

South Brent and Rattery Messenger

Autumn 2024

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,

I remember first reading the Chronicles of Narnia at 8 years old, and the excitement and wonder that I felt. I was completely transported to the world of Narnia, there to meet the Pevensie children and to walk with them through the magical wardrobe. It was a door into another world full of dwarves, talking animals, imagination – and of course my favourite – Aslan. Although Lewis didn't start out to write stories that would illustrate the most vital truths of the Christian faith, that is essentially what he did. I reread it as a young adult, and was as captivated as the first time, yet this time I could make the link. The sense of wonder, of a place beyond my imagination, of a self-giving being of such love and majesty.

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 145:3, "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." Job 11:7-8 says, "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is higher than heaven—what can you do?". There is a genuine sense in which we can know God, but there is another in which we must confess that we will never fully comprehend him. Augustine said, "We are speaking of God. Is it any wonder if you do not comprehend? For if you comprehend, it is not God you comprehend." This, by the way, is why heaven is not boring. Whoever told you that heaven is sitting on a cloud with a harp plucking for eternity hasn't been reading their Bible. Heaven is the great adventure of exploring the unsearchable God in a new heaven and a new earth for the endless ages. God is a world full of wonder, and for eternity we will open up door after door and enter wardrobe after wardrobe and explore world after world of his unending magnificence.

What do you know of God now? Have you been so caught up with this world that you have forgotten he is your great adventure? Come on, get your hiking gear and let's search out the glories of our God.

Revd Prof Gina Radford, Team Rector, Dart and Avon Mission Community

St Petroc's Harvest Supper

South Brent Village Hall
Saturday 5th October, 6.30 for 7pm
Adults £10 children free

Bring your own alcohol, soft drinks provided

Tickets available from
Emma 01364 72828 or Susan 01364 73484



Harvest church services

St Petroc's 6th October 9.30am Family Service
following church breakfast from 8.30am

St Mary's 13th October 11.15am

Rattery Harvest Supper

Saturday 19th October 7pm for 7.30
Tickets will be available on Tuesday mornings at the
Village Hall, the Church House Inn or phone
Linda 01364 649503 or Rob 07792635445

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

By the time you read this, our Harvest Festival at the Methodist Church will probably have taken place on Sunday 22nd September. Harvest is a moment, of course, to celebrate the fruitfulness and richness of God's creation, and to remember with gratitude those whose labour enables us to enjoy our daily food. It's also a time to reflect on our responsibilities in a world with a changing climate and deep injustices. For me, it's important to bring all these elements before God in worship and prayer and in consideration of the daily living out of our Christian lives.

If you have missed it, but fancy singing a couple of harvest hymns more informally and socially, we intend to give our monthly coffee morning this time a bit of a harvest theme – it will be on Saturday 5th October from 10am in the room at the back of the main chapel. There will be the usual space for friendship, conversation and cake (and who knows, maybe something more for Harvest.....)

Our usual weekly Sunday worship at 11am continues this autumn, as does our fellowship meeting for conversation, bible study and prayer twice a month on a Wednesday afternoon – this is held in different members' houses, so please contact us for more details.

Thanks for those of you who called into our Open Day at the Methodist Church in June – it was good to catch with a number of long-standing friends of the chapel and make some new friends. Since then, the inside of the chapel has been redecorated, so it has a lighter and fresher feel.

These few notes come, as always, with our love and best wishes as a Methodist community, and a warm invitation to join us at any of our times together.

South Brent Bell Ringers

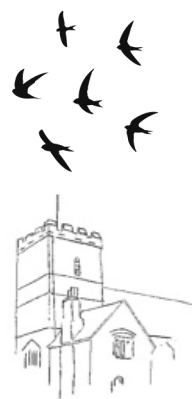
The South Brent Ringers have continued to ring on Sunday mornings and our usual Monday practice nights throughout the summer, with the exception of three weeks at the end of July into the beginning of August while we undertook some maintenance on the bell fittings. We had the roller box and ground floor pulley wheels renewed, so they should now be good for another forty or fifty years! We also took the opportunity to renew the tail ends on three of the ropes to extend their working life. As always, if you're interested in trying your hand at ringing or just interested in coming along to see what it's all about, then please get in touch with Graham at gmsarland@gmail.com or call on 07792 125539.

