

Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome

Diocese of Bath and Wells



***News and Views
February and March
2025***

£1

Vicar: Rev'd Liz Dudley 01373 473249
www.christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk

**Christ Church
Church Wardens**

Peter John 01373 461025

Alan Burgess

St Mary's

Diane Ellis

Len Taylor

01373 451696

07536 994153

PCC Treasurer

Richard Pinnock 07946 614464

Glen Schild

01373 800009

PCC Secretary: Vacant

Parish Administrator: admin@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk

Catherine Brown 07808 987755

The Parish Office is now be located at
St John's Parish Office, The Cottage, 1 Church Steps,
FROME, BA11 1PL

and the times of opening will be 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Tuesday and Thursday

Tel: 07557 751 795

Hall Bookings: Parish Administrator

Safeguarding Officer

Dr Sarah Eyles 01373 228314

Director of Music

Ann Burgess 01373 472270

Magazine Editorial Team

email: Magazine@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk

Frome Deanery Pioneer Missioners

Andrew Alden: fromepioneers@gmail.com

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Dean's letter

Someone once asked the great Anglican monastic theologian Herbert Kelly this question: 'How do we know what the will of God is?' to which he famously answered, 'We don't. That's the joke.'

Kelly is right: we can't know precisely what God's will is in a certain situation. But we can open up opportunities for God to 'come through' our actions, and building community is a key way of doing this. In any situation we can try and tune our lives a bit more to God. And across our diocese our commitment to our communities is key to this.

So, when we meet people, a simple smile shows the person before us we see them as a friend. This is not to suggest ignorance or naivety. We are not unaware of the limitations and imperfections of a person, but we are prepared to focus more deeply, to the depths of the heart in each person. To seek out the goodness that only love and trust can bring to birth.

As a Cistercian writer recently put it: 'Let us welcome each person as Christ, because in all truth it is Christ whom we welcome. 'You did this to me' (Matthew 25). Let us look for the beloved face of Christ in each person, for each is his true face.'

But why start our focus on community, with those around us, and not God? Good question. Perhaps it is best explained by a lovely saying from the Desert Father, John the Dwarf: 'You don't build a house by starting with the roof and working down. You start with the foundation.'

They said, 'What does that mean?'

He said, 'The foundation is our neighbour whom we must win. The neighbour is where we start. Every commandment of Christ depends on this.'

Toby Wright—Dean of Wells

Pastoral Letter.

It might be cold and grey outside but as I look out of the window, there is the faintest shimmer of purple across the front lawn as the wild crocuses begin to make their presence felt. Before long the lawn will be a carpet of purple so beautiful that people walking up Weymouth Road stop to look over the wall on their way past.

Signs of Spring are everywhere.. from catkins, to snowdrops, daffodils and the occasional blue sky. All promises of longer days and kinder weather. And I wonder if we, as Christians should be brushing up on our 'signs of hope' spotting skills?

With so much 'bad news' in and around us, news that perhaps makes us want to switch off, close the door to the world, or conversely rage at the injustices of this world... maybe slowing down, breathing deeply and looking for signs of hope in the places we go, the conversations we have and things that bring us moments of joy, however brief.

And then to share them... to spread them and to tell others.

Just like my crocuses.. its so easy to miss them... but now I know they are there, I keep looking.. sometimes going outside specially! Likewise having a low wall enables other to share the beauty and find the joy. So as we journey into Spring, may your colours be vibrant and your walls low so that anyone passing by your life may glimpse something of the beauty and wonder of God's glory shining in your lives, and find in that hope in their own.

Revd Liz

Electoral Roll

Every six years, each of our churches are required to completely renew our electoral rolls. These are the lists of people who are entitled to vote in the elections for PCC members. This might not seem overly important to you, but being on the electoral roll of your church is a real sign of commitment.. of putting up your hand and saying 'this is my church and I care about what happens here'. It is also an enormous encouragement to your vicar to be able to feel that there are people who care and to be able to show that the church is alive.

There will be forms in each church from the beginning of Feb for you to fill in.

To be on the electoral roll you need to be baptised, over 16, resident in the parish or habitually attend worship in each church.

