

Quantock Good News!

March 2021

Stories of faith in action from around Quantock Deanery

Hello! I am very pleased to be presenting this new publication to you on behalf of Quantock Deanery.

My name is Revd Kate Sax and I am Assistant Area Dean; Associate Priest in Quantock Villages Benefice and an Open the Book trainer! I was ordained Deacon in Uganda in 2003 and ordained Priest in Winchester Diocese in 2006. I have held a variety of posts in Winchester, Salisbury and Bath & Wells Dioceses including Priest in Charge and Mission Enabler.

Mission is my passion and so my aim with this newsletter is to bring stories of "mission" in its broadest sense to everyone in Quantock Deanery in order to encourage and inspire – particularly at this time when the whole world is still reeling from the Coronavirus pandemic!

Mission in this context includes fantastic work done by members of our communities, not necessarily connected to church, but demonstrating the love of God in many ways.

In this first issue there will be stories from individuals, from parishes and organisations including Foodbanks, Street Pastors and overseas links.

his daughter lives. He plays and sings for a number of dementia groups. With him we talk and sing a lot as well as sometimes having a speaker.

Also Forget Me Not cafe volunteer Georgie Lewis and I try to keep in touch with everyone by phone and emails. We are trying to encourage people to join us on their home phones. This is free with a special code which we can provide.

I did a 10000 steps a day walk while we were in isolation in Kyrenia when we first arrived so was thanking everyone who sponsored me - I did 80000 plus steps and raised £80 for Alzheimer's research through a Just Giving page.

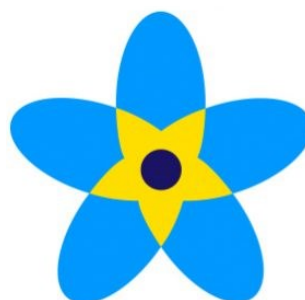
We are happy to advise people living with dementia or any other memory problems and are also happy just to chat regularly. We always say we don't always have an answer but can usually point to a person who can help!

Contact details are 07973638030 and email watchetdementia@gmail.com.

Margaret Tatham, Leader

Dementia Support – Forget-me-not Café

We are running zoom meetings fortnightly for people living with dementia and their carers. These meetings are led by Paul Fricker who is normally a frequent visitor to Watchet where



Street Pastors – active through lockdown!

Despite the closure or reduced services of the pubs and clubs, teams of Street Pastors in Bridgwater, based at the Baptist church have still been bringing the love of God to youngsters and “not-so-youngsters” on the streets at night.



Only in this lockdown of 2021 have they been unable to continue their fantastic work. And there has been real Good News during this time in the merging of Bridgwater and Taunton Street Pastor groups meaning that now 50 volunteers are signed up and ready to go again as soon as possible. This merger was facilitated by a generous grant from Hinkley C community fund.

Bridgwater teams have established great relationships with the Police and emergency services as well as pub and club owners and managers and have been able to talk to young people, explaining that they are not “riot police” (as some thought!) but actually Christians bringing God’s love to them through walking with them and meeting some of their needs. Meanwhile back at base – or back at home – members of the teams are praying for everyone involved on the streets.

There is no age limit to being a Street Pastor, it is ecumenical (all denominations) and full training and kit is provided so if you are interested, give Kate a call (*contact page 4*).

Something Special for Lent

With contributions from all around Quantock Villages Benefice an inspiring booklet has been produced containing poems, stories, recipes, reflections and photographs for every day in Lent.

Sarah Upfield, Reader in the Benefice, compiled this beautiful resource which gives readers something to do or reflect upon as they journey through Lent. Printed hard copies are available for those without internet access.

Our New Area Dean

I am delighted to have been appointed the new Area Dean for Quantock Deanery, following the retirement of Ben Flenley.

It is a challenging time for all our communities, and for our churches. I

hope to be able to walk with the parishes of the Deanery as we negotiate our way out of lockdown and into a new future that a year ago few of us could have imagined.

It is wonderful to hear the good news stories captured in this newsheet and I hope it inspires and cheers you too. Your local church is there for you in times of joy and of sorrow, and at this immensely difficult time, we will do all we can to support our parish communities.

Revd Alison Waters
01278 652953



Quantock Deanery

Quantock Coast Benefice

Rector: Revd Nicky Morgan

Dodington, East Quantoxhead, Fiddington, Holford,
Kilve, Kilton, Lilstock, Stogursey, Strington

Quantock Towers Benefice

Rector: Revd Preb Angela Berners-Wilson

Bicknoller, Crowcombe, Monksilver, Elworthy,
Nettlecombe, Sampford Brett, Stogumber

Quantock Villages Benefice

Rector: Revd Eleanor King

Aisholt, Enmore, Goathurst, Over Stowey,
Nether Stowey, Spaxton

United Benefice of Cannington,
Otterhampton with Combwich, Stockland
and Steart Bay

Rector: Revd Alison Waters

Watchet and Williton Benefice

Currently in vacancy.

