

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

12 noon, 5th September

Burrowbridge's St Michael churchyard

All welcome

See page 9
for details



Jumble Sale – in aid of the Bells Restoration Fund

Saturday, 19th September 10.30am-12.30pm

Pavilion Playing Field, Greenway

**The North Curry Wildlife Group presents a special “moths”
centrefold feature**



September 2020

FREE PUBLICATION

**** PRODUCE MARKET RETURNS ****

5th September – 9.30am – 11.30am Village Hall

The produce market makes a welcome return to the village hall, no refreshments or indoor seating will be available.

A strict one way system will be in place.

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**ABSOLUTELY!... YOUR LAST CHANCE for
getting in your PHOTOS!
The 2021 calendar photo competition ends
on 15th September.**



Entries are to be submitted to the editor of the parish magazine in digital format in high resolution JPEG files, in landscape format, at not less than 200 dpi, and sent to ncurrymag@gmail.com with an email covering.

Terms and conditions:

The competition for selection is open to all amateur photographers who live in the parish.

The subject is to be the parish month by month – places, events, and so on; family photos are not required.

The aim is to create a calendar with relevant pictures for each month of the year, so don't hesitate to submit winter pictures!

Each entrant may submit up to three photographs.

The name and address of the photographer, together with the picture title, location, and month must be identified for each photograph, and the photographer must declare that they hold the copyright.

No fees will be paid to the entrants, and the proceeds of the sale of the calendar are to benefit the parish church.

Selection will be made by a panel of judges, appointed by the PCC; the criteria will be the merit of the photograph and its suitability for the calendar. The judges' decision is final.

Thank you to those have already submitted your photos.

The judges will be in touch with you during September should yours be one of the lucky ones!

If you would like a guaranteed copy of the magazine delivered monthly to your door, only £6 per year.

Please contact Jenny Satchwell on 490463

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 Photo – St Michaels at Burrow Mump, courtesy of Mike McCabe

Announcements/ News in Brief

Congratulation to our 200 Club Winners

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

June

1st Judith Hincks

2nd Mary Ginger

3rd David Birch

July

1st Trevor Steer

2nd Diana Hemmings

3rd Heather Richards

August

1st Alex Morris

2nd Michael Spearman

3rd Geoffrey Dart

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.

The postponed Jumble Sale from March, in aid of the Bell Tower Fund, is now set to take place on Saturday 19th September at the Pavilion Playing Fields, on Greenway.

Opens at 10.30am and goes on until 12.30pm.

This will be an outdoor event.

If you have anything you wish to add to it, please contact Lorraine Bryan-Brown on 491665. **No** clothing is required.

Bell Tower Appeal

If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please back to North Curry Bellringers: Account: 38229860 - Sort Code: 30-91-91

Church Flowers –

Would you be interested in joining the dedicated team that keeps the church beautiful all year round (when covid restrictions are not in place!)?

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.



The Athelney Benefice – Service Rota September 2020 (as at 8th August 2020)

2 nd September	(Wednesday)	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
16.30				
5 th September	(Saturday)	Harvest Thanksgiving Walk		
12.00		Burrowbridge	Harvest Thanksgiving Walk Eucharist	Revd John Tyler

6th September		Gregory the Great (transferred)		
08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion		Revd John Tyler
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist		Revd Martin Mudie
18.00	Stoke St Gregory	Patronal Evensong		Dr Robert Dunning
18.30	Lyng	Harvest Thanksgiving Evensong		Revd Martin Mudie
9 th September	(Wednesday)	Charles Fuge	Lowder	
17.00	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer		Revd Dr Jane Sutton

13th September		Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity		
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist		Revd Canon Dr Rob James
18.00	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer		Revd Martin Mudie
16 th September	(Wednesday)	Ninian; Edward Bouverie Pusey		
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer		Revd Dr Jane Sutton

20th September		Matthew (anticipated)		
08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion		Revd John Tyler
09.30	Burrowbridge	Holy Communion		Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist or Morning Prayer		Revd Martin Mudie
18.00	North Curry	Evening Prayer (Harvest)		? Dr Robert Dunning (MM)
23 rd September	(Wednesday)	Ember Day		
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer		Revd Dr Jane Sutton

27th September		Michael and All Angels (anticipated)		
10.00	Burrowbridge	Morning Prayer (Patronal Harvest)		Mr Ralph Roberts
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist		Revd Martin Mudie
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist		Revd John Tyler
30 th September	(Wednesday)	Jerome		
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer		Revd Dr Jane Sutton

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		Revd John Tyler

11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer (Harvest)	Preb Rob Walrond (MM)
7 th October	(Wednesday)		
16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

Rev John Tyler will be stepping down from his position as Honorary Associate Priest from 30th September. We duly thank him for his dedication and immense contributions to our church and benefice, and wish him a prayerful and enjoyable retirement in Ilminster.

