

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE



October 2020

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The Calendar Competition attracted nearly 50 entrants in the end.

Above , a couple of the editor's personal choices...
Tom Jeanes – rainbow ending at the church
Sara Wilkins – an early morning sun in September

Revd JT survey's the view on the Harvest Walk >>>
Story on page 10



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Church officers phone numbers, and other local useful phone numbers, can be found on the inside back page.

www.northcurrychurch.co.uk/ email ncurrymag@gmail.com

Cover Illustration – Iris foetidissima, a watercolour by Portia Westhead

Announcements/ News in Brief

Congratulation to our 200 Club Winners

Prizes: First £30, Second £20, Third £10

July

1st Trevor Steer

2nd Diana Hemmings

3rd Heather Richards

August

1st Alex Morris

2nd Michael Spearman

3rd Geoffrey Dart

September

1st Mary Haycock

2nd Peter Stanhope-White

3rd Anna Vile

If you would like to join, please contact Sue Bethune on 490179

Players must be over 18 years old, with all proceeds going towards the churchyard maintenance.

The church is open from 9am to 5pm, daily.

Face Masks to be worn inside at all times.

25th October – British Summer time ends, as the clocks go back an hour.

Church Flowers –

Would you be interested in joining the dedicated team that keeps the church beautiful all year round? - No need to be an expert either – you just need to be keen and be part of a friendly group.

Please call Lorraine on 491665.

***** Autumn Litter Pick *****

You are invited to the Parish Council Autumn Litter Pick on **10th October** starting from the **Village Hall** car park at **10am** for as long as you can manage – but no more than 2 hours Please dress warmly, especially gloves and high-vis jacket and sensible shoes/boots – equipment will be provided. Thank you.

No reward except a warm civic glow!

Any questions, please get in touch with Maria Perry, the parish council clerk (parishcouncil@northcurry.com) or call Helen Griffiths on 491298

Thank you to all individuals that contributed towards the Calendar Competition. There are some very talented photographers in the village, Around 50 entrants made for a difficult choice for our judges. The calendar will be on sale in November.



The editor's comments

With September now behind us, and summer along with it with the passing of the Autumnal equinox (and what a lovely day it was too), our attentions move to winter – with no apparent end to social distancing measures, or the restarting of clubs or societies, it may well be a winter of discontent... Though September did see the return of the produce market, albeit in a scaled down version of its usual pomp, at least we had something!

September also had us bidding farewell to Revd John Tyler from his role as Hon. Associate Priest for the Benefice.

An atheist and a vicar walk into bar – sounds the beginning of a joke... but this had become the usual practice for John and I in the good ole days. Virtually each week, we would meet at a pub to sort out magazine articles/ events, or discuss other matters to hand– usually in my former capacity as treasurer – his input and good humour always proving invaluable. So on a personal note; I sincerely thank you for your help and wish you well away from the “hurley burely” of Benefice life.

The calendar competition brought in wonderful selection of pictures in the end, just proving what a talented lot of villagers we have in North Curry. The Calendar will go on sale in November, and we also hope to get an exhibition up in the shop window of all the submitted pictures.

Unfortunately, Government restrictions forced the Jumble Sale to be postponed once again, but some stalls of jumble will be available at each of the future Produce Markets. So do please try to get along on 3rd October to see what is on offer.

Until next month, I hope you enjoy this edition, my 23rd as editor... where has the time gone...

Produce Market
Saturday 3rd October
9.30am-11.30am

The all new sanitized market will be open, with Jumble tables in the Car Park (in aid of the bells restoration)

Antisocial Behaviour in the Churchyard and at White Street Sports Ground

Unfortunately, there have been several instances of antisocial behaviour in the churchyard and at White Street Sports Ground.

Some months ago, benches from the north side of the church had been thrown over. Last week benches had been moved again and litter strewn about including on graves.

Despite notices being displayed on the benches on the north side asking for respectful behaviour this morning (14th September) it was reported that the benches had been moved again, a fire lit and litter (tobacco and drink related) left.

Clearly this is not acceptable and is upsetting to those with relatives buried nearby and could escalate into something more serious.

Recently, on the sports grounds someone broke some plastic chairs and left a lot of litter.

Consequently, the police have been informed and they attended within the hour. Fortunately, there is no evidence of drugs other than tobacco and alcohol.

There have been other instances of antisocial behaviour reported at the Greenway playing fields.

The police have said that they are endeavouring to improve their community response and have said they will increase patrols.

The two officers covering our patch are:

Tony Wearmouth 07885655312 tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Steve Chapman 07889655196 steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

They are happy to be contacted directly as above but may not be available always.

An alternative is to phone 101. If there is an immediate threat to life, limb or property call 999

Please let the churchwardens know if you become aware of any unacceptable behaviour.

David Akerman
Churchwarden
490234

Laurence Leader
North Curry Sports Ltd. (White Street)
490474
whitestreet@northcurry.com

The Revd John Tyler writes

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to Sheila Billingham for her poem on what she did in Lockdown, and Darren Woodyer, who has cycled from Lands End to John O'Groats (in his Living Room) during this period; both won £10 tokens for the King Alfred Inn at Burrowbridge.

