

# ST PETER & ST PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE

## CHRISTMAS AT NORTH CURRY COFFEE SHOP

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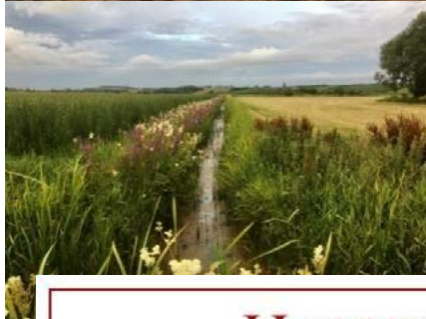


Many lined the streets of North Curry as we said good bye to Pat Curtis, see page 21 for her tribute.

At least we did not forget, see story on page 27 and to get us in the festive mood, Tom Jeanes talks Christmas Carols on page 29.

# December 2020

A FREE PUBLICATION



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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/](http://www.northcurrychurch.co.uk/) email [ncurrymag@gmail.com](mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com)

For local events, check out the Parish Council website and calendar at [www.northcurry.com](http://www.northcurry.com)

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Full Page: mono £100 for the year - £10 per single issue – Colour £200per annum

Half Page: mono £60 - £6/issue - Colour £120pa

Quarter Page: £40 - £4/issue – Colour £80pa

Enquiries to Sue Harrison at [ncurrymag@gmail.com](mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com).

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

The views expressed in the magazine are those of the individuals/societies who send in items. The deadline for contributions is the 13th of the previous month. The editor reserves the right to change any copy provided without recourse to the contributor. Copyright 2020.

Gathering and use of information in carrying out its tasks, North Curry PCC is involved in collecting personal data, addresses etc. We take privacy and confidentiality seriously, and fully comply with the principles of the United Kingdom GDPR/ Data Protection Act 2018.

# PRODUCE

**Saturday**

**5<sup>th</sup> December &**

**19<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am-11.30am**

# MARKETS

**With our dark evenings...**

Please ensure whilst out and about along our main road after dark, you can be seen by motorists by wearing hi-viz reflective clothing.

Do not forget your torch on your evening run tonight...



## Announcements/ News in Brief

North Curry Parish Church

Congratulations to our 200 Club Winners

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

### September

1<sup>st</sup> Mary Haycock

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Stanhope-White

3<sup>rd</sup> Anna Vile

### October

1<sup>st</sup> John de Winton

2<sup>nd</sup> Jean Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> John Attwood

### November

1<sup>st</sup> Geoffrey Durrant

2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Cable

3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Flemming

To join, please contact Sue Bethune on 490179. Players must be over 18yrs, with all proceeds going towards the churchyard maintenance.

£18 per year – monthly draws plus a special £60 Christmas Prize Draw (not £100 as stated in previous issue – oops –the treasurer became dizzy on seeing that error). We thank all subscribers for their support - Good luck in the draws!

Currently, the 5<sup>th</sup> December Produce Market is hoped to be back in action assuming lockdown restrictions are lifted in early December, We also hope to have another a special Christmas Market on 19<sup>th</sup> December, but this is subject to restrictions easement and alike. Look out for fliers nearer the time.

The magazine delivery charge for 2021 is due next month.

The fee for 2021 will be £10 (from £6) – the price in shoe leather is going up!

The editorial team and the PCC would like to thank our delivery volunteers for their dedication throughout the year, come monsoon, blizzard or shine. And I am sure that those that get their magazine delivered, are equally grateful for your ever reliable endeavours. Keep up the good work...

On behalf of the members of the church, we thank our wardens, Mary Piers and David Akerman, for all their fortitude and dedication in keeping the church running during what has been, a very frustrating and demanding year. Please continue to give them your support and thanks throughout 2021, which again looks to be another challenging time.

The Benefice continues in Vacancy. Two applicants replied to the advertisement and were interviewed (by Zoom) on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The outcome of that process will be published in January's issue.

It was noted that the tribute article to Charles Townshend contained an error on his tenure as vicar. He served as vicar to North Curry from 1995 to 2006, not from 1984 as stated in the October issue.

## Editor's Comments

Into the last month of this year, and what a year!

In the February issue, I reported that this year was the Chinese New Year of New Beginnings. And if this year wasn't a year of new beginnings, I don't know would be! Upheaval and disruption the new normal; no meetings, social distancing and masks the new order; all with no apparent end in sight.

But enough of that mope, the season of ~~lockdown~~ goodwill is with us, and being English, we shall typically make the most of it, and get on with life. Thankfully, we didn't need a BORIS (Britons Organising Rendezvous In Secret) group for the War Memorial Service in the end. Into December, whilst events are few, we hope to have the Produce Market open on 2 market days this month, one on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with another festive theme on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The parish church has organised a crib nativity setting in the shop window, with a selection of wishes from the primary school children. Whatever your Christmas wish is this year, may it be stress free and enjoyable where we can firmly put 2020 in the rear view, and move on into 2021 with a sense of renewed optimism that we can just get back on with things.

Which leads me to thank all of those that have contributed articles during year; those helpful snippets that gave us something to ponder over whilst we were cocooned in our abodes.

And the magazine would not have been possible without the production support of Paul and Graham at Character Graphics. A huge Thank You gentlemen!

And lastly for now, apparently, the magazine is once again popular. We have increased the print run slightly to 220 copies, but beyond that it would significantly increase the printing costs. Maybe a guaranteed copy to your door is the answer to avoid disappointment!

Of course, I put the popularity increase down to an easy fire lighter needed on these cooler dark evenings...  
Or maybe once shredded, it does make a good bed for hamsters...



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## CHRISTMAS AT NORTH CURRY COFFEE SHOP



With the hope that lockdown restrictions are lifted, we will be open for the sale of Arts, Crafts, Jewellery and Cards every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 2-4 pm commencing Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December until Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

We have many local suppliers who have been busy creating a new selection of gifts and decorations including pottery, knitwear, needle felting and embroidery kits made in North Curry, glassware made in Ashill, fabric creations made in Curry Rivel and wooden puzzles from Taunton. Prices start from £3 and where possible please pay by card. Hand sanitizer will be provided and masks must be worn; only one customer at a time please. Unfortunately we are still not in a position to offer any food or drink due to Covid19 restrictions. We look forward to welcoming you in for a browse.

### **North Curry Sport Ltd (White Street sports ground)**



### **200 Club (North Curry Sports Ltd)**

#### **Congratulations to these winners:**

Helen Kittermaster: £25, Trevor Steer: £15, Lewis Perry: £10

### **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.

### **Improvements**

We have been able to improve access by installing a new footpath (for when we can use the pavilion again) and driveway to access the garage, paths, fencing and hedgework in the junior football field. In addition, a new storage container was installed to store equipment we have accumulated due to increased participation. All of this work has been funded by a Somerset West and Taunton Council Section 106 grant.

