

ST PETER & ST PAUL

NORTH CURRY'S PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



APRIL 2021- HAPPY EASTER!

A FREE PUBLICATION

"WORTH EVERY PENNY YOU DONT HAVE TO SPEND ON IT"



Easter 4th April

Sunrise service at Burrow Mump 6.40am - Church Eucharist Service 10am



Elbow grease to the fore! Revd Simon does the rounds (see centrefold), whilst Alex Dart gets the lectern all spick'n'span in readiness for the Easter Service.

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

www.northcurrychurch.co.uk/ email ncurrymag@gmail.com
For local events, check out the Parish Council website and calendar at
www.northcurry.com

Produce Market

is set to return 5th June...

**BUT HELPERS ARE
URGENTLY REQUIRED**

for this to happen.

Anne Williams will be stepping down from the management of the market during the summer, and a new individual(s) to take on this role is required, as well as 2 operatives for the kitchen. Volunteers to help set up at 8am, and again at 11.30am to put away are also needed.

Please get involved!
Contact Anne
on 490319 to sign up.
No helpers... no market??

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Enquiries to Sue Harrison at
ncurrymag@gmail.com.

Cover picture – Easter Bunny by Rosalind Hardwick

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Announcements/ News in Brief

North Curry Parish Church, congratulations to our 200 Club Winners.

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

January

1st Ralph Roberts

2nd Brian Moore

3rd Alex Dart

February

1st Helen Griffiths

2nd Laurence Leader

3rd Sue Ashton

March

1st Joan Dartnall

2nd Helen Smith

3rd Mary Ginger

The benefice bulletin.

To sign up to the benefice bulletin, please email vicar@athelneybenefice.com to join.

The website at www.athelneybenefice.com brings lots more information on worship and how to join the zoom services.

The Produce Market is tentatively planned for a June return, but in order for this to happen, many volunteers are required – ranging from kitchen to help setting up and clearing away. To get involved, please contact Anne Williams.

And now, something rare... publicised events!

Assuming restrictions are lifted, the **Flower Show** will go ahead on 14th August in the Village Hall, and will be using last year's schedule. Schedules will be available from the Post Office from the beginning of May (no separate schedules for children's classes).

And also in August:

A Concert in aid of the church Bell Fund on 21st August in church performed by members of the Aurora Orchestra (search them online).

The programme will include *Vivaldi's Four Seasons* plus some more modern, jazzy music. Tickets will probably be limited so book early via David Walker (davidwalker.northcurry@gmail.com) or Helen Griffiths (helengriffiths1100@gmail.com).

Phil Stone was again busy in March [when is he not!]. Besides becoming involved in a national scheme to plant thousands



of trees, he was in the churchyard installing a new owl nesting box (pic right). If you would like to help Phil with the planting of the trees, he would love to hear from you. He planted 50 at Mary's humble abode, with assistance from Rob Ellis and Dave Holcombe (pic left).



Paws for thoughts...

Rosco newshound here, sitting in for the editor whilst he is away planting trees. I have actually enjoyed the lockdown; master is home all the time, no long laborious car journeys and plenty of people walking past my front door to woof at. But I want to tell you a tail [dogs tell tails, humans tell tales!]. I was out and about on my walk the other day and went past a sheep field. As I was standing at the fence admiring the flock (well, I am a shepherd by gene), a stray little lamb came bounding towards me, excited and bleating all the while. Clearly a confused soul, as hello, I am a wolf, you are a sheep, and you shouldn't be running towards me mate! But undeterred by my gaze (and gleaning k9s), it kept coming forward until it reached about 5 feet away. At this moment, its mother finally recognising the potential danger, who had been absent from her parenting responsibility until now, hurried into action, bellowing all the time at its young one. The lamb, perhaps after adjusting its spectacles, realised its error. It promptly spun on its axis, a EWE-turn of course, and pranced back to the safety of its mother. Calamity had been averted; shame really, as I fancied a nice bit of lamb for supper!



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Little Herons Pre-School is the Nursery Class of North Curry Primary School.

We are open to all children in the area.

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- Childcare Vouchers / Tax Free Childcare accepted
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For more information, please call 01823 490423

The Revd Simon Bale writes

E: vicar@athelneybenefice.com T: 01823 490247

A year ago this weekend we were all learning to sing "Happy Birthday" twice while washing our hands. We had begun to wonder if we could bear to look so silly in wearing a mask. The last football match had been played for some time and all the theatres and venues were shutting up shop. Oh, and churches too. Churches were closed so that even the priests weren't allowed in. We've now become inured to the term, "in these strange times" and have all grown to love our masks (we haven't). We have forgotten what it feels like to hug and kiss each other, but we've learned to touch elbows. Never has it been quite such a prolonged period of oddness for one so young as me (I wish).

A year of isolation, a year of data and argument, a year of FaceTime and Zoom and now... drum roll please... Easter is coming and our churches will be opening for in person, in the flesh, proper worship (except for hymns: they are still hums).

