The Athelney Magazine



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

May 2024

Who's Who

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

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The Athelney Bulletin

As well as this monthly Athelney Magazine, there is a weekly publication available online and in each church. The Athelney Bulletin is emailed out each weekend and printed copies can be found in readiness for Sunday worship. The bulletin contains all the readings for each Sunday and also news and notices of upcoming events. If you would like to receive this bulletin in your email either contact vicar@athelneybenefice.com or complete the form on the benefice website, athelneybenefice.com/signup



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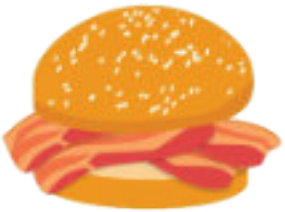
Lyng

Lyng Coffee mornings are held monthly on the final Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

North Curry

Wednesdays at 10am in church.

Stoke St Gregory



The Levellers meet at 2.30pm every third Tuesday in the Williams Hall. A time of conversation and fellowship, often with a visiting speaker.

Thank you to everyone who helps with these events

To Submit Copy

Copy deadline is **14th May** for the March Magazine;

Please send **content** in an email attachment (ideally a Microsoft Word documenet) 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 item, making 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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Subscriptions run from May to April each year.

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Thank you!

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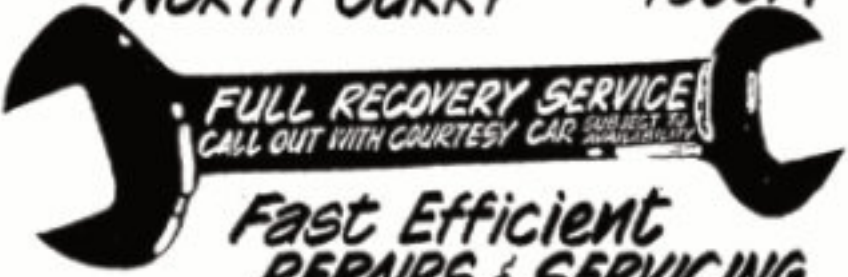


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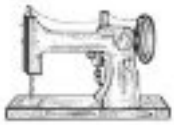
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Meekly kneeling

By Revd Simon

I wrote about Open the Book in the weekly bulletin recently. I'm going to start on the same theme in the magazine as well. Clearly it's in my head and on my heart at the moment. Open the Book (you may recall) is a scheme provided through Bible Society that aims to present The Bible in ways that area accessible to primary school children. It's not just school children who benefit, however. As the band of performers who present the dramatised retellings of Old and New Testament know well, stripping back scripture to its most understandable can be a massive help to every one of us oldies who thought we knew what Jesus meant when he told the story of the Good Samaritan or Prodigal Son (two pick two at almost random). Finding ways of explaining what the parables "mean" encourages us to pause and think, "Crikey! What DO they mean?!"

At the end of every Open the Book "performance" we all pray together. At the end of the prayer we say to the children, "if you would like to make this prayer yours, join me when I say, 'Amen'." The children are sitting there in time honoured fashion, legs crossed on the floor of the school hall (memories we all have, I suspect), hands clasped together and eyes tightly shut (on the whole). And all say, "Amen" as suggested.

I often stand there pondering. I ponder a lot in all manner of settings, it won't surprise you to discover. I ponder in this case because I can recall doing just the same as a young child. Then, as I grew older and realised I knew everything that mattered I confidently turned my back on the whole religion thing and poo-pooed the very act of praying. For decades. It's all a bit daft. Right?

Wrong. When I returned to faith, as a very late-thirty-something I did it through prayer.

There is a word used far and wide: mindfulness. Now, forgive me if I sound a bit contentious but the notion of mindfulness seems simply a trendy term that excuses someone from saying they are praying. Yes… I know… not all people who "do" mindfulness are necessarily people who admit to faith or who are part of a religious tradition, but prayer is far more than sitting still with hands clasped (school hall, church pew or at

your bedside…). Praying is a moment of encounter with God. God is not a physical but a cerebral experience in our lives: very real and very active, but entirely not present in physical form. To be mindful is to extend your thoughts to God. To pray.There is a lot more debate and discussion to be had on all this, of course, so please don't think I am providing the perfect explanation of mindfulness and prayer. I solely wish to get you thinking, "how does prayer work for me?"