## The Rev'd Martin Mudie writes

As I write, in England, we are all in the midst of Lockdown 2. Normally at this time in November I would be busily trying to avoid all the multifarious Christmas adverts all desperately trying to part me from my money in good time for the great day.

However in the midst of the pandemic we all have more important things on our mind. We have all just heard the really good and encouraging news that the first of the vaccinations is nearly ready, if judged safe, for distribution.

None of us know what Christmas this year will be like. There are, as yet, many unanswered questions. Will we be able to meet up with family and friends? What will the new restrictions be after lockdown?

No one has the answers, so we will have to approach what has been called the "festive season" with hope and uncertainty.

Yet these two emotions are at the heart of the Christmas story. It involves a young and heavily pregnant mother being forced to leave the security of home, family and friends to travel to an unknown town, with no accommodation to give birth for the first time, with only her husband to help. Yet Mary and Joseph had within their hearts the knowledge that they had the Saviour of the world in their care and that God would never desert or abandon them. So they set out with the feelings of hope and trepidation very uncertain of their future.

We find ourselves in that exact same situation.

None of us knows what the New Year will bring, but Christians believe that when Jesus' earthly life came to an end and he ascended to his heavenly home, he made us all an eternal promise. Jesus promised that he would be with us in spirit, throughout all generations, to the end of time and that whatever difficulties we face, we do not face them alone. The light and love that shines forth from Bethlehem on 25<sup>th</sup> December is sufficient to bring hope and joy to the world, wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year.

With Every Blessing

Martin

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Renewal fees for  
2021 due on 1<sup>st</sup> January!

Please contact  
Jenny Satchwell on 490463

Letter from the Right  
Reverend Ruth Worsley,  
Bishop of Taunton

## **Bringing comfort and joy**

One of our oldest (16th century) English carols tells us that the story of Jesus' birth as a baby into our world, is good news, bringing "tidings of comfort and joy". And don't we just need comfort and joy at this moment!

We know that Christmas will not be the same this year. The usual gatherings of family and friends will not have the same shape this year. Traditional carol services and Midnight Mass may not be possible either but that doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled!

This year more than ever we need to carol the words, 'comfort and joy'. We need to find new and novel ways of telling the Christmas story. The Church of England and our own diocesan team have provided plenty of ideas by which we can bring Christmas to our communities. I'm going to be both a tax collector and a donkey in some of our diocesan video re-telling of the story!

Perhaps even more important is how we can personally be messengers of comfort and joy. Who do you know who might need you to bring them so comfort this Christmas? Maybe someone who is alone, especially anxious, grieving a loved one? How could you offer comfort and support?

And as for joy...? Perhaps we ourselves need to rediscover the joy of the Christmas story. What could be more wonderful than knowing that God loves us so much that even though it was costly, He chose to come and join us in a world, dark with fear and suffering, and bring the light of His presence!

Bishop Ruth





## The Athelney Benefice – Service Rota December 2020

Service Rota for **Advent and Christmas** (correct as at 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020)

### 6<sup>th</sup> December

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Keith Powell
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	Mr Ralph Roberts

9<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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### 13<sup>th</sup> December

### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09.30	Burrowbridge	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Morning Prayer	Dr Robert Dunning
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
16.30	Burrowbridge	Readings and music	tba

16<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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### 20<sup>th</sup> December

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Lyng	Carols and Readings	Revd Martin Mudie
16.00	North Curry	Carols and Readings	Mr Ralph Roberts
18.30	Stoke St Gregory	Carols and Readings	Revd Martin Mudie

24<sup>th</sup> December

### CHRISTMAS EVE

18.00	Lyng	First Mass of Christmas	Revd Martin Mudie
19.30	Burrowbridge	'Bethlehem' Mass	Revd Martin Mudie
22.00	Stoke St Gregory	First Mass of Christmas	Revd Keith Powell

25<sup>th</sup> December

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00	North Curry	Christmas Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
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### 27<sup>th</sup> December

### JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

09.30	Burrowbridge	Morning Prayer	tba
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie

30<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**3<sup>rd</sup> January****THE EPIPHANY** *anticipated*

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Mike Haslam
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	Dr Robert Dunning

*6<sup>th</sup> January**(Wednesday)* The Epiphany

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**10<sup>th</sup> January****THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

09.30	Burrowbridge	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Morey Andrews
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Prebendary Jane Haslam

*13<sup>th</sup> January**(Wednesday)*

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**17<sup>th</sup> January****THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Morning Prayer	Revd Morey Andrews
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie

*20<sup>th</sup> January**(Wednesday)*

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**24<sup>th</sup> January****THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

09.30	Burrowbridge	Morning Prayer	Dr Robert Dunning
10.00	North Curry	Morning Prayer	Mr Ralph Roberts
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie

*27<sup>th</sup> January**(Wednesday)*

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**31<sup>st</sup> January****THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST (CANDLEMAS)** *anticipated*

09.30	Lyng	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie

*3<sup>rd</sup> February**(Wednesday)*

16.30	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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**7<sup>th</sup> February****THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
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09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Very Revd Dr John Davies
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	tba

After the All Saints' / All Souls' service on 1<sup>st</sup> November, the other plans we had for services last month were abandoned. Some nimble footwork by the Parish Council and Churchwardens restored the Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial that we had been instructed would not be possible this year. The flower ladies also installed poppies in the church to the glory of God and in honoured memory of the men of this parish who fell in the Great War 1914-1918, 1939-1945 – and in subsequent armed conflicts.

Services in December were already pared down – let's hope we can keep to them this month. The season of Advent should already have started on 29<sup>th</sup> November, lighting the first candle of the Advent wreath (although Advent calendars begin on 1<sup>st</sup> December). In sequence, the candles in Advent purple represent the Patriarchs Abraham and David, Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist (a splash of pink), the Blessed Mother of Christ, and finally on 25<sup>th</sup> December the white candle for Christ himself physically coming into the world, all five candles alight.

During December (if not before), lights, posters and tableaux round the village – and hopefully in the church – will lead us into the Nativity season, which continues until Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Please don't take your decorations down too soon – our lives need to be brightened these dark winter evenings.



We are pleased to announce that the collections received at the Christmas Services held in North Curry will be given to the Children's Hospice, South West.

## Magazine Delivery – Price Increase

What's this about a price increase you may well say – the magazine's free these days isn't it?



