The Athelney Magazine



£1

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

September 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
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Churchwarden	Julie Pocock	01823 698915, julie.pocock@btconnect.com
Churchwarden	Sue Nicholas	01823 698814, pnicholas971@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Mike Goodman	07950 638940, mike@pollardgoodman.co.uk
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		
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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

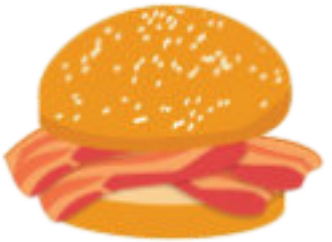
Lyng Big Bart Breakfasts are held monthly on the third Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

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 September** for the October 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

For all the saints

Since just before the previous issue of this esteemed publication in July and before the next one in October we will have celebrated all four of our Patronal Festivals. June 29th: St Peter and St Paul (North Curry), August 24th: St Bartholomew (Lyng), September 3rd: St Gregory (Stoke St Gregory), September 29th: St Michael and All Angels (Burrowbridge). All squeezed into three months of the year and each with their own special value and significance for each parish in Athelney.

"But!" you may cry, "what is a patronal festival, and why are they so important?" I will try to explain…

Most parishes have a patron saint—ours are listed above—and each patronal festival is the Sunday closest to the feast day of each of those saints. They can be seen as an anniversary of each parish church, birthdays, kind of. On our personal birthdays we often reflect on our lives, and if we are ancient aunts and uncles or grandparents, perhaps, we remind our young ones "my, how you've grown!" As those young ones we cringe, but eventually we become the very same aged relatives. Life is like that. Life in church is not so dissimilar. Each year, at our patronal festivals we can use the moment to reflect back on the year just gone or even further, into the dim and distant past (before Covid!) when the world seemed a simpler place and everything was slower and more understandable … (enough with the nostalgia, O aging vicar).

We might remember a time when we had a different pattern to our worship, or a time when there was a Sunday school, or a time when every parish had one vicar each (O my, can you imagine?).

Patronal festivals are a time to be in fellowship and consider the significance of our own parishes and congregations.,
Past present and future.



We can, if we choose, construct a narrative that somehow links the lives of the patrons with the lives of our parishes. Not essential, but often worth the effort. So, we have St Peter and St Paul, two foundational saints who did so much to ensure the church grew from small beginnings from a sect of Jews in Jerusalem to a trans-Mediterranean phenomenon. They are examples of how great things can come from



microscopic points of hope and faith. Paul, in particular, took the faith into the Gentile world and reminds us how we must always seek out those who seem different to us and love them.

St Bartholomew is almost entirely unknown save for his distressing martyrdom by being skinned alive. Gruesome. In Lyng, the story is more hopeful, more about seeing St Bart as an example of how a disciple can work wonders behind the scenes, being someone who just gets on as does stuff. Again, from small beginnings.

St Michael is an Archangel. Awesome power and unworldly. A reminder of the great glory of God, someone who stands firm and who reveals the importance of being alive to the divine nature of the universe. It's almost impossible to grasp the power we're thinking of here, but the glory can be hinted at when we climb the Mump, above Burrowbridge on a sunlit evening or morning, when we see the landscape set out before us. Awesome and uplifting.

St Gregory doesn't appear on the scene until well after Jesus and guides us in his teaching and organisation. Without St Gregory the church wouldn't be as it is now. For all the challenges of Reformation, Enlightenment and latterly the ways in which the Church is seen as an established element of British culture, without Gregory we would likely have all wandered off into our own versions of faith, never really gathering and praising, with only a personal, covert spirituality that would leave us bereft of what matters so much: fellowship.

And so to St Athelwin: a new addition but only a century later than St Gregory. Athelwin reminds us of the historical threads that link us all. His story is still novel to us but he holds a power in these fields and lanes that captures our essence. He gathers us into the story of Alfred and then carries us forward to our present times. As the fields, rhynes and rivers have been reshaped over the centuries, so Athelwin oversees it all, from his grave on the Isle of Athelney. Our history is rich. Our future, with all our saints, is hopeful.

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

As you read these words we will have made it safely to September. I have never cared for August—often too humid and, especially this year, too hot. I have always disliked hot weather, as what little energy I have tends to shrivel even more.

