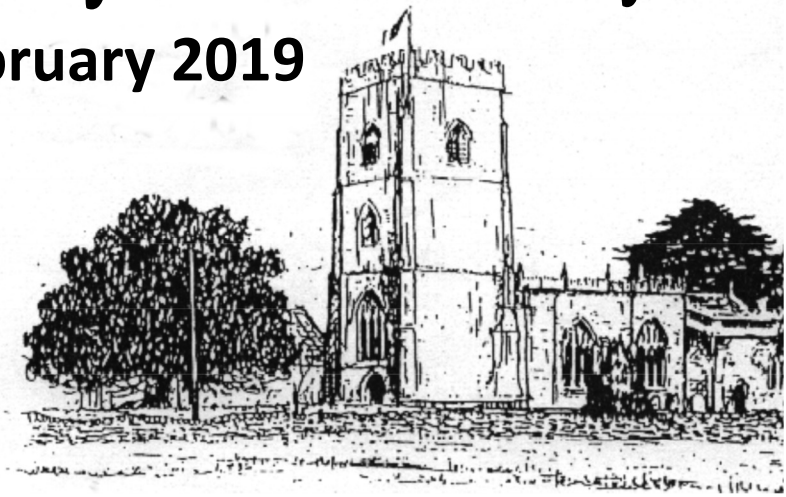
The Parish Churches of

Rodney Stoke and Draycott

February 2019



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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

So what does the Church of England ever do for us?

It was only in this year's run up to Christmas that the C of E, for the first time ever, published details of the extent of its service to communities in England.

The results show that over 80% of its 16,000 congregations are actively involved in running and supporting more than 33,000 social action projects. These help support some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

The headline figures speak for themselves:

- 60% of congregations actively support and/or accommodate food banks
- 32% run or provide accommodation for parent and toddler groups
- 26% are actively involved in lunch clubs
- 22% run, accommodate or otherwise support community cafes
- 17% host or run holiday clubs and breakfast clubs.

It is not just the bigger churches in the larger communities or high profile flagship projects either. The smaller congregations like Draycott and Rodney Stoke do their bit too – often with the great benefit of a more intimate and detailed knowledge of the specific needs within their communities.

Justin Welby summed up the picture saying:

'From food banks to debt counselling and lunch clubs to language classes, these figures spell out for the first time the sheer scale and range of our churches' commitment to their communities. We are doing more to love and help people in need than at any time since 1945'.

Rob Walker

Pastoral Letter to the Benefice from Hilary Thomas

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, the "Beast from the East" may have come and gone, Brexit may be a step or two nearer and 2019 will certainly be a reality!

The words of our Archbishop Justin Welby in his New Year television broadcast are ringing in my ears about **living with hope** as we live in an increasingly diverse community, mirrored in the community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace, where the young people are from such diverse cultures and nationalities. The Archbishop spoke about "*learning to disagree well.*" I think this is important for us, as we, in the churches of our Benefice, like the young people of the St Anselm community, seek to grow in our friendship with Jesus Christ and with one another. We come from different backgrounds and have differing experiences of life. Some are newcomers, others have always been local. May we, as we worship and live together always encourage and support one another, pray and care for each other and for the wider community and world.

I would like to bring to your attention the work of SAT-7 the Christian Satellite Television Company, run by Middle Easterners for Middle Easterners. On **Sunday 3rd February at 10 am in St Andrew's** Cheddar, Chris and Paddy Miles, Regional Ambassadors for Sat-7, will be updating us on the work of SAT –7. It is an opportunity for us to learn more about Middle Eastern Christians, to pray for them and to be encouraged as we hear of them living out their faith in amazingly tough situations.

