The Athelney Magazine



£1

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

July & August 2025

Who's Who

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

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Treasurer	Margaret Williamson	01823 690471, emwilliamson@btinternet.com
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Churchwarden	Mary Piers	01823 491434, marypiers@btinternet.com
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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

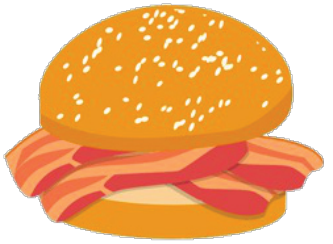
Lyng Big Bart Breakfasts are held monthly on the third Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

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 August** for the September 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.



There is no easy answer

I have a great job. I get to meet wonderful people, and share with them some of the most momentous experiences. Not always pleasant moments, but often profound ones. I am not present at births, but I can take baptisms that celebrate new life, I celebrate love as I help couples plan their weddings, and I walk with those who mourn the loss of loved one. In between, I am able to go into schools and engage with children and others and talk about the deep and meaningful matters such as "What colour is God?" (Not joking… any answers, anyone?). I just bump into people in coffee shops and pubs and natter about "life". I am blessed.

I am very pleased I am not an MP; especially recently with the debate concerning assisted dying. I listened to much of the debate, and was deeply impressed at the level of ethical engagement demonstrated by our elected officials. I know it is commonplace to decry politicians for their perceived shortcomings, but I would very much like to challenge such critics of MPs in the face of the debate last week. The wisdom was significant. Thankfully.

I have been mulling over the developments in the bill for weeks and I have found it a difficult matter. Perhaps you have too. I'm not sure where my mulling is taking me. But I shall try to share my thoughts with you here. As I do, please be aware: I am no expert. I am, for sure, as ethically naive as the next man or woman on these matters. I am no MP.

As well as my wonderful role as a vicar, I am also very fortunate with my health. I am relatively OK for a sixty-three year old (don't mention the pre-diabetes, shh…). I manage every year to climb a mountain or two. I am able to ride a bike around the benefice to some extent, although this is more as a leisure activity than between worship, I grant. If I did ride my bike to worship, I fear the first ten minutes would see me red-faced, trying to catch my breath. On the whole I feel in pretty good shape and able bodied, other than a nasty virus every so often. Poor health to me is thankfully very manageable. (Yes: I could lose many kilos without worry.)

I know many people around me who are less fortunate than me and I encounter many who are very unwell indeed. When I am with such people, who may be in great distress and who have only a few weeks or months to live, I am so often humbled at their resilience. I have yet to face my own mortality close up. I know it's there, of course, and only today as I took a funeral I found myself pondering on what day of the week I would

die. Morbid? Realistic? Discuss…

Also, discuss this: How would I feel if I was guaranteed that the next few months were going to be hideously painful, uncomfortable and grim, and that at the end I would be dead, no recovery from the virus, no healed broken leg? How would I feel then? If that was all I had to look forward to.

Frankly, I am very much not sure. I love life. I love being with others and I love being able to participate in things. But if I was effectively imprisoned for six months and then I died… I think I might consider shortening that six months. And then, again, I am not sure that I am that courageous, to say, "I've had enough. Please can I go now?" That seems an incredible decision to make. It seems to require an awful lot of effort and resilience in its own curious way. How can deciding to end your own life be one of resilience? And how will those around you respond?

These are the very basic and very simplified issues that are at the heart of the Assisted Dying Bill. I am not wishing to make light of the matter by simplifying it all, but I do find myself repeatedly trying to make sense of what seem like imponderable opposites.

My—current—opinions revolve like this: whilst I would not, probably, want to take such a decision for myself, I can accept that some might, and I need to support that. I also remind myself that God has given us life, and perhaps it is important that we hold that sacred, to the extent that taking it in any way is ultimately counter to God's desire. "You shall not kill", after all. But then, as I spin around again, I think, wouldn't God realise that this is what matters now: that I end it all? Isn't suffering a bad thing? And this is all before I've gone down the route that involves whether I might be the victim of coercion from family or "society".