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

The Rev'd Martin Mudie writes

As we continue this extraordinary year I think that it is more important than ever that we don't let the current situation obscure the really good things in life. I have heard a number of people compare our present health crisis with that of the last war. My mother, who lived through that war, told me many stories both serious and funny of life at that time. For the fact remains is that life goes on regardless and that the quality of that life is very much in our own hands.

As we enter Autumn – a favourite time of year – not least because October sees not only my birthday but that of my little dog Annie, I have always looked forward to my birthday not because I am a year older – something I never worry about because due to a love of all the wrong food my poor old body started creaking away merrily years ago – but because I can enjoy eight days of guilt free self indulgence doing all the things I really enjoy. For one of the joys of increasing years is being able to use our life experience not only to make better use of the time we have left but being able to share that experience with others – but only if they ask. I have known too many who like to dump their unsolicited wisdom on others – never a good thing to do.

Now for the religious bit - Jesus was really good at helping others with his teaching about life. Being kind and thoughtful and treating others with love and understanding in a way in which we ourselves would like to be treated. He told of a way of seeing life as a learning experience – starting small and building on those experiences both good and bad and learning from both in equal measure so hopefully we don't make the same mistake twice, although that can't be guaranteed! I know – I speak from experience!

So I hope you all have a lovely September - counting our blessings and giving thanks not only for the harvest but the many things in our lives and community which continue to make life worthwhile and joyful.

With every blessing

Martin

The Right Reverend
Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: 'When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I'd been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded - for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.'

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Saturday 5th September – 12 noon at Burrowbridge Church

Also the same day, we are introducing a new event for our benefice, a gentle amble to the church – a **Harvest Thanksgiving Walk**

The form of the Walk is that people – choosing their own Timing and Route - will converge at the Burrowbridge Church and Burrow Mump for a **Thanksgiving Holy Communion in the Churchyard at 12 noon** (if weather suitable), and Blessing of the Benefice from the slopes of the Mump, followed by a Bring-your-own Picnic.

Parking is available in the Village Hall Carpark 11 am to 3 pm. rather than at the King Alfred.

The theme of the Walk will obviously be Thanksgiving for Harvest and All God's Blessings. You may choose any route you wish from our churches to get there, but I will most likely start at 9.30am from the Produce Market in Greenway's Village Hall.

And of course, if walking is not an option for you, you are very welcome to come and just join us for the Service and picnic at Burrowbridge. There will be a Collection to go towards local Foodbanks when we are there.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU THERE!

John Tyler

A Note from the Rev. John Tyler.

I have offered my resignation as Honorary Associate Priest of the Athelney Benefice, to take effect from September 30th. It has not been an easy decision because I have found great joy in working with you all and serving your Churches and communities. I am immensely grateful for all the co-operation and support I have received during the last three years. I shall revert to being an ordinary Retired Priest again ; this approximately coincides with a move a little further away from the Benefice, to Ilminster.

Until the arrival of a new Vicar, the Benefice in Vacancy will be run in the usual way by the Churchwardens under the oversight of the Area Dean, the Rev. Jane Haslam. The Benefice has a strong and dedicated team of Churchwardens and other Church Officers, and has already risen magnificently to the challenges that 2020 has brought : I am sure things will go from strength to strength in the parishes.

With Every Blessing, John Tyler.

“What did you do in the Great Lockdown. . . ?”

So far – but shall we let it run for another month ? – Readers have been remarkably reticent about what they have got up to since March, although I remain convinced that there are some fascinating and startling answers out there somewhere . . . It is impossible to trace the origin of the following (they cover their tracks well) :

1. Difficulty in organising 'Pole Dancing for the Over-80s' ; a shortage of East European migrant workers is to blame.
2. Negotiating with D*n*IdTr*mp about a Golf Course on Curry Moor ; to double as a Water Polo pitch during winter months.
3. Apologies to all those disappointed by the Speaker whose subject-matter was actually 'Going for a Song', on Antiques ; his slight lisp aroused quite different expectations in the heavy-breathing audience of more than 1,000 who crowded the Hall.
4. Condolences to the Associate Priest whose attempt to hatch pheasant eggs in his bedroom was foiled by a mix-up in the egg identity ;but perhaps it was a mistake to release the young alligators into the River Tone ?
5. More negotiations with D*n*IdTr*mp: Surely Burrow Mump would make an ideal location for a Grass Ski Slope ?
6. No truth at all in the rumour that a certain reverend gentleman's latest book has been condemned as 'sinful' . . . 'reeking of decadent corruption' . . . 'we could not put it down' by both Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury. Advance copies in plain brown envelope should be available shortly.
7. Those keeping a vigilant eye on suspicious characters who might possibly be an applicant for the post of incumbent checking out the Benefice, were galvanized on observing a gentleman in clerical black wearing a dog-collar . . . ; we have to report it turned out to be dog Rosco. His Frisbee-catching skills gave him away.
8. A planning application to convert the Isle of Athelney to a Tr*mp Theme Park (with scale model of Tr*mp Tower replacing the Athelney Monument) is thought unlikely to succeed.
9. As the Churches re-open it has been suggested that an alternative to hand sanitizer is alcohol of 37.5% proof ; it must be emphasised that if Gin is used it should be applied externally not internally. The queues forming at the Church doors should disperse quietly.

