The Athelney Magazine



£1

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

April 2025

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

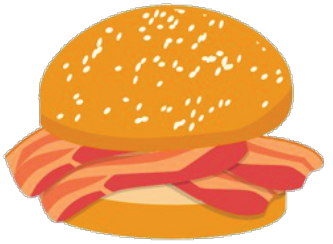
Lyng Big Bart Breakfasts are held monthly on the third Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

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 April** for the May Magazine; Please note: July and December are double months.

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: NB new price

Our printing costs have recently incresased owing to the general price increases of so many things. The annual subscrioption, therefore, will be increased accordingly. **Subscriptions this year (2025-2026) will be £10** and will run as usual from May to April. Please pay your deliverer the £10 requested.

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 £100, Half page £55. We no longer offer a quarter page. 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.



The Athelney Benefice

New horizons and old legs

Some may already have heard, but just in case you haven't, there are changes in the wind around the Athelney Benefice. In this very issue we have notice of price increases and lots of events that are in some way intended to raise funds for the churches, mostly to put back bits that have fallen off or just need some (expensive) TLC.

Last year I wrote about the ongoing need for money in order to just make "ends meet" and things haven't got much better since I wrote. Even so, we are building up various ways to engage with the problems. It might be a big breakfast or a shop window or a cream tea or an Easter egg hunt. All these events and others are for one important reason: to find ways to demonstrate the value of our church communities in our villages. Not just financially, but spiritually.

The Churches we know and love are beautiful in so many ways. They all appeal in their physical beauty and surroundings, but they also provide places where we can share in the Grace of a generous God who has given us the ability to love one another in fellowship and prayer. Sunday by Sunday we meet and sing praises in our worship, and through those gatherings we keep ourselves gathered together.

This is all essential to our faith and to our shared humanity… (You can hear a "but" coming, can't you…?) The thing is, in all of these funding endeavours we have to recognise that things can't go on exactly as they do now. Raising funds can be a joyful affair, but the amounts we will need to share as time goes on are gradually going to become greater and raising them less joyful, unless… unless we explore working more with others.

These are the changes I hinted at above. Conversations are beginning across the Deanery (one of the Church's subdivisions) with regard to joining with possibly two more parishes, to share the costs of a full time vicar (i.e. yours truly) and to generally make it less challenging even to raise the basics for a stable income stream. It all sounds a bit heavy duty, a bit bewildering and not a little daunting.

In essence, the Diocese are asking the churches of The Athelney Benefice to shift from being four to being six. The idea was formally announced last month and since then I have spoken with many of us to enlarge upon what this might mean. "After all," many of you have said to

me, "how can you possibly do any more than you already do?!" I hear you and I understand your concerns. Whatever happens, things will be different, but how different and how soon is very much not at all finalised, yet. Even so, I already sense opportunities in the gentle breeze of this early Spring day.

These gentle breezes are moments where I have sensed and experienced people stepping up to be involved in the spiritual and faithful life of the Benefice. People—you all—are showing the green shoots of getting involved in new ways. They are gentle and fragile shoots, for sure, but we already have in our worshipful lives people who are organising prayer meetings and reflective times (thank you Judith and Hugh and the Holy Week Compline group), leading in UBS (Zillah and Jenny), and even leading whole services (Alison and Angela) when Revd Martin and I cannot split ourselves into four. Mothering Sunday was one example, but others will follow.

These emerging moments of involvement must and will grow, and not simply as a means to an end to ensure there is worship happening. As we do indeed look seriously at how we need to become six parishes rather than remain as four, forever chasing our financial tails, we can use the need to change who leads worship to see ways in which we can become outward looking and outward reaching Christian communities.

We haven't yet even reached Easter, but I am looking forward to Pentecost (forgive me), and the story of how that day, when the Holy Spirit came, Peter, a man who regularly got it all wrong, stood before his compatriots and told the story of what it is to be a Christian. In Acts 2:37-42 people heard him and joined in.

It may seem a rather uphill journey, and I do understand that some may be a little weary of all this talk of money and reorganising, and change, eh!? Who wants that as we all want to settle into a quiet life?

But, as we do indeed approach Easter, the message from the Athelney Vicarage is one of hope and enthusiasm. Enthusiasm literally means working with God within us. This Easter, I urge us all to continue our journeys together as we explore the hope of a new Pentecost.

> "So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:41-42)

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



These days I do all my travelling from the comfort of my armchair in my well-appointed sitting room. From the point of comfort and convenience it cannot be beaten. In the winter the radiator is only an arm's length away, as is my latest purchase, a small travel kettle with a small tin of Mile's teabags and a tin of biscuits also close at hand. No more laborious treks to the kitchen for me! Not even first-class travel on British Airways can beat that!

So, with all my comforts in place, I can travel not only this country and the world through my faithful TV. No longer for me having to wait in overheated airports for delayed or cancelled flights. Nor do I have to almost strip naked to pass through the security barriers. In fact, the last time I flew I had to surrender my walking stick so it could be x-rayed in case it concealed a sword inside. All very necessary in this troubled world but oh so exhausting.

