The Athelney Magazine



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

June 2024

Who's Who

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

Benefice		
Vicar	Revd Dr Simon Bale	07970 936325, 01823 491587, vicar@athelneybenefice.com
Associate priest	Revd Martin Mudie	01823 490371, mmudie07@gmail.com
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Treasurer	Pat Sollis	01823 490750, pat.sollis1@btinternet.com
Administrator	Alison Perry	07470 838707, office@athelneybenefice.com
Burrowbridge		
Churchwarden	Julie Pocock	01823 698915, julie.pocock@btconnect.com
Churchwarden	Sue Nicholas	01823 698814, pnicholas971@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Rob Ellis	07410 634511, rellisscr@hotmail.com
Lyng		
Churchwarden	Alison Perry	07470838707, office@athelneybenefice.com
Churchwarden	Lin Willis	07779 636197, lin_willis@hotmail.co.uk
Safeguarding	Christine Dawson	01823 690105, sorrel3@hotmail.comv
Treasurer	Margaret Williamson	01823 690471, emwilliamson@btinternet.com
North Curry		
Churchwarden	Tom Jeanes	01823 490562, lawnmoorfarm@hotmail.com
Churchwarden	Mary Piers	01823 491434, marypiers@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Richard Sykes	nctreasurer@athelneybenefice.com
Safeguarding	Owen Cullwick	01823 490681, owen@cullwick.co.uk
Stoke St Gregory		
Churchwarden	Jane White	01823 490508, janepwhite@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Steve Loveridge	01823 698340, stevejloveridge@gmail.com
Safeguarding	John Hembrow	07921 912788, john.hembrow1@gmail.com
School Room Bookings	Pat Sollis	01823 490750, pat.sollis1@btinternet.com

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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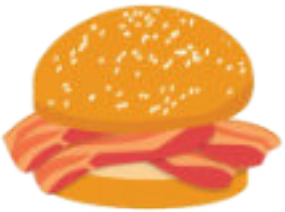
Lyng

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 June** for the July Magazine; Please note: July is a double month. **There is no August magazine**

Please send **content** in an email attachment (ideally a Microsoft Word document) 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. ***If none of this makes any sense, please just write it out long hand and put it through the vicarage door…***

To Subscribe

Subscriptions run from May to April each year.

Please pay your deliverer the £8 requested. After due consideration, we have realised that the BACS approach to subscription is currently too complicated to administer. If you have already paid using this route, then your subscription will have been accepted, but for the future, please only use the direct payment to the person who delivers your magazine.

Thank you!

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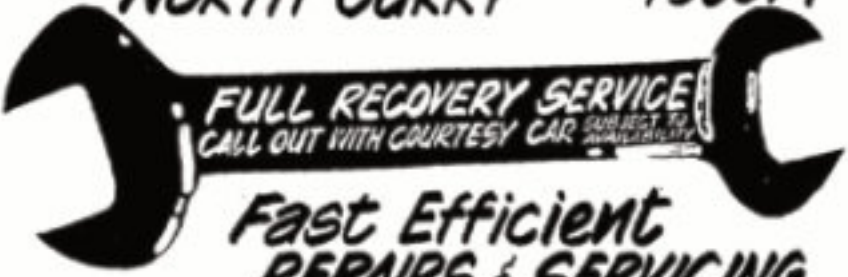


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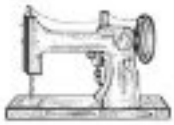
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The Athelney Benefice



A Grand Day Out

By Revd Simon



What finer way to perambulate the benefice than to bookend it with bacon butties and ice cream? That there were cakes and drinks and sarnies and flan as well, meant that the first ever St Athelwin Rogation Walk went off without barely a hitch (the vicar walks on his stomach). There were a few cows to negotiate (of course) and—surprisingly!—the sun not only shone but did so all day long.



Thank you to all who supported the happy band with their sustenance, Ali et al. at Lyng, Julie and Sue at Burrowbridge, The Royal Oak at Stoke St Gregory and Mary and the Church Stall at North Curry. Also Colin Trim for his photographs. Colin kept cropping up in just the right places to ensure this historic moment will be recorded for posterity.

Yes: an historic moment. Although many are aware (if only obliquely) of King Alfred "The Great" as an historic presence, to our knowledge, the existence of St Athelwin has never before been celebrated or commemorated in any substantial way, at least not for maybe one thousand years or more. This point, and many others, was pointed out to us by Paul Hockey, who met us at the Atheleny Monument to provide us with a brief explanation of the history guiding our walk. St Athelwin is our patron saint for the benefice and his remains almost certainly lie beneath the grass of the Isle of



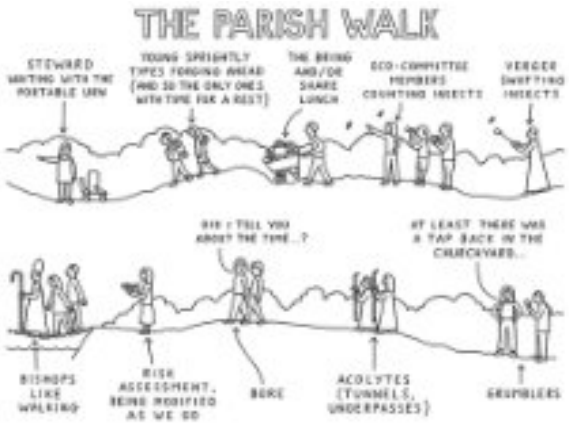


Athelney. Thank you, Paul.

