The Athelney Magazine



Covering the church parishes of Burrowbridge, Lyng, North Curry and Stoke St Gregory

Summer 2023

Who's Who

Details of other roles can be found on the website, athelneybenefice.com/whoswho

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Copy text is best submitted as a Microsoft Word document, and any images as high resolution jpeg files.

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Prices are for 10 editions of the magazine Full page £75, Half page £45, Quarter page £30. One off (single edition) adverts are £10 for up to one full page.



Coffee, Tea and Fellowship across the Benefice

Each month there is a pattern of gatherings, featuring tea, coffee, cakes and conversation. All are open to all. All are wonderful opportunities to chat and all the cakes are guaranteed to be of a very high standard. Bacon butties are expected to return in the Autumn … in the meantime, there are cakes!

You can find the coffee mornings here:



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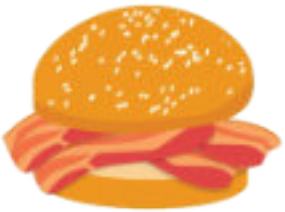
Lyng

4th Saturday of each month,
from 10.30 am the village hall.

North Curry

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Copy deadline is **14th August** for the September Magazine;

Please send **content** in an email attachment to magazine@athelneybenefice.com. Please add "CONTENT" to the subject line. If you are sending content pertaining to more than one thing, please send separate attachments and for each please make it clear in which edition it is to appear. Please use 12-point Arial font and ensure that it fits into a maximum of 2 A5 pages where possible. To check this set your word document to be in landscape orientation with 2 columns.

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Please give your name & "mag" as the reference.

Any questions please send an email and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible. Please use the group emails provided rather than sending things direct to one person.

Many thanks,
The Editorial Team

Prayer Across the Benefice

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian faith. It is a time to speak to God. Prayer is not simply kneeling and holding your hands together. It is not necessarily about sitting quietly and looking ever so Holy. Prayer can be a time of extreme frustration or a moment of utter joy when you can't stand still. It may happen when you read a poem or sing a song. Perhaps you have a favourite way to pray.



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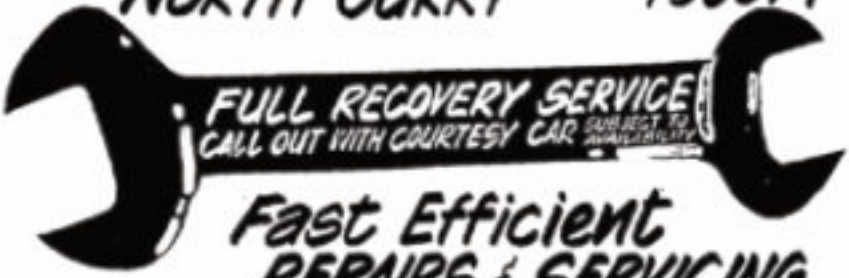
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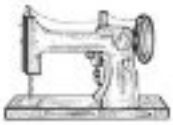
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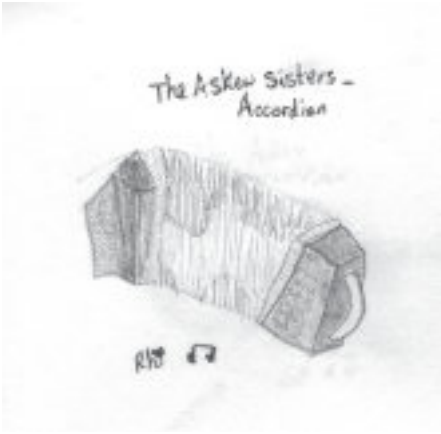
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The Athelney Benefice



Mission: Music



Missionaries are no longer to be found in distant compounds wearing linen suits and panama hats (if ever they were). Mission is happening right on the doorstep and you might not even have noticed it. Mission is not necessarily what you think it is.

If I may come over all scriptural for a moment, at the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:19-20). This is known as "The Great Commission" and has formed the backdrop to so much proselytising and ear bending down the centuries. For sure, the great commission has led to the wonderful global presence of Christianity, but, sadly, it has sometimes not been done with the best of intentions. As well as bringing the beauty of Christ's salvation to the world, wars have also been fought over the desire to impose power and control—two ideas diametrically opposite to discipleship. Jesus at no time suggested using violent means to encourage people to see the value of being a disciple of "The Way" (John 14:6).



Christian Mission, therefore, can be considered a bit of a tricky topic. It has been done unto other people, maybe far away—living in another "nation", perhaps. It can get the church a bad name. This is unfortunate and I'd like to rehabilitate the idea. I'd like to "earth" the idea a bit closer to home

and suggest that whenever we (those of us in the Athelney Benefice churches) speak to anyone about church we are doing some kind of mission. Maybe it's not even about speaking or anything like that, but simply about opening the doors of our churches to everyone. I think that is an act of mission.