As I write this in mid-September we are enjoying an early Autumn heatwave. I hope you are all able to make the most of it. Perhaps, like me, you have a sensation of squirreling away reserves of energy and sunshine for what may be a rather testing Winter ahead. Meanwhile it is good to be able to hold Church Services (I hope there will be no change before our Magazines come into print) in a relatively 'normal' way. Apart from the joy of opening up our beautiful Church Buildings and using them for their purpose of Praising God and finding our own spiritual strength, I have been consistently impressed by how glad people are just to meet one another . . . I hope it will be possible to continue.

It is 3 years almost to the day since I wrote to the Archdeacon of Taunton and suggested I might be able to help in the Athelney Benefice ; I had behind me 16 years of being in charge of Lyng in the 70s, 80s and 90s – linked to Stoke St Gregory and Burrowbridge – and also 10 months of looking after the United Benefice during the Great Flood Year in 2015. I knew my way around at any rate. It has been a very happy time for me, and I want to thank all of you, but particularly the Churchwardens and other Church Officers for their support, co-operation and patience. Apart from taking Services the main emphasis has been on trying to establish and keep up with the demands of Pastoral Care over these diverse parishes, and to help a little with some of the organisational and other problems. As so often with priestly ministry, the great joy is getting to know people, work with them, and sometimes help them ; I have been very blessed.

Elsewhere in this Magazine there should be a summary of our Harvest Thanksgiving Walk, which was a reminder that we live our lives in this Benefice against a glorious rural background. Your new incumbent, when he/she arrives, will also feel and know God's Blessing, I am sure.

Take care of yourselves and Every Blessing,

John Tyler.

The Right Reverend
Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

A time to listen

I was expecting to be on sabbatical as I write this but of course you will all now be aware that Bishop Peter is receiving treatment for leukaemia and thus I am back in the diocese. He is as cheerful as ever and very much values your care, thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and so many warm messages. Thank you! Please keep praying for him, Jane and the family.

Coping with the 'unexpected', whether it is news about health, the pandemic or a personal diagnosis like +Peter's; or a change of plan such as my sabbatical, can set us in a spin. We don't always know how to respond. It requires us to adapt, to change, to rethink how we will live.

I'm reminded of the story of Elijah who felt overwhelmed by the circumstances around him. A national drought both from rain and faith left him feeling vulnerable and alone. And although God made Himself very evident in the events of Mount Carmel, Elijah still felt under siege and fearful, wanting to die rather than face the wrath of Jezebel. And so he ran! And in the book of Kings we find God meets with him. First of all bringing him refreshment of body and mind through sleep and food. And then, when his well-being is restored, he discovers the voice of God, not in the strength of storm or wind but in a 'still small voice'.

I wonder where and how you might hear the voice of God? Across the diocese we are entering into a listening project to hear what God might be saying to us, in and through the strange times in which we now live. We welcome your thoughts so please do share them with us.

Praying God's blessing on us all



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Our Diocese website has all sorts of useful information on it regarding the Christian faith.

Do take the time to have a look and explore for yourself on what your Diocese is doing and what support it can provide.

The Athelney Benefice – Service Rota

October 2020 (as at 10th September 2020)

4th October		Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	
08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist (followed by APCM)	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Harvest Festival	Revd Keith Powell
<i>7th October (Wednesday)</i>			
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

11th October		Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	
10.00	Burrowbridge	Eucharist	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	Dr Robert Dunning
18.00	North Curry	Evening Prayer	Revd Martin Mudie
<i>14th October (Wednesday)</i>			
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

18th October		Luke the Evangelist	
08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
18.00	North Curry	Evening Prayer	Mr Ralph Roberts
<i>21st October (Wednesday)</i>			
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

25th October		GMT starts (clocks go back one hour)	BIBLE SUNDAY
09.30	Burrowbridge	Morning Prayer	Dr Robert Dunning
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd John Tyler
<i>28th October (Wednesday) Simon and Jude</i>			
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

1st November**ALL SAINTS DAY**

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist (with All Souls)	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	Mr Ralph Roberts

Prayer for the Athelney Benefice

Almighty God,

Who made all things and sustains all things;

We come together remembering the past and full of hope for the future;

We thank you for the part you call us to play in our Benefice's continuing story.

Lord, bind us more closely together and unite us in the work of your kingdom in our communities;

Help us to draw on the gifts and talents in our midst and to use them in your service.

May we be a welcoming and loving community, united in worshipping you and open to your guiding Spirit.

Holy Spirit guide us at this time of uncertainty and change:

Fill us with vision and energy; make us faithful in prayer and worship, that we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

We ask these things in the name of your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

So it is with a heavy heart we bid farewell to our Honorary Associate Priest we ought to be laying on a banquet or a feast, at the very least.

You have inspired and comforted us when we were in need, overseeing many a church service and PCC meeting indeed.

You have done so much for our little benefice,
so many things, I can not even begin to list.
Though the Archdeacons are now heard to rejoice;
no more will they hear from your troublesome voice.

We know this is not a good bye, but merely an au revoir,
as we look forward to a future song, even if there is no choir.

Where would we be without you, I dare not speculate.

For all your help, we simply say, "Cheers mate".

HARVEST THANKSGIVING WALK 2020.

