The Athelney Magazine



£1

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

May 2025

Who's Who

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

Benefice		
Vicar	Revd Dr Simon Bale	07970 936325, 01823 491587, vicar@athelneybenefice.com
Associate priest	Revd Martin Mudie	01823 490371, mmudie07@gmail.com
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Treasurer	Pat Sollis	01823 490750, pat.sollis1@btinternet.com
Safeguarding	Owen Cullwick	01823 490681, owen@cullwick.co.uk
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	Rob Ellis	07410 634511, rellisscr@hotmail.com
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

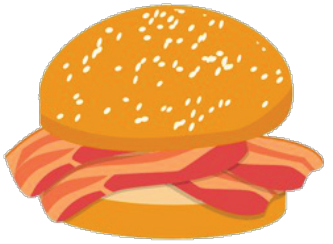
Lyng Big Bart Breakfasts are held monthly on the third Saturday of the month, 10.30am.

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 May** for the June Magazine; Please note: July and December are double months.

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

To Subscribe: NB new price

Our printing costs have recently increased 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

Rules is rules



Here's a curiosity that might make you smile: St George's Day was last Wednesday, 23rd April, correct? Wrong. In The Church it is to be celebrated on 28th April. Officially, in liturgical terms, this year, St George's Day fell on 28th April. The thing is, The Church stipulates that there can be no formal celebration of saints days during Easter Week, so as not to detract from the sanctity of that week. I shared a short collect on 23rd April because I was presiding at the midweek Eucharist. But arguably, I shouldn't have. Sorry everyone.

The Church of England does love its rules. We love them so much we give them a special name: Canon Law. It all sounds very austere, but typically of The Church, in fact "canon" is simply the Greek word for rule, so we have simply, "Rule of Law".

And why not? Any institution needs to live by regulations. Otherwise there would be chaos. (Yes, I know it can feel chaotic even with the Canon Law at times.) Canon Law has emerged over the centuries in the Church of England, and it can be a very complicated route to wander when you just want to get something done. Sometimes it can feel as though the canons we do live by can slow things down, make things more complicated than they need be and sometimes just seem to make no sense. I only have to mention "paths" and "faculty" in some places for people's eyes to twitch uncontrollably.

Rules are threaded throughout the scriptures. From the first rule issued by God to Adam ("you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die", Genesis 2:17) all through the Hebrew scriptures there are rules and regulations. Famously Moses was issued with ten of them on Mount Sinai. And there are hundreds of others. Entire books are given over to defining The Law, and the Pharisees

of Jesus' time went to great lengths to clarify just how The Law might be lived out in a sacred way.

And yet Jesus says, "I have not come to abolish the laws but to fulfil them" (Matthew 65:17). So, why are there so many rules still operating? Some suggest that, since in Jesus we have the Living Word of God, then his very presence among us means that the Law is fulfilled when we worship or give thanks to God for his resurrection.

But, again, why are there so many regulations still, if Easter has happened and all is therefore resolved? My take on it is that we still stumble and get things wrong and so we are always and every day giving thanks that every day we are made good and can face the new day. It doesn't mean we shouldn't bother to try to get things right, but we know that when things go pear shaped we can be assured of God's continued grace and forgiveness.

Some rules, such as that all APCMs must be held before the end of May each year, are rather more prosaic. But even those help make for a straightforward life and keep us moving along together. Here's another: if you live in the village you can be buried in the village. A very simple rule. Then there are good laws and there are bad laws. Good laws liberate us to live lives that are enlightened by God's love. Bad laws inhibit and crush the spirit. Sometimes we let the bad ones through, but when we notice them, it is important to address them and find ways to liberate.

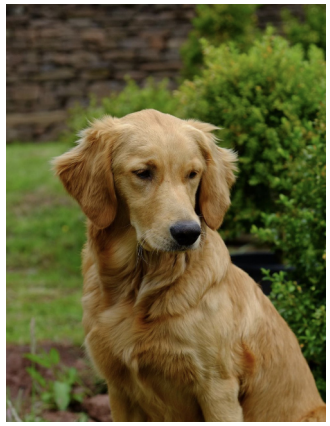
Ultimately there are two commandments that matter above all: Love God and love your neighbour. I'll leave that dangling. John 13:34, by the way.



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



Are you a worrier? Then this little muse is for you. I used to be in my long-forgotten youth but I decided many years ago that worrying required too much energy and so I gave it up. Tips on how to do this will be found at the end of the muse.

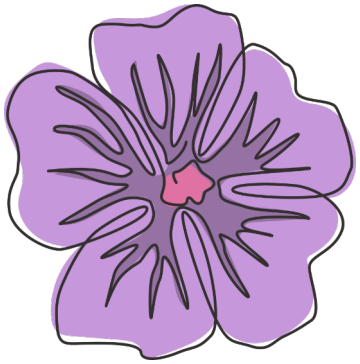
Now, of my two canine chums (such a lovely word, chums, right out of the 1930s; I would have loved to be a vicar in the 1930s but that, my dears, if for another muse) are both on the extreme ends of the worry scale. Annie, my senior girl, is amazingly laid back and content. As long as I stick rigidly to her preferred daily routine, she is a very happy girl. Breakfast must not be served before 8.30am, there must be a nice run in the playing fields at Stoke at least once a day, supper must be served promptly at 6pm and bedtime is never to be later than 10pm or there will be deep sighs and sad reproachful looks.