So, I spin and I spin. And then I come to see: in fact, at the moment, I do not need to make any decision. All I need to do is to keep praying about it, that those with far wiser heads than mine will discern a way to legalise a way that guides us all. I am thankful for those wise heads.

If you possess a similarly wise head, I would love to hear from you. If you struggle as I do: likewise. Do get in touch.

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 by our very own Revd Martin Mudie

Every so often, I have to take the girls—my faithful canine companions—to the vets at Langport, where the lovely nurses clip their nails, which would otherwise grow too long.

This is a job best left to the professionals as there is very little space between the nail and the quick. While this was being done, I had one of my many flights of fancy, Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a beauty parlour for dogs staffed by and for canines who like to take care of themselves. In this wonderful establishment, over the front door would be a very imposing coat of arms, with two crossed chicken drumsticks under a crown, revealing that the establishment was by royal appointment to Their Royal Highnesses, The Princesses Annie and Emma. Of course, all canines are welcome, but this is obviously the place to be permed.

This regal establishment would come under the watchful eye of the proprietor, a very dignified corgi, who would bear a striking resemblance to the late Queen. Under her watchful gaze, the staff, who would all be borzois, would wash, cut, blow dry and manicure the nails of the cliental. I can just imagine the important decisions as to whether the colour for the nails and the fur this month should be lavender or a striking cerise.

And just think of the conversations. 'Where is Modom holidaying this year—Cornwall is wonderful with all the beaches—but then the South of France has an allure, just so long as the passports and rabies jab aere up to date.

Imagination would have a field day.

Of course, their human friends would be accommodated in a circular gallery, where light refreshments could be provided for them while they await the transformation of their canine friends. It will never happen, of course, but we can dream.



Listening to young people



By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Later this month I shall be joining young people from around our diocese on a visit to the Taizé community in France. Taizé offers the opportunity to take a step back from daily life, meet people from around the world, join in a week of prayer, worship and Bible teaching, and reflect on our life of faith. In churches we often speak about God. To visit Taizé is to have a big encounter with God.

This will be the third time I have helped lead a Bath and Wells group on this pilgrimage. Some of our young people will be making a return visit, others attending for the first time. I am looking forward to seeing all they gain from the experience and to simply spending time listening to them and all they have to say.

The opportunity to spend an extended time listening to young people is an utter privilege. While more young people are showing an interest in faith, the Church of England is undeniably still dominated by the older generations. Whenever I can, I value immensely the chance to listen to young people – of their hopes and dreams, their fears and perspectives, their insights and understanding. Such listening is essential if young people are to be fully part of the life of our Church. It's vital if we are to continue to see the shoots of growth that are happening across our diocese and the wider church.

DIOCESE OF Bath&Wells
Living and telling the story of Jesus

We're pursuing this challenge of listening to young people in lots of different ways. It doesn't just happen at Taizé! Our Young Leaders Hub is one arena. Elsewhere we are looking at how young people can play their full part within the life of our diocesan decision-making bodies and in the national church too. I urge you to do the same where you are.

'Nothing about us without us' is a challenge that's sometimes extended when discussing how young people can participate fully wherever they find themselves. What an aim and a prize this would be for us all to pursue.



Burrowbridge



St Michael's Church, Burrowbridge

Afternoon Teas on Saturday July 19th 2025

In the garden of Homelea Bungalow, Stanmoor Road (Julie & Roger's home)

3pm to 5pm

Admission £10
includes Afternoon Tea and a glass of Pimms
Cake Stall, Tombola, Raffle
All in aid of church funds

Everyone welcome!





Lyng

Summer Country Fete: Saturday July 12th, 2pm to 5pm, Village Hall

All welcome!



