

## POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

June 2023

### From the Rectory:

A recent survey has found that belief in God among UK adults has fallen by more than one quarter since the 1980s. And yet belief in life after death has remained almost unchanged in those four decades. The research was conducted by King's College, London, as part of its World Values Survey exploring social, political, economic, religious, and cultural values in 90 countries.

In the UK, the views of a random sample of just over 3000 adults from across the UK were taken in 2020, and his data was measured against 24 other countries and compared with results from 1981. The findings were published last month in a report- 'Lost faith; the UK's changing attitudes towards religion.' In 1981, three-quarters of the surveyed UK adults said that they believed in God, compared with just under half (49 per cent) in 2022. Just five countries had a lower percentage of belief in God: China (17 per cent), Sweden (35 per cent), Japan (39 per cent), South Korea (41 per cent), and Norway (46 per cent). Belief in heaven among the UK adults fell over the same period, but less dramatically, from 57 per cent to 41 per cent.

The proportion of people believing in life after death has remained at about 45 per cent, actually rising to 47 per cent in the past few years. Significantly though, our cultural attachment to organised religion has continued to decline in the UK, even though belief in an after- life is holding up strong.

Reading a precis of the report, I found myself wanting to ask- 'what sort of God do people not believe in, if many still hope for an afterlife? Can 'belief' precede faith? Afterall, we trust many things in life, before we discover that they are true, and can reasonably be relied upon. Is our general mistrust in institutions like the Church confused with our 'unbelief' in God? And, if our growth as human beings is a journey, how can we reach our destination without the journeying?

Notwithstanding the situation in the UK, two reassuring conclusions were drawn by the report: firstly that, while the practice of organised religion in this country may be in decline, adherents, though fewer in number, are generally more dedicated in practice. And secondly, this international survey showed that, while religion in the West and in some countries with dictatorships was in decline, this was by no means a global phenomenon and indeed it was growing in many countries around the world.

**Fr Anthony.**

# June 2023

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

### 2nd June (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

### 3rd June (Saturday)

12.00 Wanstrom Wedding of George Rees-Darcie Marshall

### Sunday 4th June (Trinity Sunday)

09.30 Wanstrom Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh on Mendip Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong

### 8th June (Thursday)

18.00 Wanstrom Compline & Meditation

### 9th June (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

### Sunday 11th June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

11.00 Witham Holy Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Soul Food (*Chris North*)

### 16th June (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

### Sunday 18th June (2nd Sunday after Trinity)

09.30 Marston Holy Communion

11.00 Stoke St Michael Family Communion

18.00 Downhead Evensong

### 23rd June (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

### Sunday 25th June (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

09.30 Nunney Morning Worship (*Henry & Caroline Pomeroy*)

11.00 Cloford Holy Communion

### 30th June (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion (BCP)

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

## **From the Registers - May 2023**

### **Wedding:**

**13th May, Cloford: Benjamin Peto-Ellena Riley**

### **Funerals:**

**3rd May, Stoke St Michael: Silvia Cullen**

**22nd May, Mendip Crematorium: Arthur Salvidge**

**23rd May, Stoke St Michael: Kathleen Badrick**

### **Events for your diary:**

**Friday 2nd June, 1900 - Skittles Social Evening at The Bell Inn, Leigh on Mendip:** you are all invited to this lovely opportunity to meet together as churches across the group, for an evening of fun, skittles and food. 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. Limited places. Contact Janet Bramley - 07981 700847/ [janbramley48@gmail.com](mailto:janbramley48@gmail.com) or Justine North - 01749 840412/ [justine.north123@gmail.com](mailto:justine.north123@gmail.com) (NB: unfortunately the pub cannot accommodate under 18 year olds)

**Saturday 17th June, 1800-2100 - Summer Garden Party and Auction of Promises at Cloford Manor.**

Tickets are £15 per head from Eventbrite (Google Eventbrite Cloford Manor) or from churchwardens or from [nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com). All proceeds are to support the Parish of Postlebury. There will be a range of "promises" to bid for including two hours chain sawing, a lift to Bristol Airport, restoration of a piece of furniture and two nights in an apartment in Paris.

**Lay Worship Leaders Training - start date 15th June.** This is a short course, initially of three sessions, to enable Church Wardens to lead morning and evening prayer and introduce resources to facilitate worship. This is primarily for Church Wardens, but you would be interested in participating, please contact Fr Anthony.

**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)

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

