The Athelney Magazine



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

April 2026

£1

Who's Who

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

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Treasurer	Steve Loveridge	07808 656329, stevejloveridge@gmail.com
School Room Bookings	Pat Sollis	01823 490750, pat.sollis1@btinternet.com

The Athelney Bulletin

As well as this monthly Athelney Magazine, there is a weekly publication available online and in each church. The Athelney Bulletin is emailed out each weekend and printed copies can be found in readiness for Sunday worship. The bulletin contains all the readings for each Sunday and also news and notices of upcoming events. If you would like to receive this bulletin in your email either contact vicar@athelneybenefice.com or complete the form on the benefice website, athelneybenefice.com/signup



Coffee, Tea and Fellowship across the Benefice

Each month there is a pattern of gatherings, featuring tea, coffee, cakes and conversation. All are open to all. All are wonderful opportunities to chat and all the cakes are guaranteed to be of a very high standard.

You can find the coffee mornings here:

Burrowbridge

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



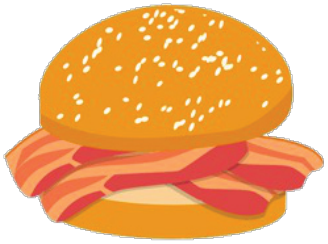
Lyng

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

North Curry

Wednesdays at 10am in church.

Stoke St Gregory



The Levellers meet at 2.30pm every third Tuesday in the Williams Hall. A time of conversation and fellowship, often with a visiting speaker.

Thank you to everyone who helps with these events

To Submit Copy

Copy deadline is **14th April** for the May Magazine; Please note: **July and December are double months.**

Please send **content** in an email attachment (ideally a Microsoft Word document) to **magazine@athelneybenefice.com**. Please add "CONTENT" to the subject line. If you are sending content pertaining to more than one thing, please send separate attachments and for each item, making it clear in which edition it is to appear. Please use 12-point Arial font and ensure that it fits into a maximum of 2 A5 pages where possible. To check this set your word document to be in landscape orientation with 2 columns. ***If none of this makes any sense, please just write it out long hand and put it through the vicarage door…***

To Subscribe

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



First, an apology!

You will have noticed that there was no March edition of this publication. My apologies! As editor and general collator of things, the weeks leading up to deadline just filled up with unplanned (although very significant) dates and encounters. In the end, rather than try to stop the world turning, I gave in and let the deadline pass. So, here, as Lent comes to an end I offer my penitential regrets to you and welcome you to the Easter edition of the Athelney Benefice Magazine.

Reparations

In January 2023 the Church of England published a report, "Research into Historic Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery". The report was a comprehensive and vital part of The Church of England's investigations into how the church had been involved in what is universally recognised as an horrific period in European economic and cultural history. This is from the foreword to the report:

"When the Church Commissioners' Board of Governors' audit committee in 2019 proposed research into our endowment fund's history and whether it profited from historic transatlantic slavery, we immediately understood the importance and relevance of this project. The transatlantic slave economy played a significant role in shaping who we are as a society, a country and a Church, and we needed to understand it."

From out of the report came a commitment to create a resource using a small portion of The Church Commissioners' funds to go some way towards making "reparations" for the income of "Queen Anne's Bounty" in the early decades of the 18th Century. Queen Anne's Bounty was set up in 1704, "to augment the incomes of the poorer clergy of the Church of England". By the time the church divested itself from the commerce of captivity and inhumanity (around 1739), over £400 million (in 2026 terms) had been amassed by the Bounty from investments made.


NEWS

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Church of England announces £100m fund after slavery links

From findings shared in their 2023 report The Church Commissioners decided to set aside £100 million to redress the Church's relationship within the transatlantic trade. This money is to be used as the basis for an "impact investment fund" to redress the harm done by the chattel slavery. And the harm is indeed vast. It is clear from so much of what was written at the time of the trade that it was grounded in a dreadful racism. Black people from Africa were considered not to be humans, and certainly of less value than white Europeans. It was at best an excuse for letting the the trade happen at all, and worst it was a wicked attitude that revealed the dismissive views of the European culture of the time.

That's the background to this substantial fund and the work to consider how best to allocate it is now getting underway. Thankfully there is now no nation on Earth where chattel slavery is permitted, although, of course we are well aware of the disgrace of "modern slavery". The guiding principle behind the use of the £100 million fund is that there should be a legacy that repairs the damage done by the church 300 years ago.