Here's an example… The Music Festival held at North Curry Church over the weekend of 9th to 11th June was an act of mission. For three days the church was a focus of community activity. It was open to all. It looked beautiful dressed up in floral finery and it sounded uplifting with the music of the Askew Sisters on Friday, the voices of children during Saturday, the Jazz of the Little Big Horns in the Gardens (not actually the church, but still a consequence of the church) and the piano quintet led by Ben Griffiths on the evening. Sunday was filled with the music of the choruses: the combined choirs of "Currys Rivel and North" for the Eucharist and then *In Ecclesia* for Evensong. In between was a quarter peal of the new bells: ring out you bells!

All this was missional: it showed the world (albeit just locally around the benefice) that being a disciple can be joyful, uplifting and beautiful.

Music enriches and enthuses. The sketches you see here were drawn by Rosalind Hardwick, a pupil at North Curry School and very much part of the church. The music of The Askew Sisters inspired her to join in. That is how mission works. We can boss people around and tell them how important Christianity is and get nowhere or we can open our doors to music and flowers and sketches such as these come forth, a revelation of the Holy Spirit in unexpected ways.

Mission is not about getting people to sit on pews and pray. Mission isn't about telling people what to think. Mission, impossible as it sounds, is to help people recognise the power within themselves to be disciples and then to follow Christ along "The Way".

It is about getting people to see where the love of God is in all our lives. That is "The Way, The Truth and The Life" that Jesus was hinting at as he left the disciples. Preach The Way: if necessary, use words. But certainly open your doors to the creativity of the human heart.

Thank you to everyone who helped in even the smallest way to make the festival a success. You are all missionaries. There is no need for any special kind of hat or suit. Just show up. Mission: accomplished.



From Bishop Michael

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What a joy!

By Bishop Michael



'In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus.' In conversations with people from around the diocese about our vision in recent months, we have talked of all the different ways that we can serve the communities in which we are based - how we can enable the life of the whole of the people of God.

One of the community connections that many of our churches nurture is with their local school, in particular with our church schools where day in, day out teachers and their support staff reflect God's love and teachings with the pupils in their care. As rewarding as that role is, it is a tough one. The long summer holiday may be in sight but anyone who knows a teacher or member of school staff will tell you how much that is needed as well as how much work is done during that 'break'. They truly need our support and love and prayers. We should also give thanks for those working in our schools during the summer, cleaning, building, or preparing for the new academic year.

Not all of us are blessed with the gifts to teach, but many of us have other gifts that can help our school communities. For some it is the gift of storytelling, sharing the teachings of Jesus as an Open the Book volunteer, others serve as chaplains. Some will simply live out their Christian faith by volunteering in classrooms or in the playground or by praying regularly for the school community. All of these roles are valuable to our schools, and rewarding for those who fulfil them.

What our schools and Academy Trusts need in particular are governors and trustees. There are many opportunities, especially for foundation governors and trustees who have a distinct responsibility for championing the Christian character of our schools. That may sound daunting, but that responsibility isn't held alone as there is support locally and from our excellent diocesan education team. And if you do take on that role, what a joy to know that you are playing your part to support and nurture our young people in the way of our Lord who said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4.

Martin's Musings

By Revd Martin Mudie

An occasional contribution from the garden of many delights…

I have two unfulfilled ambitions in life. I know they are never going to happen, but it's nice to dream.



The first is to be invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Not because I have an overwhelming desire to meet a member of the royal family, but because I have always wanted to visit their beautiful garden. It looks so nice on the television and, it has to be said, the food provided at those events really looks yummy. I have always wondered what a cucumber sandwich tastes like.

The second is to have a flower named after myself. I think Father Martin has a nice ring to it. The question then remains as to which flower. On reflection it would have to be a rose, because they are my favourite. I could envisage a large colourful red shrub rose, rather dishevelled but with a pure golden centre. It would, of course, have a lovely scent and large red hips.

You see, I have always loved roses and there are so many of them from which to choose. The oldest known rose is Rosa Persica, which is at least 2000 years old, and they do have a lovely scent. They are divided into three main categories. First to flower are the old shrub roses which are mainly summer flowering, which include the lovely striped Rosa Mundi. Then, some clever breeder discovered if you crossed these with China Roses, which flower throughout the year, you could get another crop in the autumn. My favourite here is Ferdinand Pichard, another striped rose. Then, in the 19th century the bush roses came – formerly known as HTs and Floribundas. Then in the 20th century David created the English Rose by crossing the old roses with their scent and the bush roses with their perpetual flowering. You see there is really something for every taste.

As to care, it is quite simple. Cut and Muck. Deadhead throughout the flowering season and more flowers will come (except for the summer flowering roses which will then give you lovely hips from which we get rose hip syrup), then in the winter get well-rotted manure from a friendly horse person and spread generously.



That's all there is to it.

Happy growing.

Songs of Summertime

Source: David Higham Associates. Words by Eleanor Farjeon.



