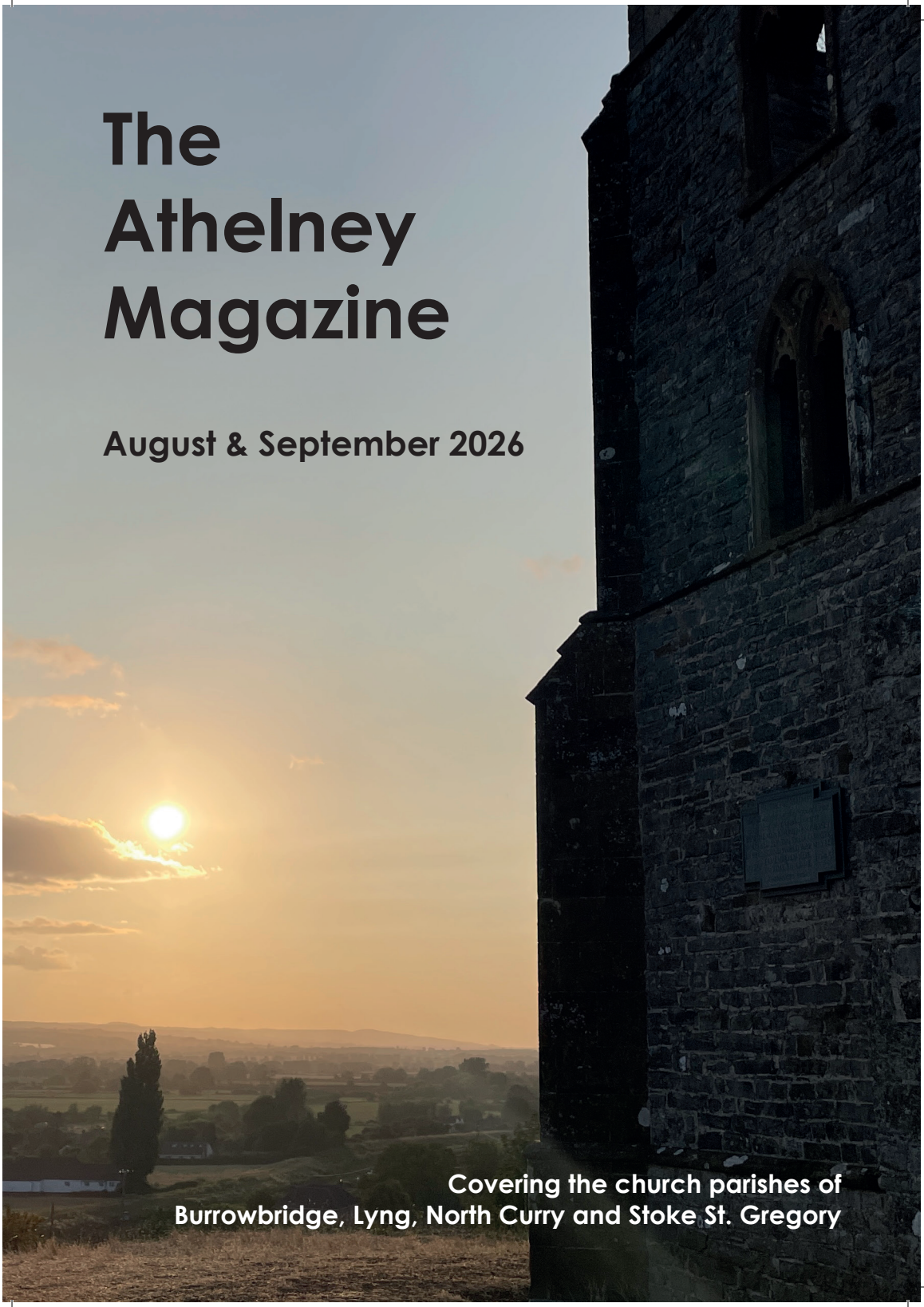
The Athelney Magazine

August & September 2026



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

Who's Who

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

Benefice

Vicar	**Revd Dr Simon Bale**	**07970 936325, 01823 491587 vicar@athelneybenefice.com**
Associate Priest	Revd Martin Mudie	01823 490371, mmudie07@gmail.com
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Treasurer	Pat Sollis	01823 490750, pat.sollis1@btinternet.com
Safeguarding	Simon Baldwin	01823 490312, sp.hiho@btinternet.com
Administrator	Alison Perry	07470 838707 office@athelneybenefice.com