I am well aware that for some this seems to be an awful lot of money being spent in the wrong place. While our parishes struggle to make ends meet, spending £100 million to repair the damage done by people who lived many generations can be thought of as a waste of resources. I don't agree, however. And I want to try to explain why.

First of all, £100 million represents a very small proportion of the overall asset base of the Church Commissioners. At the end of 2024 the Commissioners were estimated to have assets of around £11.1 billion. This means that the reparation fund amount to less than 1% of the asset base. As the link above reveals, the Commissioners were committed to distributing £1.2 billion to various programmes between 2023 and 2025. The allocation for 2026 to 2028 has not been revealed yet. So, the £100 million over a number of years is still less than 10% of what is being spent over a three year period.

How the CCs allocate funds is a topic for another article, and there is a lot to be considered: do they support parishes sufficiently in that £1.2 billion, for example? (Spoiler: the vicar isn't

convinced…). Even so, I think the £100 million is a drop in the CC ocean. More than that, it demonstrates a commitment to reconciliation. The history of the church is tainted by its involvement in chattel slavery and the reparation fund seeks to bring hope and growth to communities in this country who experience persistent racial prejudice. The very basis of the slave trade was that Black people were not considered human. The poverty of many former West Indies communities perpetuates that inequality.

What needs explaining, perhaps, is how the funds will be spent, and why. Whenever "public" money is spent, there are many hands held up to be picked. I believe that the damage done to those descended from West African people—who were transported in appalling fashion and then enslaved in inhuman conditions—is such that reparations need to be made, if "only" for reasons of repentance. The CC report confirms the role the church had: it was a far from Christian behaviour. But the question then is, "how do we repent of the past by spending money in the present?" The process is still considering this matter. Watch this space.

This article contains links to online resources that will not show up in the printed version. Please visit the benefice website to read it online and find the links.

Church fund 'not enough' to right slavery wrongs



Bishop Rosemarie Mallett, who chaired the group behind the report, said she hoped it would be "a catalyst to encourage other institutions to investigate their past"

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 Revd Martin Mudie

When I awake each morning, I first check to see I'm still breathing, then I check that the girls are still breathing and are ok and then I slowly come to and try to remember which day it is and am I supposed to be somewhere. When that is all done, I rise, make the very best cup of tea of the day, liberate a digestive biscuit from the biccy barrel, give the girls their morning biscuit and count my blessings, of which there are many.

To be honest, retirement has been the happiest period of my life. I have fulfilled a lifelong ambition to live in a charming and beautiful English village and I find Stoke St Gregory to be just that. It is full of lovely, kind and happy people, at least the ones I know. We have a beautiful church with a built in serenity that come from a deeply spiritual place which has absorbed the worship and prayers of generations of villagers over hundreds of years where I have had, over the last fifteen years, the privilege, and it is just that, of ministering on some Sundays, to a small but incredibly hard working band.

I have also fulfilled a lifelong ambition to live a lovely compact bungalow (no more horrid stairs for me) in what is to me a lovely garden, becoming more derelict and shabby, just like it's custodian, as the years go by. I just tell people who ask that it is my contribution to the environment. Venturing beyond the gate, we are so lucky in Stoke to have, at the very heart of our village the Royal Oak Shop, pub and Café, where I go, most days, for my morning coffee. This wonderful place, maintained under Jo's watchful eye (and we are so lucky to have her) with a wonderful band of volunteers who do a myriad of tasks to keep the show on the road, and it means that I only need to go supermarket shopping once a month. So, if you add a really good village hall, which hosts various activities and the playing fields, which provides the girls with their daily exercise, Stoke is really great place in which to live.

However, the blessings do not stop there, because, thanks to my connection with the other three villages in our benefice, there are benefits beyond our village borders. North Curry is also a lovely village with a beautiful church, pub, shop, doctor's surgery, village hall which hosts various events, including a monthly produce market and coffee shop, where the food is not only really good but very reasonably priced, due to the hard working volunteers who work there. Burrowbridge has a lovely church which hosts a monthly coffee morning, where the cakes and goodies are really yummy and Lyng has an ancient lovely church and a very active village hall which hosts many activities, including a monthly big breakfast. So many events in four small villages which all work together to bind the four communities together. So, that is why, each morning I count my blessings, of which I have many.

Grace, Truth and Courage

By Bishop Fiona



Guilt, shame, mercy, and forgiveness. Four words all linked with Easter, which we shall celebrate this month.

The last two of those seem to be in short supply at the moment. The 'gods' of social media are ready instantly to punish all offenders, now and in the future.

