The Athelney Magazine

£1

October and November 2026



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

Stoke Stampede

Sunday 3 January 2027

URGENT ! Help Us Keep the Tradition Alive:

We urgently need new volunteers to get involved. Without additional support, there is a genuine risk that the 2027 Stoke Stampede could be the final event.
Can you help us keep this going ?

Get Involved

If you are interested in joining the organising committee or volunteering at the 2027 event, get in touch.
Contact**: registration@stokestampede.co.uk**

Or speak to a member of the organising committee:

Graham Gleed – 07557 654859
Neil Sollis – 07967 605654
Paul Morse – 07519 397133
Sara Sollis – 07496 668223
Tom Duxbury – 07435 050593

Local Runners

Local runners will once again be given access to early registration. To make sure you receive notification when entry open, please ensure we have your email address on file by contacting **registration@stokestampede.co.uk.**

Road Closure Notice

To ensure the safety of runners, spectators and local residents, The Square will be closed to all traffic from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Sunday 3 January 2027.

The organising committee would like to thank residents, volunteers, participants and supporters in advance for their continued patience and support in making this special community event possible.

Stoke Stampede Organising Committee

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	Alison Clifton-Jones	ACJ-Treasurer@outlook.com

Middlezoy

Churchwarden		[awaiting details]
Churchwarden		
Treasurer		

North Curry

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

Othery

Churchwarden	Anthony Betty	07801 233676
Churchwarden		
Treasurer		

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



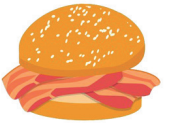
Tea, Coffee & Chat across the Benefice

Each month there are community gatherings for tea, coffee, cakes and conversation. They are perfect opportunities to meet new people (and enjoy top quality cakes !).

Join us at:

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

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



Middlezoy: Coffee Mornings are held every Monday (exc Bank Holidays) from 10am to 11.45am.

North Curry: Coffee mornings every Wednesday 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 November for the Dec/Jan 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. Or, please just write it out long hand and put it through the vicarage door…

To Advertise:

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

Please note:
Publication is now in full-colour with a circulation of 1000 Households over the Athelney Benefice making up the six parishes of Burrowbridge, Lyng, Middlezoy, North Curry, Othery and Stoke St. Gregory. Additionally, this magazine replaces the MOMSS and Bridge publications so that advertisers have a more concentrated presence in one place.

Costs of Ads per year (six editions):

Full Page Back Cover: £500	Inside back cover: £400
Full Page Inside front cover: £400	Full inside page: £300
Half-page: £180pa	Quarter-page: £100

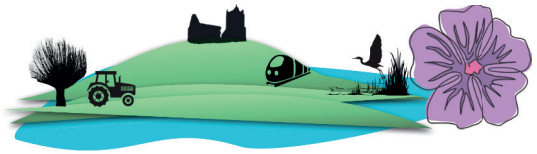
We will be happy to create the artwork for your advert from any text and logos you can supply.

To subscribe or for enquiries:
Please contact: magazine@athelneybenefice.com

Although we don't charge for the magazine, the costs of printing it are rising every year. Many like to 'subscribe' for an annual £10 donation which helps to cover the cost and have it delivered to your door. If you would like to contribute, the bank details are:

Account Name: Stoke St. Gregory Parochial Church Council, Athelney Sort Code: 60 - 03 - 27 Account No.: 84338008

The Athelney Benefice



A word from the vicar . . . Hive Mind

The four have become six and, yes, I am continuing to deploy my analogy of a hexagon and a rectangle. The second Sunday of September was the first Sunday that the six parishes of Athelney operated under the same worship rota. This might sound a bit dry and procedural, but it marked a major development. Since the idea was first mooted sometime ago at the start of 2025, the practicalities of working together across six parishes have been rather hypothetical. On 13th September they became a reality and nothing has yet crumbled into dust (not that I have been informed of, anyway).

We are blessed in the benefice with three extra ministers beyond Revd Martin Mudie and me, who are available to lead worship: Ralph Roberts and Pauline Davis, our two "Lay Readers" and Revd Jane Sutton, who was the incumbent of Westonzoyland and Chedzoy until last September, when she retired, and is now available when called upon to lead our services when Martin and I are a little overstretched. Ralph is well known to the "rectangular" benefice as a Reader for many years, Pauline also has been a Reader in her previous benefice (MOMSS: **M**iddlezoy, **O**thery, **M**oorlinch, **S**tawell and **S**utton Mallet) and is continuing her ministry within the "hexagon". I thank all of them for journeying with us all on this new adventure.

