# BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2024



# A THRIVING VILLAGE COMMUNITY IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET

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# **MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM**

Proof reader - Margaret Coombs

Magazine Cover:

Photographs by Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community are always welcome.

Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

# When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies available in church please remember to support the few remaining advertisers whenever possible

It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the magazine editorial team, unless attributed, or those sent in by identifiable contributors.

# **IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS - photos by BOB WINN**



# Cover - Saint Peter & St Paul



# AWARD WINNING FAMILY RUN BUSINESS Shop and Post Office

Open Monday – Friday 6.45am – 6pm Saturday 8am – 6pm Sunday 8am – 12pm Tel – 01823 279168

# **Butchers**

Open Tuesday – Friday 8.00am – 3pm Saturday 7.00am – 2pm Sunday and Monday Closed Tel – 01823 337497



Bank Holiday Sellers' Rates: Cars £6, Vans £8, Trailers £1 Sunday Sellers' Rates: Cars £5, Vans £6, Trailers £1 Buyer Parking £1 Large Vehicles by negotiation Sellers responsible for removing their own rubbish Toilets Available Dogs allowed on a lead

All events subject to cancellation without notice at organisers discretion. All net proceeds to the Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust, a non-profit making registered charity.

# **The Frank Bond Centre** 84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull.

A place for the over 50s to meet new friends

Contact Carolyn 01823 283941 /Nadia 07958 246046

Come along to Frank's cafe on a Friday morning 10:00-12:00 and discover what activities could lie in store for you. The cafe is open to members and non-members.

The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00 Monday-Friday

Weekly Activities:

- Monday The Painting Group 10:00-12:00, Whist Club 1:30-4:00 Bridge Club 1.30-4:00
- Wednesday Flexercise & Tai Chi 10:00-12:00
- Thursday Bridge club 10:00-12:00-Beginners welcome, Croquet 2:00-4:00
- Friday Pétanque 10:00-12:00,
- Friday Frank's Cafe 10:00-12:00

**Monthly Activities:** 

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00 2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30 3rd Wednesday in month Games 2.00-4.00 4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00 2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00 3rd Thursday in month Monthly lunch-pse write name on list in foyer

Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities... Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

Vicar: Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)		
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# Dear Reader - A Happy Christmas to one and all.

Can it really be December already? Where has the past year gone?

Can you remember, whilst you were growing up, wishing the years would fly by and you were much older and able to do all those things you wanted to do without first asking permission? Now, for some of us, it just might be the other way around, although we still do sometimes make alternative wishes.

So many years and so many Christmases. So many happy memories and, thankfully, only a whisper of those which weren't so good.

I'm trying to recall whether Christmas started early again this year or were the shops a little more restrained. No matter; Christmas is almost upon us and hopefully we all have something really exciting to look forward to.

Many of us believe that Christmas-time is the most important time of the year; the time when we look forward to seeing the joy of our children eagerly opening their presents on Christmas morning and their stockings bulging with presents left in the night by Father Christmas. A multitude of happy memories for grandparents and those of us blessed with children.

Although we live in a world filled with communication devices, TV's, telephones, etc. there are still many lonely folk among us who, for reasons best known to themselves, will have no one to celebrate Christmas with. We can often forget that loneliness isn't just a Christmas problem. Thank goodness we have a multiplicity of organisations who help to fill this gap,but only if they are aware of a lonely person of course. Do you know of anyone?

So, what have you planned for this festive season? Sometimes it is difficult to start making plans and the inevitable questions pop up. Is it our turn to invite parents or in-laws? How much are we going to spend on presents for the family and friends? Do we still have that Christmas card list (with addresses)? Will we be invited to all those wonderful parties? And, for the harassed housewife, how much food do we need to order and <u>who is going to cook it?</u>

Amongst all this hustle and bustle we must not lose sight of what Christmas is really all about. As a Christian country we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus with carols and Communion whilst inviting everyone to join us for this joyous time of the year. I can hardly wait. Happy Christmas!

# THE VICAR WRITES ......

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One thing that seems absent from much of our news recently is anything resembling good news. Endless headlines about bad news can be so wearing, or is it just me?



But there is an online resource called the Good News Network. It's heartening to notice that most features come from people's ordinary, everyday lives rather than from events or people in the media spotlight. In many of the stories, we encounter God in the ordinariness of everyday life. Hang on, that sounds very familiar... In the Christmas story, we meet the first witnesses to the birth of Jesus, the shepherds disturbed during their night watch by angels. They never questioned whether they were good enough or important enough. This good news was and is for everyone – them and you. Perhaps the shepherds had understandable fear to begin with, but the angels' message is to be calm rather than afraid. And to focus on the brightness of the good news proclaimed to them. Today, like at that first Christmas, there is calm as God enters into our world with peace and humility. And there is also joy, as brightness shines out of the ordinariness of everyday life. So, as we journey together through this Christmas season, we too inhabit that peace and that joy as we give thanks for the good news passed down to us through the ages from those ordinary shepherds. If you would like to read about this Good News in the Bible have a look in the New Testament at Luke chapter 2, verses 8-12. Happy Christmas!

> Your excited Brother in Christ Rev Phil Hughes Vicar and Chaplain

# **<u>Celebrating Christmas</u>**



**1**750 years ago, on 25 Dec 274 that the Roman Emperor Aurelian founded the cult of Sol Invictus as an official religion. He erected a temple and declared 25th December a national holiday, to be known as the Feast of the Unconquered Sun. In 336, after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine, 25th December began to be celebrated by the church in Rome as the birthday of God's Son.

## The Christmas Kitchen

The kitchen is, at Christmas A very busy room! Lots of work in such a rush Or Christmas Day will loom.

First there is the cake to bake And many pastries too, Mince pies and biscuits, festive fare There is so much to do!

Then comes the day, the kitchen fills With wondrous cooking smells, As turkey roasts and parsnip toasts The cooks must work their spells.

The dinner's on the table We gather round and eat, But someone has to wash the pots And make the kitchen neat.

So have a happy Christmas, Enjoy the festive fare, But grab a towel and help the cook, And show them that you care!

By Nigel Beeton

# C of E reaction to the Budget



The Bishop of Newcastle, Helen-Ann Hartley, lead bishop in the House of Lords for economics and business, has given an initial comment on the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves's budget statement.

Bishop Helen-Ann said: "First and foremost this budget must be viewed through the lens of how it affects the

poorest and most marginalised people in our society.

"I recognise the challenges the Chancellor faces and welcome the focus on education and health.

"Our churches, chaplaincies and schools see, day-in day-out, the impact of poverty in our communities – both urban and rural. They exist to witness to the love of God and his vision of a world in which everyone can experience life in all its fullness."

# St Peter's & St Paul's Church Bridge Coffee Mornings

The Bridge is what we have called the Welcome Area.

The Church has opened the Bridge for the return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2024.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 28 December** come along to have a Coffee/Tea



and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.

# Dates of Parish Council Meeting 2024

Meeting dates 2024 All Thursday evenings, 7.00 p.m. start at the HUB

5th December – Finalise budget

/Precept

# **Bell Ringing**

We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringing happens for the main service on Sunday (usually ringing starts at 09.15am and rings until the service starts at 10am). Practice night is Wednesday at 7.30pm.