Yes, folks! Easter Day, 4th April, the churches in the Athelney Benefice are opening their doors for a glorious celebration of renewal and resurrection. Could there be a more appropriate time to restart things? Easter Day when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and we look around us as the Spring springs fully into bloom? It's almost as though this was meant to be...

So, if you'll pardon my exuberance and run with me for a few paragraphs, I will wax lyrical about how things beginning again like this also fit so well with my continued arrival in the benefice and how we can all get to know each other a bit better. I was in North Curry church mid March as some lovely folk were preparing Mothering Sunday posies and I realised that, although I had seen everyone many times on a Zoom meeting here or there, I had never actually been in the same place with anyone before. It is an odd feeling "in these strange times" to have met many, but also not to have met any at all. It's going to change, however... we hope. We expect.

I am like a Tigger with two tails, but I also know that we ought not count all the chickens just yet. The virus still stalks our streets and neighbourhoods and it might still all go pear shaped. Even so, we have a very clear sense of hope and anticipation that Easter Day will be a "special" special day. Our worship will begin at sunrise atop Burrow Mump (6.40am, I gather) followed by services of Holy Communion for Easter at 9.30am in Lyng, 10am in North Curry and 11am in Stoke St Gregory. It goes without saying that everyone is welcome to any and all services to share in the joy. If we don't see you,

however, please do know that we will all be praying and giving thanks for a time together and in hope and faith that we can turn our faces to the sunshine. Also, there will be eggs. There have to be eggs. If I am to be on the Mump that early, I need eggs.

Every blessing,

Revd Simon

Worship times and venues for April are as follows. All times are detailed on the website, www.athelneybenefice.com.

4th April (Easter Sunday)

6.40am: Burrow Mump
9.30am: Lyng (Eucharist)
10.00am: North Curry (Eucharist)
11.00am: Stoke St Gregory (Eucharist)

11th April

10.00am: United Benefice Worship at St Michael's, Burrowbridge

18th April

8.00am: North Curry (BCP Eucharist)
9.30am: Lyng (Service of the Word)
11.00am: Stoke St Gregory (Eucharist)
6.00pm: North Curry (Evensong)

25th April

9.30am: Burrowbridge (Morning Prayer)
10.00am: North Curry (Eucharist)
11.00am: Stoke St Gregory (Eucharist)

Rogation Sunday this year is 9th May. It is also our United Benefice Eucharist which will be at St Peter and St Paul in North Curry. I hope to reinvigorate a rogation walk over the weekend, ending at our 10am service. Currently this is only in my head... but it will happen, honest! Watch out for further information but keep the Saturday/Sunday free if you want to join in.

Letter from
The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton

Hope for a better future

This month of April begins on Maundy Thursday, the day when we remember the last meal Jesus shared together with his friends before he was arrested and crucified. It was the meal that has become so significant in the life of the Church, where bread was broken and a cup of wine passed round, coming to symbolise for us the brokenness of the body of Christ. The sacrifice he made for love of us.

Many of us will hopefully celebrate something of the Easter feast this weekend although restrictions continue for a while longer. We may not yet be able to gather in larger groups of family and friends but perhaps we can glimpse what is to come?

This has always been the story of the Church, to point to what 'is' but which may not yet be fully realised. During this pandemic there has been a need for hope amongst such bleakness and now as the vaccine is shared and the signs of life appear in the world around us, we begin to see what might again be possible. To hope for a better future.

And yet in the bleakness of this first weekend of April, which takes us into the darkness of the tomb on Holy Saturday, we remember that hope is not cheaply bought. It is not mere optimism, but rather something, though fragile, that is stronger than death.

As some of us break our fast this Easter and share the bread and wine of the Eucharistic feast, may we know both the cost of such love and the hope that it offers.

Easter blessings!
+Ruth

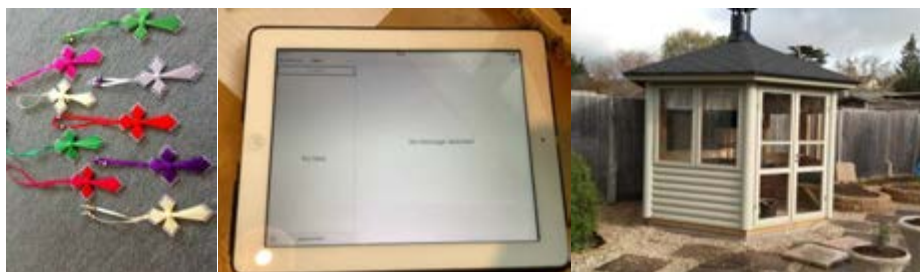
News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

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

A little light has appeared at the end of the 'Lockdown tunnel' and the prospect of meeting again face to face does not seem to be too far away now.

In the meantime, during these dark months the folk at North Curry/ Curland Methodist Church have not been idle.

Many and various are the occupations with which they have filled their days, from reading, baking, using a new tablet, completing jigsaw puzzles, making straw crosses, to building a summer house!!



Although spirits were higher, moments of sadness occurred with the deaths of Rodney Jones and Sonia Van Rensburg. They were good friends to the chapel and will be missed.

The thoughts and prayers of the congregation are with Sue and family and Sonia's relations in South Africa.

