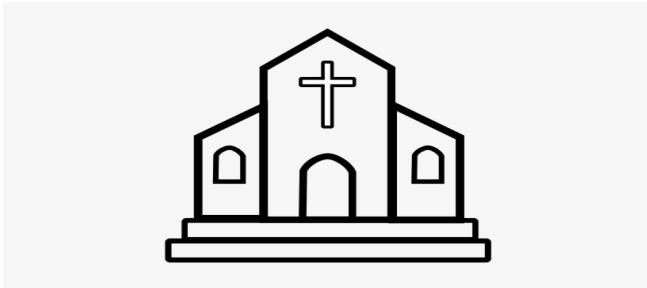


# Berkeley Benefice Herald



**The Benefice magazine for**  
**All Saints', Stone & Woodford,**  
**St Mary the Virgin, Berkeley with**  
**Breadstone, Wick & Newport,**  
**and**  
**St Michael's, Hill**  
**August 2022 edition**

## **If you go down to the woods today...**

A new expression has entered the language quite recently: “forest bathing”. When I first heard the term used, I thought it was about swimming in woodland lakes or rivers. But it is in fact about immersing oneself (clothed) into the experience of being in a wood or group of trees and relaxing, staying in the moment of peace, calm and wellbeing that a mindful walk among trees can bring. There is probably a lot more I have yet to grasp to gain full benefit from forest bathing, but I imagine anyone who has ever been in a city park in the shade of trees on a hot day can understand something of the refreshment and pleasure we can also experience when having a real swim in a favourite place.

Anyone who has been to our house will know that I am an enthusiast for trees, so I suppose I have been an unwitting forest bather, or at least an orchard bather, for some time now. Looking through the bare branches at a winter sunset is a particular delight I never tire of and a sight I expect you have enjoyed too. Of course in my case there can be the pleasurable anticipation of a glass of something refreshing made from the fruit of these trees, but that for me, curiously you might think, is very much secondary to delighting in the existence and the presence of the trees themselves.

If you have ever planted, nurtured and grown a tree, fruiting or ornamental or for that matter any living thing, you will know the deep satisfaction of achieving something of real significance and delight which literally gladdens the heart.

It can surely be no accident or coincidence then that the founding narrative and context of the Bible is set in the nurturing and sustaining heart of a garden that provides everything its inhabitants could want or need, with everything in harmonious relationship and yes, lots of lovely fruiting trees.

So it's rather of the moment that as a species we are waking up, or re-awakening to the value of and urgent necessity for trees, and being encouraged to plant lots of them. So I hope particularly in this warm time of year we are all able to enjoy a good deal of rest and recreation, allowing ourselves to be refreshed and re-inspired by the quiet but life-giving joys of creation, but perhaps to identify a good spot now to plant a tree of life and hope as well.

David Frith.  
Reader

# Services in August

## Wednesday 3rd

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

## Saturday 6th

1pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

## Sunday 7th Seeing things God's Way 7 - Forgiveness

9.30am Communion at All Saints', Stone

11am 'Eleven' at St Mary's, Berkeley

## Saturday 13th

12.30pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

## Sunday 14th Trinity 9

10.30am Benefice Communion at St Mary's Berkeley

## Saturday 20th

1.30pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

## Sunday 21st Trinity 10

10.30am Benefice Communion at St Michael's, Hill

4.30pm Benefice Picnic, games and service, Breadstone

## Sunday 28th Trinity 11

10.30am Benefice Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

## Services in September

### Saturday 3rd

12.30pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

### Sunday 4th Trinity 12

9.30am Communion at All Saints, Stone

11am 'Eleven' with Baptism at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's, Berkeley

### Wednesday 7th

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

### Saturday 10th

1pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

1pm Wedding at All Saints', Stone

### Sunday 11th Trinity 13

9.30am Choral Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

11.30am Baptism at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Café Church Special at St Mary's, Berkeley

### Saturday 17th

12.30pm Wedding at St Mary's, Berkeley

### Sunday 18th Trinity 14

9.30am Communion at All Saints', Stone

11am Harvest Communion with Baptism at St Michael's, Hill

11am 'Eleven' at St Mary's, Berkeley

6pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Berkeley

### Sunday 25th Trinity 15

8am BCP Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

9.30am Choral Morning Prayer at St Mary's, Berkeley

11am Informal Communion at St Mary's, Berkeley

## What's On in August

- Sunday 7th August Hill Cream Teas at the Village Hall, Hill  
2pm – 5pm
- Sunday 21st August Picnic, games and service at Breadstone  
4.30pm church site
- Monday 29th August St Mary's Community Market Day at St Mary's,  
10.30am - 3.30pm Berkeley