So . . . over to you now, gentle Readers : those Takeaway Meal Vouchers (worth £10) are still waiting to be claimed – for another month - by those with Original/Startling/Imaginative answers to the Question : “What did you do in the Great Lockdown . . . ?”. Answers to your Editor.

John Tyler.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN LOCK DOWN MUM?

What did you do in lockdown Mum?
Well, I wasn't bored, and I got lots done!
I sorted photos & books & gear
And clothes I'll never wear next year!
I wrote some letters with email & skype
And even used the exercise bike!

I sewed a 100 masks for free
And gave them around our community.
I disinfected, and that was a bore,
And I steamed the tiles on the kitchen floor!
I gave the house some extra care
And even cut my husband's hair!
And Amazon parcels arrived at the door
And we did jigsaws by the Score!

The T V wasn't a bundle of fun-
The Government told us what they'd done!
And all the programmes were ones we'd seen
So we sat & yelled at the TV screen!
For family & others we said our prayers,
Had some weird dreams and some nightmares!
We'd lots of thanks we needed to give
For the people & village in which we live.

OH! We were so lucky, How would it be
In a high rise flat and nothing to see-
No garden & no balcony,
And drunks & druggies & cruelty
Some lifts not working & all those stairs
Those were the ones who needed our prayers.
OUR gardens had never looked so good
And we could sneak out to the fields & wood,

When told "you shouldn't do that you know"
You'd blame the DOG! "He had to GO!"
And we didn't go hungry, of stores we'd a lot,
And kind folk shared their "Grocery Slot",
And we're used to cooking-it's what we do!
But just be careful what you chew!
I baked some Flapjack- and broke a TOOTH!
(Now the dentist's bill is "lockdown " proof!

So-what did I do in lockdown pet?
Well- we're really not back to normal yet.
Did we learn to be kind, to love & to share,
That laws are for keeping so all will be fair?
And if you keep taking, I have to say,
Always remember- there's something to pay!

Sheila Billingham. July 2020.

A new virus was discovered late of last year,
bringing with it death and a state of fast fear.
Then when it finally arrived to our fair shore
a new public enemy had come to the fore.
Our government rushed in lots of new laws,
gosh I thought, there will be some flaws.

And so began the great home lock down.
We could not go out to work, so I did not frown.
Then calamity struck; groceries became a premium pound
As everything from flour to loo rolls could not be found.
We were told to stay away from both family and friend,
never again to touch or embrace, when will that ever end!

We were banned to vist; not even a stroll to the beach,
so much of life was now out of reach.
Luckily, the sun stayed out, so warm and so bright,
our gardens turned into a magnificent sight.
What to do now, with my last beer in hand,
With no pubs or clubs; life had become bland.

Even our cherished church, that bastion of hope,
closed it doors leaving our congregation to mope.
But we needed something to keep us all sane
And from the gloom came a young dutch dame.
She told us to be thankful, to all clap at eight
go make some noise; there is no need to be sedate.

So what of our future; social distancing now the new norm,
kids wearing face masks as part of their school uniform!
With predicted unemployment and businesses going bust,
you just feel the whole situation is going to cobust.
Soon the summer would have passed by the way,
Boris; please open things back up with no more delay!

North Curry W.I.

Presented by, Kate Roberts, President

IS THE W.I. RELEVANT TODAY?

Before the lockdown a young woman asked me "What actually does the W.I. do? Is it still relevant today? I've been considering joining but no one has ever actually explained what you do, is it really just jam and Jerusalem"

The answer is definitely No and this has become even more obvious during this lockdown.

The W.I. was set up 100 years ago in rural Wales to provide women living in isolated homesteads with the information to learn new skills in animal and household husbandry, provide education where it was lacking and to create new interests and long lasting friendships.

