

South Brent and Rattery Messenger

Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Messenger Magazine produced on behalf of St Petroc's Church, South Brent and St Mary's Church, Rattery. We would love to feature your news or hear your suggestions. You can email us at messengereditor@outlook.com or leave a message for the editors at St Petroc's. Please visit the website for further information about the churches at stpetrocsandstmarys.org.uk or find us on facebook @StPetrocsSouthBrent

Dear Friends,

In the next quarter there are two special occasions that connect the church with the seasons, in different ways. Both signal the ending of summer and the approach of autumn, but while Harvest is a celebration and thanksgiving of all the riches that God has given us, Remembrance is a more reflective and sombre affair.

At Harvest we give thanks in gratitude for all the harvest produce we enjoy and for those who work to produce it - for those who plough and sow and gather in the harvest, and for those who work to bring it to our tables. We are reminded that we have much to give God thanks for and to celebrate at Harvest. We are also encouraged to think of those whose harvest is unpredictable, who are struggling to have enough to eat, who cannot celebrate nature's bounty as we can.

Remembrance Sunday is a time to commemorate lives laid down for our freedom, loved ones lost and families bereaved. It is a time for reflection as we think of the sadness, loss, horror and devastation of war - both past wars and those that are happening in our own time. It is a time to pray for peace and new solutions to achieve the final cessation of all war and violent conflict.

Both services remind us that God is active and involved in his world and with his people. Creation is a work in progress; God is still moving us on, encouraging us to new ways of thinking and living that edge us closer to his kingdom. God is with us in the celebrations of harvest. He deserves all our praise and thanksgiving for everything He has made and enabled us to do and produce. He is also with us in the loss and pain of human conflict, comforting us in His infinite mercy and grace and lamenting with us the futility of war.

The autumn season is one of great beauty as the trees change colour from green to flame and red and then slowly drop their leaves, leaving bare branches stark against the sky. From joy and thanksgiving to grateful remembrance – God is with us in every season.

Wishing you all God's blessings in this autumn season

Revd Prof Gina Radford Team Vicar

St Petroc's Harvest Supper

South Brent Village Hall
Saturday 7th October, 6.30 for 7pm
Adults £10 children free

Bring your own alcohol, soft drinks provided
Tickets available from Emma 01364 72828 or Mary
01364 642092



Harvest church services

St Petroc's 1st October 9.30am Family Service

St Mary's 8th October 11.15am

Rattery Harvest Supper

Saturday 14th October

The supper will be in its traditional format served in the Village Hall. Tickets will be available on Tuesday mornings at the Village Hall or phone Linda 01364 649503 or Rob 07792635445



Compassionate Friends Café

10am—11.30am on 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month at the Old School, South Brent. A welcome place for people with experience of bereavement, recent or otherwise, or those about to lose a loved one, to come together with others for a cuppa and a chat. Drop in or phone 01364 700282. A partnership between South Brent & District Caring, St Petroc's and local people.

All welcome for coffee, cake and a natter in the St Petroc's Church car park on 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 11.30am.

SOUTH BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

Aiming to consider others' needs without judgement, welcoming all, by showing God's love in action.

Revd Kevin Hooke, 135 Churchfields Drive, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9QZ. 07772 571647 / hookekp@hotmail.com. Baptism & Wedding enquiries welcome. **Hall Bookings** - Mrs Patsy Tidball. 01364 649448

You may recall the old story of the overly pious minister passing a local resident working in his front garden and commenting, "You and the Lord are making a good job of that garden", to which he received the response, "you should have seen it when I left the Lord to do it on his own!"

This is the season of Harvest when churches are decorated with all kinds of produce as we celebrate the beauty and fruitfulness of the creation, and God's provision for our living. Of course, it has always been the case that harvest has marked not only God's providence but also our partnership with him; traditionally there have been community harvests attended by all the farm workers once the crops had been safely gathered, and every year we remember and pray for the agricultural community. But we are increasingly aware of our part in this partnership – the fruitfulness of the earth depends on our engagement with the climate change emergency, and the access of people in various parts of the world to clean water/adequate food/health care depends not only on charity but more importantly on humankind's ability to create fairer or more sustainable ways of living.

All are welcome at our Sunday services held at 11 am. Our Harvest service is on 24th September led by Revd Paul Weir.