Fortunately, as a child I was inoculated against the Protestant Work Ethic. My mother was a very wise woman and when she encountered me quietly sitting in the garden under the great horse chestnut tree and she asked what I was doing, I would reply, "thinking". She just said, "jolly good" and left me in peace to my thoughts.

Now you may be wondering where this muse is leading, and I will tell you. A friend and I used to play the game of "What kind of animal are you" in which we had to choose an animal and explain our choice. Mine was always the same—The Sloth—one of God's greatest creations. I have always thought they were marvellous creatures who have refined their life to absolute essentials, as they hang, motionless, from their chosen branch in life. Not for them, unlike humans, the often pointless activity to justify their existence or even worse, the visits to the gym or running, resulting in being more hot and sweaty than usual. For sloths, mere existence is sufficient, only leaving the safety of their beloved branch to visit the bathroom or mate.

Now if I was a sloth, I wouldn't even do the former, merely giving a warning cry to any passing creature passing under me as I let nature take it's course. Now that wonderful comic duo Flanders and Swann wrote a wonderful song about the sloth in which this amazing creature ponders on all the things he would do if he were not a sloth, only deciding, with a passing tinge of regret, that he just doesn't have the time!



I have learnt from this wise animal and, as I have shared with you in a previous muse, I do all my travelling on the TV from the comfort of my beloved armchair. I also do a great deal of thinking, on my bed, during my afternoon siesta, about my upcoming Sunday homily or the many changes to my garden, which in reality, I know will never come about. But, like the sloth, it is lovely to dream my life away. Hey Ho!



Generosity begets generosity

By Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells.

In August I was privileged to dedicate the restored clock in the tower of Montacute church. It's not just any old clock. In fact, Montacute's is amongst the oldest in the country. Built in the village in around 1400, the clock is so old that it is held in place by iron wedges. At the time of its construction, the nut and the bolt wouldn't be invented for another hundred years!

The Montacute clock is an artefact that seems to generate generosity. In the 1980s the clock was restored by Humphrey Hamlin, for whom it is now named. Humphrey poured time and energy into its mechanism, preventing it from being scrapped. During the last two years, heroic efforts by the people of Montacute have led to its further restoration. All this was marked last month by a whole village gathering. The community choir sang, morris men danced, the local pub provided a hog roast, cake was dispended in huge quantities.

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

Montacute is a beautiful example of how generosity begets generosity. Like a chain reaction, one act of generosity, the restoration of the clock, led to another, another and another. As a result, a whole community was brought together in celebration and joy.

In his second letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul writes of the church in Macedonia that 'their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity' (2 Cor 8:2). Having nothing, the Macedonians discovered that they could still give. In turn, their generosity enabled Paul to challenge and encourage the church in Corinth to do the same. All to help the struggling Church in Jerusalem.

As I travel around our diocese, I see this pattern of generosity begetting generosity happening in so many places. One person starts, another adds their contribution, more join in and soon we learn that together we are so much more than the sum of our parts. This is the economy of God. It's an economy that all of us are invited to join.



A Music Marathon

Are you a budding harpist or a well-rehearsed percussionist?

Do you play in a pub band or sing in a rock choir?

Do you like to stand up and sing little ditties or are you an accomplished soprano?

Are you just beginning or are you well-trained?

Any or all of the above, we want you to come along to St Gregory's Church sometime between 9am and 9pm on Saturday October 18th.

You can be part of the first ever Athelney Music Marathon, a twelve-hour continuous music extravaganza of local (and not so local) talent.

The reason? To raise fund for "The Congo Initiative", the charity we support across the benefice (click the QR below for more information)

The church will resound to the music of the spheres (and other shapes!) for twelve hours: you can provide 30 minutes or more of those twelve hours, perhaps.

Talent less important than intent…

Contact Revd Simon, vicar@athelneybenefice.com to sign up



Burrowbridge

Afternoon Teas at Homelea

Sue and Julie would like to thank everyone who supported the Afternoon Teas held on the 19th July in aid of Church Funds.

The weather was perfect this year & we appreciated how many of you came along and helped to make the afternoon very successful.

The wonderful sum of £1,166.00 was raised for Church Funds and this will certainly help with the upkeep and running costs of the Church. We receive no funding from the Diocese of Bath and Wells, our Church is entirely financed from donations, service collections and fund raising.



The Great Burrowbridge Treasure Map!