During the past 4 months all W.I.'s including North Curry, have been doing the same thing but now we have technology to help us. We have been in contact with members regularly especially those living alone either by telephone, Zoom or Watts App. Every member has received a card as usual on her birthday, hand delivered so they know they have not been forgotten. Members have formed smaller groups within the W.I. looking after each other and giving support.

There is now a new normal. More and more women are working from home, working longer hours than going to their places of work while fitting in shopping, running a house, possibly home schooling children as well as looking after vulnerable parents and neighbours. Many are coping with job losses or being furloughed and sadly the loss of family and love ones perhaps feeling lonely.

The social side of working has disappeared no lunch/coffee breaks, no after work socialising and no camaraderie during work. Once again women could be feeling isolated and in need of an outlet. The W.I. is committed to "Building the W.I. Back Better" after this pandemic to help fill some of these gaps.

SO WHAT DO WE DO? Yes we meet monthly. Over the past year we have had an interesting variety of speakers varying from a talk on safer driving, making a will, the history of Burlesque to fun hands on afternoon of African drumming.

We have a successful and competitive skittle team. Small groups of members play indoor curling, croquet and walking netball.

An annual walk is organised to raise funds for A.C.W.W. Associated Countrywomen of the World, a charity to help women in poor countries.

Locally we have raised money for Open Doors, a charity that provide meals and shelter for the homeless in Taunton. Donated food to local food banks and filled shoe boxes for local distribution at Christmas.

The ladies of the North Curry W.I. presented a cup for Kindness to North Curry Primary School. This cup is presented each term to the child who has shown the most kindness to fellow pupils. A member of the committee is invited to go along to present this to the winner every term.

A couple of our fund raising events are a Tombola Stall at the annual Village May Fair and our every popular annual Soup and Pud lunchtime event.

Our new lunch/dine out club and theatre group is extremely active and popular. Coach outings to National Trust houses, places of interest and the seaside get slotted in along with regular literary lunches with well known and local authors.

Every year we discuss the current suggestion for our national resolutions. These start at local W.I. level, progress through county and finally get voted on to go to national to be presented to government. This year we are discussing and voting on Modern Day Slavery and Stem Cell Donation. In the past our resolutions have included curbing plastic pollution, campaigning for more midwives, providing defibrillators in villages, and keeping local buses running - to name a few..

Members during lockdown have been busy making and providing cakes for the nurses and doctors and staff at Musgrove Hospital. Also Making masks, PPE and scrubs for hospitals doctor's surgeries and local people.

Using Zoom, County W.I. has provided regular talks on a wide range of interests including baking, virtual walks and visits to places of interest along with Yoga and exercise classes.

The W.I. has looked after and been a life line to lots of women country wide during this pandemic. We are as active and relevant today, as we were 100 years ago.

Not all W.I. groups sing Jerusalem and the only jam I've seen is usually under the cream on a scone. New groups are being formed with women of all ages joining some within universities teaching young women essential skills.

So that's a brief insight in to just some of what we do. The W.I. is ready to face life as we come out of this present pandemic, and ready to cope should another return.

Once we can do so within government guidelines, we plan to hold some evening taster meetings to enable working women to join us. If you are interested or would like to know more about your local W.I. please contact.

Kate Roberts President 490933 or Jill Cox Secretary 490956
Or any W.I. member

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.

North Curry Bells

Whilst it may have seemed quiet there has been significant activity in the background.

The “bells committee” is now formally a subcommittee of the PCC which means that communication with the PCC (who have the ultimate responsibility for the bells) will be easier and importantly the bells funding will come under the PCC umbrella meaning that Gift Aid and Vat recovery should be possible without having a separate organisation (charity).All funds raised for the bells are being kept in an entirely different bank account from the church general account. Despite Covid 19 we have now had visits to our tower from three of the most renowned firms of bell hangers and engineers -Taylors of Loughborough, Matthew Higby , and Whites of Appleton (who have taken on much of the former famous Whitechapel Foundry business).Their reports ,alternative solutions and quotations are awaited .

Darren (tower captain) and our Diocesan bells advisor had planned to go to inspect the redundant bells which we are hoping to acquire. Sadly, this trip has had to be postponed because large areas of Lancashire are “locked down “again.

Once all the information has been gathered and a definite proposal put forward the fund-raising activity will be reenergised. Meanwhile anyonegifts to the bell fund would be most welcome.

North Curry Bellringers 30-91-91 38229860

For those who have only recently arrived, the story so far in brief is that:

- The original oak bell frame of 1811 is unsafe.
- Given that a large expenditure will be incurred in taking the bells out of the church in order to install a new frame, the existing bells have been critically examined and they are reaching the end of their useful life.
- Ideally, we would commission a new ring of new bells but that would be unrealistically expensive especially in these difficult times so an appropriate set of bells and relatively new frame has been identified in a redundant church.
- The opportunity will be taken to augment the present ring of 8 to 10 bells giving many more ringing options. However, the new ring will be lighter than the present one giving less strain on the tower and greater ease for young people and those who are

older or not used to manual labour as our 19th Century forefathers were.