Jack stepped out of the house into the cool stillness of a sunlit morning in early June. He clicked the gate quietly behind him and entered the lane, shady with dappled sunlight, where he was greeted by the cheerful chirping of many sparrows. He strode purposely toward the village, hurrying past a row of neat cottages whose verges were bright with spikes of purple foxglove and frothy pink and white valerian and then broke into a jog as the church clock began to strike the hour. As the eighth chime died away, he was ringing Angela's doorbell. Immediately her dog Amber began to bark excitedly and he heard Angela's voice call out, "Hi, Jack, I won't be a minute!"

As he waited, he breathed in the cool air and noticed that it was heavy with a delicious fragrance and also that he was surrounded by roses. Angela had crammed her tiny front garden with old-fashioned roses that were thick with petals: pink, apricot and soft yellow, roses in abundance that clambered over the door and spilled out onto the pavement.

Eventually the door opened and Angela appeared, looking very smart but just a little nervous. While Amber welcomed Jack with her usual enthusiasm, Angela smiled at Jack, passed him the dog's lead, bade them both a hasty goodbye and sped away towards the town and a new job.

Meanwhile Jack and Amber the springer spaniel set off on their morning walk, passing through the churchyard and out onto the field beyond. There Jack lingered for a moment gazing at the moors, lush and green, that were stretched out before him bathed in the light of the morning sun, under a wide sky, the colour of the forget-me-nots that grew in Bob's garden.

Unclipping Amber's lead and so allowing her the freedom to explore the scents and sounds of the fields, Jack walked down towards the footpath skirting the ancient boundary hedge that separated moor from meadow. It was of great height and of ample width and included a good number of trees and elder bushes, which were now in full bloom. Brambles clambered vigorously upon it and covered it with clusters of small white flowers and along its length grew cow parsley, bearing high its cream, lacy flower heads. Nettles also grew in profusion there with a good number of thistles.

"Life's like that!" thought Jack bitterly, "nettles that sting and thorns that wound!" And as he walked alongside that prickly path he recalled his

time in London where he'd had a promising career in finance and he was all set for promotion, when with scant warning there had been a downturn in the market and he had lost his job. He had stayed in London for a while but with little prospect of further employment and his savings dwindling fast, he had decided, reluctantly, that his only option was to return home. It had not been an easy decision to make, feeling the shame of failure as keenly as he did, but he need not have worried. His parents had been delighted to welcome their son home. Then he had met Georgia… and at the thought of her his heart began to sing.

Jack was now following the path that led him uphill by a meadow that was filled with red clover and golden buttercups, where bees hummed and butterflies fluttered ; a vibrant tapestry of colour. At the crest of the hill stood a copse of trees standing tall and clothed anew in garments of fresh, green, luxuriant foliage. Jack found himself singing softly a song he had learnt in his schooldays:

"Morning has broken, Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing Fresh from the Word!"

Surely a song written for a morning such as this! These days he often found himself singing, for the joy of life and for his love of Georgia. Two more weeks and she would be home, having finished her finals and then, he hoped, they could begin to plan their lives together.

Later that evening, while relaxing with his parents after their meal, Jack was again in reflective mood.

"What tremendous luck, the way things turned out," he said to them. "If I had not lost my job and had stayed on in London, I would never have met Georgia."

His father Bob looked at his son tenderly and smiled.



Burrowbridge





Monthly Market at the Coronation Hall

The second Saturday of every month, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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A time to gather and chat and to buy locally sourced food, goods and other produce.

Tea, coffee and breakfast rolls also available

Church History in the Athelney Benefice

We are hoping to begin a programme of discovering and sharing the history of the Athelney Churches. If you are interested in getting involved in some of the research, please let Revd Simon know. Each of the four parish churches has its own story. As we continue to grow together into a united benefice, it will be rewarding and helpful to be able to share what we learn, including, for example, the stories behind stained glass windows like those in Lyng. All are welcome.

Burrowbridge WI

Today's Women Working For Tomorrow's World

At our last W.I. meeting in May, it was reluctantly decided to suspend Burrowbridge W.I. as we were unable to find enough people willing to form a Committee. The suspension will last for 3 years and if during that time there is any interest in reforming Burrowbridge W.I. then we would be able to re-start.

This was a very sad meeting as Burrowbridge W.I. had just celebrated its 70th Birthday.

[Editor: We give our thanks to Lesley Dyson and everyone who has supported and been involved with Burrowbridge WI over many years. This is sad indeed, but who knows how the future will shape up?]

Lyng





Lyng Brunches and the Church Clock

For some time the church clock has been vstruggling to keep the time and is in need of a major repair. This, of course, comes at a price and, also, of course, church funds are rarely if ever buoyant!

Our approach is therefore to raise funds for the clock through all manner of events. Mostly these involve food and nattering because that is always good fun in Lyng.

Since the beginning of the year around £370 has been raised through the selling (and eating) of bacon butties and associated edibles, so we're on the way…

Thank you to everyone who is helping out with this fund raising. The additions to each of our waistlines is a true sacrifice for this worthy cause.

Please note: as of June, coffee mornings and brunches will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Rotas at Lyng Church

If anyone would like to join the Lyng rotas (details inside back page) please contact Alison harveyfudge@icloud.com or 07470 838707.