Swift Nest Box project on the Tower at St. Petroc's

Swifts are a "red-listed" species due to their population decline of 60 percent in the last 20 years. One of the main reasons for this decline is the reduction in nesting sites available to them upon their return to the UK from Sub-Saharan Africa in early May each year. Swifts rely, almost exclusively, upon our buildings for nesting sites and unfortunately modern construction techniques have unwittingly destroyed such sites. Church towers are ideal for nesting boxes and there have been successful projects placing them in towers in other areas. St. Petroc's church tower is perfectly located and the design of the windows is similar to other church towers that have been successful in attracting and accommodating these amazing birds. We shall be having three nest boxes installed on the tower and hopefully we can all look forward to seeing swifts in South Brent.

Susan Jozsa

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



IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!

It's that time of year for collecting things for a shoebox full of different items which a family or elderly person/couple would love to receive. They would be living probably in one room, a basic wood fired stove to provide heating and cooking, a well in the road for water. If lucky they might have some kind of lighting, and their children might be able to go to some kind of school. Your boxes will go to people identified by project workers who know them and know how happy and grateful they will be to receive a box of goodies at Christmas – useful items and treats! The countries we collect for are Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania – all countries where there are lots of places cut off from what we know as civilisation and any kind of comfortable living.

Leaflets for boxes can be collected from The Village Shop in South Brent, St. Petroc's Church and The Toll House and they give a list of things they suggest you put in your shoeboxes. Shoebox sizes are ideally those which come for a size 8 shoe – not big boot boxes! – ask in shoe shops when you go shopping. To put in them: Supermarkets often have own brand cheap products, Charity shops are good for small fluffy toys, little other toys, scarves, etc. and Donna and Rob in The Village Shop often have just what you need; start collecting now, spreading your spending helps. Shoeboxes can be taken to The Village Shop when ready, please give them in before or by the cut-off date of 8th November. If anyone would rather give money for things to fill either part or a whole shoebox, cash can be given in at The Village Shop, or to Liz Rider.

Any questions, please contact Liz Rider – 01364 73696 or mobile 07833645106 or Donna Wills 01364 388073. Thank you so much for anything you can give.



Liz Rider

St Dunstan's Catholic Church

St Dunstan's Catholic Church in New Park off Church Street, South Brent is a friendly Catholic worshipping community served by our Parish Priest, Fr Francis Straw, from Buckfast Abbey.

We warmly invite you to join with us on Sundays at 9 am for Mass, tea and coffee is served on the second Sunday of the Month. Children are very welcome to enjoy our quiet activity bags during the service. We have been delighted to welcome visitors this summer to our Sunday morning Mass. If you are reading this whilst here on holiday, please do come and find us just off Church Street in New Park, South Brent. TQ10 9AQ. **What3words:** perfumes.unlucky.tarnished. We look forward to meeting you.

Sacraments of Initiation

In the Catholic Church It is time to start planning for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptism or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church for next year.

If you live in this parish:

Would you like your child to receive their First Holy Communion next year?

Does your teenage son or daughter wish to be Confirmed?

Are you a Catholic adult who missed out on Confirmation and would like to be Confirmed?

Are you a baptised Christian who would like to become a Catholic?

Are you a Christian who has not been baptised and wishes to be baptised and received into the Catholic Church?

For a conversation about any of the above, please contact Father Francis.

If you have just lost the habit of going to church and want to find your way back home, come along to Mass where you will be most welcome.

Advent Service: The annual ecumenical Advent Service will be held in St Dunstan's Church on Thursday 5th December at 7.30 pm, all are welcome to prepare for Christmas.

Contact Details: parish@buckfast.org.uk Telephone Fr Francis Straw: 01364 645526

Mary Waterman



Tuesday Fair Share

Sustainable South Brent's Tuesday Fair Share is an opportunity for residents of South Brent and the surrounding area to access affordable, good quality surplus (in date) produce, minimising food waste and landfill.

Everyone is welcome; you'll be asked to check in each time, and there is a suggested donation of £3.50. (The food is free but we need to pay transport and rent). For that you can get at least 10 items of food and groceries, from a selection of produce that changes every week and includes a selection of fruit and vegetables and store cupboard essentials. If you feel you would like to donate more than £3.50 you are welcome to. There is free parking on site at the Rec. The main supplier is Fareshare SouthWest, a national charity that redistributes surplus food from the food industry to community groups.

This is a volunteer led project, if you are interested in volunteering, please email tuesdayfairshare@ssb.org.uk.

Caroline Grundy

Tuesday Fair Share



Now at Palstone

Rec Pavilion

Tuesdays

2.30-4.00pm



Affordable groceries and household products for residents of South Brent using a surplus of healthy food that will be different each week.



Suggested contribution of £3.50.

Everyone welcome. Do come along with children.

Refreshments available



email: tuesdayfairshare@ssb.org.uk



Mothers' Union

We will be meeting on the fourth Thursday of October and November and in December will be enjoying a Christmas lunch together with spouses and friends.