To repeat: there has been no crumbling of any note after the first weekend (when I am writing this), but of course it is early days. There is much to be done. I am keen to find ways to loiter, as is my way, in the "new to me" parishes of Middlezoy and Othery, but I also realise that there is work and pastoral care required across all the parishes of the hexagon not just my new responsibilities.

I continue to use the analogy of the hexagon for a little while yet to make a further metaphoric point that came to me during a recent conversation with a bee keeper. Hexagons are known as Nature's strong shape. We all know this, don't we? It why they are successful in bee hives. They can also be found in the basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway and in the modern designs of aeroplanes and other engineering innovations. Hexagons bring strength and resilience. They provide the highest possible structural efficiency by enclosing the maximum area with the minimum perimeter

and material. They give us strength. You see where I am going with this, right? (Here ends the physics lesson.)

This structural reslience is something that we need to embrace. The benefice is transforming from rectangle to hexagon, and interestingly, a hexagon is more structurally robust than a rectangle. Let's not lose sight of this.

There is still much to be said about how The Church manages its financial reserves, of course. The Church Commissioners need to be encouraged to review how parishes are funded and supported from its substantial treasure chest of over £11 billion. Current parliamentary legislation precludes broad spending in this way but people are making noises on a national platform. Our very own David Akerman, active member of North Curry and former churchwarden is one such. He has taken the bull by the horns and is standing for election to General Synod (The Church of England's national governing body) on a ticket that makes much of how the financial and organisational shape of the C of E needs to change. Since The Church is Established, it isn't just a matter of a few quick changes. David is also an active member of "Save The Parish", a national organisation committed to ensuring this challenge continues. There is much to be done and we pray that David will be elected. The electorate for the Synod comprises lay members of Deanery Synods. If you are one such, please do consider casting your vote for David. In any event, if you wish to discuss the issues we face, please do contact David directly on davidakerman47@gmail.com.

I am very pleased that David is taking this stance, but there is also a daily responsibility to work as a hexagon, and to continue to explore how our new structural integrity can do what we all need to do: to find ways to share the message of the gospel to all our communities. Being six rather than four might sound like extra work, but it also raises opportunities for new fellowship and greater understanding of each other's faith. We can grow together and that is how the hexagon is strong. Yes, there's another school community to be part of; yes there are more carol services; yes there's 50% more services, but if all we do is look at this "calculus" of more, we are missing the one that is about greater engagement, broader knowledge of worship styles, reinvigorated conversations and so many other unknowns.

As I have said many times already, I am not daft enough to think it is all plain sailing. There will be the "wrinkles" that need ironing. But we must also not forget the strength of the message in Paul's letter to the emergent church in Ephesus: God doesn't send the equipped: God equips the sent (Eph 4:12). As we six hexagonal parishes start to meet and share our lives as disciples and apostles in our emergent benefice, we are going to find ourselves equipped to do God's work.



Martin's Musings

A monthly observation on life
by Revd Martin Mudie

This musing is in memory of my beloved Annie
2012 - 2026

As I enter the 34th year as a priest, I often think of the wise. As a priest who is often accompanied by my two faithful canine friends and companions Annie and Emma I am occasionally asked if our beloved pets have souls and I always answer with a definite "yes, of course they do". For I have always believed that if a being can give and receive love then they definitely have a soul. For it seems to me the height of arrogance to assume that paradise is only for us human beings.

For, when my time comes to enter the pearly gates, if I was to find a 'No Dogs' notice pinned to the gate, I would just have to tell St. Peter, "sorry no dogs, no me" and I would have to make other arrangements for eternity.

When my first beloved dog Sophie died of a heart attack when she was only eight, a very kind friend sent me the poem 'Rainbow Bridge' which I attach where the poet imagines a wonderful place where all our beloved pets wait till it is our turn to them. Gone are the problems of disability, illness and age and our four-legged friends are restored to the joy and health of when they were young and live in a rural paradise where they can romp, explore and live contended lives till we join them. However, wonderful though the picture painted is, I do feel two rather important elements have been missed. First and most important – what about feeding time. How is this arranged? For my dogs have always been keen on their grub-I can't think where they became like this? Answers on a postcard please. I think the answer must be a perpetual buffet of calorie zero food which al tastes delicious.

As long I can remember vets along with doctors have had an obsession with weight loss, but fortunately vets and doctors

are no longer needed in paradise. And the second most important omission is where is the special enclosure for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels? For dear Sophie, like many though not all Cavaliers, would only ever talk to other Cavaliers. It's not that they are snobs but I'm afraid other breeds are just not as interesting as 'US',

So when my time I fully expect all my canine companions will come charging over to welcome me and escort me through the pearly gates which has a large illuminated 'Dogs and Cats Most Welcome' above them.