We would also like to say a special thank you to the stall holders and to everyone who helped by making cakes and giving donations.

We would like to thank Charles Payton for opening our Afternoon Teas. It was lovely to welcome Charles back to our village. Also thank you to Rosie Dare for presenting the buttonhole to Charles so nicely. Lastly, we would like to thank Revd Simon and Revd Martin for their support.

We hope you all had an enjoyable afternoon.

A lilac cardigan was left behind in the garden. Please contact Julie on 698915 or 698216

On behalf of everyone, Revd Martin and I would like to thank Julie and Sue for the wonderful hospitality (and Roger for his hard work, no doubt!)



Lyng



Archives, St Bart and St Athelwin

The weekend of 23rd and 24th August was a full on celebration of our local history, with the archives obtained from The Somerset Archive, covering Burrowbridge and Lyng. People poured over them all day along with photos of days-gone-by and stories of the people shown in them! Thank you to everyone who brought their photos to share.

In the evening we heard the tale of St Athelwin, our very own local hermit who lived on the Isle of Athelney in the late 7th Century, and also discovered some new facts about St Bartholomew's church. All of this was surrounded by food and drink!

Then the following day we celebrated St Bartholomew, our own patron saint, and about whom we know very little: St Bartholomew was an apostle, and a man of deep faith and learning. With all the history we discovered over the weekend, perhaps we are more like Bart than we realise: listening in the background, simply "being present" as a disciple fo Jesus. That's St Bart's. Discipleship and loitering, always with food and drink.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the weekend such fun, even dressing up for the occasion!

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 8th September 7.30pm
- Monday 10th November 2025 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.

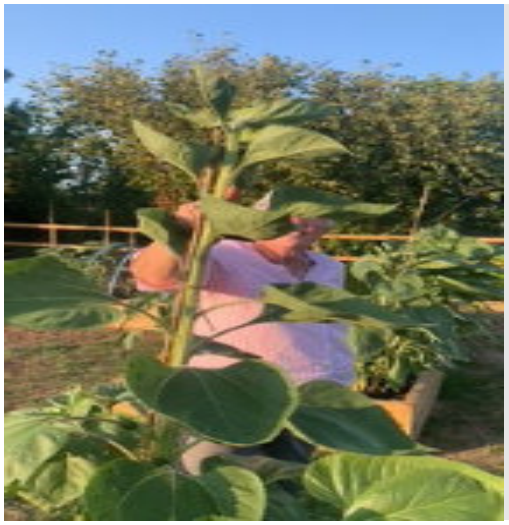
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

We are holding not one but two events on **Friday 26th September**, to raise funds for the McMillan Cancer Support Charity.

We are holding the "traditional" Coffee morning in the hall, as places up and down the country do the same. We will be open from 11.00 am and the fabulous members of the Parish have volunteered to bake cakes to eat and the Hall Committee will be serving the drinks to buy.

Then, in the evening we are turning our Friday Night Pop Up Pub over to a McMillan's coffee cocktail night. Doors open at 7pm. Specially themed drinks will be sold, with the proceeds going straight to the charity pot.

The usual bar refreshments will be sold as well, but the donation box will be rattled to all! We are looking forward to both events, raising money for a well deserving charity and as usual bringing the community together. Hopefully the weather will be wonderful and we can enjoy the hall garden in all its glory.



Village Hall Garden

The sunflowers planted by the students attending the Willows Day Centre in East Lyng have grown to enormous heights and have beautiful large flower heads: thanks to Tom Popham and all for their support in helping out. We are watching the tomatoes, courgettes and melons grow nicely too and hopefully have a bountiful harvest ready to share with everyone soon, Thanks to all the volunteers who have turned out!

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

North Curry



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.

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.

Winners

Sun 6th July

1st Mary Ginger
2nd Jean Cunnell
3rd Ralph Roberts

Sunday 3rd August

1st David Hincks
2nd Andrew Goodwin
3rd Helen Griffiths

Parish Council

WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS: At the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13th August, we welcomed two new council members… Neil Adams, and Caroline Vaughan. We thank them for offering their time to the community as Parish Councillors and are excited to have them both on board!

