



Pews News for November



From the Vicar

Eight years ago, the Church of England embarked on the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) journey to try to come to an understanding of human sexuality and to find a way to be truly inclusive of same sex relationships. Time has passed and there have been many painful conversations and experiences which have left many in the church disappointed, dismayed and hurting. You may have read about the recent decision by the House of Bishops to put the brakes on the process despite the clear feeling in General Synod and many in congregations that this is not the right thing to do. You may also have read about the threats by conservative churches to seek their own bishops, withhold their money and to create their own church. This is deeply disturbing on many levels.

2026 looks to be a significant year for the Anglican Church with the enthronement of Archbishop Sarah followed by a meeting of General Synod in February where further debate of LLF will take place. Later in the year a further conference will discuss the shape and future of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Much to pray about!

Two years ago, both our churches agreed that we would offer Prayers of Love and Faith to same sex couples seeking blessing of their relationship as we reflected on what the effect of this would be in our community. We used words like hospitality, welcome, acceptance, inclusivity and love.

As with so much of contemporary society, when the whole thing feels increasingly polarised, keeping quiet and getting on with things becomes the way we cope. Doing this might allow us to continue our day to day lives, but it also prevents us from facing and challenging the growing prejudices, and injustices that LGBTQ+ people face..

Inclusive Church has written an Open Letter which you are invited to read. If you feel that you could sign this and add your support and voice to a fully inclusive and hospitable church, please follow the link below.

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/llf-open-letter/>



Wedding Festival

This time last month we were just getting ready to hold our Wedding Festival. On the Friday evening the mannequins began to arrive in readiness for the dresses. Saturday saw the doors open and boxes, bags, and bundles were brought in and the task of unpacking, de-creasing and dressing the mannequins began. It was a delightful day that prompted so many memories, shared conversations, smiles and yes, there were a few tears too.



During the week we welcomed visitors and ended the festival with a wedding Songs of Praise followed by delicious wedding cake and Prosecco. Many thanks to Anna and Sam and their team of volunteers and to all who were involved. It was a really joyful occasion and raised funds for the Christ Church Future Fund. It was so good to be

able to take a 'then and now' picture of Brain and Barbara Bullock cutting the cake which had (this time round) been made by Ann Burgess,

Website

We are in the process of moving our online presence to A Church Near You. Do have a look and thank you for your patience as we make the transition.



From the Registers

Funerals:

9th October Marion Amor at St. Mary's

14th October Chrissy Rogers at Christ Church

16th October Arthur Bailey at St. Mary's



Remembrance Sunday



Note the changes in service times for Remembrance Sunday. This allows the congregation at Christ Church to join the Town Commemoration at the Memorial Theatre and the congregation at St. Mary's to observe the 11 o'clock silence. The service at St. Mary's is not a Eucharist and will be led by our churchwardens.

Leaf Sweeping



The copper beech trees are one of the very beautiful things at St. Mary's and each year they, along with the other trees drop their leaves. On Saturday 8th November 10am-12pm there is a gathering to sweep them up. Come along to St. Mary's, bring your own gloves and rakes and we will provide bags, bacon butties and a warm glow.



St. Mary's Christmas Fayre

on Saturday 15th November 10.00am -12.30pm
at St. Mary's.

cakes - preserves - handicrafts - puzzles - games - toys -
clothes - jewellery - accessories decorations; bathroom goods
-raffle - refreshments

Everyone welcome - bring your friends

Christmas Tree Festival



Building on the success of last year's Festival. The 2025 Christmas Tree festival begins on Sunday 7 December and runs for a week. If you would like to enter a tree in the festival, or you know of a local group/organisation or charity that might like to join in, please take a flyer from the back Christ Church or visit www.A Church Near You (Christ Church – News and Events) to join in and find further details. We will also be grateful of offers to steward the festival during the week. Please speak to Alan Burgess, Mary Gatcliffe or sign the sheet at the back of church if you can help. Do come and see Christ Church transformed into a Winter Wonderland.



Christ Church Christmas Fayre

in Christ Church (not the hall)

on Saturday 22nd November 10am-2pm.