My prayer for us as 2019 finds us in sorrow or in joy is the last verse of Psalm33:

*Let your **unfailing love** surround us, for **our hope** is in you alone.*

Hilary Thomas

Letter from The Right Reverend Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

The joy of a return

Ghana is making 2019 'The Year of Return' to mark over 400 years of the slave trade. Akwasi Agyeman, who is heading up this year of celebration of the resilience of the African spirit, said:

'We will celebrate the resilience of the African. Like Joseph in the Bible who was sold to slavery and later connected to his brothers, there was a celebration and in 2019 there shall be a celebration for 'Africans in Diaspora'.

I wonder how we might make 2019 'a year of return'. I don't mean as a return to things past because we mourn a past glory. I'm thinking of the story of Joseph. Joseph was separated from family because his family was jealous of him. His brothers sold him into slavery, out of sight, out of mind. It's when they had need of food that they inadvertently came across Joseph again, this time he held their fates in his hands. It would have been so easy for Joseph to seek to get his own back on his brothers. In fact he does play a trick on them. However when all is revealed we find many tears shed and reconciliation is achieved.

I wonder how many families in our communities have faced such a fracture in relationships?

Rembrandt's famous painting, 'The Return of the Prodigal' is one of those iconic pictures which draws us into experiencing the depth of feeling the parable speaks of. The embrace of the father to the kneeling son shows us not only the emotion of a family relationship restored but that of God's love for us, his wandering people. Many of us have personal experience of discovering the love of the Father for us, his children. Perhaps this year we could pass on that story to others and help them to find the joy and celebration of a return to the Father who gave everything in order to release them from the slavery of sin.

Let's make this not just 'a year of return' but rather a lifetime!

Ruth Worsley

Benefice Events and Notices

Invitation to S.A.L.T.(St Andrew's at Lunch Time)

When we started S.A.L.T. a year ago we had in mind people who had been bereaved, who might like to come and have a bowl of soup and roll and chat.

As time has gone on, S.A.L.T. has become a meeting place for all sorts of people- those living alone, those who are not alone, but who would like to come and meet others.

We meet in Cheddar Village Hall (opposite St Andrew's Church), usually on the 4th Monday of each month. Home-made soup is served at 12.30, after a short reflection. There is plenty of chat over the meal, which ends with tea/coffee and a cake.

Please do come and join us.

Our next meetings are 28 January, 25 February, 25 March. *Hilary Thomas*

All Children with Carers Welcome

There will be another 7 Messy Church sessions this year. The dates will be:

16 March	**4 May**	**8 June**
13 July	**7 Sept**	**19 Oct**
	1 Dec	

Benefice Lent Groups

This year the Benefice Lent Groups will start week beginning Monday 11 March and run for 6 weeks finishing week beginning Monday 15 April. The course this year is based on "The Prodigal God" by Timothy Keller, pastor of a New York Church and author of several books. Keller argues that the parable of the prodigal son, though the best-known of Jesus' parables, is also the least understood. The book looks at various characters in the story, not just the wayward son, but also the judgemental older brother and loving father. The cost of the book is approximately £6.00 and payment will be collected on delivery. It is also available on Kindle.

Sheets for signing up to join a course and order a book will be placed in each of the Benefice Churches during February. Further information regarding a Plenary meeting at the end of the course will be given out in the March magazine.

For further information please call 01934 742091 or e-mail pearsonm7014@gmail.com

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BS6 5NT

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Christmas Thank You!

Dear Friends

Thank you all for your delivery of food and Christmas gifts in response to our 2018 Christmas Appeal. We are so grateful for your continued generosity and encouragement. Your contribution has helped to make Christmas more special for the individuals and families that depend so much on the support we give them. We distributed our Christmas bags during the week of 17 December.

A reminder that with the colder winter nights, we do still welcome bedding in good clean condition, but that we can't accept clothing items.

After our Christmas and New Year closure, we will re-open again in mid January.

On behalf of those we support, thank you once again for your wonderful generosity – it is greatly appreciated.