I am always a bit nervous about a totally new venture : I have organised Rogation Walks since about 1994, but they happen in late May or early June when the Somerset countryside is looking its very best, and the weather is reasonably dependable . . . But a Harvest Walk ? And our Harvest time spreads over months in any given year now.

In the event only one Saturday was possible for this, and the situation with the gradual re-opening of Churches after Covid-19 Lockdown meant that traditional Harvest Festival Services might have to be rather muted affairs, encouraging a new initiative . . . Soooo it had to be September 5th . . .

How lucky we were ! I woke to a waning moon and the House Martins performing incredible acrobatics to try and tempt a late brood out of the nest – will they make it to Africa ? – and a group of us later gathered at North Curry Village Hall where a Produce Market was being very responsibly organised. The Walkers were Sally Morrice, Rob Ellis and Mike McCabe, and of course Rosco the dog, and myself. The weather looked better than it had for some days - sunny, clear and fresh, and the clouds threatening a shower soon dispersed. Rob guided us SE to a wonderful panoramic view down across West Sedgemoor and Helland (Blessings scattered, and I hope homing in on the herd of Belted Galloway cattle there) and then we turned to the NE (good to know that Mike's mobile has a compass, so that we can't get lost). This is an area liberally interspersed with kissing-gates, expertly installed. North Curry now has an impressive number of these and an increase in the local frog population can be ascribed to all the bewitched Princes hanging around hopefully on the chance of a lucky break.

Through the first of our fields of maize – these, with blackberries, form the most striking example of our Harvest-theme at this time ; the cobs look good, even though these are probably destined for cattle-feed. Suddenly we find ourselves walking through a field of fine Alpacas. Once definitely exotic, these are becoming a recognised feature of the Somerset countryside. These ones are of very varied colours (and hairstyles), and have much more amiable expressions than the supercilious Llamas, their relatives. Up the Morden Drive and a short detour to admire the wonderful view of North Curry Church from the East, with the Brendons and Quantocks forming the skyline. Then NE along the ridge with the River Tone below us. We are able to pick out both Burrow Mump and Glastonbury Tor, and Lyng Church stands high above Curry Moor. A lovely morning now, and there is still some power in the sun even though we are only about two weeks away from the Autumn Equinox. Clouds and cloud-shadows make the Somerset landscape as beautiful as I have ever seen it. As always on these walks the good company adds an extra positive dimension, and I think this has extra value after the socially-deprived months we have been through.

At the Willows and Wetlands Centre we turn down through the woods (families with young children are enjoying the imaginative willow-sculptures in

the trees), and out across the moor to the Tone. Instinctively now I look for porpoises ! Everywhere the grass is lush again after the occasional heavy rain in August. A gentleman fishing gets a Blessing (representing the harvest of rivers, lakes and oceans). Then on to Curload – our only real stretch along a road. Crossing the Level Crossing we make our way to Athelney Bridge. A glance at our watches and at Burrow Mump (still appearing rather distant) indicates that regretfully we must leave out The Athelney Memorial this time. But there are enough of Tim Morgan's magnificent Red Devons in view to merit a special Blessing – their second this Summer. Equally Lyng, like Stoke St Gregory, has to make do with a rather remote (though heartfelt) Blessing today.

We walk along the gently curving riverbank where a lady is picking blackberries ; why do more of us not take advantage of this wonderful free harvest, I wonder ? It is there, quite literally, for the picking. Eventually, after 2 ½ hours steady walking and with exactly 30 seconds to spare before our advertised time of 12 noon, we arrive at Burrowbridge. Here we find another 15 or more people gathered in the Churchyard. It takes a few moments to find a level place to set up the little altar (we are, after all, on the lower slopes of the Mump), but it is sunny and warm and the slight breeze is not so much as to blow out the candle. We carefully follow the directions imposed by Covid-19 restrictions, and it is lovely to celebrate God's goodness to us all under a blue sky and in such good company ; the 3 dogs get special Blessings, of course. Our Service has a lot of material from the Celtic tradition, which uses the rhythms of tides and weather and the rest of the natural world to link our lives to God. The Mump itself, with St. Michael's unfinished mediaeval Church soaring above us in unequivocal witness, dominates our worship.

There follows a happy, informal picnic in the Churchyard. Yet again I am impressed with how glad people are just to meet together and chat and enjoy company after the difficult months of Spring and early Summer.



Many Thanks to all, but particularly Sally and Rob and Mike – and Rosco – who made this such a lovely and memorable occasion and experience.

John Tyler.
5th September 2020.

More photos at...

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/StMichael.Burrowbridge/photos/>

A tale of the infamous 5

We gathered just after nine, we couldn't let our John walk alone,
the weather was fine, as we set off towards the River Tone.
We started at the village hall, then on to Bill Board's bench
chatting all the while as we went, but never a word in french.
Across the valley we watched the Belted Galloways graze
as we made our way eastwards through a large field of maize.

Past Helland hill, our revd did bless Phil Stone's new gate
Before we trundled up to Moredon Hill at a steady ole rate.
We admired the views, from the west to the far east,
making out Glastonbury Tor; well, we think it was at least.
Our path meandered down to the river's ledge,
where we stopped and looked over the edge.