If you would like to have a form emailed/delivered to you at home, please contact admin@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk

Lent

Lent is just around the corner, beginning on Ash Wednesday which is March 5th. There will a service at St. Mary's at 10am and a service at Christ Church at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along.

During Lent Revd Liz will be reading a book (she hasn't decided which one yet) and there is an invitation to gather to discuss it, reflect on it and pray together.

The following dates are possible.. Mondays (starting March 10th) 12.30pm or Wednesdays (starting Wed March 12th) at 7pm. Venues and material tbc.

If you are interested in knowing more, please ask Revd Liz and details will be on the pew sheets.

It was really wonderful to welcome +Michael to the benefice at the beginning of January. He led the service at Christ Church and then the following day he spent time in meeting people and getting a really good idea of what it is like to be our church here in Frome.

It was really encouraging to be able to share with him the wonderful things that are happening and to see where possibilities are for the future.

Thank you to everyone who gave time, hospitality, prayer and their thoughts!





Frome Deanery Childrens & Youth Work - 0 to 19s

Are you involved or interested in
childrens, families or youth ministry?
Do you want to see Jesus change the
lives of our young people across
Frome Deanery?

Join us as we dream and plan how
our churches might work together
to impact 0-19s in our communities

7 for 7.30pm Wednesday 12 February
Holy Trinity Church Frome BA11 3DE

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IF you have any contributions for the Magazine, articles,  
hobbies, celebrations, wanting to say thank you to anyone  
please send it to [magazine@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk](mailto:magazine@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk)



# Recipe

## Mustard Sauce

This was known as Grannie's Special Mustard Sauce by the girls, not my sauce but my Mums.

It is really simple and is good with Gammon, baked ham, sausages, etc. it keeps well in the fridge for a few days in a lidded jar. I have never tried to reheat it but it is good cold as well and I have yet to try freezing it.

### Mustard Sauce

1 egg

2fl ozs water (last time I used the apple juice I had cooked the ham in the slow cooker as an experiment and it was very good!

2fl ozs vinegar, any sort you fancy

2 tablespoons sugar

1 tablespoon dry mustard

1/2 oz butter or spread

Salt to taste

Put everything in a small saucepan and blend with a stick blender, or liquidise, or whisk briskly, till smooth but I find the blender works best.

Cook gently stirring till thick and smooth.

Done! Simplest yet I think and I hope you enjoy.



**Jane Mitchell**

## Service pattern for Christchurch and St Mary's



|                        |       |                                                                 |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Each Month             |       |                                                                 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | 08:00 | BCP Holy Communion at Christ Church                             |
|                        | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist at St Mary's                                   |
|                        | 18:00 | Choral Evensong at Christ Church                                |
|                        |       |                                                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday | 09:00 | Parish Eucharist at St Mary's                                   |
|                        | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist at Christ Church                               |
|                        |       |                                                                 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | 08:00 | BCP Holy Communion at Christ Church                             |
|                        | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist at St Mary's                                   |
|                        |       |                                                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday | 09:00 | Parish Eucharist at St Mary's                                   |
|                        | 10:30 | Parish Eucharist at Christ Church                               |
|                        |       |                                                                 |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday |       | Benefice Service to alternate between Christ Church & St Mary's |

**Every Wednesday, there is a Holy Communion service  
at St. Mary's at 10.00am**

## **My Love of Swimming by Sue Hiscott.**

As a child, growing up in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa, I developed a love of swimming. I still love to glide over large waves in the seas around England and beyond, as I did in my childhood.

When we returned to England both my Primary and Secondary schools had swimming pools and we frequented the Beau Street Baths, and The Cleveland Baths, in Bath.

Our children Michael and Sarah, graduated through swimming lessons, Frome Swimming Club, and swimming was an activity we all loved in as a family and participated in at various levels.

Michael and Sarah are continuing this model with their own families.

Whenever I get an opportunity to, I swim in the sea!

My greatest love is swimming at Vobster Quay which is a renowned diving center, paddle board venue and open water swimming facility.

In 2023 I completed an Open Water Swimming Lifesaving Course and now regularly lifeguard at the venue too!