Now, I am afraid Emma, my junior girl worries a lot. Until she has checked that both Annie and I are still alive in the morning, the day cannot be started well. She has established an Emma Exclusion zone around the spacious grounds of Broughton House which operates 24 hours a day and very often, usually about 3am, Annie and I will be awakened with an ear-splitting Emma howl because something has breached the boundary.

Having enjoyed breakfast, we go to the playing fields where strange unknown dogs frequently come into *her* park *uninvited*! I mean, really! Then after a fairly worry-free afternoon in the garden, we all retire to the sitting room to watch TV. Now Annie knows that the TV is not real, but Emma is convinced that it is a window on the world filled with dangers all out to get her. The most annoying of these was the late Ned, Monty Don's dog on Gardener's World. When she was young Emma would rush to the TV, bouncing up and down with rage, telling Ned exactly what she thought of him coming into *her* sitting room *uninvited*. Annie merely sighs deeply and goes back to sleep.

Now, all grown up, Emma merely mouths obscenities from the comfort of lap, muttering to herself. Now, I did say I was going to give the worriers among you a couple of helpful tips which I have used myself. Firstly, confront the worry head on. It will either disappear or turn into a manageable situation with which you can deal. Secondly, choose your least important worry and concentrate on that. I found worrying about what I was going to have for lunch worked a treat. Happy worrying!

Rogation Walk 2025

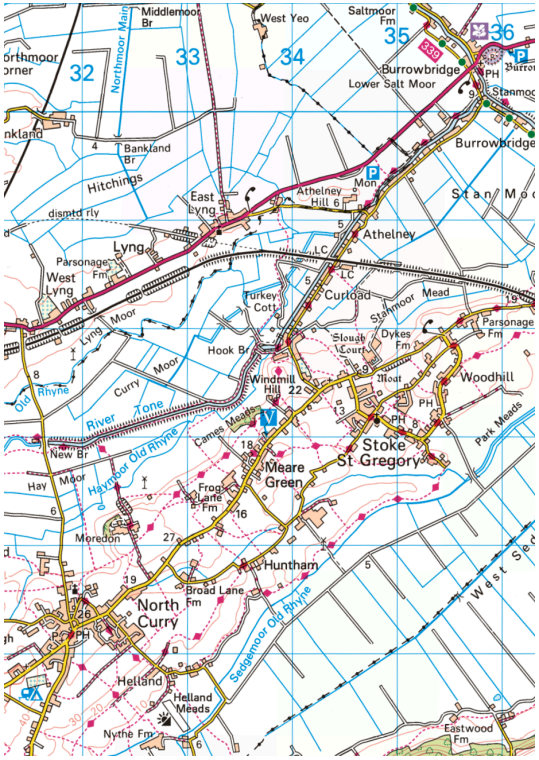


What are you planning for **Saturday 3rd May this year, from 9am in the morning**?

Nothing planned? Good. You might like to wander the paths and lanes between North Curry and Stoke St Gregory, via Lyng and Burrowbridge.

That's right… it's the annual **Athelwin Rogation walk**! As with last year, we are coordinating with events already happening in the area. Last year we ended the walk at the North Curry May Fair. This year the plan is to get to Stoke St Gregory to have a cup of tea and a cake at the Hillcrest Open Gardens (see page 29 for further details about that event).

Rogation is the season in the church year where traditionally we call upon God to bless crops, to encourage growth and to generally recognise the importance of our environment in who we are as disciples of Jesus. (*Rogare* is atin for "to ask", by the way.)



The day will begin with a bacon butty breakfast in North Curry. We will walk across the moor to Lyng for a coffee break, down the river to Burrowbridge for lunch and finally end at the Hillcrest gardens. All with a spring in our step and thanksgiving for our wonderful world in our hearts. If you're interested in coming along, drop me a line (07970 936325 or vicar@athelneybenefice.com. No pressure but the food will be tasty and the company exquisite. (Please note: there is an entrance fee for the gardens that will be donated to chrities associated with nursing and health care.)

It's sowing time!

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells



My greenhouse is currently full of seedlings pushing their way towards the light. Soon all this new life will be big enough to be planted out into the garden. Peas and courgettes, dahlias and zinnias; all ready to grow, blossom and be fruitful.

It's not only seedlings that grow. Churches do too! Just like all that's happening in my greenhouse, this doesn't happen by accident. Evidence shows that churches are most likely to grow when they plan and prepare for this to happen. Church growth is intentional.

This article of Manna contains stories about how churches in our Diocese have planned for growth and of the fruit they're seeing as a result. There's no 'one size fits all' for how this has happened. Just as in our gardens, what grows in one place won't necessarily thrive in another.

Important as planning and preparing may be, these things aren't the vital ingredient for growth. Growth comes when God is alive and at work within us and our churches. In his first letter to church he's helped establish in Corinth, St Paul also uses a gardening metaphor to describe the growth he's seeing. Paul says 'I planted, Apollos [Paul's co-worker] watered, but God gave the growth.' (1 Cor 3:6).

