The Athelney Magazine



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

November 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
Safeguarding	Owen Cullwick	01823 490681, owen@cullwick.co.uk
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	Angie Martin	07936 050230, a.martin78630@gmail.com
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
Stoke St Gregory		
Churchwarden	Vacant	
Treasurer	Steve Loveridge	07808 656329, stevejloveridge@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

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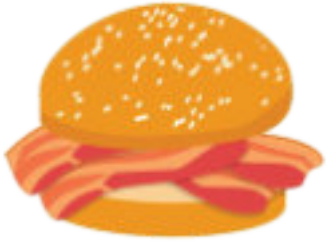
Lyng

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 October** for the November 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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The Athelney Benefice



Rise and shine

"Awake, my soul and sing!
Of him who died for me…"



You may know the hymn. Crown him with many crowns. "… hail him as thy matchless King throughout eternity" is how the first verse ends. The whole hymn can be found on hymnary.org (search for "Crown him").

At the end of the month, the final Sunday before Advent Sunday, across the Church as a whole, we celebrate the Festival of Christ The King, sometimes also known as Stir-up Sunday, featuring this prayer:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Often my Mother-in-Law has come to our house with the Christmas Pudding in progress for a quick stir (not so now: we're too far away, sadly). Christ the King, Stir-up Sunday is a day of enthusiasm and awareness: be awake, be stirred! But about what or whom? The words of the hymn and prayer keep popping into my head. Along with the prayer I hear the need to "be awake". I also, therefore, hear "woke", a word that divides as much as it helps, perhaps.

You may have first heard it during lockdown when the Black Lives Matter movement became quite strident in its use. It is not new, however. The use of the word in a stir-up kind of a way goes back to at least before the second world war, attributed to Leadbelly, the great blues singer and guitarist who says, "stay woke" at the end of a particularly harrowing song, Scottsboro Boys, telling the story of racist incident in Alabama. "Stay woke". Be awake he means in our more English phraseology. Be awake to the needs of those who are oppressed. And yet, it is so much used as a pejorative, accusing someone of being too concerned with irrelevant or misguided injustices.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says this about "woke": [to be] aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues especially of racial and social injustice.

No matter how it is, how it sounds to one person or another, whether there are causes or not to be addressed, I would like to take a moment to seek a rehabilitation of the idea of being awake as a foundational ex-

perience. And, what better time to be awakened than Stir-up Sunday? As we recognise the importance of Christ the King and how Jesus encourages all good people to live as disciples of Christ the King: to care for the disadvantaged and to be strident in our determination to build a kingdom of hope?

To be "woke" is surely a good thing. To wish to stand against racism or any form of social injustice is surely a thoroughly righteous act? To be asleep (the opposite of woke) is to ignore these matters and thereby to let them continue. That strikes me as entirely non-Christian. Being woke is a Kingdom thing: Christ the King, remember? Being ready to be stirred up by injustice and oppression are core to the faith. Our challenge is the itchy ears.

I am writing this the week before the US election, and I am deeply aware of the ways in which the ears of many are itching at the "fake news" we find everywhere. The media is so complex and we need to guard against being duped. But how do we know what to believe, which causes are worth supporting, whether it is true whether this or that was said or done? I don't think we can ever *know* these things, not fully, perfectly. We can't. The world is far too complicated for us. We never could nor ever will be totally convinced that what we are being told is true or not. What we can do, however, is resort to our hearts, put ourselves in the shoes of another and try to see things from their point of view.

Being stirred up to even notice the wrong things in the world is a beginning. And to be stirred up, we need to be awakened to the reality that there is a need to seek the goodness of God.

It might surprise you to discover that as a scientist and someone who values deeply the importance of evidence, I find myself increasingly saying, "Well, of course I can't *prove* something is untrue; I simply know it feels awful…wrong…worth standing against…"



In fact, I do know one thing: I am very much guided by my inner desire to seek the goodness of God through being woke. It is the knowing, by being awake to the power of God in the world, that I can find the enthusiasm and desire to be stirred to stand against oppression. My issue is often one of courage. But that is for another time.