I also mention cats but I rather think that the moggies who have been my companions in life will join us as we pass through the gates from their own feline compartment. Their welcome will be much quieter but no less heartfelt. And when I ask them all if they are happy, they will all reply that they are thrilled that I have come to join them but they all say that although paradise is very pleasant, it is not as wonderful as the home they had on earth with me, but now that I'm there they are sure it will be!

And we pass through the gates, with the cats leading the way and my beloved Cavaliers and my very first dog – a golden retriever called Jamie – by my side.

Since I wrote this Emma and I have had to say goodbye to our beloved Annie. Annie came into my life when she was six years old and had been retired by her breeder. Of all the dogs I have had the privilege of sharing my life she was the sweetest and kindest. Nothing seemed to rile or upset her and she was always so patient with Emma who, as a puppy, could be a bit much.

She only asked for two things in life to be happy. To be with me and to have meals served on time and of a high standard. I always tried to accommodate both requests and on the few occasions I had to leave her at home she would spend the time with her nose pressed up against the door so she would know the moment I returned.

To share love with a such a dog is special and I shall never forget her.

"The Rainbow Bridge"

By the edge of a woods, at the foot of a hill,
Is a lush, green meadow where time stands still.
Where the friends of man and woman do run,
...When their time on earth is over and done.

For here, between this world and the next,
Is a place where each beloved creature finds rest.
On this golden land, they wait and they play,
Till the Rainbow Bridge they cross over one day.

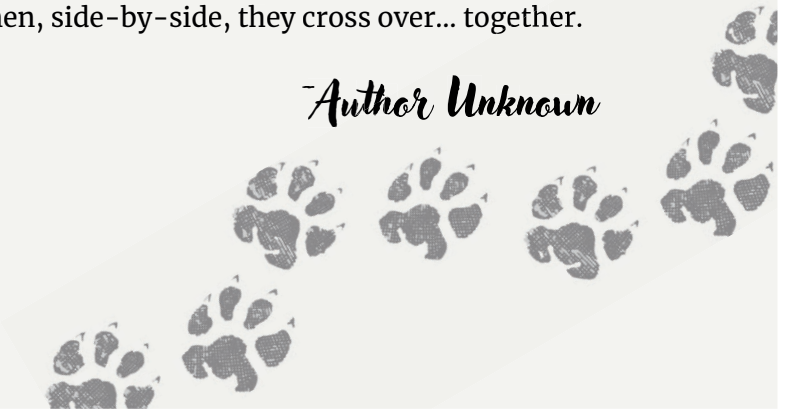
No more do they suffer, in pain or in sadness,
For here they are whole, their lives filled with gladness.
Their limbs are restored, their health renewed,
Their bodies have healed, with strength imbued.

They romp through the grass, without even a care,
Until one day they start, and sniff at the air.
All ears prick forward, eyes dart front and back,
Then all of a sudden, one breaks from the pack.

For just at that instant, their eyes have met;
Together again, both person and pet.
So they run to each other, these friends from long past,
The time of their parting is over at last.

The sadness they felt while they were apart,
Has turned into joy once more in each heart.
They embrace with a love that will last forever,
And then, side-by-side, they cross over... together.

-Author Unknown



Called to care for God's earth

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:26).

These words come from the account of creation found in Genesis Chapter 1. I'm often asked about this text. Is it true? How do I square its words with my understanding of science? Do I believe this is how the world was made?

I don't think Genesis 1 is a literal account, a description offered in the style of a David Attenborough documentary. Rather I suggest that this account is so stuffed with truth that it's hard for us to deal with. Truth that's not about factual deception but that's about meaning, purpose and value. Genesis 1 asks 'How do we understand the world?' and 'How should we live in it?'

Take for example the words 'have dominion' to be found in Genesis 1:26 given above. These words, an interpretation of the Hebrew word radah, have been understood very differently.

Some would say that 'have dominion', radah, has been understood as harsh domination, treading down, and using raw force; a justification for treating the non-human world as an expendable resource for human consumption that has led to our destruction of so much of the natural world around us.

Others suggest that the true meaning of radah is service and care. This sees 'have dominion' as a call not to crush, but to protect, nurture, and provide justice. This view sees humankind invited to act as deputies for God, called to cultivate the earth responsibly while preserving its health and flourishing.

Arguments about the interpretation of a Hebrew word may seem specialist. But how we read one of the most important passages of the Bible can shape our whole world view. Service and care or domination and destruction? These differing ideas lie at the very heart of the arguments we have about how humankind should treat our earthly home that God has gifted us.

What steps will we take, however small, to protect it?