Sister Rosina CSC Sister Teresa Mary CSC

Thanks to the generosity of the folk at St Peter's church, and friends, I was able to take a car-full of food and presents to Ashley Road at the start of December- including a lot of warm hats, socks and gloves, about 40 jars of instant coffee, and boxes and boxes of special Christmas food. We were also able to make a cash donation of £60.

Thank you so much for continuing to support the Sisters of the Church through St Peter's at Draycott! *Chris Green*

Cat Conversation

I recently had a serious conversation with our cat Rupert, who is one of the most intelligent cats we have ever had. His theology is quite acute, as he reminded me that many Christians relate most readily to one of the three Persons of the Trinity, but not so easily to all three, and people differ. Pentecostalists stress the Holy Spirit, Evangelicals stress Jesus; but, he observed, Christian prayer does not pay so much attention to God the Creator.

But look at cats, he said – we sit and look calmly out at natural world with a sense of awe and wonder. We don't have to do anything. We are just grateful and perhaps energised to do a bit more mousing.

I said that I took his point, but was not too sure about the mousing bit. But, he said, feral cats need to eat something. I refrained from saying that he was far from being a feral cat.

So he left me pondering whether although Christians may glance out of the window and admire the trees and the sunshine, we miss out a great deal of the reality of God's world if we don't follow Rupert and his friends and just sit and BE and be open to the sheer wonder of Creation.

Try setting a kitchen timer for, say, ten minutes (you can always increase the time later) and just gently let go of the thoughts which will keep coming, and come back to that awareness of God's Creation surrounding you. I believe this will empower the Holy Spirit, who dwells within you and in all Creation (including cats).

Gordon Jeff

Music Matters
Candles and Soap

Musicians love anniversaries. They can often be a useful peg on which to hang choices of repertoire and programmes - and 2019 is no exception.

As I write this (2nd January) the strains of the last Christmas carols have died away, but maybe not the memory of them, especially since they were highlighted in HM The Queen's Christmas Day speech, opening with a choir singing the National Anthem, and her first words "For many, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College. Cambridge is when Christmas begins…"

The 2018 radio and television broadcasts from Cambridge may now be distant memories, but there is one associated anniversary that will be remembered there and also by musicians around the world – it was one hundred years ago, in 1919, that David Willcocks (later Sir David) was born. Director of Music at King's College Chapel from 1957 to 1974, he had an enormous influence in shaping the sound of what is still the world's best-known church choir, and in addition, in 1961, he brought carols in print to singers old and young around the world with the first volume of *Carols for Choirs*, selling over 1 million copies. Still available, it remains the best-selling carol book of all time.

And Epiphany also marks another anniversary, but this time with a more local connection, albeit from 160 years ago.

It's January 1859, and 22 year old William Chatterton Dix is working as a clerk at his grandfather's soap and candle-making business in Bristol. William was a member of the congregation at the now demolished St. Raphael's church in Bedminster, and there he contributed a hymn for a new book being prepared by the parish priest. That hymn was *As with gladness, men of old*… Little did he know that years later it would be included in virtually every hymnbook ever published, making it the best-known of all the Epiphany hymns.

It was while he was staying in Cheddar that William passed away, and his gravestone can still be seen in St. Andrew's churchyard. *Barry Rose*

Bishop Peter who is the Vice President of Somerset Community Foundation and Patron of Age UK says, “Please think carefully about whether you need your Government Winter Fuel Payment this year. During the cold winter months many older people in Somerset are faced with a tough choice: fuel or food. Around one in eight Somerset households live in fuel poverty and on average there are 440 excess winter deaths in the county each year. A Surviving Winter Grant could prevent them having to decide between heating their home or being able to afford a decent meal. So please consider donating to this year’s Surviving Winter appeal if you can. Thank you so much.”