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

Martin's Musings

A monthly observation on life

November is a month for memories. Not only on Remembrance Sunday do we remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in the service of our country, but, on November 2nd, we remember our loved ones who have died, and I firmly believe now rest in a greater light on a farther shore, till we meet once again in the kingdom of heaven. For 2nd November is when the Church celebrates the festival of *All Souls*. This is a very special time for me because I like to remember all those people in my life who really helped and loved me in good times and in bad.

Sometimes they cared for me in practical ways, other times they just listened and offered support with good and timely advice. In all cases, their influence on my life was entirely good and helped me become a better person, and for that I shall always be grateful. I am sure that all of us have had such people in our lives.

At this time, I especially like to remember my dear mother and her twin sister, my aunt. My mother was a remarkable person from whom I learned the valuable life lessons of always trying my best, being kind and thoughtful to others, especially if I disagreed with them, and always trying to see the image of Christ in everyone I meet, however dim and distant. Also, to try and enjoy and make the best of each day without over worrying about the future.

After Father's death, she took over the family stationary business, despite having no experience in running a business as well as loving and caring for her family. I especially remember Christmas, when I would take a break from helping her in the shop and go down New Bond Street to the Yardley shop to buy her favourite toilet water of April Violets as a special gift for her. I was only 15 when she died but I was so lucky having my aunt as my guardian. She had always lived with us and was like a second mother and it made what was a heartbreaking time bearable. She was a kind and happy person and spent her life caring for others, as well as myself and my sister. We shared the same sense of humour and like myself, being no cook, we made the best of the burnt offerings which came regularly from the kitchen. Her love and care for me more than made up for her lack of interest in cooking.



So, this November 2nd I shall light two candles for two remarkable ladies who will always have a special place in my heart.

‘It takes the whole world to know Christ’

By Bishop Michael Beasley



Do you think a fish knows that it’s swimming in water? I’ve been reflecting on this question not because it’s some kind of Buddhist koan – the type of question that asks, ‘What’s the sound of one hand clapping?’ Rather it’s because I’ve been reflecting recently on questions of culture and world view. Do I see the world purely from the perspective of being who I am? (A 55-year-old white Englishman who grew up in a small village in the 1970s.) If that’s the case, is what I see an accurate representation of the whole of reality? Might other perspectives be possible? If I could see the world through the eyes of others, might my vision be richer, wider, deeper? Like a fish that suddenly realises that seeing can happen not only through water, but through air as well?

Seeing things from the perspective of others was something that Jesus did. An example of this happens when Jesus heals a centurion’s servant in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 7: 1-10). The centurion comes from a background and culture that’s entirely different to that in which Jesus grew up. Yet Jesus is blown away by the insight that the centurion has about who Jesus himself is. This leads Jesus to exclaim ‘I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith!’

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The Diocese of Bath and Wells has a link with the five Anglican Dioceses of Zambia. There’s much to be celebrated in the friendship that we share: the joy and vitality of the Zambian Church, the opportunities our link offers to help some of the world’s poorest communities. But for me, the greatest gift we gain is the opportunity our link offers to stand in the shoes of others and to see the world, our faith, and the whole of reality from a different perspective.



A wise person once said to me ‘It takes the whole world to know Christ’. Our link with Zambia enables us to see more of the Jesus we share than we could ever hope to experience otherwise.

Burrowbridge



For those we miss

Martin has written a beautiful and gentle reminiscence of his mother and aunt (see previous page) and has mentioned in his musing All Souls Day, which we will be marking this year on Sunday 3rd November with a united benefice worship in St Michael’s, Burrowbridge.



The service begins at 4.30pm and will be shaped around the need we have in each of us to recall the lives of those we loved and who have made such an important contribution to our lives.