PUB PARKING: We are so thrilled to see the Bird in Hand open again, but unfortunately there have been multiple occasions now where those visiting the pub have parked in a way that has completely blocked Queen Square and the Shambles not just for larger farm vehicles, but also cars! Whilst we are aware of the lack of parking nearby, please remember that when parking you must ensure you leave enough room for emergency services, as well as considering farm vehicles that need access. Maybe consider car sharing, cycling, or walking, if possible.

FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL: Statistics show that a shocking 45% of food waste is being put in general rubbish bins. Properly recycling food waste (separated from any packaging) is much better for the environment as the food waste is recycled into renewable energy and fertiliser; it is also cheaper for Somerset Council to do this than process it as general waste. Please take those extra few seconds to dispose of your food waste correctly, it is worth it for our environment.

BIRD FLU NOTICE: Sadly, there are several cases of Avian Influenza across Somerset and Devon. Avian Influenza is also a notifiable disease, so any cases must be reported. You also must ensure that your birds are registered, as this is a legal requirement. This virus can also infect mammals including dogs and cats. For more information, please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu.

Oxen Lane Updates: There is now a section on the website for the latest monthly Oxen Lane updates under the 'News' heading (https://northcurry.com/?page_id=3973). 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).

A Real Sizzler of an Outing

By Penny Ross



The Band at Buckfast Abbey

On the 12th July, an intrepid band of ringers from North Curry and friends ventured across the border into Devon for an unforgettable outing. The fact that we had inadvertently chosen one of the hottest Saturdays this year was more than apparent, even as we set off at the inordinately early hour of 7.15am. Undeterred, we arrived at Holy Trinity, Buckfastleigh—reportedly the only bell tower in Devon with a spire—where we rang their delightful 8 bells for as long as we could bear the pressure cooker environment of the lone tower. We were saddened to learn that, following the arson attack (allegedly by Satanists!) in 2019 that destroyed the church, the tower is going to soon be dismantled and the bells relocated – so we may well have been the last to ring them in their original home.

Moving on to the big event of the day: the fantastic opportunity to ring the amazing (not to mention heavy) 12 bells at Buckfast Abbey. The Abbey itself is incredible and the bell tower is a vast and phenomenal structure with approximately 150 steps* up to the largest ringing chamber I have ever seen. Some of us were quite nervous about ringing these renowned bells but they were a delight to ring and, with the much appreciated help from local ringers Mike, Tim and Henry on the heavier bells, we succeeded in ringing all 12, followed by an impressive round of Bob Doubles on the back 6. We were also able to go up to see the bells and to pay homage to Hosanna, the massive 7½ tonne Bourdon bell. Quite the experience!



The LB Campanile and the last ringers standing

After all that excitement, we travelled on to Ashburton where we rang their somewhat lighter ring

**thanks to the Prior of Buckfast, Br Daniel, for this information!*



St Leonard's clock tower at Newton Abbot: note the deserted picnic tables!

of 8 and managed some nice rounds and call changes, plus a quick round of Bob Doubles. We were all feeling the heat and the need for sustenance by then so it was with some relief that we went on to Newton Abbot for lunch and a well-earned cold drink.

Feeling cooled and refreshed, we had a short hop to St Leonard's clock tower in the centre of town and surprised several groups of tourists (and a hen party) when we started ringing the bells up. Some were sat right next to the tower, enjoying a quiet Saturday afternoon in the sun, and visibly jumped when we first started. The tower was like a furnace inside but, despite this, we rang for about half an hour before giving in and ringing down. We were thrilled to get a cheer from our captive audience when we finished - until we realised it was because we'd stopped sadly.

We beat a hasty retreat and moved on to Kingsteignton which is probably one of the best maintained and equipped towers in the area. It has beautiful panelling on the walls and many impressive trophies and shiny silverware on display but the best bit was joy of joys: AIR CONDITIONING! What luxury! And the bells were lovely to ring so we finished our outing on a real (and somewhat cooler) high with some excellent rounds and call changes plus some splendid splicing of Grandsire, April Day and Bob Doubles.

Our final stop was in a private house to ring their LB Campanile mini-ring which was a first for me but fun nonetheless. By this time, we were down to our last 5 ringers (the only ones mad enough) plus Henry from Buckfast whom we had adopted into our group, but we managed a nice round of hunting on 5 to complete our day.

Many thanks to all the towers for allowing us to ring. We all agreed it had been a hot but very enjoyable and successful day abroad in Devon.