Beyond belief? by *Dave Patten*

Listeners to Radio 4 will readily recognise the above as the BBC's religious affairs programme, but in my view could equally apply to Creation Ministries International (CMI) who have provided two speakers in the last few years to this village. I went along out of curiosity as I wanted to learn why or how otherwise sober well educated people could believe that the earth was not 4.3 billion years old - give or take a century or two - but just 6,000 years old. If they are right, then evolution doesn't exist and virtually the whole of science is wrong.

I remember reading about this Young Earth movement as a schoolboy first promulgated by Bishop Ussher, the Primate of All Ireland (d.1656) who firmly dated the creation to October 23rd 4004BC. A literal reading of the Bible, ie Genesis, was the source of his beliefs.

The CMI talk came to around the same conclusion by adding together the ages of Noah (aged 950), Abraham (aged 175), Moses (aged 120), and possibly Methuselah (969) plus a few others. As far as I could gather the key point of proving a Young Earth was the flood. As most of our scientific knowledge of the age of the Earth is based on geology and fossils Noah's flood is at the root of the Creationist's argument. Reading the Bible quite literally the entire surface of the earth was covered by water, no land animals - or indeed humans - could have survived other than those brought in by Noah.

Thanks to my attendance I seem to have been the recipient, if not the target, for copious emails announcing further arguments disputing Darwin (Satan?) and Evolution. The CMI website is worth a visit as they have hundreds if not thousands of books, pamphlets and experts in Creationism who will answer all your doubts. Based in Kentucky and with an office in Leicester, they have a museum centre that attracts some 20 million visitors a year. You can see models of dinosaurs (died out 65 billion years ago) alongside Man. They also have a replica Ark, not alas floating, but one of the correct size. Mysteriously it was damaged by heavy rains a year ago - and their insurance company refused to pay out. (The rotten lot!)

At one meeting in the Q & A session I told the audience that everyone here had around 98% the same DNA as an ape: and we all had 50% the same DNA as a banana. This was met by pitying looks from most present.

Being of a curious nature I feed the CMI questions from time to time . . .

How did dinosaurs become extinct: "Ah, the mountains collapsed on the dinosaurs creating instant fossils."

Why are there only kangaroos in Australia. "A volcano erupted near some kangaroos and flung them onto Australia" (There's a YouTube video on this).

Were dinosaurs on the Ark? "Of course, but only small ones like chickens."

How did sedimentary layers arrive? "You must remember that sedimentary rock is really just sandstone and these can be created in weeks."

Do you believe in continental drift and tectonic plates? "Oh yes but these only took weeks for continents to collide: they sailed across the ocean quite quickly."

If water covered the entire earth, including Mount Everest, how did the 10,000 species of land birds survive? "Well Noah took some into the Ark with him."

I received no answer as to how Noah got polar bears, penguins, lions and rhinos into his voluminous Ark.

This may all be a bit of fun but I do wonder how followers cope with life today when almost every week some fresh fossil going back millions of years is discovered. More worryingly in the U.S. they are keen to see Creationism taught in schools, and evolution banned. At the last election only one Republican candidate said that evolution was a fact, to avoid troubling his Evangelical Protestant followers - Trump's main backers - of whom 66% believe in Creationism. But we're not much better. A third of us Brits don't believe in Evolution either.

NB Darwin's Origin of Species by Natural Selection was published in 1859.

[editor's comment – I want to know what happened to all the water, as surely it had nowhere to drain to ~ perhaps for the next issue, Revd Simon might like to add his thoughts on the matter. I took the chance to ask a certain retired priest on his thoughts, and he stated he was both a creationist and an evolutionist – what is your take on it all?]

As Dave stated, it is believed that dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago (at the end of the Cretaceous Period), after living on Earth for about 165 million years. If all of Earth's time from the very beginning of the dinosaurs to today were compressed into 365 days (one calendar year), the dinosaurs appeared January 1 and became extinct the third week of September. I bet they never endured one national lockdown in that time!



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams

Earthworms - The engineers of our soil!

When Charles Darwin was asked what he thought was the most important animal in the world, he chose the earthworm calling it Nature's plough and saying "there are few animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world than the earthworm". Researchers have identified how critical earthworms are, not just to our gardens but to our entire ecosystem.

Worms are great for our soil because they are known to **bury and shred decaying plants**; they consume these as food and carry organic matter deep into the soil. It's believed that they will turn over the top six inches of soil within two decades. **They improve water holding capacity** by breaking apart organic matter and loosening soil making it porous and helping with drainage. **They provide channels for root growth**; the tunnels made by burrowing earthworms have nutrients from their castings making it easier for roots to penetrate deep into the soil. **They increase the soil's microbial diversity**; Earthworms get their nutrition from microorganisms like fungi and bacteria but there are more of these organisms in worm castings than in organic matter. As the matter goes through their intestines it's fragmented and inoculated with microorganisms. The increase in microbial activity aids the cycling of nutrients and transforms them from organic matter to forms easily taken up by plants.