People often offer George Orwell's nightmare vision of Big Brother as a way to understand our times. I'm more drawn to the image of Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon – a building where a watchman could observe all the inhabitants at all times but without the inhabitants knowing whether or not they're being watched – which ensured compliance. When we hear about online data harvesting it can feel as if everything you say, or do, can be recorded and held against you, ready to be brought out and used if needed.

Where's the mercy or the forgiveness in that? Where's the grace that understands we all make mistakes and need second chances? There's no possibility of wiping the slate clean and beginning again.

Which is where the astounding grace and mercy we celebrate on Good Friday and Easter Day comes in.

Mark Greene of the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity highlights how the wonder of Easter speaks words of grace and hope to our unmerciful world:

All this judgement serves to highlight the majestic, counter-cultural grace of the Christian gospel. Yes, God is a God of justice, opposed to the degrading of any human on any grounds. Yes, he has seen our every furtive action, picked up every sly whisper, logged every darkling thought … yet his mercy flows from the cross like an ocean, drenching the universe. As today's media Pharisees rage, God's offer is 'mercy, mercy, mercy' to all who would repent and receive him. And our watchwords: grace, truth, love, and courage.

May this encourage us all as we continue through Lent, experience Holy Week, and finally reach the joy of Easter.

DIOCESE OF Bath&Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus

Benefice Reorganisation Update

By Revd Simon Bale

You may be aware that the Athelney Benefice is considering a proposal from the Diocese of Bath and Wells to expand by joining with our two neighbouring parishes of Othery and Middlezoy. This was suggested early last year and has taken some time to get moving.

During April and May there will be two meetings of the PCCs of the parishes with the Archdeacon of Taunton (April 23rd: the current four parishes of Athelney and May 12th with the two neighbouring parishes). The purpose of the meetings is to consider a formal proposal to the parishes for an amalgamation.

In the meantime, as vicar of the current four parishes, I am exploring relationships with the other two parishes but nothing formal has been agreed. In due course we will begin to consider how to work as six, but in the meantime the formal proposal needs attention.

There is a well defined process to be followed and I am grateful to David Akerman (North Curry) for having put together the following "crib". David also offers some precise "representations" to the proposal. They are offered through concern for the bigger picture. They do not comprise any formal response from any PCC but might help in discussions. Again, thank you to David.

It is important to note that as incumbent, I have no say in how matters proceed. The decisions are to be made between parishes and Archdeacon. This is exactly as it needs to be. My role in the parishes is to remain present, with the "cure of souls" for whichever parishes I have a license. I am obedient to the Bishop and will endeavour to conduct myself as is required. As I have said many times in all of this: I will rise and sleep and in between, engage with God's will on this Earth. That is a blessed and profound joy and one for which I am confident God has prepared me.

What is the process?

1. The diocese seeks the views of "interested parties" via Archdeacons and the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC)
2. The diocese recommends proposals to the bishop (who can make a Bishop's Mission Order or a Pastoral Order if all interested parties have agreed).
3. You should see that any comments made by the PCC are passed on fairly to the bishop by the DMPC.
4. Draft Scheme or Order published (anyone may object to Church Commissioners) This includes formal notices on church notice boards and announcements at principal services in the affected par-

ishes.

5. If there are objections the Church Commissioners decide whether the Scheme or Order should go ahead. Literally anyone can object whether regular church goers or not. The Civil Parish Council and MPS etc may express a view
6. The bishop makes a Pastoral Order unless the Church Commissioners decide it should not be made.
7. Objectors may seek Leave to Appeal against the Commissioners' decision on a Pastoral Scheme or Pastoral Church Buildings Scheme.
8. The Church Commissioners make a Scheme unless they decide it should not be made or there is a successful appeal against their decision that it should be made.

Objections

The Mission, Pastoral & Church Property Committee of the Church Commissioners (MPCPC) considers objections to proposed pastoral (parish) reorganisation and some clergy housing and glebe transactions. Objections are legally called "representations".

Pastoral care and lack of clergy

- Concerns over the union of the six parishes into one new benefice resulting in the inadequate provision of clergy for such a large area.
- Loss of personal relationships between the clergy and their parishioners, coupled with not
- Always having an identifiable priest to turn to
- Over-reliance on retired clergy and lay people is not a good thing.

Geography and logistics

- The area is too large and rural for effective ministry under these proposals
- Travel times and poor infrastructure hinder clergy presence in each of the parishes and worshipping communities and will adversely impact on mission, and the cure of souls.
- Travel is harder during the flood season.

