The Athelney Magazine



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

July/August 2024

Who's Who

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

Benefice		
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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



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.

You can find the coffee mornings here:

Burrowbridge

1st Saturday of each month, from 10am to 12pm in church. Free to all.



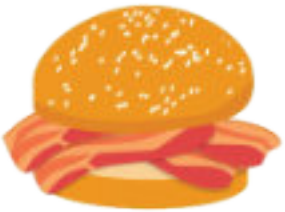
Lyng

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 August** for the September 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!

To Advertise

If you wish to advertise in the magazine, please contact us via email using this address: magads@athelneybenefice.com

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.

To Contact

Any questions please send an email to magazine@athelneybenefice.com and we will respond as soon as possible. Please use the group emails provided rather than sending things direct to one person.

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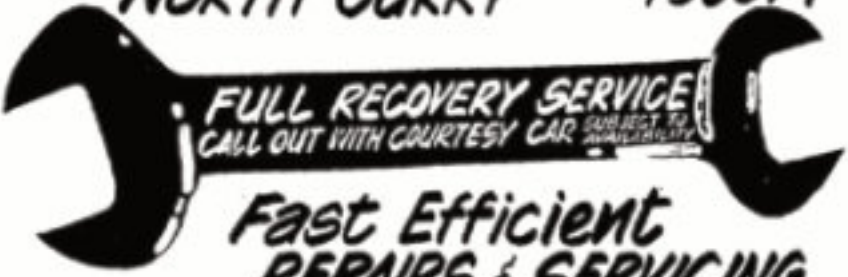
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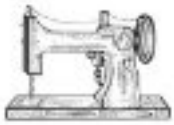
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Summers here and the time is right...

From The Vicar



I'm off on annual leave for a fortnight soon. Two weeks just "this side" of Falmouth. I am looking forward to it very much. A couple of weeks in a new and (mostly, for us) unknown part of Cornwall.

It's not that I need to get away but that I am looking forward to being somewhere else. To suggest I want to get away would imply I don't want to be here, in the benefice. And that sounds far too negative to me! After all, I am here, as a minister of God, to be with people who live here, and I am fortunate to be able to say this. A change of scenery and of behaviour is always to be encouraged however, when wanting to recharge a bit, and recharging is very much in my thoughts. It has been a wonderfully busy time of late.

Since Easter there has been a lot going on in an around the four parishes of Lyng, Burrowbridge, Stoke St Gregory and North Curry. Some of it routine and predictable (like all four Annual Parish Church Meetings over a three week period in May) or the regular round of school assemblies (collective worship is probably one of my favourite activities in any week). There have been a couple of weddings and baptisms, some funerals and other such pastoral occassions. There are more weddings and baptisms to come over the next few months—and who knows about funerals?

There have been special one offs as well. Like the Music Festival in North Curry in June and the Rogation Walk in May. Both involved a lot of "heavy lifting" for the organisers (especially the festival) and both in their different ways have brought people into closer contact with the church as a community. As the Athelney Benefice



we are indeed a community: of Christian disciples, of village people, of believers and doers of community care. It is important to pause and notice this.

As the vicar I am particularly blessed to meet and greet so many people who value our community so greatly. I wish here to pass on those thanks to everyone who in any way is involved in our outreach. I wrote about the St Athelwin adventure last month (and I apologise for my legs on the cover of that issue…).

The Music Festival in North Curry between 14th and 16th June was a terrific time of gathering. It was attended by hundreds—and across the village—but focused around performances in the church and with the choirs of both our schools, the North Curry Choir and Church Choir leading our worship on Sunday morning. It was a wonderful time of thanksgiving, filled with God's grace. It was the first time in a long while (if ever?) when both school choirs were in the same place at the same time. Thank you to Barney and Chelsea for enabling this in the schools!

The Music Festival has now happened twice. There is to be an evaluation gathering for those who coordinated everything to think about what next, but whatever is decided, we know what can happen when we open the doors of our churches and welcome people in.

Also last month a good number gathered at the Memorial Stone in Stoke St Gregory playing fields to remember those who fell on the Normandy beaches at D-Day. The children from the school and the preschool joined us and we prayed and heard about what it might be like to have invaded the occupied north of France. Who knows what difference it might make along the way for those young hearts and minds, but I hope that all together we showed that it is worth speaking to one another about seeking peace.