Hosanna in all her glory



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners: Coach Trip to the Malvern Autumn Show, Friday 16th September 2025.

Spaces available.

Organised by the Gardening Club

£36.00 – including entry fee and cost of coach. Interested? Phone 01823 490426 to book or for more details.

Pick up from Stoke St.Gregory, Royal Oak 8.15am and North Curry, Bird in Hand, 8.30am

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

Bric-a-Brac Sale for Church Funds

North Curry Parish Church, Saturday 13th September, 10am to 2pm

Mary Piers and Anne Williams are organising a bric-a-brac sale for church funds. All are welcome to come along for the sale and for the fellowship and refreshments

If you have anything reasonable to offer for the sale, please do contact Mary (01823 491434) or Anne (07531 382078)



NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB

Our New Season Starts!



We are starting our new season of films on **September 24th** with the tense thriller **The Outfit**. A gentleman tailor (Mark Rylance) is pressed by the Chicago mob, to hide an important briefcase in his premises. What is in it? And what dangers will come of keeping it?

This is a stylish, taut film. The atmosphere of tension and intrigue never lets up.

Why not come along and join? Membership costs £30 for 12 films – that's £2.50 each. There's no substitute for seeing a good film in a cinema setting. The Village hall doors & bar open at 7pm., with the film starting at 7.30pm. Also open to guests (£5).

Do you know some teenagers doing the Duke of Edinburgh award? In the past we have had help from some teenagers, as part of the volunteering element of the award. It would be to put the chairs out for our "Winter Warmer" film showings. It would be just six Saturday afternoons during the winter, taking less than 30 minutes each time. Contact Don 01823 490 859, if you think you can help.

North Curry Organ Recital

Continuing our fundraising endeavours, and also to hear our beautiful and newly renovated organ, we are hosting a recital by local and not so local performers. All welcome!

Saturday October 11th at 3pm

in the Parish Church

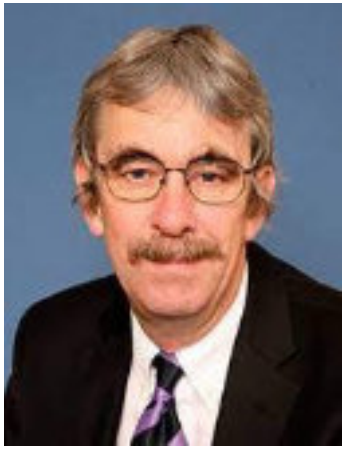
Refreshments provided

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

Climate Change in the South-West of England by Prof. Tim Burt DSc

Wednesday September 17th, 7.30pm for 8pm

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY



Welcome back after this hot dry summer! North Curry Society starts our 2025-26 season of meetings with a talk by Professor Tim Burt about the effect of climate change on the South-West of England.

Tim is a retired professor of physical geography from Durham University. Somerset-born, his main research interests are in hydrology and climate change.

Doors at the Village Hall open 7.30pm for a hot drink and genial company, and the talks start at 8pm. Membership cards will be available from the Treasurer (£15 if you didn't pay at the AGM, or you can join on the night). Visitors always welcome, on payment of the £5 guest fee.



The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday each month to hear about aspects of local heritage. Our Chairman Colin Trim (490337) would be pleased to learn about topics and speakers of interest to you.

North Curry Village Choir

Autumn Rehearsals

We resume on Thursday September 11th, 8pm, in the North Curry Village Hall

Our next concert is Thursday December 4th, including Dvorak Mass in D

New members welcome

If you would like to discuss the possibility, please contact our secretary by telephone or website contact form as below

Secretary: Barbara Lancey, 01458 252657
www.northcurryvillagechoice.org

NORTH CURRY WI

For our July meeting we had a very enjoyable sunny afternoon in a member's beautiful garden, where we chatted with friends we may not have had the opportunity to see for a while, catching up on news and enjoying lots of tea and cake! Thank you to Maureen for her wonderful hospitality.

Although there is no formal meeting in August several of us met up at Monkton Elm Garden Centre for coffee, a lovely informal opportunity for a chat.



Always ready for a coffee we are hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 25th September at the home of Sheila Billinghurst, Fosse End, The Fosse.

More details in due course, but please put it in your diary.

Our next 'proper' meeting is on Wednesday 3rd September at 2.00 in the Village Hall where we will hear about the beauty products from 'Goats of the Gorge' and hopefully try some samples! Nick King was a contestant on 'Dragon's Den' so we may get some insider information!