This does not simply extend to recent yers, but is for as far back as you might care to remember. As Martin says, he will light a candle for his mother and aunt, bot of whom have long since gone to glory. I will light one for my own father, who died almost four years ago.

You will have your reasons for lighting candles and the service at 4.30pm on 3rd November is open to all: not only to those who regularly attend church on a Sunday.

All are welcome.

The service is peaceful and reflective. It is a time to sit and listen, to sing some hymns, perhaps, if you wish to join in, or you may prefer simply to be still, and know, that the grief you still feel is a mark of the love you still have.

All are welcome.

No one is expected to do anything, but there will be a time during the service to come forward and light a candle or more. If you wish for the names of you loved to be read out, please either let the vicar know (contact details on the inside front page) or sign up to the forms in church, or just turn up on the day and let a sidespersons know.

All are welcome.



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 Parish Council

Fingerpost Repairs Update

As you are probably aware, we have two fingerposts in the parish, one opposite the Outwood junction, the other opposite the Cuts Road junction. There has been some interest within the parish in getting them restored to their former glory. We have recently obtained a quote of £5670 plus vat for the repairs of both fingerposts. CPRE, the countryside charity, does offer grant funding but only up to £250 per fingerpost so we will need substantially more grant funding to proceed with these repairs. We will continue to research other options and keep you updated.

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

Dates of next Parish Council meetings

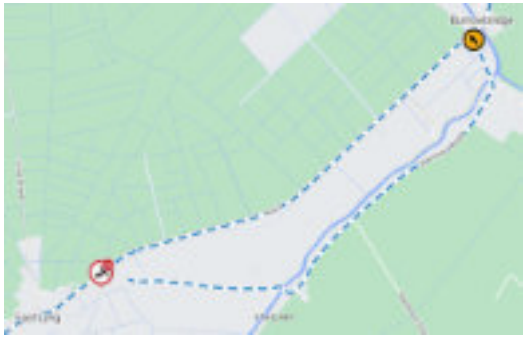
Thursday 28th November 2024 at 7.30pm and Thursday 16th January 2025 at 7.30pm

The agendas and minutes of previous meetings are published on the parish website: lyngparish.square.site

The parish clerk, Mrs Helen Barrington, can be contacted via email: lyngpc1@outlook.com or 'phone: 01823 490391.

When, O when will Cuts Road be open?

A plaintive cry goes up. Since the end of April there has been no way through. The shortish journeys from Lyng to Stoke St Gregory have been at least doubled by the closure of this innocent but significant little lane. According to "one.network", the online map that shows all road closures in a continuously updated national map, the road should be open on 9th November … 2024… Phew! But it isn't open until it's open…



It's all important work being done, and flooding will hopefully be alleviated, in some ways, so we shouldn't grumble. Right?

Lyng Village Hall has been very busy!

In **August** at our in monthly Community Lunch we were able to celebrate an extra special Birthday for one of our lovely villagers, Ruby Barrington, who has reached the grand age of 90. As well as the 2-course meal, Ruby shared a slice of her Colin the Caterpillar cake with everyone.

Early **September** we held an afternoon tea for the Breast Cancer Charity. People were indulged with platters of posh sandwiches, cakes, drinks. Although the rain continued all afternoon, our spirits were not dampened as the grand raffle, name the teddy and guess the weight of the cake, brought joy to the lucky winners of some lovely prizes. All together the afternoon raised over £1300. **October** has brought the colder weather, but the events are still happening with Curry and Bingo being held, the hall was packed and again, with cozy warmth supplied by the chicken curry and the vigorous shouting of 'House' on a regular basis.

Now for our regular programme…

We have a community lunch club, on the **3rd Wednesday of every month**, and on the 20/11 we will be serving Cottage Pie with Veg together with Jam Roly-poly pudding. Everyone in the parish is invited (and others!). There is always some lively fun and conversation. For the price of £7.00 you get a main course, dessert and hot drink. Food Service starts at 1.00 pm.