There will be local community organisations attending, including Village Agent. You can meet the bees from Long Sutton Apiary with their Local Honey for sale, visit the craft stalls, and with fun games for children. There's a Tombola, Raffle with great prizes and much more including Entertainment on the stage. We will be serving Cream teas or BBQ Grilled food. We'll have an outdoor bar, with Pimms & Prosecco. And much more: All great family fun! Please bring along plenty of money as there will be lots of things to try and buy.

Churchyard Tidy



The churchyard needs a bit of a tidy up: grass cutting and pruning and the like. Please come along at 10am on Tuesday July 15th if you can help: bring gloves, sheers and secateurs or whatever you can muster!

There will be refreshments, of course.

Lyng Parish Council

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

Dates of next Parish Council meetings:

- Monday 14th July 7.30pm
- Monday 8th September 7.30pm

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

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

Update on the Hall Garden



Our Community Garden Project has started with our fabulous volunteers working hard together in this hot weather to lay our accessible 'Hoggin' path.

We had an interesting find under the



years of grass cuttings that were dumped in one corner, 5 small chairs that were used by the children attending the Church Sunday School held in the hall. Surprisingly they have survived and we are restoring them to use all over again. Sadly no treasure from King Alfred's time.



Community Lunch

On the First Wednesday of every month. Food service starts at 1.00 pm. The price of the 2 course meal plus hot drink is £7.00. Great value.

Friday Night Club

Held on the last Friday of every month. Doors open at 7.00 pm. Pizza & Chips are available to buy.



Keep up to date with our Hall activities, on our What's App group. Send your name & number to Debbie on 07860135751



North Curry

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 4th May

1st John Miles-Taylor
2nd Liz MacFarlane
3rd Trudi Watkins

North Curry Coffee Shop

On Tuesday 1st April, we will introduced 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.



NORTH CURRY

Parish Council

Thank You to Tina Stodgell: After over 40 years as a Parish Councillor, including 13 years as Chairman, Tina has recently had to resign. We sincerely thank Tina for her exceptional commitment to the community over these years, she will be very much missed on the Parish Council. Thank you so much, Tina!

Leaflet Distribution Reminder: This is a polite reminder to those distributing leaflets throughout the Parish; please ensure it is very clear who the leaflet is coming from. While we appreciate your passion and community involvement, there was a lot of confusion with many people thinking some recent leaflets were from the Parish Council when they weren't, this is inappropriate, so we would appreciate this being rectified in any future leaflets.

Allotment Waiting List Open: Work is soon commencing to tidy up Greenway allotments (thank you to all who are involved in planning and carrying out this work!), meaning some plots will be strimmed, rotavated, and covered, ready for new owners to take on. If you would like an allotment, please contact the Clerk and include some information on your experience with allotments and/or gardening.

Boundary review: The draft boundary review report has been produced and is open for public consultation until 11th August 2025. We are pleased to see North Curry grouped with Stoke St Gregory, Burrowbridge, Lyng, and Creech St Michael. The name Creech & North Curry has been proposed for this division. Visit this website to submit your views: https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset

M5 J26 Closure: Just a reminder that the M5 junction 26 for Wellington is now closed until late September 2025. Diversions will be via Taunton junction 25 and Cullompton junction 27. This will undoubtedly cause traffic build up and delays, so please plan accordingly.

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. If you can't access these online, please visit the Parish Office during opening hours and the Clerk can print a copy for you.

The 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).

The Bluebirds Theatre Company

THE MAGIC FLUTE

BY MOZART



Join The Bluebirds Theatre Company and Somerset Opera in a brand new production of Mozart's opera The Magic Flute; watch a dynamic cast of opera singers and puppets in a flight of imagination. Meet monsters, villains, heroes and heroines in a saga of love and deceit set in a magical circus of Light and Dark. Let the magic begin!

"Absolutely loved it and it blew me away!"