DIOCESE OF Bath&Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus



Burrowbridge & Lyng

Events at: St Michael's Church, Burrowbridge: There's plenty going on in October and November; we'd love you to join us at these events:

Dates for your Diary:

- **Coffee Mornings:** from 10.00am – 12.00
  Saturday 3rd October 2026
  Saturday 7th November 2026



Delicious Cakes, Sausage Rolls, Quiche, Coffee & Tea.
All Are Welcome.

- **Harvest Thanksgiving Service:**

Sunday 27th September 2026 at 4.00pm

Followed by a Harvest Tea - all very welcome !

Any donations of tinned or dried food would be gratefully received for the Bridgwater Food Bank

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- **An Evening of Toe Tapping Tunes & Sing Alongs**
  with

The Weston Super Mare Ukulele Group

On: Saturday 17th October, at 6.00 pm

Free Entry and Supper, though any donations In Aid of Church Funds would be gratefully appreciated

For catering purposes can you please let Julie know if you would like to come - call: 01823 698216 or 01823 698915

Remembrance In Burrowbridge

- **All Souls Day Service:**

  Sunday 1st November 2026 at 4.00pm

The First Sunday in November is traditionally a time to remember our loved ones who have died and we see no longer.

This is the festival of All Souls. If you would like to come along and 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 ones to the list of names to be read out during the service, please contact Sue on 698814 or Julie on 698915 or 698216.

It does not matter how recently or distantly our loved ones passed away. What matters is that we remember them.

- **Remembrance Sunday Service**

  8th November 2026 at 10.45am

  All are very welcome !

  We would like to thank all the ladies who have knitted the lovely poppies for our remembrance Sunday display in the Church.



Burrowbridge Parish Council News

The Official Voice of Burrowbridge

Parish Clerk: Debbie House,
T: 07780 794556 E: bbparishclerk@outlook.com

Meeting Dates: Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Tuesday 1st December 2026

Members of the public are warmly welcome.

September Meeting Overview:

September's Parish Council meeting marked the start of Autumn with a lively and well attended session. Around 25 residents joined us, along with Syed Shah, Somerset Council's Public Liaison Officer, who provided an update on the refurbishment of the Burrowbridge traffic lights. Residents shared concerns, observations and practical advice, all of which Syed has taken back to Somerset Council for further action.

Hedges, Trees and Brambles

Farmers, landowners and residents are reminded to cut back hedges, trees and brambles to your boundary. Overgrown vegetation can obstruct visibility, narrow roadways and create hazards for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Keeping growth trimmed helps everyone stay safe and keeps our village looking cared for.

Speed Watch

Approval is looking very positive for new monitoring areas on Bullplace Bridge Road and Stathe Road. These locations have been highlighted by residents for some time, and the Speed Watch Team is hopeful that formal authorisation will be confirmed shortly. Once approved, volunteers will be able to record speeds more effectively and help improve safety along two of our busiest stretches.

Agricultural Vehicles

Concerns continue to be raised about the speed and behaviour of some agricultural vehicles travelling through the village. Although the speed limit is 30mph, drivers must adjust to road conditions rather than aim to reach the limit—especially when operating large machinery.

The repeated question from residents is: What can be done before a serious accident or fatality occurs?

The Police advise that they require evidence to act. This includes photographs of mobile phones being used while vehicles are in motion.

Speed is difficult to monitor as it is often perceived rather than measured, though our Speed Watch Teams hope to be in the right place at the right time to record accurate data.

We ask Farmers and Contractors—many of whom live within our villages—to remind their drivers to travel safely and responsibly. A simple conversation could prevent a tragedy.

Drain Cleaning – Stathe Road

Since December 2025, Burrowbridge Parish Council has contacted Highways almost monthly regarding essential drain maintenance on Stathe Road. This stretch is vulnerable to flooding, placing nearby properties at risk.

Each time, the response has been that the issue "will be looked into."

If maintenance has not begun by the October meeting, the Parish Council will request intervention from David Fothergill.

In the meantime, the Council is exploring options to have problem drains cleared before the winter rains arrive. We are awaiting Highways' timetable for the initial clean, after which the Parish Council intends to fund a second clean a few months later.

Should this become an annual requirement, the associated costs will need to be reflected in the PRECEPT budget.

Planning Application – 51/26/0005/CG

Athelney Barn, Stanmoor Road, Burrowbridge

The application for Athelney Barn has now been withdrawn.

Middlezoy

Welcome to the all those people living in Middlezoy who have joined our Athelney Benefice. We are delighted to have you with us!

If you live in or around Middlezoy and would like to promote things going on in your village, please see the contact details at the front of the magazine so that your news and events can be included.

We are hoping to widen the reach of the events held in each of the six parishes to give a cohesive community feeling to the Benefice.