Raffle – Books- Cakes - Gifts – Art – Clothes -
Wreath making and other delights

All welcome

Bring your friends

Confirmation

Bishop Michael is coming to Frome on Thursday 20th November to hold a service of confirmation at St. Johns. It's wonderful that Ruby (who sings in the choir at Christ Church) has decided that she wants to be baptised and confirmed. On Bible Sunday we presented her with a copy of the Youth Bible during the service and you are all invited to come along to St. Johns on Thursday 20 November at 7pm to accompany Ruby and others on this important and joyous occasion.



Christ Church PCC Decisions

At the last PCC meeting the work that Christ Church Future had been doing was presented as a series of recommendations about the next phase to the building works. The PCC is the decision making body and thanks to the clear and thoughtful presentation were able to make a number of decisions about the next steps.

The PCC have agreed to:

Replace the nave roof and replace the inadequate drainage piping to prevent water ingress in the church. As many of the old materials will be reused where possible.

To **create** an accessible entrance at the west end by creating a raised pathway. Again the intention is to use (and move the existing steps)

To **install** an external notice board to the wall immediately to the left of the West door

To **remove** the polycarbonate screens from the four lower windows on the north side as soon as possible and to begin to replace them in the Spring with new polycarbonate which will reveal the tracery and look much more welcoming

To **replace** and rewire the lighting in the servers' vestry before painting and decorating. This will give us a pleasant and warm room for meetings

We now need to begin to look seriously at raising funds and applying for grants to make this happen and we are working closely with our church architect as we seek the relevant permissions. It is a really exciting time and the support and vision of the PCC members has been hugely encouraging. If you have experience of fundraising the Christ Church Future team would love to hear from you.

There is also the possibility of installing PV panels on the new roof and trialling under-pew heaters ...

Loop Frome

Many of you will have seen Ben cycling round town on his tricycle collecting food waste from local businesses and turning it into the most miraculous compost ever in the bins currently at Victoria Park. This community project grew out of Edventure and is a great way of creating a



sustainable and circular economy.. taking local waste and turning it into a local resource. Loop Frome are looking for a new home and St. Mary's PCC have agreed to offer hospitality to the project on a piece of the Paddock behind the prayer shed. We're looking forward to getting to know them and spreading some the compost in the Giant's Garden.

Advent comes at the time of year as the days get shorter and the to do list of life get longer. The run up to Christmas can be exhausting and overwhelming in all sorts of ways. Why not set aside sometime to prepare a space within you ready to embrace the season of Advent

Contemplating Advent

On Wednesday 26th November at 7pm

Christ Church Lady Chapel

silence -music- words

Dress for warmth



FACT Advent Service

Frome Area Christians Together are gathering to worship together and begin the great journey through Advent in St. John's Church Frome.

Join others from the churches and Christian communities on

Sunday 30 November at 5pm.

All are welcome

Prayer and Carols

In our community, more and more people are living with memory loss, whether their own or that of someone they love. As churches we sometimes forget how good people can still be at singing, reading, praying and enjoying company, even if our accepted pattern and ways of worship are no longer helpful.

On Friday 12th December at midday, there is a gathering at St. Mary's which will begin with a dementia-friendly service and then lunch of soup and mince pies.

This is especially intended for people with memory loss and their carers.

If you know of someone who would like to come, please let them know and there are flyers in church to take and give out.

If you would like to help with making/ serving lunch please speak to Revd Liz of Dorothy-Anne Bryant.



Forgotten Churches



Christ Church Welcomes Luke Sherlock to give a talk on his book *Forgotten Churches*. Luke has the book shop at the bottom of Catherine Hill and is giving this talk as part of the Christ Church Future Fundraising programme.

Do come along 11am. Admission is free and refreshments are available. Donations welcomed

Services in November



	Christ Church	St. Marys
Sunday 2nd	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong for All Souls	10.30am Parish Eucharist for all Saints
Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday	9.30am Sung Eucharist	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 16th	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish Eucharist 12.30 Baptism for Freddie Farnell
Sunday 23rd	10.30am Sung Eucharist	9am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 30th	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish Eucharist
Sunday 7th December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6pm Choral Evensong	10.30am Parish Eucharist

Each Wednesday 10.00am Eucharist at St. Mary's (said)

Belmont Villa Holy Communion Thursday 6th November at 2pm

Greenhill Grange Holy Communion Service Wednesday 26th at 2.30pm

Frome Hospital Friday 28th October at 2pm

Contact Details

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Hall Bookings <https://hallbookingonline.com/frome>