Impact on worship and sacraments

- Fewer services because of the proposal, especially Holy Communion.
- Disapproval of "Communion by Extension" as a long-term solution.

Community identity and local presence in each community

- Fear of losing the parish identity and local church connection.
- Importance of clergy being embedded in communities, where proper and meaningful relationships are developed between the priest and the parishioners concerned.

Mental health and clergy wellbeing

Risk of burnout and stress for clergy managing such where similar schemes have been said not to have worked well.

Financial concerns

Perception of financial motivations over pastoral priorities.

Justification

The proposal is based solely on short term local financial consideration and not for the overriding purpose of better provision for the cure of souls. It seems that the diocese had already made up its mind on the outcome.

Theological concern

The proposal is a deviation from the Anglican tradition of emphasis on the eucharist and the role of the parish priest.

There is a flowchart available to help with the overall process. It is too detailed to print on these small pages, so please scan the QR to download it from our website or visit: athelneybenefice.com/reorganisation

To conclude…

The next steps will be matters of prayer and discernment. In all we do, as disciples of Christ we need to remain open to the opportunities and challenges before us and act in faith that we are gathered together as one body.

There may be difficult discussions to be carried forward. With patience and reflection, I believe we can grow in what lies ahead.



Burrowbridge & Lyng

There's a fair bit of overlap between Burrowbridge and Lyng this month, so we've combined the two!

Murder!

Not Midsomer, but something similar…

As part of our ongoing desire to raise funds variously for clocks and fences and general ongoing maintenance, the churches of Burrowbridge and Lyng are two "Murder Mystery" events this summer.

On Saturday **June 27th** in Lyng and **August 8th** in Burrowbridge (2pm at both) there will be a murder. And it is up to you to solve the mystery. The story has been prepared by Paul Hockey of Athelney, with input from the wardens in both churches and features a local theme.

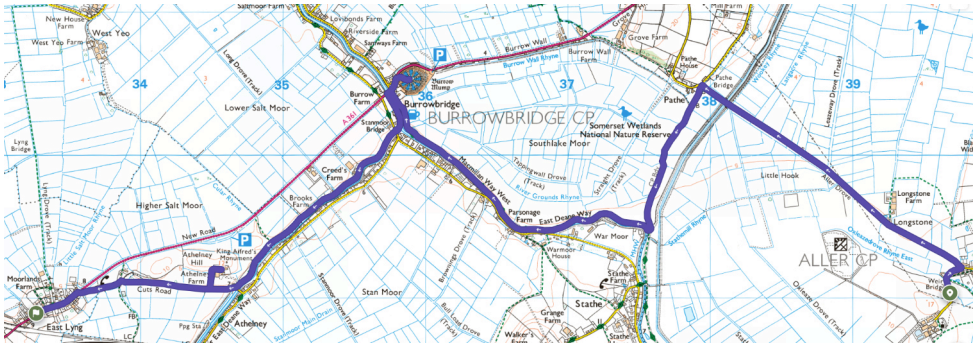
The mystery is the same in each location, so if you come to the first you are on strict instructions not to reveal the killer to anyone!

The events have a£10/person entrance fee, with teams of four people. More details from the wardens and the vicar, and further details in our next issue.

The Pilgrim Route

Overleaf you will find details concerning the Somerset Day events in Aller, Burrowbridge and Lyng.

The walk itself will follow the route shown below. It is a largely level and accessible path including walking along lanes. For reasons of safety, we will be posting marshals along the way. If you would like to participate in the day but cannot walk, perhaps you would be able to volunteer as a marshal. Full instructions will be given on the day. Please let the vicar know.



Burrowbridge & Lyng



Somerset Day 2026

As part of our ongoing and developing awareness of the history of the benefice, with the recognition of St Athelwin and his association with Alfred the Great, the parishes of Burrowbridge and Lyng in particular are working with Aller to celebrate Somerset Day in style. Currently the weekend of May 9th/10th is looking like this:



Saturday 9th May: A Pilgrimage Walk (ticketed event)

A short 6 mile walk from St Andrew's Church at Aller to St Bartholomew's Church at East Lyng, taking in the nature and wildlife along the Rivers Sowy and Parrett, St Michael's Church at Burrow Mump and views over the Levels, with special exclusive permission to walk across the Isle of Athelney from the abbey to the marsh fort where Alfred hid in the late ninth century and planned his victory over the Vikings, and where Athelwin set up his spiritual residency two centuries earlier.

Tickets will cost £10 per person which will cover safety costs (road signs etc.) with any surplus being donated to the churches involved in hosting walkers.