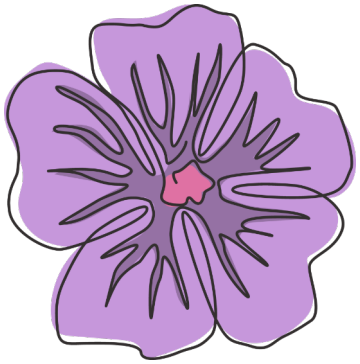
So, last night, I was of on my TV travels journeying through Portugal with Michael Portillo as my knowledgeable and entertaining guide. I find many of these places and their cultures really interesting. The only exception being Australia, which, quite frankly, is not me. Now, I know that many of you will disagree with me, having family and friends there. However, when I think of the hot dusty interior with its inhabitants wandering around with boomerangs and the busy towns and cities on the coast it does not impress. Now, it's neighbour, New Zealand, is quite a different matter. England in the Pacific is how I see it and I could not give it a finer compliment. With the southern alps and the green rolling meadows holding all that lovely lamb and scenic coastline it is like a wonderful combination of Austria and England rolled into one.

It is a country I have always wanted to visit. I never did so, to my regret, because it is just too far away, and you would have had to break your journey in ghastly Hong Kong or Dubai. Yuk!



Still, thanks to my TV I recent made a delightful railway journey from the bottom of the South Island to the top of the North Island, taking in all the sights and meeting the inhabitants of that beautifully scenic land. Next week, I am off to the Swiss alps on the glacier express with my Swiss cheese and biccies close at hand. Bon Voyage!

I ask you…

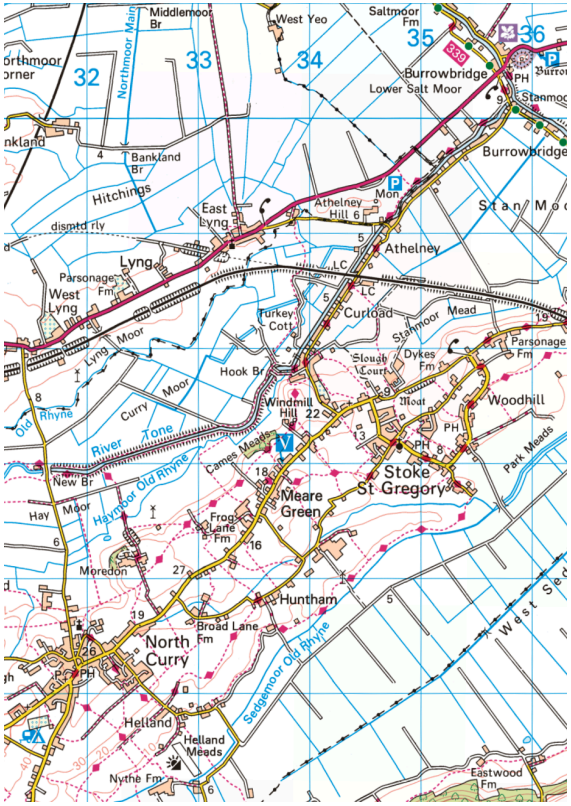


What are you planning for **Saturday 3rd May this year, from 9am in the morning**?

Nothing planned? Good. You might like to wander the paths and lanes between North Curry and Stoke St Gregory, via Lyng and Burrowbridge.

That's right… it's the annual **Athelwin Rogation walk**! As with last year, we are coordinating with events already happening in the area. Last year we ended the walk at the North Curry May Fair. This year the plan is to get to Stoke St Gregory to have a cup of tea and a cake at the Hillcrest Open Gardens (see page 29 for further details about that event).

Rogation is the season in the church year where traditionally we call upon God to bless crops, to encourage growth and to generally recognise the importance of our environment in who we are as disciples of Jesus. (*Rogare* is atin for "to ask", by the way.)



So, more detail to follow but the day will begin with a bacon butty breakfast in North Curry. We will walk across the moor to Lyng for a coffee break, down the river to Burrowbridge for lunch and finally end at the Hillcrest gardens. All with a spring in our step and thanksgiving for our wonderful world in our hearts. If you're interested in coming along, drop me a line (07970 936325 or vicar@athelneybenefice.com. No pressure but the food will be tasty and the company exquisite.

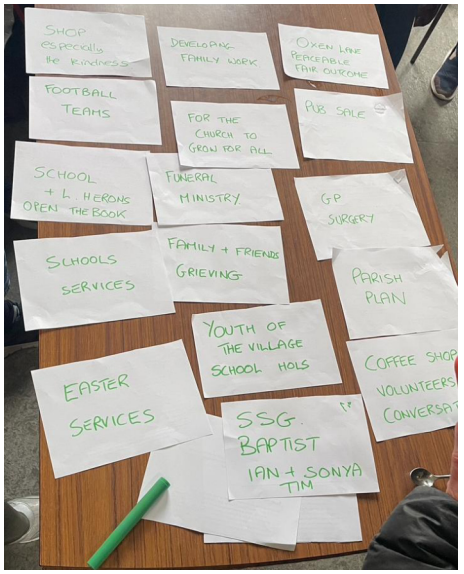
Prayer Fellowship



On the fourth Saturday of every month a growing fellowship of local people meet in North Curry Church to pray and share in faith our concerns, hopes, thankfulness and more for the people of our neighbourhood.

