

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY AUGUST 2023

At the July Deanery Synod meeting we were treated to a delightful talk by the Rev Helen Drever on Art in Churches. She took us through the history of God the Creator giving us creativity, and human beings displaying their response to God through art in Churches and as a part of worship since time began.



Last year one of her churches took part in Somerset Art Weeks, and she commended the idea to us; also offering hints and tips to make the experience the most positive one it could be for artists and churches alike.



Somerset Art Weeks alternates between Open Studios (this year from 16th September), and Art Weeks Events (2024).

This is what their website says:

“Somerset Open Studios and Art Weeks Events are annual countywide celebrations of the variety and quality of contemporary visual art and craft that can be found in Somerset.”

Since the inception of Somerset Art Weeks in 1994, they have become important events in Somerset’s cultural calendar, delighting art lovers near and far.

Each year alternates between Open Studios and Exhibitions + Events.

The 2019 Somerset Art Weeks Festival saw over 80,000 visitors engage with art and creativity across 135 venues throughout Somerset.”

Rev Helen was delighted with the beautiful art they enjoyed in her churches, the opportunity for local artists to have a venue to display their works, the engagement with community, and the opportunity to have some meaningful conversations which has led to new friendships locally.

As a Benefice, those of us who represented you at Synod felt really excited about opening up all the Benefice Churches for this purpose. It would be helpful for someone to coordinate, and we will have to think around any building issues (such as toilets and coffee making). However, what a lovely opportunity for us to offer a platform for local and emerging artists to be seen.

If you are an artist and would like to speak to us, please contact me (revrona@gmail.com), and if the idea of organising this appeals to you, please also speak to me. Please also see page 18 for an exciting opportunity in Milborne Port this year!



As we enjoy the calmer month of August, I look forward to meeting more of you in this beautiful part of the world we call home.

With every blessing Rev Rona