Last month, also, the Lyng Village Hall refurb was completed and we gathered there for a time of thankfulness (read more about this on page 27).

Times of fellowship bring joyfulness and deepen our hope that together we are doing God's work. So, where now? What next on our journey with God? For me, a holiday and a time to recharge. It is joyful and uplifting to be your vicar. Thank you. A time of awayness is a time to reflect on these times and to return recharged and encouraged.

See you soon! (now where did I put my sunhat…?)



From Bishop Michael

A richness of ministry



If we're all alike we tend to think the same. This can be comfortable and reassuring - 'Everyone around here sees things just like I do'. But it doesn't help us think out of the box or worse, spot risks and dangers of which we're unaware - 'Crumbs we never saw that one coming!'. For this reason, companies and all kinds of organisations are seeking to become more diverse. Having differing viewpoints, skills and abilities is increasingly recognised to grow ability to think not only more widely but more effectively too.

Recognising diversity has been very much part of our life here in our Diocese of Bath & Wells during recent weeks. Back in May we acclaimed the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. It's almost impossible now to imagine what our Church would be like without the contribution of women throughout the ordained ministry. At the end of June the 'Celebration of Lay Ministries' held at St Paul's Weston-super-Mare saw us affirm, thank and bless the many different roles and responsibilities that lay people are undertaking across our churches and in local communities – from leading worship to pastoral care, ministry with children and young people to preaching and teaching the faith. Again, it's almost impossible to imagine what our churches would be like without such richness.

Our hope is that the diversity we've been honouring will only flourish and grow. For it's essential if we're to bring the light of the Gospel to everyone in our communities – and especially those we find hard to connect with. For none of us alone, either individually or as a group, has the ability to reach everyone. All of us are needed. It's for this reason that one of the priorities we're commending across our diocese is 'shared local ministry'. This recognizes that everyone, everywhere, has a contribution to make.

Now surely that's something to celebrate!

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Martin's Musings

July and August are a traditional time for holidays. Unlike those with children, I have always taken my break from everyday life in May or September and over the years I have been to some lovely places both here at home and abroad but with the ever-increasing years the girls and I prefer self-catering in Cornwall. There are a number of reasons for this choice. Firstly, we do love Cornwall, not only does it have wonderful coast and countryside but also the most marvellous cream teas but around every corner there are really unusual and exciting garden centres and nurseries selling plants often difficult to obtain in Somerset and the natives are not only friendly and welcoming but speak English.

We like self-catering because hotels and b&bs are not only much more expensive, but the single rooms are usually at the rear up a steep flight of stairs with a delightful view of the dustbins. Also, b&bs often have that hidden holiday peril – the chatty host and much though I love chatting with anyone on holiday it is nice to enjoy a quiet breakfast.

Also, if you go abroad, there foreigners to be nice to. It is a character flaw but I have had the life-long affliction of niceness. I have tried to be nasty or dismissive or rude on occasions, but I find myself completely unable to do so. Then there are the language problems. When preparing for a foreign trip I find out the words for good morning/night and thank you and the correct number for one, so I can point to gateau and—absolutely essential—the phrase for tea or coffee.

On reflection that is a wasted effort as foreign tea is undrinkable (always that wishy-washy Liptons) and the coffee is so strong there is a real danger of rotting my delicate innards. Then, there is the problem of the aircraft. I am lucky as I now qualify for assisted boarding—God bless them! However, the seats are usually made for midgets and there is never anywhere to put either your hand luggage or legs. So, air travel is now definitely out. However, this does not mean that foreign travel is unavailable. Thanks to the catch-up travel programmes on the BBC iPlayer, and Channels 4 and 5, I can travel the world with wonderfully knowledgeable guides like the two Michaels—Palin and Portillo—from the comfort of my living room. Mountains, deserts, the Arctic, even Australia are there at the press of a button on the remote control and when a rest period is needed, the pause button means that refreshment is available from the kitchen in the shape of tea and ground coffee (Miles) and a lovely gooey English gateau. Much nicer than the horrid foreign muck! So, however you travel for your holidays—and I know some prefer the real thing.



I hope you enjoy yourselves.

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

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Burrowbridge



Tea Time in Burrowbridge

There are few things more traditionally English as an afternoon tea. In a garden. With the sun shining and the cream teas being regularly replenished. Cream or jam first is entirely your call but be ready to explain why…

Keep the date in your diary, for it will be a splendid afternoon:

Afternoon Tea on 20th July, 3pm to 5pm in the Garden of Julie and Roger Pocock

All are invited to share in a time together, with much cake and beverage (if the monthly Saturday mornings are anything to go by)

This is a time to eat and drink, for sure. It is also a time to raise funds for St Michael's Church in Burrowbridge.

