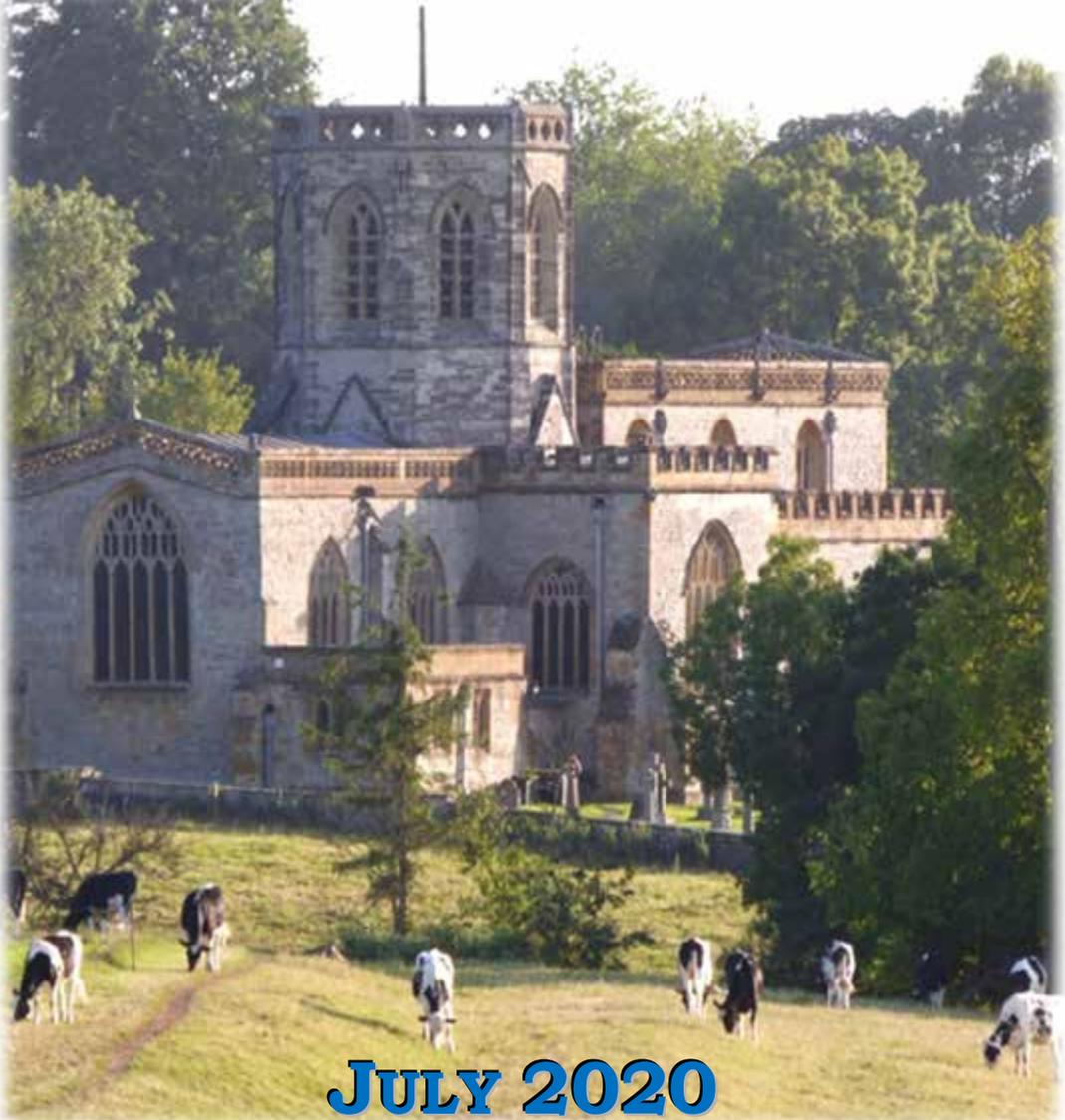


# ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE



## JULY 2020

We are happy to announce that public services will be resumed at the Parish Church from 12th July with Evensong (but no singing) at 6pm and also on Sundays 19th and 26th July.

