The Athelney Magazine



Details of Christmas Services on inside back pages

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

December ‘24 & January ‘25

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

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

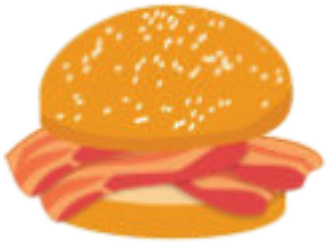
Lyng

Lyng Coffee mornings are held monthly on the third 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 January** for the February 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.



Bernard G Perry
Environmental &
Waterway Engineers

- Flood defence
- Concrete works
- Construction & Maintenance
- Equestrian/ Agricutural/ Domestic Fences
- Rivers
- Bridges
- Culverts
- Dredging



- Environmental Agency Approved

Tel/Fax: 01823 490295
Mobile: 07860 788995

BRAMBLE & WILD

ALTHOUGH OUR FLOWER SHOP IS IN FROME, OUR WORKSHOP & CUTTING GARDEN IS AT HOME IN LYNG.

WE CREATE BEAUTIFULLY RUSTIC, FRESH FLORAL DESIGNS FOR ALL OCCASIONS - FROM ANNIVERSARIES & THANK YOUS, TO SYMPATHY DESIGNS & WEDDINGS.

WWW.BRAMBLEANDWILD.COM

To order for local delivery in Lyng, North Curry, Stoke & the surrounding areas, please call 07731444883 or email hello@brambleandwild.com

We can also post our flowers nationwide & you're welcome to collect from our workshop too!

for wedding enquiries, please visit our website

FRESH *FLOWERS* DELIVERED *LOCALLY*

@BRAMBLEANDWILD

P T Electrical

Domestic • Industrial • Commercial

NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR

NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

Bradstones, Stoke Road, North Curry, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6LR

PAUL TURNER

t: 01823 490410
m: 07773 778225

e: info@ptelectrical.biz
w: www. ptelectrical.biz

Dykes Farm Dairy Organic Raw Milk

Fresh Organic Untreated Milk

Open Every Day
(8am – 8pm)
Cash or Card payment.

Slough Lane,
Stoke St Gregory TA3 6JH

dykesfarm@btconnect.com

Telephone: 01823 490349
Or 07968 866298

Dykes-Farm Raw Milk

Jonathan Williams Carpets

Home Selection Service

All makes & manufac-turers of carpets & vinyl

As supplied to Stoke Church

Telephone: (Othery)
01823 698113

Stanmoor Garage

R Pocock & C Fisher

Stanmoor Road, Burrowbridge

01823 698216

Open Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

Servicing & Repairs To:-
Cars, Light Commercials & 4 Wheel Drives.

Puncture & Welding Repairs.
Pre MOT Checks & MOT's Arranged.
Tyres Available At Competitive Prices
Most Popular Sizes In Stock.
Petrol & Diesel Served.

NS Developments

Home maintenance and improvements

- Woodwork, doors, skirtings
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Shelving
- Tiling
- Painting
- Repairs
- Improvements
- More on request



Local & Dependable

Mobile: 07387 964390 Nick

Email: nsg1@duck.com

CRESCENT FUNERAL SERVICES

SIMON HELLIAR-MOORE

A Truly Independent Funeral Service for Taunton, Langport and Surrounding Communities, from a Funeral Director you can Trust.



Proud to be putting you and your family at the heart of everything we do.

Our Funeral Homes are centrally located for your convenience.

Fully inclusive Direct Cremation Service – £1,150

To find out more about our inclusive Funeral Services contact us on

Taunton:01823 530100 Langport:01458 252505

Curry Rivel:01458 259476

or visit our website

www.crescentfunerals.co.uk

The Old Coach House, Crescent Park, Taunton,TA1 4ED
Bow House, Bow Street, Langport,TA10 9PQ
Townsend, Curry Rivel, Langport.TA10 0HP

LOCK'S DOG GROOMING

QUALIFIED. PROFESSIONAL.

Dog Grooming in Curload, Somerset

City & Guilds Qualified



Cherie Lock

- I AM A DOG LOVER AND A CITY & GUILDS FULLY QUALIFIED, INSURED PROFESSIONAL DOG GROOMER, CERTIFIED IN CANINE HEALTH AND FIRST AID
- I ONLY GROOM ONE DOG (OR FAMILY OF DOGS) AT A TIME IN MY SALON, TO CREATE A CALM AND RELAXING ATMOSPHERE
- DOGS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN (THROUGH TREATS, PLAY AND RESPITE BREAKS) THAT GROOMING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE STRESSFUL – I DO NOT USE CAGE DRYERS
- I FULLY COMPLY WITH THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006, PROVIDING FOR YOUR PET'S NEEDS WHILST IN MY CARE.
- LESS MOBILE, ANXIOUS OR BITE HISTORY DOGS NOT NECESSARILY A PROBLEM

Please contact me for an initial "meet & treat" appointment

Email: locksdoggrooming@outlook.com

Tel: 07821 452265

Website: locksdoggrooming.com



BEAUCHAMP HOUSE
COUNTRY HOUSE CARE

A Care South home for residential and nursing care

Enjoy modern living in a beautiful country home

Scan the QR code to find out more, hear from residents and meet the Home Manager.

FOOD
FUN
FRIENDSHIP

Rated 9.8* out of 10 on carehome.co.uk

CQC rating
Good
September 2022

Hatch Beauchamp | Taunton | Somerset | TA3 6SG
01823 589778 | care-south.co.uk

Proud to be part of Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care, as well as care at home services across the south of England. Registered Charity No. 1014697. * Correct at time of print.

Care South
It's the care that counts...

www.Edwina's.co.uk
FLOWERS

Wedding


Sympathy


Gifts


NEW SHOP OPEN AT THE WILLOW & WETLANDS
07889 411030 - edwina@edwinasflowers.co.uk



PEGASUS
PEST CONTROL

Pest Control

Residential, Commercial and Agricultural Premises

Qualified through the British Pest Control Association since 2004 and fully insured.

