The Athelney Magazine



£1

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

October 2025

Who's Who

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

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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

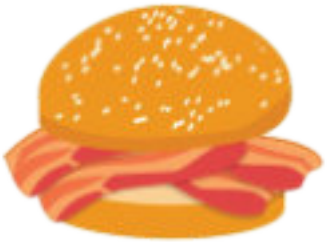
Lyng Big Bart Breakfasts are held monthly on the third Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

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 October** for the November 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

Va Va Voom

I've bought a new car. A Vauxhall Mokka, since you ask. That's not especially newsworthy for some, I realise, but for me it is Earth-shattering; I don't do it very often, and on the whole only when there is no other option. My old red Honda was eighteen years old and I'd had it since 2017. Since the MOT was due at the end of September, I knew the writing was on the wall. CK57 WRN, the red "wren" as some saw her, was well past her best. The paint was peeling, the engine missing a beat if I put my foot down to quickly and the warning lights suggested the airbags were less helpful than an old carrier from Sainsbury's.

Roger Pocock—bless him!—has been doing his very best to keep the old bone shaker road-worthy for some time now, but the rattles and grumbles coming from under the bonnet have grown in volume and frequency over the past year and I knew the costs would outweigh the benefits. So, she's gone. Sniff.

In her place is a whizzy new vehicle. Grey with red trim. All very shiny and exciting, and, hopefully, good for a few tens of thousands of miles. The dashboard is more advanced than anything I've ever had before and I'm still working out what everything does (the warning lights seem to go on forever).

So, here I am ruminating on these developments and pondering the effect my existence has on the planet. To begin with, there is the concern that my new car has a large carbon footprint. It has added to the problem of climate change, simply by being manufactured. Yet, still, it is little more than a moving platform, a motorised cart whose sole function is to transfer me and my things across the surface of the Earth, A to B. Couldn't I do that by bike or by foot? And do I need something with so many "extras" (heated seats, for goodness sake…).



I attended the North Curry Society talk, Climate Change in the South West yesterday, delivered by Prof T. Burt. Lots of graphs (I like graphs) and lots of data about climate warm-

ing and associated matters. And I drove there because I wanted to drive my new car. I made the excuse that I hadn't driven in the dark yet and didn't know how the headlights behaved. What a feeble excuse. I will get used to it and make sure I ride my bike more, I know. But the deeper issue is that so much of what we nowe take for granted as "modern living" means that we are tied into climate warming. That worries me, but there's not much we can do about the march of "progress".

The Old Red Wren is probably a block of crushed metal by now. I drove her as far as I could and made sure the carbon produced by her manufacture was made the most of. Perhaps that is the way to think about these things: to be good stewards of God's Earth. We do all we can in the face of the incessant march of progress and keep things for as long as they last. By that reckoning, the new revmobile will be with me for a good many years to come.

Benefice Re-organisation: An Update

A few months ago I wrote about the (seemingly, then) imminent reshaping of our four parishes into six with the addition of Middlezoy and Othery. Since then there have been more meetings, and also some postponed meetings. This has led to the decision-making being pushed back. The discussions are still happening, however, and the overall shape of the Athelney Benefice within the Sedgemoor Deanery is very much being "mulled over".

Things can often move very slowly in the Church of England and patience is usually the most necessary virtue. The challenge of cerlgy deployment that underpins this reorganisation remains the same but getting all our ducks in a row is proving somewhat tricky.

There will hopefully be something more substantial to report in the next magazine. In the meantime, we continue to make plans as a benefice of four parishes.

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

I have spent the majority of my holidays in the United Kingdom. The main reason is that I like to go on holiday with my canine companions, past and present. I know you can now get pet passports, but as the girls don't like venturing beyond the borders of the west country, I can only imagine their thoughts on travelling abroad! Also, I have always thought that we live in one of the most beautiful countries of the world.

I have been lucky enough to have visited some of our lovely English counties, which can rival much of the world in both beauty and interest. I have even ventured forth to Wales – very friendly people but just too many mountains and Scotland, where I had many pleasant stays in the border region, even travelling on one occasion to the Highlands – very beautiful but sadly lacking in tea rooms!