A much fuller story is available at www.northcurrybells.com

Despite Covid and the condition of the frame and bells we have been given permission for up to three bells to be rung for a short time for special ceremonies and occasions.

Churchwardens Report

During August we had one happy, albeit small scale, wedding and a baptism, and our 8am Prayer Book Communion commenced once more.

Having held a meeting with the other parishes in the benefice, the normal (ie. pre Covid) pattern of services has been restored except for United Benefice Services (on 2nd and 5th Sundays). We are grateful for the continued support of John Tyler, Martin Mudie, Ralph Roberts, and Robert Dunning.

On 5th September John Tyler has organised a Harvest Thanksgiving walk and on 13th September, the 10am Eucharist will be led by Rev Canon Dr Rob James. Canon Chancellor Rob represented the patron (the Bishop) at the recent selection panel.

There were three applicants for our advertised vacancy for a new incumbent and two candidates were interviewed. Sadly, the panel did not achieve a consensus and so no appointment has been made. Further meetings are being arranged prior to a further round of advertising.

Please note that (as at 8th August) unless you have a medical condition that precludes it, face masks are obligatory in all places of worship.

The information we give is accurate at the time of writing but as we know the situation changes for better and worse at short notice, we shall endeavour to keep the website up to date. David Walker issues the weekly bulletin by email usually by the Friday prior to each weekend. If you wish to be added to the email list please contact davidwalker.northcurry@gmail.com.

Best wishes from the churchwardens
Mary Piers
David Akerman

News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

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

In this unusual time of lock down and self isolation the folk at North Curry/Curland Methodist Church are maintaining contact with each other by the telephone, email and even letter writing!

The chapel may stand empty but hopes are high for a re-opening soon. The date for this is Sunday 27th September at 3pm when it is planned for Deborah to lead worship on what was to be the Harvest Festival but is now termed an Autumn Thanksgiving.

The subject of the pews and removal of two small ones at the back of the church continues. From the six or so worthy bodies which have be to consulted for permission to carry out this relatively simple task, four replied positively and two raised concerns.

However on a more positive note, we are to approach the online consent system following which we should be free to proceed !!

Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now
And shall be evermore.

Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)

'Now thank we all our God' is a well-known old hymn, written by Martin Rinkart, a German pastor of a church in Eilenberg in Saxony just at the start of the 30 years war. The war raged from 1618-1648, devastating much of Europe, and this area in particular. In addition to the war itself, and the difficulties and suffering which came with it, Eilenberg was a walled city, and so became a place of refuge. Soon it was badly overcrowded, making it susceptible to disease. The plague of 1637 decimated the town, a famine followed, bringing more death and devastation, and finally the Swedish army besieged the town, and added to the suffering by imposing crippling taxes.

This was the setting - war, famine, poverty, disease, economic destitution, for the writing of this well-known hymn. When Martin prayed for 'guidance when perplexed', he wasn't talking about minor inconveniences! What was it that enabled him to give thanks in the midst of such dreadful troubles? What gave him the hope to cling on in the most desperate of situations? At the end of the war, his hymn was sung to celebrate the signing of the Peace of Westphalia -- the treaty that ended the war.

I think it was Desmond Tutu who said, 'I am not an optimist...I am a prisoner of hope'. Because hope which holds on, and hopes on, is what encourages us to focus on God, and not on the problem. We're exhausted by the problems — one after another after another. The shocking suddenness of the global pandemic. The sinking economy. The suffering planet. Hungry dying children. The explosion in Beirut. Our own fragile health. Worry about our families and **their** futures. Our church communities and witness. All these things concern us, and if we focussed only on them, we would sink like a stone under the weight of them.

'Hope' is shifting our focus to the knowledge that God holds us and all things in his care. Hope is clinging on to God's eternal and timeless Truth. The Truth is that there is more to everything than the present trouble. We shall come through this time stronger, more thoughtful, more compassionate, for one another and for the world we live in. The Truth is that we do not have a distant God who leaves us to ourselves, but we have 'God with us' – Emmanuel. A God who knows and understands about our times of darkness because he faced the deepest darkness of the cross, and overcame, rising to light and new life.

