Wellsprings Benefice Newsletter

Hello!

I do miss the long summer evenings, but I also enjoy the cosiness of the winter nights in front of the fire. I start piling up craft projects and books long before the clocks change, in the knowledge that the garden will be 'put to bed' for another year and a few more precious hours will become available. In the past, evenings from October through to December, have been spent creating themed decorations with felt and other materials for a community Christmas Tree Festival in Bradford on Avon, which my employer supported. It was used to promote our organisation as well as other local businesses and clubs to residents and visitors.

This year I am helping my gardening club and have designed a tree which will be part of a local festival. Now my kitchen counter is taken over with toilet rolls, egg boxes and tins as I work towards this year's exhibit. The closer I get to the set up date, the more cooking will become a challenge, and the room will look more like a set from the TV Blue Peter set (no sticky backed plastic here)! Like many people tackling a project, it often gets to the stage where I wish I had never started. However, I know from experience that I will get there in the end and often as plans come together, and the scrap material is transformed, perhaps I should remember the quote – 'the joy is in the journey not the destination'.

Rev. Maureen has asked me to remind you that the Benefice Service is next week on 29th November at Holy Cross church Seend at 10am. It will be an Advent Eucharist. It is a good opportunity to meet our friends from throughout the Benefice.



One final reminder that it is Rev Gerry's photo talk this Friday at Poulshot Village Hall 7pm. Details below.

Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,
Gill Murray
Wellsprings Benefice Administrator
Email: contact.wellsprings@btinternet.com

Confirmations in the Cathedral



Congratulations to Bob, Henry, and Mark who were confirmed by Bishop Karen in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday evening, 31 October in a service that was a great display of God's light on Hallowe'en. If you would like to be confirmed or know someone who would, we are planning to run another set of confirmation classes in the spring aiming at the Cathedral confirmation due in May 2027. Adult baptism classes are also available on request.

Acting Bishop's Address



At Diocesan Synod on 17 October, Bishop Karen, acting Bishop of Salisbury, gave her Presidential Address at a difficult time for the diocese. Bishop Stephen remains suspended while two complaints go through the Clergy Discipline Measure process. She also had good news to share: new priests, deacons and Licensed Lay Ministers; a pilgrimage along St Edward's Way; continuing links with Sudan and South Sudan; and the start of the process to appoint a new Bishop of Ramsbury, who could be in post by next summer and will work closely with our large military community.

She explained how the diocese is cutting central costs, now gives about £200,000 a year in Aldhelm Mission Funding grants, and is putting more support into parishes. That includes help with giving, volunteers and rural administration, and more training for Lay Worship Leaders so smaller churches can keep meeting for worship and study. She also spoke plainly about money. The budget has to respond to unpaid parish share and falling stipendiary vocations, and she asked everyone to keep giving generously to the shared ministry fund. The address was recorded so it could be shared in deaneries and parishes, and it's worth reading or watching in full. You can find it here: https://salisbury.anglican.org/bishop-karens-diocesan-synod-address-2/

Rev Gerry's Photo Talks Autumn 2026

The remaining photo-illustrated talk this season. Don't miss these excellent opportunities to travel the world in your imagination. Proceeds are for church funds and you can book through the links below.

Change and Charm in China

7 pm, Friday 20 November, Poulshot Village Hall

High tech cities harbour ancient temples in a vast country which has never been more prosperous, or more powerful.



Click to book ticket for £7.50.

Table Decoration Workshop

St Mary's Church, Potterne on Saturday 28th November from 10 till noon. Materials and refreshments provided for £15 but bring your own fresh/artificial flowers if you wish to use them Contact Raye Twiney on 07580 805040 to sign up.





Potterne Christmas Market

Dec 4th, 4pm to 7pm. St Mary's Church will be doing its Christmas Draw at this event. Donations for hampers gratefully received, there is a box in St Mary's Church. Raffle books also available in the Church. Stalls are available if anybody would like to join us. Email Nesta on npudney1@sky.com

Bratton Brass Band Christmas Concert



Friday Dec 11th in Potterne Village Hall raising money for the RBL and St Mary's Church. Tickets £8 on the door or email Nesta on npudney1@sky.com.

"The Spirit of Christmas"



Holy Cross Church, Seend
Saturday 12th December at 7:30pm
Tickets £12 pp (£10 in advance) £4 students/children (£2 in advance) in aid of Seend Church.
www.wegottickets.com/ThePhilomelSingers or telephone 07977 576647
A concert of superb choral and other music for the Christmas Season with guests: Justin Chen, Roseanna Hawkins, Patrick & Taliesin Williams
Mulled wine and mince pies will be served!

The Patch Charity Shop and Café in Potterne

The Café & charity shop are starting to buzzzz & with the cooler days, it's a warm place to come after a good walk—dogs are welcome.
We have a wonderful hive of volunteers & will extend opening hours soon.

The Patch opening times are:
Monday from 10am to noon
Tuesday from 10am to noon
Wednesday from 10 am to noon
We hope to extend our hours subject to extension of our volunteer team.

The Patch team
info@thepatchinpotterne.org

Evening Home Group for working Adults

Are you interested in joining a home group that meets in the evening, for people who work during the day, to pray, socialise, and explore faith together? There are at least four people interested in attending one. If you'd like to join them, let Gerry know on rev@gerrylynch.co.uk or 07521 440 622.

The Open the Book Team in Potterne and Worton needs your help please!

Open the Book (OtB) is an exciting storytelling project. As invited guests in school, teams prepare and present a 10–15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible

If you would like to know more about this valuable outreach role, please have a chat with Jean Lane at Christ Church, Worton or Jackie Sawyer at St Mary's, Potterne.

Jean Lane: phone: 01380 722069, email - joje@talktalk.net

Jackie Sawyer: phone: 07810 132036, email - jackiesawyer50@gmail.com

Upcoming services

This Sunday 22nd November (Sunday next before Advent)

9.30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9.30am	Morning Praise	Worton
11.00am	Communion	Bulkington
11.00am	Communion	Potterne
4.00pm	Evensong (BCP)	Seend

Wednesday 25th November Celtic Service 3pm Poulshot

Next Sunday 29th November (Advent Sunday)

10.00am Benefice Service Seend

Every Tuesday, 9am Said Matins at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayers during the week.

Please visit our website www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

Best wishes and every blessing from all of the Ministry team