When I pray in school I often suggest that a prayer is a conversation with God. A conversation can be about something very tangible, like the weather or a broken lawn mower. It can be about something far less physical, such as how you like a particular piece of music or poem. I can talk to God just as I natter to a good friend, bemoaning "the world" and wishing people were kinder to one another, for example. A conversation with God doesn't have to use hifalutin words of more than a single syllable. It doesn't even need any words, in fact. Back to mindfulness: just looking at a sunrise or the calm sea after a storm or … whatever … moments when we pause and consider. These mindful moments are prayers too.

What does matter, in the actions that we collectively describe as prayer, is that we listen to God. If this is a conversation then it's pretty rude not to listen, I would suggest. And when the other person is God, well, even more so. In a relationship as profound as the one we can have with God, what God says can literally change our life. Prayer isn't about asking for anything to be different–better or worse. It can be solely about noticing and hearing how God helps you notice. How often have you "put the world to rights" with a friend, only to find absolutely nothing (appears) to have changed?

So, this month, and especially from 9th May (Ascension Day) to 19th May (Pentecost), I encourage you to pray and to listen out for what might happen. This is a period of global prayer. Ten days of conversations with God. A time of focused encounter when we know that millions will also be doing what we can do: offer out you soul to God and listen to how it feels to be heard.

Importantly, in all of this prayer, I need to mention one person: Jesus. Jesus as the son of God walks with us through our daily routines. When we pray to God "through Jesus" we are reminding ourselves that we are not alone but are helped by God through His Son.

It can all sound a bit odd. I realise that. So if you wish to discover more try visiting thykingdomcome.global. On this website you can discover the global nature of this initiative. *Thy Kingdom Come* is a about finding our way to Jesus in a complicated world. As always, I am happy to chat too. But I am only one of the millions. However, if you want to join me in my prayers, just say, "Amen".

From Bishop Michael

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A challenge offered

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath & Wells



There's a fascinating exercise I've often undertaken with roomfuls of church members. I've asked them the question 'To what age do you trace back the beginnings of your Christian faith?' The results are almost always the same. About 40% of us think that our Christian journey started at some point before the age of four. Another 40% of us trace the beginnings of our faith back to when we were less than eleven. A further 20% say before we were eighteen. While only one in five of us report having embarked on the journey of faith as adults.

The findings I've described should give us all pause for thought. For most people, the start of our Christian journey (even if we've dropped out for a while in adolescence and early adulthood) starts in childhood.

So if we want to grow our churches and transform our communities this suggests that it's into the faith development of children and young people that we should be putting our energies, priority and resources.

Our data suggests that more than half our churches have no young person worshipping with them on a Sunday morning. I realise, of course, how hard it is for churches to compete with the demands of football, seeing the extended family, doing any of the many things that are otherwise crowded out of busy family lives. Yet experience shows that when we offer worship at other times and in formats that are attractive to children, young people and families they do come.

This year I'm challenging all our benefices to grow their average weekly attendance by one child (net). If we could sustain such an achievement over a number of years the impact would transform our churches, our lives and our experience. The support services of our diocese offer extensive assistance to enable local churches to think what could work with the resources you have, the passions and skills you possess and the reality of the situation where you are. Do ask for their help.

Are you willing to take up the challenge I've offered?

Martin's Musings



I think that May is my favourite month of the year. In the garden, it is certainly one of the loveliest, with all the wonderful flowering trees, such as the lilac, lovely shrubs and that most beautiful of bulbs, the tulip.

It is also the month of the RHS Spring show, known and admired around the world as the glorious Chelsea Flower Show. Visiting it each May was a wonderful compensation for living in a city I never really liked. Nothing against London personally – it's just that I dislike all cities and large towns. Too many cars—too noisy—and too many people all getting in my way. I used to travel to Chelsea at an early hour on members' day and queue with the other early birds so that I could enjoy the show without the masses getting so much in my way that I couldn't see anything.