Just come along and leave a donation after your coffee and walnut or Victoria sponge (other cakes will be available).
Homelea, Stanmoor Road





Don't miss out!

20th July 2024 at 3pm



Monthly Market at the Coronation Hall

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

West Yeo Road, TA7 0RH

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

Tea, coffee and breakfast rolls also available

Lyng



Lyng Village Hall Grand Opening



At last, after many months of hard work, the hall is now refurbished and officially "Open!"

We had a lovely day, with most of the villagers of East & West Lyng turning up, we even had lovely people from further afield from Burrowbridge and Durstan. The weather was glorious, with the sun shining. Revd Simon read out a long thank you list and blessed the Hall. We had two of our elders of the village, Dick Brewer & Ruby Barrington cut the ribbon, after Dick gave a moving speech recalling when he was a young lad using the Hall as a Sunday School.

Once the Hall was declared open, everyone was served afternoon drinks and cakes. A raffle of donated prizes was held and together with other donations, the event raised much needed funds, which will go towards fixing the roof and modernising the heating.

This year the Hall Committee are starting up community projects. We have regular events such as a monthly social lunch club, Pop-up Pub and a weekly chair exercise group, the first one starting on 11th July 12pm to 1pm. The first session will be free to try out, with a small fee thereafter.

All these have been developed with our older and more isolated villagers in mind, but all are welcome regardless of circumstance. Other upcoming events include a BBQ & Music night on 6th July



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!

6pm to late, a guitar duo and an open mic set, also with BBQ cooked food for sale (entrance is free). We also have a Pop-up Pub on 26th July from 6pm to late. There will be pizza for sale if you don't want to cook! Hopefully the weather will be good, and we can serve everyone in the garden.

The committee would like to thank everyone again for their time, materials, money and hard work to get the hall looking its very best. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lyng Parish Council

The Parish Council meets every 2 months, usually on a Thursday evening, at Lyng Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

The next Parish Council meetings will be on Thursday 1st August 2024 and Thursday 26th September 2024





Some more from the Music Festival



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 winners this month: Emma Quinn, Youth Football Club member, Jan Ashcroft

Big Bash 2024…

… is just weeks away: August 25!

Band is booked; food ordered; bar organised; marquee to be set up.

Tickets on sale very soon

200 Club winners

June

1st Janet Dare, 2nd Jacqui Atherley, 3rd Jill Cox.

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

The North Curry Society's next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16th July** in the **Greenway Pavilion**, when Chairman Colin Trim will briefly review the past year and give us a glimpse of the talks programme for the rest of 2024 and into 2025. Please take this as formal notice of the AGM.

Afterwards, there will be ample time to enjoy a glass of wine, nibble some nibbles, and mingle with those of us who wish to extend our knowledge and appreciation of North Curry.

If you are not yet a member, you'll still be welcome (on payment of the guest fee of £5, or taking out membership for £15 which will last right through to the 2025 AGM).

There is no meeting in August. The new year starts on 18th September when there will be a presentation on the plants and biodiversity of Sedgemoor.

The Society generally meets in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday each month, for talks of local interest. We're a friendly bunch. .

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. For further details, contact Jennie Satchwell, 01823 490463.

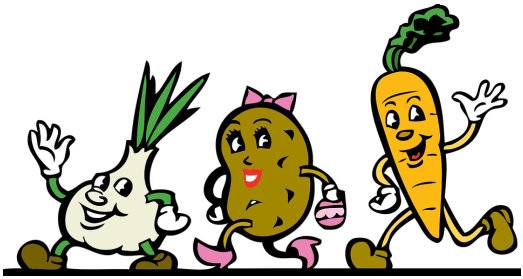


NORTH CURRY FLOWER SHOW

Coming soon

SHOW DATE
AUGUST 10TH, 2024

Schedules on sale in the PO







Neighbourhood Plan Survey: You will see that the Neighbourhood Plan steering group have been very busy creating the first survey, as they continue their work on producing the Neighbourhood Plan on behalf of the Parish Council. Please make sure you fill this in, as the Neighbourhood Plan is guided by YOUR input, so we need as many voices as possible to ensure the Plan reflects the wishes of you- the residents!