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

We are looking forward to **Saturday the 23rd November** when we are holding a Mexican Meal Night followed by a Pub Quiz. The food will be served at 7.30 cost of £10 per person. The Quiz starts at 8.30. We are charging £2.50 per person to enter the quiz. Don't worry if you cannot make a team of four as we will be putting people together where we can. Our doors will open at 7 pm with a Bar Service all evening

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



Our Pilates group has increased so we are now holding a session on **Wednesdays at 7.30pm** for beginners and **Thursdays at 6.30pm** for all. Our wonderful instructor Emily can be contacted directly if you wish to join the group on 07940276265 or emzpilates@gmail.com

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

Winners on Sunday 6th October:

1st Pat Thomas, 2nd Jennifer Scott, 3rd Mike Dennis

NORTH CURRY VILLAGE CHOIR



Christmas Concert

Thursday 5th December 2024

North Curry Parish Church at 7.30 pm

Bainton – '*And I saw a New Heaven*'
Mozart Requiem (selected items)
Dowdeswell - '*Creation Carol*'
Choir & Audience Carols
Vocal Solos

Tickets (£10) will be available at North Curry Post Office from mid-November

Remembrance Service Sunday 10th November: Just a reminder that the Remembrance Service will start at 10:40am on Sunday 10th November, around the War Memorial. Please can residents of Queen Square and Church Road kindly make sure they are parked clear of the way memorial from 10:15am to 11:30am on the day. We hope to see many of you there as usual!

Reporting Problems on Footpaths: There have recently been several complaints about footpaths including paths blocked by fencing, and broken styles. It is much easier and faster to report these sorts of issues and others on the Rights of Way website: https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map#. Simply search for the location in the top left search bar, then press the 'Report Issue' symbol on the bottom left of the screen; you can then click on the map where the problem is and give details of the issue. This is much more accurate than reporting to the Parish Clerk, as the exact location can be given.

Flooding, Drains and Drivers: The recent spells of rain have highlighted blocked drains in the Parish, so this is another reminder to please keep an eye on drains near you or that you regular walk past to ensure they are free of leaves and able to function properly. On a similar note, we would like to remind drivers to slow down when driving through water, so the wake doesn't wash into properties, or drench people walking past. Of course, please do not try and drive through deep flood water- there were several stranded cars which sadly didn't make it in the previous flood so don't risk it!

Autumn Litter Pick: Thank you to those who attended the autumn community litter pick event; it is excellent to see you giving your time to help keep the Parish tidy and free of litter. Thank you also to IdVerde who kindly collected the bagged litter free of charge. Date for your diary: the Spring litter pick is being arranged provisionally for Saturday 29th of March!

Applications for School Places: A reminder that the closing date for applications for Primary School places is 15th January 2025. Please visit www.somerset.gov.uk to secure places as soon as possible (search for applying for school).

Change to Recycling Centre Opening Hours: From the 1st of October all of the Somerset recycling centres reverted to their winter opening hours. Sites are now open 9am – 5pm on weekdays, and 9am – 4pm on weekends. Opening days midweek will vary site to site so please check online before visiting.

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 November 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.

North Curry School and the Food Bank

By The Worship Warriors

On Friday 4th October the children from North Curry C of E Primary School walked down to the Church for their annual Harvest Service. This year we were collecting produce for the Taunton Food bank. The children bought in canned and tinned food, packets and produce with a long use by date. In the service we sang several Harvest hymns and bought offerings for the Food bank. Shark class acted out the story of 'Sealed with a Sandal' which highlighted that we should help people in need at Harvest time.

Octopus explained what the Food bank is all about. Starfish class ended with a reflection and prayer. Rev Simon saved the day with an emergency CD player as ours ran out of batteries. We managed to collect seven whole crates full to the brim of produce for Taunton Food bank. We are very grateful to everyone who donated.



(Vicar's note: It was lovely to see everyone in church! And thank you for helping the food bank so much.)