"Amazing fun! Epic singing, great puppets, silly story, wonderful dragon"

North Curry Church

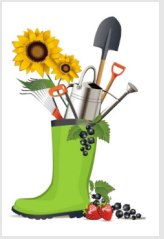
Sun 27 July at 6.30pm

Tickets: Adults £20 (Under 5's free)
www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bluebirds-theatre-company
or from North Curry Post Office

@thebluebirdstheatre
@The Bluebirds

www.thebluebirds.org.uk
thebluebirdstheatrecompany@gmail.com

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners



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



The cycle ride is complete, but it's not too late to donate!

Scan the code and give as you wish.

Thank you!



NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



Our next film on **Wednesday July 23rd** is the film musical **The Colour Purple**. It is a vibrant and emotionally rich reimagining of Alice Walker's beloved novel and the acclaimed 1985 film adaptation. Set in the early 20th century American South, the film follows the life of Celie, a young Black woman who overcomes harrowing abuse and adversity to find her voice and self-worth. This is a poignant and visually stunning tribute to a story that continues to resonate across generations. It's a must-watch for fans of the novel, the original 1985 film, and anyone seeking a cinematic experience that blends heartbreak with hope and triumph.

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.northcurry-filmclub.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.

Linarol Consort of Viols, 6pm, Tuesday 26th August in North Curry Parish Church

Renaissance music played by the Linarol Consort of Viols, with soprano Héloïse Bernard. Claire Horáček (née Harrison) returns with her quartet of five- or six-stringed bowed instruments based on an original made in Venice, to play an exquisite programme of music and songs from 16th and 17th century Italy.



NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Annual Meeting, Wednesday July 16th, 7.30pm

We hope that you have enjoyed the North Curry Society programme of talks and presentations put together by your committee in this current year, which ends in July. The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th July at 7.30pm in The Pavilion, Greenway. Complimentary drinks will be served after the meeting which will not be lengthy! We look forward to seeing members, past members and potential members there.

An infusion of fresh blood into the Committee is now imperative! At least two new members are required and at present there are no female members. The Committee meets on three occasions during the year, and the demands are far from onerous. We would appreciate help setting up the Hall before each meeting, some assistance with the provision of refreshments, and some involvement in administrative and publicity tasks. If you would like to know more please feel free to contact the Chairman, Colin Trim, in person at a monthly meeting, by telephone (01823 490337) or by email (colinhtrim@gmail.com).

After a break for summer The Society starts up again on 17th September, generally meeting on the third Wednesday each month in the Village Hall (but on the second Wednesday in December and February) to hear about aspects of local heritage.

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.



Spot the retired priest on a sunny Spring day

NORTH CURRY AND CURLAND METHODIST CHURCH

Circuit Superintendent: Revd Deborah Kirk
01823 334854, deborah.m.kirk@gmail.com

You may know that the congregation has been putting plans and funding in place for some essential work on our lovely little Grade II listed building. This entails some work on the floorboards in the oldest part of the building, through to the back, in preparation for fitting an upgraded kitchen.

We have also been in conversation with another of our Circuit churches about partnering together in mission. This will mean that we can share some of our church officers and governance whilst maintaining worship and work in our different locations (a bit like a benefice). Methodist Circuits have always worked in this way since John Wesley established a system of connecting societies together, and 'partnering' simply commits to an intentionally closer relationship.

We have been praying and discerning where God's Spirit is leading us at this time. We may be few in number, but we also know that God honours faithfulness and loves small things.

Our North Curry musician Tim Hill is planning an event for us in the Chapel Garden, date to be confirmed. Please look out for local posters and notices.

And an invitation:

On Sunday 17th August, at 3pm
there will be an Afternoon Praise Service
led by Arthur Salisbury, one of our Circuit Local Preachers -
refreshments to follow the service. All welcome!

North Curry Organ is restored!