We might find it impossible to give thanks **for** the troubles the world is enduring, but perhaps it is possible, like Martin Rinkart, to give thanks **in the midst** of them. *Deborah, Methodist Minister*



North Curry Wildlife Group

Marvellous Moths

By Sarah Shuttleworth

Moths became part of my life about 18 months ago. I am a botanist and general naturalist, but became fascinated by moths after disturbing them during walks or finding them attracted to my kitchen light. I decided to buy a moth trap so I could really explore the nocturnal delights the garden was hiding, and I knew my children would be equally thrilled to discover them.



Burnished Brass (left) and Poplar Hawkmoth (right)

I often get asked how the moth trap works. Mine is a wooden Skinner trap with a high wattage bulb. The moths are attracted to the light and then are gently guided down to settle in amongst egg boxes placed in the trap below. The moths aren't harmed, and once we have studied them, they are released back into the garden at dusk.

The feeling upon waking and going down to discover what is in the trap is akin to Christmas morning for me, lifting the egg boxes and turning them over to find all sorts of treats and surprises. My children's favourites are always the impressive hawkmoths, particularly the vivid lime-green and pink of the Elephant Hawkmoth.

Other spectacular specimens include the Puss Moth, marvellous in its snowy outfit, the Pale Prominent and Buff-tip which display astounding camouflage, and the



From top left: Rosy Footman, Puss Moth caterpillar, Peppered Moth, Mocha, Small Emerald, Nut-tree Tussock, Pebble Hook-tip.

Peppered Moth for its incredible evolutionary story. Any of the Emerald Moths, shining in shades of green, will delight beholders, and the glints of gold of the Burnished Brass make it a true treasure.



From top left: Peppered Moth, Cinnabar, Buff-tip, Green Oak Tortrix, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Small Blood-vein, Small Elephant Hawkmoth, Cinnabar (wings closed), *Lozotaenia forsterana*, Light Emerald.

I was part of a county moth group where I used to live. We would trap at various sites across the county and frequently stay up until dawn. This was necessary if we wanted to see particular species, some of which only arrive well after midnight. It was also a chance to see moths that are unlikely to occur in the garden and to meet up with people as passionate about moths as I am. I was surprised how quickly I have learnt to identify so many species,

especially as the variety changes with the seasons. I have even been attempting to get to grips with the micro moths, which actually occupy a greater species number than the larger macro moths. They can be minutely beautiful and are generally rather under-recorded.



The Lappet (left) and Garden Tiger (right)

Since moving to North Curry, we have been spoilt with the amazing moth diversity we have been catching in the garden. We are lucky to have more southern specialities such as Jersey Tiger, Four-spotted Footman, The Lappet, Orange Moth and Rosy Footman. Another highlight for me is the poetic and fanciful common names that moths have been given. My eight-year-old son is now able to identify a huge number of moths, and my four-year-old daughter loves to hold them. We have nurtured their interest by raising some moths from caterpillars and even eggs. We take our trap on holiday and have managed to catch a wide variety of species.

When I show people photos or share them on my twitter page (Mighty Moth Girl @MothMighty) they are astonished by the vivid colours and say I have changed their perception of these beautiful creatures. My photographic style is not typical of insect photography, but by choosing to place the moths on white paper I believe I can really show off their incredible beauty.

Next year, I am off on my first 'mothing' holiday in Southern Spain, and one day hope to explore the moths of the world!



Presented by Don Hoyle

As you know, we had to postpone film showings in March. 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. At the time of writing (Aug 14th), we are about to decide whether we can open then or leave the re-opening until, possibly, next March. We will have a display in the Shop window in mid-September or you can look at our website (northcurryfilmsociety.org.uk) for an update. In the meantime, ...

Olivia de Havilland – the last of the Golden Age of Hollywood

Sadly, on July 26th, at the age of 104, Olivia de Havilland died. She was the last of the great actors of Golden Age and had a career of over 50 years and a similar number of feature films.

She was born in Tokyo in 1916 whilst her English parents were living there. They were returning to England when they left the boat in San Francisco due to Olivia & her sister Joan being ill.

They stayed in America. Olivia became interested in drama at school following in her mother's footsteps. However, her strict father did not approve, and she was given the choice of home or school drama – she left home! She soon got involved in community theatre whilst training to be an English teacher. She

had the role of Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Visiting Austrian Director Max Reinhart got to hear about her performance, and she was given the grand role of Second Understudy as Hermia. Both the lead and the understudy dropped out, so she got the part aged 18. Reinhart then got the role as director of the Warner Brothers film version, famously starring Mickey Rooney as Puck, and de Havilland got the role as Hermia. So started her illustrious career.



Screen Debut "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Left to right: Ross Alexander, Dick Powell, Jean Muir and Olivia de Havilland

For many years she played opposite Errol Flynn in films such as *Captain Blood* (1935) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938) – both with the fabulous music of Erich Korngold. They did eight films together ending with *They died with their boots on* (1941). In between, came the block buster film *Gone with the Wind* (1939).