Sunday 10th May: BBQ in the Park at Aller

BBQ and licensed bar at Aller Recreation Ground (TA10 0QP) provided by The Old Pound Inn with performances including:

The Lost Somerset Singers (ticketed event at Aller church)

Renowned natural voice practitioner, choir conductor, musician, writer and archaeologist Yvette Staelens with a performance from Somerset's rich folk song heritage collected from local towns, villages and hamlets of rural Somerset by revivalist Cecil Sharp

Elven Dale: Sounds of the Mead Hall

Reenactment group playing music and songs with early medieval musical instruments. Founded by Hrafn Rìkharðsson in 2016, with performances including Warhorns Festival, Fantasy Forest and Valhalla Viking Festival. Their epic double album "Land of Legend' was released March 2025





The Langport Mummers

A colourful and incredibly entertaining local troupe performing traditional Mumming plays with hilarious twists and turns!

The Alfred Family Walk

The launch of a new short family walk from Aller Recreation Ground to Aller Church, standing in the footsteps of Alfred whilst learning about the wider history of the Isle of Alders from Bronze Age farmers to Iron Age warriors, Romans and Saxons, and not forgetting the fearsome Aller dragon! The walk continues across the fields of a working diary farm with cows and sheep, and through the village to see the amazing mosaics of Bryan Newman before returning to the recreation ground.

Further information and booking for all these events can be found athelneybenefice.com/somersetday, or use the QR code above.



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 11th May 2026, 7.30pm (APCM)
- Monday 13th July 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.

Bells in Lyng

By Darren Woodyer, acting tower captain, has written the story so far…

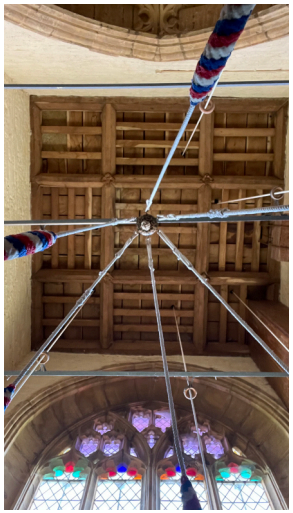
Lyng is a beautiful church. Access and parking have always presented challenges, however. As a result, the bells at Lyng have rarely been rung other than by the small local band for regular services. Over the past 12 months, with several ringers having moved away, the band has dwindled to only two or three members. As Lyng is part of the Athelney Benefice, ringers from North Curry have been doing their best to help keep ringing alive at Lyng.

In an effort to support the long-term future of the bells, some exciting work has taken place. The church has always been a ground-floor ring, which historically made the bells quite challenging. This is no longer the case. Over the past eight months, a small group has worked to relocate the ringing chamber upstairs into what was previously the clock room.

As the membership of the ringers changed, those who remained decided it would be an ideal moment to let the bells fall silent temporarily and address some long-needed improvements.

Since then:

- Soundproofing has been installed beneath the bells in the bell chamber.
- The clock room has been fully cleared and repurposed as the new ringing chamber.
- The wheels of the fifth and sixth bells have been turned back to their original positions, improving the ringing circle.
- The church has now instructed an electrician to install new lighting along the stairs, in the bell chamber, and in the ringing chamber.



As with many small parish churches, funds are extremely limited, so the work has been carried out carefully and on a tight budget. Even so, the improvements have already made the bells considerably easier to ring and have secured the future of ringing in Lyng.

Importantly, relocating the ringing chamber has also freed up valuable space downstairs, allowing the church to proceed with long-awaited plans to create a small café and meeting area for the community.

There is still much to do, but it is wonderful to be able to say that the bells of Lyng can once again be rung regularly—and with renewed confidence for the future.



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

March

1st Heather Jeanes
2nd Susan Hickman
3rd Sue Ashton

North Curry Coffee Shop

We are now serving our Summer Menu, with a different 'Special' every week, ranging from our delicious homemade quiches, smoked mackerel and, new for this year, Somerset brie, grapes and oatcakes, served with a healthy crisp salad. We will also be bringing back our lovely homemade scones for our excellent cream teas, and don't forget our famous home baked cakes, and cheese scones considered by cyclists to be the 'best in Somerset'!

And we sell a variety of lovely local art, crafts, cards and jewellery too.

Our opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4.30pm (last orders 4.15pm) and Sunday 10am to 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 look forward to welcoming you.