Burrowbridge

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

Lyng

Churchwarden	Alison Perry	07470838707, office@athelneybenefice.com
Churchwarden	Angie Martin	07936 050230, a.martin78630@gmail.com
Treasurer	Margaret Williamson	01823 690471, emwilliamson@btinternet.com

North Curry

Churchwarden	Tom Jeanes	01823 490562, lawnmoorfarm@hotmail.com
Churchwarden	Mary Piers	01823 491434, marypiers@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Richard Sykes	nctreasurer@athelneybenefice.com

Stoke St Gregory

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

The Athelney Bulletin

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



Coffee, Tea and Fellowship across the Benefice

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

You can find the coffee mornings here:



Burrowbridge

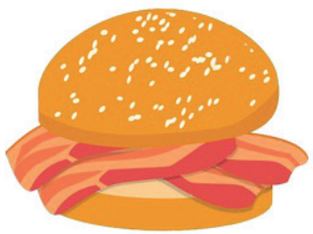
1st Saturday of each month, from 10am to 12pm in church. Free to all.

Lyng

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

North Curry

Wednesdays at 10am in church.



Stoke St Gregory

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

Thank you to everyone who helps with these events

To Submit Copy:

Copy deadline is 14th September for the Oct/Nov Magazine.

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 Subcribe:

Our printing costs have increased significantly owing to the general price increases of so many things. The annual subscription, therefore, will be increased slightly to reflect this. Those wishing to subscribe should contact magazine@athelneybenefice.com. Thank you!

To Advertise:

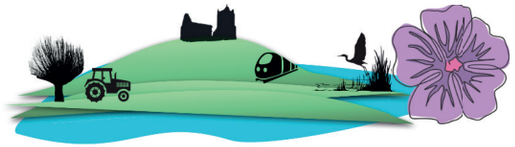
If you wish to advertise in the magazine, please contact us via email using this address: magads@athelneybenefice.com

NB. Prices are currently under review as we are hoping to upgrade the magazine over the next few issues to include more parishes and possibly full-colour. We will be happy to create the artwork for your advert from any text and logos you can supply.

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



A word from the vicar . . .

Thank you for your patience as we do some ironing

We've been away for a few months, and now we return with a new editor. Thank you to Alexandra Martin-Zakheim, a member of the congregation at Stoke St Gregory, for taking this on! The magazine has become an important and valued means of communication and fellowship across the Athelney Benefice since we re-shaped it as a publication for all four parishes during 2022/2023.

When I arrived as vicar, I had a determination to continue to build on the idea of a united benefice. The magazine has been vital in that process and I think we have indeed grown in fellowship and worship. It has been shaped on the idea of "four parishes—one church", reflected in the identity of each parish but joined together and sharing whenever we can. As you will be aware, things are changing in the benefice, and the magazine needs to adapt to these changes yet continue to be a means for communication and identity for each of the parishes.

I refer, of course, to the expansion of the benefice from the four parishes of Burrowbridge, Lyng, North Curry and Stoke St Gregory to include also two more: Middlezoy and Othery. In my (oddly-shaped) head, I refer to this transformation as a change from a "rectangle" to a "hexagon". Rectangles have four corners, hexagons have six. It helps me, anyway: I hope it doesn't confuse you!

So, as we explore the change from rectangle to hexagon, one of the key challenges for each worshipping community is to discover who we are as part of this new and developing six-sided entity. Good communication is vital. It is central to

any change and change is a tricky matter in any community situation. This isn't just a matter of discovering one another's patterns of worship, Sunday by Sunday, but requires us to discover how each community lives and breaths, day by day. Each of the six parishes of the hexagon has a unique identity and also links that gather us together. Geographically we are all spread out (loosely) along the A361, and we all share a common history, reaching far back into Saxon times. Our church traditions are broad and our villages distinct and idiosyncratic, but ultimately we are all seeking to build The Kingdom through our presence in the lives of those around us. The journey we are beginning together will enrich our faith. These are exciting times. "Six parishes—one church".