## The Diocese of Gloucester The Messenger - August 2022 Edition



For the August Edition [Click Here](#)

Or type the following into your web browser

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/August-Messenger-2022.pdf>

**Benefice Picnic, Games and Service at Breadstone  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 4.30 pm**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August at 4.30pm there will be a Benefice picnic, games and short service on the site of the former church at Breadstone.

Please bring chairs, rugs and a picnic/refreshments. The ground is uneven, so good footwear is recommended!

Parking, as long as the ground is dry, will be available next door at The Old Farmhouse –(on the right as you look at the site from the road), by kind permission of Jackie and Nick Porter. Coming from the A38, this is on your right, about 300 yards after Breadstone Nursing Home. Look out for the white picket fencing as you get near.

**St Mary's Produce Show at St Mary's, Berkeley  
Monday 29th August from 10.30am to 3.30pm**

The Berkeley Show was a great time for all but many found it a little early for garden produce, and we had quite a few requests for cake.

Are you are a cake baker, a jam maker, a plant producer, a tomato trainer, a cucumber collector, a coffee consumer or a tea taster? This is an opportunity for church members to showcase their many talents.

So do come and enjoy the produce on offer, a cup of tea & a piece of cake. If you would like to contribute to this produce show, please contact Eleanor Taylor or email Rev Steve.

## **Making an impression**

It was a real joy to see two young people decide to be baptised in St Mary's a few weeks ago. Rather than the usual Font, they chose to take this step of faith by being fully baptised in a pool at the front of church for all to see.

But this moment was not the start nor the finish of their journey of faith, but a milestone along the way. We are called to journey with Christ, as we travel there will be many milestones and marks along the route. Sometimes we pause to enjoy a particular season, and then other situations we wish we could travel through as swiftly as possible.

When thinking about this, the picture in my mind was that of footprints in the sand. For many this will conjure up the words of that famous & beautiful poem, about being carried by God through trying times. But there is a slightly less well known poem which made me pause and smile. I thought I would share it with you.

*One night I had a wondrous dream,  
One set of footprints there was seen,  
The footprints of my precious Lord,  
But mine were not along the shore.*

*But then some stranger prints appeared,  
And I asked the Lord, "what have we here?  
Those prints are large and round and neat,  
But Lord, they are too big for feet."*



*“My child,” He said in sombre tones,  
“For miles I carried you alone.  
I challenged you to walk in faith,  
But you refused and made me wait.”*

*“You disobeyed, you would not grow,  
The walk of faith, you would not know,  
So I grew tired, I got fed up,  
And there I dropped you on your butt.”*

*“Because in life, there comes a time,  
When one must fight, and one must climb,  
When one must rise and take a stand,  
Or leave some butt prints in the sand.”*

So this summer, may you find some space to pause and savour the view. May you feel carried if you are traveling a difficult pathway. May you be strengthened if you are facing a climb, or making a stand. But, if you feel that the impression you are leaving in the sand beneath you is getting a little deep, and before the autumn you need some help to get back on your feet, why not call or email.

The beauty of any shoreline, it is renewed by the next tide and all imprints are washed away. Have a great summer.

Rev Steve

## How do I contact the Vicar?

Rev Steve Godsell  
Priest in Charge

Email: [revsteve.berkeleybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:revsteve.berkeleybenefice@gmail.com)

Call: 01453 810294

(Not Thursdays unless in emergency)

**Deadline for the September edition of the  
Berkeley Benefice Herald:  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

## Who's who?

### All Saints, Stone

Churchwardens  
PCC Secretary

Andy Fryer & Naomi Sargent  
Eirian Vaughan Lewis

### St Mary the Virgin, Berkeley

Churchwardens  
PCC Secretary

David Bainbridge, Jenny Frith,  
& David Furnival  
Debbie Page

### St Michael's, Hill

Churchwardens  
PCC Secretary

Mark Baimbridge & Jane Jenner Fust  
Jenny Grey