Our journey's end was clear to see, yay, the mump was in sight.
But after checking our watches, we had a terrible fright,
our walk until then, had been so leisurely and so sedate.
But now we were in danger of being seriously late,
so along Curload road we picked up the pace,
our strides quickened in haste; had our walk become a race!

But as we all know, priests are like wizards when it comes to time;
they are neither late nor early, but arrive with perfect chime.
Midday at Burrowbridge Church, our Harvest Walk did end,
where we shared a Harvest Service with many a friend.
We gave thanks to the Lord for the land and our food,
ate our picnic in the sun, leaving us all in a cheerful mood.

Billy Rattlesword

The 200 Club always 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

Tea Break!

Why are pumpkins used for Halloween?

Pumpkin carving being associated with Halloween comes from a method used by the Celts to **ward off evil spirits** during Samuin (a festival where many of the traditions of Halloween come from). The Celts would hollow out turnips, then carve faces in them and place candles inside.



Why are witches associated with Halloween?

As with many festivals and traditions, Halloween can trace its roots back to the Druids. The Celts believed that Halloween, known then as Samhain, was the night that the veil between the spirit realm and the living was at its thinnest allowing spirits and other supernatural forces to come cause mischief or harm. To the ancient Celts, people were transformed into cats as a punishment for their bad deeds. Those unfortunate

enough to be cursed by black magic were also turned into cats, especially black cats.

After the Roman take over, the Catholics began converting the Celts. The two belief systems merged. The church turned witches, those that ancient peoples looked to for wisdom and medicine and made them into devil worshipping hags.

It was believed that witches could turn into cats (thus the black cat connection) and other animals such as bats and spiders – familiars.

It wasn't until the 1400s that witch hysteria spread across Europe. More than 100,000 were accused of witchcraft with upward of 50,000 being executed – most via hanging, but those killed during the Spanish Inquisition were burned at the stake.



Witches' Brew

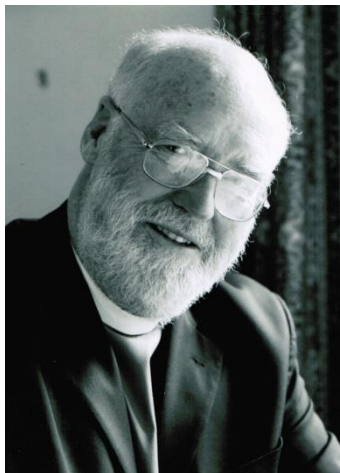
Haha..

When is it bad luck to be followed by a black cat? When you are a mouse!

What do you call two witches living together? Broommates.

The best part about Halloween is that the cobwebs in my house look like decorations.

Charles Townshend Vicar of North Curry 1984 – 2006



Charles came to North Curry with his wife Gill in time for Epiphany in January 1984. He had not travelled far as he was previously Rector at Bishops Lydeard with Cothelstone and Bagborough on the Quantocks. He and Gill were a partnership. Gill helped with the flower arranging and the Easter Garden and worked with Portia Westhead to embroider new altar hanging as well as supporting Charles in his work.

Both Charles and Gill were keen gardeners they redesigned the Vicarage garden, much improving it.

Charles took part in many village activities, thus taking time to get to know and befriend his parishioners of all faiths or none. People still talk of

his performances in CATS, the Theatrical Society, eg helping celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the club at a fancy dress sing-along of The Sound of Music dressed as a Very Odd Nun with a Very Deep Voice!

In Charles's time, North Curry was twinned with the Six Villages of Vexin in Normandy. He and Gill were involved with that, visiting France and hosting people at the vicarage.

His love of music showed in his singing with The Village Choir and the music that accompanied services. When it was appropriate Charles would go up to the join the choir in an anthem.

Church Council Meetings were held in the vicarage and were happy occasions where discussions flowed freely and with much humour. At the end of the meeting Gill had been heard to say, 'I don't know how much business you got through, but there seemed to be an awful lot of laughter.'

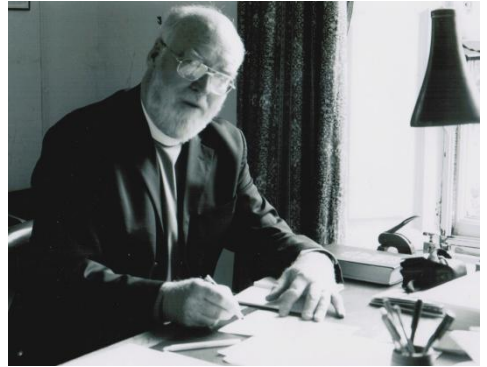
In fact, Charles was a friend to all people, and many people have stories of his kindness towards them or someone in the family whether part of the church or not. One elderly lady who had never been abroad had dreamed of joining a trip to the Holy Land but felt she was too old to do so. Charles found out about this and invited her to join him and Gill on a trip that was being organised by Wells. She had never been abroad; couldn't swim and had never seen a mountain; but with encouragement from Charles she bathed in the Dead Sea and also went up a mountain in a cable car. Both things she remembered for the rest of her life.

On another occasion Charles and Gill went to the Health Centre to collect a car from the surgery and return it to its home as the driver had been rushed by ambulance into hospital from there. Hearing about the driver's wife who had come home from hospital that day after a major operation, Gill packed a bag and stayed overnight with her until a member of the family could get there later the next day.