Research by Age UK has revealed that some 2.4 million households and 1.14 million older people in England are living in fuel poverty and that, most shameful of all, there were 31,000 ‘excess winter deaths’ last winter (2017-18). Most of these deaths occurred in people aged over 75, the causes being relentlessly rising energy prices, leaky energy inefficient housing and low incomes. The adverse health effects of living in a cold home are well-established, ranging from cardiovascular and respiratory problems to depression, at an estimated cost to the NHS of £1.36 billion a year.

For more information about the Surviving Winter appeal please visit https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter and do remember to Gift Aid any donation to an appropriate charity so it can be topped up by the tax man.

Surviving Winter

Christmas Organ Fund Concert

LOTS OF LOVELY SEASONAL MUSIC
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FRIDAY, 28th DECEMBER at 7.00 pm

THE ROSES'
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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DON'T MISS IT !

Tickets £10.00 (children 14 and under free) available from Draycott Post Office as from 1st December, or 01934 744838

All proceeds to the church's organ fund.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmastide concert at St Peter's on 28 December.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that £1,000.00 was raised that evening for the organ fund!

Barry and Nicola Rose

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Parish Portrait No. 45 Brian Hooper

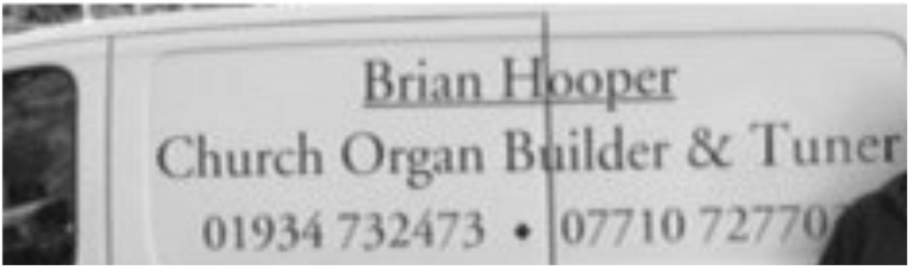
It is a very great pleasure just to sit and listen to Brian's wealth of stories, but less easy to write a short piece about him! It is certainly impossible to do justice to his knowledge and experience not to mention his evergreen and truly youthful enthusiasm. What really comes over is his great passion for his work, as well as his pride and pleasure in the dedication and talent of his young associate, Liam Davies.

Brian is from Taunton and curiosity about the working of the church organ as a chorister led to six years as an apprentice at George Osmond and Co, organ builders followed by one year as an Improver. He can recall in some detail his first day at work when he made a part that was then used in the re-building of the organ at St Leonard's Exeter. It was not however until he was 64 that Brian became a full time organ builder after he retired from the railways where he was a Signal Engineer, a career he had taken up after 15 years in the Metropolitan Police. Organ building he regards as his first love and his intention to return to it on retirement was kept alive all those years by involvement with organ building and church music, including as a member of the Bristol Cathedral Special Choir and later singing in Winscombe parish church. Before he retired from the railways fourteen years ago, he sorted out his local church organ which became unplayable after being cooked when the heating was left on; he also looked after the organs of two nearby churches and saw that there was an opening for him.

There is a connection between mechanical signalling and the working of an organ, and many organ builders are interested in railways. Brian has been a volunteer with West Somerset Railway for 40 years.

About 5 years ago when Brian was restoring the organ in Blackford Church, Liam Davies requested to come and watch. He had been playing the organ since he was four and Brian realised he had a talent that had to be nurtured. Although Liam had no organ building experience, he wanted not just to learn to do things but to find out the how and why. Liam's talent is as a tuner who has a true vocation. Brian hopes that Liam will take over from him eventually, although he has no plans to retire just yet! He and Liam look after over 250 organs, mostly in Somerset but some in Devon and South Wales.