THINK WILDLIFE Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use
BPCA British Pest Control Association MEMBER
PROMPT® Register

INCLUDING:
wasps, rats, mice, moths, moles, cluster flies, squirrels, ants, fleas, ladybirds, birds, stored product insects, *and more...*

Contact **Orlando Jackson**:
01458 252551 - 07519 118856
info@**pegasuspestcontrol**.co.uk

www.**pegasuspestcontrol**.co.uk

I & M MOTORS

BROAD LANE GARAGE
NORTH CURRY

TELEPHONE
490974

FULL RECOVERY SERVICE
CALL OUT WITH COURTESY CAR SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Fast Efficient
REPAIRS & SERVICING
ANY MAKE OF CAR CATERED FOR

VEHICLE TESTING STATION
APPROVED BY DEPT. OF TRANSPORT

MOT's While-U-Wait
BY APPOINTMENT

FULL WORKSHOP FACILITIES including
SPECIALIST WELDING
STATE OF THE ART DIAGNOSTIC
ENGINE 'CRYPTON' TUNING
ACCIDENT REPAIRS
RESPRAYS

OUR PERSONNEL ARE FULLY QUALIFIED TECHNICAL ENGINEERS.
SO FOR ANY TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS OR ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT
IAN ON NORTH CURRY 490974

MOT's
Petrol & Diesel
Cars & Small Vans
Unipart Stockist

(Collection & Delivery By Arrangement)

Act of Remembrance at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day… 2024. Stoke St Gregory. Thank you to all at Stoke St Gregory School for your prayers and your presence





TENNIS CLUB

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

All ages – Club Sessions – Rusty Rackets – Coaching – Matches – Tournaments – Membership or Pay & Play

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club

Tel: 01823 490541 – ssgtennisclub@gmail.com, club-spark.lta.org.uk/StokeStGregoryTennisClub

RSPCA WEST HATCH ANIMAL CENTRE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Do you love animals?
Do you like taking to people?
Come and join our
EDUCATION TEAM



For more information, please email:
alice.litchfield@rspca.org.uk
or call: 07725 782091



REGISTERED CHARITY NO.219099

The Athelney Benefice



I need to get something off my chest…

Even though we speak of The Church of England—i.e. the established church, part of the structure of our sovereign state—none of the parish churches in this country receive a penny of support from the Government. All the expense of keeping our churches active and maintained is raised through the church itself. So, when people speak of the wealth of The Church they are not speaking of the day to day running of St Bartholomew's, St Gregory's, St Michael's or St Peter and St Paul's, our four parish churches. The Church might have wealth tied up in the Church Commissioners, but please do not think that means our benefice churches are flush with cash to spend.

There… said it. Thank you. Phew. That's better.

I am not especially enthusiastic about asking for money, but (to give you warning) that is the poijt of this month's "a word from the Vicar".
1 Timothy 6:10 famously points out that "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" and I don't have space (and I suspect you might lose the will to live) if I dived headlong into all the details about the history of money in ecclesiastical or theological terms (see, already you eye lids are drooping).

So, I will keep to the point. It is really very important, sometimes, now and then, for the Vicar to put their head above the parapet and say, "Erm… funding churches is quite a challenge." My outburst above, reasonable and polite though I hope it is, is founded on a real, significant and serious concern that the churches in the benefice, all of them need to find ongoing and reliable funds. Since the pandemic hit, in particular, income has reduced. Indeed for a year there was barely any income at all (and no furlough either) but the stonework continued to crumble, the heating creak and the windows leak. Like any building, the fabric is in a state of continual decay and when our oldest buildings are eight centuries old, the decay is rapid and significant.

We are all struggling with a crisis of income, and the churches, our churches, are no different.

The Chancel roof at North Curry leaks like a sieve, the stone work at Lyng sheds itself in a high wind, the paths at Stoke St Gregory crack and crumble, the damp at Burrowbridge is quite a thing to behold, and this is all before we consider the Vicar's stipend and the mission and ministry we'd all like to develop. All this is paid for by those who give to the church, week by week, year by year.

You get the picture: there is a lot to be concerned about when even maintaining the four parish churches, and there is always more income required.

In a rural setting such as Athelney the church buildings themselves are strikingly visible. Anyone in the village will know where their church is. Most will visit it at some point, many for pastoral services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Unlike more urban settings, where churches can be all but invisible to many, a village church is frequently a central focus and a resource that most people would miss dreadfully if it weren't there.

I am not for a single moment even pretending to suggest that that might be a thing. None of our churches are threatened in that way, but it is also important that we recognise the value they have in our village lives, as buildings but also as centres of the lives of many: gone and to come. Our church buildings are generally the biggest building in the village. They "hold" the history and life-stories of thousands. They are the venue for life changing moments.

More than that, a church and most of all the people who attend, are a statement of hope in a difficult and conflicted world. Whilst I accept that many people have no faith, even the values we all consider important come from the lives of people who are "church folk". Values such as love, hope, generosity, forgiveness, grace and duty are founded on Christian values and the history of the church communities across the benefice show time and time again that it is the church that is a foundation for care and friendship.

Our churches, the Athelney Churches, need constant income to ensure that the message of Jesus continues in our villages and beyond. They need income to maintain a presence that is about community and connectedness. They need income in order simply to open their doors week by week, to welcome those who grieve, those who celebrate and those who wish to sit quietly and pray. They are venues for entertainment and shared experiences. They feature in the lives of our schools. Our village churches are core to the life of the villages themselves.

I am not asking for anything in particular at this moment. Over the coming months there will be more in the magazine and elsewhere that raises this issue again and with more practical ideas. For now, I ask simply that you reflect upon my words.

You know that old slogan… "A church isn't just for Christmas. It's for life."

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

As I have got older, I have noticed that the year seems to wiz by. It seems only yesterday that I was writing my piece for last December, so here we are again with Christmas rapidly approaching once again.

When I was a child, I loved decorating the tree with old family ornaments which had been treasured for years and trying to find just the right present for family and friends. Now, older and wiser, Christmas is a much simpler affair. The few cards I send and presents are all supplied by our wonderful village shop in Stoke from their present table. As for decorations, about a week before 25th, I get my small artificial tree, already completely decorated with lights and ornaments, out of the cupboard and carefully removing the old duvet cover, place it on the waiting table in my sitting room. I just plug it in and voila! All my work is done.

I string the cards I received last year and any new ones I have been sent or given (it gives a wonderfully false impression of my enormous popularity) above the mantlepiece and my home looks very festive at minimal effort on my part. I never bother about the Christmas food shop until the morning of Christmas eve itself when I journey to dear old Tesco's at Langport (wonderfully deserted just like a supermarket Marie Celest) and pick up any bargains to be had.