This wasn't simply an historical adventure, of course. It was also a time of fellowship and enjoyment for all those who walked. Twenty of us during the day, although not all did all the route. A hard core of twelve had both butty and ice cream, however. As we wandered we chatted and we laughed. We shared stories of our own experience of the landscape. We discovered a rather beautiful mural with a splendid mallow motif (the Isle of Athelney used to be called the Mallow Isle… way back before Athelwin arrived). We shared stories of our own journeys in faith and we paused at each of our four parish churches to remind ourselves of the divine power of the ground beneath our feet.



A rogation walk is an ancient custom that asks God ("rogare is Latin for "to ask") for good growth in the newly planted seeds. As we walked through the fields of meadow grass and rape (yellow flowers just gone and seed pods forming) and followed the flow of the Tone and Parrett we saw this growth. But we also grew in ourselves, noticing our own presence in this beautiful world. We asked God to continue to guide us in our faith and we know, through our faith, that this benefice will grow as long as we find ways to join together.



From a recent Church Times, by Dave Walker

A final thank you, personally, to all of you who wandered that day. Thank you for your company. A joyful day. We can't promise sunshine next year… but, please put 3rd May 2025 in your diary. All the same churches, but in a different order.

From Revd Toby Wright

The gift of prayer

By Toby Wright, who will be installed as the Dean of Wells on Saturday, 16th June



It is a great joy and privilege to come and join you here in Bath and Wells as the new Dean of Wells, to serve the Cathedral, the diocese and the county. This is an area with strong links on my maternal side, with my grandparents being married in Bath, and many relatives from around this patch.

One of the many things which drew me to this role is the privilege of prayer in your beautiful Cathedral Church. Each morning we gather and pray for the life of the diocese, and give thanks for that same life in the evening. Please be assured of my prayers for you in your mission and ministry and I warmly look forward to getting out to explore the diocese.

As I reflect on this time of change, I am mindful of the importance of finding patterns of prayer to sustain our lives, and nourish our spiritual growth. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said many years ago, we must 'think of prayer as a relationship.' We are to invest in it, and to find space so that it can develop, and this takes time. Or as the mystic Evelyn Underhill put it, 'On every level of life, from housework to heights of prayer, in all judgement and efforts to get things done, hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur.'

We all know the importance of taking time to invest in relationships, and I love the challenge that hurry and impatience are sure marks of the amateur. As we reflect on our own prayer lives, I wonder if there are ways that we can deepen our relationship in prayer? The Christian tradition is packed with ways to help people learn to pray. Maybe we can find ways to slow ourselves down and be more present to the gift of prayer, so that we may join in the Apostle Paul's prayer, 'we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding'. (Colossians 1.9)?

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Martin's Musings

For to those of us who live alone, the friendship and companionship of our canine and or feline friends is tremendously important in our lives. I never had any pets when I was a child as Father disapproved of them and after his death, Mother had to work full time and I was away at boarding school. So, my first canine companion came into my life after I returned home from university.

He was a large roly-poly golden retriever called Jamie, a joyful character whose sole preoccupation in life was food and my wonderful aunt with whom I lived cared for him during the day. My aunt loved Jamie, so when she had a piece of fruit cake, so did he. However, it did him no harm and he survived in good health until 14 and his bright, cheerful character was much missed when he entered paradise, hopefully in time for luncheon.

After Jamie, there were a couple years without pets as the Lord and the Church of England had sent me to Theological college to train as a priest and the college did not permit dogs. Once in my first parish, I opted for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels as, for me, they were the perfect companion. Quiet, laid back and only requiring 30 minutes exercise a day. Over the years, there were a number, all having their own wonderful characters.

Sophie was the first. Unusually for a cavalier she was hyperactive and rushed everywhere, packing 16 years into the eight years of her life. For the last 6 months she needed to be transported in a child's push chair, as she wasn't allowed to walk. She loved it. She was, at last, the centre of attention. Quite right too!

Sophie was followed by dear Piglet and Pandora, known to many in the benefice. Pandy was a girl who knew her own mind and, when off the lead, who only return when she chose. So, I developed a new call. 'Pandy, darling, in your own time, Come'. Piglet, a natural worrier, just sat there looking anxious, hoping she would return safe. Piglet only survived Pandy by a year, but she loved every moment. She had me, at last, all to herself.

My present companions Annie and Emma are a joy but quite different. Annie just loves being with me and worries when I am not there. For Emma, more nervous, the world is a dangerous place, and it is her job to protect granny Annie and I from it. Her particular bête



noire is the television when every Friday, that horrid Ned from Gardener's World comes into OUR sitting room and must be immediately expelled. Once that's done, she trots back to her bed, very well pleased with herself. Granny, who knows the TV isn't real, just sighs and goes back to sleep.