In the UK we have 27 species of earthworm, ten of which are commonly found in agricultural soils and these are grouped into three ecological types: the **surface dwelling worms** which you'll often find in your compost. **Shallow burrowing** or topsoil earthworms which make horizontal burrows and **deep burrowing earthworms**, the largest, make permanent deep vertical burrows. They feed on leaf litter on the surface of the soil and drag it into their burrows.

Some wormy facts! If you cut a worm in half, does it make two? No, sorry worm, I'm afraid not. It will kill it you unless it's just the tip of the tail! No-one is sure how many earthworms there are in the soil but recent estimates suggest that a good soil can have up to 2m worms per acre. Earthworms are so sensitive to light that just an hour of daylight leaves them paralysed. An earthworm's digestive system runs the entire length of its body and they themselves provide a vital food source for plenty of creatures including hedgehogs, foxes, moles, birds, slowworms and amphibians. Treasure your worms, they are your garden friends.

Next month in this space, I hope I will be able to tell you how we plan to get back to normal; hopefully with some activities in the pipeline!



NORTH CURRY COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

hopes to open on Tuesday 18th May
– launching the Summer Menu.

Some stalwart volunteers have retired during the time the Coffee Shop has been closed so now we need you to consider whether you can help serve in the Coffee Shop.

Sessions are for two hours (9.30 am - 11.30 am and 1.30pm - 3.30pm) and we are looking for volunteers to fill sessions weekly, fortnightly, monthly or just occasionally.

If you would like to join the happy band of volunteers, please contact Alison Stone on (01823) 490282 or e-mail: ajcarterstone@gmail.com for an application form or for more information.

We will be opening on a Covid-secure basis and no experience is needed as full training will be given.

North Curry Coffee Shop is a valuable community facility and is an excellent place for coffee and a catch up.

Looking forward to working with You.



Light has appeared at the end of the tunnel as we prospectively emerge from lockdown; we are keeping fingers crossed for launching our indoor programme in September. Speakers are lined up for the third Wednesday each month for talks on subjects of local interest.

Colin Trim has been co-opted to the committee and immediately pressed into service, preparing an on-line Society Quiz to be completed over Easter.

The committee have been compiling an email address list and hope to keep our members entertained and informed that way. If as a member you do not receive the Quiz on 1st April, please tell our contacts manager: Alex Morrice (aandsmorrice@gmail.com 01823 490917 text to 07802 408045).

Hoping you are all keeping safe and well, Gill & Sherry.

Joint chairmen: Gill Slocombe and Sherry Keith-Welsh

EASTER JOY, by *Zillah Sykes*

Heavy grey clouds filled the sky, threatening more rain. A fresh wind shook the budding trees and caused the daffodils to dance wildly in Bob's garden. Unperturbed by this unpromising start to the day, Bob made his way down the wet path towards his potting shed, anticipating a pleasant Saturday preparing for the glorious growing season that lay ahead. He was soon at work cleaning and oiling his garden tools which hung neatly from hooks on one side of the shed. He noticed with satisfaction that the seed potatoes were sprouting and would be ready to plant out on Good Friday. He was just going to check over his dahlia tubers when the shed door was pulled open and his son Jack burst in.

"Hi, Dad," he said, "I thought I'd find you here!" His father's shed was an oasis of peace on this wild and windy morning. "Georgia's back for the hols—mind if I take her some daffodils?" Bob smiled at his son and the two of them went out into the garden together. "Thanks, Dad!" called Jack, as he set off on his bike to see Georgia, his rucksack full of not quite opened blooms.

"Like father, like son!" mused Bob. He remembered how, only a year ago, he had longed to do just that for Angela, Georgia's mother. As he potted up his dahlia tubers his mind went back to the previous Easter, a day he would never forget. He had been full of anticipation of Angela sitting next to him during the service, then sharing a few words with her, but more than anything else, of enjoying her lovely smile. It was not to be, though his hopes had been dashed as Margaret, his wife, had insisted on accompanying him. Just as well she did, he knew that now, but at the time feelings of resentment and bitterness towards his wife had engulfed him and had forced him to leave the church as soon as the service was over. Walking quickly through the churchyard he headed off towards the moor.

She had deliberately humiliated him, he thought angrily, how could he ever forgive her? And what a fool he had been, to think anyone would care for him! In his self-pity he longed for a dark wintry pit of gloom to open and swallow him up. As he strode out across the moor, he began to feel very warm in his tweed jacket and his Sunday best shoes were hurting his feet. Reaching an old stone-walled barn, he decided to take a rest and, folding his jacket, he sat upon it. Warmed by the sun in that sheltered spot, he soon began to doze and after a few minutes, when he was fully awake he began to marvel at the beauty that was all around him. The sun, shining brightly from a pale blue sky, was calling everything to life. Grass, green and luxuriant after winter floods, was bright with golden buttercups and big, yellow dandelions. Bees droned as they collected nectar from clover and butterflies danced over daisies. Sheep and lambs were bleating from a distant field—and then he heard the skylark sing.

High above him, it sang as it soared and it soared as it sang. He sat quite still for a while, listening, and gradually the peace and beauty of the place calmed the turmoil in his soul.