The atmosphere was wonderful and the flowering displays in the Great Marquee amazing. As well as specialist nurseries from this country, there were exhibits from all over the world. The ones from the Caribbean islands were always outstanding. I particularly enjoyed the display gardens on main avenue. Amazing design and plants which were in a word: perfection.

Sadly, many of the show gardens are very different now. Many of the gardens have been highjacked by designers who are just too enthusiastic about nature. You might guess from this that I am not a fan of gardens with old rusty buildings and weeds carefully grown and planted to give what the commentators gushingly call 'the natural effect'! If I wanted that in a garden, I would just look outside my door where I have it in spades with a very large variety of weird and wonderful weeds mingling among the trees, shrubs and roses.

It's not that I have anything against gardens that are wildlife friendly. Indeed, among the spacious grounds of Broughton House, there is a sizeable wildlife garden safely hidden from the rest of the garden. It's just that, in my opinion, several of the Chelsea gardens have gone too far. My early gardens were conventional. Lawns mown; flower beds weeded etc. However, as you may recall in an earlier musing, my lifestyle now embraces PEC: Personal Energy Conservation. So I am more than happy to let nature take its course in my garden, but only up to a point. To that end I have a cunning secret weapon, my wonderful strimmer. When the weeds threaten to take over out it comes. I happily leave the remains of dead and dying natural plants on the ground, good for the bugs etc. I then sit down with a well-deserved cup of tea and cake. I think then, that the moral of this muse, is that however much we want to make our lives (or gardens) perfect, as we get older, we should have the wisdom to accept our life as it is. Relax, love, laugh and most of all, be happy!

Burrowbridge



United in Christ

Our united benefice services (UBS) have changed a lot in the past year. At the end of 2022 we shuffled everything about a lot. Sometimes it can pay to give everything a bit of a shake…

For some time (how long nobody really knows…) there had been a UBS every second Sunday of the month. As a new vicar in the benefice I noticed that this seemed to result in lots of people not coming to church on that second Sunday. You know me well enough by now to realise that I am not obsessed with "bums on seats", and that not coming to church as a Christian isn't dreadful sin before God. Life is multi-dimensional. There are calls on our time and family life to attend to.

However, it did seem as though the second Sunday was becoming a bit of an oddity, with people disappearing from view and, perhaps most significantly, missing out on the chance to engage with each other across the four parishes. And lets be clear: we are a "united" benefice, where we do value being part of other congregations every so often.

So, when I say, "we shuffled", in fact "the vicar shuffled" is a better description. We went from sixteen UBS each year (12 x months and 4 x fifth Sundays) to four: just the fifth Sundays.

It appears to have worked: not only has attendance at the UBS risen but the Fifth Sundays are providing a time for more experimental worship. Over the past eighteen months we've become increasingly comfortable with the mad ideas of the worship group. We've had three or four talking heads instead of sermons, we've had exploding confetti cannons and party-poppers at New Year and last month we recreated the empty tomb with some old dust sheets.

Worship can be far more than the weekly liturgy. Worship is a time to experiment. Not always. Just every fifth Sunday, on the whole.



Thank you for your patience…



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Lyng

Earlier in March this year Lyng Church was blessed with the visit of Tim Crasson, a colleague of Geoff Perry (Alison's husband)

Tim is from Clinton, Mississippi and was in the village as part of a student exchange programme with students in Taunton. He attended a our Mothering Sunday service in Lyng. He has written this poem as a consequence of his encounter with a very Anglican place of God

We pull our collars higher still
to guard against the stifling wind.
What's empty, we do hope to fill.
What's cold, to drive the fire in.
But can these stones store heat so rare?
"God has heard the voice of our prayer,"

Do we presume that God should dwell,
If he exists at all, within
this ancient, vacant house whose bell
calls through the Levels and our sin?
With the vicar, we all declare,
"God has heard the voice of our prayer."

The centuries have moved the heart
From open land to cityscapes,
And now we question what true part
The well–carved pew, the textured drapes,
Can play for us in village fare.
"God has heard the voice of our prayer."