News from the Foodbanks in Quantock and Bridgwater

A story from a Bridgwater volunteer:



Something happened fairly recently: It concerned an elderly person. I went to deliver some food to someone, the person was so pleased to see me arriving with it. The person has health problems so it is difficult for her to go out for shopping. She has asked neighbours to help, which is of course fine but she finds it hard to keep asking. She showed me her food storage, which was empty. Her husband passed away recently, she is bereaved and now on her own. Her children live in other part of the country so they can't help her much.

She could have shopped online but it is too expensive for her: there is a £6 delivery charge and shopping has to be £40 or over. If she only needs a few items, she still has to pay the delivery charge. She only has a small pension. Encouraged by her son, she phoned the Bridgwater Foodbank for help. She found it very embarrassing. After explaining and reassuring her that it was all right to phone the Foodbank, I hope I left someone with one less thing to worry about and feeling not embarrassed to make use of our services.

An extract from the Quantock Foodbank Newsletter:

Demand has risen, but so has the response from so many sources.

In total 8,254 people have benefitted from the donations which you have given and, of these, 4,345 were babies and children. The foodbank works with and through other agencies and, in the last three months, has taken referrals from services including Church Leaders, Citizens Advice, Health Visitors, Home-Start, Housing, Job Centres, Mental Health, Police, Primary Healthcare, Probation Service, School Support Workers, Social Care, Turning Point and Village Agents.

Foodbank organiser Marlene adds a personal note:

I neglected to mention the most important good news, and that is prayer answered day after day, not to mention miracles. From running out of bags to pack the parcels and them turning up on the morning they were needed in exactly the right number, to the dear lady who has been praying for the lift. This was no frivolous request, as it has the ability to bring our work to a grinding halt currently. We are encouraged to take all our requests to God and he will hear; arrow prayers and sometimes just groans in our helplessness – volunteers conceding that a much greater power is at work supporting us.

Huge thanks – from Bridgwater and Quantock Foodbanks to all individuals, churches, communities, schools and all who have donated so generously over the past year, with hopes and prayers for a more just society to be established when the pandemic is over.



**Good News stories from
Quantock Towers Benefice
A brief overview from the Rector**

- 1) Monthly meals on wheels in place of over 60's community lunch re-starting in Stogumber in March.
- 2) We are doing a Bible Society Lent Course via Zoom - 8 sessions so continues after Easter.
- 3) The Rector did an RE class on Zoom at Crowcombe school answering questions about goodness, sin, and being a Christian. One question asked (without prior warning) "What was your worst sin?"!!
- 4) An Ash Wednesday service via Zoom with participants asked to provide their own ash from burnt palm crosses – safely!

World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer held its first service in England in 1932. The service this year has been prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu, a cluster of islands 1,100 miles East of Australia in the South Western Pacific Ocean. Their theme is "Build on a Strong Foundation" (Matthew 7:24-27).

There will be a "Zoomed" service, hosted by the Revd. Nicky Morgan on Friday 5th March at 2.30pm.

Alison, Eleanor and Angela will have the details of how to join this service and there are still some service booklets if anyone would like a copy.

Pam Campbell (Holford)

Overseas News



Due to Covid, it has been very challenging to maintain our links overseas, especially with our link Diocese of Zambia – but things are looking up.

The Diocese is formulating plans to take our links to a new level, especially where there are existing or potential links with schools. The Diocesan "Go Team" are involved, aiming to foster and develop links involving young people on a relationship rather than financial basis.

It is hoped that the new Diocesan Website will facilitate individual facebook links and that this will lead to Deanery Champions and teams, linking with particular Dioceses in Zambia. Looking further ahead, it will be possible to facilitate group visits again which will reinforce and build relationships.

New opportunities may also arise to link with other Provinces (countries) and a Newsletter is planned in order to share dreams, visions and experiences.

**Bells will ring out again in Goathurst!
(Quantock Villages Benefice)**

Very little has been said about our church bells during this pandemic yet church bells ringing on a Sunday morning has been part of our tradition for centuries – now the bells lie silent waiting for the time they can rouse people from their slumbers and encourage them to come to church again!

The bells in St. Edward's church Goathurst have been silent even longer because they are in need of repair and since 2019 a fund raising campaign has been launched to raise the £19,000 needed. Despite the challenges during lockdown, this target has almost been reached and will be further boosted by Clare, a member of the church who is doing a sponsored bike ride along the Taunton to Bridgwater canal on Mothering Sunday.

Hinkley Point News Flash!!

Chaplain, Ewen has produced a fantastic video : "End of Year Film 2020"

<http://youtu.be/CNUVQ6chQZI>

**Enquires about any article or organisation featured here should be made to
kate.kinkiizi@gmail.com or phone 01278 671168**

Contributions for next month should be submitted by the last Friday in the month please to Kate.
Next month will feature an update on Women's World Day of Prayer, Schools work with Foodbanks and Zoom Bible Study from Quantock Coast Benefice, and more...!