"See, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone,
Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing is come,
The cooing of doves is heard in our land."

Words from the Song of Songs that perfectly described this Easter day, mused Bob. The darkness of death was over now, for on Good Friday they had remembered Jesus' cruel death by crucifixion and the darkness that had descended on Him when He had died. An innocent man, suffering for the sins of the world, all for love of us that we might be forgiven and have the hope of Heaven. The skylark continued to sing as Bob recalled the day of silence that followed. Jesus' lifeless body had been placed in a stone-cold tomb while those who loved Him wept and mourned their tragic loss. However, death was not the end, for at daybreak on that first Easter morning Jesus burst forth from the tomb and showed Himself to be gloriously alive.

"That's why we sing so many Alleluias on Easter morning!" Bob reminded himself with a smile and as the skylark continued to fill the sky with its singing, Bob resolved to let go of all the bitterness and hurts of the past. "Today is a day of life and not of death, of light and not of darkness, of joy and not of sorrow," he told himself and when the little songster had ceased its song, Bob was ready to return home.

And so it was that, after enjoying a hearty lunch, Bob went out into his garden where he gathered an armful of bright daffodils and presented them to his astonished wife.

"Happy Easter, love," he said, as he smiled at her.

St George, *written by Tom Jeanes*



When there are several versions, who do you believe? He was thought to be a Roman Army officer of Greek descent from Cappadocia. His Christian father died for the faith when George was fourteen so his mother took him back to her homeland of Syria Palaestina. A few years later his mother also died and George then travelled to Nicomedia in what is now Turkey, later joining the Roman Army. In it he was persecuted by one Dadianus; later this fellow's name was changed to Diocletian (who became a Roman emperor from 284 to 305). George was executed by beheading outside the city walls of Nicomedia on 23rd April 303. This took place in front of Empress Alexandria who was so moved by his death that she decided to follow him in his martyrdom. George's body was returned to Lydda for burial where people began to worship him as a martyr.

According to the Latin version George was persecuted by Dacian, Emperor of the Persians. Here, George lived and died in Meletine. His martyrdom was extended to more than twenty different tortures over a period of seven years. Over the course of these tortures over 40,900 people converted to Christianity including Empress Alexandria. When George finally dies, Dacian was carried away in a whirlwind of fire. In later versions Emperor Decius ordered the tortures.

Donald Attwater the historian wrote that "No historical particulars of his life has survived". Pretty well all must be legend; the widespread veneration emanates from Lydda (now Lod) in Palestine. The story of George and the dragon was in existence in the 11th century. A very fierce dragon was menacing Silene in Libya. The citizens gave it two sheep each day to prevent it devastating the city but when they weren't enough they started giving it human beings instead. Those to be given to the dragon were elected by the city's people and when the King's own daughter was chosen, understandably nobody wanted to take her place. George, very helpfully, killed the dragon with a lance; amazing the King, who was so grateful that he heaped treasure upon George. However he declined the wealth and asked that it be given to the poor instead. The citizens of Lydda were so impressed by this that they became Christians.

The Islamic source states that George was among a group of believers who were in direct contact with the last Apostles of Jesus. He was thought to be a rich merchant who opposed the erection of a statue of Apollo at Mosul in Iraq. King Dadan tortured him many times to no effect since he was aided by angels. He stated that the idols were inhabited by Satan, but was martyred when the city was destroyed by god in a rain of fire.

Who do you believe?

Despite the conflicting stories he became a rather popular saint. He was supposed to have helped the Franks at the battle of Antioch in 1098. Edward III of England put the Order of the Garter under the banner of St George, and he was invoked several times in the hundred year war. Shakespeare had Henry V shout "Cry God for Harry England and St George" at Harfleur. He is the patron Saint of England, Ethiopia, Malta, Aragon in Spain, Portugal and many other places. Rather good for a fellow who probably never existed.

Quilt raffle for the Church Bells Appeal

Tickets £1 each, available from the Post Office or directly through Elaine Moll (elaine.moll@lewtec.co.uk)

The Prize Draw will take place at the end of May.



A handmade patchwork quilt is being raffled in aid of the church bells appeal. The colourful quilt, made by North Curry quilters, was recently on display in the village shop window.

The quilt is the first prize in the raffle; in addition there will be a hamper of local produce.

Tickets cost £1 each and the raffle will be drawn at the end of May. Tickets can be purchased from now until the end of May, from either the Post Office (by kind permission of Alison and Noel Prosser) or from Elaine Moll.



Bulletin humour!

A selection of amusing church bulletins snippets – printed before in an earlier issue, but worth a re-run – we all need a good laugh now and then...

The Fasting & Prayer Conference - includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered [you're going to need a large envelope...]

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

And lastly, this one just about sums them all up

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

The North Curry Parish Church 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

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Proceeds for churchyard maintenance

To sign up, contact Sue Bethune on 01823 490179

Cheque payments to North Curry PCC

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A Mothering Sunday posy surprise...

Saturday morning saw the start of preparations for Mothering Sunday.



