

**BISHOP'S HULL
PARISH MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2024**



**A THRIVING VILLAGE
COMMUNITY
IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET**

EDITOR

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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



BLUETIT FEEDING

Cover - Nature recycling



**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

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2024

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



Start Time 7a.m. Bishop's Hull Playing Field
TA1 5EB [///rocket.force.monday](http://rocket.force.monday)

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)



Are you an avid reader? Are your children good readers? Did you struggle at University with reading? Do you actually read regularly? Do you know someone who cannot read?

Currently the subject of reading skills is making headlines in the news and I am wondering why. I find great enjoyment in reading and can clearly recall my early lessons at primary school in 1942. Today, however, there seems to be a growing problem amongst an increasing number of children when it comes to literacy.

I did a quick WWW search and found numerous articles highlighting the problem and some which try to explain the reasons why.

Quote. Research from Renaissance and GL Assessment shows teachers believe a third (33%) of their pupils are weak readers and that children are struggling to keep up with the curriculum due to their reading ability. A quarter (26%) of pupils are taken out of class for reading support with, on average, half a day of curriculum time per week given to helping students read. Unquote.

I regret that I am unqualified to give an explanation or advice but I am concerned that in today's world so many people are not able to read the written word. How on earth do these unfortunate people manage in their daily lives when so much of how things work are written down?

If a parent realises that one of their offspring is having problems learning to read then they are in the right place to help. If you are however in a situation where an adult admits to having this difficulty then you may need outside help.

The world does have the technology to help but is it being channelled into those areas of need?

Save the Children reported three years ago that - According to a new analysis tool launched in April, more than 393 million children have failed to gain the basic literacy skills at age 10 since world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

It would seem that this literacy problem is all around us and many of us are completely unaware that it exists. If you have the necessary time and skills then please do try and help in any small way that you can.

The Vicar Writes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

An email from a friend offered good advice and asked:

What have you noticed recently, just by chance, that has lifted your spirits? A grey, damp afternoon in a Morrisons car park may not lift the spirits, however, on turning the car around to drive out there is a spectacular rainbow! The rainbow was there all the time, it just hadn't been noticed.

Autumn, the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, can be a most beautiful season. With 'Bake Off' starting again you might say that nature around us already offers some of the most sensational, seasonal 'show stoppers'. The thing is, do we notice and, if we do notice, do we take note? Do we allow the grey car park, the very real demands of the everyday, to absorb all our focus? Perhaps we have all had one of those days where you barely notice the weather outside, the passing of time or the words of others.

We cannot call up a rainbow to coincide with our break time or the sun to shine when we are heading outside. We can however notice beauty in the everyday. Raindrops and puddles, leaves in the wind, cobwebs covered in dew, friendly words. Take time to notice, to change our perspective, lifting our heads and looking around us, taking note even if just for a few moments.

Psalm 96 in the Bible personifies elements of nature expressing their joy: *"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all its fullness; let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice."* Whether or not we have a personal faith that links nature and God we can all rejoice in its beauty and uniquely restorative qualities.

So, stop, breathe deeply and look beyond...

Your Brother in Christ
Phil Hughes
Vicar and Chaplain



Our Rev Philip Hughes communing with Nature during Harvest Season celebrations.

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.

Ringling 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



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

The Bridge is what we have called the New 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 30 November 2024**. Please 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

3rd October – Half Yearly Statement & Meeting dates 7th November – Draft Budget	5th December – Finalise budget /Precept 2025/26
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www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dougie-kerr

**DONATE TO SAVE
THE LAST BEVERLEY**

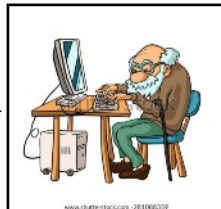
31/08/24 82% £49,490 was raised of the £60,000 target by 1629 Supporters. Regrettably the six month limit rule now applies
Thank you for your support. Bob Coombs



>>>>>>>>>



>>>>>>>>>



Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**A little bird told me that the Editor still has a supply of
2024 Cooked, Sliced & Bottled Beetroot for sale.**

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

Parish Council news

At the Parish Council meeting on 5th September the following resolutions were made:

- Quotes were discussed and a solicitor instructed to act on behalf of the PC for the transfer of the area formerly known as Kinglake to the PC, as Somerset Council legal team are scheduling a meeting with Persimmon to finalise details.
- The Conclusion of PC External Audit was approved and it was noted that there were no matters of non-compliance
- The Clerk to contact Somerset Council to see if "no littering" signs or stickers are available
- The Clerk to seek information from other allotment plots, regarding a deposit scheme
- The PC agreed to purchase two posts as designated sites for the installation of the Speed Indicator Device on Wellington New Road and Bishop's Hull Road to continue to combat speeding in the Parish. Since installed on Silk Mills a decline in speeding has been noted
- The Clerk to contact the HUB to arrange a "volunteering café" at a regular monthly café with no other activities

As a Parish Council we have received reports of littering in certain areas of the Parish, please remember if you can't find a bin — take your litter home.

The next meeting was held on Thursday 3rd October, 7.00pm at The Bishop's Hull HUB

Frank Bond Centre

An Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held on Friday 25th -Sunday 27th
October Doors open - 10:00-4:00pm.

This Exhibition is open to the public, free entry, light refreshments to purchase.

Bishop's Hull HUB and Youth Club

Apple Day took place from 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 12th October. It was well attended with everyone bringing apples and clean bottles and all were eager to use our apple press to make delicious apple juice (for a donation).

The Youth Club met on Saturday 19th October 7:15pm - 9:15pm for kids aged 11-17 living in Bishop's Hull (and their mates).

Hub Cafe Saturday 9th November 10am - 12noon.

Remembrance Day Cafe with tea, coffee, cake and kids' activity table.

Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Night: Sat 9th November. £11 per ticket. Tables of 4-8.
Doors open at 7pm. Quiz 7:30pm. BYOB.

The Youth Hub is One Year Old!

This time a year ago, Bishop's Hull HUB opened its doors to a brand-new youth club!

We host this once a month (the third Saturday) from 7:15pm-9:15pm. It is organised by two HUB volunteers, Tina and Claire, both parents and DBS checked. We have a designated person for safeguarding and usually one parent-volunteer alongside Tina & Claire per session. Over the year about 35 young people have come and spent the evening with us.

What happens at our Youth Hub?

Entry is from 7:15pm,; we ask for £1 to enter and have the hall set up with activities such as a badminton, pool, Lego, karaoke, origami and board games. After about an hour we come together as a group to do a joint sitting or messy activity such as making mocktails, ice cream sundaes or decorating biscuits. Then we all clear the hall up together to make space for a large, running around group game to end on a high!

What does the next year have in store for us?