The social life of the church was important to Charles. His arrival was celebrated with an Epiphany Party held in the vicarage each year, with a quiz and good food. The Patronal Festival was an excuse for another party.

Each week, when he could, he would fit in part of a day playing with the croquet club at Budleigh Salterton, therefore it was not surprising that Charles and Gill chose to retire in October 2006 to Colaton Raleigh in Devon.

Charles died on the 20th July and is much missed by all his many friends.



Churchwardens Report

Faith. This is what we all need in these very strange and troubled times. All sorts of issues and Regulations change on an almost daily basis. The latest Regulations permit us to carry on with the Services planned. We will endeavour to maintain our pattern of Services as long as is permissible but should regulations dictate otherwise, we will update you as soon as we can. A Rota Meeting is going to be held in October to plan Services for December through to Easter. Our normal Christmas pattern of Services will have to be altered.

Sadly due to the new Restrictions we had to cancel the Jumble sale destined for 19th September. However do not throw away your "Junk" - we will be having a sale as and when we can.

As you know we were unable to appoint anyone when we last Interviewed for a Vicar. We will be advertising once again in early October so praying for success next time round. In the interim, the Church will continue to be run by the Churchwardens and PCC under the oversight of the Area Dean, The Reverend Prebendary Jane Haslam.

Our deepest gratitude as always for all the support you give us in this far from pleasant situation. Keep Faith!

If there are and queries do not hesitate to contact one of your Churchwardens.

Mary Piers 01823 491 434

David Akerman 01823 490 234

During the Benefice Vacancy, for information about baptisms, weddings, funerals and regular services or other Church business, contact a churchwarden: Mary Piers 01823 491434 or David Akerman 01823 490234.

News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

Revd Deborah Kirk, Methodist Minister 01823 334854/ deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com

As required by the restrictions laid down by the Government, six members only, met out of doors and two metres apart, for the extra- ordinary church council meeting on Friday 21st August.

Members and friends who were unable to attend or who are particularly vulnerable at this time were remembered.

The main topic on the agenda was the possible date on which the chapel could be re-opened.

Those present contributed eagerly to the debate and views expressed by those unable to be there, were read out and discussed.

In the meantime, hand sanitisers had been purchased and plans to install them were considered. A tour of the premises was planned by Deborah, Roy and Brian to inspect the property and draw up a risk assessment for such time as the building could be opened again.

As time passes, the folk at North Curry/ Curland Methodist church continue to maintain contact with each other by telephone, email and letter and are looking forward to meeting again in the not too distant future. The date for this is hopefully September 27th at 3pm for an Autumn Thanksgiving. Deborah is planned to lead worship on this occasion.

North Curry Bellringers

Unfortunately, the intended Jumble Sale fund raiser did not take place due to concerns over social distancing and restrictions.

Thanks to everyone involved in arranging it, and to those that had donated towards the stalls.

The Covid crisis can not last forever, so again in due course, we shall try again with our fund raiser for the bells restoration. But in the meantime, we shall be holding stalls at the Produce Market each month, and from 5th October, a window display at the North Curry Village Store will take place, where you can purchase the presented items (note the Store is not handling the sales).

Our thanks to Lorraine for her energetics in organising this backup idea.

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams



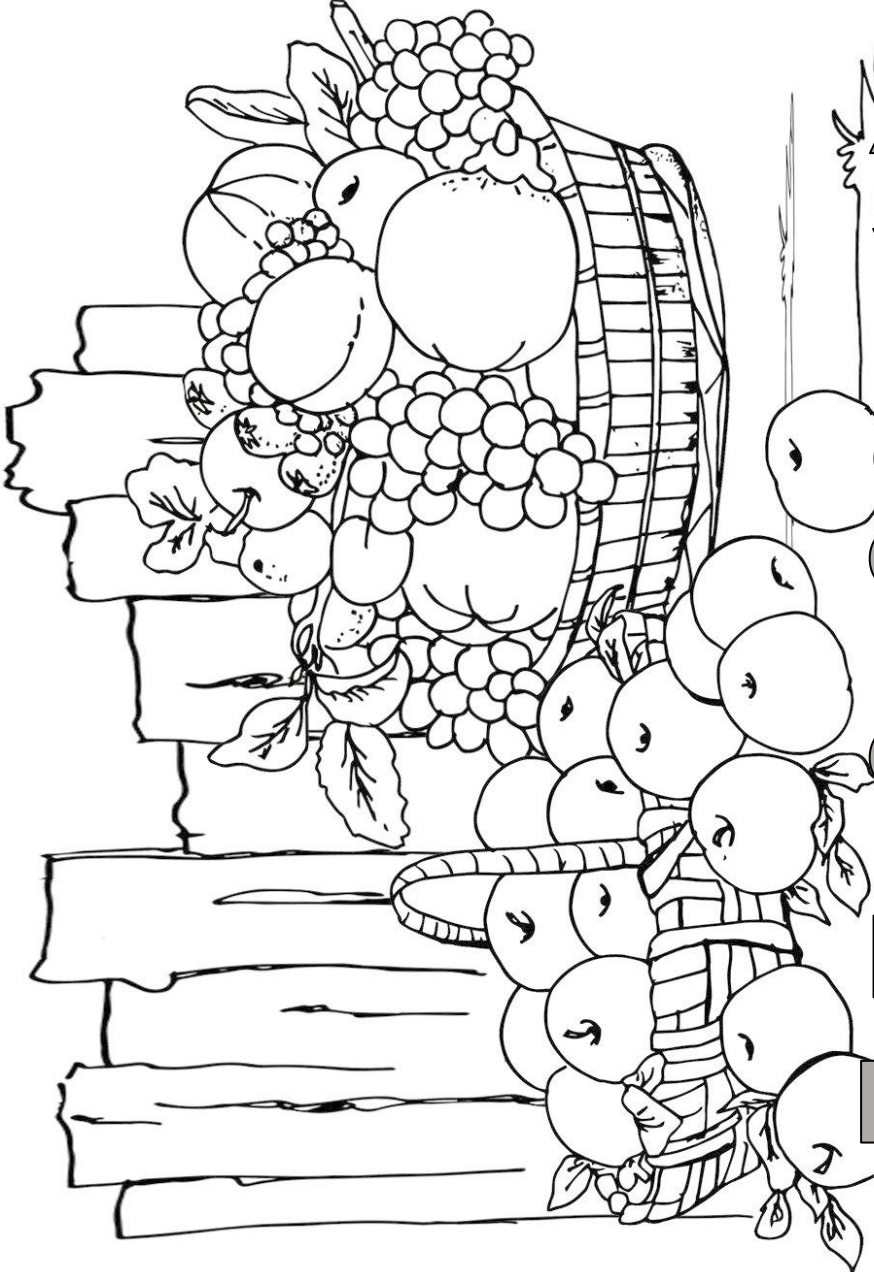
In October many gardeners feel the impulse to tidy up and put the garden to bed for the winter but we also know that we shouldn't! If we resist the temptation, we can make our gardens into havens for wildlife over the winter. Even the smallest plot can offer a safe place for birds and overwintering insects, so just a few ideas to help their survival.