As Herbert writes, the heart's a stone
That's lifeless, dense and hard and cold,
till Heaven cut flesh, quick and bone
And knead them through th'eternal mold,
descending lower than we'd dare.
"God has heard the voice of our prayer."

As long as men possess a heart
That's prone to worship what they see,
This place provides, at least, a start
To seek divine community.
Through others who can share our care
"God has heard the voice of our prayer."



Rotas at Lyng Church

If anyone would like to join the Lyng rotas 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.

Thank you to everyone who helps with all this already!

Lyng Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in Lyng Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Next meeting:is

Thursday 23rd May at 7pm: Annual General Meeting, preceded by Annual Parish Meeting.

North Curry



North Curry Coffee Shop

We continue to be very busy serving our weekly lunch specials which range from homemade quiche to pork pie and salad for just £5. A range of homemade bakes are also on offer or maybe a cheese scone and chutney or a cream tea may take your fancy! Local arts, crafts, cards and jewellery stocks are refreshed every 6-8 weeks so keep an eye out for our new displays. Our opening hours are Tuesday-Sunday 10am-4.30pm. If you would like to join our friendly team of volunteers please leave a message for on 01823 491414 or email us at coffeeshop@northcurry.com, the hours you work go towards a donation to your chosen charity. We look forward to welcoming you.

White Street News

200 Club

Big Bash 2024

Planning is underway! Please let us know what you think of the Big Bash (our main fund-raising event) and any suggestions you may have.

Odds of winning are 1 in 68! Why not join and help us with regular upkeep. Cost is still just £12 per year. Just drop a note to: whitestreet@northcurry.com

200 Club winners

APRIL

1st Laurence Leader
2nd Mary Ginger
3rd Michael Joy

The 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



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NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Wednesday 15th May A Voyage to Arcturus, a short journey across the Universe

Drawing on our local resources, Keith Gibbs takes us on a short journey (only 37 light years!) to Arcturus, the brightest star in the northern constellation of Boötes.



His presentation is based on the 1956 Third Programme's radio dramatisation of the voyage to Arcturius with Keith's own visuals and recorded music accompaniment.

Keith writes: "On Saturday the 24th of June 1956, The BBC presented a radio dramatization of A Voyage to Arcturus on its "highbrow" Third Programme. Starting at 8:10pm and finishing at 10:55pm, with a fifteen-minute interval roughly halfway through (during which a recording of Telemann's Suite in D for wind instruments was played). The programme was recorded and re-broadcast the following Saturday, from 6pm to 8:45pm (this time, the interval music was Dittersdorf's Partita in D). "

The North Curry Society meet in the Village Hall, generally on the third Wednesday of each month for talks on the environment and heritage of the village and its surrounds and the wonderful people who live and have lived nearby. With tea or coffee from 7.30pm, talks start at 8pm. Members (Annual Subscription £15) and visitors (your £5 entrance fee will be credited to you if you decide to join) are assured of a warm welcome.

Contact Details

For further details, please contact the Chairman, Colin Trim 01823 490337, colinhtrim@gmail.com

KEEP THE DATES FREE!

North Curry Music Festival

14th-16th June 2024

Folk group
The Mellstock Band - 14th June

International classical trio
Kosmos Ensemble - 15th June

Free Families Event
Magic Flute Reduced - 16th June

and much more!

Calling all musicians (budding or professional)!

As part of our Music Enrichment Week (10th to14th June) we would love to introduce the children to as diverse a range of instruments and musical genres as possible. If you have a musical instrument, some time and plenty of enthusiasm to share it with the next generation we would love to hear from you. We are looking for volunteers to pop in during the week and tour the classes, demonstrating their instrument, what it sounds like and to perform a piece/song. If you think you could help, please contact the school office, office@nc.huish.education



Helen Morley, Head teacher, North Curry C of E Primary School

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The May Fair, 11th May



11th May sees the Annual North Curry May Fayre and as usual St Peter and St Paul's has two stalls booked. One stall will be for cakes and the second a bottle stall.

A request for help!

