it may not be what I set out to do, but it is where I am and it feels right.

The knowledge and skills that I have gained on the way seem to be what people need at the moment.

**What makes it feel like your calling?**

I was a ballet teacher but a drunk driver put paid to that by crashing into me so I retrained as a primary school teacher and started helping out in my church office when I wasn't working. After having some medical issues I moved back to mum and dad's and started helping

dad – who trained for ordination as I was training to be a teacher - with a bit of admin. It just seems I've always been pulled back to church administration.

**Did you always consider it your ministry?**

No, I became aware of it over time. As I felt I kept being called back, it came to feel it was my ministry. I took on more admin responsibilities when my dad became ill and when he died I was asked to take on the admin of eight parishes. I am now full time and look after 18 parishes in Exmoor deanery.

**Do you see other people living out their ministry when perhaps they don't?**

Absolutely, I see it in people from the organist to the person who is good at listening. We need to get over the fact that ministry is for everyone and remember we are all the body of Christ.

Read the full interview at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/my-ministry-tracey](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/my-ministry-tracey)

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**Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.