The more the merrier!

Flowers are just two small brass vases on the altar and the small container on the war memorial.



Lyng Parish Council

The Parish Council meets every two months, usually on a Thursday evening, at Lyng Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Thursday 18th May. The following annual reports were presented to the meeting: Chairman's Report, Finance Report, Village hall Report, Parish Footpath Liaison Officer's Report, all of which are available to view on our new website lyngparish.square.site. The Parish Council AGM followed immediately afterwards at which Geoff Perry was re-elected as Chair and Susan Hooper as Vice-Chair. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was approved and completed.

Issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM included:

- The fingerpost opposite the Outwood junction is badly damaged-we will investigate the possibility of the parish 'adopting' the fingerpost and what can be done to restore it.
- The damaged parish noticeboard at Outwood has been assessed as beyond repair and we will obtain a quote for a new one.
- 30mph/50mph wheelie bin stickers will be distributed over the next few days.
- The Speed Indicator Devices have been up and running for a couple of months now and we are already noticing a significant reduction in drivers caught over the speed limit during the Community Speed Watch sessions. We are still waiting for the damaged post near Little Paddock to be repaired so the SID can be moved from its temporary position.
- Village Transport Plan-the final draft of the Village Transport Plan will be sent to Cllr Revans to decide on the best way forward.

Update: The damaged post has been repaired so the Speed Indicator Device near Little Paddock is now in its correct position.

We have had a positive response to the Village Transport Plan which was sent to Traffic Management at Somerset Council on our behalf by Cllr. Revans. A site meeting has been arranged for 25th July to discuss the possible options further.

Dates of next Parish Council meetings:

Thursday 27th July at 7pm- the Parish Council meeting will begin with a presentation from the Airband Community Liaison Officer to give us more information about the project planned in our parish.

Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm

North Curry



North Curry Coffee Shop



The coffee shop continues to operate through the week, from Tuesday to Sunday. It is a delightful place to stop and chat, discover what's going on in the village. We look forward to welcoming you in for a browse and maybe a light lunch or coffee and cake. Opening hours Tues-Sun 9.30-4.30. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Alison Stone 01823 490282 or aj.carterstone@gmail.com.

White Street News from North Curry Sport

200 Club: Congratulations to these winners of the March draw: M Spearpoint, G Brown and Youth Football Club

Big Bash & Bales

Don't forget: the Big Bash returns to the August holiday weekend. Band, bar, hog roast & lots of dancing! Ticket details will be announced later.

We need about 20 hay bales! Our previous supplier has retired. There are fewer in the fields these days, but if you know of any we could borrow, please email: whitestreet@northcurry.com

200 CLUB

200 Club winners

Sunday 7th May

1st Anna Bushell

2nd Christopher Cunnell

3rd Kaye Cairns

The North Curry Parish Church 200 Club still has room for one more! Players must be 18yrs+ to join. Only £18 per year (£1.50/ month)

Prizes each month £30/ £20/ £10, plus a special Christmas bonus draw of £60. Proceeds for churchyard maintenance

To sign up, contact Sue Bethune on 01823 490179. Cheque payments to North Curry PCC, Standing Order/ BACS payments to North Curry PCC,
Account No: 00514650,
Sort Code: 30-98-45

North Curry Calendar 2024

Have you been taking photos in and around the village?

The parish church will be creating a calendar for 2024 illustrating the landscape, architecture and events in North Curry month by month, using photos taken by local residents (no family photos, please).



As in previous years, the competition is open to amateur photographers who live in the parish, and can be taken by digital camera, tablet or mobile phone.

Entries are to be submitted as an email attachment marked **COMPETITION** to the editor of the Athelney Magazine (magazine@athelneybenefice.com) in high resolution format (not less than 200 dpi) JPEG files in landscape orientation.

Please include the name and postal address of the photographer, indicating the picture title, location and month; the photographer must declare that they hold the copyright and are willing for the photograph to be used in this way. No limit to the number of photos submitted.

North Curry Ecumenical Prayer Time: All Welcome!

"It helps me get my thoughts in order, look back on what's happened and look ahead", "I am pleased to get to know people in the village who go to other churches", "I have come away encouraged – it is helping my faith to grow", "I find it refreshing to be with others who want to pray"

We meet on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9.30 in the morning to pray together for North Curry. We follow a simple pattern of giving thanks for God's goodness, reflecting on our own lives and then praying for the village. Our longing is that God's love will be known more and more and we pray for God's blessing in many different areas of life.



None of us are 'prayer experts' some share words of prayer aloud, some like to pray silently, we believe God hears what is in our hearts and everyone who comes along is a great encouragement. See church notices for venues.

North Curry School
Sports Enrichment Week

Last week (12th June) the children at North Curry CofE Primary School took part in a PE enrichment week. During the week the children took part in a variety of different sports and activities. The highlight was the mobile climbing wall that arrived on Tuesday. Each child got a turn to try and ascend to the top of the tower and ring the bell. Even Little Herons Nursery children had a go.