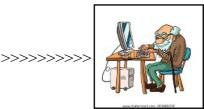
Quarter peals ( 50 minutes) may be attempted up to twice a month at 11.30am, usually on Tuesday or Wednesday. Our Tower Captain is Giles Morley and he can be

contacted on 01823 430710









<u>Editor Bob</u>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helen McGladdery Clerk to Bishop's Hull Parish Council - CILCA

PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL HAS CHANGED, PLEASE SEND ALL FUTURE EMAILS TO: <u>CLERK@BISHOPSHULLPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK</u>

# Frank Bond Centre

Christmas lunch on Thursday 19th December 13:00 at Oake Manor golf club.

Booking is essential and tickets are available from the FBC café on Friday mornings 10:00-12:00.

The FBC will be closed from Tuesday 24th December through to Monday 30thDecember and closed again for New Years Day on Wednesday 1st January.

# THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

A little bird told me that the Editor still has a considerable`supply of British Organically grown Cooked, Sliced & Bottled Beetroot for sale.

#### Glorious Gardens 2024 Raises £32,012 for St Margaret's Hospice Care A Huge Thank You to Somerset's Gardening Community!

This year's Glorious Gardens 2024 campaign was a resounding success, with 61 gardens opening across 22 locations and raising £32,012 in support of St Margaret's Hospice Care. This total includes all sponsorship, and we'd like to extend a special thanks to our sponsor, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, for their generous backing.



St Margaret's Hospice would like to express sincere gratitude to everyone who opened their gardens to the public and to the Somerset community who visited, made donations, and enjoyed tea, cake, and other refreshments in the beautiful green spaces. Your support and involvement are what make this event so meaningful each year.

Kerry Baillie, Community Fundraising Manager at St Margaret's Hospice Care, said:

"We are absolutely thrilled with the success of Glorious Gardens 2024 and want to thank everyone who helped make it happen, from those who generously opened their gardens to every single visitor who contributed. The funds raised will make a real difference in supporting the care we provide across Somerset, and we couldn't be more grateful for the community's continued support."

Looking ahead to 2025, St Margaret's is calling on the community to get involved again for next summer's Glorious Gardens event, as they celebrate 45 years of providing free end-of-life care to the people of Somerset. Their aim is to feature over 100 gardens, making it their biggest event yet, and they need your help to reach that goal.

Whether your garden is large or small, your participation would be a fantastic addition. St Margaret's recognises how important green space is for well-being and connection to nature. Their own hospice gardens offer peace and comfort to patients and their families, and your open space can bring similar joy to visitors across the county.

For more information on how to take part in Glorious Gardens 2025 and help celebrate this special anniversary, you can sign up via the St Margaret's website at https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/gloriousgardens-host or contact Kerry Baillie Community Partnerships Manager on 01935 709496 | Kerry.Baillie@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

# Parish Council news

At the Parish Council meeting on 3rd October the following resolutions were made:

- The Clerk to write to Highways regarding weeds in drains in Shutewater and write to a resident regarding vegetation overhanging walkway
- Following a meeting between Somerset Council, Persimmon and the Parish Council, along with legal representation from all parties, it appears there is a loophole in the Section 106 agreement that will enable Persimmon to pay the Parish Council £352,000 on the transfer of the land for its future maintenance but will not be liable to pay an indexation for the last 14 years. Members agreed in principle to continue with the transfer but an agenda item will be added to the November meeting for a formal agreement
- It was agreed to grant £650 to the youth club, to enable them to purchase a table tennis table, bean bags and craft supplies
- A budget of up to £12 a month was agreed for the Clerk to purchase a new pay monthly mobile phone (as previous one is out of contract)
- A volunteering café will be held at the February HUB café to let residents know about all the local voluntary organisations
- The Parish Council agreed the area of land to take on for Bishops Mead
- Ranjit Bassey was instructed as solicitor to carry out the land transfer of Bishops Mead from Somerset Council to the Parish Council
- Additional sites will be investigated for the speed indicator device and Chapter 8 training will be investigated for an additional member to be able to assist with installation
- 2025 meeting dates agreed: 16th Jan, 6th Mar, 3rd Apr, 1st May, 5th Jun, 3rd Jul, 4th Sep, 2nd Oct, 6th Nov and 4th Dec with no meetings in February or August

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th November, 7.00pm at The Bishop's Hull HUB

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# Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Council has 2 vacancies for Councillors. If you want to get involved in how the Parish Council supports the local community, help plan for spending Parish Council funds and give something back to the Parish, please either contact the Clerk for more information or pop along to one of the meetings, where you would be made very welcome and can chat informally to the other Councillors. Email: clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

# Community News update

You may wonder how the Community News appears through your door each month? Firstly the Clerk compiles a draft document, thanks to information submitted from local groups/ charities and contributors. Then two Parish Councillors proof read the draft. Once printed, all 1700 copies are delivered to our "two sorters" who then drop off bundles to each of the volunteer distributors – we have 30 volunteers!! They then all deliver the newsletter to each house in the Parish.

You will probably notice the adverts around the edge of the newsletter, each advert costs  $\pounds$ 60 for the year and the money raised from the advertising pays for the printing of the newsletter. Without the advertisers we would have to find another way to fund the Community News.

The Parish Council is very passionate about making sure news is distributed to everyone in the Parish as they are very aware not everyone has access to the Internet.

At present there are 2 vacancies for adverts, so if you are interested in advertising and supporting your local community please contact the Clerk (and Community news editor!)

clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

And a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helps make the production and delivery of the Community News possible.

# Bishop's Hull HUB and Youth Club

The Christmas Hub Cafe is on Saturday 14th December 10-12noon.

Expect festive treats, our annual Christmas puzzle game, craft table and Santa's Grotto.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for the

ticket release (50 free tickets will be available for Bishop's Hull children under 11).

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# Bishops Hull Hub 100 Club - October 2024 winners

£36.80 — Chris Phillips, £18.40 — Sam & Dilys Millard and £9.20 — Rosemary Lockley

To join, please email bhhub100club@gmail.com for further details. Tickets cost £2 each and you need to be 16 years or older.

The next draw took place at the Hub Cafe on the 9th November



#### **BISHOP'S HULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

**B**ishop's Hull WI is a group of friendly women with meetings held normally on the **4th Thursday of the month** (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishop's Hull HUB.

• These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items.



- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/ brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly(except mid winter and August) and a Scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4.00 (up to three meetings) deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information may be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary Tel: 01823 283884/07963834365.

At our October meeting , Olly provided us with very valuable information on how we can best look after our hips and knees which was well received by those present at the meeting.

The monthly lunch was held at La Bonne Vie a favourite venue for all.

In November our guest speaker will be Debbie Wood and the title of her talk is "Why is my truncheon smaller than yours" ....intrigued? then why not come along and find out?

As usual the walking and Scrabble groups continue to take place as does the monthly Coffee morning.

New members are very welcome. Why not come along at 7.30pm to the Bishops Hull Hub on October Thursday 24th and find out more about us?

New members are always welcome, just come along and see for yourselves what a friendly group of ladies we are!

Meetings are held normally on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bishops Hull Hub. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED START TIME OF 7.30 pm.. Guests are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings .

Following on from our first poppy wreath last year, members again knitted and or crocheted poppies which were made into a wreath and laid on the war memorial in the village on Remembrance Sunday November 10th. Several members met for lunch at Blackdown Garden Centre, this venue also offering them an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. The monthly coffee/ brunch morning was held at Willowbrook Garden Centre...yet again also a shopping opportunity. The speaker at our November meeting provided a humorous insight to her career as a police officer.... talking her talk "Why is my truncheon smaller?" We have our annual Christmas lunch on December 4th at the Quantock Restaurant at Bridgwater and Taunton College and bring our 2024 monthly meetings to a close on Thursday 12th when we welcome The Barnacle Buoys who will be entertaining us.

We wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



outel 1 have two volunteering opportunities: Independent Visitor and

Advocate.

**Independent Visitors** are volunteers who befriend and spend time with a child or young person who is in the care of the Local Authority. We will match your interests and skill set with a young person who will best suit your support.

You and the young person have the freedom to decide what you do, how you do it, to build a meaningful friendship. One young person with an Independent

Visitor said: "Things I get from my IV relationship... is space from the world, where I can have an open and honest conversation with, at first a stranger, that becomes a friend. I would be happy to say it is a really good experience!"

**An Advocate** is an independent person who can offer one-to-one support to children and young people to have their voice heard when meetings are taking place concerning their wellbeing. It's the role of the Advocate to speak up for the young person, make them aware of their rights, listen to them and represent their views, wishes and feelings.

The Chair of a Child Protection Conference said "I am always amazed by the calibre of the volunteers and how generous they are with their time." Why not join our bank of advocates?

Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability. Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills.

To find out more, contact us: 01749 822801 or routelbusinesssupportadmin@somerset.gov.uk

# Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297 lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815 marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Avon and Somerset Police SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

PCSO Lyndsay Smith - 07802 874297 lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tony Wearmouth 8413 - 07889 655312 tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191 catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.ukPCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

## DID YOU KNOW ...?

Have you ever thought of a role within the Police?

A von and Somerset Constabulary employ over 2000 different roles across the organisation. Not only is the organisation made up of Police Officers, but we also have a huge variety of roles across the area, including PCSOs, Crime Scene Investigators, Call handlers, Dispatch officers, Victim Care officers, Store Management Clerks and also a huge variety of volunteer roles that are critical to the day to day operations of the constabulary. There really is something for everyone. Unfortunately, PCSO recruitment is closed until at least April 2025, however there are other vacancies available. You can find more information and Police Staff vacancies at the following link; *Jobs and volunteering* | *Avon and Somerset Police* 

Two arrested following drugs warrant

A 24-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman were arrested on Wednesday 2 October after Neighbourhood Police Officers in Taunton carried out a Misuse of Drugs Act warrant in the Corporation Street area of the town. During a search of the property, suspected cocaine, ketamine, cannabis, and drugs supply equipment were located, along with a number of weapons including knuckledusters and a Zombie-style knife. Mobile phones and cash were seized, and a dog suspected to be a banned breed (XL bully) was taken into kennels. Both occupants were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of a class A drug, possession with intent to supply a class B drug, possession of an offensive weapon in a private place and possession/having custody of a banned breed. They were questioned and have been released under investigation whilst our enquiries continue.

## Two Charged with multiple theft offences

Neighbourhood Police Officers had been investigating multiple reports of shoplifting. Multiple businesses both in and out of the town centre had reported to the Police that a male and female had stolen items on multiple occasions. After officers identified them as well as ensuring all evidence was up together, the two individuals were arrested and charged with a total of 9 theft offences. The pair were charged, kept in overnight in our custody cells and sent to court the next day.

# Day of Action targeting prolific offenders

On Wednesday the 25th September 2024, the Neighbourhood Policing Team had a day of action targeting those prolific offenders who harm our businesses and deter those members of the public who like to visit our town. Through a combination of high visibility patrols, as well as plain clothes officers, we targeted the locations and businesses that have been repeat victims of crime to identify and deal with those seeking to commit offences. 1 male was arrested early in the morning, for a total of 21 shoplifting offences across both the Taunton and Bridgwater area. Another male was arrested for 5 breaches of their Criminal Behaviour Order.

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The public's main concerns that children and young people in Taunton expressed to us, related to Anti-social behaviour, Alcohol, Drugs and Vaping and Online Safety.

Children and young people told us that they use tactics such as being with a friend or in groups when they go out, keeping in contact with parents and friends and using tracking apps such as Snap Maps and Life360 to help them keep safe.

Approximately a third of the people we spoke to said that there aren't any areas that they don't feel safe, others expressed that they feel less safe in some of the parks or in areas where they see street drinking.

The people we spoke with were asked if there was anything else they felt would help keep them safe. Some people told us they would feel safe as they are, others said they would like to see more lighting, CCTV, improved crossings and more police.

If you are worried or want to report any concerns you can this online at *Report* | *Avon and Somerset Police* 

Your Police on Instagram can be a good source of information for teenagers on policing related matters. Don't forget the Highlight Youth Hub run by Young Somerset, takes place every Saturday between 3pm and 5pm at McDonalds, East Street, Taunton. They are on hand to offer support and advice. ## A detached garage was broken into overnight on the 17th in Honiton Road, Staplehay Trull. The offenders gained entry via the main 'up and over' door where inside two motorcycles and an electric bicycle was stolen. The motorcycles have been described as a black Aprillia Tuono and an orange KTM Superduke RR21. The bicycle was a Scott Scale 720.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5224274646 stating NHW.

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We are releasing CCTV in the hope of identifying possible key witnesses to a serious sexual assault in Taunton.

Detectives are investigating after a woman was beckoned over to a vehicle in South Street, Taunton, by two unknown men at around 12.15am on Thursday 8 August.

The men forced the victim into the vehicle, where she was raped.

The woman was able to escape and approached a dog walker to ask for directions home. The dog walker is described as white, with blonde hair, and walking a black dog.

Officers are keen to speak with the four people shown in the images, as we believe they may have important information to help our investigation. A woman walking a medium-sized dog with a fluorescent harness and a man wearing shorts A man carrying a large rucksack and a woman walking a small dog Enquiries into the incident are ongoing and officers are supporting the

victim through the investigation.

The suspects are both described by the victim as being of mixed heritage, approximately 6ft tall and in their late 30s. One man was described as being of large build, with black hair and a moustache. He was wearing a red polo and had a tattoo on the back of his neck and was wearing a silver chain. The second suspect is described as being of slim build, with black hair. He had several piercings and no facial hair. They were thought to be driving a small, dark car. Neighbourhood Inspector Jonathan Eamer said: "We understand this can be a very alarming and distressing incident in the local community but we believe this to be an isolated incident with no further reports of this nature.

"We are supporting the victim during this time and commend her for her bravery in coming forward.

"We are appealing for the woman who came to the victim's aid to come forward. We are also asking anyone who was driving or lives in South Street, Taunton, who may have dashcam, doorbell or CCTV footage to get in touch as soon as possible."

If you can help, please call 101 and give the call handler the reference number 5224207440, or complete our online appeals form.

#### FRAUD ALERT

People in Avon and Somerset have reported receiving fraudulent text messages, telling them to pay a fictitious parking fine.

• penalty-charge-scam.pdf

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AT SAINT PETER AND ST PAUL.



Herewith an extract from those listed inside the back cover

The main services in December are:

# •Sunday 01 Dec Advent Carols at 10am

- •Sunday 08 Dec Christingle Making at 10am
- •Sunday 15 Dec Visit from Marcio and Noemi from Brazil (CMS Link Missionaries) followed by a

# **Bring & Share Lunch**

- •<u>Monday 16 Dec Community Carol Singing outside</u> <u>at 6.30pm</u>
- •Sunday 22 Dec Village Carol Service at 6.30pm
- •<u>Tuesday 24 Dec Crib Service (come dressed up!) at</u> <u>4pm</u>
- •Tuesday 24 Dec Midnight Communion at 11.30pm

# •<u>Wednesday 25 Dec Christmas Family Celebration at</u> <u>10am</u>

I've highlighted in bold the ones usually linked with Christmas. The ones underlined are very suitable for all ages



#### **BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST**

130 years ago

Messrs Maynard received instructions from the Rev WP Williams, who is leaving the vicarage, to sell by auction the greater portion of his antique and other valuable furniture, ornamental china, books, pictures and other effects.