We are applying to the Parish Council for funds to buy a table tennis table, bean bags for a chill out zone along with some craft resources and other popular board games. We are also planning a fund-raising event of our own so if you'd like to support the youth of Bishop's Hull in this project - please do watch this space for more info soon!

Love the sound of this and want to get involved?

Thanks for taking the time to read our update,
Claire Plumbly.

Send an email for Claire.Plumbly@hotmail.co.uk with the words 'youth hub' and we can tell you more about attending or ways you can help out!

Your Independent Councillor Reports

A lovely social weekend in the village

As you will no doubt be aware, there is often a lot going on in the Bishop's Hull area and last weekend (6th and 7th September) was no exception.

On Friday 6th I was invited to be quizmaster at a very successful fundraiser held in the Constitutional Club. Local residents Lin & Colin Davies organised the event to help raise funds for their grandson Daniel, who's raising £2,000 to go on a "Borneo World Challenge" trip and work with the Conservation Initiative Turtle Foundation. On the trip, Daniel will be assisting the local research and ranger team in their day to day activities. One of the most valuable tasks is keeping the beaches clean and to remove any dangerous objects from where the turtles will be nesting and hatching. I would like to wish Daniel all the very



best on his adventure and congratulate Lin and Colin for organising a fun evening, which was superbly hosted by the Constitutional Club team.

On Saturday 7th it was off to 'Milligan' for a BBQ. An evening to say 'thank you' to the intrepid volunteer teams of both the Bishop's Hull Gardening Club and Netherclay Community Woodland.

It was wonderful to see so many of you having fun with your fellow volunteers. I would like to thank Jane and David Gurr for organising and hosting the well-attended event.

Volunteering in the village is an amazing way to meet people and make new friends; as one volunteer said to me, "volunteering in the village has completely changed my life."

So, if you would like to get involved, please do drop me a line at john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk

*Take care,
John Hunt*

Richard Holland - Thank you.



On Friday 4th October, on behalf of our Parish Council, I had the great pleasure to accompany local resident Richard Holland to receive his Somerset Council Chair's Award for Services to the Community. The following words were read out as he accepted his award:
"Richard Holland, a retired architect, has designed, fund-raised and project managed the build of a new Community Hall for Bishops Hull."
"Richard even managed the project purposefully throughout lockdown, with the newly named Bishop's Hull Hub opening successfully on the 31st July 2021."

"I think it is fair to say, that without Richard (or Sir Richard, as we fondly call him locally), this half a million pound project, which has brought the people of our village together, would not have been possible."

"Ignoring an often worsening health condition, Richard is now project managing and fund-raising for a Sensory Trail surrounding the village playing field, with access steps and ramp which will further enhance the Hub's amazing facilities."

"Sir Richard, for all you have done and continue to do for the residents of Bishop's Hull, we ALL thank you."

John Hunt

VILLAGE HALL AND COMMUNITY ROOM

Both of these facilities are run by the Village Hall and Playing Field Trust

Booking Secretary's contact details.

DESCRIPTION AND AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES

Monday to Friday in school term
time: 5.00pm to midnight

Saturdays & Sundays: 8.00am to
midnight

School holidays: 8.00am to midnight
all week.

Village Hall caretaker: Rick Moon
01823 354908

VILLAGE HALL

Large Hall (194.5 sq metres;
dimensions 19m x 15m) Designed for:

1. Closely seated on linked stackable chairs in conference format: 200
2. Seating at large tables: 150
3. Dances, discos: 200
4. Dancing and seating at tables: 185

COMMUNITY ROOM

Smaller room (55.5 sq metres;
dimensions 10m x 8m) Designed for:

1. Seating up to 40 informally or 80 in rows.
2. Children's parties or similar occasions for up to 40

Kitchen

Equipped with gas cooker, hot cupboard, cutlery and china for the hirer to provide tea, coffee etc for 150.

General Equipment

23 large rectangular tables and 9 small tables

(All these facilities are available at no extra charge)

NOTES

1. Total numbers of hours to be notified when booking and MUST include all time required for setting up and clearing up. (Any use of the premises outside of booking times will be charged and deducted from any deposit held)
2. If Hirer's Liability Insurance cover is requested the above charges are increased by 20% (Policy details available on request)
3. Charges for commercial hire are subject to negotiation.
4. Hire of Community Room will include use of kitchen.
5. Hire of Large Hall MAY include use of Community Room & kitchen if available.
There is a NO SMOKING policy in the whole building.

BISHOP'S HULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Bishop'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.

Our October meeting on 24th has as its topic " Look after your hips and knees"...which is bound to be both interesting and beneficial.

The October lunch will be at La Bonne Vie. Always a popular venue. As usual the walking and Scrabble groups will be taking place during the month.

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 .

Bishop's Hull Flower Show 2025

Provisional date Sunday 10th August

Following the hugely successful 2024 Flower Show we are looking for constructive feedback.

How can we enhance the show in 2025? What would it take for you to enter exhibits or simply come to view the different classes in the Show, listen to the live music and enjoy the tea and wonderful homemade cakes?

This really is a show for everyone in the community.

Some ideas put forward so far are -

- it would be helpful if more information was available via social media throughout the year,
- being able to enter online,
- demystifying the Royal Horticultural terminology for shows, making it clear how vegetables should be presented,
- And growing tips to help new gardeners.
- Any comments on the Homecraft, Handicrafts, Flower Arranging and Children's classes?
- Should the scarecrow competition be a 'family' creation or should there be a specific under 10s category?

If you would like to provide feedback on any aspect of the Show please email me at david.gurr@btinternet.com or call me on 07977 474873. Thank you,

David Gurr, Chair, Bishop's Hull Flower Show



Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Police Community Support
Officer
PCSO 7182
Simon FARREY

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.uk

Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

POLICE UPDATE

Station Opening Times Monday — Friday: 08:30—16:30, Saturday and Sunday: CLOSED

Keep Up To Date - Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/3JwA498haRrKpH9p/>

Get In Touch - In an emergency always call 999. For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via

<http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report>

Contact the Neighbourhood Team directly: e-mail:

SomWestNPTTaunton@avonandsomersetpolice.uk

To report a crime anonymously, contact

Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/rge>

Notice Scam

Avon and Somerset Police are warning the public of a phishing text circulating recently which encourages recipients to click on a link to pay a fictitious parking fine. The link leads to a convincing looking fraudulent website which looks like the official government website. You will then be asked to enter your email address, vehicle registration number, and your card details to make a payment, usually of £20.

If you receive a text message like this, do not click on the link, as fraudsters can steal your personal and financial data to commit identity fraud and take your

money. Even clicking the link and not entering any information could result in malware being downloaded onto your device. Phishing messages can be reported by forwarding to 7726, which spells 'SPAM' on your keypad. If you have become a victim of a phishing text scam, report this to your bank immediately, which can be done by calling 159, and report to Action Fraud

A shocking reminder not to bin flammable items



Crews in Barnet had a shocking moment last week when the contents of a bin exploded from the back of the truck.