We always welcome visitors and new members. We are a friendly group, and it really is a good way to get to know people and make friends. Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall at 2.00, usually comprising of a speaker, but we also have lots of celebrations!



If you would like more information please do contact Olivia on 07825 925775 or Barbara our President on 01823 490811. We look forward to hearing from you.

ALL AGE WORSHIP

10 am

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When?

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Stoke St Gregory

September is a busy month for Stoke St Gregory WI.

We have a skittles evening with a supper on Wednesday 3rd September at The Royal Oak from 6pm.

We return to the Village Hall after various summer events on Tuesday 9th September to hear a retired Police Officer speak of his part in the downfall of a serial killer.

The meeting starts at 7pm with Veronica Andrews running the trade stall, Sandra Gleed and Janet Daniels are on refreshments, Mary Ginger is filling the rose bowl and Karen Housego is giving the vote of thanks. We will be providing cake and Prosecco to mark the 110th birthday of the Women's Institute.

On Wednesday 24th September the Institute will be having an outing to the National Trust property Knightshayes in Devon.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to join in. We are an ever expanding group of local women with friendship at the heart of the Institute.

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.

Mystery Solved!

We have discovered the provenance of our two mystery figures. They are a donation from a parishioner, and most gratefully received. They now have a new home in the nook in the Lady Chapel. A beautiful addition to the church furniture. Thank you Al!



Thank you!

By the vicar (and others, I suspect!)

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped make our United Benefice Lunch such a lovely and tasty success. Thank you especially to Jane and Pat for co-ordinating everything, and to everyone who cooked the tasty dishes, set up and cleared away.

The lunch was in aid of St Gregory's church funds and we raised around £500 for this most excellent and essential good cause.

As Vicar I get to show up, each, natter and generally socialise and it all just happens. I am so fortunate. In fact, I know that it doesn't "just happen", and there is a great deal of planning and preparation that goes on behind the scenes.

If you've read my editorial this month you'll know that our patronal festivals are an important aspect of our faith life in the benefice, and when they fall on a united benefice service weekend, the celebration is more than doubled. We continue to grow and discover our fellowship in the benefice, and it is lunches such as this that help guide our encounters together.

Thank you: to all who joined in.



Antiqua Ships

Antique Model Ship repair, restoration, & preservation



By Allan McGreal



Antiqua Ships is a restoration workshop for antique and prominent model ships dating from the late 17th century to early 20th century. Its purpose is not only to repair and restore valuable model ships, keep maritime books, drawings, manuscripts, diaries, journals and beautiful marine art, rather its purpose is to share these things too.

Being the only publicly accessible restoration workshop of its kind in Europe, it has the joy of sharing where it lives, what it does and why with new friends and old, new visitors surprised, new visitors planned, and everyone in between.

In moving Antiqua Ships to our new building, something extraordinary happened. The building has a history steeped in Willow farming and all it encompasses, it housed prisoners of war in World War Two as they worked the Willow leaving their mark on the stone, it has witnessed change and lives lived, lost and loved. So too have the ships that now live within, the books many times read, the paintings painted for others and once treasured. All these things have stories to tell if the time is taken to listen.

The most moving and unexpected experience has been to witness the recollection visitors have of family and friends' association with the ship, the model, book or story. The emotional realisation that close relatives lived in, on and about these things, to see the size and shape of ships only seen in print or photo. Most of all, it's the joy of receiving a family piece in need of repair, that until the workshop was found, the distressed model built by loved one's generations ago, would continue to deteriorate until it disappeared from family history.



It was witnessing and sharing what the visitors and clients experienced in seeing their history, often deeply personal, being able to be recovered, better under-

Bless this Workshop

All ships when launched are blessed:
it's now the turn of Antiqua Ships.

You are warmly invited to join the Reverend Simon Bale and myself at 11 o'clock on Saturday, 13th of September as he performs a short Blessing of the workshop, its ships, books, paintings and people.

If you have time, we would love you to join us at

Antiqua Ships,
Coates English Willow Visitor Centre,
Meare Green TA3 6HY



stood but mostly, enjoyed and at last, appreciated. It came to me, my little ships bringing such things to people, have never, as their real namesakes would've been, blessed at their launching.