The organ building industry Brian believes is quite healthy. There are a number of firms in this country building organs overseas. Nicholson & Co. of Worcester built a new organ in 2017 for the Cathedral in Auckland, New



Zealand. There are many organ builders who are known as “outside men” who work alone or sometimes as a pair and may cooperate with others when the need arises. The complexity of the work is the tonal design and Brian is not proficient in that. He and Liam work at times with Lance Foy, his wife Julie and their son Chris who look after the organ at Truro Cathedral; they can share their ideas and knowledge. The profession is still male-dominated but women are becoming involved and Julie Foy is “at the top of her game”.

Brain has an intimate knowledge of the organs he has restored and can discuss their idiosyncrasies. Some Victorian organs he would describe as “mud machines” which sound very dour, but can be brightened up, although that is not always wanted!

As many will know Brian and Liam have recently been restoring the organ at St Peter’s. It is a challenging organ with variable behaviour! The Rodney Stoke organ is unusual as it is sideways on with the front pipes facing the vestry, although built in a more traditional way than the one at Draycott.

His interest in organs and his skills have brought him into contact with organs, organists and others in the field. He has an amazing memory for the different personalities he has encountered and stressed the importance of diplomacy when trying to reconcile aesthetic preferences with the technical limitations of particular instruments. He has a very special regard for Ian Tracey, Organist Titulaire at Liverpool’s Anglican Cathedral with whom Brian has had a long association. He was deeply touched when Professor Tracey gave a recital in Winscombe church which he dedicated to Brian’s eldest son who died 4 years ago. When Liam asked to play at Chester Cathedral but was rebuffed, he went to Liverpool where Ian let him sit beside him at Evensong and then allowed him after the service to play this magnificent organ which is the largest pipe organ in the UK and the fifth largest in the world.

In the near future we will need to interview Liam Davies to gain an insight into the other half of what is obviously a very formidable partnership. *SMW*

Contactless at…….. Rodney Stoke?

As regular readers already know, certain elements within the C of E seem to be fixated on smart phone-type communications and wireless connectivity.

So, it was no surprise to find an article in the Diocese's Connect Newsletter headed 'Christmas is ……. Contactless'. Cash is going out of fashion it seems and it is increasingly important for parishes to look at modern ways of capturing donations. Our tattered tapestry pockets and battered brass plates no longer cut the mustard – particularly when contactless card readers are available for as little as £19 each and are so easy to link to the ubiquitous smart phone. Presumably at St Leonard's it all takes place on the top of the tower because elsewhere mobile coverage is simply not 'ok to go'.

In our part of the world, we are still in the stone age when it comes to accessing this generation of technology (along with much of the rest on the non-metropolitan parts of the UK). In the remoter areas of sub-Saharan Africa our mobile phone coverage would simply be deemed unfit for purpose. And despite the reassurances of our MP, this is not going to change anytime soon either – judging by the antics along the A371 this winter.

There are also the practicalities. How would it work in the setting of say the St Leonard's Carols by Candlelight Service? Under 'laboratory conditions' I would guess it takes at best 10 seconds to complete a simple contactless transaction. Translate that into St Leonard's Carols on Christmas Eve when the church is full to bursting and we would easily need 15 minutes to pass the contactless plate. Are there really any hymns that long? Even 'O come all ye faithful' could start to wear a little bit thin!

Rob Walker

St Peter's Winter Warmer Curry Night

SOSP invite you to join us at **The Strawberry Special**

on **Friday 22 February** at **7.30pm for 8pm**

for another **Curry Night**

tickets £12.50 (to include meat or vegetable curry & a pudding)

from **The Strawberry Special,**

Draycott Post Office or Thea Oliver 01934 744739

Please also contact Thea if you can offer to make a pudding...

Thank you

SOSP (supporters of St Peter's**) invite anyone & everyone** no matter who you are to join us on

The First Saturday of every Month

from 10.30am to 12 noon for coffee/tea of cold drink with cake/biscuits to just get together and "put the world to rights" or just chat, or even just to enjoy a "companionable silence"!

