Dear Friends

Summer Souvenirs

As I am writing this in August ready for a copy date in September for the October newsletter... I find it impossible to think of darker evenings and winter woollies so as the sun is shining I thought I would share with you some of my summer souvenirs.

I have a friend in Cornwall who saves interesting articles – thoughts and prayers that we usually chat about before adding to my magpie store for future talks and prayers.

A Celtic poem called The Other by R.S.Thomas
There are nights that are so still
that I can hear the small owl calling far off
and a fox barking miles away.
It is then that I lie in the lean hours awake
listening to the swell born somewhere in the Atlantic
rising and falling, rising and falling wave on wave on the long shore by the village,
that is without light and companionless.
And the thought comes of that other being who is awake, too,
letting our prayers break on him,
not like this for a few hours, but for days, years, for eternity.

There was also a poster titled, If you think God can’t use you, remember...
Noah was a drunk. Abraham was old. Isaac was a daydreamer. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Gideon was afraid. Sampson was a womanizer. Rahab was a prostitute. Jeremiah and Timothy were too young. David had an affair and was a murderer. Isaiah was suicidal. Isaiah preached naked. Job went bankrupt. Jonah ran from God. Naomi was a widow. John the Baptist ate bugs. Peter denied Christ. The disciples fell asleep while praying. Martha worried about everything. The Samaritan woman was divorced. Zacchaeus was too small. Paul was religious. Timothy had an ulcer and Lazarus was dead.

Then there is the issue of diaries, and how one minute the pages are empty and the next you have so many double bookings it is hard to know how to prioritise – so much for retirement!!! I read with interest an article in the local Cornish paper written by Malc’ Halliday, (Centre Manager of the Christian resources project Plymouth) who had this to say.
He gave the example of how after sending his apologies to a meeting he decided to celebrate his wife’s birthday instead – much to the delight of his wife but not one of the
Church leaders. He then quoted some advice from a friend who, encouraged him to, ‘stop work for a while, and told me that God had given us so much time we could afford to waste a little of it.’ Malc continues, ‘I know he was right. However even as we shared a coffee together my mind was racing ahead to what I should or could have been doing’…Malc was reminded of Martin Luther, who was also conscious of the demands on his time that he faced each day. His response was not to rush into the busyness of the day, rushing to cross off his ‘to-do’ list as fast as possible. Rather he said this, ‘I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer’. His reaction to being busy was to stop: get things into perspective. He remembered that his day lay in the hands of God and he allowed his God to direct his paths and to order his time…So…Are we afraid to surrender our diaries, wall-planners and to-do lists to the control of God? Malc says we shouldn’t be. After all God has assured us that there is a time for everything!!!

And finally a thought from the Revd Steve Swann who wrote about clearing out and moving on from his parish on The Lizard… some very apt advice having recently moved back to Corston after 50 years!!! ‘Somehow over the years it is not just our houses that get cluttered but our lives too as we store away more and more stuff, and it’s not always good stuff. We can harbour the traumas of life and complicate our lives to the extent that it begins to impinge on our everyday choices and relationships…(He continues)...Jesus brought a message of liberation to the world 2000 years ago. It’s still brings freedom today. He said, ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.’ The thief for us can be the stuff of life that robs us of happiness today. Jesus also said, ‘Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.’ Revd Steve suggests we, ‘unload our baggage today, Give it to God, leave it with him and rest in his presence, then feel the freedom as you begin to live life to the max.’

All of the above articles have made me stop and think and in different ways have surprised me. For example the poem…Personally I have never really thought about God being awake all the time especially when I am unable to sleep...what a comfort. The poster about how we are all useful, loved and needed by God…again offering us all hope and comfort. Diaries…I often say I could lose my purse but not my diary so do I need to rethink my priorities? How is it that the day works so much better after prayer than if I just rush out to tackle my today’s list of jobs that must be done? And finally, do I really need all the stuff that our house is cluttered with? Do I really need to carry around all the cares of, what appears to be at times, the world? So I hope you also find these ‘souvenirs’ initially a bit of a challenge but a source of hope and comfort too. I truly hope so.

Teresa Austin
A Praying Community
Opportunities to pray across the Benefice

**Monday 9am**  **Morning Prayer** - we meet with our Local Ministry Group to pray in St Peter’s Church Marksbury
**Monday 7pm**  **Silent Prayer** - an opportunity to pray silently with others in St Mary’s Church, Saltford
**Thursday 9am**  **Morning Prayer** in All Saints Corston

**Prayer Meetings**
Each week in Saltford people meet to pray in people’s homes, please see the weekly notice sheet for details of where and when these take place – they are open to everyone.