Keep bird feeders as clean as possible and thoroughly clean out old nestboxes to prevent a build up of parasites, boiling water though not insecticide! Sometimes a whole cluster of wrens may use a box overnight, cuddling up helps to keep them warm! Avoid cutting back mature ivy as it provides shelter for hibernating insects and ensures that its flowers provide nectar for late-flying insects: their berries are also a valuable food source for birds in late winter. Gather up your fallen leaves and pile them under hedges and shrubs to make a safe overwintering habitat for small mammals, amphibians, insects and hedgehogs - **did you know that hedgehogs are now classified as vulnerable to extinction?** If you can bear to leave the stems of healthy perennials these will make hiding places for all kinds of creatures; if you do cut the stems, they can be bundled up and tucked into a sheltered corner; anything from ladybirds and other beetles to small mammals will take shelter there and be on hand to tackle any early pest infestations in the Spring. Win, win!! A tip to stop the pond or bird bath freezing over completely is to drop in a small ball; it can be removed to allow access to water and is easier than trying to break the ice. Does anyone grow borage? It can seed itself everywhere and get quite lanky and untidy but grows for most of the year. Its blue flowers are a magnet to bees of all kinds, the flowers are loaded with nectar and pollen and, interestingly, borage replaces its nectar within two minutes of being drunk by an insect, many flowers take as much as 24 hours to replenish.

Plenty of us will be hanging up our gardening gloves, relaxing with our hot toddies and browsing our seed catalogues so from next month we'll be doing a monthly plant profile which we hope you will enjoy. Enjoy sitting on your laurels after a productive gardening season.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

COLOURING IN PAGE



PLEASE
PLEASE
COLOUR
ME

Hubble, bubble, toil and trouble...

Government restriction had meant even the witches couldn't all gather for their annual Halloween affair.



When shall we three meet again,
in Thunder, Lightning, or in Rain?

When the Hurley-burley's done,
when the Battle's lost and won,

that will be e'er set of Sun, where the place?

Upon the heath, there we go to meet Boris to release us from this lockdown.

Despite their bristling intent to conjure up an event, everything had gone to pot for our local witches.

Another club gathering had been swept aside by the lockdown restrictions.

I wonder if any of them would like to organise a jumble sale....?

Reminder to all that the clocks "fall" back an hour on 25th October...



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North Curry Sport Ltd (White Street sports ground)

One of the parish's many assets is the White Street sports ground. The Parish Council acquired the site 12 years ago; our committee manage the wonderful 14-acre site on which many young and older people enjoy football, cricket and the Community Woodland. We are justly proud that all site maintenance is done by an incredible crew of volunteers. The site is popular year-round for walkers. We welcome dogs, as long as they are on leads and owners pick up their deposits.

Covid-19 Restrictions

During the Covid-19 restrictions, you are welcome to walk around the border of the site and through the Community Woodland. But all pitches and facilities remain off-limits. Clubs use the pitches for organised events under strict Covid rules. You may see workers maintaining the pitches or doing other jobs, but please respect their space and safety.

Improvements

Recently we have improved access by installing a new footpath (for when we can use the pavilion again) and driveway to access the garage. As this went to print, work started on paths, fencing and hedgework in the junior football field and a storage container to house equipment we have accumulated due to increased participation. This work has been funded by a West Somerset & Taunton Council Section 106 grant.