All this energy conservation is necessary for an ageing cleric, because December in our four country villages is wonderfully but enjoyably tiring. Apart from the extra religious activities, there are the outdoor carols, the group Christmas meals and other enjoyable events. I love singing the old familiar carols but after a while even they can pall a bit. I have even thought I might record the most popular ones and just press the 'play' button at the right moment and just mime the words. Now there's a thought!

And what is it all in aid of. Well, of course, for myself, I am celebrating the birth of the Saviour of the World in verse and music and giving thanks to God for the gift of his Son to show us all how to become the loving, caring and generous people that He really want us to be, instead of the flawed human beings we all are (just see the news any day if you don't believe me). However, there is so much more than that. All my life I have wanted to celebrate Christmas in the countryside, which is so beautiful and peaceful at this time of year and now, at last, I am doing just that. For, our village communities, especially in December, really know how to enjoy themselves with the true Christmas spirit of jollity, kindness, courtesy and generosity that you somehow never really get, to the same extent, in a town. So, however you choose to spend Christmas this year, The girls join with me in wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

‘It takes the whole world to know Christ’

By Bishop Michael Beasley



‘It takes the whole world to know Christ’

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 realizes 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!’

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.

DIOCESE OF Bath&Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Listed Places of Worship Scheme

This scheme which applies to any religion or denomination allows for the recovery of VAT paid on certain repair works on listed buildings.

A substantial proportion of listed buildings are or were places of worship, so they represent a huge part of the cultural assets of the country.

Because of the cultural significance the scheme is run by the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

VAT may be recoverable on works costing more than £1000 involving for example: drainage, general building work, repairs to organs, windows, and monuments. However, DCMS has final say on eligibility.

Many of the listed buildings are maintained for the whole community at the expense of often small congregations so the recovery of VAT is very important to the preservation of our cultural assets.

The scheme is only funded until March 2025 and no mention of it was made in the recent budget.

We would like as many people as possible to write to their MPs to seek assurance that this important scheme will be continued beyond next March.

The MPs for our benefice are:

Bridgwater: Ashley Fox, ashley.fox.mp@parliament.uk (East Lyng)

Taunton & Wellington: Gideon Amos organiser@tandwlibdems.org (North Curry, West Lyng, Stoke St Gregory and Burrowbridge)

NB: If you live on or along the A361 the boundary can be a little confusing. You can check your MP using your post code: members.parliament.uk/constituencies.

Further general information can be found here: listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk/

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Burrowbridge



A Little TLC

Each of the four churches of the benefice has its own special beauty. There's the spectacular north face of North Curry when a storm is on its way or the daffodil drenched tranquility of Stoke St Gregory in spring or the proximity of the flooded moor from the vestry window in Lyng.

Burrowbridge has the Mump: a geological novelty, and to my knowledge the only such feature to be almost in the churchyard of a parish church.



The view from the top of the Mump is a double joy. Not only is it a wonderful way to view almost all of the Athelney Benefice, it provides a vantage point for sunrise services we hold on Easter morning.

The churchyard of Burrowbridge requires a little attention however. We are running out of room. There is space available for graves but only if we do some tactical gardening. We need to move some earth, trim some trees… that sort of thing. If you are interested in helping out please get hold of Julie Pocock or the vicar (details inside the front page of this magazine). We can then think about a working party, some dates and a plan of action.

Thank you!



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



Village Hall Update

What have we been up to since the last magazine at Lyng Village Hall – well Curry and Bingo Night was very successful, as Russell's made from scratch chicken curry was a sellout.



As soon as the plates were cleared and washed, it was "eyes down" for some serious Bingo time. Geoff was our Bingo caller and he worked hard to make sure the numbers he called had the appropriate accompanying bingo lingo and was PC! It's good to know that the number 22 is still known as two little ducks and that the crowd still made the "quack quack" sound, however.

There is going to be a **Christmas Wreath** making workshop on the **6th December at 6.30pm** in the hall. This is being facilitated by Grace from the famous florists Bramble & Wild. The cost is £35. Basic materials will be supplied but bring along any extra decorations you fancy adding to personalise your wreath.

Lunchtime and Stuff…

We are looking forward to our extra special community lunch on Wednesday December 11th at 12pm. We will be serving a Festive Christmas Luncheon made up of seasonal 3 courses. This will cost £12.00 per person. There will be Christmas music, singing and games all to celebrate a special time of the year with goodwill and festivities. Christmas hats and or Jumpers are welcomed to be worn. Spaces for these events are limited so please contact Debbie on 07860135751.

To see the New Year of 2025 in, we will be hosting a New Year Eve Party at the Hall. It's Fancy Dress or dress fancy. We are asking people to bring their own drinks and a plate of nibbles to share. The committee have worked really hard since the opening of the hall and thought they deserve a night off to the bells at midnight. Please come along to shout "Happy New Year" at midnight and to link arms for the signing of Auld Lang Syne.



For the Pilates classes, please contact Emily on 07940276265 or emzpilates@gmail.com

North Curry

North Curry Coffee Shop

We are now serving our highly popular homemade soups, so come in for a warming bowl of delicious soup or a jacket potato or sandwich, followed perhaps by a slice of one of our famous home baked cakes. And our cheese scones are considered by cyclists to be the 'best in Somerset'! We also sell a variety of lovely local art, crafts, cards and jewellery and are well stocked for Christmas gifts.

From **Tuesday 3rd December**, our Winter opening hours will be Tuesday-Sunday 10 am to 4 pm, with last orders at 3.45 pm. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you would like to join our friendly team, please email us at coffeeshop@northcurry.com or call us on 01823 491414. It's a great way to meet people while helping the community and raising money for your chosen charity. We look forward to welcoming you.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from all the Coffee Shop volunteers.