Of course, I realise that abroad does have a lot to offer the traveller: impressive scenery, interesting cultures, museums and galleries, lovely chateaux and gardens and food that is quite different from our own dear steak and kidney pudding. On my trips to Paris, which is my favourite foreign city, I discovered for the first time that once behind the steering wheel, the French turn into maniacs. I once spent half an hour trying to cross the Place de la Concorde and just gave up, settling instead for a very expensive cup of coffee (I never drink tea abroad, it is fowl!), watching with interest the drivers trying to kill as many pedestrians as possible foolish enough to attempt the crossing.

The Italians are not much better. On a holiday in Naples, I discovered the new meaning of the phrase "See Naples and die". Originally it referred to the English Milords who contracted syphilis on their grand tour. Now it refers to unlucky pedestrians trying to cross by the almost non-existent pedestrian crossings. I observed a successful method from locals and followed suit. You wait for a brief pause in the traffic, then you set off in one direction never altering your speed and the manic motorists drive around you, missing you by inches, praying throughout your journey for a safe deliverance.

The other fun occupation as you sip your coffee in a charming roadside café is to watch Italians park. I once observed a young Italian park his very battered Fiat in a space much too small for it. First, he rammed the car into the car into the car behind, then into the car in front. This he repeated three or four times until the car was safely parked, finally getting out of the car with a very smug self-satisfied expression on his face. So, now you know why I do all my foreign travel with the two Michaels, Palin and Portillo.

For or against: slavery and salvation



By Bishop Alastair Redfern, Associate Bishop

Much of our world operates around the challenge to be 'for' or 'against'. And generally, it is easier to be against things than for them! Look at the tendencies of the media, politics and religious disputes.

On October 18, Anti-Slavery Day, people across the UK will recommit themselves to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking, one of the great evils of our time. Like William Wilberforce and what we now call historic slavery, we need to fight against the oppression and exploitation of our sisters and brothers today. Abolition is the proper aim of being anti or against.

And the challenge is growing with:

- More vulnerable people susceptible to false promises
- Increasingly flexible working arrangements which gives space for criminal agencies to provide goods and services based on exploitation and slave labour
- Police and prevention resources being ever overstretched
- And our own insatiable appetite for cheap products

There is much we need to learn to oppose and abolish.

But, in facing these almost overwhelming challenges we must not neglect what is primary for our Christian witness, the call to notice, reach out, rescue and restore. The call to love, to be for those who are hidden, neglected, hurting and ignored.

In Anti-Slavery Week, give time to thinking how you or your church or home group could better learn how to contribute to the fight against modern slavery. The Clewer Initiative has some amazing resources to help us open our eyes and assist the authorities and reach out towards victims.

But, alongside these prayers and practices, consider how you could go the extra mile in the way of the Good Samaritan. Going beyond the indifference of the priest and the Levite, too busy to stop, notice, reach out, rescue; rather how can we better contribute to establishing systems like the partnership between the Good Samaritan and the innkeeper–systems to provide care and the basis of restoring proper health and opportunities to those whose cries represent the voice of Jesus for those willing to listen.

Be against modern slavery this October, but more, be for those who need our friendship and our partnership.

Visit clewer.org.uk to find out more…

Slavery, a modern problem

What do you think of when someone mentions slavery? For many of us, it will be an image related to slavery from times gone by, but slavery still takes place today, and it could be happening near you. That is the message that campaigners want us to share on Anti-Slavery Day, which this year takes place on Saturday, 18 October, ahead of Anti-Slavery Week.

It is a message that an event held at St Mary's Church, Bridgwater will be sharing loud and clear. Hidden Voices is holding an art exhibition on the theme of 'the hidden market' from Friday, 17 to Sunday, 19 October.

Hidden Voices has partnered with two art groups, the Minehead-based Sparrows Project, and Chard-based Vera ArtSCM. They're contributing various forms of artwork, and there are also plans for live performance piece on the opening day, Friday the 17 October.

Organiser Julia Holder-Shephard says, "We hope people will come along and see how we're all part of one society, responsible for each other. Anything that raises awareness and helps care for people - whether next door or further afield - is worth supporting. It's not a light topic, but it's one that needs to be discussed."

With the Clewer Initiative charity reporting that over 120,000 men, women and children are trapped in modern slavery in the UK today, it's hard to disagree.

Find out more about the exhibition at bathandwells.org.uk/modern-slavery-art.