**FREE PUBLICATION**

Time to get out and enjoy our footpaths...  
New style gates without the need for a stile gait!  
See page 12 for the full story



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St Peter and St Paul  
North Curry

# Welcome Back to Your Church

## Covid-19 arrangements

### Daily Access

The chancel will be open daily between about 9am and 5pm for private prayer

Please:

- use the sanitiser provided before and after your visit
- respect social distancing -still at least 2 metres apart
- do not stray into other parts of the building which are used for services and must be left untouched
- Use the chancel (choir) door (it is the small door furthest east on the south side of the church)
- close the door after your visit (to keep the birds out)

### Public Services

Public services are now permitted, but without singing

We shall resume with Evensong at 6pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

There will also be Evensong at 6pm on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

Access for these services will be by the south and west doors as usual

### General

We understand that many people may be in a vulnerable category (e.g. over 70 years old). Each person must make their own decision about the risks of attending.

If necessary, please contact a churchwarden:

David Akerman 01823 490234

Mary Piers 01823 491434

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

**Church officers phone numbers, 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)

Cover – Cows may safely graze, without social distancing... that is just mad!  
[We tried to get each cow to look towards the hill and smile, but alas, they were moo interested in chewing the cud than moo-delling]

**Announcements**

The church is now open from 9am to 5pm, daily, for private prayer.

Evensong services will recommence from 12<sup>th</sup> July, with services also planned for 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. Each service will start at 6pm. COVID19 regulations and notices remain in force, but we hope this is the first step to having more services in August.

The PCC standing committee has been working hard behind the scenes to secure the opening of the church, as well as pushing for the restarting of the services; often liaising and petitioning the Arch Deacon to get things moving. Thank you to you all for your hard work on the members behalf, and to let you know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

It is with great regret that the Flower Show Committee has decided that the Flower Show (scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> August) will not take place this year. We have the schedules all ready for next year, so please keep planting.

**Burrowbridge Planned Giving Initiative** has begun! If you would like to help your sister benefice church "bridge" the £1500 annual deficit, then contact Rob Ellis, treasurer – [rellisscr@hotmail.com](mailto:rellisscr@hotmail.com)/ 01823 490599 for details.

Many of you may have missed the news that Julie Felix passed away in March this year, aged 81. Those of you that attended her recent concert in North Curry will never forget the performance and experience of that evening.

## **“What did you do in the Great Lockdown, Daddy ?”**

**(Or Mummy . . . ?)**

I have a feeling there are some interesting answers to that Question among all our Readers – and Why Wait until your children (or grandchildren) are clustered trustfully about your knee to provide some Answers ?

I am happy to provide a small Prize (a Voucher for a Take-Away Meal from a local pub springs to mind) for the . . . .

### **Most Original/Startling/Unexpected/Imaginative**

#### **Answers to that Question . . . in each of our 4 Parishes.**

All Answers to be published in the next issue of your Magazine. By all means add a sentence or two of explanation or description.

The judge’s decision is final.

To help you, let me start the ball rolling :-

I am in the throes of publishing another Book – after a 20 year gap.

I am trying to hatch out a clutch of Pheasant eggs in my bedroom (not in my bed, I hasten to add).

I am seeing how long I can go without washing my car – or cleaning my shoes. . . . there have been no adverse comments as yet.

Right. Over to you.

Every Blessing, John Tyler.

Email [ncurrymag@gmail.com](mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com) with your contribution...

During the lockdown, I came across some quotes from the famed Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius – there be some wisdom in those words!

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive - to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts: therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to virtue and reasonable nature.

It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live.

## The Rev'd Martin Mudie writes

My Dear Friends,

In these challenging times when so many in our country and around the world are facing the heartache of bereavement, separation from family and friends, financial hardship and voluntary isolation to protect themselves I have been amazed and impressed by the humour, good nature and general common sense of our fellow citizens. To that end I thought rather than be too serious, I thought I would share with you Annie (my little dog, faithful friend and companion) and my experiences of the lock down.

Annie, whose companionship has kept me relatively sane during these difficult days, and I have a regular routine. I get up at 6.00am every morning due to the kind but misguided policy of my training vicar who insisted that we say morning prayer each day except Sunday at 7.00am. Annie has no such qualms and stays in bed till 7.30, when she rises, has breakfast and then takes me for her walk to the recreation ground. There she amuses herself on her own or with her canine friends whilst I say my prayers asking God's blessing on the four villages in our benefice and we return home where the rest of the day is spent gardening (I am making a new garden) while Annie supervises, reading, listening to music and occasionally housework.