A lively coffee morning is held in the Methodist Hall behind the Chapel every 1st Saturday of the month starting at 10 am. Access is suitable for all. Do come for chat, coffee and cakes!

Update from St Mary's, Rattery



After nearly 470 years in position the West Door of St Mary's Church is on its way to a craftsmen's workshop for a much needed restoration. This work has been made possible by our being successful in obtaining three grants from restoration bodies and a very kind donation from the wonderful Rattery plant sale.

We now have a new temporary closure to safeguard the west entrance to the church and already this is giving a foretaste of what the refurbished door might look like.

In addition to the door project we have also started on the task of making the building of greater relevance to those in the Parish who don't regularly worship with us by organising our first ever Chamber Music Concert. This is going to

showcase the church's potential as a venue suitable, in the future, for all kinds of entertainment for the benefit of the Parish and beyond.

Michael Jack



South Brent Bell Ringers

The Bell Ringers in South Brent have continued to be busy throughout the summer ringing for services, weddings and of course the King's Coronation in May. Training of our young ringers has continued throughout the year and we have now introduced a second practice night to accommodate the number of ringers we have! We will however be utilising our simulator and using the bells with their rubber muffles on the clappers, so you will still only be hearing the bells on one week night, either Monday or Wednesday. If anyone is interested in trying their hand at ringing please do get in touch with Graham on 07792 125539 gmsharland@gmail.com.

IT'S COMING UP TO SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN – ANY FILLED SHOEBOXES OR DONATIONS YOU CAN GIVE WILL BE SO VERY WELCOME



Living in areas of poverty and deprivation in the countries where Link to Hope operate – Moldova, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine – is really hard in ways we can't always imagine. A report from one family is by a mum whose husband left her with 2 boys, aged 4 and 7 who live in a small room 3m by 3m, with no bathroom or kitchen. She told that the shoebox was their only Christmas present and, in that, they received gifts for school, a toy and some sweets; even flannels and soap, a warm hat or gloves are treats which can bring joy and a little hope.

Apart from the Shoebox itself there is the £3 sent with each shoebox; this not only goes towards getting the shoeboxes out to each country, but also, with additional kind donations, funds other projects. In Ukraine, for example, where millions of people have been left without power, heating, lighting, ability to cook, hot water, lack of food in shops, Link to Hope have started to fund a centre for helping people with hot meals, drinks and support. In all the 4 countries, Link to Hope help in other ways.



For example, their 'Bags of Education' enable children in all countries to attend school. Individual people and families are helped with financial gifts to cover a special need they might have. Gift Aiding your £3 makes a huge difference to what can be done and, last year, from our village, about 80% of the money sent was gift aided which will have helped greatly. Thank you so much. You can find more information about the great work Link to Hope achieves by going to <https://linktohope.co.uk>.

Liz, Donna and Rob will welcome any filled Shoeboxes you can give. They are also happy to make up a Shoebox for you if you would like to donate money towards this, or take donations of items for the boxes. Leaflets giving details of these items are available in The Village Shop, St. Petroc's Church or the Toll House and shoeboxes and/or donations can be handed in to The Village Shop or given to Liz at St. Petroc's. The deadline for shoeboxes is 31st October.

Thankyou so much for your support. If you have questions, your receivers/volunteers in South Brent are Liz Rider (01364 73696) and Rob and Donna Wills (01364 388073 / 07415 130962).

Liz Rider

LOCAL HISTORY

Who do you think you are ...?

Relatives of long-established Brent families will be interested in a new local resource for family history. The old St. Petroc's Church burial registers, which date from 1677, have now been fully read and transcribed – about 5,300 names. The dates covered are 4 May 1677 – 29 Nov 1915. (This is the first part of a larger project aiming to read and transcribe all the old St. Petroc's church registers.)