Major Henry de Courcy Rawlins, the son of the late Lt Col Henry Williams Rawlins of the Manor House, was appointed to the command of the Cameronians.

At the first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council, having signed the declaration of acceptance of office, Mr Richard Easton was appointed as chairman and Mr JB Lythall as vice-chairman, with Mr Mayes being appointed clerk to the Council. The Overseers of the parish called attention to a memorial (a statement of facts) which had been sent by the Taunton Council to the Local Government Board with a view to the extension of their boundaries. The Taunton Town Council proposed to take in the whole of the new School Board district in the borough and a considerable stretch of agricultural land at that time within the parish of Bishop's Hull. The Council decided to call a meeting of the parishioners to be held at the Board School for the purpose of considering whether they should oppose or support the Town Council in their extension scheme.

There were three candidates for the position of District Councillor for Bishop's Hull. The following was the result of the polling: - JB Lythall 124, A Bale 46 and WU Fowler 24.

The Rev T Fred N Brockway, late of Madagascar, accepted the unanimous call to the pastorate of the Congregational Chapel, in succession to the Rev C G Box who had moved to Bridgwater.

A meeting in connection with the Church Missionary Society was held in the Reading Room, when there was a fairly good attendance. The chair was taken by the new Vicar (the Rev RCW Raban), who was supported by the Rev GF Unwin of Staple Fitzpaine. The chairman, in opening the meeting, remarked on the work done in the parish for missions, and then introduced Captain Streeten RN, who gave a most interesting and instructive account of mission work in Persia. The lecturer, who spoke for nearly an hour, was followed with the greatest attention, and at the close was cordially thanked by the Vicar on behalf of the meeting.

Charles Brewer was charged with assaulting James Mayes, who was school attendance officer and clerk to the Parish Council and also occupied a position with regard to the distribution of the Second Poor Charity. In order to acquaint all the second poor of the parish with the fact that the charity would

be distributed at a given time, notices were posted on the church and chapel doors and the post office and people wishing to partake in the charity were required to give their names to Mr Mayes. The distribution took place, but as the defendant had made no application to be put on the list his name did not appear there. Consequently Brewer went to Mr Mayes private house and asked why it was that his name had not been put on the list and became very abusive. Mr Mayes accordingly ordered him away and as he refused to go Mr Mayes gave him a push. Brewer then rushed at Mr Mayes, caught him by the throat and, having pushed him against the wall, threatened to knock his brains out. Ultimately Mr Mayes called for a police sergeant and Brewer was then persuaded to go away. Mr Mayes did not press the case, but asked to be protected in the discharge of his public duties in the parish. After pleading guilty, Brewer was bound over in his own recognisances of £5 to keep the peace for 12 months. He was also ordered to pay the costs amounting to 19 shillings.

#### 26 years ago

There were large numbers of dead elms around the village, which needed to be taken down, it was reported at the Parish Council meeting. Residents were asked to please consider removing them and replanting with another species if there were any on their property. The situation regarding the Plaving Fields Trust and their continuing involvement in managing the community use of the school was still unresolved. The Trust was concerned about their financial position, particularly as several major car boot sales had to be cancelled this year with a resultant loss of income. The Trust was still in negotiation with Somerset County Council over the revised charges that were being imposed. The Council was to write to Taunton Deane to express their concerns about the proposal to widen Wellington Road by the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital to four lanes, with the resulting loss of trees, hedges and car parking space. The Council was also concerned about the possible increased use of Mountway Road as a rat-run, before proper traffic calming measures were put in place. A change in car parking policy at SCAT was giving cause for concerns. It was thought that an increase in the numbers of cars parked in surrounding roads would result. This could particularly affect Heron Drive and the adjacent roads. The Council resolved to draw this matter to the attention of the Highway Authority.

John Hamer





# EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING DECEMBER



Fry 1 apple, 1 onion, 1 tablespoonful of curry powder and 1 oz. of butter for 15 minutes without burning.

Add 1 oz. of flour and cook well, then some stock or vegetable water, salt and a tablespoonful of tomato chutney.

Prepare about 2 lb. of raw mixed root vegetables, cut up neatly; also half a pint of cooked butter beans.

Add these to the sauce, boil up once and turn into a casserole, and cook gently in the oven if possible until the vegetables are tender -— about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours.

Before serving add the juice of half a Lemon.

\*\*\*\*\*

# **CASSEROLE OF RABBIT**

1 rabbit half a carrot 1⁄4 lb. of fat bacon 1 small piece of turnip 2 tablespoonfuls of flour pepper and salt 2 onions 1/2 pint of water

Cut the rabbit in neat joints, and flour them well. Cut the bacon in small bits and fry it brown; take it out and

brown the rabbit in the bacon fat, slice the onion and brown it also.



Clean the vegetables and cut them in thin strips, put them into a stewpan with the rabbit and bacon. Add the water, and simmer gently for

Add the water, and simmer gently for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

Add the pepper and salt, thicken the gravy with a. tablespoonful of flour. Serve with a border of mashed potatoes.

\*\*\*\*\*

# CHICKEN SALAD

Make some good short pastry, line a sandwich tin with it, than put in a piece of greaseproof paper, and fill with raw rice and bake. Take out the rice and paper, and put back into the oven to dry the pastry well inside.

Cut into dice and mix the following 1 cupful of chicken (cooked), 1/2 cupful of ham, 2 hard-boiled eggs, 1/2 cupful of macaroni (cold macaroni cheese is very nice), 1 cupful of potatoes, a cupful of cucumber or celery. Then make half a pint of mayonnaise or other salad cream; add to it three sheets of gelatine (soaked and melted), and mix the meat in. As soon as the sauce thickens and the mixture is nicely coated, pile it in the pastry case, which must be quite cold. Garnish with cress, tomato 'and sieved yolk of egg, and serve very cold. This is a. good way to use up scraps.`

#### OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PUDDING



<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lb. of self-raising flour
1 lb. of sweet almonds, chopped fine
1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb. of breadcrumbs
1 lb, of shredded beef suet
2 lb. of prepared raisins
1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb. of currants
<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb. Sultanas
3 eggs well-beaten
1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb. Demerara sugar
3 oz. of grated mixed peel
Half a nutmeg
A pinch of salt
A little powdered cinnamon
A little milk

Sift the flour into the breadcrumbs, add the salt, cinnamon and nutmeg, and thoroughly mix together. Then add all the other ingredients, mix, make a hole in the centre of the mixture, pour in the eggs and milk to make a moist mixture.

Pour into three medium-sized basins, well greased. Cover with a greased paper and pudding cloth, and boil for 8 hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

## OLD-FASHIONED APPLE CAKE



1½ cupfuls of flour
1¼ teacupful of milk
2 tablespoons of butter
4 or 5 apples
3 teaspoonfuls of baking powder
½ cupful of sugar
1 teaspoonful of ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoonful of salt

Sift flour, baking powder and salt, and rub in butter very lightly. Make into a dough with milk, and roll out to half

an inch thick, and put into a. shallow greased tin.