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



News and Events in The Coronation Hall in Burrowbridge

Autumn Quiz and Supper on Saturday 15th November

Tash will be your quiz master once again and we'll have a hearty supper and our usual bar selling quality local ales and cider along with lager, wines and soft and non-alcholic drinks.

Further ahead…

Christmas Fair will be on Sunday 7th December from 2pm to 5pm. There may also be a return of the Christmas Matinee film in December. More details later!

Over the summer (yes, next year…!) when the hall isn't being used so much we're going to take the opportunity to tackle some outstanding jobs and carry out some general maintenance.

To book the hall:

If you want to book the hall, you can find details on the website: burrowbridgehall.co.uk. You can contact the hall by email or phone. Alternatively, it's possible to make an online booking once you've set up an account.

The hall has capacity for over 100 people seated at tables or over 200 if in rows (as in a theatre) or if used as a dancing area (no tables). This makes it an ideal venue for a variety of uses: parties, meetings, performances, talks, exhibitions etc..

There is a large kitchen with a double oven and large gas range hob. A large commercial fridge and small freezer.

There's a bar with seating next to the kitchen with 2 doors leading to and from the hall. An ideal space for setting up a buffet if you have an event in the main hall.

In the hall itself, there's free Wi-Fi and a projector and screen with an amplifier and speakers. The large stage is fitted with bars to hang lighting from, there's also a couple of bars in the hall for spotlights etc. There's a lot of flexibility!

If you want to know more, please ask.



Lyng

Christmas Fayre, Saturday November 15th, 10am to 3pm

The Christmas Fayre will be held in the church and will feature all the traditional stalls and games, raffles and all that jazz!

Come along to see what gifts you can buy for your friends and family, sit and have a chat over a coffee and have a trip up the tower (if you don't mind tight stairways).

The next issue fo the magazine will cover all the Christmas services across the benefice, but heads-up for Lyng: the Carol Service will be on Sunday December 14th at 4.30pm.



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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 10th November 2025, 7.30pm
- Monday 12th January 2026, 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.

Coffee Morning

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

The recent coffee morning in Lyng Village Hall organised by the village hall committee raised £444 towards Macmillan Cancer Support!

Well done to everyone and thank you to all who made this happen.

Remembrance in Lyng

All Souls

The first Sunday of November is traditionally a time to remember those who we loved but who have died and we see no longer. This is the festival of All Souls. At Lyng this service will be held at 9.30am. If you would like to come along and take time to remember your loved ones, then all are welcome to this informal service of peaceful reflection.

If you would like to add the name of your loved one to the list of names read out during the service, please contact Alison Perry, office@athelneybenefice.com. It does not matter how recently or distantly your loved one died. What matters is that we remember them.



Act of Remembrance

We will be holding a short act of remembrance at St Bartholomew's at the eleventh hour on November 11th.

There is no Remembrance on the Sunday before, although if you wish you are very welcome to attend St Michael's in Burrowbridge at 10.30am.

In this 80th Anniversary of the ending of World War Two it is all the more poignant to remember the need for peace.

As we seem poised always on the edge of conflict, we need to find time to prayer for peace. We need to see ourselves as "being" the peace we wish to find.

We will gather at 10.45am on 11th November at the church.

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.

Winners

Sunday 7th September

1st Audrey West
2nd Sue Ashton
3rd Anna Bushell

North Curry Coffee Shop

By popular demand, our home made soup will be back on the menu from 14th October for just £4 including a roll, butter and croutons. Come in for a warming bowl or maybe a jacket potato or sandwich, followed perhaps by a slice of one of our famous home baked cakes or a cheese scone (declared to be the 'best in Somerset').

Our opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4.30pm and 10am to 4pm on Sundays, with last orders 15 minutes before closing.

We have some Autumnal and Hallowe'en themed crafts on offer at the moment and then from 11th November, the shelves will be festooned with Christmas gifts and decorations, all supplied by local makers. Don't forget we also sell amazing jewellery and art, plus second hand books for £1 and a variety of cards for £2.50, and our stocks are refreshed regularly.

We are always looking for new volunteers so if you would like to join our friendly team, please email us at coffeeshop@northcurry.com or call us on 01823 491414. It's a great way to meet people while helping the community and raising money for your chosen charity.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Remembrance Service: The annual Remembrance Sunday Service will be held on Sunday 9th November starting at 10:40am gathering around the War Memorial. Residents of Queen Square and Church Road are kindly reminded to ensure that any vehicles are clear of the War Memorial from 10:15am to 11:30am on the day. We look forward to seeing plenty of you there as usual.