Sadly this is not an isolated incident and many crews across the country (including Somerset) have faced scary explosions when items such as batteries or gas canisters have been put in the bin.

Please never put gas canisters, batteries or aerosols in the rubbish bin. Help to keep everyone safe:

- Gas canisters, please take to a recycling site.
- Batteries, recycle at the kerbside. Place in a small, tied bag and leave on top of one of your recycling boxes.
- Aerosols, once empty should be recycled in your bright blue bag. Please note camping gas canisters cannot be put in the blue bag.

Do you refill?



Running low on washing up liquid, shampoo, conditioner, soap or many other everyday items, why not head to your local refill shop?

Refilling reduces waste like plastic packaging, supports local businesses and often the products you buy are better for the planet too.

Somerset has many independently run refill shops. Check out our growing list of places to shop for eco-refills.

My Carbon Coach

18 Lower Middle Street, Taunton TA1 1SF

Lesser Litter

11 Paul St, Taunton TA1 3PF

Just remember to save your jars, pots and bottles and take them along with you.

Tick, tock... clocks go back Sunday 27 October

On Sunday 27 October, the clocks go back 1 hour - a good excuse to check smoke detectors, batteries, bulbs, plugs and Christmas lights.

All electrical items, low-energy bulbs and batteries can go to recycling sites.

With kerbside recycling, put out small electrical items in carrier-size bags, and household batteries in small clear bags.



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

76 years ago

At the meeting of the Women's Institute, with Mrs Best presiding, resolutions were discussed and a delegate chosen for the Autumn group meeting. Volunteers were enrolled to make a collection for the Blind of St Dunstan's and arrangements made to hold a rummage sale. The monthly competition for a decorated jam jar was judged by Miss Lewis, with Mrs Pollard gaining highest marks. Miss Lewis, who came from the Cannington

Institute, gave a cooking demonstration of cheese dishes, and was thanked by Mrs Berry on behalf of members. The social half hour was spent in a spelling bee, Miss Pratt taking charge.

Harvest thanksgiving services were held at the parish church, the church having been decorated with fruit and flowers by a band of helpers. There were two celebrations of Holy Communion at 8am and at noon. Morning and evening services were conducted by the Vicar, the Rev EG Mullins, and there were very good congregations at each. A children's service was held in the afternoon. Collections during the day amounted to over £7 and were devoted to the Diocesan Stipend Fund.

A man told Taunton County Magistrates, at a Juvenile Court, that he saw two boys 'dancing about' on top of a newly-thatched rick in a field at Bishop's Hull. He chased them away and then informed the police. The boys denied doing malicious damage and said they did not run about on the rick. The summonses against them were dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act and the boys were placed on probation.

The death took place of Mr Samuel Oaten of Hill Terrace at the age of 63.

Mr Oaten was a member of Bishop's Hull Congregational Church for 40 years and a deacon for 29 years. He was a well-known member of the Taunton and District Gardeners' Association. The funeral service at Bishop's Hull Congregational Church was conducted by the Minister, the Rev WA Bush, and Mr E Lewis was at the organ. The interment followed at St Mary's Cemetery. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr W Turner of Bishop's Hull.

26 years ago

Married at St Nicholas Church, Washington DC, were Thomas Joseph Paska, from Laurel, Maryland, USA, and Hilary Mary Came from Rumwell. The groom, a computer programmer, is the second son of Tom and Mary

Paska, of Minnesota, while the bride, a former student at Salzburg University, is the only daughter of Hugh and Monica Came, of Rumwell. The couple held their reception in a French restaurant in Laurel and enjoyed a honeymoon in New England.

There were a lot of activities reported at the meeting of the Women's Institute. The speakers were aided by the use of the newly purchased microphone and this caused much hilarity from first time users. The ramblers report told of a wonderful afternoon with a round trip from Crowcombe Park Gate, stopping for refreshments on the top. Dot Yeandle's famous Rambler's cream tea was held again this year with great success, with over £80 raised for charity. The outing to Windsor Castle was an enjoyable day seeing the fantastic refurbishments. The skittles, scrabble and whist have started again, while the croquet players continued. This year the tournament was won by a sudden death play-off with June Hoare and Fran Ireland narrowly beating Jean Ostime and Margot Rimes. There were plans for the Christmas choir festival and service and the group's own entertainments and discussions on the Millennium dinner and projects. The speaker, Miss Ackhurst, brought a cornucopia of items relating to the domestic history of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Each item was displayed and explained with many anecdotes and memories reminding members of their own childhoods. This trip down memory lane was much enjoyed and gave an intriguing insight into our social history.

Bingo fans Kathleen and Ronald Pursey celebrated a £100 win two weeks before their golden wedding. The couple, of Robin Close, held a small party at Taunton Vale Golf Club, and said the cash had come in very handy. The pair met through a mutual friend in March 1948 and were married in Bishop's Hull Parish church later that year. Ronald, who saw action as a Royal Marine during the D-Day landings, worked for most of his life as a tyre technician for Taunton Tyre Company on Bridge Street, Taunton. Kathleen had been a domestic at Musgrove Park Hospital.

At Somerset County Cricket Club, the success story of the year was the emergence of young left arm seamer Matt Bulbeck from Bishops Hull, who has come up through the age groups before bursting on to the first-class scene. In his maiden season Matt ended up top of the Somerset bowling averages and in 10th position in the national bowling averages, taking 32 wickets at just over 19 runs apiece.

John Hamer

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING OCTOBER

Tatie pot



onions, chopped
Corned beef
Potatoes, sliced
¾ cup of water
stock cube

Layer the chopped onions in an oven proof dish, followed by a layer of corned beef and then a layer of sliced potatoes. Dissolve a stock cube in ¾ cup of water and pour over the dish. Finish with sliced potatoes on the top. Cook in oven for about 1 hour. When cooked, serve sprinkled with vinegar.

My mother always made this on washing day - no time for fancy cooking.

Win Wiggins

Egg and bacon pie

2 -3 eggs, beaten
salt and pepper
1 teacup milk
¼ lb minced boiled bacon, or
diced rashers

Line a shallow dish with pastry; beat up 2 or 3 eggs, add pepper and salt to season and 1 teacup milk. Add ¼ lb minced



boiled bacon or rashers, pour gently into the pie-dish, cover with pastry and pinch the edges. Bake at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for about 30 minutes.

If cooked in a hot oven the pastry cooks before the custard sets. Do not make a hole in top of pastry or the filling will run out when the mixture boils. Blanched, sliced tomatoes or par-cooked thinly sliced onion may be added if desired.