We can do little together, however, if we don't know what each of us is up to! As my own pattern of ministry in the "hexagon" is shifting from how it has been in the "rectangle", however, I have realised that I cannot continue to produce a monthly publication; hence the arrival on the scene of Alexandra! And other associated changes…

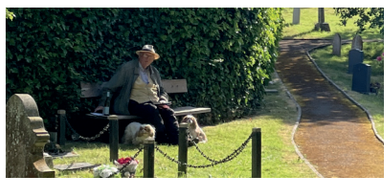
First of all, rather than having ten issues each year (i.e. monthly but with double issues for July/August and December/January), we are moving to a bimonthly pattern, starting with this issue, August/September, then October/November, December/January and so on. No change is perfect, however and, whilst a bimonthly pattern relieves the work load it does mean that contrinutors will need to think a little further ahead to publicise events and notices—this will include our regular paying advertisers—and as we do so, there will be a few wrinkles to iron out. Eventually, with time, the new way will become the normal way. Please bear with us as we do the ironing.

A second major change is our distribution and coverage. Currently the magazine has generally gone to a few hundred homes across the rectangle, and we have worked alongside The Bridge in the Burrowbridge area. The team who put together The Bridge wish to step down from their role, and so we are in discussions to take over that role in a combined magazine. A lot of the content of The Bridge (including advertisers) overlaps with

the Athelney Mag, so this should be very workable, although again, with wrinkles.

Likewise, the parishes of Middlezoy and Othery have been part of a benefice that extends towards Stawell and Sutton Mallet. Their magazine is now no more and so the Athelney Mag will begin to cover events and notices from those two parishes. A few more wrinkles, I expect.

To conclude (I hope this has made a modicum of sense so far), it is good to have our magazine back. I extend huge thanks to Pat Sollis who continues to help coordinate the advertising and more with regard to this publication. And thank you to Al for taking on the role of editor, and for having the patience to work with me! And to all of you for waiting patiently for us to re-appear. The future, though wrinkled, is one which is revealed to us as one filled with faith and hope that we can continue to build and share God's Kingdom. Sharing God's grace and peace is the very heart of who we are, whether we like ironing or not.



Martin's Musings

A monthly observation on life
by Revd Martin Mudie

As I enter the 34th year as a priest, I often think of the wise and kind priests who have helped me in my ministry with their wisdom. One such was my first vicar Richard, who made time in his busy life as both vicar and Archdeacon for conversations in his book lined study which I always enjoyed and always left me enriched as I benefited from his insight. During one such conversation I askes him about one of Jesus' sayings, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'. Did this mean that only Christians could enter heaven. What about all the other good people who were of different or no faith? Would they be excluded from paradise. I can see him now, on the other side of his desk holding his pipe in his hand which he used to emphasise his points. Ah yes, that would indeed exclude a large proportion of the human race. The answer, he said, lay in the two words: 'I AM'. That, he explained was the name God used about himself when talking to Moses in the Old Testament. So, if Jesus, as the Son of God is part of the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, then it means that anyone who has a good relationship with God, however they may encounter him, may enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I found this to be both wise and comforting. For over the years I have known many people of a different faith to myself or no faith at all who have wonderfully kind and generous. Although they would not call themselves Christians have, to my mind, lived their lives with the clear moral guidance given by Jesus in his commandment to his followers 'To love their neighbour as themselves' and although they may or may not acknowledge a divine presence in their lives, I see in them the image of Christ himself. Although, of course, I wouldn't say that to them as that would be incredibly patronising on my part. For the God I believe in has given us all free will and it is for each person to decide on their own beliefs.

The important thing is to recognise and acknowledge and celebrate the goodness we find in others. For the God in which I believe is omnipresent in the world. I had a dear friend who never went to church but said that she encountered God on the beech at Burnham every Sunday, and I'm sure she did. Now I want to make it clear that this is just my own view, and I wouldn't expect everyone to agree with me. I would like to finish with a joke, which is very unusual for me as I never tell jokes as I can never remember the punchline.