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

"Pests, Weeds and Diseases"

Guest Speaker: Julia Steed

Friday 10th April at the Village Hall in Greenway. 7.30 for Refreshments before the 8.00pm talk (NB: earlier start time)

Visitors and new members are very welcome. If you are new to gardening or are more experienced come along or email northcurrygardenclub@gmail.com for more information. Meetings, with a guest speaker, are on the first Friday of each month from February to May and again from September to December. In the summer months we arrange outings to visit special gardens.

Advance notice: On May 8th the subject of the talk by Sally Nex will be Gardening without Plastics. Booking now available for Coach outing to Bicton Court Botanic Garden on Wednesday June 17th.

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

"The Road to Compostela", by Penny Buckley

Wednesday April 15th, 7.30pm for 8pm

This month in the North Curry Society series of monthly talks, Penny Buckley, a volunteer in a Pilgrims' Hostel, shares her experiences of pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago making their way by foot, horseback or bicycle to the tomb of St James.

Doors open at the Village Hall 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Membership cards with the year's programme are available from the Treasurer. Visitors always welcome, on payment of the £5 guest fee (or you can join on the night for only £15 for the rest of the year).

The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday each month to hear about aspects of local heritage. Our Chairman Colin Trim would be pleased to learn about topics and speakers of interest to you: contact him at 01823 490337..



NORTH CURRY **F I L M** CLUB



On Wed April 22nd, we are showing **The Penguin Lessons**. This is a heartfelt comedy drama starring Steve Coogan. Based on a true story, he plays a disillusioned British teacher. Whilst working in Argentina in 1976, he rescues a penguin from an oil-covered beach. Amidst severe political turmoil, the penguin transforms the lives of students and staff at a strict boarding school. It is a delightful story of compassion.

The Village hall doors & bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. Also open to guests (£5).

Can you help with putting out the chairs before the films each month. It takes about 20 mins. Please contact Don 01823 490 859.

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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!

Kingsbury Episcopi Band



Concert at North Curry Church

Music to include Beyond The Sea, Jersey Boys, YMCA & Bare Necessities

Saturday 25th April 2026



7.30pm

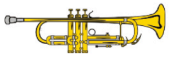


Free Entry - Donations in aid of St Peters & St Pauls Church and Cancer Research UK



Find us on Facebook

www.kingsburyband.co.uk



Kingsbury Episcopi Band
HMRC Charities reference number EW47723

North Curry WI

At our March meeting we had a talk by Chris Churchman entitled Losing our Landscape – Our National Landscape in Transition.

This was an interesting, in depth, talk about the way climate change is affecting our landscape and rural environment.

Dealing with the extent the built environment encroaches on the countryside (not as much as we imagine apparently), food production, its impact on carbon emissions and the way farming practices are changing to support the environment, it generated a lively discussion amongst several of our members and it was generally thought to have been a very informative topic.

On the 5th of March, a small group of members visited The Shoe Museum at Clarks Village Street. If you haven't been it is worth a visit. It is very well designed and curated, taking you through the development of shoe manufacture from cottage industry to major manufacturing, unfortunately abroad now.

What shone through however is the way the Quaker roots are still influential ensuring that high standards of working practices and living standards are maintained in much poorer economies.

Our next meeting is our

AGM, APRIL FOOLS DAY (but definitely no fools around here! It's after 12.00 so that's fine…): 2.00pm in North Curry Village Hall 1st April 2026.

Our existing committee have all indicated their willingness to continue, so the formalities will hopefully be quick. These procedures will be followed by a Beetle Drive, so some fun to follow the business.

If you would like to join us, we'd be pleased to see you. Membership is £52.00 for the year, and we aim to give good value for money with a varied programme of speakers and events.

Our May meeting will take place on Wednesday April 29th, because of the Public Consultation using the Hall on our usual meeting date.

So, a week earlier than usual, we will be pleased to welcome experienced gardener Mickey Little. He has been National Trust Assistant Head Gardener, Head Gardener at Castle Drogo and Hestercombe amongst other places and we are looking forward to his visit. Details of his precise talk are yet to be finalised, but we are sure of an interesting afternoon. If you would like more information, please do contact me Olivia Spall on 07825 925775 or Barbara Drakeford our President on 01823 49081.

Spring Concert

Dvorak Mass in D

Elgar Give Unto the Lord

Soloists and other items

Saturday 16th May

North Curry Village Church, 7:30 PM

Tickets £10 from North Curry Post Office or Choir Members

North Curry Village Choir

website: www.northcurryvillagechoir.org

The North Curry Music Festival

A brief summary… for now…



The 4th Annual North Curry Music Festival kicks off this year with the village's very own guitar quartet, Time to Spare, setting the tone for four days of fantastic music and fun.