YES indeed it is – and so it remains – if you're prepared to go and pick up a copy yourself. But as many will know we also offer a distribution service – and this is what is now changing.

The distribution charge from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will be £10 per annum. It's still a great deal. This gets you a reserved copy, delivered to your doorstep at the beginning of every month. And this for a fraction more than the cost of a first class stamp! Less than the cost of a newspaper for sure ...

A guaranteed copy is certainly advantageous – ensures you get your copy before supplies run out – and saves you having to remember to go out and collect one. Your distributor will turn out in the rain – so you don't have to!

And excellent value it remains – a quality publication with news of what's going on, not just in the church but around the village generally, together with interesting reports and features covering different areas of life. And including advertisements from useful local suppliers.

Do continue to support it!

It's worth bearing in mind that the increased revenue will help offset rising publication costs. We need to maintain and hopefully increase the quantity we print in order to ensure a continuing effort to inform the local community. And you our readers are an important part of this.

If though for any reason you don't wish to be supplied in future – the magazine can be collected free from various locations: the post office, the church, including boxes by the church gates. But be there promptly early in the month.

If you continue as a subscriber, which we hope you will, your friendly distributor will be along at the turn of the year to collect your £10. Happy reading !



If as a non-subscriber you're reading this and would like to use the delivery service, just pick up the phone and talk to either

Jenny Satchwell on 490463 or

Paul Scott on 490679.

## News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

Revd Deborah Kirk, Methodist Minister 01823 334854/ [deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com](mailto:deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com)



As can be seen, the chapel is still standing, as it has done for many years, the Autumn colours are beginning to show in the garden and all seems right. But there is something missing and that something is of course, the congregation.

When the chapel re-opened recently, the congregation and preachers returned happily for the services, albeit carried out minus any singing (which is hard for Methodism which, as everyone knows, was 'Born in Song').

Now we are back where we started, total lockdown. But, sad though the situation is, we can still take advantage of the online services every Sunday thanks to Deborah, Tony and the production team at Rowbarton.

We are also maintaining contact with each other by letters, cards and the good old telephone.

Our usual programme for December would contain the Taize service and the Carol service with, possibly a repeat of last year's lovely Nativity experience in Dick's barn

So, Christmas will not be the same in 2020. But that will not stop us celebrating the birth of Jesus.



The Methodists at North Curry /Curland Church therefore, send Christmas greetings to all friends in the village and elsewhere. Plus hopes for a peaceful and blessed 2021.

## Churchwardens' Report

As another year draws to a close one naturally reflects. What a year 2020 has been for us all. The dreaded Covid has dominated our way of life, and the Church life, to a very large extent. We have all experienced emotions of anxiety, fear, weariness, loneliness and sadly for some ill health. A very unsettled feeling of trying to discern what is going on and what the future may hold. One must remember that this is quite natural and one is not alone in having these feelings.

It has not helped having to close the Church for Services, however private prayer continues and come December we hope to be back to conducting our usual pattern of Services. As is noted elsewhere in the Magazine Remembrance Sunday went ahead with a very moving Service Officiated by Rev Martin Mudie. Many took part and full respect was given to the Fallen - and indeed Covid with distancing!

You will see the Church Calendar is on sale in the Post Office and sincere thanks to Julian Comrie for his valuable assistance to the team, in producing same. The Photographic Competition proved a huge success and we will be launching the same thing next year. So cameras at the ready folk.

As this is being written, preparations are well under way to putting the Crib in position in one of the Post Office windows. How very grateful we are to Alison and Noel for the wonderful assistance they offer us.

Closing date for submissions to the magazine is prior to interviews taking place for a Vicar, on 26<sup>th</sup> November. We have two strong Candidates and by the time you read this we pray we may be able to tell you a Vicar has been appointed. Prayers will surely get answered!

May we take this opportunity to offer our deepest gratitude to one and all for your tremendous support, love and the care shown. We are keeping our Church and Community alive and positive. We wish for a Happy Christmas and peaceful, prosperous and contented 2021.

Churchwardens

Mary Piers 01823 491 434

David Akerman 01823 490 234

For those of you missing a quiz, or are stuck in lockdown, here are some questions to challenge your general knowledge.

Answers on page 29

1. In which town do the Flintstones live?
2. Which animal is regarded as the one with the longest lifespan?
3. What is the outer layer of the skin called?
4. Who rejoined Take That in 2013?
5. What does an invertebrate not have?
6. Who was the tallest of Robin Hood's Men?
7. In "Countdown" how many letters are selected for the letters game?
8. Which nation suffered a 9.0 earthquake in March 2011?
9. What did Constantinople become known as in March 1930?
10. In which English town did Charles and Camilla marry?
11. In a tennis tie-break, what is the largest winning margin?
12. What do philatelists collect?
13. Rudolf Hess was the last prisoner in which jail?
14. How many edges in a cube?
15. At what age does a filly become classified as a mare?
16. What type of creature is a Pacific sea wasp?
17. Which star sign has the bull as its symbol?
18. How many are there in a baker's dozen?
19. The South Pole is located on which Continent?
20. How to cure Covid19 and the lockdown?

It wouldn't be Christmas without a cracker joke...

Arnold Schwarzenegger was going to a fancy dress party dressed as Tchaikovsky, but when he found out someone else was already going as Tchaikovsky, he said... "I'll be Bach"

## **Crib display with wishes**

This December, one of the shop windows will have a Crib Nativity setting for the whole month. The backdrop is a banner with a selection of wishes from the Primary School children. We read through an interesting variety of wishes... the usual you would expect included, more presents, world peace, an end to covid, but the one that stood out to give us a chuckle was this one. One darling cherub wishes for Christmas that...

"Glasses for Daddy and a new hair dryer for Mummy."

Well, it's the little things that are important... after all!

## **The Heart of Christmas**, by Zillah Sykes

Four o'clock, and dusk was settling upon the village. One by one, lights went on in the cottages, giving them a cosy glow. Coloured lights, strung around windows and trees added a festive sparkle and a cold nip in the air promised a frosty night.

Angela, Georgia her daughter and Amber their Springer spaniel lived in one of those cosy cottages. They had moved in just over a year ago and the place was beginning to feel like home. It would be their first real Christmas here for last year they had both been exhausted, first by the divorce and then the move, and they had still been living out of boxes.