Organ-builder Lance Foy likens organs to steam trains: once they have been restored, they need time to settle down and be fine-tuned (literally so, of course, when it comes to organs). So some tweaking remains to be done; otherwise, the restoration is now substantially complete.

The organ sounds better; it looks better; and it will be easier to play. Working the stops, in particular, will always require a bit of muscle, because the action is mechanical, not electrically-powered; but it is definitely smoother.

And – a further milestone – donations have now covered over half the cost of renovation. We are hugely grateful to everyone who has contributed. The total cost is £35,000 (+ VAT), which should see the organ in good stead for the next 40 years. If, dear reader, you can help us to cover the second half, we will greatly appreciate your support.



Come along and find out what has been done...

Organ builder Lance Foy will be giving a short talk about renovating the North Curry organ in North Curry church.

Thousands of components (pipes, cables and levers) have been taken out, cleaned, repaired and put back. Hear all about it.

Wednesday 2 July, 7.00pm

in the Parish Church

Glass of wine from 6.30pm (of course)

Free of charge (but we would welcome your contribution to the organ fund). No tickets: just turn up

North Curry organ: how you can help

I wish to make a donation to support the renewal of North Curry's church organ.

Title and name .....

Address and postcode .....

.....

Email address & phone .....

Please tick as appropriate

I wish to donate ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 or ☐ £_____

I wish to sponsor:

☐ A front pipe (£500) ☐ Another pipe (£200) ☐ A stop (£300)

Please make cheques out to 'PCC of North Curry' and write 'Organ Fund' on the back. For bank transfers: account name 'PCC of North Curry': sort code 30-98-45; account number 00514650; reference 'Organ Fund'.

☐ I would like to discuss other forms of donation. Please contact me

☐ I do not want my name made public

Gift Aid: boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate

If you are a taxpayer, do please tick and sign this declaration, and the government will add 25% to your donation – so for every £10 you give, we receive £12.50. Gift Aid is reclaimed from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation (as above) and any donations I make in the future
or have made in the past four years to PCC of North Curry

I am a UK taxpayer. My name and full address are given above. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature ..... Date .....

The North Curry Calendar 2026

Only 2 months to the deadline! The search is still on for images with impact and atmosphere to grace the walls of our homes throughout 2026. If you live in the parish then we want your photos of the village and village life taken throughout the calendar year. Please follow the rules and conditions set out below and submit your images for judging by the closing date of 31st August.

Rules and Conditions

Photos must be in landscape format (longer edge at the base!).

Photos must be high-resolution digital images (not less than 200 dpi) to enable quality printing at A4 size. (NB most mobile phone cameras provide this level of definition.)

Individual files must be accompanied by the name and address of the photographer, the location of the image, and preferably, but not essentially, a title and the month the image was shot. The photographer must declare possession of the copyright.

Please email your photos to magazine@athelneybenefice.com or to colinhtrim@gmail.com by the closing date (31st August 2025).

Please note that no fees will be paid to entrants and that the proceeds of the sale of the calendar are to the benefit of the parish church. Selection of the images will be based on photographic merit and suitability for the requirements of the calendar.

Quiz Night!

For the Music Festival, Saturday September 6th, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Jenny Satchwell is organising a quiz night to raise funds for the music festival, including the traditional supper.

Tickets are £12, including the buffet, but please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Teams are no bigger than six members.

To reserve your place, please call Jenny on 01823 490463

Talking Cafe

North Curry:
3rd Friday, Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm

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

The Community Council for Somerset is a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 3541219 and is a Registered Charity No. 1069260.

Stoke St Gregory



Unexpected Visitors

Around about Christmas last year two unexpected and unexplained visitors arrived on top of the frontal chest in St Gregory's Church.



They are a pair of beautifully carved wooden figurines, one appearing to depict Mary and the other a figure of African appearance, possibly a shepherd. They may be part of a larger Nativity group who have become separated from the other characters; but whoever they are and whatever their origin we have been totally unable to establish anything about them.