'The children and staff were really lovely and enthusiastic. Many of the children were really keen to have a go and to get to the top of the wall. It was a fun day to operate at.' Jed 270 Senior Instructor Mobile Climbing Wall



Other activities included yoga, archery, cricket, tag rugby, dodgeball, country dancing, Zumba and parachute games.

The week culminated in our annual Sports day on the school field. The children did so well in spite of the heat. Well done all and a huge thank you to Mr B for organising a great week!



As the school year begins to draw to a close…

…we are looking forward to welcoming the school into church on 20th July at 2pm for their "Leavers' Service". Saying farewell can be hard, but we will send all the Year 6 children on their way with our prayers for the future.

Wednesday 19th July 2023

End of year report

Sherry Keith-Welsh, Chairman

North Curry Society brings the 2022/23 year to a close with a stroll round the village, the Annual General Meeting, a glass or two of wine and a look forward to the coming year's programme of talks. Gather round the War Memorial at **5.45pm** on July 19th when Colin Trim will regale us with stories of who lived here in olden days when he was a boy, then join the others at **7pm in Greenway Pavilion** – not the Village Hall – for a business meeting lasting a full ten minutes before starting on the refreshments and catching up with other members or introducing yourself if new.

North Curry Society generally meets at the Village Hall on the third Wednesday each month, for talks relating to local or natural history, archaeology & architecture and the people who have lived in and around the village. Visitors always welcome - the charge for them is £5 for the evening, but you can take out annual membership (including this meeting) for £15.



We don't meet in August; the new Society year starts on 20th September with diplomatic reminiscences, when the annual membership card will be issued.

The Magnificent Music Festival: our tribute

Lorraine Bryan-Brown writes…

We did it, thanks to the very generous contributions of flowers and foliage from your gardens and hedgerows AND to the tireless work of those who created displays in the church. Thank you all - an awesome effort.





News from North Curry Methodist Church

Luckily the sun shone on the village fair and Dick was among the helpers manning the Methodist stall, to raise funds for Christian Aid and the church renovations.

Methodists enjoying the Pentecost Praise in the sunshine, alongside their Anglican friends.

Church Anniversary Weekend 24/25th June

We will have celebrated our Church Anniversary with an afternoon tea on Saturday and service, led by Rev'd Tony Cox, on Sunday.

Preachers for July/August

July 2nd Mr Arthur Salisbury, 9th Rev'd Deborah Kirk (HC), 16th Ms Pearson,

23rd Mr Merlyn Brown, 30th Rev'd Anthony Huxtable

August 6th Elaine Cox, 13th Rev'd Deborah Kirk (HC), 20th Rev'd Annie Deche,

27th Rev'd Peter Thomas

Forthcoming events

Summer Praise services, led by Rev'd Deborah Kirk.

As well as our morning services, you are cordially invited to join us for our afternoon summer praise services on July 16th and 30th and August 13th. These will start at 3pm and tea biscuits will follow the service.





NORTH CURRY FLOWER SHOW

Saturday,
August 12th, 2023

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Stoke St Gregory



This Summer …

United Benefice Service

The UBS is at St Gregory's on 30th July (11am) and will be followed by lunch. We are inviting everyone (worshippers and non-worshippers) from the Benefice to join us for a light lunch after the united service at the end of July.

If you would like to share a delicious summery lunch please email or call Pat on p.sollis1@btinternet (490750) or Jane janepwhite@hotmail.com (490508) to book your place. There will be a charge of £15 (payable in advance) to include the 2-course lunch with a glass of wine.

.



Songs of Praise, Sunday 16th July at 11am

This is our annual gathering on the Playing Field in Stoke St Gregory with the Baptist congregation to sing all our favourite hymns out in the summer sunshine. Please bring a garden chair with you if possible and, before then, write your choice of hymn on the list inside the church door.

Churchyard

The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC would like to thank those who in the past have made donations towards the cost of maintaining their family graves in the churchyard.

Maintaining the churchyard throughout the growing season between March and November costs the Church over £1700.00 per year which is a big part of our budget.

If anyone would like to make a contribution towards this cost please contact the Churchwarden 490508 or Pat Sollis 490750 details within the magazine or on the noticeboard in the porch.

Stoke St Gregory WI

We have an exciting couple of months coming up at Stoke St Gregory WI.

For the July members meeting on Tuesday 11th July we will be having supper at the Pitney Farm Cafe followed by a tour of the Organic Farm. Members will be contacted beforehand to make their menu choices and the meal will commence at 5pm.

On Tuesday 8th August we will have our annual coffee morning with a bring and buy. Vicki Fielding is kindly hosting this event at Beavers Barn, Meare Green, TA3 6HX from 10:30am. Potential new members will be very welcome to attend the coffee morning.

Wednesday 30th August is the rescheduled tour of Hinkley Point C commencing at Cannington from 9:30 until 12:15pm.