The Blue Sheet

theblue sheet@outlook.com

The best way to get your message across is by using the magazine that supports you !



Don't forget to mention you saw it in the Blue Sheet when contacting advertisers!



North Curry

North Curry Quiz Night !

There will be a quiz and buffet supper night in aid of the North Curry Music Festival, to be held in the North Curry Village hall on Saturday 14th November.

Doors open at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm.

Martin Baldock will be the quizmaster as in previous years. Teams of six are £12 per person. There will also be a tombola so please bring some cash. ***Please also bring your own drinks and glasses.***

To book a table please ring Jenny Satchwell on 01823 490463.

Hope to see you there!

200 CLUB

Room for one more !

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.

Winners for 2nd August

1st Mignon Drake
2nd Philip Pine
3rd Helen Griffiths

Winners for 6th September

1st Janet Bradbury
2nd Chris Brown
3rd Ralph Roberts

To sign up call Sue Bethune on 01823 490179.

Cheque payments to: North Curry PCC, Standing Order OR

BACS payments to: North Curry PCC
Account No: 00514650, Sort Code: 30-98-45

North Curry Coffee Shop

• Autumn menu starts soon !

From the 27th October, we will be serving our delicious homemade soup every day, served with croutons, and a roll and butter - all for just £4! A nice warming treat to see you through the autumn and winter months ahead. We will continue to sell our usual meals and snacks, including our popular cheese scones with butter (and why not add some cheese and homemade chutney!), as well as our renowned cakes and other baked goodies all made by our fabulous volunteers.

If you're thinking ahead to some early **Christmas shopping**, don't forget our delightful locally made crafts, art and jewellery, as well as our beautiful greetings cards for all occasions.

OPENING HOURS: up to end October are:

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



OPENING HOURS: from 3rd November are:
Tuesday to Saturday:10am -4pm (last orders 3.45pm)
Sunday: 10am to 3.30pm *(last orders 3.15pm)*.

Volunteers: We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so if you would like to join our friendly team, please call in or 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.

FILM . .National Emergency Briefing *(admission free)*

At: North Curry Village Hall, Monday 5th October; (doors open at 7.15, starts at 7.30). Followed by discussion.

This eye-opening briefing took place in Westminster Hall last November when ten of the UK's leading experts in several fields briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. It was chaired by Prof. Mike Berners-Lee who is the author of "There's no Planet B and "How Bad are Bananas". (As he explained, bananas aren't bad for the planet and, indeed, have a much lower carbon footprint than many other fruits you might find in the supermarket!) He is joined on stage by leading UK climate and nature crisis scientists and experts to talk of its impact on everyday national life.

The briefing has now been made into this film, introduced by Chris Packham and featuring Deborah Meaden and others. It's definitely a subject for everyone to consider and take to heart.

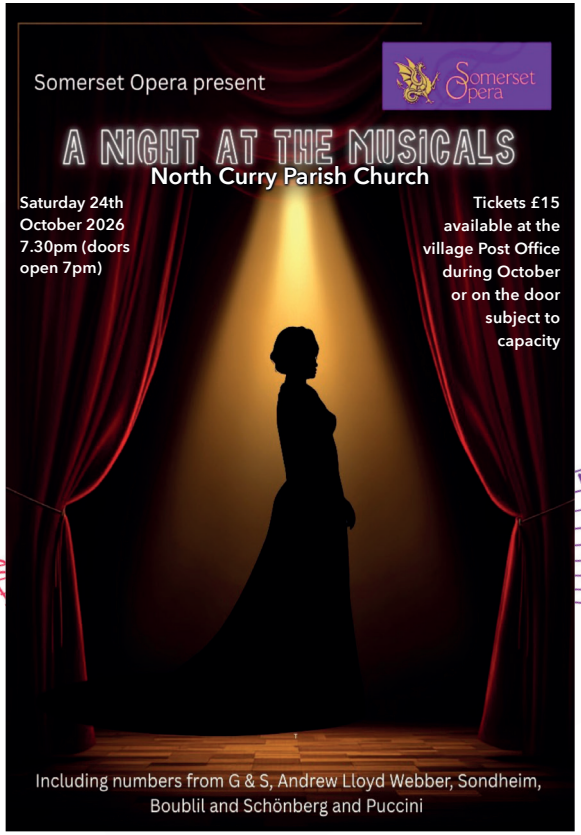
For further information contact Brian on 01823 490623
https://www.nebriefing.org/

Music at:
North Curry Parish Church

8th October (a Thursday evening) Tarren, the Bristol-based folk trio Sid Goldsmith, Alex Garden and Danny Pedler will drop in to North Curry on concert tour, bringing their fresh and dynamic New-Folk music rooted in the English tradition: play cittern and concertina, fiddle, and accordion.