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 3rd November:

1st Susan Harrison
2nd Stan Case
3rd Joan Dartnall

North Curry Cricket Club (NCCC) Update

NCCC had an excellent 2024 season. Both senior teams won their leagues and consequently we secured Somerset Cricket League's prestigious "Club of the Year" award. Our under 11's side won their league and we received an environmental award for the project to capture rainwater and reuse that on the square. Our committee would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us, our ground staff, coaches, players and those parents who contributed to the success of the year. We are looking forward to seeing everybody back when winter training starts. In recent years the club has increased from one team to two senior sides, a T20 Sunday side, representation in all age group cricket and has a thriving All Stars programme for the youngest children. We want to build on that success and have started to consider creating a third team or a friendly side. We strengthened our links with Somerset Cricket Foundation by hosting their County disabled side, a fixture we want to repeat next year, and we held a charity day which raised almost £1,400 for the Taunton Food Bank. We have several sponsors but are always looking for more to improve our ability to offer competitive cricket in a friendly environment.

We are really looking forward to the 2025 season, and wouldn't it be great to both repeat our success, and increase participation by women and girls?

If you would like to find out more, please contact us via https://north-curry.play-cricket.com.

North Curry Sport has a new kitchen!

Great news! We now have a new kitchen, free of charge, thanks to the Howdens Game Changer programme. Howdens install kitchens and their programme is there to provide "improved clubhouse facilities that are at the heart of the community". Jon Carter, North Curry Football Chair, successfully won the competition. Well done Jon! Steve Jackson, NCSL Secretary, managed the removal of the old kitchen and supervised the installation of the new one. Thank you Steve! And thank you, Howdens! We've also completed a new fence along the Stoke Road side of the cricket pitch. Busy times!

Cleaning up in North Curry Churchyard

Thank you to all who joined in with the Autumn clean up and clear up of the church in North Curry. The larger-than-often turn out made it possible to tackle many different tasks than usual. Inside and outside of the church was attended to with love and determinartion and we now have a building and grounds ready for Christmas and beyond!

If you weren't able to help this time around, fear not: there will be a further chance to dust and brush, dig and sweep and much more in the Spring.

To whet your appetite, here are a few photos of bulbs being planted and carpets being vacuumed (and coffee being drunk: even the labourers are due a break, surely?)

"You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup,
so that the outside also may become clean." (Matthew 23:26)



NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Wednesday 11th December 2024



Magic for Christmas

The NCS Christmas Social with food & drink
and entertainment by a professional magician

7.30 for 8pm in the Village Hall

Visitors most welcome

North Curry Village Choir

Christmas Concert

Bainton - 'And I saw a New Heaven'

Mozart Requiem (selected items)

Dowdeswell - 'Creation Carol'

Choir & Audience Carols

Vocal Solos

Thursday

5th December 7:30pm

North Curry Parish Church

Tickets £10 from Village Post Office and Choir Members
Includes a Drink & Mince Pie

www.northcurryvillagechoir.org

A Christmas Acrostic

LOVE CAME DOWN

By Zillah Sykes

Candlelight flickers, its soft light chasing away the shadows of night. The choir sings of a

Holy night, a happening of long ago,

Remembering the One who was born-

Immanuel, God with us, our Infant King.

Shepherds found Him in a stable sleeping on the straw. Joyfully they spread the news.

Travellers from Eastern lands, guided by a silver star brought gifts, treasures for the Tiny King.

Mary, His Mother marvelled, while faithful Joseph kept watch.

Above them Angels filled the midnight skies with music, singing songs of "Glory to God in the Highest" and "Peace to His people on earth."

So in this joyful Christmas season let us also gladly worship Him.



NORTH CURRY

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
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

North Curry School Remembrance

By The Worship Warriors

On Thursday 7th November we, the Worship Warriors, led a Collective Worship all about Remembrance. We showed the wreaths that the School and Nursery will be presenting at the service in Queen Square North Curry on Sunday 10th November. We read out all the names of the people from North Curry who sadly lost their lives in the Second World War. We also read a special prayer and watch a video to further reflect.



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 Dec 7th**, we are showing the classic film starring Judy Garland, **Meet Me in St Louis**. So "have yourself a merry little Christmas"' and come along and maybe even sing along! Village hall doors open at 2:30pm and the film starts at 3pm. We have an intermission for cake (maybe a mince pie?) & tea (donation requested) and a chat. Entry is £5.

On **Friday Dec 13th**, we are showing **The Holdovers** about a cranky history teacher at a prep school who is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a grieving cook and a troubled student who has no place to go. A film full of festive heart. The Village hall doors & bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. Also open to guests (£5).



On **Saturday Jan 11th**, we are showing the very funny film **Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage Wars** with Pauline Collins as Thelma Caldicot, a widow, who is sent to a retirement home by her son. When Thelma sees the horrific treatment her neighbours are subjected to in the home, she leads a revolt. A great British comedy. 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 Jan 22th**, we are showing **One Life** starring Anthony Hopkins as Sir Nicholas Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. A truly moving portrayal of a modest hero. The Village hall doors & bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. Also open to guests (£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. All offers of help are very welcome. Contact Don on 490 859.

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Wednesday **15th** January 2025



John Clarke
Montacute House

7.30 for 8pm in the Village Hall

Visitors most welcome

Stoke St Gregory





Date for your 2025 Diary

Annual Shrove Tuesday Supper and Talk, Tuesday 4th March

7.15pm for 7.30pm – Church Sunday School

Watch the February magazine or the weekly bulletin for full details (Yes, we know it's not yet Christmas… but…).

Evacuation: to Stoke St Gregory

By Sue Hembrow

Let's go back to early September 1939. War between Great Britain and Germany is imminent. During the 1920s plans to evacuate children from cities and coastal towns to the safety of the country were formulated. Ironically this was code named Operation Pied Piper named after a German rat catcher who wasn't paid so he left the rats and took the children. Stoke St Gregory was informed that it should be prepared for an influx of 80 children.

The minister of the Baptist Church at the time, Mr Redman, got the task of going house to house identifying spare accommodation and the combination of children that households were prepared to take. Space was one thing but actual beds and bedding were quite another. Needless to say Mr Redman had quite a job on his hands.

During the morning on the day the children were due to arrive a group of capable women gathered at the old village hall to prepare a hearty tea—the children were going to be ravenous when they arrived.

As this was happening in Stoke the children were lining up in the playground of Barlby Road School located in Ladbroke Grove. this area of London as it still is today was a densely populated, built up area. They walked with their teachers to Paddington Station, about 2 miles away, where they boarded already crowded trains. They had no idea where they were going and neither did their parents. There was no time for goodbyes. They just had to get on with it and make sure that their label with their name was clearly visible.