After WWII she did some challenging films such as *The Snake Pit* (1948) about mental illness and in 1955 she moved to France and married the editor of *Paris Match*. Her last major role was in *Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964) with fellow legend Bette Davis.



Truly, she was a star.

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

The 200 Club always has room for one more! Players must be 18yrs+ to join. Only **£18 per year (£1.50/month)**

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JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 19th September

Pavilion Playing Fields, on Greenway.

Opens at 10.30am and goes on until 12.30pm.

This is the rearranged Jumble Sale from March, in aid of the Bell Tower Fund, is back on! Please come to support it!

This will be an outdoor event.

If you have anything you wish to add to it, please contact Lorraine Bryan-Brown on 491665.

NO CLOTHING please.



North Curry Society and the Covid-19 Outbreak *(as of August 2020)*

Message from the Chairman, Alan Billingham

The Society had already decided to cancel the March meeting when the Prime Minister announced a strict Lockdown on the country, initially for 12 weeks. Consulting by email, the committee decided unanimously to cancel all further meetings until September. At the end of July this was extended until 2021.

We have booked our programme for next year. Meanwhile we must wait and see what happens. Whatever comes out of this, we are all prepared to spring into action when that happy day arrives that the Society can meet again. After more than thirty years reviewing our natural and built heritage and the life experiences of North Curry residents, we must not let the society collapse.

Thank you, Alan.

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North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams



Those of you who are members of the Gardening Club will know that we have regrettably decided to cancel all meetings until February 2021 at the earliest. In the New Year we will be better able to assess how to go forward. In the meantime, we'll keep popping something in here so that you don't forget us.

September is the month when we can take stock and start to look towards our displays for next year. Prune climbing roses as the flowers start to fade; remove dead and unhealthy-looking stems by cutting them to ground level. Once perennials have finished flowering, either cut them down or if they have strong stems and good seed heads, leave them for the birds! If the weather is still warm and mostly dry well-established summer flowering perennials can be lifted and divided to reinvigorate them and provide new plants. Give them a good soak afterwards. When the lavenders are over, cut off the spent flowers and trim the bush to a neat shape; it's best not to cut into the woody growth as it is hard for it to regenerate. Late summer/early autumn is still a good time to collect seed if you want to use it next year; collect seed heads carefully shaking or scraping out the seeds and store in a paper packet in a box or tin somewhere cool and dry. Moisture is the enemy so I use those little packs of silica gel that come in various things and put them in the box as well. I've been told that some powdered milk works too! September is the month to make a start on your bulb planting, the daffodils go in first but tulips are best left until October/November. The correct planting depth is important to keep them flowering; too shallow and they'll give up after a year. An easy rule of thumb is to plant them 3 or 4 times their own depth. Also, time to net your pond to catch those falling leaves. Finally, if you want to think far ahead into next autumn, I've seen a fabulous planting combo! There's *Achillea* 'Walther Funcke', with yellow eyed brick red flower platters, *Kniphofia* 'Bees Lemon', knee high spikes of lemon opening from green buds, *Crocsmia* 'Solfatere', sprays of pale apricot yellow and *Rudbeckia Laciniata* 'Herbstonnewoven through with *Panicum Virgatum* 'Rehbraun' which starts green but turns a rich purplish red as autumn approaches. Stunning!

Tea Break!

Are there any truth in the Rumours...

...on a certain Russian Premier's activities in influencing the Incumbency applications?

...a certain pop star has purchased a farm in the area with a view to creating a Glastonbury style religious pop festival

...a man in his 70s has been seen running up and down the Burrow Mump, in a white robe. Though we believe no skis were involved. Trumping the arrival of Harvest thanksgiving perhaps!

On page 29, an article in a recent Telegraph edition, which many of you may find of interest...

And for your amusement, a Sudoku puzzle to complete!

					1			
	2			7		4		
5		7			3		6	
			9				5	
8			6		2			9
	3				4			
	7		3			2		8
		6		2			7	
			5					

Is the CoE intent on killing off the parish church?

Covid has accelerated the push by Church officials to centralise everything. It is a recipe for total collapse

GILES FRASER



The usually sleepy pages of *The Church Times* were set alight last month by the suggestion of an impending death: of the parish church itself. And it is a death, implied the Rev Stephen Trott in his article, that would not be caused by the forces of secularisation but by the actions of the Church authorities themselves.

Reading his summation, the scales fell from my eyes. The parish, for centuries the bedrock of the Church of England's engagement with communities throughout the land, is being sacrificed to a growing and inward-looking centralised Church structure that is steadily sucking resources away from it. And though it's hard for an old Leftie like me to accept, it's a parable about the dangers of nationalisation.