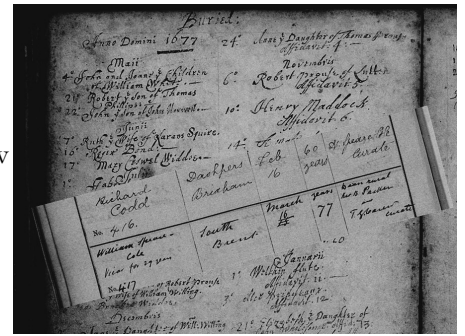
The information in old church registers is of course public information and has long been available in County Record Centres. Data from Devon church registers for example can be viewed at the Devon Heritage Centre in Exeter. But although the information is available, and can be found at such centres easily enough if you know the exact dates of interest, what do you do if you don't know likely dates? There is often no way to find all the entries relating to a particular surname. What has been needed is some sort of index ... for Brent, we now have one!

The old burial registers have now all been read (as far as is possible, some older entries are hard to decipher). They have been transcribed into electronic form, so entries can easily be sorted and located by surname, or by first-name, or by date, etc. This makes the gathering of information about a given family much easier. However, we have to bear in mind that older entries often gave no information at all other than the person's names and their date of burial—even their age was seldom recorded in times gone by—but sometimes there is an interesting extra note.

We hope to find a way for St Petroc's church to publish the data from its registers on the internet for anyone to download, but until then you are welcome to email me as below with any enquiries and I shall do my best to help ... first come first served.

Contact Peter Taylor using this email address for these old burial register enquiries: stpetrocguidebook@gmail.com

Peter Taylor



Graves Survey 2023

In 2018 I responded to an appeal from Peter Taylor for volunteers to survey and map the graves surrounding the church. Apparently, this area had never been done. Peter and I quickly commenced the area around the top lych gate, and all was going well. Then Covid played its hand and the project ground to a halt until some time in 2020 when I recommenced the survey.

It was a slow process, clearing vegetation, cleaning the stones and then trying to read the inscriptions; hard work at times. The “wild” area was extremely difficult and at times precarious, best done in the winter months when the vegetation had died back. However, this year it has been completed and around 770 names are recorded, and the gravestones mapped.

The resulting index has allowed Peter to cross-reference the existing burial records and queries were raised and answered. This information is ready to be published and potentially a copy given to the South Brent Archive and possibly to be made available on the church website for use by genealogists. Indeed, when in the graveyard I often came across people looking for specific names and at times I was able to help. If anyone should have any particular queries I will be pleased to help if I can.

Patrick McCulloch 01364 72828



SOUTH BRENT WOMEN TOGETHER

It has been about 18 months since we parted company with the National Federation of Women's Institutes, and the group has not only survived, but flourished!

We have reduced our annual fee to £25 and have increased our membership. We do however have plenty of room for anyone who might be interested in joining us.

We continue to meet in the Old School Centre on the third Tuesday of the month (except for August) at 7.15pm for a 7.30 start. Our activities have covered a wide spectrum. We visited the Devonport Playhouse last September for an excellent performance of 'Calendar Girls', had an interesting trip to The Valiant Soldier recently and a very enjoyable, although rather damp garden party in July. We have had many interesting speakers, giving talks on Dartmoor myths and legends, women in the RNLI, royal jewels, and Dame Hannah Rogers School, with a particularly enjoyable Christmas social- the chocolate bingo being a highlight!

We have an enthusiastic choir who meet to practice on a Wednesday morning. We sing mainly for our own pleasure but have given performances at meetings, Village Hall shows etc.

The Craft Group meets on 2nd Thursday morning of each month in the Church Room; a wide variety of subjects are covered. We have woven willow, created fused-glass bunting, needle-felted, made origami flowers and had a lot of fun sharing skills and learning new ones.

There is a lunch once a month, somewhere reasonably local; lifts are shared. This is a purely social event and a chance to catch-up over a meal in pleasant surroundings.

We are now able to donate to charities of choosing and support local initiatives, we have a group of volunteers at the Lunch Club run by South Brent Caring and are looking forward to many more entertaining and informative events.

Our October meeting will be very special as our speaker is Jackie Juno, acclaimed previous Bard of Devon who will be entertaining us with original and hilarious poetry and stories at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 October.

For further information contact me at vivienne_lawrence@msn.com, or just come along!

Contact details for St. Petroc's and St Mary's

Team Vicar *Rev'd Prof Gina Radford:* 07903 400480 revginar@gmail.com
Wed, Fri, Sun. Otherwise please leave a message

SB Church Wardens *Rob Brighouse:* 01364 716192 rbrighouse@yahoo.com
Susan Jozsa 01364 73484 susanjozs4@gmail.com

Rattery Church Warden *Michael Jack* 07767496857 michaeljack17@gmail.com

For Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals please contact the Team Vicar.