We have no wish to evict them – they are happily installed in one of the newly exposed niches in the Lady Chapel—but we would like the mystery cleared up!

Whose were they, where did they originate and what would the donor like us to do with them? We have asked around the congregation without any luck so if anybody in the wider Benefice can explain their arrival we would be most grateful.

Please let Revd Simon or Jane White know if you have an answer.

Songs of Praise, 11am Sunday July 27th in the Playing Field, Stoke St Gregory

As is our tradition, we will once again gather with Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church to sing praises and to share in Christian fellowship.

All are welcome to join this time of joyful celebration. If you have a special hymn that you'd like to suggest we include in the service, please do pop into church and write the details on the form by the door. Or simply turn up.

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Two busy summer months coming up for Stoke St Gregory WI with two events held at members homes.

The first is the July outing to Antiqua Ships at the Coates English =

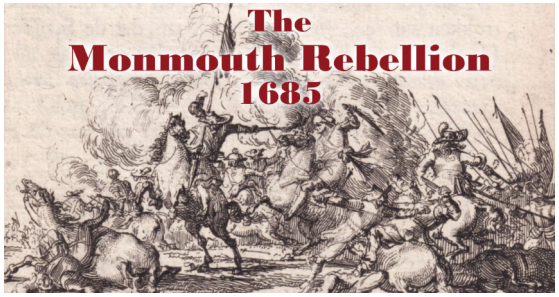
Willow Visitor Centre at 5pm followed with a supper party of pizza and prosecco at the Beavers Barn, the home of Vicki Fielding.

A fun social evening for members to get together.

The August meeting on Tuesday 12th is the annual Institute coffee morning at Harvest Cottage, Huntham Lane where Karen Housego will be holding not only the coffee morning but an exhibition of members art and handicrafts, plus the opportunity to tour her extensive garden. There will be a raffle and a bring and buy stall so please bring any excess produce you have to donate.



We have some extra activities during these two months: a friendly game of pétanque at the village hall on Tuesday 29th July, a trip to see Pride and Prejudice at Fyne Court on Thursday 7th August (let's hope for a dry evening for this outdoor performance.) There is a guided walking tour of Taunton with regards to the Monmouth Rebellion on Thursday 14th August. We have an Institute social evening at The Royal Oak on Thursday 21st August from 7pm and a local walk planned on Wednesday 27th August starting at the HOTV Hub at 2pm.



If this sounds fun and you wish to be involved please don't hesitate to contact the President for further details.

Amelia Holt
07985317252Amelia Holt
President 07985317252

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

More about roses

By Revd Martin Mudie

I do love roses. You have probably gathered. So much so that I've written some more…

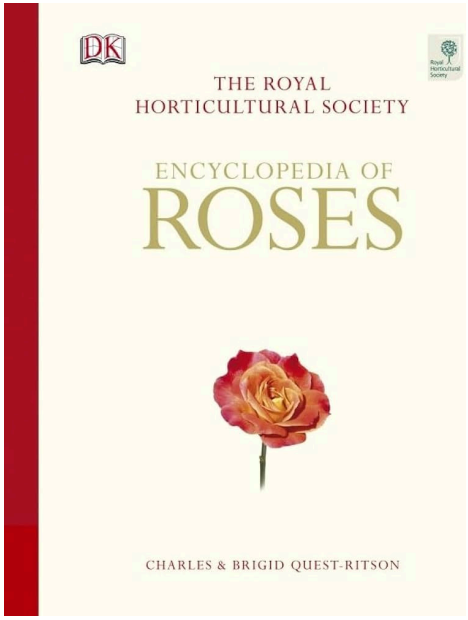
June is the month for roses. They are my favourite flower and given the length of time that many of them flower, they require very little care once established, needing only water during their first year.