Some may think I'm daft about my girls, but I don't care. For me, the order of importance for those in my life is the Girls, then God and only then, the rest of you. So, know you know! For their unquestioning love, friendship and companionship of my canine friends, past and present meant and means everything to me and always will.

Archbishop joins us for Diocesan Day of Prayer



On Saturday, 7th September, everyone across our Diocese of Bath and Wells is invited to join in a Diocesan Day of Prayer for the communities we serve. Bishop Michael will be hosting a gathering in each of our archdeaconries, alongside Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Churches across the diocese are also invited to hold their own prayer gatherings with a focus on their local communities.

Bishop Michael says, "As churches we pray in and for our communities each and every day, but for this diocesan day of prayer I am encouraging every church to look afresh at the communities we serve and the multitude of ways we can and do pray for them. As well as being an opportunity to help us seek God's transformation for the communities we are a part of, I hope this will provide us with a chance to deepen our own faith and strengthen our church communities through prayer.

"I am always struck by how many people, even if they are not regular churchgoers, are pleased that they are being prayed for, and so this may be an opportunity to let our communities know that we are praying for our life together and how it might be transformed for good, as well as giving thanks for all that is good already."

As well as the gatherings across Bath and Wells, there will be resources and suggestions for more local prayer gatherings, on that day, and into the future.

'Unless the Lord Builds the House we build in vain.' Psalm 127:1. Find out more about the Diocesan Day of Prayer and sign up to receive resources when they are available at bathandwells.org.uk/day-of-prayer

Safe Families Update

We have supported Safe Families for a few years now. Lauren Jewhurst, their Community Volunteer Manager has a few words for us…

It has been an exciting month for Safe Families! On Tuesday 7th May we announced that Safe Families and Home For Good will be merging to form one charity, while retaining the two strong and respected brand identities. This is a really exciting moment for both charities, who have been working in strong partnership with each other, along with Kids Matter and TLG for a number of years. It feels like a natural progression to come together to offer hope and belonging to families in a number of different contexts.

As a combined organisation, both Safe Families and Home for Good intend to help church communities to support families in need and also to provide safe homes for young people rather than having to enter the care system. This might be through adoption, fostering or safe lodgings. It is an exciting and hopeful move. Please pray for the initiative as it becomes a reality.

A story of hope to share with you!

A while ago we had a single Dad and his 2 little boys referred to us. The family were living in temporary accommodation – a single room in a Travelodge – and they were in need of some support. We matched them with our volunteer J, and he immediately began to make a difference in their lives. He visited them in their hotel room, and brought along den building equipment – blankets, cushions, whiteboards, and fairy lights so that the boys could make the space more fun and cosy. He had the family over to his own home once a week after school for a home cooked meal and to play some board games. J also took the family to the Quantocks for an adventure – climbing trees, splashing in streams and making their lunch on a camping stove. Now that the family are in their own home, J has been able to focus on supporting Dad with a listening ear and advice if he needs it. J could not change the family's circumstances, but his small and simple acts of kindness made it a more positive experience. Could you offer simple, yet life changing support to a family in need of a friend? Perhaps you have a spare hour once a week or fortnight for chat over a coffee, or a walk in the countryside, or a phone call? If so we would love to hear from you: you can visit our website safefamilies.uk, or get in touch (laurenjewhurst@safefamilies.uk, 07771453209).



Burrowbridge



Not another one?

By Revd Simon

I attended the Burrowbridge Parish Council annual meeting recently. Sadly I had to leave before the end because I had another meeting to welcome back at the vicarage. Consequently, I missed the refreshments at the end… Hey ho.

While I was there, however, I was struck once again at the importance ofr people simply to "turn up" and join in. It was good to see so many local residents attending, not simply to hear the councillors report back nor even for the woman from Kier to explain how the flood defences and drainage was being upgraded. Far more simply, there was a recognition that being together makes a difference.

The Prayer Book directs us to pray about being "Godly and quietly governed". As we look towards a month of political campaigning, I think it's really helpful to be reminded that so much of a healthy society is based upon people showing up and joining in. History is made by those who show up.



When St Athelwin came for coffee and cake



Thanks once again to Julie and Sue for their welcome spread at St Michael's! You fed us well and we were strengthened for our walk!



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Lyng



Chair's Annual Report - Lyng Parish Council 2024

By Geoff Perry, Chairman

(A summary of the chairman's recent annual report)

Traffic Safety: Traffic and road safety continues to be a major issue in Lyng. Being spread out along the main A361 means a lot of traffic hurtles through and the council are always looking for ways to tackle the issue. A recent incident damaged the speed camera which is awaiting repair and a tragic incident earlier in the year highlighted the need for effective response measures when the defibrillator was called into use. Additional road markings have also been introduced with 30mph roundels and hatch markings having been introduced on one end of the village (the other end is scheduled). These will further contribute to safety. Consultation is also underway to impose a 40mph "buffer zone" on the approaches to the village as well as a reduction of the 50mph in West Lyng to 40mph through the village.