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

The Gardens of Northern Italy by Jill Jones



Friday 6th December 7.45 for 8pm at North Curry Village Hall:

Jill Jones of Post Box Cottage Garden will talk about a number of historic Italian gardens such as Villa Carlota, Villa Melzi, Villa Del Balbianello on Lake Como, the gardens at Valsanzibio near Padua and the famous Rose Garden at Ninfa. A summery topic for a winter's evening!v



NORTH CURRY F I L M CLUB



On **Saturday Nov 9th**, we are showing the film My Left Foot with the absolutely extraordinary performance of Daniel Day-Lewis as the Irish artist, Christy Brown, who had cerebral palsy. He learnt to write and paint with his left foot. It is a riveting, unsentimental and rewarding film.

Village hall doors open at 2:30pm and the film starts at 3pm. We have an intermission for cake & tea (donation requested) and a chat. Entry is £5.

On **Wednesday Nov 27th**, we are showing the romantic black comedy Harold & Maude. The plot follows the exploits of Harold Chasen a young man who is intrigued with death, who develops a friendship, and eventual romantic relationship, with 79-year-old Maude. She teaches Harold about the importance of living life to its fullest.

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.



Stoke St Gregory



Harvest Festival at St Gregory's

It was with great joy that we could celebrate our Harvest again this year–the 2023 Festival



fell prey to another outbreak of Covid so, although the School's celebration and the Sunday Service went ahead, Harvest Supper was cancelled owing to cooks and helpers being laid low.

This year we were all in better health and the church was looking absolutely fabulous with flowers and produce on all the available spaces and any other gaps filled in by the children at their service on the preceding Wednesday. As is traditional at St Gregory's, we held a Harvest Supper on the Monday evening following at which the usual auction of produce was conducted by Adrian Holt. This, combined with the supper tickets and a raffle, raised slightly over £1,000.





None of this would have been possible without huge effort from a number of people. Particular thanks are due to Amelia and her band of flower arrangers who filled the church with the sight and scent of autumnal bounty. Also to the cooks and helpers who produced a two-course supper for about 40 people and, without doubt, Adrian Holt who with his persuasive auctioneering talents managed to eke unexpected sums of money from people who didn't realise quite how many apples they had let themselves in for (thank you Rev Simon!). Happily, we only had one marrow this year and



even that might have been an overgrown courgette.

The weekend also coincided fortuitously with Revd Martin's 70th birthday. This meant generous supplies of cake and coffee around the Benefice on the day itself (Saturday), several renditions of "Happy Birthday", and the presentation of a wonderful garden trolley to help him move pots around the garden (or possibly small dogs). I am sure he will also be writing elsewhere in the magazine about all the events which were held to mark his big day (I just hope he isn't expecting quite so much razzmatazz next year!). Following the purchase of the trolley the remainder of the sum raised was paid to a particular gentlemen's outfitter in Street which Martin is known to frequent, for him to spend at his leisure.

Remembrance in Stoke St Gregory

Sunday at the Parish Church in Stoke: Sunday 10th November,10:45am

The Village Remembrance Sunday Service will be held this year in St Gregory's and we should like to welcome to the Parish Church everybody who wishes to mark this occasion in their own village.





St Gregory's Village School will be holding a service of remembrance at the war memorial on the Playing Field on Monday 11th November at 1045. Again, anybody is welcome to attend.

The North Curry Mummers Return to Our Community Hub!

Exciting News! 26th December at 12pm in the Village Square, The Royal Oak Stoke St Gregory.



By popular demand, we are thrilled to welcome back the incredibly talented North Curry Mummers, to our Award Winning Community Hub at the Royal Oak. Join us for an unforgettable Christmas afternoon of lively folk theatre, humour, music, and community spirit, (yes the bar will be open).

Date: 26th December, Time: 12 noon

Location: The Mummers' traditional play is filled with laughter, colourful characters, and fun for all ages. Whether you're familiar with the ancient art of mumming or experiencing it for the first time, this will be a seasonal Christmas afternoon to remember, whatever the weather, come prepared!