We have Judith and Hugh from North Curry to thank for this initiative that has been happening for many months, as far back as 2023.

Prayer is such an important part of (arguably THE most important part) of our faithful lives and Judith and Hugh continue to find wonderful ways for each of us to share together. There are around twenty of us when we all attend, but more than that, we are linked to all four churches from The Athelney Benefice, The Methodist Church in North Curry and also two local Baptist Churches. It is an ecumenical matter…



We meet, we natter, we discuss what matters and then we pray. As the photo shows, the topics range far and wide.

So, thank you, Judith and Hugh, for all you do for us and thank you to all who come along to pray. All are welcome. Our next gathering is Saturday 26th April at 9.30am. See you there?





‘God is good… all the time!’

By Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton



When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to ‘walk the way of the cross’, to notice God’s grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life. And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fulness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! ‘God is good… all the time!’



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Bath&Wells
Living the story. Telling the story.

Burrowbridge



Update on school proceeds

As you will recall from previous issues, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is holding around £13,600 from the proceeds of the sale of Burrowbridge School, way back in 2012. We wish to use this money for the benefit of the school children who live in Burrowbridge and so we organised a meeting last month, inviting all from the village or with an interest in supporting the children. Our intention was to explain a bit more about this money and to hear the points of view of anyone who attended.

The meeting drew together around twenty people who spend an hour or so in discussion and we quickly accepted that in the grand scheme of things £13,600 isn’t a huge amount but is very significant to the community for what it represents regarding our children. The church and community want to spend it wisely and this means using it to help get things underway in Burrowbridge that might lead to larger initiatives.



We heard from Project Play, an initiative well underway in Stoke St Gregory, and this gave us some excellent ideas, but one important group of people absent from the meeting were the children themselves. Our next step, therefore, must be to seek out the younger ones, to engage them in what happens next.

The meeting ended with a handful of people volunteering to work together on how we can do this and also to begin focusing on some practical next steps.

Thank you to everyone who attended, to the Parish Council for arranging for us to use the Coronation Hall and to those who have volunteered.

We need to get this moving. We know that this is not a quick and easy piece of work, but we do hope that we can do whatever is possible to kick start a project that will benefit our children.

If you wish to be involved, please get in touch with the Revd Simon (vicar@athelneybenefice.com).





Lyng

What's Happening?...

Seems to be mostly food, drink and fellowship!



Don't forget the Big Breakfast!

Third Saturdays, 10.30am, Village Hall: proceeds to the church funds. Full English and all kinds of variations…



The Community Lunch

held at Lyng Village Hall will be changing its dates. In order to let our stomach's digest after the successes of the Bart's Big Breakfasts we are spacing out events. Lunch will now be served on the First Wednesday of every month thereafter. As usual food service starts at 1.00 pm. The price of the 2 course meal is £7.00.

What's in a name? The monthly Friday evening "pop-up bar" will now be called "Friday Night Club". It will continue to happen on the last Friday of every month. The evenings will be themed, some months will include a Quiz, Bingo or Cultural celebrations with a specific menu to match the events.. More details to follow. Doors open at 7.00 pm





VE Day is being celebrated on Sunday 4th May. We are holding an afternoon Picnic in our Hall garden from 2pm to 6pm. There will be live music and a raffle. Please bring your own Picnic basket full of goodies. The Hall staff will be running a Bar service together with Teas & Coffees.

Lyng Church Clock Fundraising Update

You will know about the church clock…

The Good news: Work has begun on its repair. The contractors arrived, removed the clock from the tower and then…

The Bad News: on removal they discovered the damage is far worse than realised. The whole clock, not just the internal mechanism, is very badly aged and in need of repair.



So: We will continue fund raising. Currently we don't have a quote for the full repair, but when we do we will share it here. In the meantime, please continue