In June this year I went on a boat trip to Lundy Island where we donned our wetsuits, fins, snorkels and masks and swam with seals and puffins. It was a truly amazing experience! Can you imagine coming face to face with a seal, whilst another one is nibbling your fins?

In September I took part in a channel swim relay in Bude sea pool. Between us all we swam 22 miles!

In October a group of us joined our friends Sally and Geoff to swim the final mile of their epic journey to complete 96 miles of the Dorset Coastal Swim!

I hope to continue swimming at Vobster throughout the winter months as I have for the past three years.



# **Significant Dates**

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>2 February</b>  | <b>Candlemas</b>                      |
| <b>14 February</b> | <b>St Valentine's Day</b>             |
| <b>1 March</b>     | <b>St David's Day</b>                 |
| <b>4 March</b>     | <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>                 |
| <b>5 March</b>     | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                  |
| <b>10 March</b>    | <b>Deadline for magazine articles</b> |
| <b>17 March</b>    | <b>St Patrick's Day</b>               |
| <b>23 March</b>    | <b>Annunciation</b>                   |
| <b>30 March</b>    | <b>Mothering Sunday</b>               |
| <b>13 April</b>    | <b>Palm Sunday</b>                    |
| <b>18 April</b>    | <b>Good Friday</b>                    |
| <b>20 April</b>    | <b>Easter Sunday</b>                  |



## **Open the Book Team**

We continue to visit Christchurch First School .

In September a new head joined the school and has been very welcoming.

In our December assembly we retold the story of the Annunciation with the children taking the parts of Mary, Joseph and the Angels.

The next story being told will be about Anna and Simeon , when Jesus was presented at the temple.

It is a great honour and pleasure to present these stories to the children . to see their joy in participating and to hear their enthusiastic responses.



## SEASONAL IDEAS

**People and Church of Wales  
Keeping of Ash Wednesday  
All in Mothering Roles**

### An Evening Prayer

Lord it is night after a long day.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

What has been done has been done;

What has not been done has not been done.

Let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities

In your name we pray.

Amen

(New Zealand Prayer Book)

## A Morning Prayer

Lord, May all that we do this day,

From morning until night

Begin with your inspiration, and continue with your powerful help.

May our work this day be rooted in love and mercy,

that we might love you

and love our neighbours,

as perfectly as you love us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

*David Bennet*

*Lord, we would grow with you*

*New shoots reaching our*

*Hands stretched upward*

*Like leaves newly formed*

*Soaking up your light and warmth*

*Lord, we would grow with you.*

*Lord, we would grow with you*

*In sunshine and rain*

*In darkness and light*

*In cold days and summer days*

*From springtime to winter*

*Lord we would grow with you*

*Lord, we would grow with you*

*And bring forth fruit*

*That is pleasing to you*

*Fed by your living waters*

*Giving sustenance to others*

*Lord, we would grow with you.*

*John Birch*

1. Rev Liz, Rev Harry  
Clergy and Lay Readers
2. All who help to facilitate our  
worship; Church finances
3. Our outreach; Mary's House &  
the Prayer Shed; new initiatives  
at Christ Church
4. Local Schools & Nurseries
5. Those ill or infirm; Christian  
Healing Ministry in Frome
6. Royal Family; MP's &  
Government
7. Victims of oppression
8. Churchwardens & PCC's;  
Pioneer workers & Giants Garden
9. Social event organisers
10. Our activities with the young;  
Christ Church School
- 11 Local Care Homes; The elderly  
& housebound
12. Those with addictions; Hous-  
ing Charities
13. Climate change; Victims of  
natural disasters
14. War-torn countries; the UN  
Migrants & refugees
15. Bishops and Archbishops; The  
Church of England
16. Those who beautify or care  
for our Churches (in and out); all  
in Admin roles
17. All who come to St Mary's and  
Christ Church

## **SOME PRAYER IDEAS**

(of thanks or concern)