Saturday 24th October, Somerset Opera are back with A Night at the Musicals, singing hits from WS Gilbert & Sir Arthur Sullivan, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Steven Sondheim, Boublil & Schönberg (think Les Mis!) and Puccini.



Saturday 21st November, Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir return with their close-harmony singing in a concert to support next June's Music Festival.

And More to come !

There will be more musical treats in store in December from local music makers: the village choir, guitars and ukuleles. And a monthly concert programme is in preparation for 2027, including the 5th North Curry Music Festival on the third weekend in June. We'll tell you more in the next issue of The Athelney Magazine.

Talking Cafe



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

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

somerset **village** & **community agents**
part of CCS





WHY POP

Talking Cafes are great if you are looking for help and advice on important issues such as:

- caring for another
- housing
- health
- finance
- help with food/cooking
- adult social care
- children's services
- feelings of loneliness and isolation
- anything else that is worrying you.



Meet your local Village Agent and other support services.

www.somersetagents.org/talkingcafes

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WHAT'S COMING UP:

NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Visitors always welcome !

Wednesday 21st October:

Coleridge and Wordsworth in Somerset



For the North Curry Society's October talk, Tom Mayberry returns to tell the story of two Romantic poets on the Quantocks: Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his collaborator William Wordsworth.

Tom worked in South West Heritage for 43 years. Now retired, he is a former chair of the Friends of Coleridge, and in that capacity led the partnership group for the redisplay of the National Trust's Coleridge Cottage. He has an extensive knowledge and many insights into the local area.

Wednesday 18th November:

Local Somerset Casualties in WW1

In November, following the Commonwealth War Graves Commission presentation in January, local author and historian Richard Cooper-Knight will provide an insight into the lives of some of those who died in service.



Where: Village Hall
Doors open: 7.30pm
Start 8.00pm.
Visitors: £5 at the door
Membership: only £15 pa.

Othery News

Sky at night: October/November 2026

Sunrise / Sunset

First day of Oct 7.11am-6.49pm / Last day of Oct 7.02am-4.47pm
First day of Nov 7.03am-4.45pm / Last day of Nov 7.58am-4.08pm

Moon Phases Oct

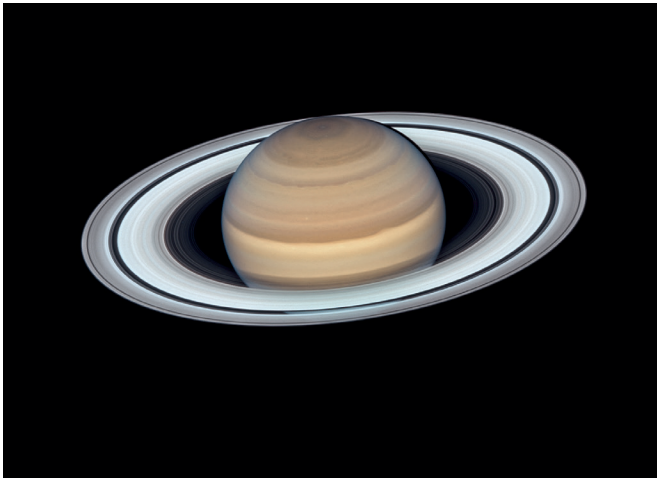
Last Quarter 3rd / New Moon 10th / First Quarter 18th / Full Moon 26th

Moon Phases Nov

Last Quarter 1st / New Moon 9th / First Quarter 17th / Full Moon 24th

Planets

The ringed Planet Saturn reaches opposition on the 4th when it is opposite the Sun and due South at Midnight, visible all night during October its sets at 3am in November. To locate it look for a steady yellowish Star (Planets don't twinkle), you would need a small telescope to see its rings but at least you can point it out to family and friends without. The red Planet Mars although faint along with **Jupiter** which is bright appear after midnight in October and just after 11pm by the end November.



Constellation

The Constellations or Andromeda and Triangulum (which lies below Andromeda) are home to two of the closest and relatively brightest Galaxy's to the Earth. To find them Look due South and locate the four Stars which form the Square of Pegasus the Andromeda Galaxy is above the V shaped asterism of Stars that lead from the top left Star, below here the Triangulum Galaxy can be found above the three Stars which form the arrow head of Triangulum. Both Galaxies are visible to the naked eye under dark skies being misty patches of light which has taken millions of light years to reach us.