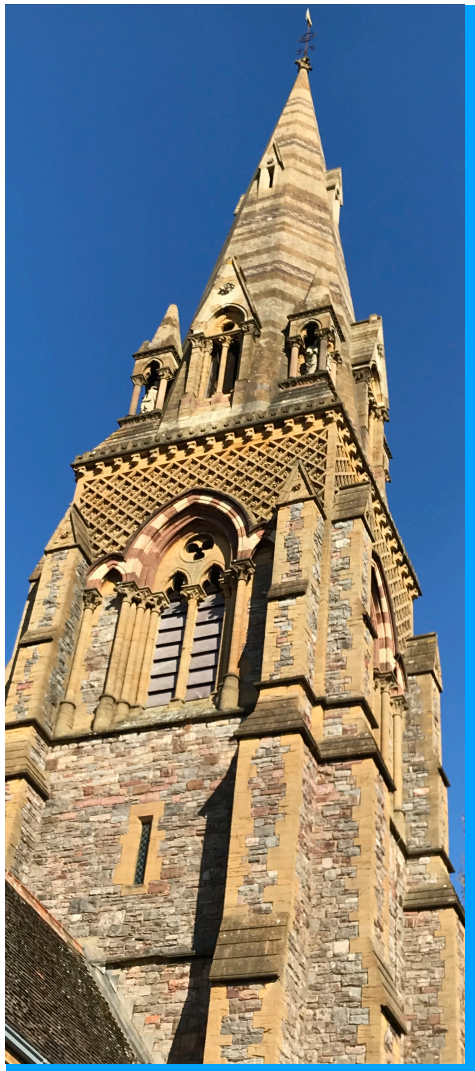




Jumble and Tumble

If you can bear it (groan), bring your Teddy to church on **Saturday 3rd May** and be prepared to throw him/her from the church roof–with a parachute, promise! With sponsorship, of course…

Also that day, in church, we'll be holding a good old-fashioned jumble sale.



Music at Lunchtime

SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE

SASHA HERRIMAN
Soprano
Helena Gascoyne
Accompanist

www.thebluebirds.org.uk

Friday 9th May

12.45pm - 1.30pm
Doors open at 12.00pm

St John's Church
Park Street,
Taunton
TA1 4DG

www.stjohnstaunton.org.uk

Retiring Collection
In aid of
St Peter and St Paul, Church, North Curry and St John's Church



North Curry



North Curry Coffee Shop

On Tuesday 1st April, we will be introducing our Summer Menu, with a different 'Special' every week, ranging from our delicious homemade quiches, lattice pork pie and smoked mackerel, served with a healthy crisp salad. We will also be bringing back our lovely homemade scones for our excellent cream teas, and you can still get a slice of one of our famous home baked cakes or a cheese scone considered by cyclists to be the 'best in Somerset'!

Don't forget we sell a variety of lovely local art, crafts, cards and jewellery too.

Please note that while our opening hours are from 10 am to 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday, with last orders at 4.15 pm, on Sundays, we have decided to close earlier at 4pm (last orders 3.45pm).

As always, we are looking for new volunteers so if you would like to join our friendly team, please email us at coffeeshop@north-curry.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're very proud to have raised over £250,000 for charities and local good causes since opening in 2006.

We look forward to welcoming you.

200 CLUB

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. 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.

Please note that the North Curry PCC recently decided that the annual "Christmas Bonus Prize" would no longer be offered. The bonus of Christmas 2024 was the one to be awarded.

Winners
Sun 2nd March

1st Joan Ryan
2nd David Birch
3rd Anne Kemp

NORTH CURRY

SATURDAY MAY 10

CHURCH ROAD & QUEEN SQUARE

FREE ENTRY

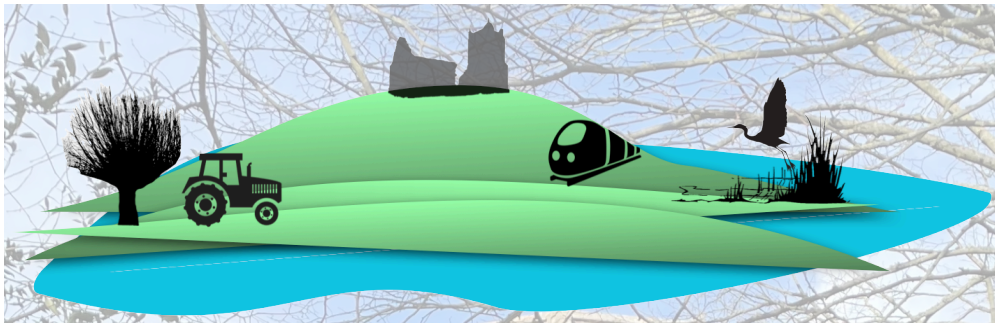
MAY FAIR

FOOD, PLANT, ART & CRAFT STALLS | MUSIC | CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT | CREAM TEA GARDEN | GRAND RAFFLE

OPEN FROM 2.00 – 5.00 PM

PARKING: MANOR FIELD, THE FOSSE – £2

SUPPORTING LOCAL GROUPS & CHARITIES



An opportunity to visit the parish church

Have you lived in the village but never been in the church?
Have you ever wondered what it's like?
Have you been before but not for some time?

Then 12th April from 3.30pm is for YOU!

Come along and be welcomed.
Wander around, perhaps with someone to explain the church to you or simply wander on your own.
Be still in the glory of the building.
Meet people who are regulars or others who are there for the first time.
There will be tea and cake. There will be a chance to chat.
It is your church.

Find out more about your village church!

athelneybenefice.com/northcurry



Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: This years APM will be held on Wednesday 7th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We are still finalising the agenda so if you have any suggestions, please let us know by contacting the Clerk. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be presenting updates and will have information stands for you to look at and see the latest progress. There will also be wine and snacks as well as tea and coffee!