However the real secret of our happiness lies in two indispensable items. The marmalade sandwich which I have each day for breakfast (Paddington Bear was so right) and chocolate – both of which come from our own village shop. We are so lucky to have this shop and we should all be so grateful to the volunteers who have kept the 'shop in a box' going during this crisis as well as, of course, the heroes of the NHS and key workers and delivery men and women, who have done so much to keep our communities alive and well and safe.

On the negative side, I have really missed our church services and my church friends. My more advanced technical colleagues have done amazingly well to put services on the internet but good though they are, they can never completely replace the real fellowship of meeting together Sunday by Sunday and I hope the day will come very soon when our churches will be open. I also feel so much for those who have had to delay weddings, christenings and miss funerals for family and friends.

So, what good can we take from these strange days? Well personally I would sum it up in two words. Kindness and Appreciation. People have been so generous with their kindness – looking out for others and caring in practical ways and we all have appreciated those people who

have gone way beyond what anyone would have expected to benefit our country and communities. If we can remember that when our world returns to what we hope will be normal then good indeed would have come from what, God willing, will be a once only experience for our country and community.

God bless you all and keep safe.  
Martin

## **A message from the Churchwardens**

### **Good News!**

#### **Your Church is open**

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, our Parish Church has been open for Private prayer only. Government restrictions do not allow us to hold any form of Service in the Church (except possibly small-scale funerals) but we pray that, like many other restrictions, this will alter. We will keep you up to date.

You will see the following Notice on gates and Notice Board and in the South Porch. We have kept directives simple and would ask all to respect our decisions and use common sense.

Welcome Back to Your Church

Please visit to pray and find peace

Open daily 9am to 5pm

Please Use Sanitizer

Observe social distancing

Close doors on exit

In an emergency contact a Churchwarden

This is an encouraging step forward and we hope many of you will take advantage of finding peace and solace in our magnificent Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your Churchwardens

### **Advertising for new Incumbent**

Advertising has restarted in the Church Times and on their website with a very slightly adjusted profile and an addendum illustrating the benefice's positive actions taken during the "Lockdown". At the time of writing (23<sup>rd</sup> June) the archdeacon's office has already had two requests for application packs! Closing date for applications for this round of advertising is July 24<sup>th</sup>. Let us hope that this interest turns into at least one application from an appropriate candidate.

### **Archdeacons' Visitations**

This year, because of the Corona Virus, so many of the special events which

would normally take place have had to be cancelled or postponed. One such postponed event is the annual Visitation by Archdeacons to Deaneries in the Diocese, when Churchwardens, some new and others continuing in office, would make their declarations and renew their commitment. It had already been decided that this year the Bishops would play an active role in these services, and they will therefore be speaking to Churchwardens in a series of "Zoom" celebrations.

Having participated in one of these I can say:

Bishop Peter reminded us that Christians have no need to be frightened. We should be prayerful. It is however natural to be anxious perhaps about a job or business as well as health particularly as it affects one's family and the younger generation and their education and job prospects.

When asked about the longer-term implications of the present situation Bishop Peter said:

1. He hoped there would be more emphasis on sustainability and less "consumerism"
2. That every human being would be valued. We have discovered that often many of the "key workers" have relatively low status and low pay positions but how much we rely on them.
3. We can have confidence in sharing the good news of the Love of Christ with people who need reassurance.

### *A Word of Encouragement from our Bishops*

#### *Prayers*

At this time of uncertainty  
we pray for God to fill us with the vitality of his Spirit,  
to inspire and to strengthen us  
for the service to which he has called us.

Generous God,  
we thank you for the *power* of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.  
Give courage and confidence when we feel weak and inadequate,  
that we may rely not on our own strength, but on you:

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *wisdom* of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to guide us and give wisdom  
when we have difficult decisions to make,  
and the way ahead seems unclear

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *peace* of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to keep us calmly confident of your love,  
patient when our longings for normality are frustrated  
and rooted in our faith in your good purposes for us,

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *fruits* of your Holy Spirit.  
Bless all who are reaching out with kindness and compassion  
to those who are vulnerable, in need, or isolated;  
that they may have strength and cheerfulness to continue their good  
work.

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *healing* of your Holy Spirit.  
Bless and protect our beloved church buildings  
that they may be safe and sacred places of welcome  
in which all who enter may find balm for mind, body and spirit.