Some hours later they arrived at Taunton Railway Station which was in absolute chaos. Hoards of confused children not knowing where they were instantly became even more bewildered. Their teachers announced, "this is us - everybody out!" It took quite a while to make sure every child was accounted for and to get through the maze of activity safely to the outside of the station building. Two dilapidated buses were parked up displaying signs which read "Stoke St Gregory." The process of getting 40 children on to each bus began. Some children had already had enough they were tired, hungry and wet it had been such along day for them.

The bus journey began and their teachers did what they could to calm the situation and offer reassurance to the increasingly fretful children. It wasn't too long, however, before they noticed everything around them was green and lush. Excitedly, they could see cows in the fields. This helped a little to distract the fractious and fretful.

My father and a group of his friends had been riding their bikes around the village to see what was going on. Everyone was on high alert awaiting the unknown. The boys were banned from the village hall so had to wait outside the Royal Oak until something happened. Eventually the two buses arrived in the Square. He watched with curiosity as they deposited their human cargo. A crocodile of tired fractious, children was ushered towards the old village hall.

He never forgot the day the children came. There were whimpers from the little ones, while some of the older boys were treating it as an adventure and appeared to be enjoying the experience. Among the children were two brothers John and Richard Rogers, aged 7 and 5. They were to become the brothers my father had always wanted. Once inside the hall the tea was demolished.

So to recap...

The school party have been on a train. Had a ride on a bus. Larked about… and scoffed a fab tea. Not all bad, but it was not long before younger children were starting to ask when their parents would be arriving. Reality and fear of the unknown was understandably starting to creep in.



Barlby Road Primary School today

As they'd parted in London, mothers who had several children had told them to make sure that they stayed together and "don't let anyone separate you!" People began to arrive at the hall to choose which children they could

offer a home to. It now made sense what "not being separated" meant. This was called 'selection'. Some would take boys as they could work, some wanted pretty blonde girls that appeared angelic. Teenage girls were considered trouble!

It soon became obvious that this process needed to be completed quickly: it was beginning to get dark and everyone had to be found a bed for the night. Some children found this part absolutely horrible. After selection, children were taken by strangers in cars, some by horse and cart, but most walked to their new homes. Many found themselves in loving families, and for some it worked well, others were extremely unhappy.

Richard and John were driven by Percy Coate to my Grandparents house in Meare Green. They waited in the summerhouse until my grandfather and father got home and found them looking lost and frightened. My Grandfather, reassuringly, scooped them up and said you'd better come on in, it's been a long day for you, this was the beginning of a lasting union between our two families. Their sister Eileen, followed from London as the bombing reached its height, two cousins Ann and Alan Chedzoy came too. My Grandparents at 47, suddenly had the responsibility of 6 children! Who would have thought Richard would marry cousin Ann and emigrate to Canada in the early 60s



Eva during her stay in the village

In just one day, the number of children in Stoke doubled. Suddenly, 160 children were running wild and another 40 children were to arrive in 1940. The village school wasn't big enough so, the London children had to be taught in the old village hall. The main hall was divided by a rope, blankets were draped over it to create two classrooms and the older children were on the stage. Initially there were no desks, chairs or learning materials available... they arrived in dribs and drabs. The hall did however offer luxury sanitary facilities that consisted of two bucket toilets.

The Headmaster of Stoke and the Headmaster of the London school didn't get on at all. They had completely differing views on just about everything. This created a source of great tension. Some children returned to their London homes really quickly but there was no school for them as their friends and teachers were in Somerset. The country was smelly and very dark. Parents couldn't cope with the separation. Some local families couldn't deal with London children. Sadly many of those that returned home quickly were killed when London was bombed.

Eva

A little girl called Eva was also amongst those who arrived on that fateful day. She was 6 yrs old and labelled as a sickly child who was unlikely to thrive. However, country life suited her. She grew strong and healthy and stayed for the duration of the war. On VE Day 8th May 1945 she was told that it was wonderful, at last she would be going home. She replied that she *was* home.

Eva didn't want to return to London. She found going home very difficult, she loved Stoke and had a broad Somerset accent. She adored Mr and Mrs Hector and their two sons Allan and Cyril who were in the RAF. She lived with them very happily with her brother and sister at Bullplace House. The nearby railway line was a wonderful playground. Eva spent many happy hours with the railwaymen and knew all the train drivers. One day she was told by them to be here tomorrow around this time and make sure you're wearing your best clothes.

This she did, when she got down on to the line the railwaymen were standing to attention, eventually a train appeared and the carriage window was lowered. There smiling and waving were the King and Queen. This memory stayed with her for the rest of her life.

Eva considered she received a good education and never forgot her time in this village. I got to know her about 20 yrs ago when she told me her story. She was so grateful for her time here that she presented the Andrews cups for achievement to the school which are still awarded each year.

Eva died in August this year she was 91. Not bad for a sickly child! Network Rail were amazing. They stopped trains and approved special permission for her Grandson to be escorted down on to the railway tracks at Bullplace Bridge to scatter her ashes near to the very spot where she and the King and Queen met.

Eva is home at last.

It was a fairly regular occurrence during my childhood to hear a knock on the door when we lived in Meare Green and on opening the door a person who had been evacuated here had popped back to say hello. We should be so proud of Stoke for stepping up and doing its bit when our beautiful country was in such great danger. All this happened 85 years ago it forms an important part of our village history but in the great scheme of things: it's really not that long ago at all.



After a busy Autumn with a successful charity lunch for ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World) raising just under £100 which will go to support women-led grassroots organisations to transform the lives of rural women we now look forward to the start of the Christmas festivities. We are having our Institute Christmas meal at The Royal Oak on Thursday 12th December.

We start the new year speaker programme with one of our own members, Karen Housego, enlightening us on "Medievals Between the Sheets." It is only £4:50 to attend as a visitor if you are intrigued by that title! Kathryn Astin will give the vote of thanks, Sandra Gleed and Lyn Willis are our tea hostesses for the evening, Veronica Andrews is running the trade stall and Vicki Fielding will be filling the rose bowl.

Our speakers are always varied, the welcome is always warm, the friendship provides laughs and support. Why not try it for yourself? A new year could provide a new interest? We meet at Stoke St Gregory Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month with the meeting starting at 7pm. Don't hesitate to get in touch.



