



# Milton Abbey News

## Abbey Fridays

This series of fortnightly evening services has attracted people from far and wide: Salisbury, Dorchester, Blandford, Bournemouth and all points in between. Whilst averaging around thirty attendees on any one Friday, more than fifty have enjoyed these informal and dignified gatherings, with their special focus on expository preaching. What has been especially pleasing has been the warm Christian fellowship which has been a special feature of the post-service refreshments.

It is particularly encouraging to see how so many people have demonstrated their willingness to take part in the services: leading, reading, praying, catering, etc. Again, attendees have covered a wide age range and from several backgrounds and churches.

The teaching themes have emerged from some of the most important and formative biblical texts and the series continues into the new year.

If you have not yet tried out an 'Abbey Friday' then please pick up a programme card from the Abbey or check out the website. You will also find forthcoming dates in the diary section of this Newsletter. You'll be made very welcome and, I hope, find the occasion very helpful and uplifting. Bring others with you and add to the encouraging sense of community. *Chris Jervis*

## The 2017 Summer Exhibiton

Following the popular Capability Brown exhibition last year, a new exhibition was mounted in July and August 2017, entitled 'History, Heritage and Landscape'. Enjoyed by visitors from far and wide and many local residents who know the Abbey well, quite a number of whom kindly acted as volunteer Stewards

An enduring feature of the exhibition was the remarkable Landscape, with work by prize winning artists and photographers, as well as artists from Dorset Visual Arts and Tim Scott-Bolton. Prizes for best artists and

photographers were awarded at a special evening presentation by guest personality Kate Adie.



A new feature for 2017 included interpretive display panels recording the History and Heritage associated with the Abbey, ranging from the foundation by King Athelstan, the first king of all England, to the monastic period, the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry V111, to the dramatic tenure of Lord Milton, who destroyed the old town of Middleton, created the village of Milton Abbas, and hired Capability Brown to create the glorious landscape that we all enjoy today. In addition, there were several films and audio-visual displays.

## Reformation Remix

One timely event in the Autumn programme was the 'Reformation Remix'; a witty, dramatic musical romp through the main characters and issues that were at stake in the period of the European Reformation. With the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's defining stance at Wittenberg, this production entertained and informed the audience in equal measure.



We were privileged to have the 'Voices of Wales' dramatic ensemble at the Abbey, as this was the first venue on their UK tour.

It demonstrated what we already know, that Milton Abbey is a wonderful venue, especially for musical presentations.

## The Big Sing at Milton Abbey



What an amazing experience. It was a sheer delight to experience the wonderful melodious and resonant sound of song from a substantial choir in Milton Abbey on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The workshop from 10.00am until 3.30pm with Noel Tredinnick from All Souls' Langham Place London was enjoyed by over 100 participants who then stayed on as the choir for a splendid "songs of praise" style event led by Heather Waldsax at 4.00pm when many more joined us to fill the Abbey with song!

Organist and Director of Music at All Souls Church, Langham Place, Noel formed the now world-renowned All Souls Orchestra. As well as leading Prom Praise events around the UK and overseas, Noel makes regular visits to the USA to lecture and conduct, which have included leading music for missions organised by The Billy Graham Organisation. Over many years, Noël has worked with the BBC, becoming a familiar face on 'Songs of Praise', and has a reputation for getting the most from choirs around the country in the shortest possible time! He certainly succeeded at Milton Abbey.

## Combined Benefice Services

At those times when there are five Sundays in the month the two benefices of The Winterborne Valley and Milton Abbas and The Piddle Valle, Hilton and Ansty, Cheselbourne and Melcombe Horsey have, during the last year come together for a combined service in Milton Abbey. The latest of these services was held in the Abbey on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October when over 120 people came together for Choral Evensong in the parish tradition. We sat under the organ with the congregation gathered round the choir for worship together. Once more the service was wonderfully supported by the Valley Singers under the leadership of

Angela D'Silva with Graham Scott on the organ.

This traditional service based on the Benedictine monastic offices of Vespers and Compline gave an opportunity to value the Anglican inheritance of the monastic traditions of worship and study of the Bible. The service took place on Bible Sunday and the homily was based on the collect for that Sunday in which we are enjoined to ". . . read, mark, learn and inwardly digest . . ." the biblical text. The Benedictine method of doing so in "lectio divina" was introduced.

These combined benefice services have proved to be so popular that they will continue during 2018 with the next service on 29<sup>th</sup> April. This again will be an evening service to accommodate the Service of Confirmation which is being held that morning.

The next public service in the Abbey is our traditional joint Carol Service of readings and carols on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm at which all are welcome. *Helier Exon*

## Abbey Renovation works

A further phase of works has just commenced to achieve the renovation of the North Aisle tiled floor. Last year a similar project was undertaken in The South Transept, the floor tiles were all lifted, the old water-logged base was removed, and a new sub structure was installed. This vital work is needed due to significant water ingress from the roof, through the walls and into the core fabric of the Abbey. Roof repairs have now stopped the cause. The work is being funded by Viridor Credits and continues our planned redevelopment of the Abbey and its facilities.

## Forthcoming dates: for Your Diary

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday at The Abbey. Café Style 6.30pm  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – Carol Service and readings 6.00pm  
December 31<sup>st</sup> – Benefice Eucharist Service 10.30am  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday at the Abbey. 'Faith, Grace & Service'  
January 20<sup>th</sup> – BSO Brass: Spring Fanfare Concert 7.30pm  
February 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday at The Abbey. Café style. 'Prayer'  
February 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday at The Abbey. 'Life in the Spirit'  
February 17<sup>th</sup> – Sarum Six Singers choral ensemble 7.30pm  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday at The Abbey. 'Temptations' 6.30pm  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday at The Abbey. 'It is finished' 6.30pm  
April 28<sup>th</sup> – Covent Garden Dorset Opera Festival 7.30pm  
April 29<sup>th</sup> – Combined Benefice Service 6.00pm  
May 26<sup>th</sup> – Pastoral Potpourri Keyworth Quartet 7.30pm  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Bournemouth Male Voice Choir 7.30pm  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – Bournemouth Sinfonietta in Concert 6.00pm

Ticket Box Office via: [www.miltonabbey.org](http://www.miltonabbey.org)

Community site: <https://timecounts.org/miltonabbey>

Milton Abbey Location: Post code DT110BZ

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