We need lots of donations for both stalls, so may please think of what you can contribute to the cakes, whether by baking or something else, and dig in to the wine cellar for some vino or indeed any type of liquid beverage/sauce (in date of course…!)

Donations may be left either with Louise Clarke (Easter Cottage, opposite the Post Office) or with Mary Piers (Marandellas, 2 Overlands).

We will also need volunteers for the stalls. This is not necessarily for the full two hours; just a half hour along the line is greatly appreciated.



Please contact Mary Piers 01823 491434. Everyone is normally very generous so may I say thank you in advance.

Every little helps!



North Curry & District Amateur Gardeners

Improve ones memory by gardening, Steve Taylor: Friday 3rd May 7.45 for 8pm at North Curry Village Hall

Gardens give us the opportunity for the development of our own ideas, big or small. We look upon them as places for true relaxation, allowing us to open up the right hemisphere of our minds, the subconscious areas, and think intuitively rather than intellectually.

Steve explains that, while the brain is similar to a computer, with the ability to store and retrieve information, there is no handy manual to explain HOW to remember. So he will show how personalising our garden can help improve our memory and will bring along simple to make items to help facilitate this. His talk will give practical demonstrations, with audience participation, eg on how to remember 20-digit numbers, and how our conscious mind conflicts with our subconscious.

We are a lively friendly club, and guests and new members are always welcome. So do come along and join us for the talk and stay for refreshments and a chat afterwards. Any queries or questions, call Sue on 491658.

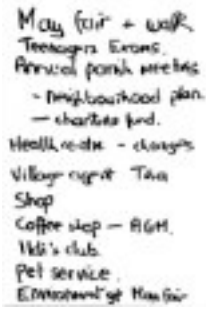
North Curry Prayer Fellowship: All Welcome!

"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 usually 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. Next gathering: 25th May, 9.30am





Some recent prayer themes

North Curry Parish Council



Village Taxi Service: Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council run a successful Village Taxi service which also covers North Curry. The fees are very reasonable, and are half price for those who have a bus pass. Please feel free to contact the service on **07942 231145** if you need to arrange transport, or if you are interested in being a volunteer driver! The insurance is covered by Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council and the majority of car insurance providers are fine with this as long as it's not for profit. It would be great to have some volunteer drivers from North Curry as they service our Parish too. Please ring them for more information if you are interested.

New! **Allotment Produce Box**: The Parish Council have recently installed a produce box on the fence at Greenway Allotments- accessible from the Village Hall car park. This great idea came from an allotment holder, and the produce box was kindly made by Mr Paul Deacon. The purpose of this box is for people to share excess produce from their allotments, or home gardens, and it will be free for anyone to come along and swap, take, or drop off produce.

The Parish Council Office opening hours are:

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

Thursdays 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Telephone No: 01823 490136 or contact us at parishcouncil@north-curry.com

Parish Council Diary for March 2024: see the Parish noticeboard, our Website and Facebook.

Our Parish Council Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, plus just for any extra planning meetings needed the last Wednesday of the month, both in the Meeting Room of our Village Hall at 7:30pm.

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. Revds Simon and Martin can be found praying "the daily office each Tue (SSG), Wed (Lyng, 9.15am), Thu (BB) and Fri (NC). All are welcome.

NORTH CURRY F I L M CLUB



On **Wednesday May 22nd we are showing the film Alcarràs**. The life of a family of peach farmers in a small village in Catalonia changes when the owner of their large estate dies and his heir decides to replace the trees with solar panels, suddenly threatening their livelihood.

Doors & bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm.

Also open to non-members (£5).

Please see our website for trailers: www.northcurryfilmclub.org.uk or use the QR code. We also have a Facebook page.



Don't forget…! 11th May!

St Athelwin and the Rogation Walk: starts 8.30am in Lyng and ends sometime near 3.30pm in North Curry… All welcome for all or part of the walk, or simply to wave as we pass by… more here:

athelneybenefice.com/rogation

News from North Curry/Curland Methodist Church



The Good Friday Taizé service at the Methodist Church provided a gentle and reflective service of readings and chants in a candlelit setting, before the glorious celebration on Easter Sunday morning.