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

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!

Talking Cafe

Stoke St Gregory (INC. CARERS GROUP)

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

When?

Every 2nd Thursday of the month

10am - 12 noon



somerset village & community agents
part of CCS





WHY POP IN?

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

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



Meet your local Village Agent and other support services.

www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafes

A service provided by: CCS

Funded by: Somerset Council; Somerset Integrated Care System

The Community Council for Somerset is a Company limited by Guarantee, Registered in England & Wales No. 3120113, and is a Registered Charity No. 1062500

HOTV Update

Warm December Greetings from our HOTV Management Committee! There have been a few changes recently, and we face some financial challenges over the next few months, but we are determined to keep up the momentum our amazing staff and volunteers have developed. If you are not involved already and would like to take part in this community project (just because you don't live in Stoke it doesn't mean you can't join us!) do call in and talk to Jo in the shop or Phil in the pub. You can find more on the web via stokestgregory.org (click on the "Pub & Shop" tab).

Our management committee was reappointed in September but since then there have been a few changes and the membership remains a little fluid, so watch this space for an update of who's who and who does what in the next issue!

We are especially pleased to announce that, following an environmental health inspection on 15th November, the pub & kitchen has been awarded a Five Star food hygiene rating by Somerset Council. The shop already holds this rating. Congratulations to all involved in achieving this award.

Pub Stuff

Mon 2nd: Christmas fair, 6.30pm till 8.30pm. Note: the Pizza Rocket will be at the Village Hall.

Wed 4th & Thu 12th: No evening food

Wed 18th: Quiz Night

Thu 19th: Open Mic night

Christmas Eve: Pub open from 4pm (no food)

Christmas Day: Pub open 11-2pm (no food)

Boxing Day: Mummers at noon & Curry Night (times tbc)

Dec 27th to 30th: normal service (closed Monday)

News Year Eve: Pub open for celebration with a buffet (donations welcome in support of HOTV!)

Shop Hours

23rd December 7.30am to 5.30pm
24th 7.30am to 4pm
25th CLOSED
26th 9am to 1pm
27th 8am to 5.30pm
28th 8am to 2.30pm
29th 9am to 12pm
30th 7.30am to 5.30pm
31st 7.30am to 5.30pm

1st January 8am to 1pm
2nd 7.30am to 5.30pm
3rd 7.30am to 5.30pm
4th 8am to 2.30pm
5th 9am to 12pm

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

hotv



Heart of the Village
Your Local...



Pub

Takeaway Menu Now Available!

Open from 5pm, with 2 for £10 on Children'S Menu Items

Open Sat lunchtime, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat evenings, and Sunday Lunch.

Look in and enjoy!

Village shop

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



Café

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

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



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

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!

Stoke St Gregory Community Shop



MARK WHITE
Furniture & Cabinet Maker

Furniture & cabinet making.
Custom-made kitchens
Design & installation

07890235660
markwhitefurniture@gmail.com

www.markwhitefurniturecabinetmaker.com

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

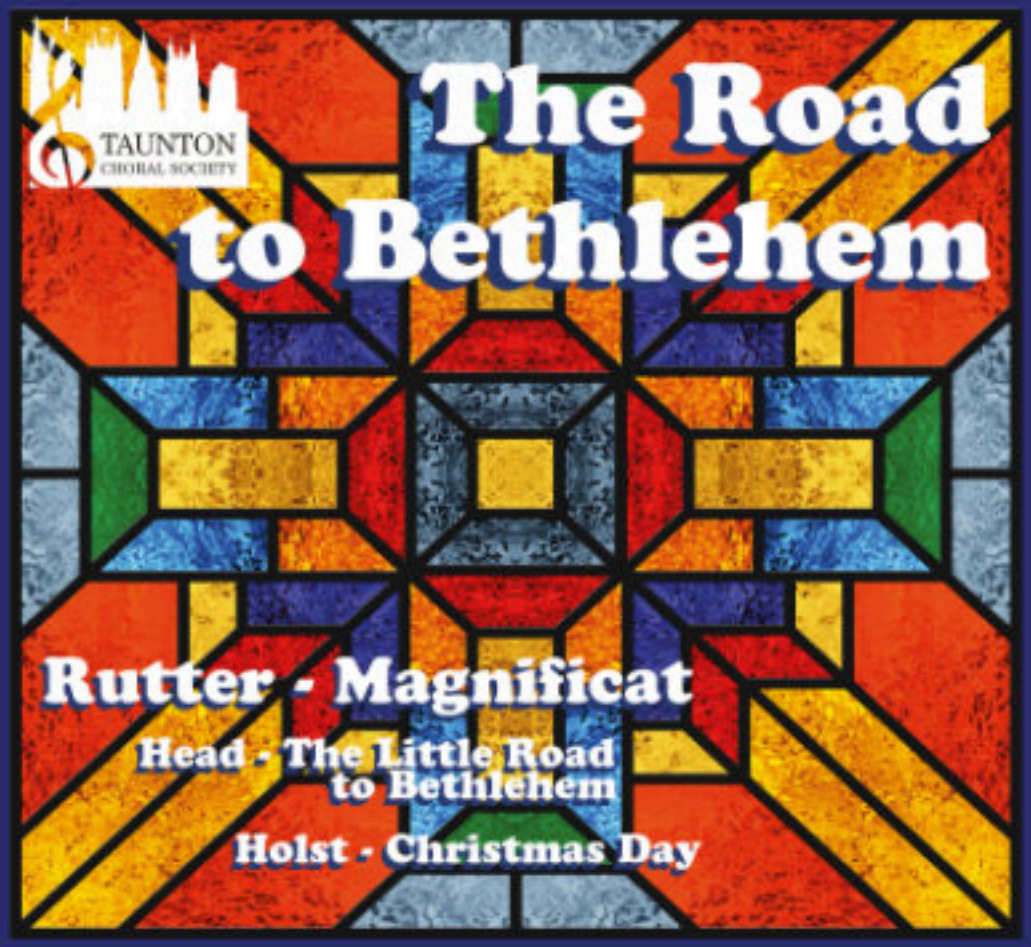
Middlezoy Village Hall Wed 11am

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

1-1 sessions for a more personalised plan/ rehabilitation/pre & post-natal

Tailored celebration wellness parties

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



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

For tickets, information and much more, search
Taunton Choral Society

Registered Charity Number 900173

Quinn
Building Maintenance

Slough Cottage, Slough Lane, Stoke St Gregory

For all Building Repairs, Maintenance,
Improvements & Plumbing
- with a Personal Service

Tel: North Curry 490849

JOHN ATTWOOD

Landscape Services Ltd

Est. 1980

Landscape Maintenance
Tree and Shrub Planting
Fencing

BURROWBRIDGE

Tel/Fax 01823 698198

Mobile 07740 406464

Mother Hubbard's Storage, Curload, Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton TA3 6LD.