Allotments: Are you interested in growing your own food? If so, we have several plots currently available, including starter plots for those who want to begin with a smaller sized plot. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk at parishcouncil@northcurry.com. We may open the allotments up to neighbouring Parishes if these plots aren't taken soon!

Autumn Litter Pick Event: The Autumn litter pick will take place on Saturday 18th October meeting at 10am outside the Village Hall. Come along and enjoy the satisfaction of helping to keep your parish beautifully tidy and free of litter! Hi-vis vests and litter pickers are provided, but please bring suitable footwear.

Somerset Resilience Day: The annual Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day is taking place on Wednesday 15th October from 9:15am – 4pm at Taunton Racecourse Conference Centre. The event will feature inspiring and practical workshops on resilience topics that the community has asked for including flooding, power outages, food resilience, emergency plans, fraud protection, and lots more! This event is free to attend, to book your free tickets please visit https://bit.ly/3YaSO81

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).

BBQ Gas Canisters: An important reminder that gas canisters, whether full or empty, **cannot** be put out for kerbside recycling collections. Recycling crews can't always spot canisters incorrectly placed in recycling and there is a high risk of them exploding when crushed. All gas canisters whether full or empty, must be taken to a Recycling Centre, you can then ask staff where they need to be left at the Centre.

Current Consultations: There are two important consultations currently live. One is for the introduction of parking charges on Sundays, to share your views please visit somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com. There is also one from NHS Somerset on proposals to close or repurpose beds in community hospitals, to share your views please visit www.nhssomerset.nhs.uk

Klezmer Music Night with Zeffe

North Curry Church, Saturday November 1st at 7.30pm

Do you remember dancing in the aisles in August last year?

The Zeffe Quartet are back at North Curry parish church 7.30pm on 1st November with their infectious, exciting and poignant style of Klezmer music in the Jewish east European, Romany and Balkan traditions.

Tickets £15 from NC Post Office during October. As usual in the Church monthly concert series there is no charge for accompanied under-12s, and a free glass of wine or cordial at the interval (wine for the over-18s!). Doors open at 7pm.





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



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

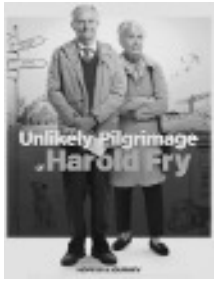
Free of charge (but we would welcome your contribution to the organ fund).
No tickets: just turn up!

NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On **Oct 29th** we are showing the stunning film Conclave about the secretive meeting to elect a new pope. Cardinal Lawrence, (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself at the centre of a web of intrigue.

Why not come along and join? Membership costs £30 for the year – that's £2.73 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).



On **Oct 11th**, we are starting our **Saturday Winter Warmers**, with the heart-warming film The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry with the superb Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton as Harold and Maureen Fry. The Village doors open at 2.30pm, with the film starting at 3pm. Entry £5. There's an intermission for tea and home-made cake (donation requested).

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 are able to help.

Bric-a-Brac Sale Thanks!



Mary and Anne would like to thank all who so kindly helped with the Bric-a-brac sale in North Curry on 13th September. The back of the church was awash with items and indeed the porch. The sale raised £400 for the church!

So very many thanks to all who gave items for the sale.

A huge thank you to Andrew for providing the refreshments, delicious cakes and biscuits. Much appreciated. With our deepest gratitude to everyone.

North Curry Parish Church Organ: A funding update

By David Akerman

"It was three times as complicated and twice as awkward as other organs but it's a good organ and a worthwhile project and we're pleased with the results," said Julie Foy.

Our organ is nearing its 200th birthday and had not had a major overhaul for about fifty years

The organ, donated by Barrett of Moredon and built by J Burnell was relocated in 1881-2 with a very tight fit into the chancel hence the opening comment.

For two months since Easter the experienced organ building family of Foy and company of Truro (with whom it has been a delight to work) have meticulously taken apart and refurbished the thousands of pipes, wires and pulleys and reshaped the pipes where necessary.

The only deviation from the original is that an electric motor rather than a boy and bellows provides the air pressure.