We will be joining our South Devon Cluster Mothers' Union friends at a Quiet Day on Wednesday 16th October. Please contact me if you would like to come.

We will be joining our Diocesan Mothers' Union members at our Members meeting in November.

Other activities include Cathedral Prayers at midday on Friday 25th October and a Carol Service at St. Lukes, Buckfastleigh in December.

Please contact Sue Addy for further details (01364 73068).

Sue Addy

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.

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

Team Rector *Revd 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 susanjozsa4@gmail.com

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

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

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: Mission Community Service
(see web site)

Services at St Mary's

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

It's Good ... but not quite Perfect ...

$$1 + 2 = ???$$

We had a good holiday, but there were several wet days ... That TV program was brilliant, but the commentary could have been better ... Quite like that car, but the boot is tiny ... Good book, but the print is too small ... Those biscuits taste wonderful, but they're too hard ...

It's good, but not quite perfect. Pretty much everything seems to have some drawback, doesn't it? But there are other things that seem different. What a glorious sunset ... What a beautiful night sky ... What a lovely piece of music ...

Is anything truly perfect? For a long time, people have been amazed at the amazing ability of mathematics to describe the world around us. In an article in the 1960s, physicist Eugene Wigner famously pointed out "the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics in the natural sciences". It is indeed amazing that mathematics so exactly explains so much of the world we live in. And that humans have the ability to comprehend mathematics – it didn't have to be so! Beginning with our sense of number, and realising what $1 + 2 = 3$ means, we have come to understand that a very simple law of gravity accounts for the movements of the planets round the sun – astonishing! Thank you, Isacc Newton ... and thank you, Albert Einstein, for solving some puzzles that he left unsolved.

Have you ever wondered, Is mathematics perfect? Is it really somehow detached from the world of imperfection? What exactly IS mathematics? Does it exist apart from our ability to imagine it? And if so, WHERE exactly does mathematics exist? (Plato had some ideas about that.) Well, it does seem like maths is perfect ... or it did, until Kurt Godel came along in the early 20th century and proved that there were true propositions about the natural numbers that could not be proved or disproved by mathematics! Oh dear ... is nothing perfect after all?

The Christian faith has a very satisfying understanding of the universe as entirely created by a personal and loving God who also created the way it works and then created people with the ability to (in part) understand what He had done. But human imperfection, however you think that came about (take your pick), has echoed round the cosmos, and so some things are less than perfect.

I suppose that if everything WAS perfect, we'd eventually come to realise it's just us that's not! But that's the start of another story ...

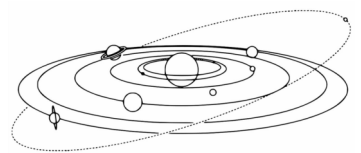
Peter Taylor

SKYWATCHING

One of the brightest objects to be seen in the night sky is Jupiter, and at 11 times the diameter of the Earth, it is the largest of the planets in our solar system. Like the moon and stars, planets are seen to rise in the east and set in the west as the earth turns, but over time, planets can be seen to move against their background of stars. This relative movement can be eastwards or westwards and explains why the word 'planet' comes from the Greek word for a wanderer.

There had always been a firmly held belief that the whole universe centred on the Earth with the stars and planets moving around it. Unfortunately, this made it hard to explain the wanderings of the planets and increasingly complex theories were devised. Around 270BC Aristarchus of Samos had proposed that the earth revolved around the sun, but this alternative view was largely ignored until Nicholaus Copernicus published his *heliocentric* theory in 1543. At that time, astronomy could be a dangerous occupation and such was the outrage that in 1600 Giardano Bruno was executed for showing his support, whilst 1633 saw Galileo Galilei sentenced to house arrest for the rest of his life. It was another 50 years before scientific wisdom prevailed.

Jupiter has 4 moons that can actually be seen with a pair of binoculars. Named Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto, these colourful characters aid Jupiter in Greek mythology and have aided science too: Galileo proposed in 1612 that by observing the positions of these moons it would be possible to calculate a precise time, essential for navigation in determining your longitude (reliable chronometers did not appear until after 1761). The technique was proven on land, but never at sea, despite inventions such as the celatone, a form of helmet mounted telescope. In 1676, the Danish astronomer Ole Rømer was the first person to attempt to calculate the speed of light having observed Io as it is regularly eclipsed by Jupiter and noting that the interval changed slightly.



Jupiter will be visible in the mid-October sky from around 20.00.

David Smith

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 2024.

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 and can be found at <https://stpetrocsandstmarys.org.uk/south-brent-feoffees/>.