Anne Reilly

Mackie's mince patties

1 cup mince, cooked
2 cups mashed potatoes, cooked
1 egg beaten
breadcrumbs
Oil, for frying

Divide the mince into 3 portions. Make 3 thick rounds of mashed potatoes, fill with mince and shape into patties about 1cm/½ inch thick. Dip into beaten egg, coat with breadcrumbs, shallow fry, until light brown, in hot oil. Serve with green vegetables and ketchup.

This was one of my mother-in-law's favourites.

Jefferson Horsley

Bread and butter pudding



150 ml/9 fl oz milk
150 ml/9 fl oz double cream
a little salt
1 vanilla pod
3 eggs
125 g/4½ oz sugar
2 small bread rolls
40 g/1½ oz butter
10 gl/½ oz sultanas, soaked in water
20 gl/¾ oz apricot jam, optional
a little icing sugar, optional

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Bring the milk, cream and a little salt and the vanilla pod to the boil. Mix the eggs and sugar together. Add the simmering milk and cream. Pass the mixture through a sieve. Cut the rolls into thin slices and butter them.

Arrange in a buttered ovenproof dish. Add the soaked sultanas. Add the milk mixture, sprinkle the remaining butter on the top and poach carefully for 30 to 40 minutes in a bain marie. Sprinkle with apricot jam and dust with icing sugar.

*Wicked but wonderful.
Mai Curnow*

Meringue roulade

6 egg whites
275 g/10 oz caster sugar
2 tbsp icing sugar, sifted
vinegar
2 tsp cornflour for the filling:
fresh fruit, raspberries, strawberries
or grapes, as desired
450 ml/16 fl oz double cream,
whipped
50 g/2 oz graded chocolate, optional
icing sugar, to dust

This recipe needs a large baking tray, 45 x 30 cm 18 x 12 inch. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/ Gas 4. Line the baking tray



with greaseproof paper. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Continue whisking fast, then add the caster sugar a spoonful at a time. The mixture should be thick and white. Using a serving spoon, fold in the icing sugar and cornflour and add a few drops of vinegar. Put into the baking tray, smooth and bake for 30 minutes or until set on the top, but still soft in the middle. Allow to cool. Turn the meringue out upside down onto a fresh piece of greaseproof paper, then spread with whipped cream. Arrange the fruit evenly on the top and sprinkle with the grated chocolate if using. Holding the long ends, roll up fairly tightly like a Swiss roll, and then, using both hands, lift onto a flat serving dish. Dust with icing sugar, chill and serve. Cut in slices like a Swiss roll.

Liz Huddy

10th November - The poppies of Remembrance Sunday



In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

LOOKING AT YOU

The remarkable usefulness of Allen keys

We all need practical skills, and they are not always easily gained.

I seem to spend a lot of time assembling flat pack furniture of one type or another. The trick is to look and sound as though you know what you are doing, even though any skills are gained through trial and error. It is surprising how many household projects require an Allen key, which if you have not seen one, is an L shaped rod with a hexagon end which fits into an identical sized recess in the top of a screw. You can use the longer or shorter arm depending on the job needs extra force or speed.

The idea of a hexagon socket screw was probably thought of as early as the 1860s to 1890s, but such screws were not widely manufactured until around 1910. In 1909–1910, William G. Allen also patented a method of screw heads which had a hexagonal recessed die. The key that he lent his name to fits nicely into the head of the screw, is cheap and easy to use.

When you are called on to do some DIY, especially after someone has had a go, the best thing is to refer to the instructions and keep all your Allen keys together in one place so you can easily find them. They come in different sizes.

**

Bonfire Night – the Firework Code to keep your family safe

Here are some tips from the police, to help families stay safe



while they are having Bonfire Night fun...

1. Only buy fireworks that are CE marked. Respect them – they travel at speeds of about 80 mph.
2. Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
3. Keep fireworks in a closed box.
4. Follow the instructions on each firework.
5. Light them at arm's length, using a taper.
6. Stand well back.
7. Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
8. Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them. Throwing a firework is a criminal offence – you can be fined up to £5,000.
9. Always supervise children around fireworks.
10. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
11. Never give sparklers to a child under five. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2000 degrees. If three sparklers burn together, they will do so at the same heat as a blowtorch.
12. Keep pets indoors.
13. Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm.

**

Keep a close eye on your
phone and bag



It is something we all dread on holiday – that someone will rush by us, grabbing our phone or bag on the way.

But now it is time to beware of thieves at home, as robberies here have recently hit a 10-year high. More than 200 people a day are falling victim to phone or bag snatch thefts in England and Wales. That is double the rate of even last year.

Police say that the dramatic increase in snatching phones is fuelled by the money that can be made in repurposing and selling them in the UK and overseas.

The problem has prompted government action. Diana Johnson, the policing minister, is calling on tech and phone firms to ensure that any stolen phones can be quickly, easily and permanently disabled. That would prevent them from ever being re-registered for sale on the second-hand market.

Mobile phones may be modern, but sadly thieves and danger are as old as history: *'Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets.'* (Ps 55:11)

**

Something for night owls to consider



If you are a night owl, then this is not good news: recent research has found that those of us who prefer a late bedtime also tend to have a higher body mass index (BMI), larger waists and be almost 50 per cent more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.

Previous studies that found a link between late nights and Type 2 diabetes put the blame on unhealthy habits such as eating junk food. But now scientists in the Netherlands say that it may be the late nights themselves which are the problem. Lead researcher Dr Jeroen van der Velde, of Leiden University Medical Centre, in the Netherlands, explained: "A likely explanation is that the circadian rhythm or body clock in late chronotypes is out of sync with the work and social schedules followed by society. This can lead to circadian misalignment, which we know can lead to metabolic disturbances and ultimately Type 2 diabetes."

A solution? The scientists suggested that night owls might benefit from either going to bed earlier, or in having their last meal of the day earlier.

**

Child criminals on the increase



The number of children caught committing crimes has risen by nine per cent in just the past year. Altogether, the number of under-18s who have been arrested for all crimes has risen by 16 per cent since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. It now stands at nearly 60,000. Crimes of violence, robbery and knife possession all feature highly. Under-18s now account for nearly four in 10 of all robbery arrests where they have used force to steal from a person or a place.

Government-backed agencies are linking the increase of these crimes to the effects of lockdown, when children were left isolated at home, without the support of their teachers, social networks and sports activities. Simon Harding, a professor of criminology at St Mary's University, London, said: "There are many cases of children attacking or killing other children and using weapons that were once considered extreme outside of a Hollywood or gangster movie, but which are now becoming commonplace."

Weapon possession among the young is also soaring since the pandemic. Children account for nearly one in five (18.4 per cent) of all arrests for weapon possession. Almost one in 20 (4.6 per cent) of knife assaults leading to hospital treatment involved children aged under 16. Research by the Ben Kinsella Trust

found that one in 20 children aged 12 or over have carried a knife.