What are the Mummers?

For those new to mumming, the North Curry Mummers bring to life a centuries-old tradition of folk plays, often performed around festivals and holidays, Boxing Day/St Stephen's Day. These comedic performances feature a mix of local legends, sword fights, magical cures, and heroes returning from battle. Expect humorous interactions, plenty of audience participation, and a festive day that captures the essence of village life and folklore.

What to expect:

A captivating performance by the North Curry Mummers



Traditional folk music and entertainment

A chance to mingle with friends, family, and neighbours.

Tickets: Admission is Free! There will be a collection for a local Charity. Be sure to reserve your spot by arriving early.

Come along, bring your loved ones, and celebrate the joy of community traditions! See you there!



Special Teas

Available from 11.30 to 3.30pm
Wednesday to Friday. 11.30 to 1.30pm Saturday



Option 1
Selection of homemade cakes, scones,preserves, clotted cream tea or coffee £8.50

Option 2
As Option 1 plus a selection of sandwiches £11.50

Add a Little Fizz
Prosecco with either Option
Small bottle £4.00
Large £10

Minimum Booking
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

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Members are reminded to bring along a toilet roll tube to the next Stoke St Gregory WI meeting as we will be making a Christmas cracker.

As Christmas will only be a mere 6 weeks from the 12th November members meeting, starting at 7pm in the Village Hall, we plan to get the festivities started with some mulled wine, mince pies, Christmas music and cracker production.

Karen Housego will be giving the vote of thanks to Jackie Jay. Janet Daniels and Janice Pearce are the tea hostesses, Belinda Morgan is running the trade stall and Amelia Holt is decorating the rose bowl.





The wearing of Christmas jumpers is an optional extra!

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

hotv



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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!





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Pilates

North Curry Village Hall: Wed 9.30am
East Lyng Village Hall: Wed 7.30pm, Thu 6.30pm
Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall: Mon 11am, Wed 6pm

Vinyassa Flow Yoga

Middlezoy Village Hall Wed 11am

Details of other classes in the local area at www.emzpilates.co.uk
£8 per class, payments taken monthly or £10 PAYG

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A Village Wedding

By Zillah Sykes

Stepping out of Angela's cottage into the May sunshine, Tony the father of the bride, proudly led Georgia across the lane and towards the church. Angela, the bride's mother was with them, followed by maids-of-honour Katy and Molly while Emma and Beth, the youngest bridesmaids were walking hand-in-hand with their parents Tim and Jane. By the lych-gate, which was decorated with sprays of white carnations and a good deal of white satin ribbon, a mass of snowy white May blossom welcomed the bridal party with its fragrance.

Passing through the gate, they walked slowly along the path through the churchyard which was lined with silver birches and ornamental cherry trees all clothed in soft new leaf. Arching above them they spread a canopy which provided them with dappled shade, in gentle contrast to the dark and shadowy ancient yews that flanked the path that led them immediately to the church. Georgia did not like the yews trees, she felt their dark and heavy presence to be full of foreboding; but today she did not notice them. The sun was shining and she was in the company of those she loved and on her way to the church where her bridegroom was waiting for her.

At the church porch she was greeted enthusiastically by the ushers, friends of Jack who were delighted to welcome his bride. There Angela took her leave of them. Stepping into the church, she was met with warm smiles and welcoming glances from guests already gathered there. Meanwhile Tony escorted the bride and her attendants to the west door where they waited awhile, calming nerves and preparing themselves for the solemn, yet joyful ceremony they were about to take part in. As Angela settled into her pew she once again gathered to herself the peace of that sacred place: the legacy of centuries of prayer and worship offered there. In awe she wondered at its enduring strength and ordered beauty, built for the glory of God and maintained faithfully over the years by those who worshipped here. Today it was brimming with light and life and colour: flowers were everywhere decorating the sanctuary, white carnations and roses, pink, fragrant and full petalled. Sunlight streamed in through the stained glass and alighted on the stone pillars; candles glowed brightly in the chancel, their light reflecting in the brasses and on the altar the cross shone out its eternal message of love and forgiveness.