Angela looked appreciatively round the room. The woodburning stove gave out a warm glow, much appreciated by Amber who lay basking in its heat, while Georgia, curled up on the sofa, was reading a book. The little Christmas tree was ablaze with coloured lights and surrounded with brightly wrapped packages. More lights were strung around the mantelpiece and a few cards added their seasonal cheer. The aroma of warm mince pies drifted in from the kitchen, Angela's final preparation for the following day. Her eyes caught the clock on the mantelpiece, a quarter past four already!

"It's time to go!" she told Georgia with unusual urgency. Georgia laid down her book reluctantly, unconvinced of their need to hurry. "It's a very popular service. We need to get there early!"

Wrapped up warmly, they stepped out into the cold of the winter afternoon, walking church -wards to the joyful sound of the ringing of the bells. From deep within, there rose a sense of happy anticipation of celebrating Christmas together in the church and the village they now called home.

Once inside the church they found that a good number of people had already gathered, many of them children, and the place buzzed with excitement. They were greeted by Bob Bailey and his son Jack, who both looked very smart for this special service. Bob welcomed them with a warm smile as he offered them a service sheet. "And a Merry Christmas to you both!"

Jack smiled at Georgia. "Good to see you again!" He said, finding it difficult to take his eyes off her. She looked lovelier than he



remembered, for the cold December air had caused her cheeks to glow and her eyes to sparkle. Georgia smiled and nodded. They had met at the Harvest supper, just before she had returned to university. No time to talk now, though, for the church was filling up fast.

Angela had found seats alongside a family whose children chattered excitedly, their eyes shining with the expectancy that, very soon, all their hopes and dreams would be realised.

The church looked magnificent in its Christmas attire. Taking central place, as always, stood the altar dressed for the season of the birth of the Christ Child in white and gold, its candles burning brightly. A Christmas tree stood, straight and tall, pointing heavenwards, its dark green branches arrayed with golden lights, while generous amounts of holly and ivy, evergreen and symbols of eternal life, decorated every available space.

Meanwhile, villagers continued to pour in, squeezing tightly into pews and standing around the edges. Then everyone fell silent, as the vicar rose to welcome them, and the service began. "Once in Royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed..." sang the choir as they progressed through the church. Then the congregation joined in, remembering again the words of this much loved carol. Presently the children were invited to come forward and, gently strumming his guitar, the vicar led them in singing their own carol, "Little Donkey," which tells the story of Mary and Joseph's long and arduous journey to Bethlehem, with Mary riding a sure footed little donkey. Then, with the children seated around the crib scene, he continued the story.

"When they arrived at Bethlehem, the town was busy and the inns were full. So they had to stay the night in a stable and that was where Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him up warmly and laid him in the ox's manger, which was full of soft hay, and He soon fell asleep. Mary slept too, while Joseph kept watch, by the light of a silver star that shone brightly into the stable." Then, pointing to the figures of the angels and shepherds, the vicar went on to tell of the visit of some excited shepherds, who had left their sheep out on the hillside.

"We saw angels," they said, "lots of angels, singing praises to God, and one of them told us to come here, to worship this Baby, who is Christ, the Lord!"

Again the children sang, to the gentle strumming of the guitar,  
“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head...” and everyone sat very quietly as the children returned to their parents.  
As the service came to a close the lights in the church were dimmed, the candles on the altar burning more brightly. From their flames, the candles of everyone present were lit, from candle to candle, until the whole church was full of light.  
“Awesome,” thought Georgia, “truly awesome.”  
Then, with the blessing and the injunction to:  
“Take the Light and Love of Christ with you into the world!” the service ended and the congregation surged towards the door, calling out greetings to one another as they went.  
Eventually Angela and Georgia emerged into the dark of a cold winter's night with only the moon and stars to guide them home.  
“Would you allow me to walk you home?” The sound of Jack's voice behind them surprised them both. “I have a torch!” Its beam shone brightly on the path ahead and with Jack walking beside Georgia and Angela, they made their way through the village. Conversation flowed easily and all too soon they had reached the cottage. Not wanting their time together to end, Georgia found herself saying, “Would you like to come in? Mum's made some mince pies....” With the invitation gladly accepted, their first real Christmas in the cottage became their best yet.

THE END

The North Curry Parish Church 200 Club always has room for one more!

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## Still locked down

We hope that the November lockdown has kept the Coronavirus sufficiently at bay to allow an easing of restrictions for the holidays. The NCS Committee wish you all a safe and

healthy Christmas and virus-free new year.

We have decided to delay the start of the 2021 programme until at least March. With the best will in the world we don't think the Society will be able to gather before then. Speakers are lined up ready to leap into action when allowed: the talks will include road safety, local history, a high flyer(!), prehistorical records and industrial heritage.

Sadly, Pat Curtis passed away quietly on 17th October. She was a great character and we shall all miss her. Among many things in the church and village, she was a longstanding member of the NCS Committee and used to source and marshal speakers for our meetings.

Over the years the Society has hosted talks on natural history, archaeology, traditional farming practice, local wildlife and vegetation, biography (and autobiography), historic buildings, West Country culture, tradition and legends, local business, professions and occupations... However after more than 30 years there is still much to explore.

Whether you are a visitor, new to the Society or an established member, we look forward to welcoming you to our third-Wednesday monthly evening meetings in the Village Hall when we can reconvene.

Joint Chairmen: **Gill Slocombe** and **Sherry Keith-Welsh**

**PAT CURTIS** 7<sup>th</sup> December 1925 – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Julian Comrie writes:** There is a saying that if you want something done, ask a busy person, and Pat seemed to me to personify that ability. She always seemed to be busy, yet would cheerfully take on more tasks as they came her way.

Pat and I were both committee members of the North Curry Society simultaneously for a while in the early part of the new century; I was an odd-job man, she had a real, demanding job - the responsibility for

producing the calendar – a list of speakers or performers for the coming year - and was very much in charge of it. At the appropriate meeting, when the calendar was being discussed, she would look at me and smile, and say 'I've put you in for another slide-show in October, Julian' (which was often some 18 months ahead). It was no good umming and ahing – that was that – fixed with her charming smile, then straight on to the next item. It always worked! She served on the committee for many years, and was worth her weight in gold.

**Alan Billingham writes:** As the cortege passed through the village on 12<sup>th</sup> November we sadly said our farewells to another stalwart of village life. Pat and Roger both took active parts in CATS and later in North Curry Society (founded in 1985).

Pat was a very good actress and appeared on stage many times in performances varying from pantomime to serious drama and thrillers. Roger also took to the stage but was a little more laid back, preferred comedy roles, and tended to ad-lib his way along. We can still see Pat, sitting in the audience wondering what was coming next!