Our Easter morning Communion Service was led by one of our Supernumerary Ministers, Reverend Tony Cox. Grateful thanks to Christine for the beautiful decorations.

On 21st May, we shall celebrate Pentecost in the Village Garden with our United Pentecost Praise, along with North Curry Parish Church. Do come along at 3pm and sing some of your favourite hymns before enjoying refreshments from the gazebo.



Circuit Superintendent: Revd Deborah Kirk 01823 334854/deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com. Minister in Training: Ildiko Haraszti 07507 875893, ildikotutor@gmail.com



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St Athelwin's Rogation Walk, May 11th, 2024

Refreshments available along the route which will be a mix of lanes and bridle paths (see webpage for detailed route)

athelneybenefice.com/rogation



Stoke St Gregory



Cleaning Bank

The Willow Set Preschool Sun Up Sun Down Club



Stoke St Gregory Primary School,
Stoke St Gregory
Charity Number 1014565
Tel 01823 491567
E-mail: admin@willlowset.org.uk

As a registered charity, The Willow Set is a local Pre-School in the heart of Stoke St Gregory village, providing an essential service to many young families. Our latest initiative is the "cleaning bank".

With kind permission, we now have a collection box placed just inside the parish church in Stoke St Gregory, and would really appreciate any donations you could make. We are specifically looking for cleaning materials such as: disposable gloves, toilet rolls, anti-bacterial spray, hand wash, soap, wet wipes / washable wipes, washing power, washing up liquid.





We deeply appreciate any contributions you can offer.



If stones could speak…

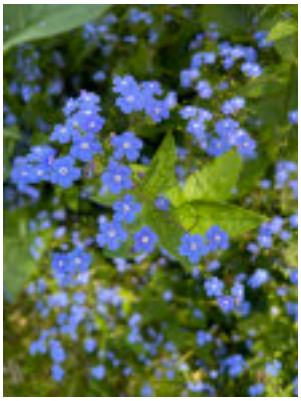
Early last year Jane White noticed the south transept of the church was cracking. The memorials were falling off the wall! After a year of to-ing and fro-ing, and a great deal of hard work by Jane et al. the stones are now safe and very beautifully repaired. Why not into the church to have a look? Thank you, Jane!

Open Gardens at Hillcrest, Curload

Supporting
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CANCER SUPPORT

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May Hillcrest Gardens are open from 1-5pm for the The National Garden Scheme which supports medical charities such as McMillan Cancer, Marie Curie Nurses and others. With views over the levels, this 6 acre garden offers plenty of interest, including a standing stone. Enjoy woodland walks, varied borders, a flowering meadow and several ponds. There are greenhouses, orchards, a produce garden and a newly built large gravel garden.





You can round off or, indeed, start your visit with delicious tea and cakes. These are provided by the church with proceeds going to the church maintenance fund. The admission fee is £5 which all goes to the National Garden Scheme. Children are free and dogs are welcome on a lead. There are also plant sales. On site parking is available but if you are coming up from the village please consider walking or cycling. The garden is mostly level with gentle sloping paths . There are no steps.

The Stoke Levellers

Stoke St Gregory OAP group has evolved!

Now known as The Stoke Levellers we are a lively and friendly group who meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 2.00pm for an afternoon of entertainment, refreshments and good company at Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory. During the summer months we have coach trips to various destinations and also enjoy getting together for afternoons such as cream teas.

If you would like to join us and become a member of our group you would be very welcome. Our very lovely chairman is Martin Mudie, and if you would like more information please ring Martin on 01823 490371, Jane Smith, Secretary on 01823 491428 or Jenny Priddle, Treasurer on 01823 490740

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Enjoy them over a chat in our café or, better still, in the sunny garden area.



Pizza

Next monthly pizza event is 13 May, 4.30pm to 7pm, from Firehouse Pizza Rocket in our car park.
Look out for more dates monthly.



Enjoy a pizza at home, or why not join us in the pub and enjoy some company and a drink with it. Bring the family!





HOTV Chairman's update

By Paul Fielding

We have just reached the end of another financial year, and are working to get the figures together ASAP. Initial indications are that the overall business performance has been satisfactory.