Put the apples, pared, cored and cut in sections on top of the pastry, sprinkle with sugar, dust with cinnamon, and bake in a moderate oven for half an hour or until the apples are tender and brown.

Serve hot with cream.

# YORKSHIRE TEA CAKE



1½ lb. of flour
1½ oz. of yeast
3 teaspoonfuls of sugar
2 teaspoonfuls of sugar in a breakfastcupful of warm milk
2 oz. of margarine

2 handfuls of raisins or currants

Mix yeast, sugar and warm milk. Rub margarine into flour and add all dry ingredients. Mix to a stiff dough and knead. Leave to rise in a warm place for half an hour, then shape into four flat, round loaves and put on to a warm tin to rise for another half an hour, then bake for 20 minutes in a hot oven. ###



Taunton Deane's Own Tech Tips Column

# How to actually pick a 'Password'

We have all faced the pressure of making up a password. Multiple Times. We might reuse a password 'because no one wants access to my groceries shopping list', or just use a simple one because 'we can't remember anything complex'. All completely understandable reactions that many of us have.



There is a very helpful graphic that is worth looking up on the Internet about password strength. Its too big to include in this article, but go to Google and type in 'famous password table' and select the (most likely) top entry from Reddit. The table shows you how long it takes a computer to crack your password, based on its length and what types of characters are in it. Its an eye opening table!

An organisation in the USA called NIST have published up to date guidance on how to pick a password and it has some interesting guidelines. Its a bit of a long read but a couple intriguing ones are (1) Don't keep changing your password except when there is suspected breach - because the chance is the replacement passwords will be weaker and (2) No need to make *complex* passwords, simply make them *long*. (i.e. you can use words!)

*How long*? Well, some websites do, oddly, restrict the length of passwords but, assuming there is no restriction, in 2024 passwords should be an absolute minimum of 14 characters, so long as they have upper & lower case letters in, but preferably *somewhat longer*.

NIST recommend we actually come up with PassPhrases instead of PassWords. So, here is a helpful technique, if you are looking to improve your passwords! I recommend people start with (at least) 3 random words. BatteryHorseStaple, for example. You can use colours, places you like, food you love. PurpleMunich-Pancakes - the more humerous the better. ElevateElectricSandwiches. You get the idea. Those last two passwords come in at 20 and 25 characters respectively!

Then for sites that still insist on numbers and symbols - even though modern guidellines no longer insist on complex passwords (you know like F%5h,@\*PK kind of thing - which is far too short but way too complex to remember), simply tack on one digit and one symbol: 5\* or 7! kind of thing, so that the website doesn't complain.

According to the 'famous password table' graphic, a (humorous, memorable) PassPhrase, with digit and symbol on the end, of only 18 characters in length

(the above examples were 20 and 25 and that was without number and symbol) will take a whopping 26 trillion years for a computer to crack.

So long as you don't give the password away, that is!



## **DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN**

# Winter frost

As we approach the shortest day of the year in December you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working. Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning.

## Top gardening jobs this month



Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place.

Cold, wet, windy winter weather can damage trees, shrubs and garden structures such as trellis. Improving shelter, staking plants, mulching, wrapping pots and careful matching of plants to places will help to prevent this kind of damage.



Insulate outdoor taps and prevent ponds from freezing.

If your pond is stocked with fish and it does freeze over, melt the ice by placing a hot pan on the surface, or install a pond heater or water feature to prevent freezing occurring.



Check that greenhouse heaters are working Correctly.

The high cost of fuel and the desire to garden sustainably are concentrating gardeners' attention on operating greenhouses with the minimum energy usage. Check how to save electricity where you can. Keep mice away from stored produce.

Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops and Keep mice away from stored produce. LOOKING AT YOU That coin in your Christmas pudding



There is a tradition, which dates from the Middle Ages, of putting silver coins into Christmas puddings. The first coins used were a silver farthing or penny. After World War One, it became a threepenny bit and then a sixpence. Finding one was supposed to bring you good fortune, but probably it was more likely to break a tooth as you bit into the pudding.

We now pay for most things with plastic or by tapping a mobile telephone. In future, will people put old credit cards or phones in their Christmas pudding? Hope not. Other coins 'appear' at this time of year. Chocolate coins are traditionally given to children at Christmas time. and in Jewish tradition during Hanukkah. It is said that one night Saint Nicholas climbed on a roof and threw a purse of money down a chimney, which landed in a pair of stockings that a little girl had hung up to dry. Good throw! \*\*

> How much will you spend on Christmas this year?

You will probably spend about £600 during this festive period – what with Christmas gifts, food, decorations, socialising and travel.



Over half your budget will go on gifts for others, followed by food and drink (18%), travel (6%), gifts for yourself (4%) and decorations (2%). About a third of us will still be shopping during December, though about 43% of us will have finished our shopping before Black Friday. We tend to spend most on our children, then on our partners, and least on our mothers-in-law.

56% of those aged 18-24 and 25-34 hope to receive practical or essential gift this Christmas, rather than a luxury item.

These figures come from the IPA's annual Christmas-focussed survey. (The IPA is The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.)

What does your TV licence cover?



I magine something unlikely! There is one television programme the whole family enjoy, but everyone watches it differently. So – you are resting upstairs and watching it on the portable set in the bedroom. Your partner is still at work and watching it on a laptop in the office. Your son is at university and watching it on his computer live. Your daughter who lives with you is on the train coming home from a short holiday loaded with dirty clothes and using her mobile phone to see the programme. Your neighbour does not have a television and listens to highlights on the radio. A happy typical family scene!

You are covered if you have a television licence as it includes the whole house. If you have let out a part of your house on a separate tenancy, the tenant needs a separate licence. Your student son must have his own TV Licence if he watches or records programmes as they are being shown on TV or live on an online TV service, download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer. If he shares a house, then one licence is sufficient for the house. Your partner needs a separate TV Licence for the office if he watches live on an office phone, tablet or computer. Staff or customers do not need a licence if they watch live TV at the business address using their own device, if it is not plugged into the mains, and there is a TV Licence at their home address.

Your daughter is covered by your home licence. The neighbour does not need a licence to listen to the radio. The law changed at the beginning of September. You must have a TV Licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand. If you already have a TV Licence, you are already covered.

As always this is a guide and if in doubt get advice. The TV Licensing

website has some very clear and helpful advice and a set of FAQs. http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/

Think twice before buying that goat in Ghana



What are you buying your friends for Christmas this year? If you are tempted by 'socially responsible' gifts that involve you NOT giving your friends anything at all, but instead giving your money to a charity 'in their name', you may wish to think again. Such gifts as goats in Ghana or chickens in Chad can make you feel virtuous, but may damage your relationships.

A recent study has found that people who buy others 'socially responsible' gifts can actually be considered to be self-serving and inconsiderate by the people to whom they give them. It seems that such givers often overestimate how appreciative their friends will be to receive nothing. A study at the University of Southern California found that to be successful, a gift must make the recipient feel 'extraordinary, and special.' If you suspect giving your various loved ones news about a goat won't achieve that, there is only one solution: instead of giving only socially responsible gifts, insist on receiving only them. Then your mantelpiece will be full of photos of happy goats and chickens, and your family and

friends will enjoy your more usual gifts, and still be speaking to you.

#### What sort of a Christmas card person are you?



he time to send and receive . Christmas cards has come round again - time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them. It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers. Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying... However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!