Subject to final adjustment and tweaking (as one would expect for an old instrument) the project is complete, and the restored organ now sounds fresh and clear from trumpet to flute.

However, it must be paid for.

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and with the welcome receipt of grants, and assuming we can recover VAT and Gift Aid we are now very close to our fund-raising target of £35000. A final push will enable us to reach the summit-please help.

Gift aid forms are available in the church. Cheques etc.in favour of the "PCC of North Curry" should have organ fund on the reverse please. - Thank you. And do come along to the recital on October 11th (see previous page).



NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

North Curry Society Meeting
Wednesday 15th October
Working Class Life in 17th Century Rural Somerset



Dr Mark Hailwood is associate professor in Early Modern History at the University of Bristol, where he has worked since 2017, a social historian with a particular interest in the everyday lives of ordinary men and women in England during the period 1500 to 1700. Come and hear what working class life was really like in 17th-century rural Somerset.

Doors at the Village Hall open 7.30pm for a hot drink and genial company before the talk starts at 8pm. Membership cards with the year's programme are available from the Treasurer (£15: 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

The North Curry Calendar 2027

(yes... looking ahead...)

By Colin Trim, colinhtrim@gmail.com

The Village Calendar, which is created by the Parish Church and sold through the Post Office, needs fresh photographers to ensure that the quality of the calendar is maintained and that it appeals to the whole village community. You do not need to be involved in any way with the church in order to submit images for consideration!

I have been invited to oversee the production of the 2027 Calendar and I hope that very much, as a resident of the village and/or a recent entrant to the Village Flower Show Photography Section, you can be persuaded to make some images over the next 10 months for submission to the Selection Panel by next August. We would like local landscape and architecture photos, images documenting village residents going about their daily business, and images of village events. Please bear in mind the following points:

1 All images must be submitted as digital files by email and must be in landscape format i.e the picture must be wider than the high. If using a mobile phone that means taking the picture with the phone turned 'on its side!

2. Most mobile phone/cameras nowadays produce images far larger than three megabytes. This however is the absolute minimum to enable sharp, clear images for printing the calendar.

3. I am publicising these details at this early stage as we need images for each of the 12 months in the year with photos shot in Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer. Snow, frost, autumn leaves, wind, rain, low-light, fog/mist and sun are all eminently 'photo-friendly' conditions! Photos of village events may be less climatically dependent, although 'atmosphere' can help!

4. We shall endeavour to include the work of as many village photographers as possible. We need 14 images. and you may submit as many images as you wish.

5. The name of the photographer will be published with each selected image.

Please contact me if you would like any further information. Full details of entry dates, email addresses etc will be published in the Spring and Summer 2026 in The Pink Paper, on posters throughout the village, in the Benefice Magazine and on NextDoor. But please send me what you wish at any time before then.

Happy Snapping, Good Luck, and let's make the 2027 Calendar the best yet!

NORTH CURRY WI

By Olivia

At our September meeting Nick King spoke eloquently about being diagnosed with Osteoporosis and how he discovered the benefits of goat's milk, which is very high in calcium.

He invested in his own goats for their milk. The goats produced a surplus of milk and needing to use it rather than waste it and through a process of trial and error he produced his own soap. He has turned his hobby into a sizeable business producing beauty products with notable health benefits. The business now includes his two sons and remains a family business.

Nick spoke of the experience of being on Dragon's Den. Although the Dragons did not invest in the business he received valuable advice. The Dragons' recommendation was to remain as a family business; expansion would need to be exponential, expensive and would change the business model into a global brand with all the concerns and liabilities that would mean.

October meeting: Wednesday October 1st at 2.00pm in North Curry Village Hall.

We are looking forward to a talk by Claire Hunt entitled "RHS Chelsea or Bust ". An intriguing title, so we look forward to hearing all about it.

On **October 22nd** we will host other WIs from surrounding villages to an evening with renowned cake decorator Anne Pickard who will be demonstrating cake decoration on a seasonal theme.

Anne runs a cake decorating school in Weston super Mare and has written many books on the subject. We look forward to picking up some ideas and tips.

At the time of going to press, the proceeds from our WI Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan, are unknown but we would like to thank Sheila Billinghurst for hosting it, and thank you to everyone who supported it in any way.

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 me on 07825 925775 or Barbara our President on 01823 490811. I look forward to hearing from you.