Without God's input, any plans we have to grow our churches will be little more than strategy, our efforts like those of ants running frantically to and fro. This is why our prayer for growth is essential. Prayer invites God to give us wisdom about what to do. It opens our treasure stores to resource the plans we want to put in place. It asks God to go before us to touch the hearts and minds of those we'd like to reach. It invites God to bless and prosper the work we do.

So be inspired! The accounts contained in this edition of Manna show what can happen when we ask God to grow our churches, offering God our prayer, our faith, our effort and our trust.

Let the sowing time begin!

DIOCESE OF
Bath&Wells
Living the story. Telling the story.



Burrowbridge

Mump, Mump, Mump...

Once again the Easter Day Sunrise Worship began with actually seeing the sun rise. This year, owing to the lateness in the year of Easter itself (Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox, in case you needed to know), the sun rose very much earlier than other years. Instead of a humane 6.45am it was at the thoroughly unacceptable time of 6.08am.



Even so, thirty or so intrepid climbers (including four children) and seven dogs who barely slowed down, mad it to the summit in good time to sing God's praise: "Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!"

We heard the story of the empty tomb and we prayed, in thankfulness for this wonderful world and in hope that we can show the glory of God's love for us by loving one another.

Then it was time to descend. Always a tricky moment on the Mump. The steep ground in early morning dew can be treacherous, but as far as we know everyone made it down safely.

Then I drove home. Grateful. Peaceful. Astonished at the beauty of the world around me. The journey to the Mump took ten minutes or so. It was at least three times longer on the return since every view needed to be noticed, photographed and marvelled at. As Louis sang, "What a wonderful world?!"

Standing atop the Mump and looking towards Lyng I imagined the sound of Alfred's settlement in the early morning. Driving back across the moor I wondered at the irrigation engineers who have managed to control the flooding (mostly). As I ventured out again, later, after having been out of bed for the whole morning already, I thought, "Thank you God, for this fine day."



All Welcome! A short time of worship to give thanks for peace followed by scrummy cakes! A benefice time together.

VE Day Worship and Tea: 4.30pm, May 4th

Lyng



What's Happening?...

Seems to be mostly food, drink and fellowship!



Don't forget the Big Breakfast! May 17th

Third Saturdays, 10.30am, Village Hall: proceeds to the church funds. Full English and all kinds of variations…

Calling all Gardeners

We are really pleased to announce that the Village Hall has secured a grant to refurbish the Hall garden. We are going to create an accessible pathway, raised beds for veg & plant Growing. Planting fruit trees and create a serene and safe space with a sensory garden with benches for all the community to enjoy and relax in. Eventually we want to set up a regular gardening group.

In the meantime we are asking if you are interested in being a volunteer and helping us to regenerate the garden please get in touch with Marion Nicol on lyngvillagehall@outlook.com with your contact details or phone Debbie on 07860135751

Lyng Parish Council

The Parish Council meets at Lyng Village Hall every two months and with meetings now generally held on Mondays. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Dates of next Parish Council meetings:

- Monday 12th May (revised date) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, start time 7pm.
- Monday 14th July 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 01823 490391.

What's happening at Lyng Village Hall



Community Lunch the First Wednesday of every month. Food service starts at 1.00 pm. The price of the 2 course meal plus hot drink is £7.00. Great value.

Friday Night Club the Last Friday of every month. Doors open at 7.00 pm. On Friday 30th May our club night will be Supper & Music Bingo starting at 7.30 pm with Chicken & Chips (vegan option) and drink of choice £10.00. Bingo starts at 8.30 pm. Come to both or either.



VE day is being celebrated on Sunday 4th May, with a an afternoon Picnic in our Hall garden from 2.00 – 6 pm. There will be live music and a raffle. Please bring your own Picnic basket full of goodies. The Hall staff will be running a Bar service together with Teas & Coffees.

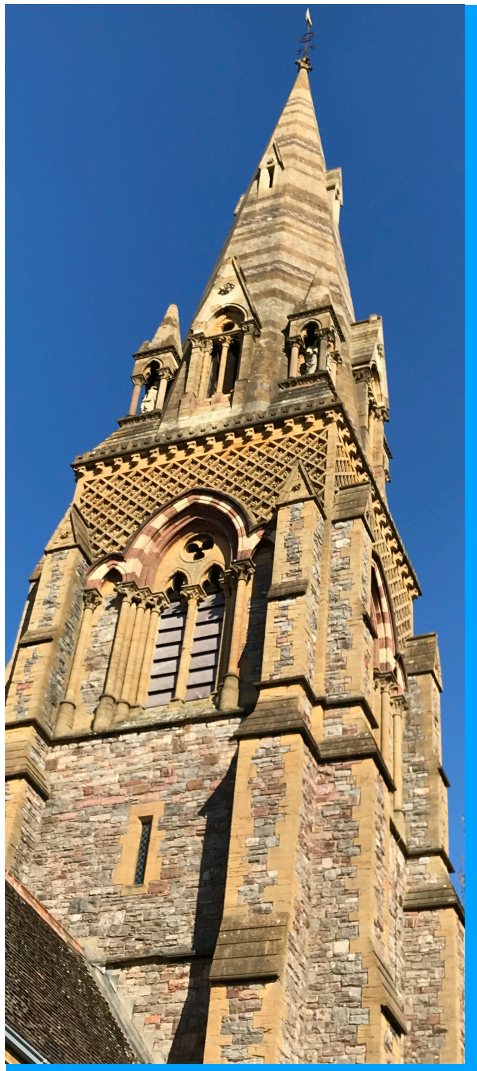


Save the date: we are holding a **Country Fete** on Saturday 12th July in the afternoon. More details to come.