Restrict number of dogs that can be walked



A lot of us will be out taking walks over the festive period. But do you get nervous when you see someone walking towards you while trying to control a number of various kinds of dogs on the lead? Last year a woman was mauled to death while out walking eight dogs at one time. Natasha Johnston, 28, died near Gravelly Hill in Caterham, Surrey when she lost control of her pack.

Following Natasha's death, the senior coroner for Surrey has suggested that the number of dogs that can be walked at one time in public should be regulated and restricted. He is preparing a prevention of future deaths report for Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, about bringing in regulations and restrictions for dog walkers in public places.

\*\*\*\*



### **Bishop's Hull Christmas Decoration Competition 2024**



You'll remember a couple of years ago, we held a Christmas lights competition for the best decorated house in the village. As there was so much interest, I thought I'd run something similar again this year. I've swapped the word 'Lights' for 'Decorations', so that those of you who prefer a greener approach when making the outside of your home festive, will also be able to enter.

This is a 'just for fun' competition, however, there will be a prize for the winning entry which I'll announce online.

To enter, decorate the outside of the front of your property/garden and add your entry as a photo in the comments section of the 'pinned' post on the Bishop's Hull Facebook page. Don't forget to add the name of your road in Bishop's Hull (not your full address). Closing date for entries is 6pm on Wednesday 11th December.

The following day, I'll add a new post with all your entries, so that everyone can vote for their favourite. Voting will begin at 7pm on Thursday 12th and close at 7pm on Monday 16th December, with the winner being announced shortly afterwards. Entries and votes from Bishop's Hull residents only please.

May l take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Good luck



John Hunt

#### The story of mince pies

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



#### G M TREVELYAN's - English Social History -A SURVEY OF SIX CENTURIES Chaucer to Queen Victoria

The dissolution of the orders of monks and friars was a natural outcome of the attitude towards religion, life, and society that Erasmus and his English friends had done so much to propagate. The men of the new learning in classical and Biblical study, now dominant at Court as well as in the Universities, had been taught to regard the monks and friars as the obscurantist enemies of the new movement. And the ascetic ideal, which had founded the monasteries in ages long ago, was no longer either admired by the world or practised by the monks. Why, then, should the monasteries any longer be maintained at vast expense?

That question was asked by the man in the street, particularly in London. And it was pressed by certain interested parties. The weakest of these were reforming clergymen, like Latimer, who hoped that the monastic wealth would go to endow education and religion; they were the more deceived. Then there were the lay neighbours and patrons of the monasteries, who looked to succeed to their estates on easy terms of purchase, and who were seldom disappointed. Next, the King himself, whose profligate finance and foolish wars in France had emptied his treasury, sought to refill it by confiscation. And lastly,the House of Commons was only too glad to evade the unpopularity of voting taxation of their constituents, by passing the Bills for the disendowment of the monasteries.

An obstinate refusal to pay taxes was a characteristic of the English at this period. A new tax of any weight, even though voted by Parliament, was liable to produce a rebellion in some part of the country, and the Tudors had no standing army. Henry, therefore, in the last part of his reign sought relief for his financial embarrassments from two sources, first the monastic wealth, and, after that, the debasement of the coinage. Both these expedients had, as we shall see, important social consequences.

For a short while the sale of the monastic lands replenished the King's treasury. If Henry had not been bankrupt, he might never have dissolved the monasteries at all; or he might have kept all their lands and tithes for the Crown, and so perhaps enabled his successors to establish absolute monarchy in England; or again, he might have given more of their wealth to education and charity, as at first he intended to do, had not his financial needs been so pressing. Even as it was, he founded Trinity as a college on a larger scale than any other at Cambridge. He was probably inspired to that good deed by the example of Cardinal College (Christ Church) which Wolsey had recently founded at Oxford, also out of the spoils of monasteries; for the diversion of monastic lands and tithes was not an invention either of Henry or of the Reformation. But considering the enormously greater opportunities of the King, he did very little for the endowment of institutions beneficial to the public. Some indeed of the monks' money he spent on fortifying the harbours of the Kingdom and the arsenals of the Royal Navy.

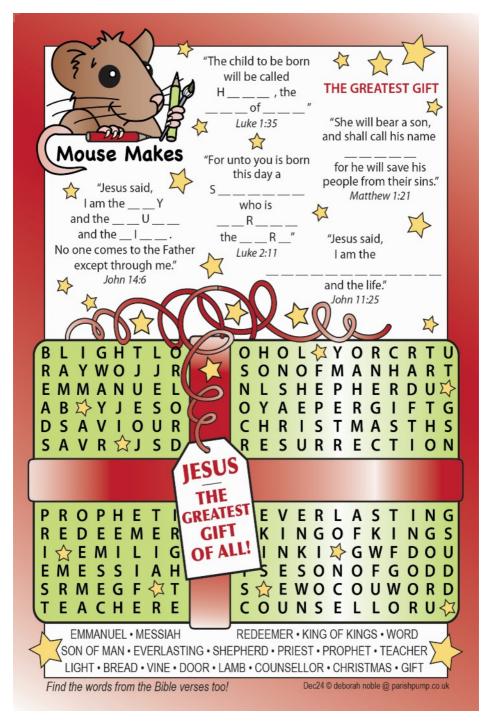
Henry did not, as it is sometimes stated, distribute any large proportion of the monastic lands and tithes gratis among his courtiers. He sold much the greater part of them.' He was driven by his financial necessities to sell, though he would have preferred to keep more for the Crown. The potential value of the estates, enjoyed in times to come by the lay purchasers or their heirs, was very great compared to the market prices they had actually paid to the necessitous King or to the merchant speculators who bought them up from Henry to re-sell to the local squirearchy. Therefore the ultimate beneficiary of the Dissolution was not religion, not education, not the poor, not even in the end the Crown, but a class of fortunate gentry, of whom more will be said when we come to consider the changes going on in social and agricultural life.

A good deal of monastic, chantry, and other ecclesiastical land and tithe remained in the hands of the Crown for several generations. But financial necessity induced Elizabeth, James and Charles I gradually to part with it all to private purchasers.

The coalfields, particularly in Durham and Northumberland, had been, to a predominant extent, ecclesiastical property. But owing to the action of Henry VIII this source of future wealth, which from Stuart times onwards was to be developed on an immense scale, passed into the hands of private gentlemen, whose descendants founded many powerful and some noble families out of coal. Yet even from the remnant left to the Church, the Ecclesiastical Commission a few years ago was drawing nearly £400,000 a year — a seventh part of all coal royalties?

Besides the gentry, another class that benefited by the Dissolution of the Monasteries were the citizens of towns like St Albans and Bury St Edmunds, now released from the stranglehold of monastic lordship, against which they had been in fierce rebellion for centuries past. On the other hand, the destruction of great monastic establishments and the suppression of popular centres of pilgrimage reduced the wealth and importance of some towns and some rural districts, which were not in a position to make good the loss as independent centres of industry and trade. The destruction of many monastic libraries with their irreplaceable manuscripts was a cruel injury to learning and Literature.