18. The homeless & rough  
sleepers; Local Food Banks
19. Frome Hospital & Medical  
Centres; Local Hospices
20. Prisoners of conscience;  
Religious Orders in the UK
21. Local Youth groups; The  
Garden Nursery
22. Deanery Synod; Liz our  
Rural Dean; Other Frome  
Churches (and FACT)
23. Those recently baptised,  
married or bereaved
24. Those who live in our par-  
ishes; Our Mayor & Council
25. Job Centres & the jobless;  
The Samaritans
26. Those with mental health  
problems; The NHS
27. Victims of abuse; Social  
workers and Safeguarding
28. Food Crises especially in  
East Africa; Aid Workers
29. Goodwill Children's  
Homes (India); Zambia Link
30. Residents of our Twin  
Towns
31. Those unknown to us who  
need prayer

## **Anna Chaplaincy**

In October last year, Anna Chaplaincy started ministry in Frome with a small band of people consisting of one Anna Chaplain (Len Taylor) and three Anna friends (Anthea Kemp and Chris and Miriam Hare).

The Anna Chaplaincy was started in Alton, Hampshire back in 2009 by TV presenter and broadcaster Debbie Thrower. Her parents were not in the best of health and she realised that older people that were infirm or unable to get out were not always receiving the spiritual comfort that they had when they were more able bodied and able to attend church services with the fellowship that comes with it. Within a fairly short time Debbie realised that this was far more wide spread than she initially thought and one of the reasons behind it was due to cut backs within the Church of England leading to the decline in clergy numbers. Along with the extra workload put upon remaining clergy leading to clergy not having nearly enough time for pastoral ministry within their parishes. In 2014 Debbie had a meeting with the Bible Readers Fellowship (BRF) who in their wisdom along with Debbie formulated what is now known as the Anna Chaplaincy ministry. Back then Debbie was the only Anna Chaplain in the country. Fast forward 10 years there are now over 400 Anna Chaplains operating country wide from the Isle of Wight all the way up to the Orkney islands, also across the breadth of the country. Along with the Chaplains there are hundreds of Anna Friends working along side the Chaplains and in some cases individually.

All Anna Chaplains and Friends are fully trained and licenced. The diocese in which they operate. Their diocese hold the full licence with the Chaplains holding and operating on a sub licence. As from January 2025 BRF are reviewing their working practices and have decided that newly commissioned Anna Friends do not need to hold a licence.

All Chaplains have the agreement of their PCC and are also answerable to a "line leader" my line leader is Reverend Liz Dudley, this ensures that there is a chain of accountability all

the way to the Bishop of Bath and Wells in my case.

In the last few months Reverend Harry Wainwright Anthea and myself are now holding regular worship and pastoral visits in both Belmont villas and Critchill court care homes. We have both been amazed and humbled at the warmth and love that we have received from residents and staff, with the residents in both homes now looking forward to their monthly service and our pastoral visits, while Chris and Miriam are continuing their work in Rowden house and Rossetti care homes under the "Prayer for care homes and Anna friends" banner. Reverend Liz Dudley covers Green Hill grange

At this moment in time I am not too sure whether Catherine court and Frome care village have any regular spiritual input!

We have purposely started off slowly to gradually feel the lay of the land and iron out any niggles along the way. This year I hope to promote Anna Chaplaincy in and around Frome and in the wider deanery as well. I would like to see both Catherine court and Frome Care village have regular services and pastoral visits before moving farther afield.

To do this more volunteers would be required. I would ask that if you feel a calling to this wonderful ministry firstly Google "Anna Chaplaincy" and have a look at their very informative web site.

Our diocese Anna Chaplain lead is Mrs Wendy Haslam and of course you can contact myself in the first instance.

I would like to finish by saying that this article is a very brief insight to Anna Chaplaincy. However I have found over these past four months a "new lease of life or if you like a spring in my step".

Seeing the joy on residents faces when we arrive for service or visits. Another thing that is beginning to flourish is the conversations with the residents, albeit a little slow to begin with, now the ice has been broken and friendships beginning to form we are talking about their lives, hearing some wonderful accounts, and sometimes sadness of times gone by and of

course the occasional bit of silliness of which as many of you know I am very well versed.

Just to see a smile on their faces is for me a sign of a worthwhile visit.