A man was being shown around paradise by St. Peter and they came across a large circular wall. When he asked why the wall was there, Peter replied. 'Ah yes, that's for the Catholics. They think they have the place to themselves and God didn't want to upset them.

Human flourishing for all

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

'Tell me about your school days' is a deeply illuminating question to ask. Our experience of school shapes us deeply our whole lives long. Schools mould our character and values. They develop our skills and expectations. They influence our relationships and our life chances.

Rooted in our understanding of the Bible, Christians have been involved in schooling for many centuries. In the nineteenth century, the Church of England's National Society set up thousands of schools all around our country, established principally for the benefit of the poor. It is largely out of this heritage that our Diocese of Bath and Wells continues to have a stake in so many of Somerset's schools today. We have 180 Church Schools, the majority of which are for primary aged children, with nine middle, upper or secondary schools and one specialist provision. Big and small, and found in all kinds of communities, our schools educate around 60% of Somerset's primary school children.

Our schools are Church Schools, they are not faith schools. We are open to everyone, of all faiths and none. Our schools are guided by our Christian ethos, manifested in their engagement with the Bible and worship, in prayer and Christian ethics. More recently, this is expressed most fully in the Church of England's Vision for Education. This understands our schools' mission to be 'deeply Christian, serving the Common Good'. Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. Our vision is of human flourishing for all.

As bishop, I am privileged to spend lots of time in our Church Schools. The most fun I have is being grilled by young people who pose me questions about ethics and doctrine, our Church's life and faith. I'm certainly kept on my toes! What I value most is seeing played out in our young people the four main elements of our Church's vision - wisdom, hope, community and dignity. These commitments are reflected in the stories told in this edition of Manna. I hope you'll enjoy reading them as they illustrate our vision for education in the schools of our diocese.

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Burrowbridge & Lyng

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Please Bring Notebooks, Pens & Magnifying Glasses

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Contact Julie Pocock For Tickets On 698216 Or 698915



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 go towards churchyard maintenance.

To sign up: call Sue Bethune on 01823 490179.

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North Curry

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'!

We also sell a variety of lovely local art, crafts, cards and jewellery too.

Our opening hours are:
Tuesday to Saturday:10am -4.30pm (last orders 4.15pm)
Sunday: 10am to 4pm *(last orders 3.45pm)*.

Volunteers: As always, we are looking for new volunteers. 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.



Friends at

North Curry & Curland Methodist Church

invite you to a

SUMMER AFTERNOON PRAISE SERVICE

Sunday 16th August, 3-4pm

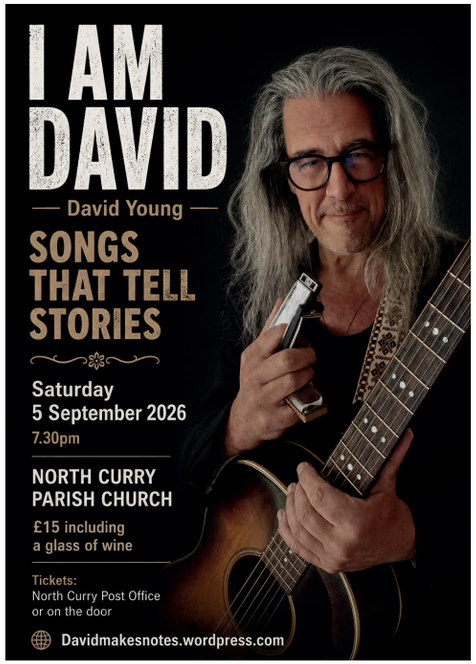
led by Rev Deborah Kirk

Followed by refreshments

The Annual General Meeting of The North Curry Society was held in The Greenway Pavilion at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th July. The relatively brief business of the AGM was followed by complimentary drinks and snacks. Members interested in joining the Committee and playing a role in running The Society should contact the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

As usual, there will be no meeting in August, and the first talk in The Society's 2026/27 season will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 16th September.



5th Sept, 7.30pm
Doors open 7pm

An evening of originals and timeless favourites. From heartfelt ballads to foot-tapping classics for people who enjoy listening just as much as singing along. Expect warmth, humour, memorable melodies and the occasional surprise.

David Young performs as **I AM DAVID**, blending soulful vocals, acoustic guitar and harmonica with original songs inspired by blues and its musical cousins.