200 Club (North Curry Sports Ltd)

We have a few places, so if you would like to join please email us (whitestreet@northcurry.com) and we'll send you a form. Only £12 a year. All subscriptions are by standing order.

Congratulations to these winners:

August

Adult Football Club: £25

Andy Olie: £15

Youth Football Club: £10

September

Margaret Morgan: £25

Youth Football Club: £15

Tim Walker: £10

Why a fence around the junior football pitches ?

As some walkers around the sports field have asked, here are the reasons :-

Firstly, the new fence will enable walkers with dogs to continue to use all edges of the field and ensure that dogs do not get on the pitches, so reducing the risks to junior players which that can represent. Secondly the fence stops footballs rolling into the hedge and causes less interruption to games.



Removal of the old fence around the edge of the field has enabled the ditches to be dug out to improve the drainage of the pitches which can be very wet in winter. Paths around the outside of the fence are wide enough to be cut by tractor and kept clear for walkers.

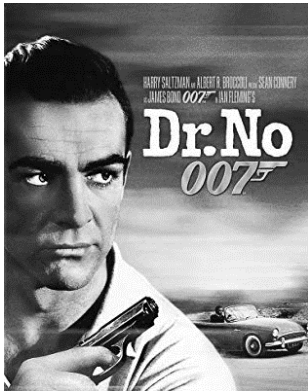
While it's a shame that the brambles which had grown up around the old fences have had to be removed, the original large hedges have been retained and will be managed in a way which allows them to flower and fruit which is beneficial for bees, birds and other wildlife.





Presented by Don Hoyle

As you know, we had to postpone film showings last March due to the lockdown. We had hoped that we could return at the end of September. However, the virus does not seem to be reducing as quickly as we expected. In addition, the social distancing requirements for the North Curry Village Hall mean we could only show to 24 people, which means running at a slight loss. We have decided, very reluctantly, to delay our re-start of the Club to March 2021. In the meantime, ...



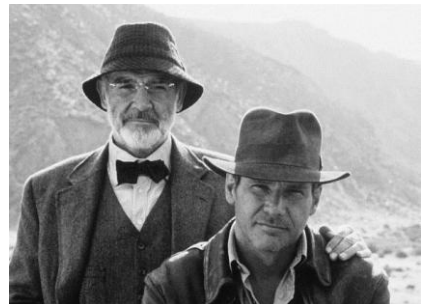
Sean Connery is 90!

In August this year, after 50 years in films and so far, some 15 years of retirement, Sean Connery turned 90.

Born into a working-class family he left school at an early age. His first job was as a milkman and, aged 16, he joined the Navy. He then did a variety of jobs including as an artist's model and a coffin polisher. He was also a bodybuilder and once entered the Mr Universe competition. One job was working backstage, and he got a small part in the musical South Pacific playing in Edinburgh. This led to a succession of small parts including playing a

hoodlum in Dixon of Dock Green. Of course, his great breakthrough was to play the film James Bond in the 1962 Dr No. Initially, the author Ian Fleming opposed him getting the part saying he was just 'an overgrown stuntman'. He changed his mind when the film was so successful and even created a Scottish heritage in his next Bond novel. Connery went on to play the role seven times, and he recently topped a Radio Times poll as the 'best ever Bond'. He has been in a wide range of films including Hitchcock's unsettling Marnie in 1964 with Tippi Hedren. His favourite film is reported to be The Man Who would be King (1975) with Michael Caine.

Connery came to dislike his Bond role and was supposed to have finished with Diamonds Are Forever (1971) but he was prevailed upon to do one more with the aptly titled Never Say Never Again in 1983. He was offered the role of Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings trilogy but said he did not understand the story. The last years of his career got a boost when he played the comic role of Professor Henry Jones as the



father of Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) – though he was only 12 years older than Ford!

The current Bond, Daniel Craig, also has had enough of the role with his last Bond film No Time to Die having been delayed with the Coronavirus. It was meant to be released in April but should come out now in November. Maybe, Craig will look for quite different roles – you can judge for yourselves as we plan to show Knives Out in the coming season, where he plays a sleuth, Benoit Blanc, in a comic murder mystery.

Don Hoyle (in a personal capacity – these views are not necessarily those of the Film Club).

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Halloween Tea Break!

What does being in debt feel like?

Fearful, desperate, their world out of control and in a state of chaos, this is how people experiencing the blight of personal indebtedness are described by the local charity Taunton Area Debt Advice. TADA helps people from all walks of life by providing a free, unconditional, non-judgmental, fully confidential advice and practical support to help them become debt free.

Martin Ingrams, our local postman, is a Trustee and says “We put people back on their feet. We sort out the jumbled chaos of debt to understand where they are. We take the burden of the problems off their shoulders by being a shield from the threatening letters and telephone calls. We give them a plan, make arrangements and negotiate agreements. Then they have hope, they have structure. They can see life beyond the spiral of debt. They have a future”.

TADA is supported by local churches, but offers its free debt advice to people of faith or no faith at all. The TADA Debt Advisers are regulated and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. People can gain access to this free support by going to the web site www.tauntonareadebtadvice.uk or calling the helpline 07921 526087. TADA is a member of Community Money Advice which is a national charity with 1300 volunteers working in 160 debt advice centres across the United Kingdom.