When CATS folded Pat joined North Curry Society committee and immediately came into her own seeking out speakers for the monthly meetings. She undertook this work for more than 13 years during which she came up with some memorable speakers of which the best was probably a local Somerset farmer whose life story reduced the audience to helpless laughter.

She finally retired from the committee in September 2018 and was sadly missed by the Society.

**Judith Hincks adds** that Pat will be remembered with joy. She was always happy, and her mood was infectious. It was a privilege to have known and worked with her. I knew Pat before I first saw Pat, sitting at the table inside the door of the Village Hall at the North Curry Society meetings greeting people as they came in. She was one of the many people who became a firm friend after I moved here 20 years ago.

Pat's smiling welcome as one entered the door set the tone for the atmosphere at all the meetings. She was one of the reasons that I offered to take on the position of Minutes Secretary when that became vacant. I knew that if she were part of the committee then I would be happy working with the other members of it, which proved to be true. She leaves a space that will be hard to fill.

# Patricia Curtis

7th December 1925 –

17th October 2020

It was with great sadness that Pat passed away peacefully at her home on 17th October 2020, aged 94 years. Pat will be sadly missed by all her family, friends and neighbours. Due to the current situation, only a private family service took place at Taunton Crematorium Chapel on 12<sup>th</sup> November. The streets of North Curry were lined as the cortege made its way from her home in Overlands to the Church, where Rev John Tyler gave a blessing, before her final journey over the Levels and onto the crematorium.



Robin, Ian and Jeremy write of their Mum....

## **Knitting together**

One across and seven down? Pat loved her crosswords, first with Roger and then, in later years, in her beloved conservatory telephoning with sister Rae. It was an everyday ritual. So too her daily walk. Pat walked North Curry's footpaths, fields and pavements until she no longer could.

Between the crosswords and walks sat people, especially children and young mothers. In Jamaica, where she lived for 8 years, Pat held parties for local orphans. She loved pretending with youngsters. And was she really over 70 when she raced her granddaughters across a field, ending up laughing in a nettle bed? Well, Pat had survived a WW2 bomb dropping through the family home.

Life was for living, but also it was for caring.

It is no surprise that Pat started her career as a Lady Almoner's assistant at Croydon General Hospital in 1941. She went on to work at Guy's Hospital and later volunteered for the Family Planning Association in the sixties. A postmistress and school secretary followed, but her last "job" was volunteering on the Maternity Ward at Musgrove Park Hospital. In addition to front of house, Pat was given a wheelchair to push expectant mothers to the delivery wards. She was thrilled to receive an award from the hospital, followed by an invitation to Buckingham Palace.

Pat and Roger spent the majority of their life together in Surrey, but they loved their move to North Curry in 1986. The community became another family: amateur dramatics with CATs83, North Curry Society, Saturday morning coffee groups, film club, book club, lunch club and - towards the end - the knitters circle. Pat also served as Secretary to the Parish Council, volunteered at the coffee shop, delivered the Pink Paper, and helped to clean the Church, before being confirmed at the age of 80. She loved attending Sunday services, which gave her great joy. In between Pat visited her son Jeremy and family in Australia seven times from 2001!

Pat's trick for a happy life was indeed one across and seven down (8,8)... *knitting together!* A stitch or two might be dropped but if you kept the show on the road, with a chuckle, willingness, and with friends and neighbours, then a lovely pattern might come to life.

Pat's family would like to thank the North Curry community for all the support that Pat received during the recent months of illness. We were very moved by the wonderful turnout for her final procession through the village and for the brief service held outside the Church during a window of bright sunshine.



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# Christmas Gift Shop

To be held at the  
North Curry Community Coffee Shop



Opening on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays,  
2-4 pm from 3<sup>rd</sup> December to 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Locally made pottery, glassware, woodwork, knitwear,  
needle felting, textiles , jewellery, artwork and cards.

*Facemasks must be worn and hand sanitiser used before entering the shop.  
One customer at a time please - Contactless card payments accepted  
No food drink or toilet facilities available*





## North Curry Wildlife Group

Community Woodland Update, by Phil Stone

### Managing our hedgerows

Hedgerows are a distinctive feature of our countryside and around our villages. They are particularly important as a habitat for birds and other wildlife.

#### Hedge management

Hedgerows are historic features which, for centuries, were maintained by hand with annual cutting and periodic laying or coppicing to reinvigorate them. This is now rarely possible for our agricultural hedgerows due to the cost of labour. The flail is now the standard tool for managing hedgerows and one way of looking at this is that had the flail not been invented we would probably have lost a lot more of our hedges. The problem is that many people feel that hedges are cut too severely and this reduces their value as a wildlife habitat.

#### Community woodland hedges

At North Curry community woodland and around some sides of the white street sports fields hedges have been left to grow and they are have high banks of flowers in Spring and berries in Autumn. See photos of Hawthorn and blackthorn.



#### Is there a better way to manage field boundary hedges?

There are ways in which the position could be improved. Certain hedges could be just cut on the sides and left to grow up so that they flowered and fruited, providing food for birds, bees and nesting sites. This approach could be rotated around a farm holding so that at any one time a certain percentage would then be left high and then laid to rejuvenate them. Other hedges could then be left high to take their place.

## Windows in the hedges

In order to maintain views across the surrounding countryside from the woodland a series of 'windows' have been cut through the hedge so that an occasional view can be seen. See photo of view to Aller ridge in the distance.



## Newly planted hedges

Where new hedges have been planted these are being managed by hand cutting, and some selected trees and shrubs left to grow up within the hedge. This enables the views to be maintained but also some shrubs to flower and fruit. The new hedges contain a wider range of species than the long established ones approx 250m of new hedges have been planted around the White Street site. See photo.



## Garden hedges.

Hedges around gardens are particularly important in our villages, especially for wildlife and to keep the green appearance of properties. Unfortunately there is a trend for people to take out hedges to and replace them with timber fences. While there is cost to maintaining hedges there is equally a cost to fence replacement as they do not last that long. The recent improvement of

electric hand hedge cutting tools means that it is easier to keep hedges cut than it was with clippers. Think about the nesting birds before you decide to remove your boundary hedge! Also think about whether you have room to plant a native hedge

## At least we did not forget

In last month's issue, I stated that the War Memorial Service would not take place, due to a by-law introduced by the Parish Council in conjunction with the national Covid19 lockdown. Fortunately, good sense got the better of that rather ridiculous decision.

Mary Piers adds, on a very mild and sunny Remembrance Sunday, villagers gathered at the War Memorial to pay their respects to the fallen from the two World Wars.



The Reverend Martin Mudie officiated. Sadly no bugler this year as the young man was protecting his young family as Regulations dictate. Considering we could not publicise the occasion widely, we had a really good number attend, all suitably distancing.