The monks suffered personally much less than used to be supposed until recent research has revealed the facts. 'They were given adequate pensions, which were really paid. Many of them found employment, particularly as beneficed clergymen and some even as bishops. Under the successive Catholic and Protestant regimes of Henry, Edward, Mary, and Elizabeth, the Church was served by former monks and friars, who appear to have been as well able as the rest of the clerical body to adapt their views to the frequent changes of the times. A few of the heads and inmates of the dissolved houses resisted the new order of things and were ruthlessly executed by the tyrant King. But the great bulk of the monks and friars accepted changes which to many of them were not unwelcome as opening to them personally a freer life and greater opportunity in the world. #####





# Bishop's letter - 'Jesus, the Light of the World'



'All is calm, all is bright' may not be the words that many of us would use to describe our experience of either the run up to Christmas or the feast itself. Presents to buy and wrap, food to order and cook, events and church services to be part of. And that's before we've negotiated the big day itself. I saw one website recently that claimed that Christmas is considered as one of the six most stressful life events, along

with divorce, moving house and changing jobs! In the midst of such chaos, our churches offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time – of stillness, quiet and the opportunity to stand back from all the pressures that the season contains. This year, the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas is Follow the Star: Calm and Bright. The theme draws on some of the lyrics of the famous carol, Silent Night:

"Silent Night! Holy Night!

All is calm, all is bright..."

To be calm and bright is to be invited into the still centre of the Christmas story. It's to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World. It's to open ourselves to the joy of the angels as they tell the shepherds "Do not be afraid - Fear not!" It's to encounter the wonder of the wise men as they discover that the gift of this child is for the whole world.

> May your Christmas 2024 be 'Calm and Bright'! Bishop Michael Beasley Bishop of Bath and Wells

## TO FINISH ON A JOYFUL NOTE

# What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

### What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

## **Church rules**

Six year-old Angie and her fouryear-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!" "Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

## Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

#### **Christmas shopping**

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man. "Why, that's no offence," said the

judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

#### **Christmas carols**

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

#### **Father Christmas**

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

# Christmas play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the preschoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was: CHRISTMAS\_BATS.

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### The Everlasting Turkey



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door, The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold. On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried, But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter, For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto, He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew, Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting, And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips, The guests had gone, the turkey too WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.



**BOOK REVIEWS** 



The Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore (Author), Sue Buswell (Editor)

This classic Christmas verse is well known to every parent and child preparing for Christmas and this beautifully illustrated new edition is the perfect Christmas gift for young and old.

#### Jerusalem Inn Author: Martha Grimes

Scotland Yard's Superintendent Richard Jury isn't looking forward



to Christmas in Newcastle – until he meets a beautiful woman in a snowy graveyard. Unfortunately for both of them, she'll be dead the next time he sees her.

Though multiple sets of holiday festivities give this book a lot of characters to track (especially for those not familiar with the series), it's a fun novel with all the elements of a classic British Christmas...with murder.

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#### <u>Mistletoe &</u> <u>Murder</u>

Author: Carola Dunn

In December of 1923, the Dowager Viscountess Dalrymple gathers her family at the ancestral



estate of Brockdene in Cornwall, only to see everything quickly go awry. With tensions already high, a body is discovered – the victim of a savage murder. Now, Daisy will have to sort through a sea of strong motives to figure out who did it, and why.

#### The Penguin Book of Christmas

#### <u>Stories</u>

This is a collection of the most magical, moving, chilling and surprising Christmas stories from around the world, taking us from frozen Nordic woods to glittering



Paris, a New York speakeasy to an English country house, bustling Lagos to midnight mass in Rio, and even outer space.

Here are classic tales from writers including Truman Capote, Shirley Jackson, Dylan Thomas, Saki and Chekhov, as well as little-known treasures

Featuring santas, ghosts, trolls, unexpected guests, curmudgeons and miracles. #####



#### I HAD TO TRAVEL MILES TO FIND THESE SMILES

As the last guests departed the affair, his wife, Helen, turned to her oldest friend. "Well, I'm sure Joe would be pleased," she said.

"I'm sure you're right," replied Jody, who lowered her voice and leaned in close. "How much did this really cost?"

"All of it," said Helen. "Thirty thousand."

"No!" Jody exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$30,000?"

Helen answered. "The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the church. The wake, food and drinks were another \$500. The rest went for the memorial stone."

Jody computed quickly. "\$22,500 for a memorial stone? My God, how big is it?!"

"Two and a half carats."

 $\mathbf{Y}_{ ext{friend and asked him what he}}^{ ext{esterday I called my engineer}}$ 

He said, "I'm working on a hydrothermic treatment of porcelain, glass and metals in an environment under controlled pressure." His response impressed me but I had no idea what he was talking about and so I asked him to elaborate. He answered, "I'm doing the dishes and my wife is supervising me."

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Four college students decide to get drunk the night before their final exam.

They get so drunk they wake up late and completely miss their final. The four students go to their professor, and explain this elaborate lie that when they were on their way to the final that their car the tyre went flat. They beg for a retest, and the professor agrees. On the day of the makeup test, the four boys all arrive on time, completely sober. The professor looks at the boys, looks at his watch, and says "you may begin the test". The four boys open their final booklet and to their surprise they each only have one question.

"Which tyre was flat?"

After years of hard work, an ambitious yuppie books himself on a Caribbean cruise.

He has the time of his life until the boat sinks and he ends up on a desert island. A month later the man looks out to sea and sees a gorgeous woman rowing to shore. He asks her where she's come from.

"I was shipwrecked last year," she says. "I've been stranded on the other side of the island."

"Where did you get the rowboat?" "I made it out of gum trees and palm branches," she replies.

"But you had no tools!" he says. "I used volcanic rocks to whittle the wood, and eucalyptus jelly as glue." The woman takes the man to the other side of the island and leads him into an elaborate bungalow with ceiling fans and furniture she made out of vines. The man can't believe his eyes. They sit down, and she smiles at him. "Now, tell me," she says, looking deep into his eyes. "Is there something you've been desiring while you've been alone? You know..."

"Do you mean," he whispers, "Can I check my E-mail from here!?!" Little Johnny was a notoriously bad speller He would always misspell words and just write them the way they sounded to a young child's ear. This was particularly embarrassing to his father, whose boss would always brag how clever his own son, Pete was.

One evening, the boss visited Little Johnny's house for dinner, bringing little Pete as well. Little Pete showed Johnny's father his perfectly-done maths homework, his 1000-word English essay, and his science report, and Johnny's dad was noticeably impressed at Pete's academic ability. Next, Little Johnny volunteered to show his schoolwork to his dad's boss. Johnny's dad sunk into his chair, preparing to be embarrassed at Johnny's exaggerated, childish misspellings. But his boss was in fact quite impressed.

'Good Lord!' exclaimed the boss 'Your son is a genius!'

'A... genius?' asked Johnny's dad

'Well he's only in year five, and he's already fluent in double Dutch!'

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A pregnant woman goes into a coma moments after she gives birth to twins, one boy and one girl. When she finally wakes up several days later, she cries out frantically to see her children.

The doctors come to her, and the first thing she asks is "How are my children?"

"Fine" says the doctor, "your brother named them". She thinks to herself, "Oh no!" "My brother's an idiot" and she asks the doctor "What did he name them?" The doctor says "He named the girl Denise"

And she thinks, "Well, maybe I misjudged my brother... Denise isn't such a bad name" What did he name the boy?"

The doctor replies,"De nephew."

**B**illy Bob wanted a job as a signalman on the railways.

He was told to meet the inspector at the signal box.

The inspector asked, "What would you do if you realized that two trains were heading for each other on the same track?"

Billy Bob replied, "I would switch the points for one of the trains."

"What if the lever broke?" asked the inspector.

"Then I'd dash down out of the signal box," said Billy Bob, "and I'd use the manual lever over there." "What if that had been struck by lightning?"

