

Summer is well and truly here and we have had a busy time since the last newsletter. We were very pleased that 3 couples chose St Mary's for their wedding, and we wish them all the very best in their future life together, along with a baptism, St Mary's has been well used by many in recent months..

Earlier in the summer we held our fête on what turned out to be a rather damp afternoon. We were grateful that so many still supported us on the day and raised over £2,500. This money is much needed as the plans to improve the drainage of the south side of the church are well underway and hopefully will commence later this year. The cost is likely to be around £15,000 and we are sourcing any funding available as this is a considerable sum. It is important to improve this as the past winters have shown how inadequate the current system is if we are to maintain the basic fabric of the church.

In July we held a "thank you" Pimm's and cake afternoon for all those who help with the church in any way. It was well attended and a good opportunity to meet up with everyone in a sunny church. Without the input of so many people who help at events, help care for the building and surrounding areas, deliver the newsletter and Pathways, arrange the flowers, spring clean the church, and lead the services etc. the church could not continue to be available to the neighbourhood.

The cemetery has looked lovely this year. Most of the hedge was ready for laying and we have employed a regular grass cutter so it has continued to be cared for since the autumn working party. If you wish to contribute to the upkeep donations can be left in the church chest.

We continue to collect for Somerset Community Foundation following the flood appeal. Despite the lovely summer many families are still not able to return to their homes and reduction in tourism continues to affect businesses. A coffee morning held in the EMN Hall in April raised over £200.

We were fortunate that the road repairs were finished in good time for Easter and the work allowed access to the church at weekends. The service on Easter day had a good mix of ages in attendance and we greatly appreciated the band who always make us sing with enthusiasm!

Grateful thanks to all who sponsored Revd Jon Rose's recent Beacon to Beach run in aid of the Youth Project fund. Across the benefice £900 was raised and is much appreciated by this group who have youngsters from all the parishes in attendance – if you want to know more speak to Revd Val or Jon.

FUTURE EVENTS



The Compline services are a little fewer in number this year as we host 2 benefice services on those Sundays. The last compline for 2014 will therefore be on September 14th and it will be a sung compline service at 8pm.



Harvest service will be on Sunday 12th October at 10.30am and we hope to have West Somerset Brass Band with us.



HYMN SANDWICH – Sunday September 14th at 4pm. Come and join this Deanery event with singing and refreshments (hopefully outside) at St Marys. The event is free but donations toward the deanery missionary project A Rocha appreciated. This charity is a Christian organisation that supports community conservation and education projects throughout the world.

Some interesting facts and figures;

£7.29 – the 2013 daily cost to heat, light and insure the church.

£4,000+ - the yearly amount we pay in “Parish share” for this we get the services of a Rector, the training of our Curate. The aim of the Parish Share is also to encourage churches who can afford more support those who are less well off, so they too can have a ministry team.

£1,012.22 – The amount in 2013 we reclaimed as gift aid. As we are totally reliant on collections, donations and fund raising to meet all our costs if you can gift aid your donation it is very beneficial. – For every £1 given we receive back an additional 20p. Please use a gift aid envelope or form when you can!

46 – the number of “regular” services held in 2013

15.7 – the average attendance at services in 2013

£300+ - the amount given to Homestart and the Deanery charity in 2013

£272.50 – the cost of upkeep of the cemetery in 2013.

£990 – the 2013 amount we paid to our benefice for services such as travel expenses of all the ministry team, printing/photocopying costs, Church copyright licence, choirmaster, benefice office equipment etc

77 and 64 – attendance at Easter Day and Christmas Day services

2,5,1,2, – the number of baptisms in years 2010-13

SERVICES.

24th August – 9.30am BCP* Communion.

31st August – (10.30am Benefice Communion at Elworthy).

7th September – 6pm Evensong.

14th September – (10.30am Benefice Communion @Crowcombe) 8pm Sung Compline (last of 2014)

21st September – 9.30am Morning Prayer.

28th September – 9.30am C/W** Communion.

5th October – 6pm Evensong (last of 2014).

12th October – 10.30 Benefice Communion and Harvest service.

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month Revd Val or Jon will be in the Church at 9.30am for a short said service and then remain to meet (or visit) parishioners.

BCP* =Book of Common Prayer (traditional) C/W** = Common worship (more modern wording).

CONTACTS – Please feel free to contact the Churchwarden Jane Wynne (01984 640743); the Rector Rev'd. Val Plumb 01984 656585 email; revd_val@yahoo.co.uk; Assistant Curate Rev'd. Jon Rose 01984 618715 email; revjonrose@gmail.com.