Following the 2 minute silence wreaths were laid by:

Alex Drake on behalf of the British Legion.

Caroline Vaughan and Jeanne leader on behalf of the Parish Council.

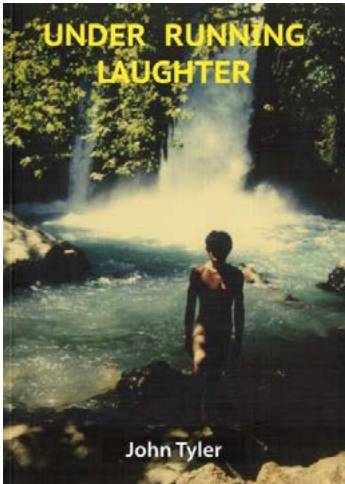
Mary Piers and David Akerman on behalf of the Parish Church.

The Service concluded with a blessing followed by all singing the National Anthem.



**A number of wreaths** were placed within the church, along with a beautiful flower arrangement by Anne Williams.





Revd John Tyler, although retired and supposedly relaxing at home, has published (yet another) a poetry book – the one opposite is just one of many to be found in his book.

His book is available from the church, price £4, with every £2 going back to the church funds.

Readiness.

May I be ready when the call shall come  
to set out on that voyage without a glance  
behind me. Joy shall fill the sails. The thrum  
of tautened mainsheet in the frolic dance  
of freshening wind, the sparkle on the foam,  
the yelping cry of herring gulls – all these  
shall summon me towards my real home  
which lies far, far beyond Earth's troubled seas.

O let me be prepared, O let me leave  
no tattered flotsam of my weary years  
as wreckage on the shore ; let me believe  
I can transcend, through Grace, all hopes and fears.

How eagerly I long to be set free :  
O my dear friends, no need to weep for me !

A reader's review... Probably the greatest piece of work since William Shakespeare, this book now makes a great paperweight for my desk.

*Billy Rattlesword*

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Tom Jeanes provides a festive reminder of times gone by, when singing carols was do-able in church! A brief history on some of the more well known carols...

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" is an oddity. It is the only carol that doesn't mention either the Nativity or the season. That's because it wasn't written as a carol at all; the clue being in the line, "Oh hush the noise of mortal strife, and hear the angels sing." The words were written as a poem by an American, Edmund Sears in 1849. After the war against Napoleonic France was over, people looked forward to a time of peace, but uprisings erupted in south America, the war between the United States and Mexico settled into an uneasy truce, and revolutions were threatened in Europe. There was a strong feeling of war weariness prevalent at this time and this reflected it. The music was composed the following year by Richard Storrs Willis (a student of Mendelsohn) who called it simply 'carol'.

"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by Bishop Phillip Brooks of Philadelphia, having been inspired by a visit to the Holy Land in 1865. It was indeed a little town, having only just over a thousand inhabitants at the time. In the year of Jesus's birth it was estimated to have less than 400 people. He wrote it three years later and asked an organist, Lewis Redner, to compose a tune for it. He managed to do so just in time for the Christmas of 1868. Upon it reaching this country, Ralph Vaughan-Williams adapted the tune 'Ploughboy's Dream' to fit the poem and this became the customary music for this side of the Atlantic.

"Once in Royal David's City" was written as a poem by Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of William Alexander, Archbishop of Armagh, Northern Ireland in 1848. Henry Gauntlett, an organist in several London churches set it to music the following year, calling the tune Irby. He was a prolific composer, with more than a thousand tunes attributed to him, although this piece is probably the most famous. By tradition this carol is sung first in the Christmas 'Carols from Kings' broadcast from Kings College Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. The choirboy who sings the solo first verse is picked out by the choirmaster at the last minute, a rather daunting prospect for the individual concerned, since the service is broadcasted live to more than twenty different countries.

I am a little doubtful of the story in "Good King Wenceslas". If the snow was 'deep and crisp and even' how could the poor man see the winter fuel, let alone gather it? Also why should he walk 'a good league hence' when he lives 'right against the forest fence' and could have found firewood much closer home? I do however have no doubt at all about the existence of

Wenceslas himself. He was actually Venceslav Duke of Bohemia (now part of Czech Republic) between 907 and 935 and was well known for his piety and generosity to the poor. His statue stands in the centre of Prague close to St Vitus Cathedral which he partly financed. His popularity with others didn't do him much good; in 935 he was murdered by conspirators led by his brother Boleslaus the Cruel. After his death he was canonised and Pope Otto conferred on him the title of King.

John Mason Neale wrote the carol in 1853 in collaboration with composer Thomas Helmore, who adapted the 13<sup>th</sup> century spring tune 'The Time Is Near For Flowering' to fit the words. It is immaterial if the story in the carol is correct, for it is a good example of Christian giving over the festive period. This tradition has been practised for thousands of years since.

There seems to be some stretching of the facts in "We Three Kings Of Orient Are". Matthew tells us that they were 'Wise Men' and doesn't say how many of them they were. It would be interesting to know their country of origin, but even that wasn't recorded. 'From the east' could mean from the present day Iraq, Iran or Saudi Arabia. Their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh cause some to speculate that they came from Ethiopia, but such commodities were widely traded all around the Middle East at this time, so even this doesn't give us much of a clue. John Henry Hopkins wrote both the carol and its music, initially to be sung by three men, a verse each, then all of them together at the last verse. It has been suggested that the music was influenced by medieval tunes, but it is possible that its semi-marching tones suggests a long journey.

"Hark the Angels Sing" has an illustrious pedigree. It was written in collaboration between the two Methodists Charles Wesley and George Whitefield to be sung with solemn music on Christmas Day. This didn't last long for in 1840 Felix Mendelssohn wrote the cantata 'Festgesang' and William Cummings adapted it to fit the carol. This immediately made it a very popular piece both here and Germany, then to many other countries in the world. Oddly, it was banned in Germany between 1937 and 1945 on the grounds that Mendelssohn was a Jew. Although he was born one, he was brought up without religion, then was later baptised as a Christian. This wasn't enough to prevent the carol being declared degenerate. Christmas itself had a slightly uncomfortable position at the time of the Third Reich. Some were reluctant to celebrate a Jewish woman giving birth, indeed a few families thought it politically correct to decorate their homes with pictures of Der Führer instead. In 1945 however pictures of Hitler (now called Der Verführer, the misleader) were quickly discarded, Mendelssohn was reinstated and Germany once again became one of the main setters of Christmas traditions.