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



Music at Lunchtime

SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE

SASHA HERRIMAN
Soprano
Helena Gascoyne
Accompanist
www.thebluebirds.org.uk

Friday 9th May

12.45pm - 1.30pm
Doors open at 12.00pm

St John's Church
Park Street,
Taunton
TA1 4DG
www.stjohnstaunton.org.uk

Retiring Collection
In aid of
St Peter and St Paul, Church, North Curry and St John's Church





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.

Please note that the North Curry PCC recently decided that the annual "Christmas Bonus Prize" would no longer be offered. The bonus of Christmas 2024 was the one to be awarded.

Winners
Sun 6th April

1st Diana Highley
2nd Geoffrey Dart
3rd Anna Bushell

North Curry Coffee Shop

On Tuesday 1st April, we will be introducing our Summer Menu, with a different 'Special' every week, ranging from our delicious homemade quiches, lattice pork pie and smoked mackerel, served with a healthy crisp salad. We will also be bringing back our lovely homemade scones for our excellent cream teas, and you can still get a slice of one of our famous home baked cakes or a cheese scone considered by cyclists to be the 'best in Somerset'!

Don't forget we sell a variety of lovely local art, crafts, cards and jewellery too.

Please note that while our opening hours are from 10 am to 4.30pm, Tuesday to Saturday, with last orders at 4.15 pm, on Sundays, we have decided to close earlier at 4pm (last orders 3.45pm).

As always, we are looking for new volunteers so if you would like to join our friendly team, please email us at coffeeshop@north-curry.com or call us on 01823 491414. It's a great way to meet people while helping the community and raising money for your chosen charity. We're very proud to have raised over £250,000 for charities and local good causes since opening in 2006.

We look forward to welcoming you.



North Curry Music Festival

Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 June

Thur

Time to Spare guitar quartet: open play of popular music covers
Greenway Pavilion, 2.30-4.00, free of charge

Friday

North Curry Ukulele Orchestra: open practice
Greenway Pavilion, 2.30-4.00pm, free of charge

Tango Calor + dancers Tangopuro: Argentine tango
Parish Church, 7.30pm, £16 in advance, £18 on the door

Saturday

Music al fresco in Queen Square Garden*: free of charge

- **Ringing of the church bells**, 9.30-10.30am
- **The Sound of the Streets Big Band**, 10.30 – 11.30am
- **Carillon Duo**: Louise & Kevin Toller, classical guitar duets, 12.00 noon
- **Nigel Lawrence**, 1.30-2.15pm
- **Jazzical Swing**, 2.15-3.00pm
- **The North Curry Orchestra**, 3.45-4.30pm
- **North Curry Ukulele Orchestra**

Making it up as we go along - improvisation workshop with Tim Hill
Everyone can improvise! Bring an instrument or your voice.
Village Hall, 2.00pm, £10 (only 20 places, age 14 or older – book early!)

Pelléas Ensemble (Flute, Viola, Harp) perform Purcell, Bax, Couperin & more
Parish Church, 7.30pm, £18 in advance, £20 on the door

Sunday

United Benefice Family and Village Service with children's choirs
Parish Church, 11.00am. Ringing of the church bells from 10.00am

Pantasy Steel Band play traditional and modern Caribbean music
Greenway Playing Field, 1.30pm – 4.30pm, free of charge
Barbecue and ice cream from 1.00pm. Bring your own picnic.

www.northcurrymusicfestival.org.uk

Tickets available from 12 May at North Curry Post Office and www.ticketsource.co.uk

With thanks to Somerset Community Foundation. Presented by North Curry Parish Church, Charity No. 1194715

** Programme subject to change*

Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: This years APM will be held on Wednesday 7th May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, please arrive at 7:15pm for a drink before the meeting starts. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be presenting updates and will have information stands for you to look at and see the latest progress, including the design guide. There will be wine and snacks as well as tea and coffee!

DOG FOULING: Unfortunately, there have been further complaints about dog fouling. Please pick up after your dog and use the dog bins provided! As previously said, this issue is not just unsightly but also poses a health hazard, especially to children. On a similar note, as the weather is improving and farm animals are out grazing, please ensure to keep your dog on a lead if in a field with animals.

ALLOTMENTS: The Parish Council are looking at ideas to improve Greenway allotments (current allotment holders- please don't worry!), this will be discussed more at the APM so come along and have your say on potential ideas. If you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact the Clerk.

TAUNTON RECYCLING CENTRE SHOP: The Reuse Shop has now re-opened at Priorswood Recycling Centre! Lots of people have missed this shop, so we are glad to see it has returned.

CAR PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION: A Somerset Council consultation will soon be coming regarding proposed changes to car parking charges. These changes include standardised Sunday charges, on-street parking, and overnight parking charges. We will share a link when this is released.

