



Part of the  
Diocese of Bristol

# The By Brook News

June 2011

For news and info from across the Greater By Brook Group

## Monthly Diary

### Family Services

5th June	9:30am	Colerne
	11:00am	Castle Combe Nett/Burton (Service with a Smile)
12th June	9:30am	Biddestone, Yatton Keynell
	3:00pm	Littleton Drew (Service with a Smile)
19th June	9:30am	Yatton Keynell (Sunday Celebration)
	11:00am	West Kington

### Holy Communion (HC) Services

5th June	8:00am	Colerne
	9:30am	Biddestone, West Kington, Yatton Keynell
	11:00am	North Wraxall, Slaughterford (BCP)
12th June	9:30am	Colerne
	11:00am	Grittleton
	11:00am	Nett/Burton (Family HC)
19th June	9:30am	Biddestone
	9:30am	Colerne (Communion for All Ages)
	11:00am	Castle Combe

### Evensong

5th June	6:00pm	Biddestone, Colerne, Grittleton
12th June	6:00pm	Colerne
26th June	6:00pm	Colerne

### Other Services

2nd June	10:30am	Colerne	Ascension Day
4th June	6:00pm	Slaughterford	Taize
12th June	6:00pm	North Wraxall	TGIS
17th June	7:30pm	Nett/Burton	TGIF
19th June	6:00pm	Colerne	RAPS
24th June	7:30pm	Castle Combe	TGIF
26th June	10:00am	Colerne	Group Service
26th June	6:00pm	Biddestone	Songs of Praise On the Green

### Edward Bear

5th June	4:00pm	Village Hall, Castle Combe
6th June	10:00am	St Nicholas, Biddestone

TGIF/TGIS Thank God It's Friday/Sunday  
RAPS Rejoice And Praise Service

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**Benefice Website** www.bybrook.org

Welcome to the first edition of The By Brook News which is designed to bring together news and information from across the parishes making up the Greater By Brook Group.

I hope that this will be a useful tool for sharing information that needs to get to all of the members of the churches in the group, and news and testimony to encourage us in our faith.

The newsletter will come out monthly, and will be available in hard copy in the churches. It will also be available for download on the By Brook website.

If you would like to receive it directly into your inbox, then please email me.

Easter was really busy this year, with lots of great things happening, including Experience Easter in Yatton Keynell and Castle Combe, and the sunrise service shared with members of our Christian family from the other churches in the area.

Thank you to all who worked so hard over Easter.

Jonathan

Have you ever heard anyone say that the Bible is out of date or out of touch with reality? I was struck recently by the worship offered by the early church, and the way in which we are told that people were coming to faith in great numbers because of the witness of the local church. Check out Acts 2:41-47.

We are told regularly that the church is in decline, but there are a number of signs that this need not be the case. But I think that in order to see trends reverse, we need to see that it is not the Bible that is out of touch with reality, but perhaps rather the church which is out of touch with the Bible.

Each month, I would like to share some questions for us to think about together as a group. You might like to email me your thoughts. So, have a look at Acts 2:41-47 and see what you think.

- 1) What do you think are the main differences between the church of Acts 2, and the church we have today?
- 2) Is this picture of church possible today? If so, how might we do things differently to see it happen?

The Greater By Brook Group is also now on Facebook.

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## Services for the Group

Although we hope that people will feel able to move around to other churches, there are some services that are specifically designed for us to meet together to worship God.

The Taize service will be on Saturday 4th June at 6pm, and the theme is "Summer is here".

Our joint service for May is on 22nd May at 10am in North Wraxall, and then on 26th June at 10am in Colerne.

There will also be an Ascension Day Thursday 2nd June in Colerne at 10:30am.

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## Service with a Smile

We are about to launch a new service called "Service with a Smile" in Nettleton & Burton, and Littleton Drew.

"Service with a Smile" is designed to welcome those of all ages, for families and for those who are single as together we think about what it means to be a church family. It is an informal family service, and it would be great to see you there. Please come along and join us.

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## Churchwardens commissioned

On Wednesday 4th May our churchwardens gathered with others from across the Chippenham Deanery in Colerne, for the Bishop's Visitation.

The Visitation is where the churchwardens are admitted to office and receive the Bishop's Charge to encourage them and challenge them in their ministry alongside the Priest-in-Charge.

Thank you to all those who are serving as churchwardens this year - Tim Smith, Penny Lloyd,

Sally Constable, Doug King, Marje Caie, Merope Sylvester, Dido Lamb, Pam Rawlins, Wanda Hall, Ruth Fairbairn, Ann Godwin, Ray Barker, Gina Brierly and Caroline Cook.

Our thanks also must go to Dallas Edmonds and Anne Barnitt who this year have stood down after many years of service. Thank you for all you have done!

Please hold our churchwardens, Team Council, PCCs and ministry team in prayer.

## Spring Harvest 2012

2012 may seem a long way off, but Tracie and I have been attending Spring Harvest with church groups for a number of years, and were wondering if there would be interest here in organising a group for Spring Harvest 2012 in Minehead.

Spring Harvest is attended each year by more than 45000 people over 3 weeks in Minehead and Skegness. It is one of the most popular Christian conferences in

the UK. There is a full programme for adults, and also a special programme for children and young people.

Worship takes place in a big top led by a music group, but there is also a more reflective worship service offered each day. It should be a really good time of worship and fellowship together as a church group.

Provisional bookings are made on 15th June 2011 for next year hence the

early warning. The date we will be going is 10th-15th April.

Accommodation is self-catering chalets and half-board, with prices varying accordingly. Payment is not needed until the end of the year. If you would like to go with a group from the "Group", or would like more information please contact Revd Jonathan Philpott soon!

See also [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org)

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## Messy Church

We currently run a Messy Church Group at Nettleton & Burton, and we are also planning to start a regular group at By Brook Valley School.

Messy Church is a really valuable tool for the church but to run Messy Church properly in both places, we need some help, and this is where you come in!

You might not feel that you are any good at working with young people, but that shouldn't be a reason not to get involved. Messy Church is not just for children, but for the whole family to come together.

We need people who can run craft activities, prepare food and

refreshments, and those who can just be welcoming.

If you would like to know more about Messy Church, or would be interested in helping out, please can you contact Revd Jonathan Philpott.

See also [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

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## Open the Book

Open the Book provides a free programme of themed and dramatized Bible stories each lasting around 10 minutes which comfortably fit into a school assembly. Open the Book has been running for over 10 years now, and is widely known for being an excellent way of making the Bible known and helping it come to life for children.

It relies on teams of volunteers who are willing to use mime, drama, props, costumes - even the children and staff themselves to present Bible stories in ways that are engaging, informative and fun!

We would like to start an Open the Book Team at By Brook Valley School as part of our Group Collective Worship provision. Can you help? If you would be able to be a part of the team for this important opportunity, please contact Revd Jonathan Philpott.

See also [www.openthebook.net](http://www.openthebook.net)