**

A key to longer life? Keep calm and carry on



Scientists have long known that mental resilience, or our ability to bounce back in the face of trouble and adversity, has a powerful effect on us for the good. Such resilience has been linked to preventing disease, keeping chronic illnesses at bay, and helping us recover after trauma.

Now it seems that our capacity to cope with and adapt to challenging life events may even delay our risk of dying for a good few years.

Scientists at the University of Sun Yat-sen, in Shenzhen China, have done extensive research into the health records of more than 10,000 Americans who had signed up for the US Health and Retirement Study. They found that those who scored high on qualities such as perseverance, calmness, a sense of purpose, self-reliance and stoicism had a much lower death rate than others who scored lower.

Writing in the journal *BMJ Mental Health*, the authors said: "Exposure to adversity, such as poverty or significant life events like job loss or bereavement, often leads to disruptions in psychological functioning. However, individuals differ in their ability to overcome and adapt to adversity, with some exhibiting resilience while others struggle." ##

The war of the cafés and the laptops



How do you regard your local café? As a place to meet your friends and catch up on the local news? Or as your office, where you do emails, hold Zoom meetings and work for hours – all for the price of a cappuccino?

It seems that across the country, local cafés are being invaded by laptop holding freeloaders who want to use their premises as free office space. One café owner tells the story of a project manager who spends his morning in her café holding Zoom meetings in a very loud voice, and then paces the length of her café to discuss weekly sales targets on the phone, oblivious of other customers. “He is really focused on his meetings – he got furious when I finally said something.” Another café owner tells of several laptop workers who move into her café for the entire day, taking up tables for hours and hours, all for the price of one cup of coffee. “But we are a small independent business, so we need to keep those tables busy and turned around!” Still another has been told to keep her café quiet during the laptop users’ Zoom meetings, and even to stop other customers from talking at all.

The café owners are united in saying that they welcome laptop workers as long as they spend money appropriate to the time they spend at the tables, and who do not stay for more than two hours. “Otherwise, there is no warm, bustling atmosphere. The place becomes silent like an office, with people intent over their computers. It is the kiss of death to our business.”

**

What issues most concern us?

In a recent article for The Tablet, the international Roman Catholic newspaper, its lobby correspondent listed a number of things that seem to most concern the UK at the moment, and which therefore indicate the challenges facing the new Government.

She listed, in no particular order:

*Breakdown of the justice system and overcrowding in prisons;
social care and the NHS; planning and housing;
defence in a troubled world;
help for the poor and vulnerable and disabled;
climate change;
education;
the asylum system and immigration;
Brexit and its aftermath;
the water industry;
economic equality and the economy;
and scandals of the Post Office,
Windrush, Grenfell and the victims
of contaminated blood*

**

When poverty pushes people into dark places

As Christmas approaches, the Acharity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is warning that

“Poverty has become more ruthless than ever. There are rarely simple solutions anymore. Families can’t afford to live, let alone repay debt, as incomes don’t cover the basics.”



CAP tells the story of Bea, one of its clients. “Like nearly half of CAP’s clients, Bea’s income wasn’t enough to live on. She and her husband had been made redundant and, no matter how careful she was, after paying for rent, food, and other essentials, the money couldn’t stretch to the end of the month. “I got to the point where I didn’t want to be here. I was in a black hole, and couldn’t get out.”

Nearly half of CAP’s clients have attempted or considered suicide as a way out of debt, as on-going poverty and debt is literally driving people to the brink.

And so this Christmas, CAP is asking for support, as “your gift to CAP could save lives. The holistic care and debt help local churches across the UK are providing is vital for people like Bea.”

If you would like to send a donation, please visit: <https://capuk.org>

**

Miscellaneous musings on daily life

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything. - Samuel Johnson

Some people are born great, some achieve greatness, and some just grate. - Anon

Experience is what you get when you are looking for something else. - Anon

It isn’t easy for an idea to squeeze into a head filled with prejudices. - Anon

Un happiness: not knowing what we want, and killing ourselves to get it. - Anon

Men of few words are the best men. - Shakespeare

If you want enemies, excel others; if friends, let others excel you. - Colton

The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us. - Anon

**



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

During the decade in which Leland was travelling and making his notes, Henry VIII, through the instrumentality of Parliament, effected the anti-clerical revolution which more than any other single event may be held to mark the end of medieval society in England. The claim of national independence for a Church repudiating the Pope's authority rendered possible the subjection of the clergy to the laity, and the division of the vast estates and social influence of the monasteries among laymen. Taken together, these proceedings constitute a social revolution. It was accompanied by just that amount of religious change which Henry VIII, a child of the new learning, approved - the diffusion of the English Bible among all classes, the destruction of the cruder forms of idolatry and relic-mongering, the substitution at Oxford and Cambridge of Renaissance scholarship for scholastic philosophy and canon law — measures which constituted in Henry's eyes an orthodox and Catholic reform. Having done all this, he continued to abhor and persecute Protestants, and if he had not done so he might have lost his throne in the then state of opinion. None the less, he had created a new social and ecclesiastical order of things which, as the changing years went by, could only be maintained on a more definitely Protestant basis.

The Reformation in England was at once a political, a religious, and a social event. All three of its aspects were closely interwoven but, so far as division is possible, this volume is concerned only with its social causes and effects. Anti-clericalism is a social phenomenon, compatible with many different forms of belief about religion. And anti-clericalism was the 'keynote of the movement of opinion, equally felt among the learned and the vulgar, which rendered possible the breach with the Papacy and the Dissolution of the Monasteries, at a time when English Protestants were still a persecuted minority.

Henry VIII had himself been educated in the scholarly anticlericalism of Erasmus and his Oxford friends — men sincerely religious and in the main orthodox, but inflamed with indignation at the tricks by which the baser sort of clergy conjured money from the ignorant and superstitious. They were specially hostile to the monks and friars, as protagonists of obscurantism, upholders of scholastic philosophy, and opponents of that direct study of the Greek Testament to which Erasmus and Colet appealed as a criterion of religious truth.