Village Hall: The renovation of our village hall has been a significant undertaking this year. This space serves as a hub for community events, gatherings, and meetings, and its refurbishment will ensure its continued utility for years to come. This is nearing completion!

Collaboration with the Church: Our community's strength lies in its unity and cooperation. The partnership between the church and the village has been instrumental in fostering community growth and cohesion. Together, we have worked tirelessly to create initiatives that benefit all residents, regardless of their religious affiliation. This collaboration has not only enhanced our sense of community but has also contributed to the growth in the congregation, as people come together to support one another in times of need and celebration.

And, Finally: Thank you! None of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of our committee members, councillors, and volun-

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!

teers. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for your commitment to our community's well-being. A special mention goes to Tom Popham and his boys for ttheir invaluable contribution to maintaining the cemetery grounds through volunteer grass cutting. Your selfless dedication enhances the beauty of our village and is deeply appreciated by all. I also want to acknowledge Michael Denis for his outstanding work towards the village traffic plan. His expertise and dedication have been instrumental in shaping our efforts to improve road safety. Lastly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Helen Barrington for her exceptional hard work and unwavering dedication to the betterment of our parish. Helen's leadership and tireless efforts have been instrumental in driving forward many of our initiatives, and her contributions are truly commendable.

As we look ahead, let us continue to work together, support one another, and strive for the prosperity and safety of our beloved East Lyng.







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

Big Bash 2024: The Big Bash Returns!

Mark Your Calendars:
Sunday 25 August 2024

White Street Sports Ground.

The tradition continues:

Live Music by Snappa and Andrias Geurin

Bar, Hog Roast, Marquee, Great atmosphere!

Tickets:
Watch this space!

Support local football and cricket!

200 Club winners

May

1st Frances Swatton
2nd Barbara Adams
3rd Tina Stodgell

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

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Aviation Hazards

Wednesday 19th June

For our Society's next meeting, we are again able to draw on the vast experience and knowledge of one of North Curry's talented village residents. On Wednesday 19th June, Professor Michael Joy (author, Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and healthcare professional who has made a significant contribution to cardiology) will talk about aviation accidents in general, aviation safety and why it goes pear-shaped. He will explain how an aeroplane flies and what can go wrong. Finally, he will talk about the heart of the pilot – and how that impinges on the safety loop.

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 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

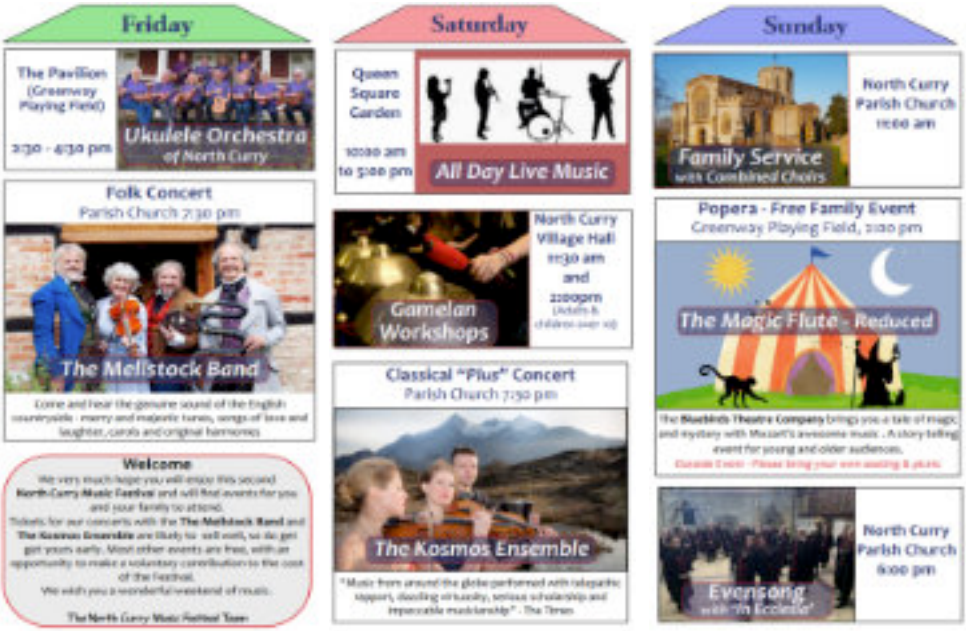
For further details, please contact the Chairman, Colin Trim 01823 490337, colinhtrim@gmail.com





Quiz Night! Friday 19th July from 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please contact Jenny Satchwell to reserve a table. Martin Baldock will once again be quiz master. There will be a supper, but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets are £12 per person (ideally teams of six). All profits go to The Church Music Fund.