Lastly the Anna Chaplaincy ministry also helps support and take a little bit of weight off of our vicars shoulders allowing for a more consistent outreach in the parishes as well as working with and alongside other existing groups and agencies.

Wishing you all a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Len.

07536 994153



Above is a picture of Len at his licencing which took place at St Mary's on 28th January—Congratulations Len !

# Hello,



If you haven't already met me, I am Elizabeth Alden and have lived in Frome for nearly four years. My husband Andrew and I moved here to work as pioneer ministers among young adults.

I love Frome for the beauty of its creative and community minded inhabitants, and for its historic and quirky architecture.

A year ago, I felt God was calling me towards ordained ministry. To avoid following Jonah's footsteps into the belly of a fish, I contacted the Vocations team at the Diocesan offices. To my surprise, the Church of England affirmed this calling. So in September 2024, I began training at Trinity College, Bristol.

My training takes the form of six Block Weeks in which I live in college with other 'dispersed learners'. We study, pray and worship God together. I count it a huge privilege to learn from professional and godly lecturers, alongside a beautifully diverse cohort of students.

Rev Liz Dudley has kindly become my local placement supervisor as I joined the community of St Mary's Church. I couldn't have found a more positive and encouraging group of believers to cheer me on as I practise and hone skills.

Liz's honesty and willingness to reflect on practice are of invaluable help as we discuss baptism, marriage, preparing sermons and services, and the fine detail of when and why she makes the sign of the cross, for example.

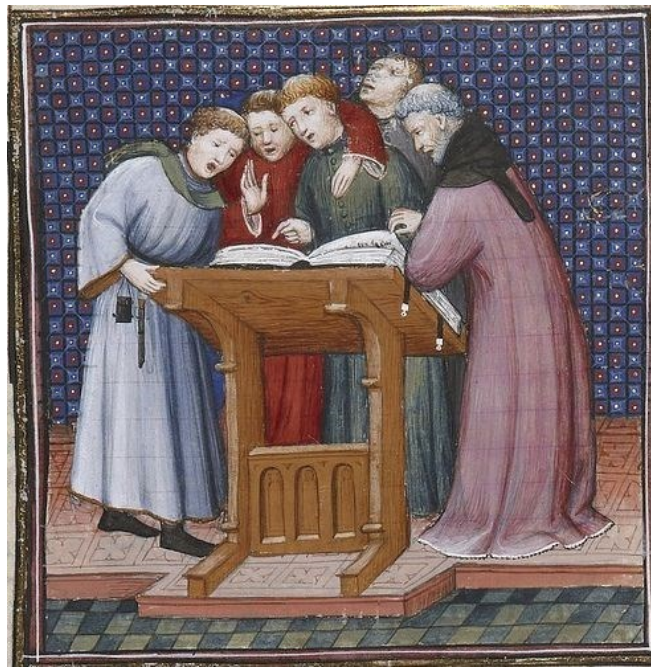
My thanks to Reverend Liz, St Mary's Church, the Church of England and my family and friends, including many in Frome, for your support and love at this transitional time. And may all we do bring delight and glory to the gracious God who loves and calls each of us to the life He intends us to live to the full with Him.

Elizabeth Alden



# Evensong at St John's

*A monthly Service, with wide ranging prayer and music to ground us for the week ahead.*



**Every third Sunday of the month, beginning on  
the 16th February**

**5pm at St John's Frome**

***Volunteers for our choir welcome***

***Contact: [rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com)***





**Stephen Marquiss (piano) and Angela Good (soprano)  
In Concert**

Sunday 23 February 2025

15.30

Adult Admission £15

Under 16s £5

Tickets from Eventbrite in advance or on the door (cash only)

[Here's the Eventbrite link for online use:

[Stephen Marquiss \(piano\) and Angela Good \(soprano\) In Concert](#) ]

Continuing nearly 25 years of successful musical performances at Christ Church, **Stephen Marquiss (piano) returns alongside soprano, Angela Good**, with a programme of well-loved, varied songs and Romantic piano works by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Louise Farrenc. The programme celebrates past and living women composers and will include Madeleine Dring's sublime *5 Betjeman Songs* and glorious, melodic new piano works by local composer, Gillian E. Stephenson.