Roses fall into three main categories. There are the old fashioned roses with wonderful names like Gallica (French to the uninitiated), the Rugosas, the Damasks, the Bourbons (also French) and indeed the French in the 19th century produced many lovely hybrids between the species including the Hybrid Perpetuals, which used another species, the Chinas, which had especially long flowering periods. Although very large and a bit unkempt, they have a wonderful burst of flower with amazing scent.

In the 20th century the modern bush roses emerged and then the English roses bred by David Austin, a cross between the species and bush roses , having the scent of the old and the longevity of the new.

If you just read one book about roses, it should be the Royal Horticultural Encyclopedia of The Rose, edited by Charles and Brigid Quest-Ritson, which has an amazing collection of pictures of many pictures.

Whereas English roses are easily found in many garden centres, you would need to visit the webpage of specialist growers like T White and Peter Beales for the old-fashioned roses. As to care, the two things which are essential are feeding–well rotted manure applied in the spring is all that's needed and dead heading the modern and repeat flowering roses which will encourage new flowers to come.



The species roses, like the rugosas, which flower only in the summer should not be dead headed , as they produce wonderful rose hips, from which rose hip syrup is produced. If you want to many roses local, there is no better place than Kelways at Langport.

Happy growing.

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Rotas

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

6th July	TBC (EP)
20th July	Barbara M
27th July	Songs of Praise
3rd August	Barbara P
17th August	Simon & Penny
24th August	Will
31st August	John
7th September	Alex (11am)

Readers

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

6th July	Steve
20th July	John
3rd August	Barbara P
17th August	Simon
24th August	Annette
31st August	Jordan
7th September	Barbara M (11am)

Cleaners

6th July	Marilyn & Terri	10th August	Marilyn & Terri
13th July	Linda & Brent	17th August	Linda & Brent
20th July	Penny & Simon	24th August	Annette & Susan
27th July	Penny & Simon	31st August	Annette & Susan
3rd August	Dave & Janet	7th September	Dave & Janet

Flowers

29th Jun/6th Jul	Edwina Hansford on behalf of a parishioner
13th/20th Jul	Kathryn Astin
27th Jul/3rd Aug	Margaret Poole
10th/17th Aug	Edwina Hansford on behalf of a parishioner
24th/31st Aug	Edwina Hansford
6th Sep	Wedding
7th/14th Sep	Edwina Hansford on behalf of Jane White

North Curry (NB: No rota set for August)

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
6th July	L Farnham P Burgess	D Walker	Z Sykes
13th	T Jones L Paul	H Griffiths	M Cridge
20th	L Farnham	M Piers	D Walker D Farnham
27th	S Keele T Jeanes	J Satchwell	C Trim

Services across the Benefice: August

3rd August, 7th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00	SSG Baptist: Messy Church: breakfast, crafts and fun	
10.30am	NC Methodists, Lisieux Way Joint Service of worship	
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

10th August, 8th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
11.00am	NC Methodist Church: United Service with Holy Communion	

17th August, 9th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Eucharist
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
3.00pm	North Curry Methodist Church: Summer Praise Service	
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

24th August, St Bartholomew the Apostle

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	NC Methodist Church	Service of worship

31st August, 11th Sunday after Trinity (5th Sunday of the month)

11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	United Benefice Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist Church: Service of worship	

7th September, 12th Sunday after Trinity

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

Services across the Benefice: July

6th July, 3rd Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	SSG Baptist Church	Messy Church: breakfast, crafts and fun
11.00am	NC Methodist Church	Service of worship
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

13th July, 4th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	SSG Baptist Church	Communion Service with Tim Walker
11.00am	NC Methodist Church	Service of worship

20th July, 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.30am	SSG Baptist Church	Family Service with James McKee
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	NC Methodist Church	Service of worship
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

27th July, 6th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
11.00am	Songs of Praise with Baptist Church on the Playing Fields	
11.00am	NC Methodist Church	Service of worship