Phenomena

On the night of 21st/22nd October you may see meteors from the Orionid Meteor Shower which is debris left from the tail of Halley's Comet last seen in 1986 and due to return in 2061.On October 25th we put our clocks back by one hour to Greenwich Meantime G.M.T. as we leave British Summer Time B.S.T. behind. The peak of the Leonid Meteor shower is on the night of 17th/18th November

Somerset Levels Stargazers

Wednesday October 28th At our meeting on Wednesday October 28th PHD Student Simon Toogood will be discussing aspects of the atmosphere of Jupiter taken from data received from the James Webb Space Telescope and at our November meeting on the 25th (the last of 2026) Jo and Pete Richardson of Space Detectives will be looking at Astro-Tourism, at all meetings we have a night sky guide and Astronomy and Spaceflight news.

Monthly meetings are held at Othery Village Hall TA7 0QU

£3 visitors, membership is available.

Paul Adamson, Chairman S.L.S., 01823 698 156

If you want to include your **Othery** news and events in this magazine, please see details on page 3 which will tell you where and when to send your content.

The Western Front Association

Dates for the diary:

14th October: The next meeting of The Somerset branch of the Western Front Association will take place on Wednesday 14th Oct at 7.30pm in Othery Village Hall, Fore St, Othery TA7 0QU.

The Speaker is historian and author Roy Larkin talking about Automobiles in the Great War. The positives of using mechanical vehicles over horse power transporting men and stores around. Men arrived fresher, carrying larger loads. The drawbacks were the heavier weights, destroying the road system and slowing everything down.

11th November: The speaker on Wednesday 11th November Armistice day is Tom Hill. Come and see what your relative would have carried and used in the Great War. Understand the weight of his full personal kit and the difference of the kit that he would have carried into battle and how it changed during the war.

Members of the WFA and non-members alike are equally welcome. Any new visitors are guaranteed a friendly atmosphere and a warm welcome from a group of like-minded enthusiasts. We ask for a modest £5 to defray costs, this will include a free tea or coffee and entry into the raffle.
(Entry is free to those under 18 years old)

Thee Western Front Association is a historical interest registered charity. Established in 1980 by noted military historian John Giles, The Western Front Association has grown over the years to around 6,000 members worldwide. Meetings in Somerset cover both local and worldwide subjects. If you would like to be emailed the speakers list please contact somersetwfa@hotmail.com

Pat Adamson
Secretary Somerset branch W.F.A.
Tel: 01823 698156



Poppy Selling in Othery



I have already got the dated poppy pins and another RBL pin and will receive the full poppy collectors box at the middle of October.

The poppy pins seem to be very popular if you would like to collect one from me in Othery please make contact ASAP and we can arrange a convenient time.
Thank you.

Pat Adamson
Registered RBL Collector for Othery
01823 698156





Are you a budding photographer ?

If you would like to have one of your pictures published , send them to the magazine (see page 3) and the best will be included every month.

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Would you like to advertise here ?

This magazine reaches 1000 homes in the Athelney Benefice of Burrowbridge, Lyng, Middlezoy, North Curry, Othery and Stoke St. Gregory.

See Page 3 for details !



Stoke St. Gregory

OPEN GARDEN and PLANT SALE
1st, 2nd & 3rd May 2027

I know this feels a long way off, but we need to start producing plants for the plant sale next year. When you are splitting plants in your gardens, please could you pot up some pieces for the sale so that they will be a decent size for May. It's the 100th anniversary of the NGS, so the event will be well advertised and a great fund-raising opportunity. If you have any questions, please ask Annette Gage on: (07484 864930).



Thank you in anticipation.



Round-up:

United Benefice Service
Sunday 30th August

We had a wonderful turnout for this joint Benefice service. Sue Hembrow, with her merry band of helpers, laid on a lovely spread of savoury treats and delicious homemade cakes, along with proper coffee !

It was particularly pleasing to see some new faces along with lots of old ones ! Not only that, but we raised over £160 from donations.

Harvest Supper

Church Room, Stoke St. Gregory

Monday 5th October
£15 a ticket for delicious food, charity auction and BYOB

Contact: Pat Soliss (pat.soliss1@btinernet.com) or Jane White (07799 201145) for tickets







Church Cleaning

More help needed at Stoke St. Gregory



☺ **Are you handy with a hoover ?**

☺ **Do you have time once a month ?**

Our beautiful 13th Century Church is in need of more people to help clean it every five weeks. This involves teams of two and usually takes about an hour to hoover, sweep and dust.

All at floor level - no climbing involved !

If you feel able to help keep the Church sparkling please get in touch with Pat Sollis 01823490750 or Pat.sollis1@btinternet.com

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THE ST. GREGORY PLAYERS

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

BY ALAN AYCKBOURN

To be performed at The Williams Memorial Hall, Stoke St Gregory Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November at 7.30 pm

COME ALONG AND SEE - Neville and Belinda hosting an extended gathering of relatives and friends at Christmas time, leading to escalating chaos, petty arguments, romantic misadventures and a chaotically incompetent puppet show.