Please feel free to just drop in & try it out. Don't worry if you have difficulty getting to St Peter's: we can pick you up so if you would like a lift just contact one of us:

Thea 744739, Karen 01749 870067, Janette 744945.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there....

Rodney Stoke — What is on

For your diaries

"MUSIC OF MYSTERY, MEDITATION AND MAJESTY"

St Leonard's Rodney Stoke

7.30 pm SATURDAY 23 MARCH

A very special concert is being planned with the celebrated Cantiamo singers and other performers.

The programme will include music for the season of Lent and perhaps a look forward to the joyful approach of Easter. It will feature flute, organ and other solos.

Full details will appear in next month's magazine.

FOSL Annual Pancake Races

2.30 pm Sunday 24 February
In Millway Rodney Stoke
Children's, Men's and Women's races
Hot Pancakes and refreshments available
For more information please contact Steve Percival, Brangay Farm.
Telephone 01749 870530
All competitors must bring their own frying pans!!!

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Don's Poem and Mary's Recipe

The Old Year

The Old Year's gone away
To nothingness and night:
We cannot find him all the day
Nor hear him in the night:
He left no footstep, mark or place
In either shade or sun:
The last year he'd a neighbour's face,
In this he's known by none.

All nothing everywhere:
Mists we on mornings see
Have more of substance when they're here
And more of form than he.
He was a friend by every fire,
In every cot and hall--
A guest to every heart's desire,
And now he's nought at all.

Old papers thrown away,
Old garments cast aside,
The talk of yesterday,
Are things identified;
But time once torn away
No voices can recall:
The eve of New Year's Day
Left the Old Year lost to all. *John Clare (1793–1864)*

150g plain flour
1/2tsp baking powder
200ml milk
2 eggs separated
2tbsp melted butter
200g canned sweetcorn
2tbsp chopped chives plus extra for sprinkling
Oil for frying
Salt & pepper

Sweetcorn & Chive Fritters

1. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt & pepper to taste into a mixing bowl. Add the milk, egg yolks & butter & whisk to a smooth batter. Stir in the sweetcorn & chives.
2. Put the egg whites into a separate grease-free bowl & whisk until they hold soft peaks. Fold tightly & evenly into the batter.
3. Pour a shallow depth of oil into a large frying plan & heat until hot. Drop large spoonfuls of batter into the pan & cook for 3-4 mins turning once until golden brown. Cook in batches, keeping the cooked fritters warm, until you have made 16 fritters, draining on absorbent kitchen paper.
4. Serve hot sprinkled with chives.

Services February 2019			
	Cheddar	**Draycott**	**Rodney Stoke**
3rd February	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
Candlemas	10am Morning Prayer		
10th February	10am Parish Communion	9.30am Worship followed	8am BCP Communion
4th Before Lent		with coffee and discussion	
17th February	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Parish Communion
3rd Before Lent	9am Breakfast Service		
24th February	8am BCP Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Mattins
2nd Before Lent	9am Parish Communion		

Readings February 2019			
	Psalm	**First Reading**	**Second Reading**
3rd February	24:	Malachi 3:	Luke 2:
Candlemas	7-end	1-5	22-40
Page			790
10th February	138	Isaiah 6:	Luke 5:
4th Before Lent		1-8	1-11
Page	793	791	795
17th February	1	Jeremiah 17:	Luke 6:
3rd Before Lent		5-10	17-26
Page	796	796	798
24th February	65	Genesis 2:	Luke 8:
2nd Before Lent		4*b*-9, 15-end	22-25
Page	808	807	810