OXEN LANE UPDATES: There is now a section on the website for the latest monthly Oxen Lane updates under the 'News' heading . These updates will also be shared on Facebook and Nextdoor. If you aren't able to access these online, please visit the Parish Office during opening hours and the Clerk can print a copy for you.

The Parish Council Office

Wednesdays 10:00am – 1:00pm and Thursdays 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Phone: 01823 490136 or email: parishcouncil@northcurry.com.
Please check the notice board, website or Facebook for the Council's diary. Council Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month with any extra planning meetings as needed on the last Wednesday of the month (both in the Meeting Room, Village Hall at 7:30pm).



Betty Koppa BEM

By Colin Trim, Chairman of the North Curry Society

Although I was privileged to know Betty for more than 70 years, I am unaware or unsure of many of the dates and biographical facts which underpin any obituary or eulogy. What I can offer however is a grateful appreciation of a remarkable lady whose contribution to the heritage of North Curry will continue to be felt for many years to come.

From her arrival in the village in 1947 Betty collected, cajoled and catalogued a huge number of artefacts pertaining to North Curry life and began building a family history archive of North Curry inhabitants. The results of her many years of dedication can be seen in the Village Archives Betty established above the Coffee Shop and which led to the award of the British Empire Medal 'for service to the community'.

A farmer's daughter from Devon, Betty was steeped in rural life, and it was in the late 1960's that she began walking and recording the network of footpaths of the parish. This second 'community amenity' is of course still much appreciated to this day by residents and visitors alike.

One of the many organisations which flourish in our village is the North Curry Society. Who was the prime instigator and founder-member of this now 40 year-old society which fosters an interest in the cultural and environmental heritage of the village? None other, of course, than the same Betty Koppa BEM, who has now been reunited with Anton, her husband of many years.

The lives of those of us fortunate enough to live in this beautiful and vibrant community owe an immense debt of gratitude to Betty. Her contribution to the development and preservation of our village heritage deserves never to be forgotten.



Music at the North Curry Parish Church

We have two musical treats for you at the parish church this month.

Saturday May 10th: On the evening (7.30pm) of May Fair afternoon 10th May, North Curry Village Choir and visiting soloists bring you Mozart's Requiem in full, and other choral items.



Friday May 30th: Then at the end of the month, Bert Ruymbeek (you may remember him as accordionist in the Flemish folk group Wör) and his partner Laura Cortese play and sing Belgian/ American folk music, 7pm Friday 30th May. They live with their young family in Ghent, Flanders, and will be touring south east England at the end of this month, making an excursion to entertain their old friends in Somerset.

Laura & Bert capture the atmosphere of meaningful moments and turn them into memorable tales of sound, sometimes with lyrics, sometimes instrumental. Like storytellers, they display an intimate dialogue in their music, reflecting on people, places and stories that have an impact on their lives. Their music covers a wide emotional range, like a conversation effortlessly flowing with associations.

As ever, tickets on sale, courtesy of NC post Office up to lunchtime on concert day, thereafter at the church door.



North Curry School in Church

By The Worship Warriors

On Wednesday April 2nd, North Curry Primary School celebrated Easter down at the Church of St Peter and Paul with our Easter Liturgy Service. The Year 6 children took on the main acting parts with the rest of the school singing the hymns of 'When I think about the Cross', 'Once again', 'Eat this bread, drink this cup', 'King of Kings' and 'Risen'!

Our class teachers shared the readings and all in all It was a very moving service. Thank you to Rev Simon for all his technical help and for reading the prayers.

Happy Easter from all of us at North Curry C of E Primary School!

The Bluebirds Theatre Company

THE MAGIC FLUTE

BY MOZART



Join The Bluebirds Theatre Company and Somerset Opera in a brand new production of Mozart's opera The Magic Flute; watch a dynamic cast of opera singers and puppets in a flight of imagination. Meet monsters, villains, heroes and heroines in a saga of love and deceit set in a magical circus of Light and Dark. Let the magic begin!

"Absolutely loved it and it blew me away!"

"Amazing fun! Epic singing, great puppets, silly story, wonderful dragon"

North Curry Church

Sun 27 July at 6.30pm

Tickets: Adults £20 (Under 5's free)
www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bluebirds-theatre-company
or from North Curry Post Office

@thebluebirdstheatre
@The Bluebirds

www.thebluebirds.org.uk
thebluebirdstheatrecompany@gmail.com

North Curry Village Choir

Spring Concert

Mozart Requiem

also Mendelssohn *Hear my Prayer,*

Soloists and other items

Saturday 10th May

North Curry Village Church, 7:30 PM

Tickets £10 from North Curry Post Office

or Choir Members

website: www.northcurryvillagechoir.org



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

Hestercombe: Life As A Head Gardener

Friday 2nd May 7.45pm for 8pm at North Curry Village Hall

By Claire Greenslade

In addition to her work at Hestercombe, Claire carried out a 3-year apprenticeship at Barrington Court and spent a year at Garden Organic in Coventry, a charity that for more than half a century has brought together thousands of people who share a common belief – that organic growing is essential for a healthy and sustainable world.

Why not join us?

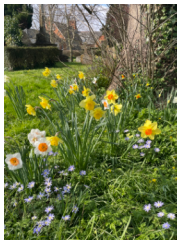
We are enthusiastic gardeners from North Curry and nearby who meet on the first Friday from September to May at 7:45pm in North Curry Village Hall. Invited speakers entertain us on a variety of gardening- related topics. Refreshments and a chat round off the evening.