Please book advance tickets online if you're able, to give us an idea of attendance.

Simply search for the event title on Eventbrite.

## Exclusive Interview with Mary Mouse

Happy New Year Mary Mouse, glad I've an opportunity to catch up with you. Have you managed to get out from St Mary's lately or was Christmas just too busy for you?

**I heard that children were singing in Christchurch one Thursday evening which usually guarantees CRUMBS! Then I heard that RevLiz was conducting a funeral the following day there. I squeaked myself into her bag before she left and hopped out in Christchurch. Alas no CRUMBS! Were the children respectful and dropped nothing or did the warden sweep up?**

So did you find any crumbs?

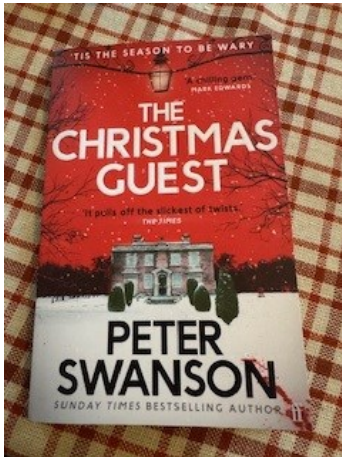
**I squeaked myself back into RevLiz's bag when I heard there was an invite to the Assembly Rooms. However it was off to a burial first, brrrr. Then we returned to the Assembly Rooms. CRUMBS! What a feast I shared there, cheese sandwiches, tuna sandwiches, if only it had been summer, there could have been Mice Cream!**

That's the latest bulletin from Mary Mouse

Eleanor Rocket



## **Christmas Book Reviews by Sue Hiscott.**



The Christmas Guest by Peter Swanson

ISBN: 978-0-571-37879-1

I was given this book as a Christmas present from my son Michael and family. I don't usually read mysteries, but I am always open to a different genre.

Being a novella it is possible to read it in one sitting – especially when you have time on your hands at Christmas (!) (do I hear you gasp!?) and a love of reading!

There is a recurrent theme of Christmas throughout the story, set in a rundown, stately family home, and includes descriptions of all the trimmings that go with the Christmas period!