The Second North Curry Music Festival: Friday 14th to Sunday 16th June



Gamelan Workshops

Suitable for anyone 10 yr+ adults £10, students £5 (groups of 15-30 participants)

Melstock Band Folk Concert

"Advance" ticket £15 (on the door £17)

Kosmos Ensemble Classical "Plus" Concert

"Advance" ticket £18 (on the door £20)

Tickets now available

From North Curry Post Office or Ticketmaster

With thanks to our supporters and sponsors

North Curry Parish Council, North Curry Coffee Shop North Curry Post Office

Presented with the support of North Curry Parish Church

Charity no. 1194715

northcurrymusicfestival.org.uk

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



The North Curry Calendar 2025

The search is now on for images with impact and atmosphere to grace the walls of our homes throughout 2025. If you live in the parish then we want your photos of the village and village life taken throughout the calendar year. Great images can be achieved in all weather conditions, and we look forward to receiving the fruits of your creativity. A panel of judges, appointed by the PCC, will select the 14 photographs we need after the closing date of 31st August. Your submissions are eagerly awaited!

Rules and Conditions

1. Photos must be in landscape format (longer edge at the base!).
2. Photos must be high-resolution digital images (not less than 200 dpi) to enable quality printing at A4 size. NB most mobile phone cameras provide this level of definition.
3. Individual files must be accompanied by the name and address of the photographer, the location of the image, and preferably, but not essentially, a title and the month the image was shot. The photographer must declare possession of the copyright.
4. Mail files to magazine@athelneybenefice.com by the closing date (31st August 2024).
5. Please note that no fees will be paid to entrants and that the proceeds of the sale of the calendar are to the benefit of the parish church. Selection of the images will be based on photographic merit and suitability for the requirements of the calendar.

NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On **Wednesday June 26th**, we are showing Queen of Glory, a 2021 American comedy directed by Nana Mensah. It offers a fresh and authentic portrayal of a second-generation Ghanaian-American woman named Sarah. When her mother passes away, Sarah inherits her family's Christian bookshop in the Bronx. The personal nature of the narrative gives the film its heart, while Mensah's eye for life's messy complications infuses it with spirit.

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.northcurry-filmclub.org.uk or use the QR code. We also have a Facebook page

North Curry Prayer Fellowship: All Welcome!

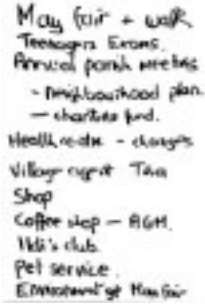
"It helps me get my thoughts in order, look back on what's happened and look ahead", "I am pleased to get to know people in the village who go to other churches", "I have come away encouraged – it is helping my faith to grow", "I find it refreshing to be with others who want to pray"

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: 22nd June, 9.30am



Some recent prayer themes



North Curry Parish Council

New Parish Council Chairman: The Parish Council has a new Chairman, Jeanne Leader.Jeanne has been working hard on the Neighbourhood Plan, and we are excited to see her also take on the role of Chairman of the Parish Council. Tina Stodgell has stepped down as Chairman after 13 years in this role, and 41 years on the Parish Council. She continues to stay on as a Councillor, so it is 41 years and counting! We thank her for her exceptional service to the community.

APM Success: We were so pleased to see such a great turn out of over 60 people at the APM! It was a great success and hosted the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan with a chance for people to learn what is going on and ask questions. Many thanks to all the speakers who came and gave interesting and insightful talks and updates.

North Curry Tug of War Team Needed: You may have seen adverts for the Inter-Parish Tug of War event coming up soon… we need to form the North Curry team! If you are interested in becoming part of the team please email Maurice Wilkins: wilkinsmj@gmail.com

Please scan the QR code to get a free ticket to attend the event on Saturday 29th June. It is going to be a great day out with food and entertainment, come along and support your Parish! Keep an eye on Facebook for more information.

Local Bus Services: Please make sure to use our local bus service as much as possible, it is continuing to be subsidised at £2 per ticket until December so make the most of it to keep the costs down, and contribute to protecting the environment by using your car less if you can take the bus instead. Using a bus can also mean less time spent trying to find a parking spot, and savings on parking payments!

The Parish Council Office opening hours are:

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm
Thursdays 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Telephone No: 01823 490136 or parishcouncil@northcurry.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.

News from North Curry & Curland Methodist Church

The annual May Fair at North Curry is a big event in village terms. The whole village seems to be involved as the stalls and attractions are set up in Church Road.

There were 20 plus stalls selling a whole variety of things, many representing various charities - of which one was ours. We sold bric-a-brac which proved extremely popular as we were inundated with customers all afternoon, and profitable as well. Thanks to everyone who helped and gifted items to be sold.



We were able to have a space for donations for Christian Aid, and thank you to all the revellers who supported this important work across the world.

Ildi said she had never been to anything like the May Fair before. Morris dancing? What is bric-a-brac? We all learn from each other!



Friends at the Methodist Church celebrate our Anniversary on

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June

with a warm invitation to any from the village to come and share the occasion with us!

On **Saturday 29th June, from 2.30pm** in the Methodist Church Garden (if dry and sunny!) or in the Chapel if wet: Music from the Village Band, led by Tim Hill, with refreshments.

On **Sunday 30th June, from 3pm:** Anniversary Service led by Ildiko Haraszti with refreshments to follow.



All are very welcome to both events. Please just come along.