Denise Walker, Liz Gibbs and self met in the Church (photo left) and made 80 posies comprising daffs (kindly donated by Alex and Geoffrey Dart) and greenery.

Industriously light hearted and helped along by our Vicar Simon coming along to give encouragement and cast an approving eye!

Our thanks to Jenny Satchwell for her contribution of posies and thanks too to David Walker for printing all the little cards to place in posies.

Sunday saw the beautiful big buckets of posies placed in front of the Nave altar and blessed by Simon during the morning Eucharist.

THEN... action stations!

Denise and Amy Hardwick, her daughter plus grandchildren Rosalind and Edward (photo right), gathered baskets and headed off to deliver posies to folk in the "inner part" of the village. Poor souls must have had very tired feet by the end of the day!

Meanwhile, Simon and I drove around the "outer" part of the village delivering. It was a great chance for everyone to meet the new

vicar, seen much by photograph and Zoom but now in real life! Surprise, joy and much appreciation received by all visited.



Mothering Sunday was truly a special day and we are delighted to say there will be an Easter Eucharist on Easter Sunday at 10am in the Church. It was wonderful to have our Church open for worship, and with Simon officiating, a chance for him to meet folk in person, something he is longing to do.



We hope you all had a joyful, blessed and loving day.

Mary Piers

Churchwarden



Photos: Courtesy of Revd Simon and Amy.

Above left, Amy and Rosalind get ready for the "off", whilst above right, Rosalind and Edward compose themselves for the "big" delivery.

Below left, Edward in readiness to deliver, whilst below centre, he greets Zillah with her posy. Meanwhile, bottom right, Rosalind presents Lorraine with her posy. Definitely a fabo daffo delivery done by all.

A Trip Down North Curry's Memory Lane...

In a series of articles from long standing residents of the village, with their insight and memories of North Curry from the yester years... Anne Totterdell, following on from her article in February, has kindly written the following...

Memories from sixty years of living in North Curry

Some of my most vivid memories of life in North Curry are connected with the weather. We certainly seemed to have more extreme winter weather in the sixties and seventies. As in most of the country, the winter here in 1962/63 was extremely severe, with deep lying snow for months.

I remember being unable to leave my house with a baby and a toddler for seven weeks because the driveway was under feet of snow.

A happier memory is of a very snowy winter later in the sixties when sledging became a very popular pastime in North Curry - and not just with children!

I can remember a late winter afternoon when most of the village were sledging in the church fields and as the red sun went down, all the snowy fields were tinged pink, and old and young were dressed in bright clothes - a magic memory. I wonder if any one reading this was there?

Back in the sixties and seventies, it was not unusual for the flooded moors to freeze over and for people to skate! I remember one year when Burrow Mump arose from a vast sea of ice as far as the eye could see.

Sixty years ago, the moors attracted great flocks of Bewick Swans flying from Siberia in the Autumn. These visits have gradually declined, and now the Bewicks go elsewhere. Ornithologists would come from far and wide when the moors were flooded. I remember one year when you could see Bewick, Whooper and Mute swans together on the water.

There was a keen interest in bird watching (and still is) - anybody who had children at the village school when Geoffrey Harper was Headmaster will remember his great enthusiasm for natural history, particularly birds, and how this influenced his pupils.

My children also remember the weekly Village Walks as highlights in their lives and remember Bill Board and Ed Eggleston with great affection. Ed's widow Madeline, very fondly remembered by all who knew her, died this February. These walks imparted a great deal of natural history (birds, flowers and insects) and excitement (being chased by bullocks).

Another very happy memory concerns donkeys! In the late sixties several households with children and enough space looked after seaside donkeys from Weston-Super-Mare for the winter. This was a wonderful scheme where no money changed hands! Your children had the fun and pleasure of the donkey for free - you just had to provide him/her with food. When we had our first seaside donkey in 1968 we were extremely ignorant; we assumed he was a male, and the children called him Hector. A gentle patient animal who happily gave the children rides, we were amazed on Easter Sunday 1969 to look into the orchard to see that she had produced a delightful baby

donkey. The children were interviewed by Points West and the Somerset County Gazette and the gender incompetence of the parents gave the residents of North Curry a good laugh! The donkey was renamed Hester.

2022 Calendar Competition.

After the success of the 2021 calendar, we have decided to run the competition again this year – it's your own fault for all being so super talented and artistic!

The competition for selection is open to all amateur photographers who live in the parish, and as before, 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 photo **MUST** be LANDSCAPE in orientation (like the image to the right) to be considered, and bearing in mind will be A4 size once published, must be of a high definition quality.



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.

So to recap, 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** the instructions in the paragraph above.

The closing date for entries is 31st August 2021.

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.

We look forward to seeing your creative pictures.



