



ST MARYS NETTLECOMBE NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2015

A great deal seems to have happened since the last newsletter.

We held the fete back in May and had a lovely sunny day with record breaking tea sales. The final total was just short of a record at £3500. Many thanks to those who helped before and on the day as it would not be the success it was without all the behind the scenes work, and of course to anyone who supported us on the day. To thank all those who support the church in all the many ways we held our thank you Pimms' and tea afternoon and it was lovely to be able to simply chat over a glass or cup, and wonderful spread, in the church.

We have had 2 weddings and we wish the couples all the very best in the future - Vanessa and Graham Beech and Jenniferanne and Richard Cross.

Since late May Revd Jon has been our new Rural Dean for the Quantock Deanery. He was commissioned by the Archdeacon of Taunton at the May Deanery Synod. Should you want to know what a Rural Dean does then catch Jon next time you see him!

Finally for those of you in church at the end of July we had a special event. The Nettlecombe chalice and paten which are described as " the first known example of English church plate to display full hallmarks, including a date letter" (1479) were brought to the church for Revd Val to celebrate communion (see above). These are owned by St Marys but kept in the V and A museum in London. Take a moment to read their interesting history in the church guide. We try to let each Rector view them during their time with us and following Revd Val's news that she is to move to the Oxford Diocese to take up a new post as Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development in September she gave us a tight deadline! We wish her well in her new post and there are more details about her leaving later in the letter.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST- SUMMER CONCERT "What A Swell Party"

Dickon Gough, Humphrey Berney and our own local Christopher Legrove will entertain you to a wonderful evening of music and song. Drinks and canapés to follow.

LIMITED tickets left £14 - from Lucy Devitt 01643 821102/ lcd@dumbledeer.com

THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST - TEDDY BEARS PICNIC 2.30-4.30pm

All bears (and their owners) are welcome to the return of this popular event. Whose teddy will brave the zip wire from the tower? Honey sandwiches provided! Activities and teddy hunt. On the green in front of the church (in church if wet). Spread the word and dig out those bears.....

ADVANCED NOTICE - HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE, Sunday 18th October



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HOUSE FOR DUTY ASSOCIATE VICAR.

Revd Ben Flenley and his wife Kathryn will be moving to our benefice in September.

For those of you unfamiliar with a House for Duty (HfD) priest, as we have not had one for some while, he is **not** the "replacement" for Val. A HfD priest is usually someone with experience who is looking for a post that is not full time to allow them to explore other interests or take up new challenges etc, often a step down towards retirement. When Quantock Towers Benefice was created we were allocated a full time Priest (the current Rectors post) and a part- time HfD Priest. Until fairly recently this became an administrative post but now it has been changed back to one of Priest.

Our HfD post is for 2 days a week- one being a Sunday - and therefore they will not be doing (or be able to do) the work of a full time stipendiary (paid) Priest. Revd Ben current position is full time Priest in a similar group of rural Hampshire churches. His wife is also ordained. There will be a service to welcome and licence them both on Monday, 5th October at 7.30pm (venue to be decided shortly). We do know that Bishop Peter will be present to lead the licensing service. It is important they are allowed to settle in and not too much is expected of either of them during the time we are looking for a new Rector.

REVD VALS LEAVING AND INTERREGNUM.

Revd Val will sadly be leaving us on 2nd September. Her last service at St Mary's will be on Sunday 23rd August 9.30am Communion. Her final service in the benefice will be Sunday 30th August 10.30am at Stogumber Church followed by a "bring a plate" farewell lunch at Stogumber village hall. All are welcome to both. If you would like to contribute to Val's leaving gift then please contact John Crothers (640787) or Jane Wynne (640743) before August 16th if possible. The leaving card (or insert) will be in the church at each service before 30th and also from 10th -23rd August.

The time after Val leaving us until we get a new Rector is called the interregnum (vacancy). This usually last for 9 months - or longer. During this time there will be a lot of work going on in preparing the information for the new applicants and keeping the regular life of the church going. We are lucky in having the lay ministers as well as Revd Jon, and in time Revd Ben, in the benefice but we must be mindful of the limit to their energies! If you do wish to contact someone then please do remember the Churchwarden Jane and the PCC members are available for less urgent issues. If you wish to talk about anything to do with what skills or strengths you would hope for in the new Rector then please talk to the Churchwarden or PCC members. We hope to be able to keep the benefice in good shape until the new person arrives but please understand if alterations have to be made. Weddings Baptisms and of course funerals can still be arranged as before.

CONTACTS –Churchwarden Jane Wynne 640743; the Rector Rev'd. Val Plumb 01984 656585 email; revd_val@yahoo.co.uk (until Sept 2nd) ; Associate Priest & Quantock Rural Dean Rev'd. Jon Rose 01984 618715 email; -revjonrose@gmail.com; [PCC members](#); R Lintott 640208; J Crothers 640787; C Warren 633129; R and L Devitt (01643) 821102; S Wynne 640743; C Thorne 641713; R Lewis 667447 (treasurer).



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