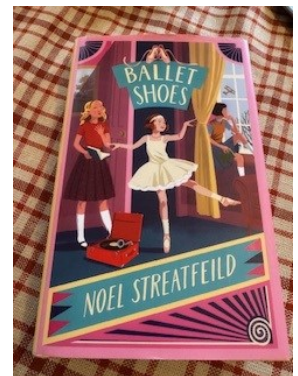
"All the Christmas cheer and nostalgia wrapped in a Gothic murder mystery."

~~~~~

Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

ISBN: 978-1-84255-679-5

I was given this book as a Christmas present from my daughter Sarah and her family. 'Ballet Shoes' was my favorite book as a child. I was also given Theatre tickets by Keith to see the play, presently being shown in London!



"The much-loved story of three sisters, stage school and finding your own way in life – a classic book that has stood the test of time."

I loved reading this book again and will be passing it onto my grandchildren to read when they are ready.



Join us for
our next
events

Rosetti House care home, Frome

Dementia friendly cinema

Every Thursday, 3pm - 4.30pm

Join us for our free weekly Dementia friendly cinema and enjoy some film favourites in our cinema, a welcoming and safe screening for people living with dementia. There will be complimentary light refreshments, baked cakes and treats for you to enjoy too. RSVP to attend.

Carers café

First Wednesday of the month, 10:30 – 12:30

This valuable support group is a perfect place for carers to take a much-needed break, meet other people and freely share experiences. Our friendly team at Rosetti House will also be on hand to offer support and advice. You will also be treated to homemade cakes and treats and light refreshments, prepared by our Head Chef.

Inspected and rated

Good

Care Quality
Commission

Trusted to care

To attend please call
01373 610 187 or email
helen.cross@careuk.com

care UK

A Big Thank you!

We would like to say a big thank you to Pauline for her contributions to the benefice magazine as she steps down from the editorial team.

Pauline has been a significant contributor to the compilation of the magazine from the beginning, when we took over the helm from Caroline, and we were all getting to grips with the unfamiliar task!

In the early days, we were all challenged in various ways, but Pauline was soon navigating "Publisher" with enthusiasm. We will miss your calm and collective approach to creating our publications.

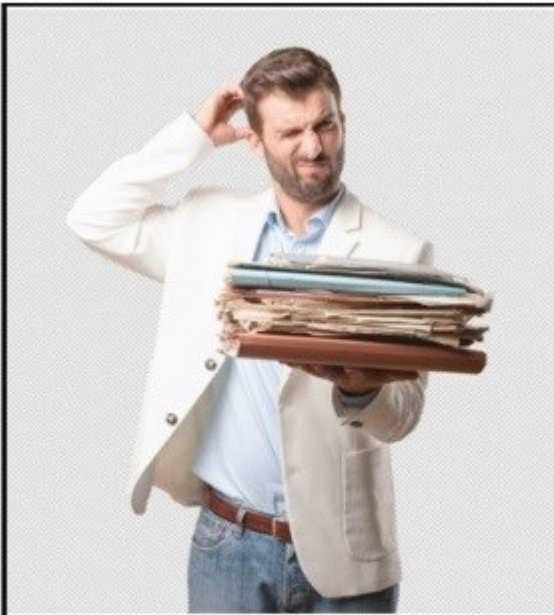
Please continue to send us your contributions, whether regular or occasional. We are always looking for new ideas and inspiration, and any general thoughts about the magazine.

If anyone wishes to join us, you would be most welcome!

Thank you for all your continued support.

Allie, Maggie and Sue
The Magazine Team.





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email info@gjstats.com



Please submit any articles for
the Magazine by 10th March

Music at Christ Church



Sunday March 16th 3.30pm

45-minute piano recital given by Ezra Herring, a 15-year old specialist piano student at Wells Cathedral School

Music by Beethoven, Debussy, Ezra Herring and Chopin.

Admission free but donations for The Sierra Leone Project, a music educational charity.

Tea and cake will be available at the end.

And.....

Saturday 22nd February 10am-12noon

Coffee Morning for Amnesty International the Human Rights charity.





TRIO PARADIS

Jacquelyn Bevan - piano

Ruth O'Shea - violin

Linda Stocks - cello

Friendship through music

THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY

The Latin American Collection

Not just tangos...

THURSDAY 6th MARCH

Daughters of the Muse

Music by Women Composers

THURSDAY 3rd APRIL

Spring Song

Sunshine & Showers

THURSDAY 1st MAY

Northern Lights

Scandinavian Masterpieces

THURSDAY 5th JUNE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Nocturnes & Reveries

Monthly Café Concerts

First Thursday of
each month
at 1.15pm

**CHRIST CHURCH
FROME** BA11 1EH

Café with home-made cakes from 1.15pm. Concerts last c45 min.

Entrance by donation, with a retiring collection

www.trioparadis.com

2025 – Happy New Year – planning for the future

Happy New Year! January was an ideal time for members of the PCCs to accept the Vicar's invitation to meet in St Mary's Hall to tell the story of our churches, to look at where we are and identify the next steps.

In the market town of Frome, the opening Lectio was particularly appropriate:

*'Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?'*

Making a time-line engaged everyone's attention.

Where did we come from? What were the origins of Christianity and the churches in Frome? What were the highlights for us and for those who went before us and what impact have events had on the growing community and on our own lives?

We considered and discussed the challenges and opportunities facing us in 2025:

'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

We were reminded that with the Grace of God, we are in His hands. We need to be proactive and take responsibility for the future and always to remember in all we do: *'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself.'*

'For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn, shall come up the Cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the Myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.'

We wove silky strips in different colours through the net to symbolise the flow of faith from Biblical times through the ages. They link past, present and future, times of jubilation and plenty with times when days were dark. We are reminded of the interconnectedness of all things. We are a living part of God's Creation; the love of God will always be with us, with those who went before and those who will follow.

The charts and comments will be put up for future conversations and further consideration. How can we best share our resources and buildings, skills and energies as Christians in Frome? It is a question that requires our concerted attention in the days ahead.