Somerset Wildlife Trust is excited to share **a new partnership initiative with the Diocese of Bath & Wells called 'Wilder Churches'**. The Diocese oversees 477 parishes of over 900,000 people, and they will be working with Somerset Wildlife Trust to **bring communities and church leaders together to learn more about their churchyards and how they**

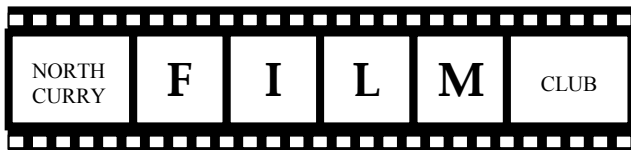
can manage them with wildlife in mind. Churches and churchyards can be **wonderful places for wildlife and nature to thrive**, as they are often one of the oldest places in the parish, and have been kept safe from development or habitat loss that may have affected other areas. Many churchyards support wildflower-rich grassland areas, ancient trees and other areas that are home to many species.

Somerset Wildlife Trust will be working to **support communities to protect biodiversity in their local churchyard** or other church land and work together to **find ways to increase the value of these special places for wildlife.**

Pippa Rayner, Somerset Wildlife Trust's Engaging with Nature Coordinator is coordinating the initiative. "If we're to reverse the loss of biodiversity across the UK and within the county, we need to secure a strong, county-wide network of green spaces that can provide homes for wildlife and corridors through which species can travel and expand. Through Wilder Churches, we hope local people will help ensure churchyards and other church land can contribute to that network."

Sara Emmett, Assistant Diocesan Environment Officer explains, "With the diocese embracing a new environmental policy, we are delighted to be working together with Somerset Wildlife Trust to support church leaders and communities to increase the value of churchyards and other church land for wildlife. By regularly getting together online to celebrate successes, share expertise and solve problems as they arise, we will collectively achieve so much more, so this is a really exciting initiative to be involved in."

Pippa concludes, "Churchyards are really special and unique places, so we will be encouraging everyone to use the '3 Cs' of consideration, consultation and communication at each step along the way. Initially, we will encourage people to simply find out what wildlife their local churchyard already has, as well as talking to everyone already involved in its management. Through the ongoing online training, we will then support communities to identify ways they could help wildlife in their local churchyard, as well as to communicate their ideas, consult others and come up with a plan that works for the church, wildlife and the community."

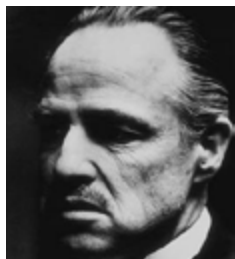


Presented by Don Hoyle

We had hoped to resume showing films in March but, unfortunately, this has proved too optimistic. Rather than keep setting dates and then being disappointed, we have decided to delay re-opening until September, hoping that by then we will be back to something like normal. In the meantime, this may be of interest:

Lockdown Film Lists

There have been several 'best lockdown film' lists around recently. Last year, the 2011 film *Contagion*, about a fictional pandemic, became the second most downloaded film. The film predicted much that has become reality from the transmission by droplets to the role played by conspiracy theorists. It also featured vaccine shortages – a lottery based on birthdates is used to ration supply. According to recent press stories, this part of the film motivated Matt Hancock to order vaccine supplies early and in huge amounts. However, as a film, I would not want this one on my list. Given how the pandemic dominates the news and social media, I want films that take me away from this awful reality. Not that I would choose purely sugary escapism. In a previous article I shared that we had watched all the *Lord of the Rings* films – they quite literally take you to another world. Escapism without the sugar. More recently, we watched the original 1972 *Godfather* film. It certainly delivered nearly 3 hours of diversion – with the prospect of another 6 hours of the same with the sequels.



However, I still feel the need for a happy (ish) ending. Alright, Frodo and Sam do finally succeed in destroying the Ring in the fires of Mount Doom at the end of the last *Lord of the Rings* film, but it does not feel like a 'happy ending'!

A happy ending needs to be in a story with serious heartache and uncertainty. Think of Franz Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946). George Bailey (the James Stewart character) goes through some very bleak moments before the truly wonderful ending. Also, a personal favourite, Billy Wilder's *The Apartment* (1960), has aspiring insurance employee C.C. Baxter (played by Jack Lemmon) and lift operator Fran Kubelik (Shirley MacLaine) taken advantage of by their ruthless bosses. Only in the last few minutes of the film, is the heartache resolved and love conquers all.

