

POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

From the Rectory:

This month opens with Lent, and finds many people more than usually weighed down by a long winter, but with more than the usual privations that the season brings, and therefore, probably not enthusiastic about a few weeks of self-denial! I write this on the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. I hesitate to say, 'first anniversary', but if military observers are to be believed there may very well be several more. The human cost of the war, together with the recent devastating earthquake in Turkey/Syria is, and will continue to be severe. Away from the sharp end of these disasters the material consequences are beginning to bite, with much of the disruption and shortages we are experiencing traced back to the cost of fuel.

For all of us there are times in our lives when we- figuratively, if not actually- find ourselves 'sitting in sackcloth and ashes'. Perhaps we are regretting a course of action, or lamenting the arrival of forces that threaten to overwhelm us. Disease, war, natural disasters, material shortages and civil unrest have recently, to some extent played a part in all our lives. In such times, people of faith tend to gather and draw strength and resilience from their religious communities. And yet, even our own Church of England, in its struggle to hold together a breadth of diversity in its culture and practice seems, ironically, to be fragmenting. Our beliefs – about the nature of God, and about what it means to be human -provide the framework for faith. When foundational beliefs are questioned or subverted, there is a danger that faith can come under stress. We may feel isolated, lost and searching for firmer ground.

Belief and faith however, are not the same thing. Sunday by Sunday Christians express their belief in the words of the creed. Some may struggle with statements within it, (e.g., the virgin birth), but this need not prevent them from having a deep faith. The New Testament is full of stories of people like St Paul struggling with what was deemed essential, or secondary to Christian faith. In this sense belief and faith evolve as they inform each other. Beliefs are those things which we have come to accept as reasonably reliable. But living by faith doesn't mean we hold our beliefs uncritically. Rather, our faith is what connects our beliefs and our world view, with our actions and the way we choose to live our lives.

I have met many people who say they have lost the faith of their youth, or they have outgrown it because it seemed to be based on a naive world view. But, it could be said that they probably never grew into it in the first place. That's because faith is like a muscle, the more you exercise it, the stronger and more reliable it becomes. Faith is more like a feeling of connectedness. We cannot generate it ourselves; it is simply given to us when we recall that- wherever we are- we are not alone, we are of worth to God even if to no other, and we can trust in that relationship. As someone said, 'Your soul naturally has faith; listen to it and you will find it'. May this season of Lent give us space and time to open up that conversation.

With every blessing,

Anthony

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

3rd March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

5th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

0930 Wanstrow Holy Communion
1100 Leigh on Mendip Family Communion
1800 Stoke St Michael Evensong (*Jane Evans*)

9th March (Thursday)

1800 Wanstrow Compline & Meditation

10th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

12th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

0930 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion
1100 Witham Family Communion
1800 Stoke St Michael Soul Food

17th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

19th March - 4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday

0930 Nunney Holy Communion
1100 Stoke St Michael Family Communion
1800 Downhead Evensong

24th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

26th March - 5th Sunday of Lent

0930 Marston Holy Communion
1100 Cloford Matins (*Jonathan Cheal*)

31st March (Friday)

10.00 - Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

Services taken by Revd. Anthony Dickson unless stated otherwise.

From the Registers - February 2022

Baptisms:

5th February, Marston - Oswald, Cordelia and William Francis

25th February, Stoke - Stacey Nolan

Funerals:

14th February, Mendip Crematorium - Bessie Stevens

16th February, Witham - Memorial Service, Bessie Stevens

19th February, Nunney Village Hall - Thanksgiving Service, Trudi Iles

21st February, Cloford - burial, Frances Jean Steele

Events for your diary:

Coffee and Chat Mornings continue at Stoke St Michael from 1000-1200 each Friday. These will be weekly warm spaces.

Little Saplings Carers and Tots group in Nunney Village Hall, 0930 every Wednesday morning.

Every Tuesday 1200-1500 Nunney Warm Space. The committee room in Nunney Village Hall is open to all, to read, chat, enjoy refreshments and keep warm.

Trudoxhill Community Lunch -The next community lunch takes place at Trudoxhill Village Hall on **Wednesday 1st March at 1230**. £5,00 per person for a two course meal. All are welcome. To reserve a place please contact Lois Gumm on 07775 930160 or email meadowsidefarm@hotmail.co.uk

Life Groups – the three home groups in Witham, Nunney and Stoke St Michael continue to meet fortnightly on Mondays at 1930. All are studying a course, based on the Gospel of John, called “Lentwise - Spiritual Essentials for Real Life”. For more information please contact nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com or Justine North in Stoke St Michael.

Llangasty Retreat: 19th-21st April - this is a conversational retreat of two nights (3 days). The setting and view is of outstanding natural beauty, not least the Llangorse Lake framed by Welsh hills. Each year we have a theme which we consider in sessions as an informal group together. In 2023 we will be looking at “seasonal church occasions” (Easter, Pentecost etc). The price is £190 full board, we share transport as we can, and at this stage only a £25 deposit is requested, to “Llangasty Retreat House” sent to Martin Weymont at 33 Ludlow Close, Warminster BA12 8BJ.

Electoral Roll - if you are baptised and attend a Postlebury Church, you can join our Electoral Roll which we are updating over the next two weeks. This enables you to stand for the PCC (Parochial Church Council) of Postlebury, to be an officer of the parish, or to be a member of the Deanery Synod. It also enables you to vote for the parish officers and PCC members. If you would like to check whether you are on the Roll already please contact postleburysecretary@gmail.com and Claire will send you a form if you are not on the Roll already. Completed forms should be returned to the Rectory in Nunney or scanned and emailed to the administrator, Claire.

Congratulations to the Postlebury Bellringers who raised more than £1500 at the Burns Night event, to complete their fundraising for the Nunney Bells Augmentation project. The bells have now been taken away to the workshop for refurbishment and the clock to Timsbury Clocks for a complete overhaul. We do not have a date for completion of the project but will keep you informed.

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