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

We thank you for the *fire* of your Holy Spirit.  
May the warmth of your love hold us together,  
burn away any past bitterness or hurt,  
and unite the people of the parishes we serve  
in mutual affection and support

Lord, give your blessing  
**and pour out the gifts of your Spirit.**

When asked about practical issues the Bishop said that Lambeth palace (the Archbishop of Canterbury) and the Bishop of London on behalf of the national church are furiously lobbying the government including the Prime Minister personally. Whilst small scale funerals without singing may be permitted in churches at present no other services are permitted in church. Apparently, there are no less than 7 government departments to be consulted about weddings!

No further relaxation in access to churches is expected before 4<sup>th</sup> July. Even then it is anticipated that weddings and baptisms will be held in church before public services as attendees can be by invitation only.

### **Useful resource**

Readers may find the latest news on our website. Also, on the Bath and Wells website may be found **Stations of Hope** prepared by Simon Hill Archdeacon of Taunton.

### **Bells**

Considerable work is going on in the background-thank you Darren. Costings and alternative quotations for relocating bells and augmenting them to ten are being sought. Unfortunately, the bells which we hope to acquire from Lancashire cannot be inspected under present circumstances.

The bells committee has been formally adopted as a subcommittee of the PCC which will make the administration of the project and subsequent reclaim of VAT and Gift Aid more straightforward. The bells project will be included within the PCC charitable status

### **Thanks**

Whatever the uncertainties of the present situation we remain thankful that we live in such a beautiful area and in a caring community. We must continue to look out for the vulnerable and isolated.

David Akerman & Mary Piers  
Churchwardens  
Mary Piers 01823 491 434  
David Akerman 01823 490 234  
23<sup>rd</sup> June

## Building a sustainable and hopeful future

One impact of the Coronavirus pandemic is there is now a lot of talk about the need to change and to re-imagine society, in order to build a sustainable and hopeful future. This is to be welcomed. However, change is something that we always have to live with. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, writing some 500 years before Christ, was a great proponent of this. He is known for saying: 'There is nothing permanent except change' and that you cannot step into the same river twice. By this he meant that just as the river flows so that you cannot touch the same water twice, so no two situations are exactly the same and that the world is constantly changing.

We live in a time of extraordinary change. Self-driving transport is now practical, not just for cars, but also perhaps more alarmingly for ships and aircraft. Artificial Intelligence is opening amazing new possibilities and medicine is advancing rapidly as the decoding of the human genome increases our understanding of many diseases. At the same time our world groans under the weight of lifestyles and exploitation of resources which are not sustainable. I am writing this on World Environment Day and it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to change the way we live before we wreck even more havoc on the world which God has given us to steward and care for.

But in looking for change we need perhaps to look in rather than out. I remember once reading someone saying: 'You can't change what is going on around you, until you start changing what's going on within you'. Or as Tolstoy put it: 'Everyone thinks of changing the world. But no one thinks of changing themselves.' It is sometimes said that if 'we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change.' There may be so truth in that and perhaps we need to use this time of lockdown to continue to reflect on what it means to look at the world through God's eyes and to live faithfully in God's world so that we all play our part in building a sustainable and hopeful future.

Every blessing  
Bishop Peter

## New Style footpaths without the Stiles

Over the past couple of years, Phil Stone (sometimes accompanied by his able editorial sidekick), has been gradually replacing the old style stiles with easier access gates. The hope is to have a network of footpaths around North Curry with much easier accessible routes. In some cases, old stiles were in need of replacement as time had caught up with them, and they were more hazard than good.

At the beginning of July, the route from Helland Hill/top of White Street heading eastward had 2 new gates installed. Many of you may have noticed the new gates along the route to Knapp, which Phil installed during the earlier part of this year.



Whilst it sounds an easy job, I can assure you that there is more to it than meets the eye. Each gate takes around 4 hours to install, which include transporting the hefty new metal gate (along with tools) to site. Our routine is the same now... after a bit of pondering, we begin dismantling the old stile (the fun destructive part) and cutting back the excess vegetation (which often fights back). Some of them were put in very thoroughly, and it takes a

lot of digging and strong arms to prize them from their resting places. Once prepared, new footings are dug and the gate erected, ensuring all fencing is reattached and debris is cleared away.



With this article, are a few before and after photos. Unfortunately, no super models were passing along (there never is when you need one!) so you are going to have to make do with the editor and Phil posing by the new gates.

Thanks Phil for all your hard work around the village. And thanks to the landowners for allowing these changes to occur. The County Council had provided these gates at no cost to the local Parish – yay!