Body-Balance Nutrition

BANT

- Food Intolerance testing
- Allergy testing
- Weight problems
- Scientific Laboratory testing
- Genetic testing
- Personalised Nutrition plans
- Sports Nutrition
- One to One Consultations

Registered Nutritional Therapist
Elizabeth Bray BSc DNN MBANT CNHC
Appointments Tel: 01823 480570
at Wrantage and Axminster

CNHC

BODY BALANCE

Reach your health and weight goals
www.body-balance.co.uk

ASHCULME LTD

07815146343
info@ashculme.co.uk

NPTC
QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

ALL TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN
- *Removals / Crown Reductions & Lifting / Deadwooding & More*

STUMP REMOVAL
GARDEN CLEARANCE WORK
LANDSCAPING
HEDGE REMOVAL & MAINTENANCE

Residential & Commercial work undertaken by our fully insured & qualified workforce

Emergency Call Outs 24/7 - Paul Durman - 07815146343

Store at Stoke

For work we have both small and large

Workshops and Offices to rent

For Storage we have both small and large units

For Personal Storage

we have nice new Storage Containers

Open Space Storage

Ample FREE Parking for both Tenants

and Their Visitors



Mother Hubbard's Storage
Curload · Stoke St Gregory · TA3 6JD
Tel 01823 698164 : www.hubbardstore.co.uk

CAMES MEAD B&B

4 Star Visit Britain 'Gold Award'

MEARE GREEN FARM

Trip Advisor Recommended



Relax in comfort in our new character farmhouse on the beautiful Somerset Levels dairy farm, garden with lovely views. Luxurious appointed Bathrooms and Bedrooms. Full Aga cooked breakfast of farm eggs, bacon and local produce. Excellent old pubs nearby.
Dogs and Horses welcome. Also camping.
Craft & cookery courses available. Open all year.

Twin, Double, Single rooms all ensuite

Rates: Single from £60, Double from £80, Family room from £85

Jane Pine Tel 07990511477 or 01823 490759 Email: jane.pine2@btinternet.com

Website: www.mearegreenfarm.com

KEV'S CLEANING SERVICES LTD

A family run business Est. since 1986, with a friendly team of reliable and trustworthy window cleaners

Window cleaning inside and out
We also empty, unblock and clean guttering, fascias, soffits, downpipes, conservatories and roofs. We can fix leaking guttering.
Regular and one-off cleans!

(01823) 272260 / 07885 451628

www.kevscleaningservices.co.uk

GUARANTEED a quality & professional service

Sedgemoor Mobile Foot Care

Cherylyn Lockyer
S.A.C. Dip FHPT & S.A.C. Dip FHPP

Evening & Weekend calls available

Can you reach your feet?
Do you need help cutting your toe nails?

Do you suffer **discomfort** from..

- Callus & Corns
- Athletes Foot
- Ingrowing Toe Nails
- Fungal Infection
- Dry Skin



Treatment in the comfort of your own home

For treatment of your foot related problems, including all of the above
contact **Cherrie** on **0779 439 0617**

BAWDEN CLEANING

- Est. 1982 -

Window Cleaning Inside and Out
Cleaning of Guttering, Fascias, Soffits, Downpipes
Conservatories and Roofs
Carpet Cleaning
Moss removal
Solar Panels

01823 690154 / 07590 636079
www.bawdencleaning.co.uk

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.
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).

The Blue Sheet

theblueshee@outlook.com



The best way to get
your message across is
by using the magazine
that supports you

Don't forget to mention
you saw it in the Blue Sheet
when contacting advertisers !!

Taunton Funeral Service

A helping hand at a time of need

Independently and Family Run - 24hr service
Private Chapels of Rest
Caring Personal Service

01823 321077
55 Bridge Street,
Taunton, TA1 1TP

01984 624149
Broad Meadow View, West Road,
Wiveliscombe, TA4 2TB

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

E: info@tauntonfuneralservice.com W: tauntonfuneralservice.com



UKIFDA APPROVED DISTRIBUTOR

OFTEC

westernfuel

"your local independent distributor"

Western Fuel are suppliers of Home Heating Oil and as your local Somerset, family run supplier, can offer you a fast and reliable service at competitive prices.

- Heating Oils
- Lubricants
- Boiler Servicing
- Fuel Cards
- Automatic Top-Ups
- Tank Replacements

High Quality Products | Trusted Local Supplier | Daily Competitive Prices | Multiple Delivery Times | Emergency Slots

T: 01823 337186 **W:** westernfuel.co.uk

Christingles and Cribs and Carols



Hello,

It is a hectic time of year, trying to find ways to be in so many places at the same time, perhaps. Finding time to shop for gifts, write cards, decide what to feed people and all the time wanting to enjoy this thing we call "Season's Greetings". In the churches of the Athelney Benefice we have a variety of ways in which you might wish to find the time and space to discover the peace and hope that is at the heart of the Christmas story.

The services listed on this card are open to all. It doesn't matter whether you have been to church since last Christmas. It doesn't matter if you have any understanding of the Christmas message beyond Father Christmas and the desire to be with your loved ones. Coming to church at Christmas is one certain way to discover that God loves us no matter what.

So, please do look carefully at the services, and if you wish to come along, just do. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

In this tricky world, and on behalf of everyone in the parish churches of this Benefice, may Peace be with you all this Christmas.