FUNFEST 2025: We have been asked if North Curry would like to be part of the 2025 Funfest (last year's Tug of War event); this year it is less focused on tug of war, and more about a fun family day involving surrounding Parishes. The confirmed date is Saturday 12th July 2025, with family fun from 12pm to 5pm including a dog show, maypole dancing, tug of war, skittles, stocks and sponges, various stalls, and lots more. Then in the evening until 10:30pm, two bands will be performing- Birddog, and the Transporters. It's set to be a great day for all and free to attend! If you would like to be involved in the event planning committee or would like to form a tug of war team for North Curry, please let us know! Last year's event was a great day out, and it was lovely to see neighbouring Parishes get together.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS: Just a reminder that there are two electric vehicle chargers behind the Village Hall in the car park. These are listed on the charger apps and are probably the cheapest ones you'll find around! If you have a car to charge, or any of your visitors do, please direct them to the Village Hall to make use of them.

MARCH LITTER PICK: A big thank you to those who attended the litter pick event- your efforts to help keep our Parish beautiful and free of litter are greatly appreciated. These events happen twice a year, so keep an eye out for the next one and come along!

OXEN LANE UPDATES: There is now a section on the website for the latest monthly Oxen Lane updates under the 'News' heading. These updates will also be shared on Facebook and Nextdoor.

The Parish Council Office

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm and Thursdays 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Phone: 01823 490136 or email: parishcouncil@northcurry.com.
Please check the notice board, website or Facebook for the Council's diary. Council Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month with any extra planning meetings as needed on the last Wednesday of the month (both in the Meeting Room, Village Hall at 7:30pm).