For further information, please contact Amelia Holt, President 01823 490401 or 07985317252



CPR Demonstration

Saturday 9th September, 10.30am in the Village Hall

Stoke St Gregory WI and Stoke St Gregory Parish Council are holding a joint venture for all local Villagers

A CPR demonstration presented by Dr Hickman and Dr Winter (from North Curry Health Centre)

Aspects of how to deal with a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation will be displayed at the Village Hall starting at 10:30am.

All Villagers are welcome!

No admission fee but donations please to SAVES

Refreshments available

Congratulations!

Many of you at SSG school in the late 80's Philip Lawrence son of Phil and Fran Lawrence whose weekly science teacher (Mrs Macklin) inspired him to take an interest in science. Philip has recently become Professor of Virology at the Catholic University of Lyon studying the Hepatitis B virus and it's role in the development of Liver cancer in West Africia. Congratulations to him and his very proud parents.

AND THE WALLS CAME A-TUMBLING DOWN…



By Jane White

But not if we can stop them first! No, Joshua has not had a hand in it and it isn't the walls of Jericho. It is, however the east wall of our Lady Chapel. You may have been into the church and seen the rather alarming developments in there. It must be two months past now that we noticed there was something amiss in the stonework between the two small windows on the east wall, so I felt it was time to bring everybody up to date with the situation.

We called on the services of our local builder and all round handy man to come and take a look. He, very helpfully, borrowed a set of scaffolding to get up close and really examine the problem. We also called in our Church Architect who could see there was a significant situation that needed speedy rectification. With his support, we obtained an Emergency Faculty from the Diocese so that investigation in depth could start immediately. Two serious looking props were inserted beneath the left hand memorial as well as a hefty length of timber to stop the window frame falling on anybody's head. These will remain there until such time as the serious work can be started. To cut a very long story short, we have now also involved a structural engineer and a company of restoration experts with much experience of these aged buildings and who have previously worked on St Gregory's. Between them all we hope to have the problem fixed in the next couple of months. In the meantime that area of the church must remain cordoned off and out of bounds.

In due course we shall be requesting permission from the Diocese to move the memorials (which appear to be the source of the problem and quite evidently were not originally located up on that wall) to another part of the church where they may be held safely against another wall but this time at ground level. All this requires yet another Faculty to be formulated and presented to the Diocesan Advisory Committee and, as we have all been told, the mills of God grind exceeding slow!

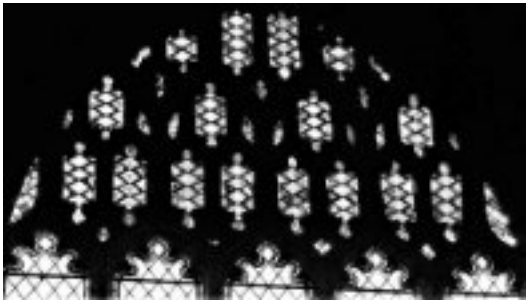
As you may have guessed, this is likely to involve significant cost, the extent of which will be made public once we have the figures. Please keep an eye out for various fundraising events and if you have any bright ideas yourself then get in touch with Jane, Pat or the Vicar or any other member of the PCC. How about starting by signing up for the Summer Lunch after the United Benefice Service on Sunday 30th July, advertised elsewhere in this magazine.

St Gregory's Church Windows

by Dave Evans

By the time you read this we shall have had the opportunity to take a virtual tour of the windows in North Curry parish church, courtesy of Angela Dix and Colin Trim. Come now and take a look at what Stoke church has to offer in the way of stained glass.

In Britain the use of coloured glass can be traced back to the 7th century, with some early examples found in churches and monasteries. Stained glass became very popular during the middle ages, but during the Reformation, many stained glass windows were smashed and replaced with plain glass.



Although we have no surviving windows from the Middle Ages, we do have some glass from those times which has been re-used. As you enter the church look up to your left. At the top of the windows panes of medieval glass have been incorporated into the patchwork of the new windows made in Victorian times. And here is the main West Window. You can see that various repetition pattern pieces have been used to create the mosaic.

The original purpose of a glass window was simply to let the daylight into buildings while keeping the building enclosed against the weather. In religious buildings it was also about the quality of light. For people entering a church or cathedral in medieval times it would have been about the symbolism of 'God is Light'. As windows became larger and higher quality, stained glass windows started being used to create storytelling religious images and to highlight the wealth of those who owned or supported the building. One such window is dedicated to the Reverend Watson Moor, who held the 'Perpetual Curacy' of the Parish in Victorian times. He had donated the land to build the village school, and may have paid for the building of the (now ex) Vicarage in Huntham Lane.



Two other windows, in memory of Herbert Hembrow, depict Saint Peter (with the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven), and Saint Paul (a guy who always had his book and sword), are excellent examples of true 'Stained Glass', with only about half coloured glass being used. The detailed painting on the faces is especially fine. Stoke, of course, is a daughter church of North Curry, dedicated to St Peter & St Paul.