And so, in this special place, filled with special things, capable of warming special people, I thought a blessing would be a very special thing to do. Matthew 18-20, I think, has a place in parts, as people gather when looking at history, reading of it and able to touch it as models affected by war, exploration, human endeavour and adventure, are all that remain of once proud and blessed ships.





Garden Musings
Japanese Anemones

By Revd Martin Mudie

How is your garden faring in this hottest summer for many years? The lack of rain has made me realise that I have too many pots, so I have made the decision to allow three-quarters of them to die a natural death and when the cooler weather comes I will dispose of the corpses, spacing out the survivors in larger pots which will be happier for them and easier for me to take care of them.

However, there is one plant I would like to write about this month and that is the Japanese anemones, one of the stars of the autumn garden.

All through the growing year it produces attractive foliage which is then topped by a generous supply of flowers in shades of white, pink and rose colours. The flowers last for a long time and if deadheaded, like roses, will flower until the first frosts. They can be grown in sun or part shade in any soil, will never need feeding and once established, watering. Once the frosts come the foliage can be cut back and, if you have a compost heap, composted, to provide a mulch for next year.

Also, as they come into leaf later than most perennials, you can grow early, like the tete a tete daffodils around them before they appear.

Happy gardening

[Ed: since going to press the rain has come. We all hope Martin is relieved]



A visit to Mottisfont Abbey

By Zillah Sykes



It was a pleasant day in early June and the sun shone through the trees as we sped along the road that took us through the New Forest and towards our destination: Mottisfont Abbey, a NT property near Romsey in Hampshire. We arrived at the main entrance where we were directed to the overflow car park- a large, grassy field where there were already a good number of cars parked. As we walked towards Reception we were greeted with a most wonderful fragrance, for the air was laden with the scent of roses. We were later to discover that the walled garden at Mottisfont is home to the national collection of pre- 1900 shrub roses. "Fewer better sites could have been found for a garden of old roses than this," claimed Graham Stuart Thomas, who, in the 1970's had saved these rare and beautiful blooms from being lost forever and had created this glorious rose garden, which flowers every year in early summer.

Entering into the old Victorian walled garden we immediately found ourselves immersed in a world of colour and delight. These vintage roses were full -petalled and in all shades of pink, from the palest blush pink to magenta, as well as creamy yellow and white. Along with clematis they climbed the red brick walls, scrambled gloriously over arches and grew gracefully around pergolas. Shrub roses were set in deep beds and were bordered by lavender hedges and accompanied by a profusion of perennials; the centres of the borders were a mass of soft blues, pinks and whites. There were mauve-blue geraniums, cottage garden pinks, blue campanulas and spires of white foxgloves, as well as deep red peonies and elegant yellow irises. We took a number of photos, hoping to capture- and keep forever- some of the transient beauty that was all around us.

"Earth's crammed with Heaven and every common bush afire with God," wrote Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "but only he who sees takes off his shoes." It was time to rest and reflect upon the beauty that was all around us. We found a seat in the centre of the garden where the main paths converge, by a round pond with a fountain. A rose bush, covered in pink blossom, overhung the water and a dragonfly with its delicate wings flashing blue, came to rest on one of the many pink petals. It was for us a moment of calm, a time to reflect. This was a place where God's creation and man's creativity (as well as his hard work) had come together in perfect harmony.

Sitting near us was a young mother with her little boy. "I want to have an adventure!" he told her. "We are having one," his mother assured him and taking his hand she rose to go. It was time for us to go, too, for there was still much for us to discover in this lovely place.

From the rose garden we walked down through the parkland with its many trees to the "font" or wellspring, the place where ancient peoples had met together, for "Mottisfont" means "A meeting place by a well." For over a thousand years this spring has never been known to fail and was the reason the priory was established here early in the 13th century.

Standing there, under the shade of a tree, we looked down into the source of the stream that wells up from deep within the earth. The surface of this aquamarine, crystal clear water was still and cool and there were ferns growing round the edge of the pool. The water rippled gently and spilled out into a stream which then curved around and cascaded over a little waterfall before flowing into the river below. This tributary of the River Test then passed peacefully on through the Abbey grounds and into the countryside beyond. And there is life wherever the river flows. I stood quietly and in awe, by the source of this eternal stream and I wondered, as I thought of the One who is the Source of all life, and gave thanks. (More next month)



"New Beginnings"

By Lauren Jewhurst
Church and Community Relationships Coordinator
Safe Families and Home for Good

For me, and many who work in academia or have children in school, the new year starts not in January but in September. It is a time to get back in routine with new uniforms, new classes and new teachers – along with the joy of seeing friends again. We have renewed fellowship as our church groups, coffee mornings and clubs start up again after a break. The change in season may fill us with warmth as the nights draw in and we prepare for cosy evenings by the fire, perhaps looking forward to the preparations and celebrations of Advent and Christmas.