The film club will host a sing-along screening of the ABBA classic, Mamma Mia, so everyone can join in with their favourite tunes, (dressing up also encouraged)! Friday afternoon features the village ukulele orchestra performing in the church, followed by a performance from Dragonsfly, a band known for playing contemporary and unique instruments in various cultural styles.



The weekend continues with an impressive lineup, starting with Shiraz, a singer-songwriter duo famous for their distinctive folk harmonies. Queen's Square Garden is the venue for performances by various local musical groups. Julie Meikle will be running a children's music workshop.

Saturday night's entertainment is supplied by two internationally renowned artists Fenella Humphreys (violin) and Ivana Gavrić (piano), who will present a classical concert. Sunday's church services will include performances by a choir of local schoolchildren and from lunchtime meet the rest of the village on the playing field to barbecue, picnic, dance, whatever takes your fancy with live music from Rooster, a great party band covering hits from the 1950s to today. See you there!



Talking Cafe

North Curry:

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

When?

Stoke St Gregory:

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



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www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafes

Funded by: Somerset Council, NHS Somerset

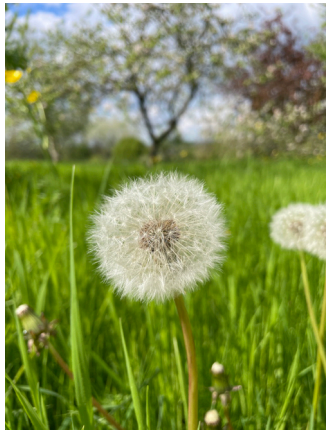
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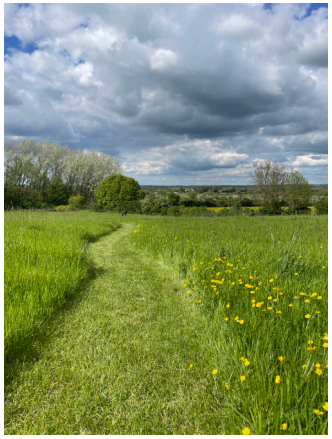


Stoke St Gregory

Open Gardens at Hillcrest, Curload, Sunday 15th June afternoon



The Gardens will be open at Hillcrest this year but for ONE DAY ONLY. The admission charge will include parking and your usual teas with a delicious assortment of home-baked cakes, plus the chance to buy a variety of plants donated by local residents.



Don't miss your one and only opportunity this year to visit this beautiful and intriguing garden with funds being raised for the National Garden Association and the Parish Church. More detailed information will be available nearer the day.



Church Cleaning

The Church is in great need of some more people to clean the church every five weeks. This involves teams of two and usually takes about an hour and is hoovering, sweeping, dusting…not climbing anything!

Brett and Linda have cleaned for many years but now feel it's time to "retire". Our very grateful thanks go to them for all their efforts over those years they were much appreciated. But what we now need are some new volunteers, so if you feel able to help keep the Church sparkling please get in touch with Pat Sollis 01823490750 or Pat.sollis@btinternet.com





CHARITY SUPPER & TALK - NEW DATE

In aid of The National Autistic Society

A two-course hot meal + coffee/tea (BYOB if wished), followed by the talk outlined below.

Saturday April 18th at Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
6.30pm for 7pm for supper; 7.45pm for 8pm for the talk

Tickets for meal & talk £15 each
Donations on the door for coffee & talk only

Contact dianne.callaghan52@gmail.com for tickets or more information or phone Kathy on 07721368165
Tickets are also available in the Village Shop.

William Hogarth (1697–1764): Medicine and Morality – Talk by Mike Davidson



William Hogarth developed the art form "modern moral subject". These are several series of paintings and engravings that tell cautionary tales through vivid, often humorous depictions of Georgian life.

Hogarth's London was a city where wealth, disease, poverty, and immorality intertwined. His art captured the medical and social realities of 18th-century urban life with biting satire. This talk looks at Hogarth's work from both a medical and moral viewpoint.

Stoke St Gregory WI

The April members' meeting at Stoke St Gregory WI on Tuesday 14th is when the annual subscriptions are due.

A polite reminder to members that they need to arrive with either £54 in cash or a cheque made payable to Stoke St Gregory WI.

We have Nichola Penn visiting from Boo Cottage Soaps to show us how they are made.

There is also an exhibition of members handicrafts so please bring along anything that you have made over the past year.

Veronica is running the trade stall,

If you ever wondered what we get up to at a meeting then please don't hesitate to get in touch for more details.