With blessings

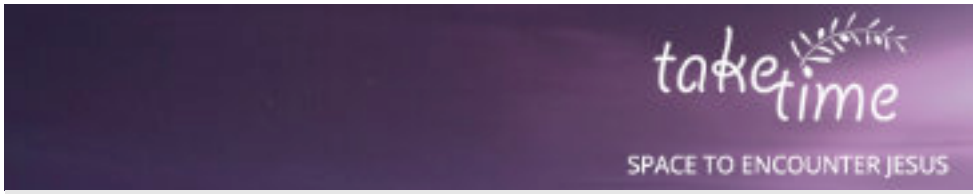


Carols in open air

During the week before Christmas, each parish will be hosting its very own Carol singing outside. These are a half hour of informal carol singing perhaps around the tree or in the square. Hopefully it will be dry evening, but please come dressed appropriately. It is highly likely that in Stoke St Gregory there will be a special visitor for children (young and old).

Carol Services

We are also holding the more traditional readings and carols, in a candlelit church. Come along and be a part of the build up to this special time of year.



Take Time at Christmas with our Advent Reflections

Feeling rushed and stretched? You are invited to step outside the Christmas hubbub at a peaceful "Taketime" break. This will be a quiet led relaxation based on the Christmas story. You are welcome to simply come and enjoy the quiet for half an hour or if you wish you can also stay for refreshments and informal chat about the reflection.

Thursday November 28th 4pm, Stoke St Gregory.
Tuesday December 3rd 6pm, Lyng
Tuesday December 10th 6pm, Burrowbridge
Tuesday December 17th 6pm, North Curry

Rotas: Christmas and beyond

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
8th Dec	H.Comrie, P. Burgess	J. Satchwell	P. Trim
15th Dec	S. Keele	H. Griffiths	J. Satchwell, S. Keele
24th Dec	L. Paul, T. Jeanes	M. Piers	J. Dare
25th Dec	S. Keele, J. Sergeant	D. Walker	M. Cridge
5th Jan	L. Farnham, Denise Walker	D. Farnham	D. Akerman
12th Jan	P. Burgess, L. Paul	H. Griffiths	H. Baker
19th Jan	T. Jeanes	J. Satchwell	T. Jeanes
26th Jan	L. Bryan-Brown, J. Sergeant	M. Piers	J. Satchwell

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

1st Dec	Barbara P
15th Dec	Annette & Barbara M
22nd Dec	Penny & Simon
24th Dec	Alex & Sally
29th Dec	UBS Lyng
5th Jan	Penny & Simon
19th Jan	Barbara P & John
26th Jan	Veronica & Will
2nd Feb	Annette & Barbara M

Cleaners

1st Dec	Linda & Brent
8th Dec	Amelia & Ade
15th Dec	Marilyn & Terri
22nd Dec	Penny & Simon
29th Dec	Dave Janet
12th Jan	Linda & Brent
19th Jan	Annette & Martin
26th Jan	Marilyn & Terri
2nd Feb	Amelia & Ade
9th Feb	Penny & Simon

Readers

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

1st Dec	Jordon
15th Dec	Simon
22nd Dec	Carol Service TBA
24th Dec	Jane White,1st Mass of Christmas
5th January	Jo
19th Jan	John
26th Jan	Will
2nd Feb	Annette

Flowers at Advent

The flowers will be removed from Church for Advent then our next event is the decorating of Church for Christmas.

Please note this is earlier by one week this year so that the School children can enjoy the decorations.

All arrangements need to be in Church by Saturday 14th December.

I will then attempt to keep all the arrangements going through out December and January removing them for Candlemass.

Jo Washington will starts the fortnight slots on Sunday 2nd February, which continue through out the year.

In 2025 there are 4 fortnightly slots that we do not have cover for with a shortage of arrangers.

If you feel you can help then please don 't hesitate to get in contact.

Amelia Holt 07985317252

meel@btinternet.com



Christmas Services across the Benefice

(All dates during December)

Carol Services

Lyng: Sunday 15th at 4.30pm

North Curry: Sunday 22nd at 4.00pm

Burrowbridge: Sunday 22nd at 4.30pm

Stoke St Gregory: Sunday 22nd at 6.30pm

North Curry Methodist Church: Sunday 22nd at 3pm

Carols "In the open air"

North Curry: Monday 16th at 6.00pm

Burrowbridge: Wednesday 18th at 6.00pm

Stoke St Gregory: Thursday 19th at 6.30pm

Lyng: Friday 20th at 6.30pm

Other Events

Stable Tableau: A nativity with a local slant, Baptist Church (with Parish Church), Stoke St Gregory: Thursday 5th at 5pm.

Advent Taize: at North Curry Methodist Chapel on Friday 6th at 7pm

Christmas Messy Church

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church: Sunday 8th at 10am

Crib Services

Stoke St Gregory: Christmas Eve at 3pm

North Curry: Christmas Eve at 5pm

Christingle

School Christingle: North Curry Church, Thursday 19th at 2pm

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church, Christmas Eve, 4.30pm

First Masses of Christmas

Burrowbridge: Christmas Eve at 6.00pm

Lyng: Christmas Eve at 7.30pm

Stoke St Gregory: Christmas Eve at 10.00pm

North Curry: Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Christmas Day

United Benefice Christmas Morning Worship at 10am in North Curry

5th January Epiphany

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist	Messy Church
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist (w/Baptism)
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

12th January The Baptism of Christ

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
9.45am	Stoke Baptist	Reflective communion service
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

19th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Joint service with St Gregory's
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service
4.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

26th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Covenant Eucharist with Methodists
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Family Worship Service
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist

2nd February Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist	Messy Church
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

Services across the Benefice

There is a lot going on around Christmas and during January across the benefice. Most of the Sunday services are shown in the tables on the final two pages. The "Christmas Specials" are gathered together in themed boxes on the penultimate page.

1st December Advent Sunday

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Family worship with communion
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

6th December (Friday)

7.00pm	NC Methodist	Advent Taizé

8th December Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist	Christmas Messy Church
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

11th December (Wednesday)

9am	Stoke Baptist	Stoke St Gregory School Christingle

12th December (Thursday)

5.00pm	Outside at Stoke Baptist chapel	Joint with benefice Nativity Stable Experience

15th December Third Sunday of Advent

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Family Worship Service
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service
4.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00am	Lyng	Eucharist

29th December (5th Sunday) First Sunday of Christmas

10.30am	Lyng	United Benefice Service
10.30am	Stoke Baptist	Family Worship Service
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service of Holy Communion