Tickets will be available online – please see our posters and fliers for when tickets go 'live'.

Stoke St. Gregory Church

Come and join us for a
Charity Poppy day Lunch!

In aid of the Royal British Legion, we're delighted to invite you and your family to join us for a

Hearty Soup & Cheese Luncheon

On: Saturday 7th November
In: Stoke St. Gregory's Church Room
At: 12.30pm

Donations will go to the Royal British Legion

All are welcome !



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Sunday	9.00 am - 12.00 pm

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Sunday	12.00 pm - 5.00 pm

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Stoke St Gregory Meals

"Meals on Wheels"





We deliver homemade, freshly-cooked, two-course midday meals twice a week, in Stoke St Gregory and North Curry, to anyone who needs a bit of help.

Our customers range from the elderly to those recovering after an operation.
If you think we could be of help to you or to someone you know, please get in touch.

Our meals are cooked by volunteer cooks in their own kitchens and delivered by friendly local people.
The current cost is £3.90/meal.

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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Rotas

North Curry

DATE	SIDESMEN	INTERCESSIONS	READERS
4th Oct	Denise Walker & T Jeanes	H Griffiths	H Baker
11th Oct	L Farnham & C Trim	D Farnham	T Jeanes
11th Oct	T Jones	D Walker	D Farnham
25th Oct	J Sergeant & T Jeanes	Z Sykes	A Peters
1st Nov	L B-Brown & S Keele	H Griffiths	D Akerman
8th Nov (9.30am)	P Burgess & L Paul	J Satchwell	C Trim
8th Nov (4pm)	T Jeanes	H Griffiths	M Piers
22nd Nov	J Sergeant & T Jeanes	D Farnham	Z Sykes

Rotas

Stoke St. Gregory

SIDESPERSONS

4th Oct	John (Harvest)
11th Oct	Simon & Penny
181h Oct	Barbara M
25th Oct	Jordon
8th Nov	Barbara P & John
15th Nov	Simon & Penny
22nd Nov	Alex
6th Dec	Barbara M

CHURCH CLEANERS

27th Sept	Penny & Simon
4th Oct	Annette & Susan
18th Oct	Marilyn & Terri
8th Nov	Penny & Simon
22nd Nov	Annette & Susan
6th Dec	Marilyn & Terri

READERS

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

4th Oct	John (Harvest)	8th Nov	Remembrance
11th Oct	Jo	15th Nov	D Tilley
18th Oct	Barbara P	22nd Nov	Alex
25th Oct	Jordon	6th Dec	Simon

Principal Services across the Benefice

4th October		**18th Sunday after Trinity**	
	3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist
	10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
	9.30am	Othery	Eucharist
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Harvest Eucharist
11th October		**19th Sunday after Trinity**	
	9.30am	Burrowbridge	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Middlezoy	Joint Service with Methodists
	10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
	6.00pm	North Curry	Benefice Evensong
	10.00am	Othery	Worship for All
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
18th October		**Luke the Evangelist**	
	3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist
	9.30am	Middlezoy	Eucharist
	8.30am	North Curry	BCP Eucharist
	10.00am	North Curry	Benefice Family Worship
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
25th October		**Bible Sunday**	
	9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
	10.00am	Middlezoy	Worship for All
	10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
	10.00am	Othery	Worship for All
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
1st November		**All Saints' Day / All Souls**	
	4.00pm	Burrowbridge	All Souls Benefice Service
	10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
	9.30am	Othery	Eucharist
	8.30am	Stoke St Gregory	BCP Eucharist
8th November		**Remembrance Sunday**	
	10.45am	Burrowbridge	Remembrance Service
	10.45am	Lyng	Remembrance Service
	10.45am	Middlezoy	Remembrance Service
	9.30am	North Curry	Eucharist
	10.50am	North Curry (at Memorial)	Remembrance Service
	4.00pm	North Curry	Benefice Evensong
	10.45am	Othery	Remembrance Service
	10.45am	Stoke St Gregory	Remembrance Service
15th November		**2nd Sunday before Advent**	
	3.00pm	Lyng	Eucharist
	9.30am	Middlezoy	Eucharist
	8.30am	North Curry	BCP Eucharist
	10.00am	North Curry	Benefice family Worship
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
22nd November		**Christ the King**	
	9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
	10.00am	Middlezoy	Eucharist
	10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
	10.00am	Othery	Worship for All
	11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
29th November		**Advent Sunday, 5th Sunday**	
	4.00pm	Middlezoy	United Benefice Eucharist