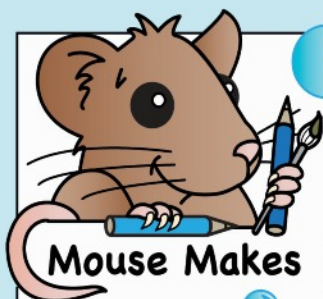
If the most learned and polished man in Europe, who deprecated Luther's robust and headlong proceedings, could write thus in Latin about the monks

and friars, it can be imagined what was the tone of popular anti-clerical writers, appealing to the common English in their own tongue. The printing-press busily circulated such attacks, making direct appeal to the greed of the laity in view of the vast landed wealth of a Church that had for a while lost its only defences against spoliation — moral influence and religious awe. For example, a few years before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Henry VI II read without apparent disapproval, and Londoners read with loudly expressed delight, the pamphlet of Simon Fish entitled *Supplication of the Beggars*. It was an address to the King:

In the times of your noble predecessors past, craftily crept into this your realm an other sort, (not of impotent but) of strong, puissant and counterfeit, holy and idle beggars and vagabonds . . . the Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Deacons, Archdeacons, Suffragans, Priests, Monks, Canons, Friars, Pardoners, and Sommoners. And who is able to number this idle, ruinous sort, which (setting all labour aside) have begged so importunately that they have gotten into their hands more than the third part of all your realm? The goodliest lordships, manors, lands, and territories, are theirs. Besides this they have the tenth part of all corn, meadow, pasture, grass, wool, colts, calves, lambs, pigs, geese, and chickens . . . Yea, and they look so narrowly upon their profits, that the poor wives must be countable to them of every tenth egg, or else she [sic] getteth not her rights at Easter, shall be taken as a heretic . . . How much money get the Sommoners by extortion in a year, by citing the people to the Commissaries Court, and afterwards releasing their appearance for money? . . . Who is she that will set her hand to work to get 3d. a day, and may have at least 20d. a day to sleep an hour with a friar, a monk or a priest?

The conclusion reached by the pamphleteer is that that clergy, especially the monks and friars, should be deprived of their wealth for the benefit of the King and Kingdom; and made to work like other men; let them also be allowed, to marry and so be induced to leave other people's wives alone.

Such crude appeals to lay cupidity, and such veritable coarse anger at real abuses uncorrected down the centuries, had been generally prevalent in London under Wolsey's régime, and his fall such talk became equally fashionable at Court. In those days, whenever the capital and the Court were agreed on a policy, the battle was already half won. And judging by the readiness with which the Reformation Parliament followed Henry's lead, similar feelings must have been widely spread in the country at large, though least in the northern counties, where feudal and religious loyalty to the Church and the monasteries still prevailed. ###



Mouse Makes



READ
the story in
John 13:1-17

"DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.

Then Jesus said:

"Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done for you."



By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

S C L O T H I N G S
N U N D E R S T A N D T
G S W I P E T E R E W R
W D A U A S E R V A N T A E H M
A O R P S C L E A N X O T X O A
I U M P H I J E S U S W E A T S
S F E E T P A S S O V E R M H T
T E N R B L E S S E D L L P E E
K E T X T E A C H E R O O L R R
B A S I N S C R I P T U R E S P
C D A N M E A L O V E D E W
C H O S E N F S
F E A S T

JESUS
DISCIPLES
PASSEVER
FEAST • SUPPER • MEAL

PETER
SCRIPTURES
LORD • TEACHER
SERVANT • MASTER

GARMENTS • CLOTHING • TOWEL • WAIST • WATER • BASIN • WASH • FEET • WIPE
CLEAN • UNDERSTAND • OTHERS • EXAMPLE • DO • LOVED • CHOSEN • BLESSED



Bishop's letter

‘It takes the whole world to know Christ’

Do you think a fish knows that it's swimming in water? I've been reflecting on this question not because it's some kind of Buddhist koan – of the type that asks 'What's the sound of one hand clapping?' Rather it's because I've been reflecting recently on questions of culture and world view. Do I see the world purely from the perspective of being who I am? (A 55 year old white Englishman who grew up in a small village in the 1970s.) If that's the case, is what I see an accurate representation of the whole of reality? Might other perspectives be possible? If I could see the world through the eyes of others, might my vision be richer, wider, deeper? Like a fish that suddenly realizes that seeing can happen not only through water, but through air as well? Seeing things from the perspective of others was something that Jesus did. An example of this happens when Jesus heals a centurion's servant in Luke's Gospel (Luke 7: 1-10). The centurion comes from a background and culture that's entirely different to that in which Jesus grew up. Yet Jesus is blown away by the insight that the centurion has about who Jesus himself is. This leads Jesus to exclaim 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith!'

The Diocese of Bath and Wells has a link with the five Anglican Dioceses of Zambia. There's much to be celebrated in the friendship that we share: the joy and vitality of the Zambian Church, the opportunities our link offers to help some of the world's poorest communities. But for me, the greatest gift we gain is the opportunity our link offers to stand in the shoes of others and to see the world, our faith, and the whole of reality from a different perspective.

A wise person once said to me 'It takes the whole world to know Christ'. Our link with Zambia enables us to see more of the Jesus we share than we could ever hope to experience otherwise.

*Bishop Michael Beasley
Bishop of Bath and Wells*

November in the garden

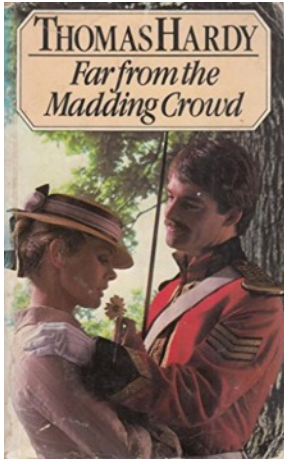
Fruit and vegetables

-
- Take hardwood cuttings from healthy fruit bushes, including currants, blueberries and gooseberries
- Use cloches to protect winter peas, beans and salads, but leave the ends open as good ventilation is vital
- Prune autumn-fruiting raspberries to the ground after harvesting
- Plant garlic, shallots and onions in free-draining soil or raised beds, then cover with fleece
- Prune fruit bushes once dormant, including blackcurrants, redcurrants, whitecurrants and gooseberries
- Support top-heavy Brussels sprouts with sturdy canes, and pile earth up around the stems for extra stability
- Cut down Jerusalem artichokes, then dig up and store the tubers in a bucket of dry compost
- Put netting over cabbages, kale and other hardy brassicas to protect them from pigeons
- Plant bare-root fruit trees, bushes and canes, as long as the ground isn't too wet
- Lift and pot up chicory roots to force in the dark
- Tidy up strawberry beds, cutting back old foliage and congested runners and removing any weeds

Flowers

- Plant tulip bulbs in pots and borders, covering them with at least twice their depth of soil or compost
- Lift dahlia tubers after the first frost, clean them off and store in dry compost in a cool, frost-proof place
- Send off for seed catalogues and start planning what to grow next year
- Plant bare-root hedging, roses, trees and shrubs, before the weather turns really cold.
- Clear faded sweet peas, morning glory, thunbergia and other annual climbers from their supports
- Cut down faded perennials that are looking tatty, then mulch the surrounding soil with garden compost
- Gather up and bin the fallen leaves of roses affected by black spot, so they don't carry the disease over to next year
- Replenish gravel mulch around alpiners to keep the foliage clear of damp soil, which can cause rotting
- Protect plants that are borderline hardy, such as agapanthus, with a thick mulch of straw or garden compost
- Put stem protection guards around young trees and shrubs, if rabbits are a problem

Thomas Hardy and 'The Madding Crowd'



Some 150 years ago, on 23rd November 1874, Thomas Hardy's novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* was published. It was his first major success. Set in Wessex, an imagined area encompassing the counties around Hardy's place of birth in Dorset, it was his fourth published novel and had appeared originally – and anonymously – as a popular serial in the *Cornhill Magazine*. Following its publication in book form the text was revised in 1895 and again in 1901.