North Curry Village Choir

Spring Rehearsals 2025

Resume on

Thursday 9th January, 8.00 pm

North Curry Village Hall

Our main work will be

Mozart Requiem

Our next concert is

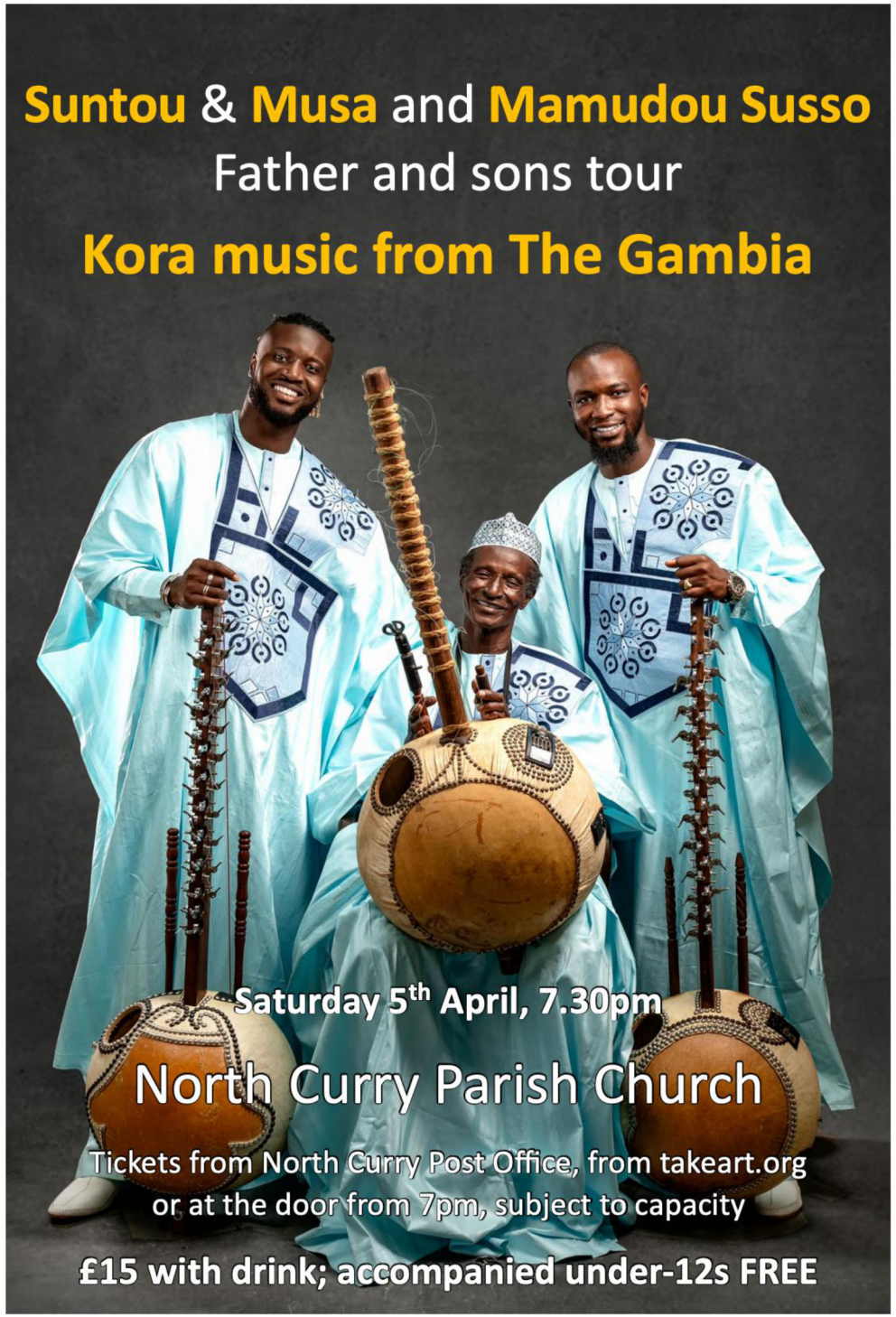
Saturday 10th May 2025

New Members Welcome

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

Tel: **Barbara Lancey on 01458 252657**

Website: **www.northcurryvillagechoir.org**



NORTH CURRY
C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

World Book Day at North Curry School

By The Worship Warriors

On Thursday 6th March, North Curry Primary School celebrated World Book Day. We all dressed up as something from a book. We also bought in our World Book Day book to read. In the afternoon we all went to different classes to do activities linked to our chosen book. The children also enjoyed a sponsored read. So far we have raised £450 for school funds. We also raised around £55 for the World Book Day charity



The day culminated with a Bedtime Bookshare at 5.00pm in the school hall where the children and their parents all snuggled up in their pyjamas to listen to stories read by some of the teachers and a parent. Everyone also enjoyed a hot chocolate and a cookie.





North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

Hestercombe: Life As A Head Gardener

Friday 2nd May 7.45pm for 8pm at North Curry Village Hall

By Claire Greenslade

In addition to her work at Hestercombe, Claire carried out a 3-year apprenticeship at Barrington Court and spent a year at Garden Organic in Coventry, a charity that for more than half a century has brought together thousands of people who share a common belief – that organic growing is essential for a healthy and sustainable world.

Why not join us?

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.

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

Church Cleaning Day–29th March

Thank you to everyone who helped! The Church and Churchyard look wonderful, all ready for Easter!





NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On **April 23rd** we are showing a film with a strange title: **Typist, Artist, Pirate, King**. It is about the neglected artist, Audrey Amiss, on an imagined road trip to exhibit her work. Amiss trained at the Royal Academy in the 1950s and had a breakdown and was in and out of institutions for much of her life. She continued to create unsold and unseen works of art and lived a quite chaotic life. The film is a warm and generous portrait of her. It isn't as somber as the above description might sound.

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.north-curryfilmclub.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.

Thank you

CONGO INITIATIVE

to everyone who helped raise almost £1,100 for the Congo Initiative (CI) last month. Special thanks to Jenny Satchwell who arranged and co-ordinated the Quiz Night. And, of course, to David McAllister, CEO of Congo Initiative UK who gave an encouraging presentation about the whole venture. David also preached the following day at Stoke St Gregory, an equally encouraging and challenging message. We are well underway in working with CI as a benefice charity, and half way to finding the funds to put one person through the Bilingual Christian University of Congo.

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Memories of Thirty-five years with the Royal Household

Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm (for 8pm)

Lady Mary Stewart-Wilson

Another opportunity to hear the splendid talk given by a local resident.

Visitors welcome on payment of the £5 guest fee, or you can join as a member for £15, which gets you into our programme of talks for the rest of the Society's year to July.



The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday each month for talks of local interest. A full programme of talks has been arranged for the year ahead, which you will see on the Membership Card that will be available that evening. If you are not yet a member, you'll still be welcome (on payment of the guest fee of £5, or taking out annual membership for £15). Doors open at 7.30pm for a hot drink and warm conversation. Our Chairman Colin Trim (490337) would be pleased to learn about topics and speakers of interest to you.

Pay It Forward for Somerset—a campaign that changes lives

CCS
people · place · enterprise

The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a Somerset charity working to make sure that no one in our county must face hardship alone. They have launched a #PayItForward-Somerset campaign, aiming to raise £25,000 to support vital services that help Somerset residents when they need it most.

Every day, CCS helps people like Amy, whose limited mobility left her without fresh food and the ability to cook for herself. Thanks to the support of a CCS Village Agent, Amy now has access to a food pantry and a home kitchen setup that allows her to prepare her own meals again. And then there's Ed, who was overwhelmed by memory loss and mounting debts. With support from CCS, Ed received help with finances, daily care, and now feels safe at home.

CCS has a team of Village Agents who work throughout the county helping people to avoid isolation, keep warm, put food on the table, find housing, care for a loved one and connect with their community. Last year they supported over 10,000 Somerset residents with all kinds of issues, large and small.

Every pound raised by the Pay It Forward campaign will go towards services like Village Agents and CCS's wider community work, addressing economic challenges, health needs and social isolation.

There are lots of ways to Pay It Forward in Somerset, from making a donation, fundraising eg. holding a coffee morning, or Knitting for your Neighbour. Please visit ccslovesomerset.org/pay-it-forward-for-somerset to find out more and help if you can.

PAY IT FORWARD for Somerset

You can meet your local Village Agent at a Talking Cafésomersetagents.org/talking-cafes/, or request support here: somersetagents.org/

North Curry Village Choir

Spring Concert

Mozart Requiem

also Mendelssohn *Hear my Prayer,*

Soloists and other items

Saturday 10th May

North Curry Village Church, 7:30 PM

Tickets £10 from North Curry Post Office

or Choir Members

website: www.northcurryvillagechoir.org

Talking Cafe

North Curry:

3rd Friday, Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm

When?