North Curry and Curland Methodist Church

Glancing back, looking forward!

Autumn is here again and with it the new Connexional year and its round of General Church Meetings in the various churches of the Circuit. These offer an opportunity to review the past months, and discern where God is leading us in the months ahead.

In our Circuit, we have been building closer relationships between our small churches and a slightly larger 'partner church' – this is because of the Charity Commission's guidance about small churches and their Trusteeship. North Curry and Curland Methodist Church is partnering with Lisieux Way Methodist Church, but we are each continuing our patterns of worship, work and mission in our locations.

We always try to work co-operatively, rather than in competition with other organisations in the village, so we have looked carefully at how we might complement what is already being offered.

Circuit Superintendent and Minister:

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

North Curry and Curland Methodist Church has an exciting vision of being 'A Breathing Space' for the community, to make the most of our lovely Grade II listed building, its peaceful and prayerful atmosphere, its useful rooms, and its quiet garden. In order to progress our vision, we are fundraising for some essential works to the floors, which will enable us to offer improved hospitality from the kitchen area.



Our next fundraising event will be:

Friday 17th October, 7.30pm in the Methodist Church

An evening of jazz standards, ballads, gospel and spirituals, played by Richard Llewelyn (guitar) and Tim Hill (saxes) in the lovely setting of the Methodist Church

The concert will be a benefit for Gaza Relief and the Church Renovation Fund. Refreshments will be served. Do come!

Thank you to all in the lovely village of North Curry for your support and encouragement.



ALL AGE WORSHIP

10 am

A 30 minute informal service

Followed by Coffee, Cake, Crafts and Activituies

19th October

EXPLORING FAITH TOGETHER

North Curry Parish Church

For more info: www.athelneybenefice.com

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When?

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

Stoke St Gregory:
2nd Thursday, Village Coffee Shop, 10am to 12pm



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Stoke St Gregory



Autumn Table-Top Sale – Saturday 1st November

in the Parish Church School Room, 10am to 12.30

Having a clear out? Could your trash be somebody else's treasure? I'm certainly hoping mine is!

We shall be supplying refreshments as well as cakes for sale. We are offering anybody the use of a table for £5 for you to present for sale anything legal you fancy getting rid of – craft, bric-a-brac, toys, books; the choice is yours. The main proviso is that, if you brought it with you and it doesn't sell then you must take it away again! The £5 is for church funds, any income from sales is yours.



Entry for buyers will be free. If you would like to book a table for this event then please contact Jane – 490508 or Pat – 490750.

The St Gregory Players

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Come and watch The St Gregory Players recreate the quintessential Christmas story, with a stage adaptation that remains faithful to Dickens's book including Christmas carols to enhance the Victorian setting and create the festive mood.

To be performed Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd November

7.30 pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory

with an additional matinee at 2.30 pm on Saturday 22nd

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Prices £10, concessions £8 for minors and full time students

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Goodbye and Grateful Thanks...

...and can you help?



We are truly sorry to be saying goodbye to Janet and Dave Moore who are moving away from Stoke St Gregory to be closer to their family. Both Janet and Dave arrived in Stoke St Gregory in the early noughties following busy working lives in Buckinghamshire. They had also, over the years, acquired considerable bell ringing experience and as soon as we had assembled a new team of ringers they brought their expertise to St Gregory's tower and remained stalwarts of our crew. Dave, in particular, has continued to ring right up to the present day and only recently stood down as Tower Captain.



In addition to this, they have been part of our Church cleaning brigade and we are hugely thankful for all their hard work with that. It is so often said that nobody is irreplaceable but in this instance Janet and Dave **will** be missed but we would very much like to prove that aphorism correct by replacing them with another pair of cleaning volunteers.

The job takes a couple of hours roughly every 5-6 weeks and, of course, the more people we have on board, the less frequently everybody has to do it. You absolutely do NOT need to attend church to help with this. If you could possibly offer a couple of hours every few weeks to help out then the Vicar and PCC would be most grateful.

Again, please contact Pat Sollis, 01823 490750





A visit to Mottisfont Abbey, Part 2

By Zillah Sykes



We began our visit to Mottisfont Abbey at the delightful walled garden that was full of old and very fragrant roses. Leaving there we made our way through the parkland with its many trees to the "font" or wellspring, and at the source of this eternal stream, we stood for a moment of quiet reflection.