There's something for everyone with an interest in gardening and plants.New members and visitors are always welcome (membership £12 annually, visitors £3.00/visit).

Need more info? Telephone Sue on 01823 491658 or email northcurrygardeningclub@gmail.com

Daffodils!

Mary Piers is once again coordinating the planting of daffodils in North Curry churchyard. It seems a way off but it is best to plan ahead. If you would like to contribute to a fund to purchase bulbs for bloom next year, please do contact Mary: 01823 491434 or marypiers@btinternet.





NORTH CURRY F I L M CLUB



Our next film on **Wednesday May 28** is Incendies. It is a Canadian film in French (with subtitles). In the film twins, Jeanne & Simon journey to the Middle East to discover their family history and fulfill their mother's last wishes. It is a powerful drama that delves into the complexities of war, identity, and family.

Visually striking and supported by a haunting score, Incendies is a film that lingers in the mind long after the credits roll. A stunning film to watch.

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

Please see our website for trailers: www.northcurryfilmclub.org.uk or use the QR code.

We also have a Facebook page.

We are looking for help running the club. All offers of help are very welcome. Contact Don on 490 859.

North Curry Organ: Church Arrangements...

North Curry organ is currently being renovated and for reasons of health and safety the PCC have decided to keep the church locked when unoccupied. Other than the usual Sunday Services, the church will be open for the coffee morning and midweek communion (Wednesdays from 9.30am) and for morning prayer on Fridays (9am). The South Porch remains open for shelter etc.

The work will continue throughout May and some of June. If you need to get into the building whilst it is locked, then please call Revd Simon Bale 07970 936325, Mary Piers (churchwarden) 01823 491434 or Tom Jeanes (churchwarden) 01823 490562.

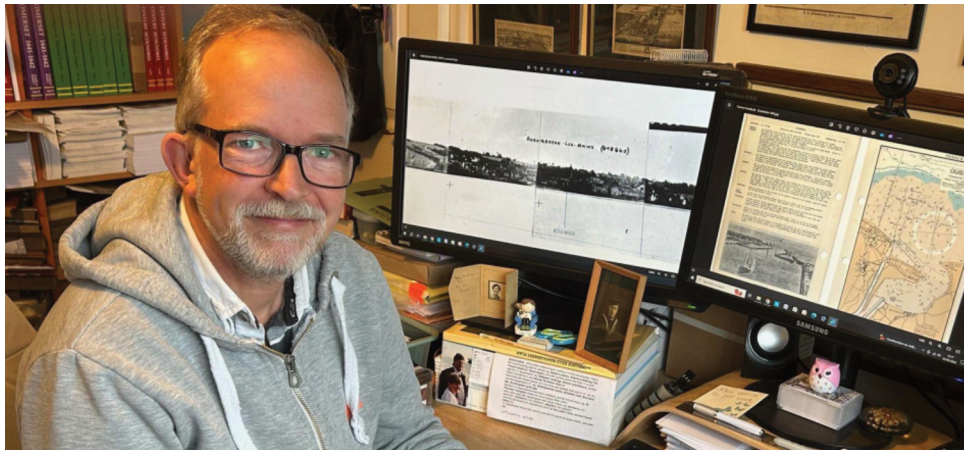
NORTH CURRY SOCIETY

Somerset's Secret Chartmakers, with Adrian Webb.

Wednesday May 21st, 7.30pm

On Wednesday 21st May, South West Heritage Trust historian Adrian Webb uncovers the story of Taunton's covert mapmakers, clandestinely preparing charts for the recovery of occupied World War Two Europe. For more than 20 years, Dr Webb has researched hidden records that reveal the origins of the UK Hydrographic Office at Creechbarrow Hill, relocated in 1940 from the Admiralty's base in London, in Bath and Exeter.

His book Churchill's Secret Chart Makers: The road to D-Day and beyond in Somerset 1939-1945 was published to coincide with the 80th anniversary of D-Day. During 1944 1,100 naval officers and administrators, surveyors, cartographer/ hydrographers, draughtsmen, engravers and printers tirelessly compiled, printed, corrected and supplied a staggering seven million nautical charts that showed servicemen and allies the exact locations and routes to take during the Normandy landings. All undertaken with the utmost secrecy: careless talk could have cost lives.



The Society generally meets on the third Wednesday each month for talks of local interest. A full programme of talks has been arranged for the year ahead, which you will see on the Membership Card that will be available that evening. If you are not yet a member, you'll still be welcome (on payment of the guest fee of £5, or taking out annual membership for £15). Doors open at 7.30pm for a hot drink and warm conversation. Our Chairman Colin Trim (490337) would be pleased to learn about topics and speakers of interest to you.

Pay It Forward for Somerset—a campaign that changes lives

The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a Somerset charity working to make sure that no one in our county must face hardship alone. They have launched a #PayItForward-Somerset campaign, aiming to raise £25,000 to support vital services that help Somerset residents when they need it most.