A complex love story, the book has as its backdrop the beautiful but harsh life of a farming community in Victorian England. Its title was taken, with some irony, from Thomas Gray's 1751 poem, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*, which contains the line "Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife".

Hardy in fact regarded himself primarily as a poet. He produced many top-quality poems, though his first collection was not published until 1898. His novels contain strong elements of the poetic.

Far from the Madding Crowd has had much staying power. It has been dramatised several times, adapted as a ballet and a musical, and in 1967 became an Oscar-nominated film directed by John Schlesinger. In 2003 it was listed at number 48 in the BBC's survey, *The Big Read*, and in 2007 it was ranked tenth on *The Guardian's* list of greatest love stories.

Hardy's formal education ended at the age of 16, when he was apprenticed to an architect, and he won prizes for his work, which was often on churches such as All Saints in Windsor, where he may have designed a reredos discovered in 2016. But while retaining an emotional attachment to the Church of England, he was unmistakably agnostic.

Church of England schools

There are 4,630 Church of England schools. There are 66 Methodist and Joint Methodist Schools in England.

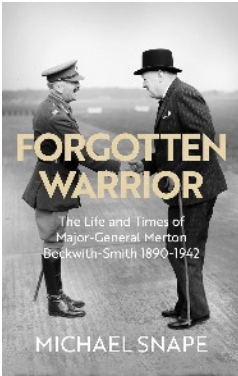
Approximately 1 million children attend Church of England schools. About 15 million people alive today went to a Church of England school. A quarter of all primary schools and 228 secondary schools are Church of England.

There are 1,540 Church of England academies with 280 Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) holding Church of England Articles. This makes the Church of England the biggest provider of academies in England.##

BOOK REVIEWS

Forgotten Warrior

The Life and Times of Major-General
Merton Beckwith-Smith 1890-1942



This is a biography of the most senior English soldier to die in a prisoner of war camp during the Second World War, revealing the courage, faith and fortitude of an

unjustly forgotten hero of the British army.

Major-General Merton Beckwith-Smith DSO, MC commanded the British 18th Division during the catastrophic Fall of Singapore in February 1942. A much decorated veteran of the First World War, he was captured along with tens of thousands of other soldiers - British, Indian, Australian, and Malay - who were then held prisoner on Singapore Island.

Amidst hunger, disease and widespread despair in Changi, over the next six months he rallied the spirits of his soldiers, created a make-shift university and theatre, and helped to inspire a remarkable renewal of collective church life. At the same time, he improved conditions for hospital patients and encouraged sports and other recreations.

While the fate of many of the men he led was to die on the infamous Burma Railway, Beckwith-Smith was exiled to Karenko Camp, Formosa

(present-day Taiwan), where, mistreated and malnourished, he died of diphtheria and heart failure on 11 November 1942.

**

Tyger

A book for children.
SF Said (author),
Dave McKean (illustrator)

From the acclaimed author of Varjak Paw comes a compelling story of a world on the brink of destruction and the magical animal discovered in a London rubbish dump that might just be able to save it. Adam has found something incredible in a rubbish dump in London. A mysterious, mythical, magical animal. A tyger. And the tyger is in danger.

Adam and his friend Zadie are determined to help, but it isn't just the tyger's life at stake. Their whole world is on the verge of destruction. Can they learn to use their powers before it's too late?

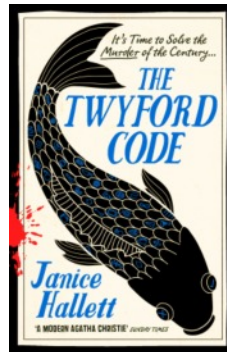
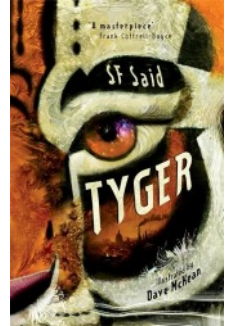
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The Twyford Code

Janice Hallett

It's time to solve the murder of the century...

Forty years ago, Steven Smith found a copy of a



famous children's book, its margins full of strange markings and annotations. He took it to his remedial English teacher, Miss Isles, who became convinced it was the key to solving a puzzle. That a message in secret code ran through all Edith Twyford's novels. Then Miss Isles disappeared on a class field trip, and Steven's memory won't allow him to remember what happened. Now, out of prison after a long stretch, Steven decides to investigate the mystery that has haunted him for decades. Was Miss Isles murdered? Was she deluded? Or was she right about the code? And is it still in use today? Desperate to recover his memories and find out what really happened to Miss Isles, Steven revisits the people and places of his childhood. But it soon becomes clear that Edith Twyford wasn't just a writer of forgotten children's stories. The Twyford Code has great power, and he isn't the only one trying to solve it...



In Ascension by Martin MacInnes

Exploring the natural world with wonder and reverence, this compassionate, deeply inquisitive epic reaches outward to

confront the great questions of existence, while looking inward to illuminate the human heart

Leigh grew up in Rotterdam, drawn to the waterfront as an escape from her unhappy home life. Enchanted by the undersea world of her

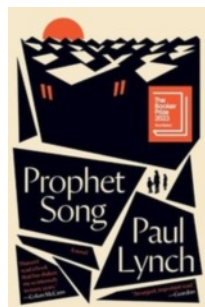
childhood, she excels in marine biology, travelling the globe to study ancient organisms.

When a trench is discovered in the Atlantic Ocean, Leigh joins the exploration team, hoping to find evidence of Earth's first life forms. What she instead finds calls into question everything we know about our own beginnings, and leaves her facing an impossible choice: to remain with her family, or to embark on a journey across the breadth of the cosmos.

##

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch

A mother faces a terrible choice, in Paul Lynch's exhilarating, propulsive and confrontational portrait of a society on the brink



On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her doorstep. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police want to speak with her husband.

Things are falling apart. Ireland is in the grip of a government that is taking a turn towards tyranny. And as the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a collapsing society – assailed by unpredictable forces beyond her control and forced to do whatever it takes to keep her family together. ##

SMILES

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

**

Say that again?

A woman telephoned her Bank and spoke to the official who looked after her holdings. "I want to make some changes," she said.

The official needed more details. "Are you interested in Conversion or Redemption?" he asked.

"Good heavens", came the reply. "I must have got the wrong number. I wanted the Bank of England, not the Church of England."