Gas Canisters in Recycling: Somerset Council have issued a reminder that small gas canisters (such as those used for camping stoves) cannot be recycled from kerbside collections in the blue bag. Crews have been having to manually check recycling ahead of the automated sorting process to avoid fires- so far this year more than 1,000 gas canister fires have been avoided! Gas canisters must be taken to local household recycling sites.

Keeping Hedges Tidy: While things are growing very quickly due to the bouts of sun and rain, it is especially important to keep on top of cutting your hedges. Your hedges must not hang over into the road or on paths, cover road signs, or obscure junctions. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain hedges. If you need to maintain your hedge from the road please make sure you work safely!

Another Fly Tipping Reminder: Unfortunately there are still cases of fly tipping, especially on West Sedgemoor. This is another reminder that this is a criminal offence with up to five years in prison and an unlimited fine. If you see anyone fly tipping please call it in to the police with as many details as possible.

The Parish Council Office opening hours are:

Wednesdays 10:00am to1:00pm and Thursdays 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Telephone: 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.

‘FINGS AIN’T WOT THEY USED TO BE!

By Colin Trim



No, this is not another moan from a near geriatric who returned to live in the village after an absence of over 50 years! Huge changes in village life there have certainly been since my childhood in the 1950’s , but how should we react to them?

Supermarket home delivery vans and parcel couriers cruise our roads daily replacing Bill Lunnis from Knapp Stores who called in once a week with basic groceries, or Jack Richards delivering his milk by pony and trap. A walk to Brownsey’s on The Pavement for an item of haberdashery was less environmentally damaging than ordering an Amazon delivery.

All three places of worship held Sunday Schools for young people. Bible Study classes leading to the award of certificates and an annual Sunday School outing to Sidmouth or Weymouth featured on many domestic calendars. How many children of primary school age are nowadays actively involved with a place of worship in the village?

There are many clubs and societies based on shared interests (Gardening, Film, Local History) meeting in our vibrant community. 70 years ago, there was little regular evening activity beyond skittles and conversation over a drink in one of the three village pubs.

Speed Watch patrols, rush hour commuting and large Agricultural vehicles attempting to meet their targets are a daily feature of North Curry’s roads. In the 1950’s spotting car numbers was a common pastime for primary age boys! The occasional Fordson Major chugged slowly along Stoke Road often stopping off at The Angel or The Bird in Hand for a quick pint en route to the plough or harvest field.



Loscombe Meadow, Overlands, Longs Field, Barton Way and other housing developments were orchards of apple and other fruit trees! Only The Fosse and Church Road have

escaped major redevelopment and are still largely unchanged from when I started at the old village school in 1950.

How then do I react to this huge transformation of North Curry within my lifetime? It is not necessarily a question of 'better 'or 'worse'. Change is a natural, inevitable process, a part of the human condition and should be embraced. The Past should be remembered and appreciated as it was and how it laid foundations for life today. The Present is to be enjoyed and adapted to current conditions, so that in 70 years' time a retired writer to The Athelney Magazine will hopefully reflect approvingly on how we today 'moved life on' in preparation for future generations.

(What are your thoughts about North Curry, Burrowbridge, Lyng or Stoke St Gregory, then and now, and to come? Drop us a line with your thoughts: magazine@athelneybenefice.com, or post them through the door of the vicarage.)

North Curry C of E Primary School

Enrichment Opportunities

By The Spirituality Superstars

At North Curry School we love learning and having fun. This year Little Herons and Minnows have regularly been to forest school at the Willow and Wetlands centre. Seahorse Class have visited Dunster Castle (as part of their 'Magnificent Monarchs' topic). All of KS2 went to Cardiff Museum to look at artefacts and explored the museum. Year 5s went to watch 'The Adams Family' at the Brewhouse Theatre in Taunton. Shark Class went to Mill on the Brue for a memorable three day residential.

This week is a Music and Money enrichment week. We have many visitors coming to show off their musical instruments and talents everything from flute players to gamelan. All the children will get to play the African drums on Tuesday and on Wednesday we are looking forward to our Silent Disco. We are very grateful to FONCS (Friends of North Curry School) for funding this. As a half term challenge the children created their own musical instruments for a competition. Mrs Morley will be judging this later on in the week.