## **A reminder that the calendar photo competition continues...**

to provide photographs for the 2021 calendar.

The Parochial Church Council is inviting entries to be considered for the 2021 church calendar.



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

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

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

Each entrant may submit up to three photographs.

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

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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

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 have a few entrants but we need many more – so please do not be shy... give it a go, and send in your best snaps. They don't necessarily need to be from 2020.



Because of Covid 19 we have had to put on hold all of our meetings and postpone the screening of the film "2040" that was to take place in March, but there have been exciting things going on while we've all been in lockdown.

Nitrogen dioxide levels fell by 50% in some areas of Britain, our CO2 emissions were the lowest since the mid 1920's and global CO2 emissions fell by 17%; the largest drop being accounted for by transport, particularly aviation. Wildlife has been spotted in cities all over the world and even porpoises in the river Tone by New Bridge! Bird song has been more noticeable because of less traffic noise and during the glorious weather in May we were all able to enjoy the clear blue skies with no contrails.

Meanwhile the government has lifted its block on financial support for onshore wind and solar projects, so new jobs in the renewable energy sector should go a long way to kickstart the economy. The UK already has the world's largest off-shore wind farm and renewables provide about 40% of our energy. On 10<sup>th</sup> June we heard that Britain had been 60 days without coal-fired power generation - the longest period since the Industrial Revolution.

Unfortunately, one side effect of the virus is that disposable gloves and face masks have already been found in large numbers in the oceans, so please wash hands or use gel rather than wear gloves wherever possible and make or buy re-usable washable face coverings. CO2 emissions are also on the rise as we come out of lockdown so we must be diligent to do all we can to help keep them down; reduce unnecessary travel, walk or cycle if we are able, insulate our homes ready for the winter, buy locally as much as possible and grow our own if we have gardens –remember to reduce, re-use and recycle. And, if we believe that black lives matter, which I'm sure we all do, it's particularly important as the poorer nations suffer the most, with large parts of Africa being amongst the hardest hit by climate change.

We have agreed to fund two applications for grants from our Community Project Fund; if you have an idea for addressing Climate Change, Sustainability or the Environment and need a modest injection of money then please get in touch.

Find out more on our website [www.climateactionathelney.co.uk](http://www.climateactionathelney.co.uk) or look for us on Facebook

Contact: Brian or Kathryn on 490623 or email [climateactionathelney@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionathelney@gmail.com)

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

“Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can”

This is a famous quotation said to have come from the lips of Rev'd John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. (Incidentally he remained a Church of England vicar all his life).

In these frustrating days of lock in, it seems rather fruitless to encourage people to follow this instruction, being isolated and confined to our homes for what seems like forever.

However, in spite of all the restrictions imposed on us at the moment, there are so many cases of goodness and kindness around us for which we must be eternally grateful.

Many stuck at home are receiving offers of help; shopping is done, errands are run, loneliness is counteracted by telephone calls and letters. There is a feeling of solidarity in towns and villages throughout this country unknown since WW2.

How sad that it takes a pandemic to bring about these tokens of love for our fellow human beings but therein lies a hope that they will continue when the present situation is over.

As of now, our little chapel lies silent; no singing or sermons are heard. Modern technology is employed in order that services can be held on line so we are not despondent.

Work is beginning on the wall outside the property and the question of moving the pews is being progressed.

Thanks go to Christine for making a display of bunting and information in May re ways to support Christian Aid week which this year was in virtual form.

North Curry/Curland Methodist Chapel continues to exist!

Watch out for the Church Anniversary scheduled for June 28th to appear in a different form!

## **Rainbows of hope, presented by Zillah Sykes**

The sudden lockdown in mid-March affected us all. Our life in retirement had been quiet, but we kept ourselves busy with things necessary and things pleasurable. Suddenly, everything changed, they were either cancelled or closed, with friends and family to be kept at a distance. Overnight, we found ourselves in isolation.

Then, just as suddenly, the weather changed. Weeks of persistent rain gave way to glorious, and very welcome, sunshine. Our daily walk with our dogs was now our only outing and it became increasingly leisurely. We found that we had time to absorb the peace of the countryside around us, to really enjoy those lovely sunlit spring mornings that were vibrant with life and colour, as well as having time to stop and chat to those we met while we were out.

As we walked, we noticed with interest as pictures of rainbows, drawn and painted by children, began to appear in the windows of their houses. Pictures that made us smile as we were reminded to look upwards and to "trace the rainbow through the rain" or, more simply put, to look for the positive in times of uncertainty. I always love seeing a rainbow, its transient beauty never fails to lift my spirits.