From there we walked down towards the bridge that spanned the river and we looked down into the clear fresh water, where a number of good- sized trout were basking lazily. Trees grew along the riverbank and overhanging the water were reflected upon it. This was a place of calm tranquility, yet abundant with life.

Leaving the bridge we walked along the path that follows the river and almost immediately found ourselves beneath the canopy of a very large tree. Its trunk was of enormous girth, its branches towered high above us and spread all around us enveloping us in dappled shade. We later discovered it was a London plane tree, one of a number of similar trees that had been planted in these grounds around three hundred years ago. We wondered at the amount of life it supported, in its leaves and branches, as well as in the great network of roots that grew deep in the ground beneath our feet. For three centuries this tree had grown and flourished. It had weathered the storms of winter, had endured the frost and snow and had borne the heat and drought of many summers – yet it had remained strong. This magnificent tree called to mind some words of the Psalmist, who compared the man of God to "a tree, growing by streams of water." This was a man who treasured God's word in his heart and was careful to obey it. When trials and troubles came his way he was able to remain strong and secure in his faith. "And," continued the Psalmist, "whatever he does prospers." (Psalm 1)

We left the shelter of the tree and followed the path that led us to the

Abbey, an 18th Century house that had its origins as an Augustinian priory, established in 1201. Parts of this medieval building are still retained, including the cellarium which we accessed through a door from the garden. We entered into a cool, dark vaulted area where the monks had stored produce from the estate. In the corner by the door was a desk and a seat, where, by the light of a candle, the cellarer had kept account of all that was stored there. This would have included sacks of grain ground at the mill, barrels of apples from the orchard, honey from the hives and large quantities of cider and mead. Milk, cheese and butter were produced in the dairy and fish, for food on Fridays, were kept in a pool, probably where the winter garden is today. It was a prosperous estate and after providing for their own needs the monks offered hospitality to pilgrims making their way to Winchester, cared for the sick in their infirmary and gave alms to the poor.

The monastic way of life continued here for over three centuries. The monks continued to worship God in prayer and praise; they worked the land and served those in need until 1536 when it all came to a swift and brutal end. In that year Henry VIII closed down the monastery, took its wealth and gave the estate to one his favoured statesmen, Sir William Sandys, who chose not to demolish the priory but instead turned the church into the main body of the mansion he had built. Today sections of the medieval church can still be seen.

Throughout the changing years, in a shady corner of the grounds of the old Abbey, the spring never fails to well up and flow out into the stream. The stream cascades over the waterfall and runs down into the river below and the river flows on, out into the countryside and beyond. And there is life wherever the river flows.

It is so with the life of faith, which springs up from the depths of the love of God and flows like a mighty river throughout our land and our world, giving life, eternal life, wherever it flows.

And Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." John 7:37.



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North Curry Flower Show

It might seem a long way off, but those plants don't just grow on their own (well, they do, but you know…)

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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

5th Oct	Simon
19th Oct	John
26th Oct	Jo
2nd Nov	Barbara M
9th Nov	Remembrance (Baptist Church)

Sidespersons

5th Oct	Barbara P
19th Oct	John
26th Oct	Annette
2nd Nov	Will

Cleaners

5th Oct	Simon & Penny
12th Oct	Marilyn & Terri
19th Oct	Annette & Susan
26th Oct	Linda & Brett
2nd Nov	Simon & Penny
9th Nov	Marilyn & Penny

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
5th Oct	J Sergeant T Jones	Z Sykes	C Trim
12th Oct	Denise Walker, P Burgess	M Piers	J Satchwell
19th Oct	J Dare	D Walker	J Satchwell & D Walker
26th Oct	C Trim & L Farnham	H Griffiths	H Baker
2nd Nov	T Jeanes & J Sergeant	D Farnham	P Mennim

Services across the Benefice

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
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Harvest Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Church Service
5.00pm	Lyng	Harvest Service of the Word

12th October, 17th 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 Service
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Joint Church Service at Lisieux Way

19th October, 18th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	All-age service (Benefice worship)
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Family Service
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
3.00pm	North Curry Methodist	Autumn Praise Afternoon
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

26th October, Bible Sunday

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 Methodist	Church Service

2nd November, All Saints Sunday

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
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist	Holy Communion
5.00pm	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word, All Souls/ All Saints