Although I always liked "O Come All Ye Faithful" ever since I was a boy, it puzzled me more than a little. Why didn't it rhyme? And some of the lines seemed unusual. 'Lo he abhorred not the virgin's womb'. What did that mean? Perhaps I should have learned Latin for it was written in that language by an exiled Catholic, John Francis Wade, and entitled *Adeste Fidelis*. The English translation was written in 1841 by Fredrick Oakeley a Catholic priest, later becoming Canon of Westminster. The splendid tune has been attributed to several composers, John Reading, his son also John, George Fredrick Handel, Christopher Gluck, Thomas Arne and even King John IV of Portugal. Perhaps they all had a hand in it; if this is so then they all should be congratulated for one of the most stirring melodies of all time.

"Silent Night" was written in 1816 by a young priest, Josef Mohr. In 1818 when he was vicar of St Nicholas, Oberndorf, one story goes that the organ was out of action because mice nibbled the bellows, but it was more likely damage by flooding that disabled the instrument. Since it was almost Christmas, he took his composition to a local organist Franz Xaver Gruber, in the nearby village of Arnsdorf and asked him to compose a melody to accompany the carol that could be played with a guitar. Mr Gruber duly obliged and the carol was first sung on Christmas Eve of that year. St Nicholas's Church was eventually destroyed by repeated flooding, and was replaced by the Silent Night Chapel, which still stands today. The Carol became a favourite of Karl Mauracher, who serviced the faulty organ, and took the composition home with him. From there *Stille Nacht* quickly spread throughout Europe. The melody was changed slightly in the 1840s but it was and still is broadly the same as it was in 1818.

This carol seems to be inextricably linked to the Christmas Truce in 1914. We must remember that it wasn't one truce, but a number of small individual truces that occurred that Christmas Eve. Typically they started with German soldiers placing small Christmas trees along their trench systems. They were then lit (a risky action considering the number of British snipers) and carols sung by the soldiers. In one Scots regiment, Private Phillip Maddison saw a lit tree being set up and heard singing from across no-man's-land. He wrote later "Lieutenant Thorventon glanced at his watch and said 'Its eleven o'clock. One more hour men, and we go back. By Berlin time it is midnight. A merry Christmas to everyone. I say, that's rather fine isn't it.' We had begun to hear from the German parapet a rich baritone German voice singing *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*. It was all so strange, it was like being in another world to which one had come through a nightmare; a world finer than the one he had left behind except for beautiful things like music and spring time on his bicycle in the country". Further to the south at daybreak Rifleman A.J. Phillips went out to meet five German soldiers who had been singing carols since dawn. They asked him to arrange a 'you no shoot, we no shoot' day. He took out wine, cakes, chocolates and cigarettes, and met their officer, who was

brought up in London and spoke perfect English. Other British, Belgian and French positions reported the same occurrences, Christmas trees, carol singing and meeting across no-mans-land.

What a pity the truce ended.\*

Silent Night has since been translated into more than 300 languages and dialects. An estimated 2 billion have sung it and in 2011 it was granted Cultural Heritage Status by UNESCO. It was also voted Britain's favourite carol in 2019.

Happy Christmas

Tom Jeanes.

*\*For more information please see Silent Night, The remarkable Christmas Truce of 1914. By Stanley Weintraub.*

## **An Appeal of Bells**

### **What's happening with the renewal of North Curry church bells?**

The short answer is still 'watch this space' – but watch with greater hope. Despite these difficult times, we are confident now that the aim can be achieved: to provide North Curry with a peal of bells, in keeping with the superb church, that will last for the next 150 years or more.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) set up a small committee to plan the programme of renewal and to raise the money. Covid has caused delays (the much-announced and much-postponed jumble sale; and consultation between Bell Captain Darren Woodyer and other operational and technical experts) but a proposal is now ready to be considered by the PCC just about as this magazine goes to press. Assuming it is approved, we can say a lot more in January's edition.

Work has started on gathering the necessary permissions for changes to a listed building and church, also on applying to charitable trusts and foundations for grants that (we hope) will supply the bulk of the funds. Fundraising will begin more widely once we know the scale of major grants that we can attract. All donations will be held in a restricted account: in other words, they can be used only for the bells, not for general church purposes.

We can now claim Gift Aid on donations. In January we shall be writing to everyone who has kindly donated so far, to bring them up to date with the plans and ask if they will sign a Gift Aid form.

If you know of any local charities that might support this work, please talk to Martin Horrox (01823 491349; m@martinhorrox.co.uk).

Geoffrey Dart  
Committee Chair

David Akerman  
Churchwarden



## North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

### Hellebores, by Sue Cable



Hellebores have become a favourite spring plant for many gardeners and bring colour and form early to the garden.

The Christmas rose, *Helleborus niger*, bears large, round, white flat-faced flowers above low-growing mounds of leathery, deep green foliage. These will often begin to flower in December, hence its common name of Christmas rose. It's perfect for growing at the front of a partially shaded border and makes an excellent cut flower – as with any of the hellebores, simply float the blooms in a bowl of water to display them.

Most modern Hellebores sold today are hybrids from various breeding programmes combining the best attributes of *Helleborus niger* and *Helleborus orientalis*. Harvington Hellebores and Ashwood nursery are well known for their breeding programmes. They have produced hellebores in a range of colours – reds, pinks, slate, purple, yellow and white. Spotted and doubles as well. Hellebores will seed around your garden but they rarely come true to the colour of the parent plant. Colours of seedlings can be pale or a bit muddy!

December is a good time to cut off all the last years leaves to prevent hellebore leaf spot, a viral disease which can infect leaves and flowers. Removing the leaves also means the flowers, when they emerge in late winter, are better displayed.

Hellebores are best left to develop into large mature clumps. Unlike many perennials, they don't need to be divided but they do respond well to being fed and mulched in spring and autumn. However, don't cover the crown with mulch as it may rot. They will grow in sun but perform best in part shade. They like a moist but not waterlogged soil and combine well with other spring perennials such as pulmonarias, primulas and brunneras.

The Gardening Club Committee wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a great New Year. Lets hope we will be able to meet sometime in 2021. In the meantime enjoy your winter-flowering shrubs and spring flowers.

As you probably know, North Curry Film Club had to postpone film showings last March due to the lock-down. We hope to resume in March 2021. In the meantime, here is an article that may be of interest:  
 The best Christmas Film...