His performances weave music and storytelling into evenings that are intimate, uplifting and memorable. He's appeared at venues and festivals across the South West, including Sidmouth Jazz and Blues Festival.

The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul
North Curry

Harvest Supper

in the Village Hall
Saturday 26th September 2025
7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £12 on sale at the village Post Office from the beginning of September: limited seating
There will be a raffle
You are welcome to bring your own drinks;
cider and soft drinks provided

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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Stoke St. Gregory

Fundraising – Open Gardens and Fete
There has been little public evidence of church activity for the last couple of months but the usual suspects have been there and been active in the background. Thanks to Simon and Martin, services have continued in the usual pattern – published on the notice boards even when there has been no magazine. Work on the paths and within the Lady Chapel has continued which inevitably requires money to be spent; in light of which we have had a couple of opportunities for fundraising recently.

May I offer huge thanks to everybody who baked and helped out at each event for all their contributions in time, money and effort. As is said so often – we couldn't do it without you and "every little helps".

Open Gardens at Hillcrest in early June.
The Sundquists opened their lovely garden again for just one afternoon this year and invited the church to supply refreshments for the visitors.
Totals raised on the one afternoon were considerably lower than we generally achieve (hot weather, no national NGS promotion among the likely reasons) but worth having all the same. On this occasion we were given half the £10 entry fee rather than charging separately for teas unless people wanted extras. Thus we raised the following:

Share of entry takings - £155.00
Plant Sales - £205.20
Additional cake sales - £35.50 less £33.00 expenses
Total - £362.70

Next year's event will be in early May and much more of a production since the NGS will be celebrating their 100th birthday!

Village Fete – 11th July
After all that cake baking in June we had to get our mixing bowls out again to supply the Cake Stall at the Fete. It is always difficult to judge quite how much to produce for these events but on both occasions we sold out. If I am still involved next year I really must remember to count the cakes!

Thanks to the generosity of many people I think we had approximately 40 cakes on the table, in addition to pots of homemade marmalade and lemon curd both of which are firm favourites with the customers. Despite the heat, nothing melted noticeably and it all looked most appealing.
The cake stall brought in just over £220 but the really big success of the afternoon for our church funds was the Grand Raffle. More thanks are owed to the people who sold tickets wherever they could catch somebody standing still. But even more importantly are the thanks due for the very generous donations of prizes by several individuals.

Raffle Prizes and Winners:
The raffle raised £987.00 and the prizes were all won by local people or family members

1st 2 nights Air B&B in London – Annette Gage
2nd HOTV voucher – Rev Martin
3rd ½ case of Bordeaux wine – Nick & Judy Bright
4th Pynes Voucher – Karen King
5th Garden Vouchers – "somebody's daughter"!

United Benefice Service – Sunday 30th August

Sunday 30th August brings around the turn of St Gregory's to host a united service for the entirety of our newly expanded Benefice of Athelney. This will be the first UBS following the formal arrival of the parishes of Middlezoy and Othery in our midst. Although they have already been welcomed by St Michael's, Burrowbridge, Stoke St Gregory's would like to share a lunch with anybody in our new Benefice who would care to join us.

It will be a simple offering this time of soup (possibly chilled if the heatwaves are still upon us) and bread and cheese and probably pate. Unfortunately, our numbers of willing cooks are somewhat depleted by illness and holidays on this occasion which is why we have had to rule out the hot meal but we hope many of you would like to gather in the Sunday School Room after the service for a friendly get-together.

United Benefice Service – Sunday 30th August *(cont)*

If you would care to join us then please let Jane know in advance on:
Mob: 07799 201145 or Email janepwhite@hotmail.com

There will be a modest charge on the day of £10 and proceeds will be shared between the church restoration funds and SURE (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment).

As ever, please bring your own drink if you would like something other than water.

Church Cleaning - More help needed



☺ **Are you handy with a hoover ?**

☺ **Do you have time once a month ?**

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 to hoover, sweep and dust our beautiful church. All at floor level - no climbing involved !