Stoke St Gregory:

2nd Thursday, Village Coffee Shop, 10am to 12pm



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

Funded by: Somerset Council, NHS Somerset

Provided by: CCS people · place · enterprise

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Magazine Pricing

You may have noticed that we have raised the price of the magazine.

The new price (£1) will come into effect for subscribers from May. Starting from May this year (the next issue), the annual subscription cost will be £10 to receive ten issues delivered to your door. (there are no issues in August or January.)

We hope you will understand the reason for this increase. The cost of printing has recently increased. Like so many things, it seems, costs are rising and we cannot absorb the increase for the monthly magazine without raising the price for you.



Much of the publication costs are covered by our advertisers, and the rates for advertising are also rising (details on page 5).

Copies of the magazine will continue to be available in the village shops and also at the kissing gate at North Curry Church. If you would like to receive your copy delivered to your door, please email magazine@athelneybenefice.com

Annual Meetings

The annual parochial church meetings (APCM) are all now in the pipeline. These are our churches' AGMs. If you have any interest in the life of your local church then consider attending the APCM. It's where we elect the PCCs and wardens and reflect upon our Christian journey in the face of this rather crazy world. So, also, if you are interested in taking on any formal role in your church (e.g. PCC member or warden etc.), let the vicar know!

Dates for APCMs

Burrowbridge: 15th May at 7pm

Lyng: 8th May at 7pm

North Curry: 25th May at 12pm

Stoke St Gregory: 21st May at 7pm



Stoke St Gregory



Open Gardens

Hillcrest (top of Curload) Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May, from 1pm to 5pm

Charlotte and Charles Sundquist are again opening their beautiful gardens for us all to admire and to raise funds for a number of UK charities concerned with nursing and health. Last year the very many gardens around the UK who opened for the scheme raised a staggering sum of money in excess of £3million.



Each year for some time now, the Sundquists have invited St Gregory's Church to supply teas and a plant stall for the visitors in order to raise vital funds for our own running and repair costs in the Parish Church. These are always popular with the visitors but we do rely on a having a number of volunteers to help out the "regulars". If you feel able to give some time on one of the two days to man the tea tent or could supply a cake or some plants then please do get in touch with Jane (janepwhite@hotmail.com or on 490508 or 07799 201145)



Come and see what new projects they have undertaken over the winter months and enjoy delicious homemade cakes.

The Great St Gregory's Easter Egg Hunt!

Everyone at St Gregory's Church invites you to join them for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 19th April at 2:30 pm

All children aged 0-11 are welcome

You must:

Be accompanied by an adult
Enjoy finding things
Like having a fun
Have an egg joke or pun ready to give everyone a giggle
And, MOST importantly like chocolate and cake!

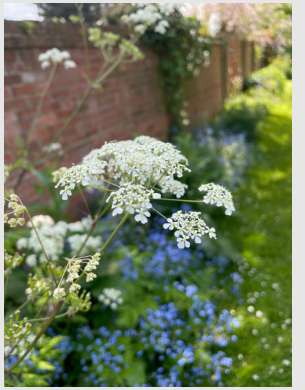
Refreshments for everyone will be served in the Church Room once the eggs have been found.

We very much look forward to seeing you all.

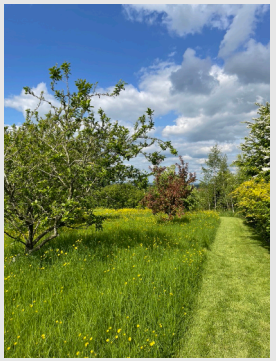
For more information please contact either Revd Simon (07970 936325) or Sue Hembrow (07810 352266, suehembrow@hotmail.co.uk).

Plant Sale

From Annette Gage



The Plant Sale this year will take place on May3rd and 4th at Highfield by kind permission of the Sundquists when their garden is open.



The plant stall is run by and in aid of the church so we will be very grateful for any spare plants you can produce. Any flowers, veg, shrubs etc will be gratefully received as this is our main fund raising event. Any plants can be brought here to Old Angel before the event. Thank you in anticipation! (Call me on 490297)

From Radio Shows to Funerals

Our 8th April members meeting will be upbeat and positive even though the title of the talk does not imply that! The popular and lovely Emma Britton will be divulging how her life has changed v"From Radio Shows to Funerals."

This is a planned Open Meeting so anyone interested can come along to Stoke St Gregory Village Hall at 7pm for £4:50 to hear Emma.

Veronica Andrews is giving the vote of thanks, Karen Housego & Sandra Gleed are the tea hostesses, Barbara Parsons is running the trade stall and Sue Hardy is filling the rose bowl.

It should be a fun filled evening with a special surprise recital from one of the members to mark her 80th birthday—well surely you can't miss that? You will receive a warm welcome, you only need to come along.

We meet at Stoke St Gregory Village Hall on the **second Tuesday of the month with the meeting starting at 7pm**. Contact Amelia Holt, 01823 490401 or 07985 317252 for further details.