Angela glanced over towards Jack, her soon to be son- in- law, who was standing tall and looking very smart, if a little nervous, with his brother and best man, Robert. Sitting behind them were their proud parents, Bob and Margaret. Though uncomfortable in his new suit Bob was beaming with happiness, while Margaret sat quietly, deeply thankful that all had indeed worked out for good.

The organist played soft, lilting melodies while the gathered guests whispered and chatted to one another as they waited. "We are all here to celebrate love," mused Angela, "it is love that has brought us all together." Thoughts that should not intrude upon a wedding had concerned her during those weeks of preparation. What of love when the bells had ceased to chime, when the flowers had faded and all the finery was consigned to the wardrobe? What of love when nesting birds had ceased their song and had left these shores for distant lands? Would love endure?

"Love will never come to an end." These words came to mind and when she looked them up she found they were words written by the Apostle Paul, coming at the end of a passage where he had defined love; a love that was practical in its outworking and considerate and caring in every way. "A love for everyone and for always," Angela had concluded, and when asked to suggest a reading for today's service, she had not hesitated to suggest this one:

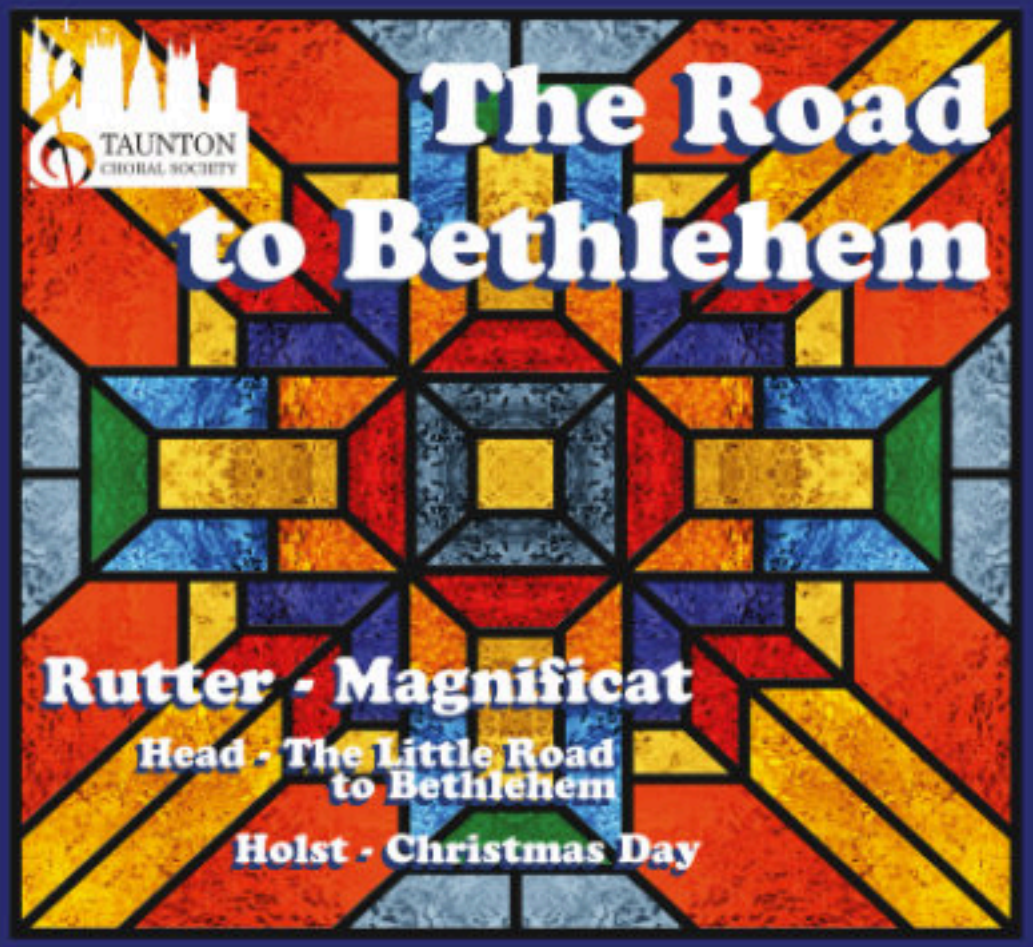
"Love is patient and kind, love is not jealous or boastful. It is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not angry or resentful. It does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things and believes all things, Love hopes all things and endures all things. Love will never come to an end." (1 Cor 13)