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



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Jane Pine Tel 07990511477 or 01823 490759 Email: jane.pine2@btinternet.com

Website: www.mearegreenfarm.com

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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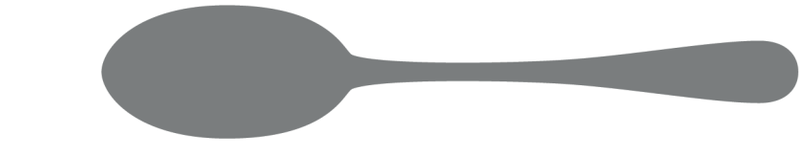
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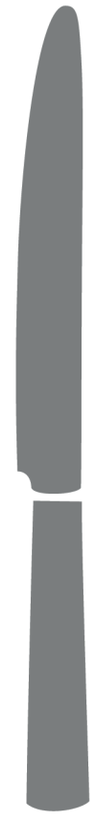


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To learn more, whether as a potential customer or as a volunteer, please phone Vicki Fielding (01823 490565), or Janet Daniels (01823 490834)



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North Curry

SIDESPERSONS

9th Aug	L Farnham and C Trim
16th Aug	Denise Walker
23rd Aug	P Burgess and L Paul
6th Sept	L B-Brown and P Burgess
13th Sept	L B-Brown and T Jones
20th Sept	L Farnham
27th Sept	P Burgess and L Paul
4th Oct	Denise Walker and T Jeanes (Harvest)

INTERCESSIONS and READERS

	Intercessions	**Readers**
9th Aug	H Griffiths	M Cridge
16th Aug	J Satchwell	M Piers
23rd Aug	D Walker	Z Sykes
6th Sept	D Farnham	D Walker
13th Sept	Z Sykes	D Akerman
20th Sept	D Walker	J Satchwell
27th Sept	J Satchwell	C Trim
4th Oct	H Griffiths	H Baker (Harvest)

CHURCH CLEANERS

16th Aug	G Toller & A Williams
6th Sept	H Jeanes
20th Sept	G Toller & A Williams
4th Oct	H Jeanes

Rotas

Stoke St. Gregory

SIDESPERSONS

9th Aug	Barbara P
16th Aug	John
23rd Aug	Barbara M
30th Aug	Jordon
13th Sept	Simon & Penny
20th Sept	Barbara M
27th Sept	Barbara P
4th Oct	John (Harvest)

READERS

Please read both Old Testament readings as per the bulletin. If changing weeks please advise Jane or Pat

9th Aug	Jo
16th Aug	John
23rd Aug	Di Tilley
30th Aug	Barbara P
13th Sept	Simon
20th Sept	Annette
27th Sept	Barbara M
4th Oct	John (Harvest)

CHURCH CLEANERS

2nd Aug	Annette & Susan *(Plus – GJ Funeral)*
9th Aug	Marilyn & Terri
23rd Aug	Penny & Simon
30th Aug	Annette & Susan
13th Sept	Marilyn & Terri
27th Sept	Penny & Simon
11th Sept	Annette & Susan

Principal Services across Athelney Benefice

2nd August	**9th Sunday after Trinity**	
8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	BCP Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.00am	Stoke Baptists	Messy Church *with the theme of celebration*
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist
9th August	**10th Sunday after Trinity**	
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Service of the Word
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	*"This inspires me"* bring a poem, prayers or reading that lifts you up
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service of Holy Communion
16th August	**11th Sunday after Trinity**	
8.30am	North Curry	BCP Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Benefice Family Worship
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Share communion *with Tim Spotswood*
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong
23rd August	**12th Sunday after Trinity**	
9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Morning service *with Jean Pimm*
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
3.00pm	Lyng	Patronal Festival
3.00pm	North Curry Methodists	Summer Praise
29th August *(Saturday)*		
9.30am	North Curry	Inter-church Prayer Fellowship
30th August	**13th Sunday after Trinity** *(5th Sunday of August)*	
10.30am	Stoke Baptists	Morning service *with Stuart Mark*
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Benefice Patronal Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodists	Service
6th September	**14th Sunday after Trinity**	
8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist

Benefice Services

Morning Prayer 9am at each of the Athelney parish churches in turn:
Tuesdays *Stoke St Gregory*, **Wednesdays** *Lyng*,
Thursdays *Burrowbridge*, **Fridays** *North Curry*