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

Stoke St Gregory



The Willow Set Preschool, Sun Up Sun Down Club

We've had a wonderful time this month visiting our local area. The children have spent time in the church, saying hello to the cows at the farm, bug spotting at the village allotment, and planting new crops!

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's mouse racing, and of course to all our sponsors who were so generous. It was a great success and fun for all (even the mice!)

Finally, a big thank you to those of you that have already donated to our new cleaning bank, sitting just inside the church. We gladly welcome any further donations of cleaning products, including wet wipes, washing powder, soap etc.



Stoke St Gregory Primary School (Charity No. 1014565), 01823 491567, admin@willlowset.org.uk



An Acoustic Blues Afternoon in The Royal Oak Function Room

with

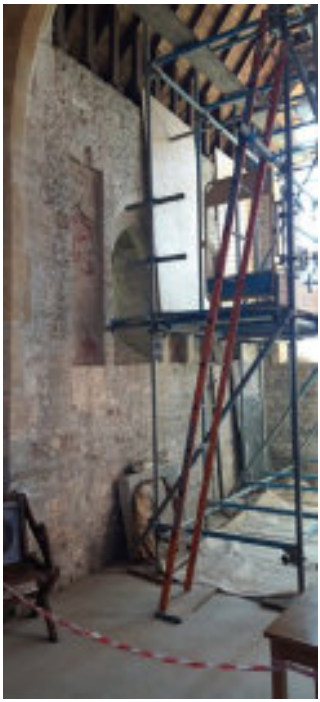
Harry Skinner & Dave Saunders

Sunday 9 June 2024, 4-6pm

£10 in advance, £12 on the day

Tickets from: Village Shop or Royal Oak or Paul: 01823 490565




Before (mid-Mar & May 2023) After (19th April 2024)

The Lady Chapel is completed… Well, Stage 1, anyway!

By Jane White

We've finally got there! It has been a long haul from early March 2023 when it was first noticed that the two very heavy stone memorials hanging on the east wall of the Lady Chapel had begun to move away and were looking decidedly precarious. Local expertise was called in to consider the problem and possible solutions but it was clear that this was a massive job.

The church Architect then came to offer his opinion and thereafter hours of additional expert inspection and reports eventually established what was needed to remedy the situation. All this at great cost without any signs of repairs starting – clouds of frustration from the PCC could have been seen rising from the chimney had we owned such a thing. The PCC met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to explain what the plan of action was and the necessary Faculty was obtained from them allowing work to proceed. Crowstep Building Solutions from Ilminster were appointed and have done a beautiful job. Some have commented that it "doesn't look the same" but since it looked truly catastrophic be-

hind the memorials and no-one living has any memory or record of how it looked before the Victorians placed these 18thC slabs on the wall I think we can all applaud the final outcome.

Many people have been involved in reaching the climax to this drama but I would like to acknowledge the work Nick Chant put in single-handedly at the outset. Nick has been our go-to for all church building and maintenance needs for many years but he was wise enough to admit that this one was beyond even him.

When I say that Stage 1 is completed I am afraid this is true. We still have to decide where to re-site these memorials to members of the Courte family and then obtain yet another Faculty from the DAC to do so. We are curious to know if anybody still local has any family connection to them – don't worry, I'm not sending you a bill! On that topic I would just like to thank those who have already contributed to the ongoing costs. Thus far, we have spent £23,420 in professional fees and the repair cost, including materials and scaffolding. Look out for more fundraising efforts before we can complete this work and the PCC remain very aware that we have yet to receive out latest report on the general condition of the building and surrounding churchyard (the slippery and uneven footpaths are an ongoing source of concern).

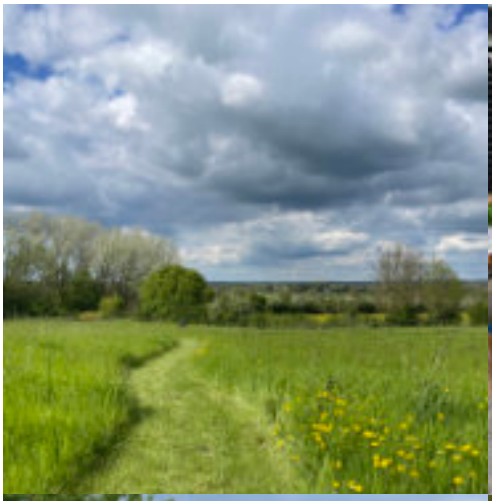
Open Gardens at Hillcrest – 4th & 5th May

