



The By Brook News

July 2011

Part of the Diocese
of Bristol

For news and info from across the Greater By Brook Group

Monthly Diary

Family Services

3rd July	9:30am	Colerne, Yatton Keynell
	11:00am	Castle Combe, Nettleton/Burton (SWAS)
10th July	9:30am	Biddestone
	3:00pm	Littleton Drew (SWAS)
17th July	9:30am	Yatton Keynell (Food for Thought)

Holy Communion (HC) Services

3rd July	8:00am	Colerne
	9:30am	Biddestone, West Kington
	11:00am	North Wraxall, Slaughterford (BCP)
10th July	9:30am	Colerne, Yatton Keynell
	11:00am	Grittleton
	11:00am	Nettleton/Burton (Family HC)
17th July	9:30am	Biddestone
	9:30am	Colerne (Communion for All Ages)
	11:00am	Castle Combe, North Wraxall
31st July	9:30am	Colerne
	11:00am	Grittleton

Midweek HC at Biddestone every Wednesday at 9:15am

Evensong

3rd July	6:00pm	Biddestone, Colerne, Grittleton
10th July	6:00pm	Colerne
24th July	6:00pm	Colerne
31st July	6:00pm	Colerne

Other Services

2nd July	6:00pm	Slaughterford	Taize
10th July	6:00pm	North Wraxall	TGIS
15th July	7:30pm	Nettleton/Burton	TGIF
17th July	6:00pm	Colerne	RAPS
	6:00pm	West Kington	Sea Sunday Village Celebration
24th July	10:00am	Nettleton/Burton	Group Service
29th July	7:30pm	Castle Combe	TGIF
31st July	9:30am	Biddestone	Songs of Praise
	9:30am	North Wraxall	Big Breakfast

Edward Bear

1st July	10:00am	St Nicholas, Biddestone
7th July	4:00pm	Village Hall, Castle Combe

Parent and Toddler group at St Mary's, Nettleton & Burton every Wednesday 10:30am-12noon.

TGIF/TGIS	Thank God It's Friday/Sunday
RAPS	Rejoice And Praise Service
SWAS	Service With a Smile

What is a benefice?

One of the questions that I regularly get asked is what a "benefice" is. So, here is my attempt to explain it because it is helpful in understanding how and why things are arranged as they are here. A benefice is the name given to a group of churches in the care of a shared incumbent (me) that work together.

There are frustrations about being a part of a benefice in that parishes see the clergy less than they might if there was 1 per parish. But in many places being a part of a benefice enables smaller churches to stay open and viable. It means that by working together we can provide a far greater level of ministry. By working together there is less of a financial burden on any one parish. By working together we can spread the workload so that each one of us can enjoy the part that we play as members of our local church, and as part of the wider church family.

In the group (made up currently of 2 benefices) here, there are many opportunities for us creatively to make the most of the support and encouragement that can be found in knowing that we are not alone with unique difficulties. Seeing the benefit of working together is the best way forward as we seek to see growth here.

Reading God's word together

I've been thinking recently about Bible study, and its importance for us as a church. It's good to come together to study God's word, and to see what it is saying to us today. But it's also good for us to spend time doing that ourselves. Over the next few months, I would like us to have a look at the book of James in the By Brook News, to see what it might be saying to us as a group of churches.

This month, I would like to encourage you to read James chapter 1 which talks about faith and endurance, and also about finding the balance between listening and doing. As you read the passage, I would like you to ask 3 questions:

- 1) What does this tell us about God?
- 2) What does this say to us personally?
- 3) What does this say to us as a group of churches?

I would love to hear your thoughts if you would like to send them through either by email, phone or letter. I hope that we might be able to share some of our insights together so that we can grow together more by listening to what God is saying to us, and then allowing that to shape how we do things in the future.

Contact details Benefice Office (open Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am-12noon)
Revd Jonathan Philpott (Priest-in-Charge)

bybrook.parishoffice@btinternet.com 01249 716764
bybrook.rectory@gmail.com 01249 782663

Website www.bybrook.org

The Greater By Brook Group is also now on Facebook.

Prayer Matters.....

Prayer is at the heart of a relationship with God; as we communicate with Him we express and experience the reality of God in our lives.

Jesus prayed and tells us to do the same. The promise of Jesus is that when we meet with each other he will also meet with us. It is important for us to join together and pray for the work that God is doing through us as the Greater By Brook Group and for our churches, friends, neighbours, country and the wider world.

We pray together weekly in our churches and individually through the week but we would like to increase our opportunity to meet and pray together. In light of this, we are going to be hosting Morning Prayer (with coffee and croissants) on the 2nd Friday of every month, starting on **Friday 8th July at 9am at The Rectory, 3 Church Farm, Yatton Keynell.**

All welcome— including children!

Please take some time out and come and join us.

- Please remember to pray for **Brian Matthews** as he returns to East Timor to continue working for World Vision's sanitation project.
- Pray for these couples as they prepare for their marriage this July: **Natasha Soudoyer and Anthony Monahan; Christopher Lloyd and Lisa Tucker; Sonia Clarke and Nicholas Gapper; Gordon Hood and Gemma Spencer; Jonathan Bruce and Lessia Edwards; Leslie Albe and Ben Field; Katie King and Andrew Price; Caroline Hall and Russell Wigley; Edward Minty and Charlotte Smith**
- Please pray for **Diane Ross-Smith** as she continues the Exploring Christianity Course in preparation for licensing as a Lay Minister. Also, for **Gillian Parkin** as she finishes the 1st year of 3 of ordination training.
- Pray for those children and young people who face major changes this summer as they move to senior school, university and employment.

"They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together" Acts 2:42

Messy Church and Open the Book

We still need volunteers to help with a Messy Church Group and Open the Book at By Brook Valley School.

Messy Church is a really valuable tool for the church to reach out to families with the good news of Jesus.

We need people who can run craft activities, prepare food and refreshments, and those who can just be welcoming. Messy church will run on a Saturday morning once a month.

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. 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.

It is all scripted and very simple so you don't need to be a RADA graduate or even have any experience - just a passion to see every child hear the story

of the Bible in their primary school years.

If you would like to know more about Messy Church or Open the Book, or would be interested in helping out, please can you contact Rev Jonathan Philpott:

Email: bybrook.rectory@gmail.com

Phone: 01249 782663

See also

www.messychurch.org.uk

www.openthebook.net

Confirmation

There is a Deanery confirmation service planned for Sunday 6th November at Marshfield Church. If you are interested in being confirmed or want to find out more, please contact Rev Jonathan Philpott for details.



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 for us to meet together to worship God.

Our next Taize service will be on Saturday 2nd July at 6pm, and the theme is "Strawberries & Cream - True Riches in God".

Our group service for July is on 24th July at 10am in Nettleton & Burton.

There is a midweek Communion service at 9:15am every Wednesday at Biddestone.

New website.....

Alistair Caie has been working hard to produce a new benefice website. We hope it will be up and running soon and will be a useful resource for obtaining information about the group, up and coming events, contact information and much more.

Please watch this space for more information about this in the very near future