Many magazines and film websites offer lists of the best Christmas films ever made. What tops your list? Maybe *Miracle on 34th Street*, but will this be the 1947 version with Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle, or the 1994 one with Richard Attenborough? Do you like a musical? So, you might choose *White Christmas*. Made in 1954, it was meant to have Fred Astaire, as well as Bing Crosby, but Fred declined, and his part went to Danny Kaye. You can't go far wrong with Charles Dickens can you – but which of the 100 screen adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* do you go for? There is a wide choice from the 1951 classic with

Alastair Sim as Scrooge, to the Mickey Mouse version from 1983 with Scrooge McDuck or even the 1992 Muppets one with Michael Caine.

However, the regular first choice of all these film lists is the everlasting "It's a Wonderful Life", made in 1946 with James Stewart. Stewart was not sure he was up to doing the role, following his break from acting due to his action in WWII. In fact, Cary Grant was originally going to play the role but when director Franz Capra took over the film, he wanted Stewart. His character, George Bailey, does not have much of a 'wonderful life' for 120 of the 130 minutes of the film. If you know the film, you will agree it has a strong story, at times funny, but mostly emotionally draining. Ultimately it is life-affirming and a well-deserved classic. You can never watch it too many times. We will watch it again this Christmas!

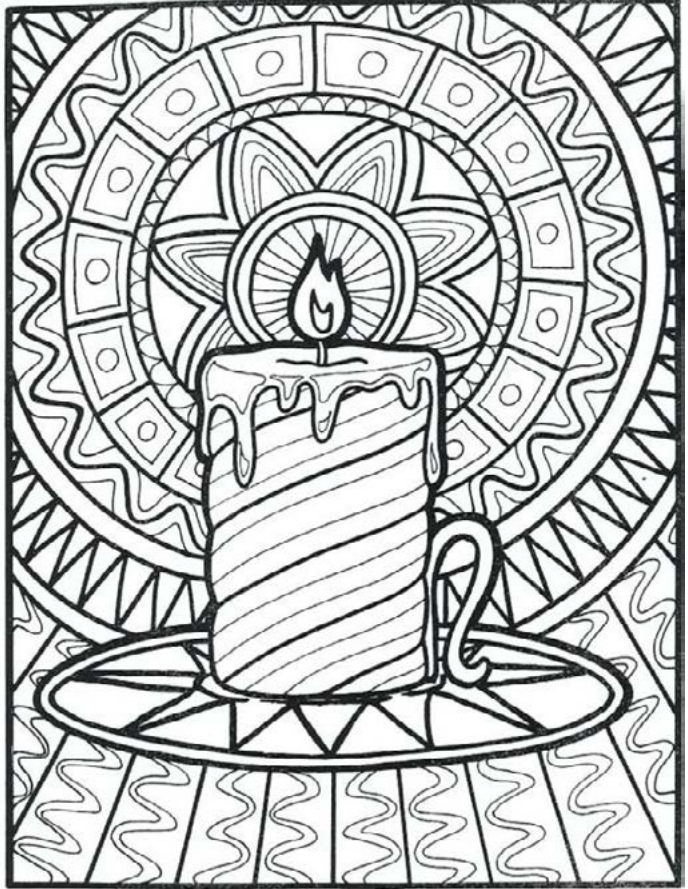


Don Hoyle (in a personal capacity – these views are not necessarily those of the Film Club).

Tea Break

**Answers to the quiz  
from page 15**

1. Bedrock
2. The giant tortoise
3. Epidermis
4. Robbie
5. A backbone
6. Little John
7. Nine
8. Japan
9. Istanbul
10. Windsor
11. 7-o
12. Stamps
13. Spandau
14. 12 edges
15. Five years old
16. Jellyfish
17. Taurus
18. 13
19. Antarctica
20. If you know, send to 10 Downing St.



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

## 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.

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](http://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.

\*\*\*

The Somerset Village Agent project is run by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS).



somerset  
**village & community**  
agents

Village Agents help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals & statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs.

We work with people of all ages and deal with a wide variety of issues although a considerable number of our clients are elderly and involves social care issues.

Ruby Coles has recently taken over as our Village Agent, and for the surrounding villages. She is keen to get to know the community and offer signposting and support.



**Please contact Ruby if you or someone you know would benefit from her support.**

Ruby Coles, Village Agent,  
Tel: 01823 331222 – ext 625

Email: [rubbyc@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:rubbyc@somersetccc.org.uk)

## Commonwealth War Graves

Private Harry Udell Gannett, Devonshire Regiment died 13<sup>th</sup> January 1919

Private Charles William Stodgell, Devonshire Regiment died 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1919

Second Lieutenant Peter John Carr , Royal Artillery died 11<sup>th</sup> October 1941

Sgt John Bernard Hebditch, Royal Airforce Volunteer Res. died 1<sup>st</sup> December 1943

Information taken from the War Graves Commission website

Register of:

**Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals** (June – November 2020)

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

Stephen Ball/ Felicity Colston-Lane August

### Funerals

Paul White June

Margaret Hayhoe August

## CHURCH OPENING & CLOSING ROTA

### December 2020 / January 2021

Duty weeks commence on Sunday morning

#### December

6 Geoffrey Dart 491695

13 Sarah Franks 491223

20 David Walker 491231

27 Teresa/George Jones 491035

#### January

3\* David Walker 491231

10 Teresa/George Jones 491035

17\* Tom Jeanes 490562

24 Mike Baker 490093

31 Alan Billinghamurst 490421

Church open every day 9am to 5pm – (\*8am on Sunday if applicable – see service listing) COVID: Masks to be worn at all times.

**Churchwardens /officers numbers see inside back page**

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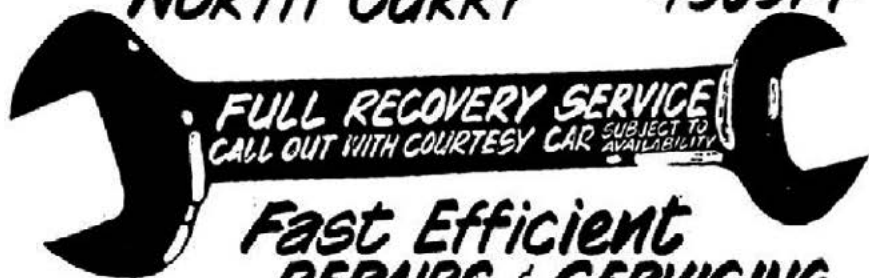
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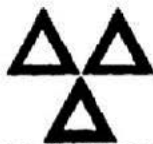
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## Church Officers and Contacts

<u>Officer:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Contact Number:</u>
Vicar	Vacant	
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](http://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](mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com)

## Other useful numbers for North Curry

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

Community Police officers:

Tony Wearmouth 07885 655312 [tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

Steve Chapman 07889 655196 [steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk)



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