Regular Weekly Events	
9.30am	Line Dancing, Cheddar Village Hall
10.30am	Absolute Beginners Line Dancing, Cheddar Village Hall
8pm	Bell ringing, Cheddar
7.30pm	St Peter's Choir Practice, Draycott
9.15am	Draycott & Rodney Stoke First School Service in Church (term time only)
10am	Holy Communion, Cheddar (except 2nd Weds at 11.30)
10am-12pm	Strawberry Tots, Draycott Memorial Hall
9am	LMG Morning Prayer – see Pew Notes for venue
7.30pm	Bell ringing, Rodney Stoke
10-11.30am	St Andrew's Toddlers, up to School Age, Cheddar Village Hall (term time only)
6.15pm	St Andrew's Choir practice
9.30am	Morning Prayer, Cheddar
10 – 11.30am	Rector usually available for drop-ins in the Den (please make appointments for certainty)
	*Except the first Saturday in each month, when he will be available at St Peter's

February 2019 Diary			
Sat 2	10.30am	SOSP Coffee & Cake	St Peter's
	2pm	Deanery Synod	Venue TBC
Tue 5	10.30am	Greenhill Communion	Cheddar
	2.15pm	Mothers Union Wave of Prayer	Cheddar
Thurs 7	12.30pm	Lunch Club	Riverside Inn, Cheddar
Tue 12	2pm	The Laurels Communion	Draycott
	2.15pm	Friends of St Andrew's CommitteeMeeting	Den
Wed 13	11.30am	Mother's Union Communion	St Andrew's
Thur 14	9.30am	Bristol Bus	Cheddar
Wed 20	11am	Court House Communion	Cheddar
Thurs 21	2.30pm	The Homestead Communion	Cheddar
Sun 24	2.30pm	FOSL Pancake Races	Millway
Wed 27	7.45pm	St Peter's PCC	

Home Communion

It is one of the great privileges in ministry to be able to bring communion to the elderly and housebound or those who are temporarily unable to get to church due to injury – do let us know if you, or someone you know, would appreciate this aspect of the Church's care.

Rotas February 2019

DRAYCOTT					
	3	10	17	24	Mar 3
Sidesman	L Whittle	G Jeff	C Jeff	C Jeff	L Whittle
Intercessor	G Jeff	A Jeffries	C Green	G Jeff	R Dingley
Organist	D Cheetham	I Ames-White	D Cheetham	B Rose	TBA
Readers	C Jeff	G Dury	C Jeff	G Dury	T Lumley
	L Whittle	A Jeffries	C Green	G Jeff	L Whittle
Coffee	S Burns	C Jeff	P Mullay	F Irving	S Burns
			C Fulton		
Cleaning		C Jeff	H Robinson		
		P Mullay			
Flowers	E Rose	E Rose	G Dury	G Dury	TBA
RODNEY STOKE					
Sidesman	A Percival	S Percival	A Newman	T Symes	S Walker
Organist	Joanne	Joanne	Michael	Barry	Joanne
Reader 1	J Turner	S Percival	I Turner	A Percival	H Neave
Reader 2	H Neave	J Symes	A Newman	J Turner	A Newman
Cleaning	I Sealey		L Moore		R Mann
			H Neave		
Flowers A	L Davey	D Johnson	D Johnson	V Andrews	V Andrews
Flowers P	M James	I Sealey	I Sealey	H Neave	H Neave

Help Wanted

Church cleaners for St Leonard's

Rota: 3-4 times a year

More details: call Alan Newman 01749 870002

Apologies for the non-appearance or our regular 'From the Registers' item. This is another unforeseen victim of the uncertainties arising from the implementation of the Government's GDPR regulations. Hopefully common sense will prevail at some point in the future.

Free Tuesday morning 1000 -1130?

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RECTOR Stuart Burns

Email stuart.burns01@gmail.com

Home phone 01934 743649

Please note: Stuart's home tel number has a call-screening facility to stop nuisance calls; the system asks you to say your name and then press # and wait briefly ; Stuart then hears who it is and allows the call which adds your name so that next time you will go straight through; please bear with this; once added the first time you won't have to be 'processed' again! There is also an answering machine on this number.

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Cheddar Village Hall Bookings: Richard Scourse enquiries@cheddarvillagehall.org.uk

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