

Berkeley Benefice Herald



**Magazine for the Benefice
family of churches**

**All Saints' Stone,
St Mary's Berkeley
& St Michael's Hill**

September & October 2024 edition

What is your season?

It's hard to believe how fast this year is going. Summer is starting to relinquish its grip on the thermometer, the mornings are beginning to show crispness in the air, and our gardens change along with our wardrobe choices.

But it's not just the weather which experiencing changes in seasons, we do too. Our lives have seasons: periods of predictability where certain things happen, then other times of unexpected storm or sun.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, King Solomon reflects on the passing seasons of life;

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

A time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.'

Just like the weather, there is a balance and purpose to the seasons in our lives. We would all like to stay in the warmth and hope of Spring and Summer, productive and active. But there are often the difficult times, the dark times of Winter.

If the Earth was not tilted by 23 degrees, there would be no seasons. The equator would enjoy a constant 12 hours of light, but we, along with much of the rest of Europe, would experience temperatures similar to the North Pole, with animal and plant life dying out.

Just as the Earth needs the transition through Winter for the new life of Spring, we too can see the growth of 'Spring' because of the difficult 'Winters'. For those of faith, we realise that God doesn't save us from the difficult seasons, but promises to be with us in them; a place where we can learn not only about ourselves but also about Him.

So may you enjoy the upcoming season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' as we move on with the rest of the year. And on a cheery note, at the time of writing, there are only another 119 days to Christmas.

Rev Steve.

Services in September

Sunday 1st

- 9.30am Communion at All Saints, Stone
- 11am Family Church at St Mary's, Berkeley
- 4pm Evening Prayer at St Andrew's, Sharpness
- 6pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Berkeley

Wednesday 4th

- 11am Coffee & Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 8th

- 9.30am Communion at St John's, Purton
- 11am Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley
- 6pm Café Church at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 15th

- 9.30am Morning Worship at All Saints', Stone
- 9:30am Communion at St Andrew's, Sharpness
- 11am Family Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley
- 6pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Berkeley

Wednesday 18th

- 11am Coffee & Communion at All Saints', Stone

Sunday 22nd

- 9:30am Morning Worship at St John's, Purton
- 9.30am Harvest Communion at St Michael's, Hill
- 11am Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley
- 6pm Celebration Praise at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 29th

- 11am Benefice Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley
- We are delighted to welcome Bishop Rachel.

Services in October

Wednesday 2nd

11am Coffee & Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 6th

9.30am Harvest Communion at All Saints, Stone

11am Harvest Family Church at St Mary's, Berkeley

4pm Harvest Evening Prayer at St Andrew's, Sharpness

6pm Harvest Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 13th

9.30am Harvest Communion at St John's, Purton

11am Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Café Church at St Mary's, Berkeley

Wednesday 16th

11am Coffee & Communion at All Saints', Stone

Sunday 20th

9.30am Morning Worship at All Saints', Stone

9:30am Communion at St Andrew's, Sharpness

11am Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Berkeley

Sunday 27th

9:30am Morning Worship at St John's, Purton

9.30am Communion at St Michael's, Hill

11am Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Celebration Praise at St Mary's, Berkeley

Service times are correct at the time of print but please check the website or church notice boards for any changes.

What's on in September & October

All Saints', Stone

Saturday 12th October at 6.30pm - Harvest Supper
(Booking required)

St Mary's, Berkeley

Toddler Cafe every Tuesday 10am to 11.30
Open to all looking after pre-school children for coffee, tea, cake
and conversation.

Care Cafe every First Thursday of the month 10am to 12
Support available for those who are carers, bereaved, journeying
with cancer, living with poor mental health, or just need someone
to talk with.

Friday 27th September at 10am
MacMillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 5th October at 6.30pm
Berkeley Harvest Supper
(Booking required)

Saturday 19th October at 7.30pm
'Cat Amongst the Pigeons' live
(Booking required)

St Michael's, Hill

Sunday 1st September from 2pm
Cream teas in the village hall

Sunday 6th October from 2pm
Cream teas in the village hall

*Times are correct at the time of print but please check the website
or church notice boards for any changes or additions.*

How do I contact the Vicar?

Rev Steve Godsell
Priest in Charge

Email: revsteve.berkeleybenefice@gmail.com

Call: 01453 810294

(Usual off duty day is a Monday)

Who's who?

All Saints, Stone

Churchwardens	Andy Fryer & Naomi Sargent
PCC Secretary	Eirian Vaughan-Lewis

St Mary the Virgin, Berkeley

Churchwardens	David Bainbridge, Alice Kilby, & Chris Hall
PCC Secretary	Debbie Page

St Michael's, Hill

Churchwarden	Jane Jenner Fust
PCC Secretary	Sarah Elliot

www.berkeleybenefice.co.uk