Services at St Petroc's

1st Sunday : Family Service 9.30
2nd and 4th Communion 9.30
3rd Sunday: Communion 8.00
Morning Worship 9.30
5th Sunday: Morning Worship/special service

Services at St Mary's

2nd Sunday : Morning worship 11.15
4th Sunday: Communion 11.15

THE TIGER IN YOUR GARDEN

We are all familiar with Charles Darwin and his book '*On The Origin Of Species*', yet how many of us are aware that another of his books outsold this – '*The Formation Of Vegetable Mould Through The Action Of Worms*'? Darwin was obsessed with worms and spent many years studying them in his local fields following his retirement from evolutionary studies.

In Britain we have 27 species of earthworm split into three broad groupings – the *epigeic* - worms that live on the surface and are often found in leaf litter and compost heaps/bins, the *endogeic* - worms that make horizontal burrows beneath the surface to move and feed, and the *anecic* - the largest and most common worms which make deep vertical burrows and take leaf litter from the surface deep into the ground. It is also these that leave the tell-tale casts on lawns and are in part responsible for the soil structure, fertility and for helping to prevent flash flooding. The casts also contain 5 times as much nitrogen, seven times as much phosphorous and 1,000 times as much good bacteria as the original soils does.

It has been calculated that in an acre of unploughed farmland there may be as many as one million worms [25 per square foot] with a combined tunnel system of some 1,200 miles. All this is lined with digested leaf litter, mucus and beneficial bacteria that help create a nutrient rich soil.

If you have a compost heap/bin you may find it full of worms – ours is brimming over with them – and amongst these, you will find the stripy ones known as brandlings or tiger worms. These break down enormous quantities of organic matter from vegetable peelings to grass clippings, and from plain cardboard to old flowers. In a surprisingly short time, they will munch through all this and excrete what will become your garden's best friend – compost. They do all this for free and save you the inconvenience of having to take your waste to the recycling centre, and provide you with free garden food that is perfect for vegetables and flowers.

Sadly, many pesticides will kill or harm worms, yet they are able to help remove some harmful metals including lead and zinc through the actions of phosphorous and sulphur in special compartment cells where they can turn these into pellets.

Despite their many superpowers, worms don't become two when they are chopped in half! So, please be careful when you are planting up your garden for next year's crop of home-grown veg.

Nick Kendall

"Confusions" November 2023

SBADS present two comedies by Alan Ayckbourn; performances 9th-11th November at 7.30pm, South Brent Village Hall.

"Confusions" is a set of 5 one act plays which are linked but can be performed in various combinations. We will be performing "Mother Figure" and "Gosforth's Fete". Look out for further details nearer the time and join us for an entertaining evening. Bar and other refreshments will be available from 7.00pm.

Cathie Pannell

Brent Island Trust very early warning

Brent Island Trust celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2024 and is planning a special fun and activity day to mark the occasion. A host of organisations ranging from Dartmoor National Park Authority and Devon Wildlife Trust to the Police, Fire Brigade and Westcountry Rivers Trust are being invited to visit The Island on Saturday 21st September 2024 to provide entertainment, information and activities for all ages. The event will run from 11am to 4pm. Make a note in your diaries (if you have them yet) now!

Guy Pannell

Floodlighting Sponsorship

Donations (£5 or more) are welcome to fund the floodlighting for St Petroc's church tower. Please contact Shirley Eatwell on 01364 72836. Thank you to all who have made a contribution. Donation on 1st September; "*in loving memory of my Grandparents - Gay and Charles Stevens*" Richard Stevens.



South Brent Feoffees charity

The South Brent Feoffees Charity (Charity No. 255283) has a small grant fund available for individuals and groups resident in South Brent parish to address specific welfare needs. Grants are not income related and are considered throughout the year on a case by case basis.

Education grants are available to support post 18 education for all young residents of South Brent parish. The deadline for receipt of applications for support is 31st October 2023.

Application for grants is by letter to Tom Maynard, Clerk to the Trustees c/o Luscombe Maye, South Brent Office or email SBFeoffees@outlook.com. Forms for education grants can be collected from the office.