Much has been made of Westminster Abbey losing £12million this year and shutting down regular worship at St Margaret's, the church that nestles beside it. So, too, has there

been widespread consternation about Sheffield Cathedral sacking its choir. But a more troubling development has been largely missed.

Earlier in the summer, the diocese of Chelmsford announced that it was cutting clergy numbers from 275 to 215. Sixty priests to go in 18 months. And the expectation is that other dioceses will follow. For several years now, smaller parishes have been clustered together in increasingly large bundles, so as to share a priest. But even this feels unsustainable. The idea that each community has their own vicar – the central justification of the CoE's role in the establishment – seems set to be a thing of the past.

Mr Trott, the Rector of Pitsford in the Diocese of Peterborough, argues that the rot set in way back in the Seventies when the historic financial assets of individual parishes were effectively nationalised by the General Synod, the Church's parliament. It was a means of redistributing resources from wealthy to poorer parishes so that parishes like mine could pay their parish priest. But the unintended consequences of transferring all this wealth to the centre was that the centre started to balloon, hiring ever more accountants, administrators and archdeacons.

What were first intended to be support staff for the parish, little by little ended up being the actual purpose of the Church, with increasing numbers of people doing jobs with titles like diocesan missionary and assistant archdeacon. These clergy

worked in offices, spent much of their time in meetings and managed a burgeoning administration. And yet these are the sort of jobs you have to do if you want to be a bishop. There used to be 26 dioceses in the Church of England. There are now 42 dioceses – all with their own administrative staff, all with an increasing number of bishops looking after a decreasing number of parish clergy. It is a perfect recipe for institutional collapse.

All this has been accelerated by Covid. When, during Easter no less, the Archbishop of Canterbury advised his parish clergy that they should not enter their own churches to pray, even on their own, even if they lived right next door to the church, a tension was created between the centre and the periphery that has raised a question among many of us who are parish priests about the viability of present structures.

Zoom Church is the future, we are told. No need for all those crumbling old stones we all we heard. Parish clergy are analogue priests for a digital age. Forget all that boring bread and butter work: what is needed is "a fresh expression of church". With Zoom, everything can be managed from the centre. Little wonder there is a spirit of rebellion in the air.

You might imagine that my own parish in inner city London would be grateful for the support that we receive from the diocese. And indeed, we remain heavily subsidised by wealthy parishes and are hugely appreciative of the dedicated team

who support us at diocesan level. But even here, it's hard to raise money for what can feel to many of my parishioners like some distant bureaucracy. Were they to have much greater management of their own affairs, including the responsibility to support their own clergy, they may take a very different attitude towards the stewardship of the parish's resources.

But it's not just churchgoers who are adversely affected by changes that are afoot. The hastening death of the parish will tear the beating heart from many a small place that is reliant upon church to help organise its common life. Yet the response of the centre to the cry of the periphery always tends to be – and here I inwardly groan – the announcement of yet another fancy sounding yet ultimately vacuous missionary initiative.

The parish has long been the jewel in the Church of England and where Christianity finds its most stubborn forms of resilience to secularisation. Which is why it's such a tragedy that the parish is now under threat from those whose very job it should be to defend it.

Canon Dr Giles Fraser is Rector of St Mary, Newington and a columnist for *UnHerd*



FOLLOW Giles Fraser on Twitter @giles_fraser; READ MORE at telegraph.co.uk/opinion

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.

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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 (March – August 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.

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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.

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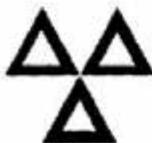
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Church Officers and Contacts

<u>Officer:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Contact Number:</u>
Vicar	Vacant	
Honorary Associate Priest	Rev'd John Tyler	01460 281574
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Churchwarden	David Akerman	01823 490234
Churchwarden & Verger	Mary Piers	01823 491434
Churchwardens Emeritus	Janet Dare	01823 490747
PCC Secretary/ Safe Guarding	Helen Griffiths	01823 491298
PCC Treasurer	Vacant, Interim - David Akerman	
Tower Captain	Darren Woodyer	01823 690162
Flower List Organiser	Lorraine Bryan Brown	01823 491665
Events Bookings Secretary	David Walker	01823 491231
Produce Market Organiser	Anne Williams	01823 490319
Little Angels/ Electoral Roll	Jenny Satchwell	01823 490463
Choir	Jean Smith	01823 490961
PCC 200 Club	Sue Bethune	01823 490179
Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis, email: ncurrymag@gmail.com	

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

Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Herons	01823 490423	www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	www.northcurry.com
Post Office/ Stores	01823 490261	
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