Silver stain can produce colours ranging from pale yellow to a deep amber, depending on the glass composition, stain composition, the number of applications, the temperature of the kiln, and the colour of the glass to which it has been applied. In the 14th century, it was a real breakthrough, because it could be used to depict yellow hair, halos and crowns within the same section of glass as the face. This example is from 'Jesus and the Woman at the Well'. This window has a contemporary, naturalistic feel to it. The sky is left as clear diamond panes, and the pale greens and blues make a good representation of rural scenery. It is the only window showing people as they might be in conversation.



The discovery of silver stain is a mystery, but there is a story of a glass worker who lost a silver button from his tunic. The button fell into the molten glass and produced a yellow streak. Believe it if you will.

Perhaps the most impressive window is in the North wall and depicts the two kings, Alfred & Ethelwald, and the two saints, Gregory (Patron Saint) & Augustine (who Pope Gregory sent to convert the Saxons). The red cloaks in the window are examples of a process known as 'flashing, a thin coating of coloured glass fused to colourless glass. Flashing was especially used for reds, as the compounds (including gold and selenium) used were expensive and also tended to be too deep in colour to use at full thickness.

Many thanks to Zita Tait, Stained Glass Artist, for her comments on the windows in our church, and for her advice on the technical details associated with the windows and their construction.

Heart of the Village News

by Mike Blair, Chairman

The start of the summer is bringing about changes at the Royal Oak.

Carolyn, one of our joint shop managers, has decided to leave HOTV. Carolyn has been a key member of the team, enthusiastically helping to establish the Shop in the Box and shaping the current Village shop and café. Her commitment, vision and skills have been central to their success. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Caroline for her massive contribution. We appreciate all that she has done and wish her the very best for the future.

In the wake of Carolyn's departure, the committee is reviewing all aspects of the shop's business model in an effort to improve and develop the business. The Community Shop relies on volunteers to provide its amazing service for the village. They are the DNA of our community shop and are the only way we can keep a viable shop and pub in a village of our size.

It would be brilliant if we could recruit some more volunteers to join the team. If you have a little free time, want to become involved in the community, meet people and make new friends, volunteering may be just the thing for you. For further information please contract Phil, Jo, or Ann Woods.

New to the village? Missed the original closed Share Offer? And you would like to support Stoke St Gregory's Community Shop and Pub? We operate a Rolling Community Share Offer which aims to widen the membership of the registered Community Benefit Society that own the Royal Oak. By offering Community Shares, we would like to attract even more Members in order to gain as wide a membership as possible from within the local community. This will mean even greater involvement and interest in ensuring that the business will continue to succeed and be valued by all.

By buying a share, you will become a Member of the Community Benefit Society. Each Member has the right to stand for election as a Management Committee member; the Management Committee is elected by Members' votes at

Contacts

General contact@hotvssg.org, Shop: shop@hotvssg.org Facebook search "Hotvshop", 07842992825

Pub: royaloakssg@gmail.com, Facebook search "Royal Oak Stoke St Gregory", 01823490602

Share forms are available from the shop or online at: stokestgregory.org

Annual Members' Meetings. Your support is key to the ongoing success of this enterprise!

Don't forget that now we have some nice weather, the garden is a welcoming place to enjoy coffee and cake during the day or eat al fresco on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings plus Sunday lunchtimes.For further info regarding the newsletter, please drop an email to martin.keswick@btinternet.com.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to you enjoying the new Royal Oak dining experience!

Here's the Sun!

By Ian Upshall



Last month's article was headlined "Where's the Sun?" – well, that one has been answered! What great weather we have witnessed recently? Already, the lawns and roadside verges are taking on a golden hue and we are only in June. The silage is in the clamp and the hay has been baled. By the time of the next Athelney Benefice Magazine, we will know better what the summer brought – is it going to be like 2022? All the climate models of any worth, pointed towards longer, drier, hotter summers and milder, wetter winters. That has certainly proven to be true recently.

But there have been some areas, even in Somerset, that have experienced some dramatic weather – recent rainstorms (I think we missed the worst of them) have caused disruption, loss of property and understandable concern. These events, again show that our climate is changing. We must accept these changes whilst working hard to reduce our impact on the climate. Adapting to a changing climate – hot summers and wet winters – is now becoming more urgent. Our homes and infrastructure simply weren't intended to cope with such patterns and so we must work together to adapt and accept.

On Saturday 3 June Stoke Environment Group held its third annual Envirofair at The Williams Hall. This year (unlike 2022!) we were treated to some marvellous weather and that certainly attracted many people. We received lots of support from exhibitors (all 30 of whom said they

wanted to return next year), and visitors. The Owls of Sharandy's Resuce Centre (Chard) were a great draw again, but we also welcomed Secret World, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Wildlands and even a great exhibition of carnivorous plants! This year we extended the range of refreshments to burgers, pulled beef wraps and salads washed down by local cider (Wady's) and great teas and coffees (Brew Planet). There were lots of crafts for children too, who had a great time making dream catchers from local materials, bird boxes and colourful bugs and bats. A photo competition, won by Cecily Arthurs and Claire Churchill really showed off what an amazing environment we have around us.