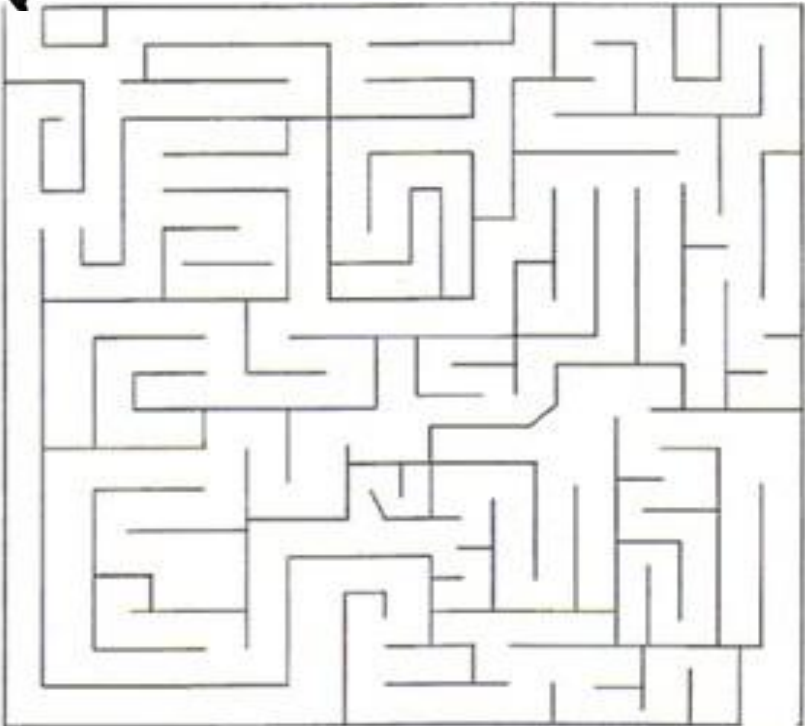


I am sure we will need some 'feel good films' even when life returns to normal. We are on the lookout for some for when the film club resumes. In the meantime, what are your Lockdown Films?

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



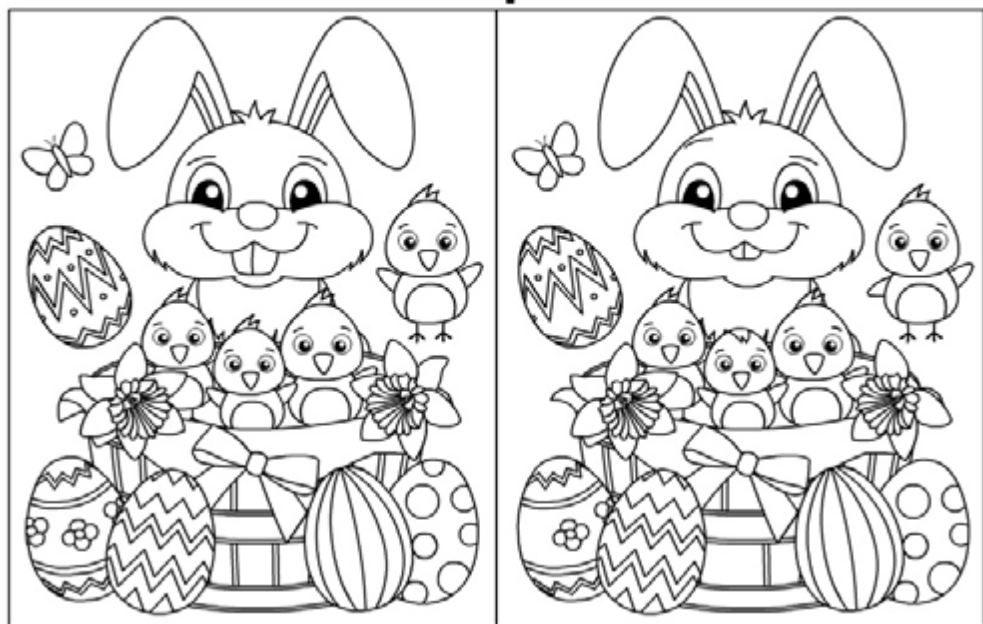
Can you help Fenella find her way home?



Tea Break

Colour it in – but can you spot the 10 differences...

Spot 10 differences!



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200 Club (North Curry Sports Ltd)

Congratulations to Richard Perry who won £15.

There will be only one prize for next few months for individual members, as club memberships are suspended due to inactivity (due to Covid).

Why not join the 200 Club? To join, simply

email: whitestreet@northcurry.com and we'll get in touch about setting up a standing order.

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 to the public. You may see authorised users in the pavilion and workers maintaining the pitches or doing other jobs, but please respect their space and safety.

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, just over two acres, is in two parts, with the lower 'new' part has been in use since 1952. The upper 'old' part has gravestones that are centuries old, and includes war memorials. A plan of the graves, complete with the names of the occupants, can be found in the church porch. This is 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 flora carpets amongst the headstones and trees.

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.

There are also regulations governing the condition of the churchyard and graves, designed to ensure it remains a special peaceful place.

Will Planning and Legacies

Having a Will in place, for when the time comes, is strongly recommended for all individuals, to ensure your final wishes are clearly laid out to friends and family.

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

And finally for your amusement...

A middle aged cyclist from Hull

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And pedalled her bike far

To startle the good folk of Trull. *by Sally Whittet*

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Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Churchwarden	David Akerman	01823 490234
Churchwarden & Verger	Mary Piers	01823 491434
Churchwarden 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

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

Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis	01823 490599
Advertising Enquiries	Sue Harrison	use email below
Magazine Distribution	Jenny Satchwell	01823 490463
	or Paul Scott	01823 490679

General enquiries - email: ncurrymag@gmail.com

Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Herons	01823 490423	www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/
Methodist Minister	01823 334854	Revd Deborah Kirk
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	www.northcurry.com
Post Office/ Stores	01823 490261	
Primary School	01823 490423	www.northcurryschool.co.uk
Surgery	01823 490505	www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk

Community Police officers:

Tony Wearmouth 07885 655312 tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Steve Chapman 07889 655196 steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk

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