Then Angela added the final verse of this "Song of Divine Love."

"There are three things that last forever, faith, hope and love,
But the greatest of these is love." (Canticle 59)

This passage was printed in the service sheet and as she began to read it Tim and her sister Jane took their seats beside her. Above them in the clock tower a single bell chimed the hour. The organist struck up resounding chords to announce the arrival of the bride and all assembled rose to their feet. The bridegroom turned to behold his bride, she smiled at him from behind her veil and once again he was captivated by her beauty.

As the organist ceased his playing, the vicar stepped forward and welcomed everyone to celebrate with him this most joyful of occasions. Then, when vows of love and fidelity had been made and rings exchanged and the marriage was celebrated in words and music, prayers and blessings, the newlywed couple processed out of the church, their hearts bursting with happiness, into their bright new day. Then as family and friends gathered outside, a triumphant peal of bells rang out in celebration of the love of Jack and Georgia for one another and the future they would share together: a future full of new beginnings.



Friday 6th Dec - 7:30pm
St James' Church, Taunton
(next to the County Ground)

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

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

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North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
6th Oct	L Farnham, L Paul	D Farnham	M Cridge
13th Oct	H Comrie, J Sergeant	H Griffiths	J Satchwell
20th Oct	Denise Walker	D Walker	D Akerman, M Piers
27th Oct	H Comrie, P Burgess	M Piers	A Peters
3rd Nov	J Sergeant, T Jeanes	H Griffiths	T Jones

Lyng

Cleaning

2nd	Sue Dare and Jenny Barnstable
9th & 16th	Di James and Ruby Barrington
23rd & 30th	Alison Perry and Angie Martin

Flowers

7th	Christine Dawson
14th & 21st	Angie Martin
28th	Alison Perry

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

3rd Nov	Barbara P & John
10th Nov	Penny & Simon
17th Nov	Alex & Sally
24th Nov	Veronica & Will
1st Dec	Annette & Barbara

Readers

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

3rd Nov	Barbara P
10th Nov	Various
17th Nov	Steve
24th Nov	Jo
1st Dec	Jordon

Cleaners

3rd Nov	Dave & Janet
10th Nov	Amelia & Ade
17th Nov	Penny & Simon
24th Nov	Linda & Brett
1st Dec	Annette & Martin

Flowers

3rd Nov	Sue Hembrow (Poppies)
17th Nov	Di Tilley
1st Dec	Amelia Holt to clear flowere for Advent

Services across the Benefice

3rd November All Saints'/All Souls' Sunday

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10am	North Curry	Eucharist for All Saints
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
4.30pm	Burrowbridge	United Service for All Souls

10th November Remembrance Sunday

9.30am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word (joint with Lyng)
10.40am	North Curry memorial	Remembrance Service (joint with Methodists
10.50am	Stoke St Gregory	Service of the Word (joint with Baptists)

17th November Second Sunday before Advent

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10am	Lyng	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
4pm	North Curry	Choral Evensong

24th November Festival of Christ the King

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist

1st December Advent Sunday

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10am	North Curry	Eucharist
11am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
4pm	Lyng	Advent Carols