SEG's next event is on 1 July where we will be working with our friends from Somerset Wildlife Trust, Somerset Botany Group and the Environmental Records Centre to undertake a local nature mapping and 'botany-blitz'. Please do join us for this – its free (refreshments provided) and very friendly. See the booking form on the SWT website under the 'What's On' tab.

More events to follow – including a Bat Detective evening on 2 or 3 September – again with our friends from SWT. Please keep an eye on the website.

SEG is an active group of people who want to make a positive difference to the environment and climate change. We undertake a wide range of projects where expertise is not generally required (if it is, we bring in the experts!) but we can use our skills and enthusiasm. Addressing the global challenge has to start with us, as individuals – we cannot leave it to 'others'. Why not get involved? There is no commitment, no cost (generally), and no particular expert knowledge required. We can make a difference. We must make a difference. Have a great summer!

If you would like to know more, please contact us by email at envirostoke@yahoo.org or telephone 07837 764367.



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Our meals are cooked by volunteer cooks in their own kitchens and delivered by friendly local people.
The current cost is £3.50 a meal.

To know more, whether as a potential customer or as a volunteer, please phone Carole Ash [redacted], or Vicki Redding [redacted] or Judy Blair [redacted].

The Blue Sheet

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Rotas

North Curry

	Sidespersons	Intercessors	Readers
2nd July	Janet Dare, Pam Burgess	Owen Cullwick	David Akerman
9th July	Sally Keele, Lin Paul	David Farnham	Sally Keele
16th July	Hele Comrie	Mary Piers	Juloian Comrie, Judith Hinkes
23rd July	Tom Jeanes, Teresa Jones	David Walker	David Farnham
30th July	UBS at Stoke St Gregory		
6th Aug	Lorraine Bryan-Brown, Pam Burgess	Helen Griffiths	Mary Cridge

Stoke St Gregory

	Sidespersons	Readers	Cleaners	Flowers
2nd July	Carolyn Porter	Carolyn Porter & Stephen Loveridge	Annette & Martin	Di Tilley
9th July			Dave & Janet	
16th July	Songs of Praise on Playing Field		Penny & Simon	Margaret Poole
23rd July	Penny & Simon Baldwin	Annette Gage	Linda & Brett	
30th July	Barbara Parsons & John Hembrow	Diana Silk	Carolyn & Amelia	Marilyn Clarke
6th Aug	Pat Sollis	Barbara Parsons	Marilyn & Terri	
13th Aug				Edwina Hansford
20th Aug	Annette Gage & Veronica	Jo Washington	Annette & Martin	
27th Aug	Sally Morrice & Alex Morrice	Sally Morrice	Dave & Janet	Cherry Dobson
3rd Sep	Carolyn Porter	Simon Baldwin	Simon & Penny	

NB. Diary date for the festival flower arrangers: We will be decorating Church for the Harvest Festival on Saturday 30th September. Please contact Amelia Holt if you are unable to undertake this duty. (01823 490401)

Lyng

Flowers & Brass

30th June & 7th July C Dawson
14th & 21st July G Haskins-Salter
28th July & 4th August A Perry
11th & 18th August C Dawson
25th August & 1 September G Haskins-Salter

Cleaning

3rd & 10th July A Perry & L Willis
17th & 24th July S Dare & J Barnstaple
31st July & 7th Aug D James & R Barrington
14th & 21st Aug A Perry & L Willis
28th Aug & 4th Sep S Dare & J Barnstaple

6th August Transfiguration of Our Lord

8am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Service
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

13th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity Proper 14

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Holy Communion
3pm	NC Methodists	Summer Praise

20th August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Proper 15

8am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Service
6pm	North Curry	Evensong

27th August Bartholomew: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Proper 16

9.30am	Lyng	Patronal Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Service

3rd September Gregory Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Proper 17

8am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Patronal Eucharist
4.30pm	Lyng	Harvest Eucharist

Services across the Benefice

2nd July Fourth Sunday after Trinity (St Peter and St Paul)

8am	North Curry	Cancelled
9.30am	Lyng	Cancelled
10am	North Curry	Patronal Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church (breakfast at 10am)
11am	NC Methodists	Service
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

9th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family service with communion
11am	NC Methodists	Service of Holy Communion

16th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Joint Songs of Praise on Playing Field
11am	NC Methodists	Service
3pm	NC Methodists	Summer Praise
6pm	North Curry	Evensong

23rd July Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Service

30th July Eighth Sunday after Trinity (5th Sunday of July)

10am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church, starting with breakfast
11am	Stoke St Gregory	United Benefice Eucharist
11am	NC Methodists	Service
3pm	NC Methodists	Summer Praise and Circuit Picnic

Continues inside back page

Morning Prayer (The Daily Office) is said each day at 9am in the following parishes:

Tue: Stoke St Gregory, Wed: Burrowbridge, Thu: Lyng, Fri: North Curry. The prayer time last around 20 minutes and is a peaceful and enriching start to the day. All are welcome. You simply need to turn up.