CCS people · place · enterprise

Every day, CCS helps people like Amy, whose limited mobility left her without fresh food and the ability to cook for herself. Thanks to the support of a CCS Village Agent, Amy now has access to a food pantry and a home kitchen setup that allows her to prepare her own meals again. And then there's Ed, who was overwhelmed by memory loss and mounting debts. With support from CCS, Ed received help with finances, daily care, and now feels safe at home.

CCS has a team of Village Agents who work throughout the county helping people to avoid isolation, keep warm, put food on the table, find housing, care for a loved one and connect with their community. Last year they supported over 10,000 Somerset residents with all kinds of issues, large and small.

Every pound raised by the Pay It Forward campaign will go towards services like Village Agents and CCS's wider community work, addressing economic challenges, health needs and social isolation.

There are lots of ways to Pay It Forward in Somerset, from making a donation, fundraising eg. holding a coffee morning, or Knitting for your Neighbour. Please visit ccslovesomerset.org/pay-it-forward-for-somerset to find out more and help if you can.

PAY IT FORWARD for Somerset

You can meet your local Village Agent at a Talking Cafésomersetagents.org/talking-cafes/, or request support here: somersetagents.org/

North Curry Village Choir

Spring Concert

Mozart Requiem

also Mendelssohn *Hear my Prayer,*

Soloists and other items

Saturday 10th May

North Curry Village Church, 7:30 PM

Tickets £10 from North Curry Post Office

or Choir Members

website: www.northcurryvillagechoir.org

Talking Cafe

North Curry:

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

When?

Stoke St Gregory:

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



somerset village & community agents
part of CCS





WHY POP IN?

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

Funded by: Somerset Council, NHS Somerset

Provided by: CCS people · place · enterprise

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Magazine Pricing

You may have noticed that we have raised the price of the magazine.

The new price (£1) will come into effect for subscribers from May. Starting from May this year (the next issue), the annual subscription cost will be £10 to receive ten issues delivered to your door. (there are no issues in August or January.)

We hope you will understand the reason for this increase. The cost of printing has recently increased. Like so many things, it seems, costs are rising and we cannot absorb the increase for the monthly magazine without raising the price for you.



Much of the publication costs are covered by our advertisers, and the rates for advertising are also rising (details on page 5).

Copies of the magazine will continue to be available in the village shops and also at the kissing gate at North Curry Church. If you would like to receive your copy delivered to your door, please email magazine@athelneybenefice.com

Annual Meetings

The annual parochial church meetings (APCM) are all now in the pipeline. These are our churches' AGMs. If you have any interest in the life of your local church then consider attending the APCM. It's where we elect the PCCs and wardens and reflect upon our Christian journey in the face of this rather crazy world. So, also, if you are interested in taking on any formal role in your church (e.g. PCC member or warden etc.), let the vicar know!

Dates for APCMs

Burrowbridge: 15th May at 7pm

Lyng: 8th May at 7pm

North Curry: 25th May at 12pm

Stoke St Gregory: 21st May at 7pm



Stoke St Gregory



Open Gardens

Hillcrest (top of Curload) Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May, from 1pm to 5pm

Charlotte and Charles Sundquist are again opening their beautiful gardens for us all to admire and to raise funds for a number of UK charities concerned with nursing and health. Last year the very many gardens around the UK who opened for the scheme raised a staggering sum of money in excess of £3million.



Each year for some time now, the Sundquists have invited St Gregory's Church to supply teas and a plant stall for the visitors in order to raise vital funds for our own running and repair costs in the Parish Church. These are always popular with the visitors but we do rely on a having a number of volunteers to help out the "regulars". If you feel able to give some time on one of the two days to man the tea tent or could supply a cake or some plants then please do get in touch with Jane (janepwhite@hotmail.com or on 490508 or 07799 201145)



Come and see what new projects they have undertaken over the winter months and enjoy delicious homemade cakes.





There was no escape for the eggs...

The photos tell the story.

The rain held off (there was actually sunshine!), all the eggs were hunted down and then there was cake. What more do you want from St Gregory's Easter Egg Hunt?



Thank you to everyone who helped out, and in particular Sue Hembrow for co-ordinating it all.

Next year: same place (if not the same time because Easter has the habit of moving around).





Somerset Council



SUE

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- Pilates enthusiast.
- Somerset Volunteer Driver.





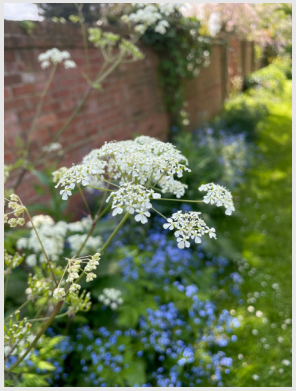
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Our drivers also support adults and children in Somerset with journeys relating to social care.

Think you can help too? Find out more about the role and apply here:
www.volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/drive

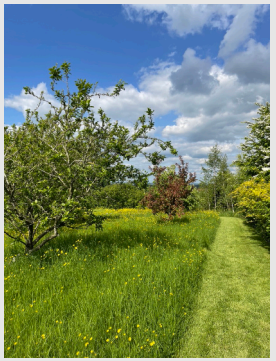
Alternatively, email **gemma.ruffle@somerset.gov.uk** or call **07855 285464** to make a difference in your community.



Plant Sale

From Annette Gage

The Plant Sale this year will take place on May3rd and 4th at Highfield by kind permission of the Sundquists when their garden is open.