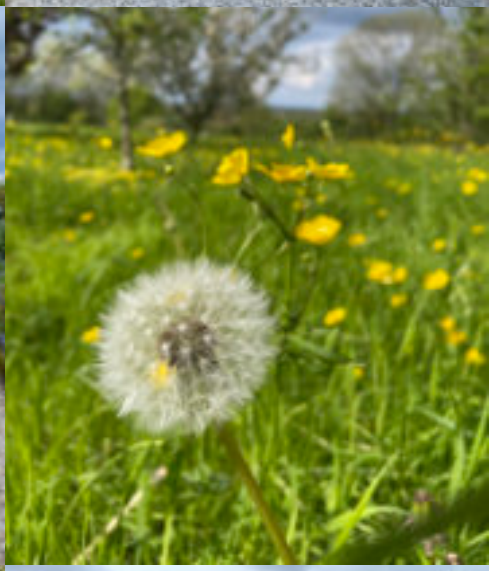
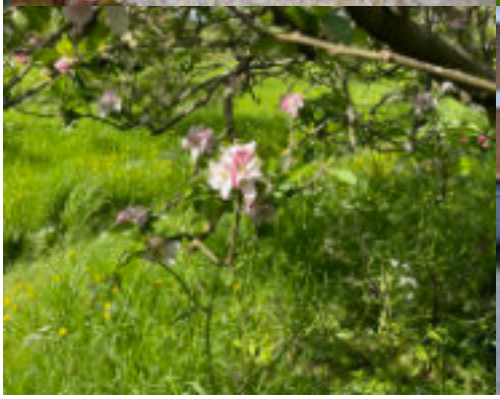
By Jane White

Supporting MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

This is just a brief account of two surprisingly successful days of teas, plant sales and garden envy at the Sundquists' in early May. The weather was far from perfect but still the regulars came to see what Charles and Charlotte had accomplished over the last twelve months – always something new to admire but, unfortunately, I didn't take any photos apart from our attempts at erecting the new gazebos (and then we read the instructions…. of course) and the ladies setting out their plant stall. (The vicar took a few, but of flowers not people.)

Happily, all those who came, either to walk around or help out with the plants and teas, appeared to enjoy themselves. We raised a not unreasonable amount to help our shrinking funds in the church coffers and I would like to thank Annette for supplying so many of the plants and organising that side of things and also the very many kind people who baked cakes for us and came along on Saturday or Sunday, and sometimes both days. Without all our volunteers this would be a valuable event that could not be achieved so, thank you one and all. See you again next year? I think I've written that before!






Clog Dancing at the Royal Oak

The Multi-Award Winning, The Royal Oak Pub-Hub in Stoke St Gregory, is a welcoming pub at the heart of our village to meet, socialise and connect with others - owned by and for the benefit of the Community.

We are delighted to welcome the popular Clog Dancing troupe Sweet Coppin, to our pub-hub on **Thursday 6th June at 7:30pm**. The Ladies will be performing a traditional and lively Clog Dancing display in the village square.

During the Industrial Revolution, the working classes of northern England flocked to work in coal mines, pits and cotton mills to make a living. Not the most likely place for the birth of a traditional pastime? Well actually, yes. It was among these cobbled streets that the English tradition of clog dancing was born.

The clog was a comfortable and cheap form of footwear, with alder soles, ideal for these industrial workers in the Victorian period. It was especially important to have this hardwearing footwear in the cotton mills, because the floors would be damp, to create a humid environment for the spinning process.

Women also participated, though, and later their dancing, too, became popular in music halls. They would also dress up colourfully and dance in the villages, carrying sticks to represent the bobbins in the cotton mills.

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

To Mow or Not To Mow? That is the Question.

By Ian Upshall



Plantlife UK introduced the idea of 'No Mow May' in 2019 but it seems to have been around a lot longer. As with any initiative, it will take time to become an accepted part of the calendar. So just what is the point of it? Well, according to Plantlife UK's website thew UK "has lost approximately **97%** of flower-rich meadows since the 1930's and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators, like bees and butterflies. But a healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, tackles pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. With over **20 million gardens in the UK**, even the **smallest grassy patches add up** to a significant proportion of our land which, if managed properly, can deliver **enormous gains for nature**, communities and the climate."

There is some resistance to leaving the mower in the shed for a month – especially during a period where we generally see the grass growing at a rapid rate! However, steps can still be taken if we want a finely cut lawn. Leaving a 'wild' patch, or an uncut border will still make a contribution and its interesting to see what species emerge. And of course, this doesn't have to end on 31 May – we can sometimes find a small area that we can leave for the duration of the summer period – the sound of the bees and other pollinators hard at work is one of the delights of balmy summer days!

With the County's finances stretched to the limit, there will be cuts – or possibly no cuts! It can be envisaged that funding for roadside verge cutting will be examined in the longer term. Of course, safety on our roads is very important and so it is not about having to compromise our safety but, as with most things in life, there is a balance to be found. Maybe, a reduction in cutting these important habitats might just improve biodiversity?

At the time of writing, SEG is in the final throes of preparing for our annual Envirofair – and as you read this, I hope you found the time to pop along. This has proved to be a popular community event which aims to encourage us all to engage with the environment and acknowledge the threats that it faces – over all of which we have some degree of influence. The time has come, has it not, for us to accept that we really must take

care of the natural world around us – however big or small our actions are? Can we do more? Of course we can. Just one thing to save waste, or protect a species, or reduce our car journeys WILL make a difference.

