

# POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

May 2023

## From the Rectory

The month of May opens with what will be, for many of us, a once-in-a-lifetime event in our national life. Although we expect it to be a more muted occasion than previous coronations, that of King Charles III and the celebrations surrounding it will be enjoyed by many who support the monarchy and still take pride in our national identity. Even so, I wonder what many of the up-coming generation will make of it. I remember speaking to a group of teenagers about the funeral of Queen Elizabeth last September, and being genuinely shocked that none of them had watched it on TV, or taken any interest in the details. 'Why?' they asked: 'we never knew her', she was 'nothing to do with us'. It is not clear how widespread that attitude might be, but certainly it's a sign of how detached this group probably felt from the Queen, and our national heritage. (Of course, they may just have been winding up the vicar!)

It is well known that adapting to recent changes in society has been an increasing concern for the monarchy, as it has been for the Anglican Church and its leaders. The two are intimately connected as Charles becomes Supreme Governor of the Church, and 'Defender of the Faith'. This role enables him to appoint ministers of the Church to high-ranking posts, on the advice of the Prime minister and the 'Lords Spiritual'- the senior Bishops.

But in an interview in 2015, the then Prince Charles defended his ideal of becoming 'Defender of Faith', not just *the* Faith. He explained that he saw his role as not defending Anglicanism to the exclusion of other religions, but including a duty to protect the free practice of 'all faiths' in this country.

And indeed, a study back in 2018 revealed that just two out of every hundred young people identify with the Church of England, and the 2021 census found that even nominal Christians – people who call themselves Christian – only make up 46 per cent of the population, compared to 59 per cent in 2011.

But the most likely threat to the sustainability of the monarchy in decades to come may not be the existence of other religions in Britain at all. More likely, it will be the general growth of unbelief in emerging generations, along with the increasing trend for academics and institutions to take a critical- if not hostile- attitude to Britain's past and its traditions.

The reign of Charles III then, 'whether it be short or long', (to quote his mother), will bring him many challenges and demands. May his faith bring him wisdom, discernment, and strength as he rises to the challenge: 'God save the King!

-Fr. Anthony

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

**5th May (Friday)**

**1000 Nunney** Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 7th May - 5th Sunday of Easter**

**0930 Wanstrow** Festival Holy Communion

**1000 Nunney** Commemoration of the Coronation – (Chris and Sally Foster)

**1100 Leigh on Mendip** Family Communion/Commemorative Service

**1800 Stoke St Michael** Evensong/Commemorative Service (*Jane Evans*)

**11th May (Thursday)**

**1800 Wanstrow** Compline & Meditation (*Malcolm Parr*)

**12th May (Friday)** There is no service on this day.

**13th May (Saturday)**

**1400 Cloford** Wedding - Benjamin Peto & Ellena Riley (*David Gatcliffe*)

**Sunday 14th May (Sunday)**

**0930 Stoke St Michael** Holy Communion (*Chris North*)

**1100 Witham Friary** Famil Communion (*Martin Weymont*)

**18th May (Thursday) - Ascension Day**

**1900 Wanstrow** Holy Communion/Sung Eucharist & Bells

**19th May (Friday)** There is no service on this day.

**Sunday 21st May - 7th Sunday of Easter**

**0930 Marston** Holy Communion (*Christopher Foster/Sally Foster*)

**1100 Stoke St Michael** Family Communion(*Christopher Foster/Sally Foster*)

**1800 Downhead** Evensong (*TBC*)

**26th May (Friday)**

**1000 Nunney** Holy Communion BCP

**Sunday 28th May - Pentecost**

**0930 Nunney** Holy Communion

**1100 Cloford** Matins (*Jonathan Cheal*)

**1100 Leigh on Mendip** Holy Communion

**1800 Stoke St Michael** Holy Communion (*Chris North TBC*)

**From the Registers**

**Baptism-** Nunney 16th April - Jack Silk

**Funeral** - Cloford 25th April - Burial of ashes- Barbara House

*Services conducted by Revd. Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated*

*Please Note: Fr. Anthony is on leave from 8th-17th May inclusive*

## Dates for Your Diary:

### **Skittles Night at The Bell Inn, Leigh on Mendip. Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 7pm**

A wonderful opportunity to strengthen the friendships and connections between our group of churches. Cost is £10, to include a cold buffet. For more information or to book your place please email or call Janet or Justine, before 20th May. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment! (Unfortunately the pub cannot accommodate under 18 year olds)

Janet Bramley- 07917 00847 [janbramley48@gmail.com](mailto:janbramley48@gmail.com)

Justine North 01749 840412 [justine.north123@gmail.com](mailto:justine.north123@gmail.com)

### **Life Groups**

The Life Groups are meeting fortnightly on Monday evenings in homes in Trudoxhill, Nunney and Stoke St Michael. They are currently following a course on the Book of Ruth, with refreshments and cakes. If you would like to know more, please email [nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com)

### **Little Saplings**

Our carers and tots group is open to anybody (including grandparents and childminders) looking after babies and pre-school children in and around Postlebury. Toys, crafts, a bible story and singing. It is from 9.30 to 11am in Nunney Village Hall during term time with coffee and biscuits and a healthy snack for the children. There is a voluntary donation of £3 per family to help cover the cost. Volunteers are also welcome. Please contact Felicity at [allsaintslittlesaplings@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintslittlesaplings@gmail.com) if you can help set up, chat to carers, or prepare the snacks on a regular or occasional basis.

### **Summer Celebration at Cloford Manor – Saturday 17th June**

A summer garden party with wine, Pimms, jazz, games and an Auction of Promises from 6-9 pm in the garden of Cloford Manor (or in the barn if the weather is poor). Tickets at £15 a head are in aid of parish funds and can be bought from churchwardens or online via Eventbrite (small additional booking fee) at:

[Cloford Manor Summer Party Tickets, Sat 17 Jun 2023 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## **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](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)

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