Amelia Holt,
President, 07985 317252



Belinda is giving the vote of thanks, Jenny is filling the rose bowl and Lyn and Karen are on refreshment duty.

The new programme will be handed out to members with all the activities, outings and speakers for the coming year.

New members are always welcome so why not come along to the Village Hall on the 14th April, it only costs £5 for a visitor.

🎉 Save the Date! 🎉

Stoke St Gregory Village Fete is back on Saturday 11th July at 1pm, and we can't wait to return to the playing field for another fantastic community day!

Expect all your favourite traditional stalls plus some exciting new additions we're working hard to bring to life. 🌟

Interested in having a stall? Or want to get involved behind the scenes and help organise this year's fete? Please contact Sara Sollis on 07496 668223 or sarasollis1@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed

Grandparents

Friends

Neighbours / local community

Parents

For Friends of Stoke St Gregory school

We need your help to support us fundraise for the children of our community.

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More information :

Friends of Stoke St Gregory School

FOS volunteer group; 07595644656

Fos@ssg.oak.education

Discuss with Laura, Lucy or Rosie in the playground

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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...)

Saturday August 16th 2026

2.00pm to 4.30pm

North Curry Village Hall



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Rotas

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

29th March	Barbara M
5th April	Barbara P
19th April	John
26th April	Alex
3rd May	Simon & Penny

Flowers

Decorate Church for Easter on Saturday 4th April,

Amelia will attempt to keep the flowers going until the 24th

April 26th and May 3rd: Sue Smythe

Readers

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

29th March	John
5th April	Jane
19th April	John
26th April	Will
3rd May	Simon

Cleaners

29th March	Annette & Susan
5th April	Marilyn & Terri
12th April	Penny & Simon
19th April	Annette & Susan
26th April	Marilyn & Terri
3rd May	Penny & Simon

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
2nd Apr (Maundy)	T Jeanes	D Walker	T Jeanes
4th Apr (Vigil)	L Farnham		D Walker
5th Apr	L Paul, C Trim	Z Sykes	D Akerman
12th Apr	P Burgess, Denise Walker	H Griffiths	C Trim
19th Apr (Evensong)	T Jones	J Satchwell	M Piers
26th Apr	S Keele, J Sergeant	D Walker	S Harrison
3rd May	L B-Brown, T Jeanes	D Farnham	J Satchwell

Services across the Benefice (cont)

19th April, 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	All Age Benefice Worship
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Morning Worship
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
3.00pm	Lyng	Evensong
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

26th April, 4th Sunday of Easter

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

3rd May, 5th Sunday of Easter

10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist with Baptism
10.00am	Stoke Baptist Church	Messy Church
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service with Holy Communion
3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist

Meditations during Holy Week

Holy week is a time of solemn preparation: a turning towards the cross and Golgotha as Good Friday looms. It is a time to contemplate the preceding five weeks of Lent, a time to consider our own journey to the cross with Jesus, perhaps. As Lent has progressed and the sorrow has deepened, it is a time to see in our world how we can find the strength to share the pain of The Passion.

Each day, in each of our parishes, we will hold short times of reflection. In Stoke St Gregory there be a daily compline at 6pm, and in North Curry (Mon), Burrowbridge (Tue) and Lyng (Wed) short focused acts of prayer and contemplation. Do come along to any or all…

Services across the Benefice

29th March, Palm Sunday

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist (9.40am: Queen Square)
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Communion
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist

Holy Week

6pm, Monday-Wednesday	Compline, Stoke St Gregory
6pm Daily Meditations:	Mon: North Curry, Tue: Burrowbridge, Wed: Lyng

Maundy Thursday

6pm	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
7.30pm	North Curry	Eucharist

Good Friday

10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	combined Service with Stoke Parish Church
2pm-3pm	Contemplation at the Foot of the Cross 2pm: North Curry, 2.30pm: Burrowbridge, 3pm: Lyng	
7.00pm	North Curry Methodists	Taizé Service

Holy Saturday

8.00pm	North Curry	Easter Vigil with Paschal Candles

Easter Day

6.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Sunrise Service and lighting the Easter Fire
6.30am	Burrow Mump	Easter Sunrise
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Easter Eucharist
9.30am	Lyng	Easter Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Easter Celebration
11.00am	North Curry	Easter Eucharist
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Easter Eucharist
3.00pm	North Curry Methodists	Circuit Easter Celebration

12th April 2nd Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist with Baptism
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Communion Service
10.30am	United Methodist Service	at Lisieux Way