We read about a rainbow at the end of a very familiar Bible story, that of Noah and the ark. After a whole year of being cooped up with his family and a whole zoo-full of animals, Noah stepped out into a world that was sparkling, fresh and fragrant. Together with his family he worshipped God, thanking Him for bringing them safely to this place of new beginnings. It was then that God spoke to him, as clouds filled the sky and a rainbow stretched across it, radiant with colour. "I have set my rainbow in the clouds," He said, and then, knowing that Noah and his descendants would always fear another deluge, God promised that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. He also promised that all generations would live their lives in harmony with the rhythms of the seasons.

"As long as the earth endures,

Seedtime and harvest,

Cold and heat

Summer and winter

Day and night

Will never cease." (Genesis 8v22)

So, whenever we see a rainbow we can remember that God is faithful to keep His promises.

I finish with a poem that I have found helpful. It is about the promises that God does not make, and those that He does.

"God has not promised skies always blue

Flower strewn pathways all our lives through.

God has not promised sun without rain

Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

God has not promised smooth roads and wide  
Swift, easy travel heeding no guide;  
God has not promised we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care.

But God has promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labourer, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love."  
By Annie Johnson Flint.



Presented by Don Hoyle

We hope that we can return in September, with the six films we were not able to show this season. We are busy putting together a programme – more information next month.

In the meantime... **“Gone with the Wind” – should it be banned?**

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, HBO, the Warner streaming service, removed the film *Gone with the Wind* from its catalogue. This was during the worldwide demonstrations that followed the death of George Floyd.



You will recall that, also as a consequence of this death, the statue of Edward Colston, in Bristol, was pulled down, as it 'gloried a slave trader'. In January 2018, the North Curry Film Club showed *Gone with the Wind*. The discussions generated by these events have made me question whether we should have shown the film. I remember not looking forward to seeing the film – it is long (nearly 4 hours) and old (1939).

However, I was surprised at how entertaining the film was, though I felt uncomfortable in some scenes. Was I wrong to enjoy it?

The film is racist. It romanticises the 'noble south' portraying their 'civilized' way of life as being destroyed during the American Civil War of 1861-5. It

rewrites history - the war was a bloody insurrection defending the right of the powerful in the south to own, buy and sell slaves. Slaves are portrayed as happy and content whereas freed slaves are shown as naïve and easily manipulated. John Ridley, the writer of "12 Years a Slave", who wrote an article calling for the film to be removed wrote "when it is not ignoring the horrors of slavery, it pauses only to perpetuate some of the most painful stereotypes of people of color". One of those stereotypes is the character Mammy, played by Hattie McDaniel, who is a slave devoted to the lead character Scarlett O'Hara. The film also has a dreadful scene that suggests that rape within marriage is allowable.

It is, however, an important film. Not least because it won 9 Oscars (including the first award won by a black person – McDaniel as Best Supporting Actor). The Burning of Atlanta scene is incredible given the age of the film and the acting of Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh set them on the road to stardom.

Some fear where does this banning of films end? HBO had already put a warning notice before *Tom & Jerry* cartoons and Disney likewise for *Dumbo*, warning that "they may contain outdated cultural depictions".

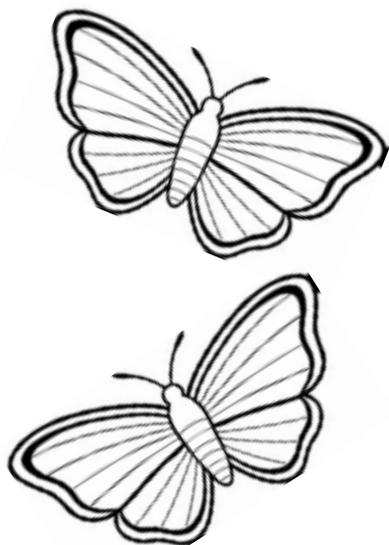
Is this political correctness gone mad?

Well, John Ridley was not calling for the *Gone with the Wind* to be banned but temporarily removed. He wanted HBO to put it in context perhaps with an introduction, which they have done for other films. Likewise, many in Bristol wanted an alternative plaque on the Colston statue to highlight his role in the slave trade. Yes, he donated a lot of money to philanthropic causes but how was that money made? *Gone with the Wind* is partly a film of its time, but was it also propaganda for a false history?