September this year also marks the 1st anniversary of the "new beginning" we embarked on as a merged charity: **Safe Families and Home for Good**. Since then, we have been working to bring together our vision where no family feels alone and every child has a home where they can flourish. We have been sharing with churches and community groups how we do this - through befriending and mentoring support for struggling families, and encouraging people to consider if they could offer a home to a child or young person through fostering, adoption or supported lodgings.

While September marks a fresh start for many, for some families the prospect of a new start they can look forward to with hope and anticipation feels painfully out of reach. Every 15 minutes in the UK, a child enters the care system to await a fresh start–whether in a foster home, with an adoptive family, or by returning to their own family with the right support in place. Many families under social care need a friend to bring them out of isolation and into a community that can hold them, so they know they are not alone. This September, you could be part of someone's new beginning – whether by offering a listening ear, providing a safe place for a child, or simply praying for those involved.

You can find out more on our website safefamilies.uk, but I'd also love to invite you to our annual online Vision Night, where you can hear more about what we do and how you can make a difference. Simply visit safefamilies.uk/vision25 to book your space. If you can't make that date but would like to have a chat with someone to find out more please get in touch with Lauren – give me a call on 07771453209 or email laurenjewhurst@safefamilies.uk, and I would be happy to meet with you.

Praying that God will bless you all in this new season ahead.

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Rotas

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

7th Sept	Alex (11am)
21st Sept	Simon & Penny
28th Sept	Barbara M
5th October	John

Cleaners

7th Sept	Dave & Janet
14th Sept	Marilyn & Terri
21st Sept	Annette & Susan
28th Sept	Linda & Brent
5th October	Simon & Penny

Flowers

6th Sept	Wedding
7th Sept	Jane White
21st Sept	Sue Smythe

Advance notice: Saturday 4th October: All Festival Flower Arrangers to decorate Church for Harvest

Readers

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

7th Sept	Steve
21st Sept	Simon
28th Sept	Jordon
5th October	John

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
7th Sep	C Trim P Burgess	Z Sykes	M Cridge
14th Sept	S Keele T Jeanes	H Griffiths	Z Sykes
21st Sept	L Farnham	D Walker	D Farnham J Satchwell
28th Sept	L Paul T Jeanes	D Farnham	H Baker
5th October	J Sergeant T Jones	Z Sykes	C Trim



Harvest Festivals in Athelney

This year at our Harvest Festivals we are hoping to collect food for our local food banks. Whilst it is a delight to see freshly grown produce brought forward as offerings, the food banks really do rely on non-perishable food. All food is welcome, but tins and packets of good wholesome fare is especially valued. It is the tradition at Stoke St Gregory's Harvest supper to auction the wonderful produce provided by the school's own harvest festival service (which takes place a week before the church's own). North Curry School will also be bringing food to their festival. We hope to gather much for those who are in need!

Our Harvest Festivals are as follows:

North Curry: 10am, 28th September (Supper the evening before).

Burrowbridge: 5pm, 28th September (A united benefice worship followed by a Harvest Tea)

Stoke St Gregory: 11am, 5th October (Supper the next day).

Lyng: 4.30pm, 5th October (followed by Harvest Tea)

If you wish to attend any of the Harvest Suppers or Teas, please contact the usual suspects in each parish!

Trussell
Ending hunger together

Services across the Benefice: August

7th September 12th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist Church	Messy Church starting with breakfast
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist

14th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Communion

21st September 14th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	All-Age Worship
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Morning Worship
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

28th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

10.00am	North Curry	Harvest Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Harvest Festival
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
5.00pm	Burrowbridge Harvest and Patronal, United Benefice Service of the Word	

5th October 16th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptist Church	Messy Church starting with breakfast
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Harvest Eucharist
11.30am	Lyng	Harvest Service of the Word