The enforced government lockdown restriction will cause financial ruin and hardship to many, and once furloughing ends, the unemployment and fallout of closed businesses will hit many young individuals who have no guaranteed income. TADA is a local based charity that help these individuals to best plan and manage their financial stresses. If you would like to know more, either to help, donate or are in need of help yourself, please contact them 07921 526087.

Produce Market

Saturday 3rd October

9.30am-11.30am

The all new sanitized market will be open, with Jumble tables in the Car Park (in aid of the bells restoration)

North Curry Church

Is part of the Benefice of Athelney, along with the parishes of Stoke St. Gregory, Lyng and Burrowbridge – the Parish Church is frequently referred to as 'The Cathedral of the Moors', and from the River Tone valley it is easy to understand why. It was built on a site of an earlier Norman church in about 1300 in the Decorated style, using Ham Hill stone, blue lias stone, and some grey sandstone from a quarry within the parish.

About a hundred years later it was updated in the Perpendicular style when the roofs of the nave and aisles were raised to accommodate larger windows.

Evidences of the original pitches can be seen both outside on the south and east faces of the tower, and inside on its west arch. At this time the upper stage of the tower and the parapets were added, as was the interesting collection of gargoyles and hunkypunks.

The North Curry Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials date from 1539 and are almost complete.

The churchyard is just over two acres and remains a place of solace and tranquillity, with seating on the north (far) side affording magnificent views across the River Tone to yonder hills in all directions. In springtime, the natural beauty is never more apparent, when the wild flora carpets amongst the headstones. The lower part to the north has been in use since 1952, whilst around the church, gravestones that are centuries old can be located along with 4 war memorials. A plan of the graveyard can be found in the church porch.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

If you are interested in getting married, having a church blessing for a civil marriage or organising a baptism or funeral please contact one of the churchwardens.

The statutory fees are set by the Church of England and a fee list is displayed in the church porch, or is available online from www.churchofengland.org.

Additional local fees may be due in accordance with the services required. At the time of your enquiry, all fee options will be explained, along with COVID-19 protocols. There are regulations governing the condition of the churchyard and graves, designed to ensure it remains a special peaceful place. Again, a copy is available in the church porch.

Planned Giving and Donations

Planned Giving, by standing order, is a regular charitable payment (or pledge) to the church. This type of giving is an important and integral aspect of our finances, as the majority of our income comes through the planned giving scheme.

Donation pledges by standing order are easier to administer, both for you and us. Regular planned giving can also attract tax gift aid, enabling us to boost your donation by 25%. Donations can be given monthly, quarterly, or yearly, and the amount is very much up to you. You are not beholden once started, and can be cancelled at anytime. Please contact our Treasurer for the appropriate forms to complete, or to discuss your giving pledge. Standing order mandates are not the same as direct debit mandates. The amounts and dates are fixed, and the instruction to your bank is completely controlled by you.

One off donations can be made anytime – cheques payable to North Curry PCC, and can be mailed to the Church address – see inside back page for details.

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

Commonwealth War Graves

Private Harry Udell Gannett, Devonshire Regiment died 13th January 1919
Private Charles William Stodgell, Devonshire Regiment died 2nd February 1919
Second Lieutenant Peter John Carr , Royal Artillery died 11th October 1941
Sgt John Bernard Hebditch, Royal Airforce Volunteer Res. died 1st December 1943
Information taken from the War Graves Commission website

Register of:

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals (April – September 2020)

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

Baptisms

None

Weddings

Stephen Ball/ Felicity Colston-Lane August

Funerals

Phylis Pine, Sheila Bailey April
Paul White June
Margaret Hayhoe August

**Strict COVID-19 protocols remain in place at the church.
Face masks are to be worn at all times whilst inside the church.**

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Enquiries to Sue Harrison at ncurrymag@gmail.com.

Whilst every care is taken to ensure all stated facts are correct, the editor cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions printed in the magazine, or the opinions of the contributors.

The views expressed in the magazine are those of the individuals/societies who send in items. The deadline for contributions is the 13th of the previous month. The editor reserves the right to change any copy provided without recourse to the contributor. Copyright 2020. Gathering and use of information in carrying out its tasks, North Curry PCC is involved in collecting personal data, addresses etc. We take privacy and confidentiality seriously, and fully comply with the principles of the United Kingdom GDPR/ Data Protection Act 2018.

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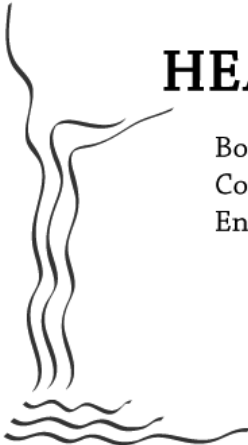
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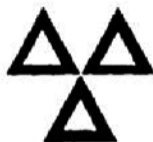


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PCC 200 Club	Sue Bethune	01823 490179

PCC (Parochial Church Council) Address, for general correspondences
St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Road, North Curry, Somerset. TA3 6LJ
(Post box by kissing gate, at vicar's parking area)

The church website is www.northcurrychurch.co.uk

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Other useful numbers for North Curry

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