I think the Film Club were right to show the film as part of the classic "Winter Warmer" series. The role of a film club is not just to entertain but also to share and discuss films. In retrospect, perhaps it would have been good to offer a discussion sheet about the film at the time.

Maybe next time there is a showing of a problematic film.  
What do you think?

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



Please Colour Me



## Lead thefts from Somerset churches – three men charged



*Posted on 11th June 2020 on the Bath & Wells Diocese website*

Three men have been charged in connection with a series of lead thefts from churches across Somerset.

In a joint investigation with Lincolnshire Police, the three men have been charged with conspiracy to steal between August 2018 and March 2020. The charge partly relates to 11 offences of theft from churches in Somerset.

Paul Buica, aged 25, of George Street, Birmingham; Constantine Motescu, aged 31, of Sutton Hill, Telford and Laurentiu Sucea, aged 37, also of George Street, Birmingham, will appear before Lincoln Magistrates' Court.

The thefts connected with this charge in the Somerset relate to:

- Church of St Mary, Chesterblade, between 21-28 August 2019
- Church of St Edward King and Martyr, Goathurst, Bridgwater, between 18-19 December 2019
- Church of the Holy Cross, Middlezoy, Bridgwater, between 11-12 February 2020
- St Mary's Church, Glastonbury, between 14-15 February 2019
- St Mary's Church, Barrington, Ilminster, between 18-19 February 2020
- St Peter's Church, Ilton, Ilminster, between 20-21 February 2020
- St Giles' Church, Bradford on Tone, Taunton, between 26-27 February 2020
- Church of St Andrew and St Mary, Pitminster, between 27-28 February 2020
- St John the Baptist Church, Wellington, between 28-29 February 2020
- St Peter and St Paul's Church, South Petherton, between 4-5 March 2020
- Church of St Andrew and St Mary, Pitminster, on 9 March 2020

## Advertising in the magazine

The advertisement year in the magazine historically ran from May to April and renewals for the new year ought to have been sent out in March. However, due to the lockdown, and the financial pressures on businesses this has caused, the church council has decided to expend the current advertising period to December 2020 at no additional cost to advertisers.

The new advertising year will run from January to December 2021.

The mono rates will be

A full page £100

Half page £60

Quarter page £40

The colour premium positions rates are under review, and will be published in August.

Sue Harrison has joined the magazine team and she will be contacting advertisers in September about their advertising requirements for 2021. But in the meantime, if you are not already advertising with us, and would like to, please contact the editor Rob Ellis, or Sue Harrison, at [ncurrymag@gmail.com](mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com).

We thank all advertisers, contributors and readers for their continued support of our little magazine.

If you would like a guaranteed copy of the magazine delivered monthly to your door, only £6 per year. Please contact Jenny Satchwell on 490463

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

Prizes each month £30/ £20/ £10

Proceeds for churchyard maintenance

To sign up, contact Sue Bethune on 01823 490179

Cheque payments to North Curry PCC

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

## North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams

Did you know that dirt is good for you?

Studies show that regular contact with the soil in your garden can boost your immune system keeping you healthier by increasing your exposure to a variety of beneficial microbes.

Nowadays many people have less contact with these microbes apparently leading to a rise in autoimmune conditions such as asthma and allergies. So, embrace your soil, your microbes and make lots of lovely compost!

Talking of compost, it's not difficult to make but sometimes people don't succeed with it because they add all their grass clippings at once turning it into a soggy smelly mess. You can use them of course but layer them thinly with other organic matter in between. A good dose of chicken manure or horse manure in between layers works wonders as does the addition of yarrow and comfrey to help break it down. You can also use cardboard and undyed paper which helps with texture. The worms will do the rest even on a concrete base although I've never discovered how they get there!

We're trying a new tomato this year, Mountain Magic, which claims high blight resistance. There were nine seeds in the packet working out at about 45p per seed. Although planted in early March, they produced the weediest looking seedlings ever and I despaired of having a plant that might produce a tomato. Finally, having nurtured them and propped up their pathetic spindly little stems with cocktail sticks, at last I have five plants that look as if they will produce something, the moral being: Never Give Up! Hopefully there'll be some of these specials at the Plant Sale next year as I plan to save as many seeds as possible. Something else not to give up on is parsley seed. They can take weeks to germinate and when the compost turns green it's easy to think the seeds have rotted but at this stage, they can still come through confounding all expectations! My grandfather used to pour boiling water over his seed before planting but I've never found that it makes any difference.

Enjoy your garden! So good we can once again be with (socially distanced) friends and family even if the hugs have to wait. Have you tried lemon balm in your Pimms, it's lovely! It also makes a refreshing tisane when steeped in hot water. Try it!

Stay well and safe and keep gardening!



**Summer update**

North Curry Society is a local history society and our objectives are to promote the appreciation, study and recording of the history, archaeology, natural environment and the people of North Curry and the surrounding area. We are affiliated to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, which gives us learned society credentials, though our proceedings are friendly and welcoming.

We have a lively programme of meetings, in normal times once a month on the third Wednesday in the Village Hall, with some outdoor events in the summer. After refreshments at 7:30pm, the talks start at 8pm. Annual membership £5 (new members) includes admission to talks, discussions and refreshments; visitors pay £1. Whether you are a visitor, new to the Society or an established member, we look forward to welcoming you when social events resume.

Now waiting for news about when the Village Hall may open again.

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The Somerset Village Agent project is run by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) and now covers half of the county



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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.

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

Linda Burton | Village Agent | Tel: 01823 331222 | Mobile: 07931018019 |  
Email: linda@somersetcc.org.uk

### What does being in debt feel like?

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

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

TADA is supported by local churches, but offers its free debt advice to people of faith or no faith at all. The TADA Debt Advisers are regulated and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. People can gain access to this free support by going to the web site [www.tauntonareadebtadvice.uk](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.

I am just popping into the bank  
for ask for some financial help  
with the COVID19 crisis.

What could possibly go wrong....?



## Tea Break!

Courtesy of Heather Williams

A couple of anagrams for those that like them, they are garden plants:

1. A pagan's hut (one word)
2. I mulch comfrey, Adeline (two words 8/12) and one for luck
3. Lucia irritates (two words 4/10)

This month's challenge – Sudoku!

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

Ha ha!

I keep having this recurring dream where I think I'm a horse. It's happened the last five nights on the trot.

If I had to describe myself in three words, I would say: "Not very good at maths"

A physics teacher had a date with a biology teacher, but it didn't work out. There was no chemistry.

I once got kicked out of the dentist for using all the nitrous oxide. Needless to say, I had the last laugh.

## **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 wild flora carpets amongst the headstones.

## **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](http://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. Again, a copy is available in the church porch.

## **Hiring the Church**

Our church is available for hire, for events such as concerts, talks and exhibitions for which we make a reasonable charge. Contact David Walker should you wish to know more on fees and availability.

## **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 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 (January – June 2020)**

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

Ben Plaw/ Abigail Badger

January

### Funerals

Ena Hawkins (Service only)

January

Tony Brooker

February

Phylis Pine, Sheila Bailey

April

Paul White

June

## **Prayer for the Athelney Benefice**

Almighty God,

Who made all things and sustains all things;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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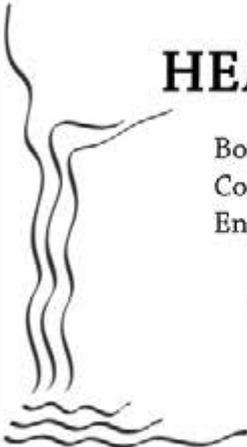
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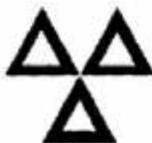
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## Church Officers and Contacts

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Honorary Associate Priest	Rev'd John Tyler	01460 281574
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Churchwardens Emeritus	Janet Dare	01823 490747
PCC Secretary/ Safe Guarding	Helen Griffiths	01823 491298
PCC Treasurer	Vacant, Interim - David Akerman	
Tower Captain	Darren Woodyer	01823 690162
Flower List Organiser	Lorraine Bryan Brown	01823 491665
Events Bookings Secretary	David Walker	01823 491231
Produce Market Organiser	Anne Williams	01823 490319
Little Angels/ Electoral Roll	Jenny Satchwell	01823 490463
Choir	Jean Smith	01823 490961
PCC 200 Club	Sue Bethune	01823 490179
Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis, email: <a href="mailto:ncurrymag@gmail.com">ncurrymag@gmail.com</a>	

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)

## Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Herons	01823 491615	<a href="http://www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/">www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/</a>
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	<a href="http://www.northcurry.com">www.northcurry.com</a>
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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.

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

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

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