**Prayer Book**
If you would like prayer for yourself or for someone else, each church has a prayer book in which you can write the names of those you would like us to remember in our prayers.

**One to one**
There are people available to pray with you if you have a particular need or find something within the service has challenged or inspired you. Please speak to one of the wardens, readers or clergy and they will find someone who is willing to pray with you. Alternatively, if when you receive Communion, just speak to the Rector and she will pray for you then.

How do you pray?
Many years ago I read a humorous ‘spirituality’ book which explored how, in the nitty-gritty, humdrum, down to earth activities of life, we might be surprised by and recognise the presence of God, who is present everywhere and how we might live out our relationship with him.

All this was done in a light-hearted and humorous way (but sadly, I can’t remember now either the author or the title!) One conversation involved asking God how He coped with the plethora of prayers from people who were asking God to do things for them, when He knew their needs better than they did … and was already doing for them more than they could imagine. God said that he just didn’t listen to them!

That sounds almost blasphemous to us, but, of course, that was the author’s intention in order to grab our attention! We expect God to hear us, (‘Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer’, ‘Lord hear my prayer and answer me,’ etc) but how much time do we spend listening to God? Moses said to the Israelites, “In order to love the Lord your God, listen to His voice.” We notice he says ‘listen to his voice’, not listen to his words or word. However, even if we tweak what he said and say ‘word’, let’s remember that Jesus is God’s word and ‘the voice from heaven’ said, “This is my beloved son; listen to Him.” Prayer is a precious privilege granted by our gracious God and we are talking about it.

Ken Plant
Parish Registers

Baptisms

28th August  Darcie & Hollie Creevy (NSL)

Weddings

12th August  Adam & Anna Dawson (NSL)
29th August  Philip & Kate Bastyan-Moore (NSL)
3rd September  Joshua & Elizabeth Frayling (NSL)

Funerals (August & September)

Richard Nash (Saltford)
Frederick Kilburn (Saltford)
Rosemary Fry(Saltford)
Ruth Drury (Saltford)
Sheila Gray (Saltford)
Marjorie Bush (Saltford)

Copydate for the November Newsletter

Copydate for the newsletter will be 10th October at the latest. Please deliver all copy to the Parish Office. If you produce it on a computer, it would be a great help if you would please email it to: scnbenefice@gmail.com

Calling All Budding Journalists

The editorial team of the Three Parishes Newsletter would like to invite you to contribute short articles, as well as photos to our newsletter, so that we can share our stories with others across the benefice. Please send any articles to scnbenefice@gmail.com, and we will try to include them. If you are not sure if it is the sort of thing we are looking for, have a word with Howard Griffiths or Daile first.
Shoe box appeal

Hello Everyone
Every year, in November, I help at the warehouse in Stockwood that collect filled shoe boxes from local people. These boxes, filled with simple gifts for children who are less fortunate than our own in this area. At the beginning of December the boxes are distributed to areas where children may not see much fun or generosity at Christmas time.

The distribution is often arranged by small Christian groups because they have local contacts in these areas. Having said that, the gift is not religious based and is totally unconditional across all races, religions or non religious families. In 2015 Stockwood centre collected 6137 boxes from Keynsham, Bath and South Bristol. Three quarters of these went to the Ukraine and the rest went to Lithuania. Country wide 900,008 shoe boxes were collected and distributed worldwide. Last year Saltford donated 60 filled boxes, this year it would be great to double that number.

So the campaign begins......
I’ve ordered this years’ supply of Shoe Box leaflets and boxes - ready to fill with lovely Christmas gifts. If you would like to join in and support this effort, I have copied some notes below with ideas of what we need to begin collecting. These gifts can either be, dropped off at my house over the next weeks and months (a box is on my front doorstep!) Then - a date for your diary - On Tuesday 8th November 2016 we shall meet at my house and sort, cover and fill Shoeboxes with items donated. Or alternatively - fill a box at home and drop it off at The Bird, Saltford Marina or my house (Middle Cottage 48 High Street) and I will take it to Stockwood centre. Ideas leaflets available.
It is great fun to fill a box and I would be very grateful if you could help me with this project. Give me a call if you need any further information, or "google" Samaritans Purse, Shoe Box Appeal. If you are involved in a group who would enjoy filling boxes, I can let you have some leaflets and more info. Please let me know.