**

Witty little knitter

A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the highway. Looking at the car, he was astounded to see that the elderly woman behind the wheel was knitting.

The trooper cranked down his window and yelled to the driver, "Pull over!"

"No!" the woman yelled back, "Cardigan!"

**

(Mis)fortune cookie

Sad after the funeral of a friend, my wife and I ducked into a Chinese restaurant for a pick-me-up. The feel-good session ended when I read the fortune cookie: "You will soon be reunited with a good friend."

**

Generation gap

A mum texts, "Hi! Son, what do AIDK, LY and TTYL mean?" He texts back, "I don't know, love you and talk to you later." The mom replies, "It's OK, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister. Love you too."

**

Complete and utter nonsense

"If I were Maria in The Sound of Music and I heard them sing 'How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria' at my wedding, I would be like, 'Why are you singing that mean song about me, and why do all of you know it?'"

**

That'll come back to haunt you

I tried having my mother's phone disconnected, but customer service told me that since the account was in my dad's name, he'd have to be the one to put in the request. The fact that he'd been dead for 40 years didn't sway the rep. Then a solution hit me: "If I stop paying the bill, you can turn off the service, right?"

"Well, yes," she said reluctantly. "But that would ruin his credit."

**

Tempting fate

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. "Will I die?" she asks.

God says, "No. You have 30 more years to live."

With 30 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. Since she's in the hospital, she gets breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great! The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. Up in heaven, she sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live," she complains. "That's true," says God.

"So what happened?" she asks.

God shrugs. "I didn't recognize you."

**

Panicking poodle

A poodle and a collie are walking together when the poodle suddenly unloads on his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend ran away with a schnauzer, and I'm as jittery as a cat." "Why don't you go see a psychiatrist?" suggests the collie. "I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch."

**

Stereotypes in real life

A ventriloquist is performing with his dummy on his lap. He's telling a dumb-blonde joke when a young platinum-haired beauty jumps to her feet. "What gives you the right to stereotype blondes that way?" she demands. "What does hair colour

have to do with my worth as a human being?"

Flustered, the ventriloquist begins to stammer out an apology.

"You keep out of this!" she yells. "I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee!"

**

Holy spelling mistake!

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The head monk, says, "You make a good point, my son."

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held in a locked vault. Hours go by and nobody sees the head monk. The young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing. "We missed the R! We missed the R! We missed the R!"

"Father!" cries the young monk.

"What's wrong?"

The head monk with tears in his eyes replies, "The word is celebrate!"



On why the C of E should never combine parishes

*The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren

I suppose it had to come, but combining parishes is now firmly on the agenda for our villages.

I had always wondered what the first Earl of Stowe was trying to prove, building a church here in 1347 to accommodate 800 people when the total population has never exceeded 250. In the short term – which in this village is measured in centuries - it seems to have been to house the tombs of his 13 successors. I now realise it was to make uniting with adjoining parishes in the 21st century more difficult. Clearly the first Earl had formidable foresight. None of our neighbouring churches seem too keen to share their reserves to help maintain our cathedral-sized building.

The threat of the closure of St Herve the Bard has, inevitably, caused outrage – not so much from its regular congregation of three, but from all those in the village who would never think of attending. People do so like to have a church not to go to.

The church of St Bregowine, built by a wealthy parishioner in the 19th century because she did not like the high church practices of the parish church of St Iwig, is refusing to re-unite, even though the two churches stand only 100 yards apart, in a village with a diameter of 300 yards. If only they could get over the trauma of seeing the incumbent putting water in the wine on Easter Day in 1894.

(Although it must be conceded that the Bregowinians were equally affronted that when the daughter church opened in 1895, they found that the Iwigers had provided no brass troughs at the end of the pews for umbrellas. That they have subsequently refused to install them has only compounded the offence.) Meanwhile St Plegmund is in discussions with the Church of South India as a way of avoiding uniting with anyone. Should it happen, I will be interested to see what travelling expenses the new incumbent claims. It will be difficult to tell when the present incumbent resigns, as he has not been seen at a clerical meeting for the last 30 years. Some of my colleagues suspect he is mythical, that a bloodless coup took place in the 1980s and that the church is now entirely run by the Mothers' Union.

The church of St Maximus of Constantinople in our nearest town has rather grandly offered to take all of our churches under its wing, but as a parishioner has pointed out: how could we possibly consider joining with a parish that fought on the other side at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

In the meantime, we will serenely carry on, as we seem to have done for the past six centuries; parish mergers and reductions in numbers of clergy seem to be of less interest than debating the suggestion that we change the brand of coffee served after Services.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*

Regular weekly events

MONDAYS

10.00-11am Nia (Dance fitness) HUB
10.00-12noon Painting Group 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

TUESDAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training HUB
10.30-11.30am Qigong HUB
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi HUB
10.00-4.00pm Board Games FBC
7.00-8.00pm Yoga HUB

WEDNESDAYS

10.00-11.00am Pilates for Everyone HUB
10.00- 11.00am Flexercise FBC
11.00-12noon Mum and Baby Pilates HUB
2.00- 4.30pm Short Mat Bowls HUB
6.00- 7.00pm Tae Kwon Do HUB

THURS DAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training 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
10.00-12noon Pétanque FBC
10.00-12noon Frank's Café FBC
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts HUB

SATURDAYS

6.30-7.15am Group Fitness Training HUB
9.30-11.30am Hub Gardening Club HUB
9.00pm Bingo Con Club

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

Your Member of Parliament

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/get-help/>

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/help4all

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.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

PCSO Lyndsay Smith & PCSO
Marshall Bernhardt
Call 101 or 999 in emergency
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Robin Close Hall - 356389

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
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@la-
pilates.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: Thu 1st & 22nd Aug
Garden: Mon 5th & 19th

RUMWELL

Refuse: Thu 1st & 22nd Aug
Garden: Wed 14th & 28th

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse: Thu 1st & 22nd Aug
Garden: Mon 5th & 19th

BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf)
[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf)

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday 3 November All Saints	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44	Tim Venn
Wednesday 6 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 10 November 3rd before Advent	Holy Communion Holy Communion REMEMBRANCE	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 1:14-20	Paull Curry
Wednesday 13 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 17 November 2nd before Advent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8	Sally Adams
Wednesday 20 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 24 November Christ the King	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37	David Ager
Wednesday 27 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		



GRASS CUTTING

November - David Ager

Dear Paddy, The Vicar here thinks very highly of your father. He's given him a job so important that he has five hundred men under him. He's cutting grass in the churchyard.

CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar:

Rev. Philip Hughes

336102

(Usual day off - Friday)

phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer Rachel Horder

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Sally Adams (co-opted PCC member)

Other PCC Members - Mark Dakin Sue Martin
Shirley Stapleton

Tower Secretary: Giles Morley 430710

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!