Later on this term, Shark Class will be going to Taunton Minster Church for their moving on celebrations and Crealy at the very end of term. The whole school are also excited for Sports Day next Friday and our KS2 production 'School-O-Vision'.







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 BELL RINGERS OUTING - 25TH MAY 2024

By Penny Roass

This was the first outing we had organised since Covid hit so it was a welcome opportunity to ring at some of our local towers - some of which had not seen any action for just as long! Although the outing was organised by North Curry, we were joined by ringers from Curry Rivel, Lyng, Rockwell Green and Weston-super-Mare. So, on a bright sunny Saturday, 18 of us set out to first ring at Thurloxton, Durston and Othery in the morning. Some challenging ringing (especially for us learners!) due to age and condition – of some of the bells, not the ringers! - but it was a good test for us all and we did manage some Rounds, Call Changes and a few Methods. It must have been a surprise for the neighbours to hear those bells that had been silent for too long.

Feeling revived after an excellent lunch at The Pound Inn in Aller, we headed to the village church for an enjoyable hour of ringing, including some Hunting this time, followed by High Ham (with their hunky punks). We ended the day on a high note at Pitney where our more experienced ringers managed some excellent splicing of April Day, Grandsire and Bob Doubles.

We would like to thank all the towers for allowing us to ring their bells. At the end of an excellent day in the sunshine, we all agreed that we'll be reinstating this as an annual event. Ringing at other towers is always a great experience and it certainly makes us appreciate even more our wonderful new bells at North Curry!



Spot the Hunky Punks at High Ham



With our 2 mascots, Sally and Bella, at Aller

NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On **Wednesday July 24**, we are showing **Sicilian Ghost Story**. In this haunting and thought-provoking film, the mystical and the real intertwine, leaving a lasting impression. Based on a real-life event – the mafia abduction of the 12-year-old son of an informer in 1993 – it provides the jumping-off point for a film that brings a mystical, quasi-fairytale filter to a fairly grim reality. 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.

North Curry Prayer Fellowship Prayer Walk

This very morning (as the magazine was still to be sent to press, members of the prayer fellowship meandered through the village of North Curry, pausing and praying as we passed various focuses of community activity. We began in the Coronation Gardens and ended up at the Village Hall, and on the way we encountered The Post Office, Pub, Coffee Shop, Methodist Chapel, Health Centre and School.

At each of these we prayed, giving thanks for the work and opportunities each venue provides. We prayed in particular that the Pub will open again. We gave especial thanks for the healthcare we receive from the health centre. We asked for God's blessing upon the school. We gave thanks for the presence of the Methodist Chapel, celebrating its anniversary weekend. This is how we notice and celebrate the abundance and concerns in our village. If you would like to join our fellowship, our next meeting is at 9.30am on Saturday 27th July in the parish church. All welcome.



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.

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Stoke St Gregory



The Willow Set Preschool, Sun Up Sun Down Club

We are enjoying some sunny weather at last, and the children are making the most of it by growing lots of tasty things at the allotment, playing at the park, and exploring the church.

As the summer holidays are fast approaching we are now taking bookings for our holiday club, for children aged 2-12 and we are very happy to accept children on 15 or 30 hour funding if they wish to utilise any unused hours for the Summer Term. We operate throughout the entire summer holidays and are open between 7.30am - 5.30pm. We have lots of fun and exciting activities planned, including Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Messy Play, Gardening, Olympic-themed events, and so much more! Why not give our office a call to find out more and to book your space? Please note that we offer sibling discount.

Finally, a big thank you to those of you that have donated to our new cleaning bank, sitting just inside Stoke St Gregory 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.

Flowers in Stoke St Gregory



Do you love flower arranging?

Do you only have the time to commit to one fortnight duty per year?

Then why not join the friendly flower arrangers at SSG Church?

Volunteering to be a Church flower arranger is not arduous: one can either do a fortnight duty once during the year providing only two arrangements or alternatively join the friendly group of festival arrangers decorating the Church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The choice is yours! Donations of time or money or flowers are also gratefully welcomed.

For more information (a no-commitment first chat!), contact Amelia Holt, 07985317252 or **01823 490401**


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As Option 1 plus a selection of sandwiches £11.50



Add a Little Fizz
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Small bottle £4.00
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2 People

Please pre-book with at least 24hrs notice. Parties must all have option 1 or 2, no combinations.

Email Jo: bownjoanne@gmail.com, Facebook or call in the shop

Village Shop & Cafe Stoke St Gregory

From the Chairman



Thanks to Our Volunteers: Many of us use the shop and appreciate the cheery welcome and friendly service. Our volunteers do a great job, but they are under pressure and need more help. Imagine a 5 hour shift with no support, as sometimes happens. So if you can make some time in your own busy life, why not come forward and help to share the load, and also share the enjoyment? It doesn't have to be a regular slot in the week, and not necessarily every week - once you have had a little training you can put your name forward on the rota for any timeslot on any date that suits you. To find out more, just pop in the shop and have a word with our Shop Manager Jo, or volunteer coordinator Anne Woods, or leave your contact details with one of the volunteers and we will get back to you.

Annual Meeting - It's almost that time again. The annual members meeting has been provisionally scheduled for the evening of Monday 5 August, so please keep the date free to enable you to attend. We hope many of you might come early and enjoy a pizza from the Pizza Rocket, maybe with a drink from the bar, and we hope to be able to show you the progress on the Phase 3 construction works after the meeting. Watch out for the official announcement of the meeting details in due course.

This is the time when we elect members to the management committee, and there will be at least 2 places to be filled. That could be by re-election, or perhaps it is time for some new blood on the committee. We also have the option of increasing the number of members on the committee, so you need not be concerned about displacing any existing committee members. So if you feel you have ideas and energy to add to the venture, why not contact me to find out more about how the committee works, current issues etc, in advance of the Annual Members Meeting, at which your name can go forward for election.

For further information, please contact the chairman, Paul Fielding, tel 490565



Talking Cafes provide a local place you can pop into, for advice and support from your local Village Agent on anything that is worrying you, or if you just want a friendly chat.

Proposed dates for the cafes re as shown.

They will take place in the HOTV Cafe. You simply need to show up.

August 8th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December 12th

Find out more:
somersetagents.org
or
01823 331 222
or
info@somersetrcc.org.uk

A Talking Cafe is coming to Stoke St Gregory, beginning in August.

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CCS Community Agents can only be contacted by a referral from your doctors or Adult Social Care Services.

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Summer's on its way! (Really?)

By Ian Upshall

Well, this is turning out to be a damp squibb! [*Ed: at the time of compilation, the sun is shining. But we know not to hold our breath… a "heat-wave" seems to be any sequence of four days when the sun shines…*]

How disappointing is this weather? Hopefully, by the time you read this, the General Election will be over, and the sun will be out!

Talking of General Elections, it will be interesting to see how the new Government will address the issues that affect every one of us irrespective of where we live, our age, occupation and political persuasions. That is, of course, issues concerning our environment. This is not just about whether we mow roadside verges, its about how our infrastructure will be made more resilient, how our rivers, beaches and oceans will be protected from pollution, how we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. There are very few areas of life that affect us so profoundly that also evokes so much debate – and, it has to be said, rowing back on promises. Words are cheap, looking after our world isn't – who is going to grasp this particular nettle?

On 1 June we were blessed with good weather for the annual Envirofair in Stoke St Gregory. We had a great turn out (an increase in visitor numbers of about 56%) with a wide range of interesting exhibits, stalls, demonstrations and talks. About 30 individuals and groups set up camp at The Williams Hall – everything from the Spinners and Weavers Guild, to Ann with her carnivorous plants, to local cider and veg, locally brewed teas and coffees, flippin' pancakes and the Fixy Van. A real mixture of activities for younger visitors was appreciated. We have received unbelievably positive feedback from everyone. Thank you to all that supported this family event – perhaps we will see you next year?

We recently completed the refurbishment to the Royal Oak bus stop and are very grateful to Kate who produced a magnificent painting to adorn the otherwise rather mundane structure. A real work of art for all to enjoy.

Stoke Environment Group now looks forward to a balmy summer (don't we all?) with maintenance work on the community orchard and other green community areas. At the end of August we will be hosting our



second 'Bat Detective' evening with our friends from Somerset Wildlife Trust – see their events page for (free) booking. This was a really enjoyable evening last year with lots of bats detected, counted and identified.

With the orchard already showing a good crop of fruit, we hope to have an orchard day where we pick fruit and maybe even turn some of it to juice. Come along and enjoy the free harvest.

We are also hoping to arrange a talks evening in the autumn. Dr Andrew Clegg gave a interesting oversight of his work to sample the water ways on West Sedgemoor at the Envirofair – there is more he can tell us about this. In addition, and very much related, we are hoping to arrange for a talk by an expert on 'how the levels work'. We live in this amazing landscape, surrounded by water, pumps, clyces, rivers, drains and rhynes – but how much do we know about how all these things work in unison? Keep your eye out for notices on these talks.

So a busy autumn awaits – but please, let's have our summer first!

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.

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NEW: enquire about our sumptuous **AFTERNOON TEAS**





Pizza

Upcoming dates Mon 1 July and Mon 5 August. Enjoy a take-home pizza, or why not join us in the pub and enjoy some company and a drink with it.
Bring the family!





Stoke St Gregory WI, Summer Update

It's an active summer for Stoke St Gregory Women's Institute members with a number of events happening:

The Institute will be running the Bottle Stall at the Village Fete on Saturday 6th July - donations will be extremely welcome! On Tuesday 9th July we have our afternoon/evening outing to Emma Duke's Studio at Crowcombe followed by supper at the Rockinghorse Cafe. This year's annual coffee morning is being held by the kind permission of Karen Housego at Harvest Cottage, Huntham Lane, on Tuesday 13th August. Starting at 11am the entrance fee is £3.50 and there will be a bring and buy - please bring along any goodies you have for this stall. The Institute has an outing to the Taunton Alms Houses with a talk on Thursday 5th September starting at 10:30am.

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.

Taunton Dean Morris Dancers

Wednesday 17th July at 8pm in
Stoke St Gregory at the Royal Oak
A lively and traditional English folk dance performance

Thanks to the essential funding received from the Valencia Communities Fund, we have been able to carry out vital alterations, repairs, and upgrades to our beloved community-owned pub, transforming it into a real Community Hub for everyone to enjoy.

The Morris dancers' visit is just one of many exciting events we have planned to bring our community together. Whether you're a long-time fan of Morris dancing or experiencing it for the first time, it's sure to be a fun and memorable event for all ages.

Come join us at the Royal Oak Pub-Hub for an evening of dance, music, and community spirit.

We look forward to seeing you there!





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East Lyng Village Hall, Thursdays 6.30pm

Chair exercise FREE to East Lyng residents,
Thursdays 11am at East Lyng Village Hall.

Details of other Pilates and Yoga classes in the local area at
www.emzpilates.co.uk

£8 per class, payments taken monthly

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Emz Pilates & Yoga (FB & Insta) 07940276265, emzpilates@gmail.com

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Stoke St Gregory Meals

"Meals on Wheels"





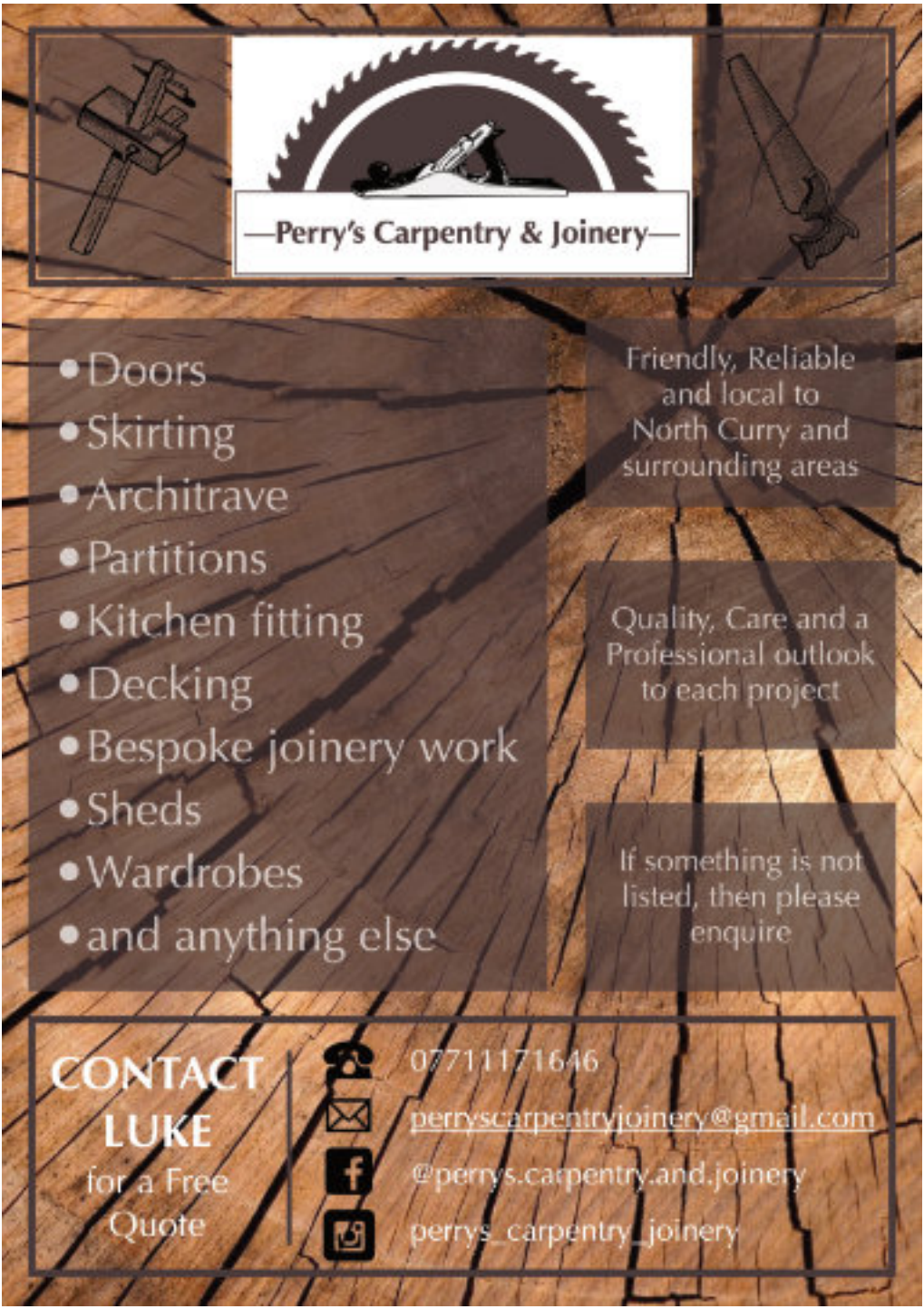


We deliver homemade, freshly cooked, two course midday meals twice a week, in Stoke St Gregory and North Curry to anyone who needs a bit of help.

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.
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Rotas (July & August)

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
7th July	L B-Brown, H Comrie	H Griffiths	A Peters
14th July	P Burgess, J Dare	J Satchwell	H Baker
21st July	J Dare	M Piers	J Satchwell , J Dare
28th July	S Keele, T Jones	D Farnham	M Cridge

Lyng

Cleaning

2&9	Sue Dare and Jenny Barnstable
14&23	Alison Perry and Angie Martin
29&6	Ruby Barrington & Mrs Di James
6/12	Sue Dare & Jenny Barnstable
19/26	Alison Perry & Angie Martin

Flowers

6&13	Alison Perry
20&27	Christine Dawson
3&10	Angie Martin
17&24	Alison Perry
31	Christine Dawson

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

7th July	Pat
21st July	Songs of Praise
28th July	Penny & Simon
4th Aug	Barbara
18th Aug	Alex & Sally
25th Aug	Annette & Barbara Maws
1st Sept	Barbara & John

Readers

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

7th July	Annette
21st July	Songs of Praise
28th July	Simon
4th Aug	Jane
18th Aug	Jordon
25th Aug	Sally

Cleaners

7th July	Penny & Simon
14th July	Linda & Brent
21st July	Marilyn & Terri
28th July	Annette & Martin
4th Aug	To be arranged
11th Aug	Dave & Janet
18th Aug	Penny & Simon
25th Aug	Amelia & Ade
1st Sept	Linda & Brent

Flowers

30th June	Kathryn Astin
14th July	TBC
28th July	Marilyn Clarke
11th Aug	Hilary Irwin
25th Aug	Sally Hale
8th Sep	Edwina Hansford

Services across the Benefice (August)

4th August: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church, starting with breakfast
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

11th August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service with communion
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship

18th August: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service
11am	North Curry Methodists	Service of Holy Communion
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
6pm	North Curry	Evensong

25th August: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship

1st September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

Services across the Benefice (July)

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, starting with breakfast
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship
6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

14th July: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

21st July: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Service of the Word
11am	Stoke St Gregory	joint Songs of Praise on the playing field
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship
6pm	North Curry	Evensong

28th July: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11am	North Curry Methodists	Morning Worship