In August, we are repeating our Bat Detective evening, in partnership with our friends from Somerset Wildlife Trust. We had a great family fun evening last year where we detected many bats and several species. So why not join us this year? It will be on either 30 or 31 August (weather dependant). All equipment provided and its absolutely free! We will meet at the Village Hall and then separate into groups and go a-hunting! Why not form a group of your own and come along? Everyone is welcome and more information on timings to come.

The SSG Community Orchard continues to flourish and with some TLC we hope we will have the best harvest of apples and pears ever. We have also planted soft fruit bushes so it will be interesting to see how they develop. The fruit is free for anyone to come and pick and use. It is hoped we can have a social evening later in the year and maybe practice a bit of wassailing too!

So, as the weather continues to confound us, its great to see things really blossom and grow as the temperature rises. Let's hope for a little stability for the summer months and get out there to enjoy our fantastic countryside again. It gives us so much – all we need to do is give a little love back.

If you would like more information on working with SEG or you are just inquisitive, please contact us on envirostoke@yahoo.com or 07837 764367. More information can be found on our Facebook page, Envirostoke.

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.

Heart of the Village
Your Local...





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Open Sat lunchtime, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat evenings, and SUNDAY LUNCH.

Look in and enjoy!

Village shop

Open every day, with all your daily needs, bread, papers, groceries, tobacco, off-licence

Café

Coffee/tea, delicious home-made cakes, hot snacks.

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!





Stoke St Gregory WI, Tuesday 11th June

WI members are encouraged to attend the June members meeting on Tuesday 11th in relaxed clothing as the evenings entertainment will be an Institute game of pétanque. Let's hope it is a warm summer's evening. However, we will be indoors to play table tennis if the weather is wet. Veronica Andrews and Judy Blair are the tea hostesses, Sandra Gleed is running the trade stall so do bring along any produce or items to sell and Jenny Farrington is arranging the rose bowl. It should be a fun social evening what ever the weather. The final arrangements will be made for the summer evening outing and supper on **Tuesday 9th July**.



New members are always welcome. Contact Amelia Holt, 01823 490401 for further details.



Upkeep of Churchyard & Garden of Remembrance

The grass cutting season is upon us again and with all the rain we all know how rapidly the grass is growing. Last year it cost us nearly £2000 to upkeep both areas (not the burial ground), this year the cost per cut has risen and besides that since the mid 1970s we have received a small grant from Taunton Deane and successive councils towards the cost which will not be available in future

If you have family in either, like to come and sit peacefully or just use it as a cut through please consider contributing towards the upkeep. You can put it in an envelope and pop it through Pat Sollis's door (1 Huntham Close), give to any member of the PCC marked with your name and CY, or pay by BACS at Natwest Bridgwater, Sort Code 60-03-27 A/c 84336773 Stoke St. Gregory PCC reference CY.

Caution! If you are walking through the churchyard please be careful. The stones have become very uneven and slippery especially during wet weather. We have been exploring with the Diocese for over 2 years what we can replace the flag stones with to make it safer, hopefully a decision will be made shortly so watch this space.



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Stoke St Gregory Williams Hall
Mondays 9.30am

£48 for a course of 6 classes

Details of other Pilates and Yoga classes in the local area at

www.emzpilates.co.uk

Contact Emily to book or for enquiries.

Also available for 1to1sessions for a more personalised plan or rehabilitation and hen or stag or birthday wellness parties

Emily of EMZ Pilates & Yoga (FB and Insta)
07940276265, emzpilates@gmail.com

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Rotas

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
2nd Jun	L Paul, L B-Brown	H Griffiths	H Baker
9th June	H Comrie, P Burgess	J Satchwell	D Akerman
16th June	S Keele, L Paul	M Piers	M Cridge, D Walker
16th June	J Dare, P Burgess	Choral Choir To Find Readers	Choral Choir To Find Readers
23rd June	T Jones, P Burgess	D Farnham	T Jones
30th June	T Jeanes, L Paul	D Walker	D Farnham

Lyng

Cleaning

3rd/10th	S Dare & J Barnstaple
17th/24th	D James & R Barrington

Flowers

7th/14th	C Dawson
21st/28th	A Martin

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

2nd June	Veronica
16th June	Barbara & John
22nd June	Carolyn & Will
30th June	Annette & Barbara (Maw)
7th July	Pat

Readers

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

2nd June	Carolyn
16th June	Jo
22nd June	Alex
30th June	Steve
7th July	Annette



Church Cleaners

2nd June	Amelia & Ade
9th June	Linda & Brent
16th June	Marilyn & Terri
22nd June	Annette & Martin
30th June	Dave & Janet
7th July	Penny & Simon

Flowers

2nd June	Carolyn Porter
16th June	Margaret Poole
30th June	Kathryn Astin

Services across the Benefice

2nd June: First Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church
11am	North Curry Methodists	Methodist Holy Communion
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

9th June: Second 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	North Curry Methodists	Service

16th June: Third Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
11am	North Curry	Music Festival choral service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
6pm	North Curry	Festival Choral Evensong

23rd June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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

30th June: (5th Sunday) SS Peter & Paul

10am	North Curry	United Benefice Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family Service
3pm	North Curry Methodists	Church Anniversary Celebration

7th July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

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