Work on Phase 3 is now underway, with the preparation of a temporary stockroom, paving the way for the next major stage - the new toilet area, including a disable toilet.

Many will have enjoyed the excellent Valentine's Night dinner, also the Stoke Stampede/Mother's Day Sunday lunch, and a busy Easter weekend. Credit once again to all involved, the usual mix of staff and volunteers.

We have started Saturday lunchtime opening; also a monthly Monday evening opening with the Firehouse's Pizza Rocket in the car park. Both of these are for trial periods, and dependent on customer uptake and the continuing goodwill of volunteer bar staff. So please use them, or lose them. And if there are other possibilities you would wish us to consider, then please do let us know and we will see what we can do.

It refreshing to note that we are still attracting a trickle of new volunteers, and some people are choosing to increase their shareholding. Both aspects show a reassuring degree of commitment to our community venture.

So if you have been thinking about getting involved in some way, please do make yourself known - our volunteers would say that they have enjoyed the experience, especially getting to know new people and finding out more about the village. Why not be a part of it?







Stoke St Gregory WI: Annual Meeting!

Tuesday 14th May is Stoke St Gregory WI's annual meeting where we will elect the three officers and the new committee for the coming year.

Do you fancy making the decisions for your Institute? It's great fun being involved and you only need to commit to a committee meeting once a month, the week before the members meeting. Don't hesitate to ask a committee member if you have any queries about the work that happens behind the scenes.

Apart from the business part of the meeting we have Bob Selway coming to demonstrate wood turning. Carolyn Heal is giving the vote of thanks, Mary Ginger is running the trade stall and Janice will need an assistant to help with the refreshments. **New members are always welcome**.

Amelia Holt, 01823 490401





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Our customers range from the elderly to those recovering after an operation.
If you think we could be of help to you or to someone you know, please get in touch.

Our meals are cooked by volunteer cooks in their own kitchens and delivered by friendly local people.
The current cost is £3.90/meal.

To learn more, whether as a potential customer or as a volunteer, please phone Carole Joll 01823 490077, or Vicki Fielding (490565) or Judy Blair (490222).





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Rotas

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
5th May	H Comrie, T Jones	M Piers	S Keele
9th May	H Comrie	D Farnham	D Walker, Z Sykes
12th May	L B-Brown, T Jeanes	D Walker	S Harrison
19th May	Pentecost Praise in the Square		
26th May	P Burgess, J Dare	H Griffiths	A Peters
30th May	T Jones	D Walker	T Jeanes, D Akerman

Lyng

	Cleaning	Flowers
Wk 1 & 2	Sue Dare & Jenny Barnstable	Alison
Wk 3 & 4	Alison & Lin	Grace

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

5th May	Barbara
19th May	Penny & Simon
26th May	Sally & Alex
2nd June	Veronica
16th June	Barbara & John

Readers

Please read both Old and New Testament readings as shown in the bulletin. If changing weeks please advise Jane or Pat

5th May	Barbara (Evening Prayer)
19th May	Simon
26th May	Sally
2nd June	Carolyn
16th June	Jo



Church Cleaners

5th May	Marilyn & Terri
12th May	Annette & Martin
19th May	Dave & Janet
26th May	Penny & Simon
2nd June	Amelia & Ade
9th June	Linda & Brent
16th June	Marilyn & Terri

Flowers

7th May	Cherry Dobson
19th May	Amelia Holt
2nd June	Carolyn Porter

Services across the Benefice

5th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
11am	North Curry Methodists	Methodist Service
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

9th May (Thursday): Ascension Day

7pm	North Curry	Eucharist

12th May: Sunday after Ascension Day

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church (breakfast at 10am)
11am	North Curry Methodists	Methodist Service

19th May: Day of Pentecost

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
3pm	North Curry	Pentecost Praise (Ecumenical)

26th May: Trinity Sunday

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist followed by APCM/PCC
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11am	North Curry Methodists	Methodist Service

30th May (Thursday): Corpus Christi

7pm	North Curry	Benefice Eucharist

2nd June: First Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
11am	North Curry Methodists	Methodist Service
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong