The Athelney Magazine



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

September 2024

Who's Who

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

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The Athelney Bulletin

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



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:



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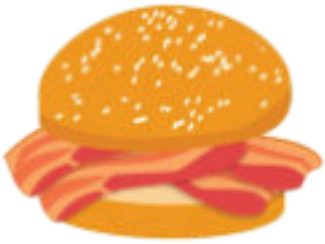
Lyng

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

To Submit Copy

Copy deadline is **14th September** for the September Magazine; Please note: July is a double month.

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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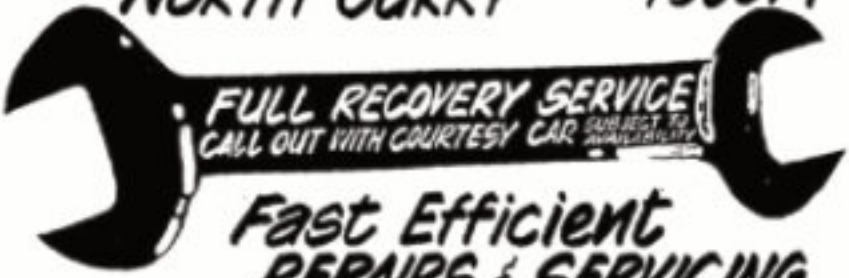


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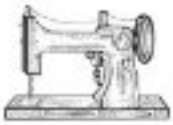
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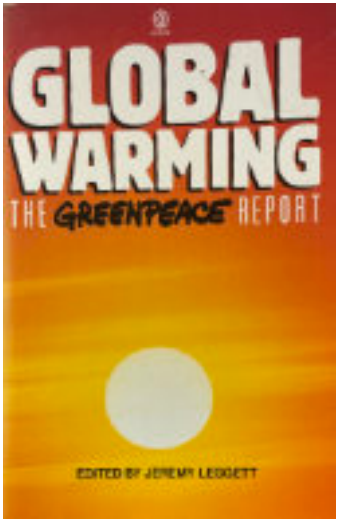
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The Athelney Benefice



A word from The Vicar

Wake Up!



Last month, whilst experiencing a moment of insomnia I was listening to the World Service on Radio 4. It was a programme about the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga. O my... That's bound to get you back to sleep right there and then, right? Not a bit of it. It didn't help at all. I was awake and alert for a good half hour, listening to the stories of how the nations of Pacific Ocean are a neglected aspect of the climate emergency, how the sea level in the western tropical Pacific has risen close to twice the global rate since 1993, how the need to reduce global carbon release is not being achieved… eyes wide open, thinking.

In what follows (and the point I wish to make is some way off…), you need to be aware that I have a history of fretting about the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans, and the quality and quantity of the icy bits. Since the early 1990s, when I was involved in the microbiology of deep oceanic sediment, I have been aware of the balance of life and geology on this planet: not just "this" planet, but "our" planet, the only one we can really expect ever to inhabit. I have on my bookshelves a publication entitled *Global Warming: The Greenpeace Report*, published 1990. The blurb begins with this:

"The great majority of the world's climate scientists have no doubts about the reality of global warming if nothing is done to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Yet so far governments have been reluctant to act."

A third of a century ago—more than half my life—the evidence of the Greenpeace report has been dangling in plain sight and humanity has disregarded, procrastinated, denied and defied the urgency. And now… is it too late? As year after year hits a record temperature and as the islands of the Pacific begin to disappear beneath the waves, is that it? Are we done for? I doubt it. Not in the sense of total obliteration. I truly don't expect that humans will disappear from the face of the earth as consequence of the climate emergency, but it will be hard for many and most of us will be affected in significant ways.

That's why I got involved in Extinction Rebellion (XR), as it gathered speed and picked up a head of (ecologically ironic) steam in the few years before the pandemic hit. Public action all but stalled then and that was that. I had been part of setting up an XR group in Bridgwater, but the capacity for action just evaporated on 23rd March 2020 at the onset of the first lockdown. The problem hasn't gone away, but the way to address it has morphed, and the important point is that: it is not too late. It never is. But it gets more dangerous and damaging to our descendants with every year that passes. My grandchildren will very likely live in an age when there are no ice-caps and when the Maldives will no longer be a holiday destination, being submarine.

The industrial revolution (which is the origination of the climate emergency) began in the late 18th century and after seven generations or so (mid-20th Century) the planet was already in a pickle. It is taking us some time to get to grips with this, but just in so many Bible passages which speak of seven generations for God's hand to be revealed, (or even seventy times seven, Luke 3:23-38) so it will take time to reverse and the effects will not be seen for some time. Seven generations is considered to be 150 years or so.

My point is this (yes, here it is): it is never to late to do something about our world. It is not just the case just that we cannot avoid the imperative to act (the world is burning, yes, so we need to extinguish the fire), but that it *is worth doing something* to change the future. Even though the damage seems already to far gone it isn't. Our planet can heal. There is such a lot that has already been achieved, but we can't see it yet, much. It took seven generations to reach the pea-souper smogs of the 1950s and they are gone. The Greenpeace Report from 1990 reveals a narrative of a world in climate decline, and we can be forgiven for thinking it's high time to get that handcart packed for the underworld. However, my view is to be thoroughly Biblical. It is worth showing up as so many of us already have, and governments are doing so too, not just "the activists" like XR. It will seven generations to reverse things, and two have already passed since the 1950s

Good things *are* happening. And we will not see their complete fruition, but that is never the case with the Earth. Our species has done great damage. It will help the great healing. Just give it time.

That's what you get from a bout of insomnia.

Sometimes I write benign pleasantries, other times I share what has been getting under my skin a little more. If you would like to respond to either, I am always interested, please let me know what thoughts in you my words elicit. vicar@athelneybenefice.com

From Bishop Michael

Reimagining generosity



In John's Gospel, the first of the signs that Jesus offers to show who he is happens at a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee (John 2: 1-11). Jesus saves the whole event from being a social disaster. The presenting issue is that the wine runs out. This exposes the families that have organised the event to the possibility of severe embarrassment. Rather than modelling lavish hospitality, they are in danger of showing themselves to be stingy and disorganised. Thankfully Jesus's mum is alerted to the situation and gets Jesus on the case. He comes up with a solution and all is well.



What gets me every time about this story is the scale and the quality of the solution that Jesus presents. If my calculations are right, Jesus saves the day by creating the equivalent of six wheelie bins full of wine. And not just your supermarket bottom shelf stuff. The wine he provides is of the very best quality – stuff that would delight sommeliers and wine snobs the world over.

In his first action, Jesus could have chosen to show any number of things about himself – his wisdom, his power, his goodness or so on. What's striking is that he begins by revealing that he is someone of astonishing and abundant generosity. This is at heart who Jesus is.

If this is who Jesus is, then that means that this is who God is too. For 'in God there is no unChristlikeness'. In his first action, Jesus is showing us that at heart, God is abundantly and astonishingly generous.

If we're all made in God's image, might that be at heart who we're called to be too? Often, the call to be generous can be portrayed as hard and difficult, about self-sacrifice and denial, of the costly call to put others first. But what if we reimagined what being generous means? If we understood being generous as in fact the way to reveal and enjoy our true selves – lavishly, abundantly, joyfully… merrily?

A wheelie bin of wine anyone?

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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



Didn't we have a lovely time...

It rained. In July. In Somerset. Who'd have thought it? (I hope the irony is detectable.)

There is always a lot on in the Benefice at weekends, and July 20th was no different. A wedding, a flower show, a concert… and… a special treat: The Burrowbridge Garden Party.

Thank you so very much to Julie and Sue, and particularly to Julie and Roger for opening their garden to the many people who came along for the wonderful afternoon tea on offer. As always in Burrowbridge, the hospitality was informal and relaxed, and the cakes sublime!

So much so that we hardly noticed the rain. It was a damp day, but the fellowship and the conversation were sunshiny and joyful. And the Pimms was an especially welcome addition to the event.

Being British, of course, the rain hardly slowed us down as we sat secure beneath the marquees nattering about this and that. We were upholding a long standing tradition, a heritage, of afternoon tea and we raised many funds as we did so: over £1000 for church funds. Absolutely astonishing. From a gentle, peaceful, friendly encounter comes such opportunity.

Thank you Julie, Sue, Roger, all who helped. Blessings!

(Next year… we'll see…)







Monthly Market at the Coronation Hall

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Lyng



Prayer Time and Refreshers

Admit it, we all remember them from way back when the sweet shop was the focus of all our after-school intentions. Or is that just me?

Refreshing confectionary: seems such a natural thing, and going back to what we remember, possibly inaccurately, but sincerely, can be such a thrill.

At Lyng, every Wednesday morning, we are now gathering for a time of prayer and reflection just like we do in North Curry each Friday. "We" being those in Lyng who wish simply to come along and join in. Four or five of us for fifteen minutes, led by a short "liturgy" that gives us the shape of a gentle beginning to the day

In Burrowbridge and Stoke St Gregory Revd Martin and I continue with the more traditional *Daily Office*, but in Lyng and North Curry we are less formal and natter a great deal.

As we sit in the choir stalls I am aware of how many centuries this has been happening, and yet, still, each day we find something new to say to God about who we are what we are doing. Our faith is always in need of refreshment. A new fizziness or a reminder of what we are there for. I have a suggestion…

… We might gather very informally and discuss the things on our hearts about our faith. Perhaps we could chat about prayer itself. What it is and why we do it. Or maybe the shape of the scriptures… why are they so significant and do some matter more than others…

It doesn't (and probably won't) have to be on a Wednesday morning. Perhaps a Wednesday evening every few weeks. No "syllabus" or defined expectations. Just a chance to talk about some things that scurry through our thoughts as we sit quietly in prayer. Watch this space. Or approach the Vicar and say, "Hello! I'd like to join in whatever it is you're planning. Please may I?"



Rotas at Lyng Church

If anyone would like to join the Lyng rotas please contact Alison harveyfudge@icloud.com or 07470 838707.

The more the merrier!

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

Thank you to everyone who helps with all this already!

Lyng Village Hall Updates

Now the Lyng Village Hall is up and running, there are some regular events taking place, which ***everyone*** is invited to.



First, what has already gone…

We have had an excellent turn out to our BBQ & Music night, there was a clash with a certain Euro football tournament but we won't talk about that!



Another successful event was the Summer Picnic, the weather in the morning was dubious, but we went ahead anyway. Gazebos were fetched once the rain fully started, but we carried on regardless. We even managed a "Tug of War" tournament. There was fabulous live music from our Ukulele players, Jennifer Jones amd Mike Aherne, and Revd Simon the Vicar rocked out to his set of acoustic Folk Tunes. Then it was over to open mic, for karaoke Tunes, hosted splendidly by resident DJ Steve Dovey, who incidentally can Rap, Rock and Croon to any tune offered ! Our very own Tom Jones sound-a-like John Watts, sent us swaying to some good old favourites, Delilah and much more.

And next?

Now for our regular programme, we have a **community lunch club**, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month when there is always some lively fun and conversation. For the price of £7.00 you get a main course, dessert and hot drink. Service is at 1.00 pm. [Fab poached salmon and pesto sauce last time… lush (ed.)]



Our **Pop-up Pub** is on the last Friday of every month, doors open at 7pm. There are Pizza, Fries and a good variety of cold drinks all served at reasonable prices.

Pilates takes place on Wednesdays at 7.30 and Thursdays at 6.30. Our wonderful instructor Emily can be contacted directly if you wish to join the group on 07940276265 or emzpilates@gmail.com

We are very excited to be offering some One-off events this Autumn



We are serving an **Afternoon Tea to support Breast Cancer UK** on Saturday 7th September from 2pm to 5pm. There will be sandwiches, cakes, scones and cream together with a hot drink of your choice. Suggested donations of £10 per person (or more, up to you). All proceeds go directly to the charity.

Bingo & Curry Night, Saturday 19th October. Meal served at 7.30 costing £10 per person. Bingo starts at 8.30pm this is £10 a bingo book. Prizes for lines and full houses. Doors open at 7pm with a Bar all evening

Halloween party, on 2nd November, food, drink & Raffle. Fancy dress optional, prize for best costume. 7pm to late.



Quiz & Mexican Meal Night Saturday 23/11. Meal served at 7.30 costing £10 per person. Quiz starts at 8.30 this is £2.50 per person to enter. Doors open at 7pm with a Bar all evening.



Spaces for all events are limited, please contact Debbie on 07860135751

breast cancer uk.

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 meeting will be on Thursday 2024 and Thursday 26th September 2024



A Beauchamp House Story

Each month, we see an advertisement for Beauchamp House in this magazine. Whilst we are very grateful for their subscription to advertise, we are also pleased to find some time to report back on the good work they do for those people who live in the care home in Hatch Beauchamp.

This Summer, for example, the residents of the care home were entertained by The Wessex Big Band who performed at the home's Big Band and Barbecue event. Around 150 people attended the special event which took place on the terrace and expansive lawn of the care home gardens. Not only the residents, of course. Families and friends of those who live at Beauchamp House also enjoyed the dancing and BBQ, as the photos show.







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.

200 Club winners

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



Music at The Church

Our own Claire Harrison (as was) is calling in to North Curry with the **Linarol** quartet of Viols at Thursday 19th September to play Music from Renaissance Italy on copies of this historic stringed and bowed instrument originally made by the Venetian Francesco Linarol.

On Friday 27th September at the earlier time of 6.30pm, the **Kathkali** company from Kerala south India visit North Curry on a national tour bringing stories and dance, with spectacular make-up and costumes.

Standard ticket price of £15. To encourage our next generation of home-grown musicians, places are offered at all these concerts for accompanied under-12s without charge.

Winners on Sunday 7th July

1st Eric Rowe, 2nd Kathleen Male, 3rd Mignon Drake

Winners on Sunday 4th August

1st Jeanne Leader, 2nd Mary Haycock, 3rd Jean Steer





Ron Stone turns One Hundred!

Ron lives in Chapel Close, North Curry and is the latest addition to the North Curry Centegenarian's Club. He celebrated in fine form with a street party of all those who live near him.

Happy Birthday (a little late, but hey…) Ron!

3 Chapel Close

To all at St Peter & St Paul Church

I apologise for taking so long in thanking you for your generous gift and kind words for my 100th birthday. They are much appreciated.

I had a very enjoyable party at my sons house in Moor Lane. with 50 or so guests.

I am lucky to keep in good health but not too mobile!

With many thanks

Ron Stone













Photos: Colin Trim

North Curry Flower Show

Just a few photos of the winners.

We could fill the magazine with photos of the entries and exhibits for the various competitions in this year's show.

Instead, we'll settle with these happy smiley faces.

Thank you to everyone who joined in and, if you weren't a winner this year, there's always 2025.

Get planning!









North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners



We are enthusiastic gardeners from North Curry and nearby who meet on the first Friday from September to May at 7:45pm in North Curry Village Hall. Invited speakers entertain us on a variety of gardening- related topics. Refreshments and a chat round off the evening.
In the summer months we visit gardens near and far together, hiring a coach for those further away.

There's something for everyone with an interest in gardening and plants.
New members and visitors are always welcome (membership £12 annually, visitors £3.00/visit).

Need more info? Telephone Sue on 01823 491658 or email northcurrygardeningclub@gmail.com

Rescuing the most historic garden in the Canary Islands, with Roy Cheek

Friday October 4th, 7.45pm for 8pm, North Curry Village Hall

Roy Cheek will talk about this privately owned garden which is c100 years older than the Botanic Garden in Puerto de la Cruz. 30 years ago it was overgrown and forgotten when Roy met the owner and became involved in its renaissance. It is now open to visitors.

The Art of Dishevelment, with Charles Chesshire

Friday November 1st, 7.45pm for 8pm, North Curry Village Hall

After a lifetime of travelling the world designing gardens, studying plants, writing and teaching, Charles has settled near Bridport in Dorset where his garden design business is based alongside his rare plant nursery. Charles has been curator of Burford House Gardens and consultant to Sudeley Castle and Sezincote Gardens in Gloucestershire.

This talk is a personal, and occasionally tongue-in-cheek, exploration of the levels of control we assert over our gardens, taking a tour through the garden from perfect order to anarchy, a journey that is part psychological, part historical and part political.



North Curry Neighbourhood Plan
Thank you for your responses!

We have received two hundred and twenty-seven responses and are currently absorbing the comments and information. We plan on feeding back to you all on **Monday October 21st** at North Curry Village Hall.

In the meanwhile, please keep checking in with our website northcurryplan.org, as we shall be posting the findings online too.

Thankyou from The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

North Curry Village Choir

Autumn Rehearsals

We resume on

Thursday 12th September, at 8.00 pm

at

North Curry Village Hall

New Members Welcome

Our next concert is on

Thursday 5th December 2024

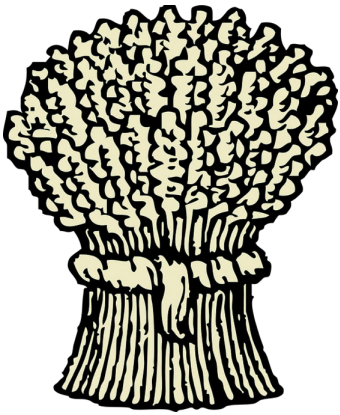
Our main work for 2024/25 is Mozart's Requiem

If you would like to join us, or discuss the possibility, please contact our Choir Secretary by phone or Website Contact Form

Tel: **Barbara Lancey on 01458 252657**

Website: **www.northcurryvillagechoir.org**

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul
North Curry



Welcomes you, your family
and friends to

Harvest Supper 2024

in the Village Hall
Saturday 21st September
7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets on sale at the village Post Office £15

Limited seating: please buy your ticket by 18th September
to ensure we have enough Delicious Food for you all.
There will be a Raffle, Quiz and Musical Entertainment
You are welcome to bring your own drinks;
cider and soft drinks provided

NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On **Wednesday Sept 25**, we open our new season with the film: **Lunana – a Yak in the Classroom**. It is a charming, quietly funny culture-clash film, about a young teacher in Bhutan who is posted to a remote mountain village. With stunning scenery, it is also a thoughtful exploration of happiness and community values. And yes, there is a yak in his classroom!

Membership to see 12 films is £30. Come along and join up!

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.

We are looking for help running the club. In particular, someone to train as a projectionist, but all offers of help are very welcome. Contact Don on 490 859.

The North Curry Society begins our 2024/25 series of meetings on 18th September with an illustrated presentation in the Village Hall on the plants and biodiversity of the Somerset Levels by Dr Peter Goodenough and his wife Sheila.

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday each month for talks of local interest. A full programme of talks has been arranged for the year ahead, which you will see on the Membership Card that will be available that evening. If you are not yet a member, you'll still be welcome (on payment of the guest fee of £5, or taking out annual membership for £15). Doors open at 7.30pm for a hot drink and warm conversation.

North Curry Parish Council

One Last Allotment Plot Available: At the time of writing this, there is one last plot available at Greenway allotments- it has been recently rotavated so is ready for someone to get stuck in straight away! If you are interested, please get in touch ASAP, it would be a shame to see it go to waste. Please contact the clerk on parishcouncil@northcurry.com

September Litter Pick: The litter pick will be slightly earlier this year; Saturday 28th September meeting at 10am at the Village Hall. Come along and enjoy the satisfaction of helping to keep your parish beautifully tidy and free of litter! Hi-vis vests and litter pickers are provided, but please bring suitable footwear.

More New Kissing Gates: Two more kissing gates have now been installed, making a total of around 32 kissing gates that have been installed throughout the parish, as well as 6 Bristol gates, and a grand total of around 42 gates of different kinds! A huge thank you to those who are involved in installing the gates and keeping the footpaths so beautifully maintained.

Bird in Hand Pub: We would just like to reassure everyone that the Parish Council is aware the Bird in Hand is up for sale. It is currently protected as an Asset of Community Value. The Parish Council is monitoring the situation closely and hope to see it return soon as a pub!

Parish Council Diary for September 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.

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.

Stoke St Gregory



Stoke Fete 6th July

It was very windy on the playing field when we gathered for the fete. The Church organised the cake stall and raffle which together made nearly £600 for church funds and Willow Set provided delicious teas. Our thanks to Laburnum Farm Partnership, HOTV, Oath Nails and many individuals for donating raffle prizes and cakes

Thank you to Janice Pearce for organising the event this year. Next year, less wind perhaps?!

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Followed by the sale of harvest produce

MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER

Church Sunday School
Doors open 7.00pm
Tickets £15 – Bring your own drink
Available from Jane White 490508 or Pat Sollis 490750

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

Talking Cafe

(INC. CARERS GROUP)

Stoke St Gregory

The Village Shop & Cafe at The Royal Oak, TA3 6EH

When?

Every 2nd Thursday of the month

10am - 12 noon



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WHY POP IN?

Talking Cafes are great if you are looking for help and advice on important issues such as:

- caring for another
- housing
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- finance
- help with food/cooking
- adult social care
- children's services
- feelings of loneliness and isolation
- anything else that is worrying you.



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www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafes

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Village Shop & Cafe Stoke St Gregory

From the Chairman

Heart of the Village - Chairman's Update

By Paul Fielding, 01823 490565

Annual Meeting

The Annual Members' meeting was rescheduled for the evening of Monday 2 September, and moved to the village hall to improve accessibility for all members. There was pizza from the pizza roc, a bar, and following the a chance to see progress on the phase 3 construction works.

The Annual Members' Meeting is the time when HOTV elects members to the management committee, and all places were filled. It is always helpful to have new blood on the committee, and we are grateful for those who have come forward with ideas and energy.

Entertainment at the Oak

We recently had a thoroughly enjoyable Saturday of free music in the garden, courtesy of Stoke St Gregory's very own Rob Hensley and his singer/guitarist colleague Tim, with an excellent BBQ from Jenna and the team. Then there were the Wild Moon Morris Men on 29th August.



Looking further ahead, we have tickets now available for our 3rd October show of magic & mentalism, with our fantastic local entertainer James Brown. There will also be music from Julie & Mel. This proved a great success last time round, in early 2023, so make sure you keep the date free and get your tickets now from the shop or over the bar.



Stoke St Gregory WI

We return to the Village Hall after the summer activities on Tuesday 10th September commencing at 7pm.

Leslie Sutcliffe will be giving a talk on the Victorian Surgeon Dr Toogood, founder of the Bridgwater Infirmary.

Sue Hardy is to give the vote of thanks, Kathryn Astin and Jenny Brown are the tea hostesses, the trade stall will be organised by Judy Blair and Lyn Willis will be filling the rose bowl.

Will members who planted seeds please note that they need to measure the height of their sunflowers for the competition!

Don't forget to bring along any used and unwanted mobile 'phones for donation to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, the charity will recycle them turning them into much needed cash. Please delete all data on the 'phones.

Visitors and new members are always welcome! Contact Amelia Holt, 01823 490401 or 07985317252 for further details.



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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Pizza



Upcoming dates Mon 2nd October. 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!



Bus It This September

By Peter Travis, Co-Chair, Somerset Bus Partnership



September is an important month for bus users and for all those thinking of switching to going by bus. September is **Catch the Bus Month**.

Also in Somerset, September is one of the only two opportunities in the year that bus companies can change their bus timetable. So, bus operators have been looking at their schedules, checking their passenger numbers and some will be making changes from September 1st to optimise their returns.

So, if you can go online, do check your local bus routes to see what your bus times are from September 1st. The best way of doing this is to go to www.bustimes.org, put in the number of your local bus route and bus times for your local stop will appear. Somerset Bus Partnership has also listed all the bus services which will change in September including a link to the new timetables: https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/busservices.

Given the financial emergency declared by Somerset Council, Somerset hasn't the money to increase its funding of buses so the best way of ensuring you keep your local buses is to BUS IT whenever you can... especially this month as it's Catch the Bus Month!

By supporting your local bus services whenever you can, you're playing your part in ensuring there are buses for those in your local community, young and old, who don't drive or don't have access to a car hence are dependent on buses. Transport accounts for 45% of carbon emissions in Somerset, so reduce your environmental impact and travel by bus. It's good for your pocket too as a single bus fare costs just £2 or less and that's guaranteed through to the end of the year.

To celebrate Catch the Bus Month, Somerset Bus Partnership is organising over 25 bus stalls across Somerset. We will have all the local bus timetables at these stalls to give away free. To find out where your nearest bus stall is: https://www.somersetbuspartnership.co.uk/events.

We are also in need of volunteers to help out for an hour or two at a bus stall. Get in touch if you can help. Contact us: somersetbuspartnership@gmail.com.

So **Bus It** during September's **Catch the Bus Month**.



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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.

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£8 per class, payments taken monthly

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Rotas

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
8th Sept	J Dare, P Burgess	H Griffiths	P Trim
15th Sept	P Burgess, J Dare	D Walker	M Piers, D Farnham
22nd Sept	L B-Brown	J Satchwell	T Jeanes

Lyng

Cleaning		Flowers	
2nd	Sue Dare and Jenny Barnstable	7th	Christine Dawson
9th & 16th	Di James and Ruby Barrington	14th & 21st	Angie Martin
23rd & 30th	Alison Perry and Angie Martin	28th	Alison Perry

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

15th Sept	Penny & Simon
22nd Sept	Will & Veronica
6th Oct	Barbara P & John
20th Oct	Alex & Sally
27th Oct	Annette & Barbara M

Readers

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

1st Sept	John
15th Sept	Simon
22nd Sept	Barbara M
6th October	TBA - Harvest
20th Oct	Sally
27th Oct	Annette

Cleaners

8th Sept	Marilyn & Terri
15th Sept	Annette & Martin
22nd Sept	Dave & Janet
29th Sept	Amelia & Ade
6th Oct	Penny & Simon
13th Oct	Linda & Brett
20th Oct	Marilyn & Terri
27th Oct	Annette & Martin

Flowers

8th Sept	Edwina Hansford
22nd Sept	Sue Smythe

Date for your diary: We will be decorating Church for the Harvest Festival on Saturday 5th October

Services across the Benefice

8th September: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Family worship with BMS mission worker from Uganda – Benon Kayanja
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service

15th September: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service with communion
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service with Holy Communion
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

22nd September: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Harvest Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Family worship service
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service

29th September (5th Sunday): Festival of Michael and All Angels

10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Church anniversary & Harvest celebration service
11.00am	Burrowbridge	United Benefice Harvest Eucharist Followed by Harvest lunch