"Then," Billy Bob continued, "I'd run back into the signal box and phone the next signal box."

"What if the phone was busy?" "Well in that case," persevered Billy Bob, "I'd rush down out of the box and use the public emergency phone at the level crossing up there."

"What if that was vandalized?" "Oh, well then I'd run into town and

go get my Uncle Lester."

This puzzled the inspector, so he asked, "Why would you do that?"

Billy Bob answered, "Well, Uncle Lester ain't never seen a train wreck!" ####

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The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: enquiries@parishpump.co.uk

> The Rectory St James the Least

#### My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive. You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off. Your loving uncle, Eustace

## **Regular weekly events**

<u>MONDAYS</u>					
10.00-11am Nia (Dance fitness) HUB					
10.00-12noon Painting Grou	ip FBC				
1.30-4.00pm Whist Club	FBC				
2.00-4.00pm Bridge (except	: 1st				
Monday)	FBC				
6.15-7.15pm Zumba	HUB				
7.30pm Tone Big Band (1st &	≵ 3rd				
Mon)	HUB				
<b>TUESDAYS</b>					
6.15-7.00am Group Fitness	Fraining				
	HUB				
10.30-11.30am Qigong	HUB				
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi	HUB				
10.00-4.00pm Board Games	-				
7.00-8.00pm Yoga	HUB				
	neb				
<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>					
10.00-11.00am Pilates for Ev	•				
	HUB				
10.00- 11.00am Flexercise	FBC				
11.00-12noon Mum and Bab	-				
	HUB				
2.00- 4.30pm Short Mat Boy					
6.00- 7.00pm Tae Kwon Do	HUB				
THURS DAYS					
6.15-7.00am Group Fitness	Fraining				
	HUB				
10.00-12noon Baby Badgers	HUB				
10.00-12noon Bridge Club	FBC				
2.00-4.00pm Croquet	FBC				
FRIDAYS					
8.30-1.00 pm Star Bubs	HUB				
10.00-12n0on Pétanque	FBC				
10.00-12noon Frank's Café	FBC				
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts	HUB				
<u>SATURDAYS</u>					
6.30-7.15am Group Fitness	Fraining				
0.30-7.15am Group Fitness	HUB				
0 20-11 20am Hub Cardonir					
9.30-11.30am Hub Gardening Club HUB					
9.00pm Bingo	Con Club				
2.00pm bingo	Con CiuD				

### **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

YOUR SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS John Hunt (Independent) 07880 794554 john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk Cllr Caroline Ellis 07473 119425 cjellis1968@googlemail.com

<u>Your Member of Parliament</u> Gideon John Amos Lib/Dem

#### SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Taunton Citizens advice - 0808 278 7842

Village Agent - 01823 331 222

Mindline, a 24/7 phoneline available to support people of all ages offering a listening and advice service for wellbeing. You can call Mindline on 01823 27689. Information about childcare http://www. childcarechoices.gov.uk/

#### Taunton Foodbank

https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/gethelp/

Free support and advice about: Money, food, home, health and wellbeing, domestic abuse, problems with drugs and alcohol and parenting visit:

www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4 all

## **BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES**

BH Parish Council - Helen McGladdery 07518144614 clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.go v.uk

BH Pre School - 07928 950230 BH Primary School - 331624 Castle School - 274073 Spring Nursery - 793506

#### Community Room & School Hall - Rick Moon 354908

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958 246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

PSCO Lyndsay Smith & PCSO Marshall Bernhardt Call 101 or 999 in emergency lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pol ice.uk

marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomers et.police.uk

Robin Close Hall - 356389

<u>St Peter & St Paul Parish Church</u> Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

# BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show - Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB - 07500 748 609 booking: bhhubbookings@gmail.com General enquiries and events: bishopshullhub@gmail.com Bishops Hull Hub cafe bishopshullhubcafe@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls - Alan Chapman 01823 630641 bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BHVH & Playing Fields Trust - Paul Bulbeck 283941

BH WI — Sue Hazelwood 01823 323986

British Martial Arts and Boxing Association Tae Kwon Do alecmhay@aol.com

Brownies - Sheena Grinter 331184

Community Woodland Volunteer -David 272415

Nia (Dance Fitness) - Jackie 07949735139 FBC Activities - Carolyn 283941

Infinity Martial Academy - Jon 07736 714370 jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk Pilates - Larissa lapilates7@gmail.com / larissa@lapilates.com

Somerset Hills Chorus - Brenda Palfrey 07857 244272

Tae Kwon Do - Sebastian Morey-Weale 07900 517767

Tai Chi - Bev Fernandes 07880 555984

Zumba - Felicity 07939 580327

#### REFUSE / RECYCLING /GARDEN COLLECTIONS

Dates below taken from Somerset Council Website. Please note new day for recycling and refuse collections.

# Recycling: Every Thursday - all areas

#### BISHOP'S HULL, SHUTEWATER, UPCOTT & BARR

Refuse: Garden:

## RUMWELL

Refuse: Garden:

# STONEGALLOWS

Refuse: Garden:

## <u>BH COUNCIL PRIVACY</u> STATEMENT AND POLICY

http://wwwbishopshull.org.uk/ Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/ parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf

# Bishop's Hull Parish Magazine Edition 39/07 December 2024 SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December ADVENT	Holy Communion Holy Communion ADVENT CAROLS	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Advent carols and readings	ТВА
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Dcember	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m		
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 2	Holy Communion Holy Communion CHRISTINGLE	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Philippians 1:3-11 (1178); Luke 3:1-6 (1029)	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 3	Holy Communion CMS LINK MISSIONARIES	10.00 a.m.	Philippians 4:4-7 (1180); Luke 3:7-18 (1029)	Shirley Stapleton
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Community Carol Singing outside the church	6.30 p.m.	BRING A TORCH	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December Advent 4	Holy Communion Holy Communion VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 6.30 P.M.	Hebrews 10:5-10 (1208); Luke 1:39-45 (1026)	Christabel Ager
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	CRIB SERVICE MIDNIGHT COMMUNION	4.00 P.M. 11.30 p.m		
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS FAMILY CELEBRATION	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas 1	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m	Colossians 3:12-17 (1184); Luke 2:41-52 (1028)	Dee Willis





<u>GRASS CUTTING</u> December Paul Curry

# CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: Vicar:

www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk **Rev. Philip Hughes** 336102 (Usual day off - Friday) nhil2overflowing@gmail.com



pinizo	Rev Philip Hughes				
Church Wardens:	Tim Venn John Perry	iter i inip i iugnee			
Treasurer	Rachel Horder				
Electoral Roll Officer					
Safeguarding Officer:	Sally Adams (co-opted PCC member)				
Other PCC Members -	embers - Mark Dakin Sue Martin Shirley Stapleton				
Tower Secretary:	Giles Morley 430710				
	Church Wardens: Treasurer Electoral Roll Officer Safeguarding Officer: Other PCC Members -	Treasurer Rachel Horder Electoral Roll Officer Safeguarding Officer: Sally Adams (co-opted PC Other PCC Members - Mark Dakin Sue Martin Shirley Stapleton			

# St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2024-2025

- 1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
- 2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
- 3. John Perry (Church Warden)
- 4. Rachel Horder (PCC Treasurer)
- 5. Sally Adams (Parish Safeguarding Officer, co-opted PCC member)
- 6. Mark Dakin
- 7. Sue Martin
- 8. Shirley Stapleton



9. And you? The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church. If you think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!