Gift Suggestions
Toys- please Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles, purses, marbles, jacks, etc.
School Supplies
Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc. (no scissors or sharp objects)
Hygiene Items
Toothbrush and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, hair slides, flannel.
Other Items
Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch - not battery operated, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March 2017).

Please Do Not Include
Used or damaged items, war related items such as toy guns, play soldiers or knives; chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; playing cards of the 4-suit variety, Happy Families are ok; clothing other than as listed above. Thanks for reading this
With all best wishes
Lynn Pickup Tel 07771 598124

Coffee Morning

My coffee morning this year is on Friday, October 14th at 10-11.30 am in the Church hall. The money this year will be divided between Dorothy House and Leprosy Mission which doesn’t have the funding of larger charity groups. Entry is £1.00 which includes coffee/tea. There will also be a cake stall and raffle. Leprosy Mission helps to bring hope, healing and practical help for people with leprosy. It's also used to help research into a cure. If you are able to come, I'd be very grateful for your support for such a worthwhile charity. Every penny we raise will help people less fortunate than us. Margaret Evans.

Men’s Curry Night

The next Men’s Curry Night is to be held on 4 November in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm. Our guest speaker is Revd John Samways, a retired vicar now living in Somerset. Sharing stories from the passions of his life, including the realms of sport, environment and local community, he will tackle some big questions. For instance, if God is with us (Emmanuel) as he claims to be, how do we recognise his presence in the journey of life? What difference does knowing God make to our daily lives? Tickets £6 from Robin Dixon (01225 359014), Dave Faulkner (01225 874133), Ian Freeman (01179 090496) or John Norris (01225 872750). Please bring your own drink.
Saltford Heritage Centre: Have your say!

Help us to create the Saltford Heritage Centre you want

The development and planning for a possible Saltford Heritage Centre is in its early stages. As such we are keen to hear the views of the Saltford community regarding what they would like to see from this volunteer run community resource.

We would appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the short online survey at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RWPN5JQ (it will take approx. 2 minutes) to help us steer and develop the project. We want to ensure that what is delivered is relevant and accessible. Thank you for your time!

The purpose of a new Saltford Heritage Centre will be to undertake the stewardship of Saltford's history by actively collecting, preserving and interpreting documents and artefacts, and by promoting our heritage. It will provide a useful educational resource and occasionally host history events organised by third parties. It will also incorporate a pop-up-heritage display to take to local events.

Heritage Centre web page - We now have a dedicated web page within SEG's online History Project for the proposed Saltford Heritage Centre where we will post updates as we develop our plans.

Thank you

Further to my recent cardiac arrest in Keynsham swimming pool and treatment in the Bristol Heart Institute I thank you for your prayers and support and the many Get Well cards I received. They were a great comfort to Diana and me and our family at a difficult time. The prompt action of the Keynsham Leisure Centre staff, the ambulance and air ambulance personnel, the superb treatment I received in many departments of the BRI, and the good wishes and prayers of so many people brought home to us how fortunate we are to live in such a caring community. We are truly thankful for God's many blessings.

John Smith

I would like to offer my appreciation and thanks for all the cards, messages, flowers, cakes and prayers during my recent time recovering from an operation. Thank you so much.

Daile Wilshere
Planning for the memorial garden is progressing, and if you hadn’t noticed, some pruning of bushes and removal of tree stumps has taken place. Our plans are simple so that we honour what is there already, and add a few extra features to make it more of a garden, where people can sit to pray, reflect and remember.

A description of our plans
The area of ground from the forsythia round alongside the north wall towards the east will be rotivated in March 2017 and reseeded with grass. A rose garden will be developed in the centre of the lawn. There will be planting of bushes, perhaps Hawthorne along the west wall between the forsythia and the lime tree. Three benches will be placed in the garden to provide a seating area.

We hope (permission pending) families will be able to choose to scatter the ashes of their loved ones in the Rose Garden or inter them in the ground, in an area marked by a simple memorial stone.

Can you help?
The memorial garden is a work in progress, discussions are still taking place, and we still need to seek the relevant permission from the Diocese. In the meantime, can you help? Do you have a passion for roses, would you be able to advise on the type, colour that would be best? Would you be willing to help maintain the rose garden? If yes, please let Daile know.

The cost of the memorial garden will be covered by legacies received by St Mary’s, however we are hoping that one or two people may like to make a general donation to the Memorial Garden fund, or even a donation in memory of a loved one. These donations will be used to purchase the roses and benches. Any donations given in memory of a loved one will be marked, either by names entered into our memorial book in church, or if possible a small plaque on the bench itself. If you would like to make a donation towards the memorial garden, please send donations to the Rector, with a covering letter containing the names and details of the person you are giving in memory of. Please indicate whether your donation can be Gift Aided, as this will help too.
The Benefice of Saltford, Corston and Newton St Loe

invite you and your family to a service to remember our loved ones who have died.

A Time to Remember

Sunday 23rd October 2016
at 6.30pm
at All Saints Church, Corston

During the service names of our loved ones will be read out and everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of them and as a symbol of our prayers. Names can be read out even if you are unable to be there.

Names can be given at the start of the service, or in advance by contacting the parish office on

01225 872275 or scnbenefice@gmail.com

Refreshments will be available after the service!
is coming to Saltford!

Come and join us in St Mary’s Church Hall on

Sunday 6th November 2016 from 4-6pm

for our first ever Messy Church

Messy Church is a way of being church for families involving creativity, hospitality and welcome, or simply fun and food for all ages! It involves a variety of activities, a simple act of worship and ends with supper and refreshments for all.

We look forward to welcoming you.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information contact the Parish Office on 01225 872275 or email scnbenefice@gmail.com
Just turn up on the day, but if you can let us know that would be a great help to make sure we have enough food!
**Circle of Friends**

The next meeting of Circle of Friends will be on 6th October where we will be joined by Phil Harding from the Saltford Environment Group. He will be giving a talk entitled Discovering Saltford’s Past.

**Pre-Christmas Flower & Craft Evening**

On 17th November 2016 (7-9pm) we are hosting a pre-Christmas flower and craft evening at St Mary's Church Hall.

Come along at 7pm for demonstrations of how to make an elegant Christmas flower arrangement; a stunning Christmas wreath; show-stopping table decorations; and perfectly wrapped Christmas gifts; you can even have a go at making your own Christmas bows.

There will be a raffle with some excellent prizes and also a chance to purchase a variety of homemade Christmassy gifts.

We will be serving mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies and cakes to get us all in the mood for the festive season.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for £5 from the Post Office or by contacting Sarah Rees-Leonard (sarah@rees-leonard.com / 07801930664); alternatively they can be purchased on the door for £6.

The evening is in support of Christian Aid's Community Partnership work and all money raised will go to fighting poverty and injustice around the world, specifically to secure safer, healthier futures for women and girls in Ethiopia.

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The Lord Will Provide

In September letters were sent to all on the Electoral Roll of St Mary’s Church outlining the financial position of St Mary’s and encouraging every member to take time this Harvest to reflect on their response to the abundant generosity of God. The PCC standing Committee would like to thank everyone who has already done this, and to encourage those who haven’t to set time aside to do so.

If you haven’t received a letter, or have mislaid it, please collect one from the back of the church, or ask one of the wardens for one.

*Thank you*

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Thank you

*The Lord of the Harvest*
News from All Saints, Corston

Diary

**October**

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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Village Market, Corston Village Hall</td>
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<td>Sat /Sun</td>
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<td>History Exhibition, in Church and Village Hall</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Soup lunch, Corston Village Hall</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>9-12noon</td>
<td>Big Breakfast, Corston Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>30th</td>
<td>10.15-11am</td>
<td>Coffee and Croissants in Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>A Family Service to Celebrate All Saints Church</td>
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**November**

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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Village Market, Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Corston Service of Remembrance</td>
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**Song recital by Philippa Parfrey – Corston 21st August**

Those who packed into Corston church for Bette’s funeral in July will never forget Philippa’s beautiful and moving singing for her grandmother. So it was not surprising that a large audience returned to Corston for Philippa’s first ever full-scale recital in the church where she grew up. What delighted me – and others made the same comment afterwards – was to discover that the crystal-clear purity of Philippa’s voice has only been enhanced by her studies. Those who heard the young Emma Kirkby for the first time must have been similarly thrilled.

The first few songs took me straight back to primary school – *Nymphs and Shepherds*.... *Where the bee sucks there suck I*..... What sweet songs - I bet they don’t sing those now!

Then a couple of songs from two men who both went through the horrors of the Great War: Ivor Gurney (who was driven insane by the experience) and Ralph Vaughan Williams (who somehow wasn’t). VW’s *Linden Lea* must be one of the loveliest songs ever written.

Then, wittily, Philippa gave us a Handel – Bononcini – Handel sandwich. Readers will recall the violent scenes between the rival supporters of these two great composers of Italian opera; hence the doggerel:

*Some say that Signor Bononcini
Compared to Handel’s a mere ninny;
Others aver, that to him Handel
Is scarcely fit to hold a candle.
Strange! That such high dispute should be ‘Twixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee.*

As for us, we loved them both. The second of the Handel arias in particular made enormous technical challenges which Philippa overcame in grand style.
Then came a change of mood with three romantic songs by Wolf, Schubert and J S Bach. Here it was as if Philippa were singing to each one of us individually, the acoustics of our small building working perfectly for this gentle “fireside music”. Finally, we danced along to three songs from the shows by Lerner & Loewe, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. If Eliza could have danced all night then this audience could happily have listened to this recital all over again. All this great variety of music was accompanied on the piano by Robert Johnson, with his invariable aplomb. We owe so much to Bob for bringing high quality music to Corston church over many years – under his hands our new piano provided a lovely accompaniment to Philippa’s singing. Mention must also be made of the tea, which was as substantial and delicious as ever. So – our warm thanks to Philippa, Robert and the tea providers for a delightful afternoon. The audience showed their appreciation with generous donations for church funds. Anthony Acton

Corston Country Fair
Corston Country fair held on Saturday 16th July was again a great success due mainly to a lovely sunny day! Lots of stalls, tea tent and beer tent and chuffy train added to the attraction. A spectacular fly pass of a spitfire pleased everyone. The profit was divided between All Saints Church, Village Hall and playing field. All Saints spent their share on much needed work in the churchyard! Spot Daile pulling a pint in the beer tent! Looking forward to next year! Diane

Bible Study
Bible study will continue in the autumn. The dates for October are the 13th, 20th and 27th. If you would like further information about these stimulating and interesting evenings contact Peter or Angela LeRoy on 873023. We meet at 7.30 for 8.00pm start at 8 Brook Cottages, and a warm welcome awaits you!

Family Worship October 16th
On Sunday 16th October, our family service at 11.15am will have a shoe box theme, as we learn more about how the gifts we give help the children who receive them. We look forward to welcoming you and asking God’s blessing on all the shoe boxes we will send and the children who will receive them.
CORSTON HISTORY EXHIBITION
Saturday & Sunday 8-9 October
10am - 4pm

Village Hall
Village History displays

All Saints Church
Village Marriages and Baptisms exhibition including OLD REGISTERS
Floral Displays

Tea, coffee and light lunches

We are always looking for photographs, documents etc that can be scanned and added to history collection.

Do you have items from Corston weddings and baptisms? particularly a historic wedding dress/photos and family christening gowns that can be displayed in the church.

Sue Harrison 01225 873969 email sue@reynardcards.co.uk
We are experienced troubling times at Newton Church. The roof tiles need re-fixing, the Vestry has to be rebuilt and during the survey of the war memorial it was discovered that it is over 500 years old and is historically important – but needs repairing.

We have started an appeal.

Daile has written a letter explaining the situation which has been sent to the village residents and people on the electoral roll and friends of Newton Church. Several fund raising events are planned - the first of which was held on Saturday 10th September with a ‘Heritage Trail’ round the Church and village devised by Mrs Jean Tadman and Mrs. Sally Slingo culminating with a cream Tea at the Mullions by kind permission of Mrs. Jo Tinworth. Donations have been received and the afternoon event raised over £500. We have received a promise of a grant from The Lottery Fund but we have to raise a great deal of money to preserve our beautiful Church, we welcome any suggestions and offers of help.

Trevor Ewins

**Bellringing at Corston & Newton St Loe for October**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 7th</td>
<td>October no ringing at Newton St Loe (Choir practice in church)</td>
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<td>Friday 14th</td>
<td>October Corston 7.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th</td>
<td>October Newton St Loe - visiting ringers from Devon 5.00pm - 5.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st</td>
<td>October Newton St Loe 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 28th</td>
<td>October Corston 7.30pm</td>
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If you are interested in learning to ring or would like to look at the bells and find out what goes on upstairs in the belfry, please get in touch and we'd love to 'show you the ropes!' We have ringers of all ages and you don't have to be very strong or even musical to be able to ring bells. I promise your feet will stay firmly on the floor too!

Nicki Lang - Tower Captain, Newton St Loe (01761 568729)

**A good call ...**

In a recent BBC1 documentary, 'Saving Lives at Sea', made with recorded material from the R.N.L.I. there was most a dramatic sea rescue.

Usma, a young woman, had been making a mobile call to her sister as she walked on a sandbank offshore at Blackpool. Before she realised what was happening the sandbank was surrounded by water and Usma became trapped by the spring-tide which was rising very quickly indeed.
Usma's 999 call became 'a shout' for the R.N.L.I lifeboat. Just seven minutes later the lifeboat men in the rib saw just Usma's head against the choppy surface. The crew drew close when only Usma's head was showing intermittently and shouted 'Reach up'. In a flash Usma was pulled bodily out of the sea and into the boat.; Usma's life had been saved as she was on her last breath.

A month or so later Usma, a non-swimmer, went to the lifeboat station to thank Colin her rescuer. Usma was smiling widely with gratitude and said, 'I can't swim but I tried everything I thought swimmers did'. 'I am happy I am alive'. 'It's actually changed my life a lot'. 'I was racing after money, I don't want that now'. 'Pointless! What did I do with my life for twenty eight years?'. 'I have a second life'.

To Colin, Usma said 'I will do anything for you (R.N.L.I.) at any time'. 'I would do anything for my saviour'. 'I am standing here just because of you'.

For me, the parallels are obvious, realising our need for Jesus and love of Him as Saviour are just the same. 'There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we may be saved'. Acts 12 v 4 Here is the promise ... "Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.' Romans 10 v 3 Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour ...
Bernard Smith

A Message from Bishop Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Looking ahead I am excited that the Archbishop of Canterbury is visiting our diocese for three days in November. I’m excited because he’ll be praying with us, encouraging us in our new strategy to put mission and evangelism at the heart of everything we do, and encouraging us at parish level to be active in our local communities. The programme for 7th to 9th is still being finalised, but I am delighted he will be visiting all three archdeaconries, meeting farmers and overseas students, leading a prayer walk, speaking in several venues and hopefully experiencing and enjoying something of the scenery he will see as he travels among us.

I have had the privilege of meeting Archbishop Justin on a number of occasions and I am humbled and encouraged by his faith and commitment. Inevitably in just three days he will only get a snapshot of the Diocese, but I know that all who meet him or hear him speak will be moved by his deep personal commitment to Christ. It is clear that his relationship with Jesus and his life of prayer are at the very heart of all that he is and does. I look forward to his stay with us and the leadership that he offers to our Church and our nation and internationally in his daily ministry.

Encouraging others is part of the ministry of the Body of Christ and so this October can I encourage you to join in with Thank Your Vicar Week which is 16 – 23 October. We all respond well to appreciation and encouragement and whilst the work of our clergy often goes unnoticed I’m sure each one of us can think of a special moment when we’ve received something through the ministry of our clergy. This is the grace of God, working through the Holy Spirit and through his followers. We are all called to be followers, disciples of Christ,
and we pray that through our lives and the lives of those around us that the Kingdom of Heaven comes closer and that God’s love is known more clearly. As we grow as disciples we come to see more of God, we experience more of his grace and we discover know more of the good things he has planned for us all.

So, I’m excited about the Archbishop’s visit but I’m even more excited about what’s already going on in our lives and our parishes and all this is still to come. As we continue to walk with Jesus and listen to his words we come to understand and experience more of his love. This starts with prayer as we open ourselves to God and respond to the love he has for us. And it continues with encouragement. As we meet and share with each other we can bear one another’s burdens and rejoice in the amazing grace that we find in our togetherness. As autumn comes upon us and as we approach the cold of winter may we warm one another with fellowship and love. As the evenings begin to draw in let’s make time for some stillness and quiet to discover the peace which floods our lives when we turn our hearts and minds to God.

Yours in Christ,
+Peter Bath & Wells

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**A Safe and Welcoming Church for All**

The Benefice of Saltford, Corston and Newton is committed to making the church a safe and welcoming place for all through the implementation of our Safeguarding and Safe Recruitment Guidelines. If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding children, young people or vulnerable adults, please contact Revd Daile Wilshere 01225 355910 or Mrs Sue Dixon, our Safeguarding Officer on 01225 359014.

The Benefice Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment Policy has been updated and outlines our commitment to the welcome, care, and protection of all in our church community. A copy is available for all to read in each of the churches.