Garden Musings

By Revd Martin Mudie



Every garden in which I have toiled has been on heavy clay, which is wonderful for many trees, shrubs and roses, but is the kiss of death for plants like alpines which require a well-drained soil. So, all of my alpines are in sinks or pots and seem to do well.

Now, although many of these small but wonderful plants can flower at different times during the year, most flower in the spring. The only drawback to these plucky little plants is their size and unless you happen to be a millionaire and can construct a suitably large rock garden, their beauty is often overlooked by being at ground level. This can be overcome by raising them on tables and shelves but another way is how my friends and neighbours, Charles and Charlotte, came up with a wonderful idea. Charles made a hollow table, filling the centre with suitably well drained soil and placed a couple of coasters next to the plants so they could enjoy their coffee and plants at the same time.



Alpine sinks can also be raised to a suitable height. These can be bought, at enormous expense, from garden centres but a cheaper alternative can be found at the Range or B and Q in the form of plastic washing up bowls. Simply drill holes in the bottom for drainage, place a good layer of horticultural grit at the bottom and then mix up a 50-50 mix of compost finishing up with another layer of grit on the top and there you have it—a much more affordable place to grow your alpines.

For something a bit different you can then create a miniature garden, all neatly laid out with gravel or tiled paths, small conifers or dwarf shrubs as trees and even a moss or thyme lawn in the centre. I had a friend who introduced his grandchildren to the delights of gardening by giving them each a large sink and let them plan and plant both as they wished. Possibly a project for the holidays.

Other DIY retailers are available…



Langport Mummers

Back by popular demand, the Langport Mummers will be performing at our Community Pub/Hub on Sunday 27th April at 11:45 am.

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Mid-week Holy Communion

There is now a weekly Holy Communion service held at 10am in North Curry Church. It is a said service (no hymns etc.) and takes place in the Lady Chapel in the church. All are welcome: please just come along if you feel the need.

Rotas

Stoke St Gregory

Readers

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

6th April	Steve
13th April	Alex
20th April	Jane
27th April	Sally
4th May	Barbara P

NB: No flowers during Lent but All festival arrangers decorate Church for Easter on Saturday 19th April. **NB. Please can you complete this task in the morning as there is an Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon at Church.**

Sidespersons

6th April	TBA (EP)
13th April	Barbara P & John
20th April	Alex & Sally
27th April	Barbara M & Will
4th May	Barbara P (EP)

Cleaners

6th April	Marilyn & Terri
13th April	Penny & Simon
20th April	Dave & Janet
27th April	Marilyn & Terri
4th May	Linda & Janet

Amelia will hopefully keep the Easter arrangements going throughout April and into May.

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
6th April	Denise Walker, J Sergeant	D Farnham	D Akerman
13th April	T Jeanes, L Paul	J Satchwell	A Peters
17th April	T Jeanes	D Walker	Z Sykes
20th April	L Farnham , Denise Walker	D Farnham	M Cridge
27th April	P Burgess, S Keele	H Griffiths	S Harrison
4th May	L B-Brown, T Jones	Z Sykes	D Akerman

Services across the Benefice (cont.)

19th April Easter Eve

8.00pm	Lyng	Benefice Easter Vigil & Fire

20th April Easter Day

6.00am	Burrow Mump	Sunrise worship
6.00am	Stoke Baptist Church	Sunrise Service outside the chapel
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.00am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Easter Celebration Service with Communion
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

27th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

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

4th May 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

As well as Sunday services and major festivals, Morning Prayer (the Daily Office) continues each day at 9am on weekdays at each of the parish churches in turn: Tuesdays at Stoke St Gregory, Wednesdays at Burrowbridge, Thursdays at Lyng, Fridays at North Curry, raising current prayer intentions.

Since 8th January, a mid-week benefice Eucharist has been held at North Curry parish church 10am on Wednesdays, generally followed by coffee. Starting 7th March, Stations of the Cross are being observed on Fridays in Lent, 5pm at North Curry, 6pm at Burrowbridge.

Every month, generally on the fourth Saturday at 9.30am, there is an ecumenical Prayer Fellowship gathering in North Curry Parish Church; all welcome.

Services across the Benefice

6th April Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist Church	Messy Church, starting with breakfast
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

13th April Palm Sunday

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
9.40am	Queen Square Gdn, NC	Liturgy of the Palms and procession
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Family Service
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Service

14th April Monday of Holy Week

6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Compline
6.30pm	Burrowbridge	Compline & Meditation

15th April Tuesday of Holy Week

6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Compline
6.30pm	Lyng	Compline & Meditation

16th April Wednesday of Holy Week

6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Compline
6.30pm	North Curry	Compline & Meditation

17th April Maundy Thursday

6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Holy Communion and stripping of altars
6.30pm	North Curry	Holy Communion, foot washing and stripping of altars

18th April Good Friday

9.00am	North Curry	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	joint Meditation with Baptist Church
2.00pm	Burrowbridge	Stations of the Cross
2.45pm	Lyng	Meditation
7.00pm	North Curry Methodist	Taizé Service

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