The plant stall is run by and in aid of the church so we will be very grateful for any spare plants you can produce. Any flowers, veg, shrubs etc will be gratefully received as this is our main fund raising event. Any plants can be brought here to Old Angel before the event. Thank you in anticipation! (Call me on 490297)

Ribbons and Thanks

The Stoke St Gregory WI members meeting on Tuesday 13th May will be jam-packed evening of fun, thank yous and swirling ribbons.

We have finally completed the programme for the year which ends with our annual meeting.

We will say thank you to three committee members who are stepping down after many years of service and commitment to the Institute.

However, we are always moving forward as an organisation and some new faces will be filling the roles.

Emma Randall is returning to motivate us to exercise with the use of ribbons and upbeat music. Plus the new programme of speakers, outings and events will be presented to members.

What is guaranteed is a warm welcome and plenty of laughs.

We meet at Stoke St Gregory Village Hall on the **second Tuesday of the month with the meeting starting at 7pm**. Contact Amelia Holt, 01823 490401 or 07985 317252 for further details.

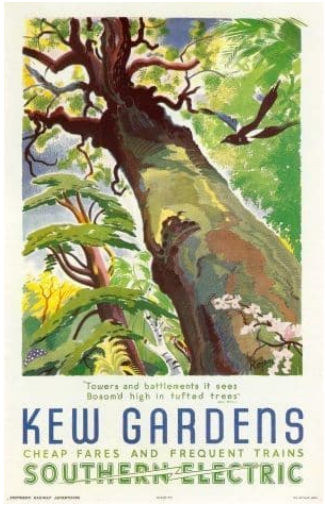
Garden Musings

By Revd Martin Mudie



When I was at boarding school the misguided but well-meaning school made the students play games or do cross country runs every afternoon.

However, my non-athletic best friend and I found a wonderful ruse to get out of Saturday sporting activities by asking our housemaster for an *exeat* to visit a cultural destination in London.



The two approved places were the British Museum and Kew Gardens. These had the advantage of being really cheap. The museum was free and Kew Gardens demanded the princely sum of 1d in the winter rising to the astronomical price of 6d in the summer.

Kew is lovely all year round, but it is very beautiful in May. In those days, you would often see adverts, reproduced from the 1930s, on the underground, exhorting all 'To Come to Kew at Lilac-Time'. Strangely enough, when we went, there were very few lilacs to be found. Perhaps they were never replaced when they expired through old age.

It is quite different now, as in the 1980s, Kew was gifted a large collection of Canadian hybrids, which formed the nucleus for a special lilac garden, along with some of the old favourites. I have always felt that lilacs are an integral part of the English garden True, their flowers, like cherry blossom, do not last long. But in the spring, they are a glorious addition to our gardens, unmatched in beauty or scent.



I think my two favourites are Mme Lemoine – a white one, and a deep wine-red, Souvenir de Louis Spath. For something a bit smaller the variety Palabin is ideal for a pot. If you go to the garden centre there are many other varieties available, just pick a colour you like.

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Mid-week Holy Communion



There is now a weekly Holy Communion service held at 10am in North Curry Church. It is a said service (no hymns etc.) and takes place in the Lady Chapel in the church. All are welcome: please just come along if you feel the need.

Rotas

Stoke St Gregory

Sidespersons

4th May	Barbara P (EP)
18th May	Simon & Penny
25th May	Alex & Sally
1st June	TBC (EP)

Cleaners

4th May	Linda & Brent
11th May	Annette & Martin
18th May	Penny & Simon
25th May	Dave & Janet
1st June	Marilyn & Terri

Readers

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

4th May	Barbara P (EP)
18th May	Simon
25th May	Jordon
1st June	Jane

Flowers

4th May	Amelia Holt
11th May	Cherry Dobson
18th May	Cherry Dobson
25th May	Cherry Dobson
1st June	Given by a member of the congregation from Edwina Hansford

The Church looked spectacular for Easter.Thank you so much to all the festival flower arrangers for their efforts.

North Curry

	Sidesmen	Intercessions	Readers
4th May	L B-Brown, T Jones	Z Sykes	D Akerman
11th May	J Sergeant, L Paul	J Satchwell	A Peters
18th May	L Farnham	D Walker	J Satchwell, D Farnham
25th May	T Jeanes, Denise Waker	D Farnham	C Trim
29th May	L Farnham	H Griffiths	M Piers
1st June	P Burgess, S Keele	Z Sykes	H Baker

Services across the Benefice

4th May 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Communion Service
11.00am	North Curry Methodist Church	Service
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

11th May 4th Sunday of Easter

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

18th May 5th Sunday of Easter

8.30am	North Curry	Prayer Book Eucharist
10.00am	Lyng	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Family Worship, followed by AGM
11.00am	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist
11.00am	North Curry Methodist Church	Service of Holy Communion
6.00pm	North Curry	Evensong

25th May 6th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Burrowbridge	Eucharist
10.00am	North Curry	Eucharist
10.30am	Stoke Baptist Church	Family Worship
11.00am	North Curry Methodist Church	Service
6.00pm	Stoke St Gregory	Evensong

29th May North Curry, 7pm Ascension Day Eucharist

1st June Sunday after Ascension Day

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