

# ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE

**Christmas comes to life in the Square**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
**4.00pm-6.00pm Festive fun for all**  
**then from 6.00pm at the church**  
**Traditional readings and carol singing**

See centre pages for a full listing of the church services and events this month, including:

- the Dean of Wells, conducting the 1<sup>st</sup> December service.
- carol singing on 16<sup>th</sup> December, from 6pm in the Square.
- 20<sup>th</sup> December, a real stable nativity at West Lyng Farm, 6pm complete with donkey and baby in the manger!

## DECEMBER 2019

FREE PUBLICATION - £6/YEAR FOR A DELIVERED COPY



# North Curry Village Calendar 2020

Created by  
North Curry Church  
Photographs by  
Julian Comrie

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of our village

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## Church Diary Events for December

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, Christingle Service

Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, Village Choir sings at the Parish Church

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, Carol Singing in Queen Square

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, School Carol Concert in the Parish Church

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, Crib Service (5pm)/ Midnight Mass (11.30pm).

Produce Market, first Saturday of every month 9.30am-11.30am- next date:

7<sup>th</sup> December

### School Holiday Terms

Winter 23<sup>rd</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

Half Term 15<sup>th</sup> February – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Easter 4<sup>th</sup> April – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Half Term 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Bellringers, every Monday evening, 7pm-8.30pm

### Non Parish Church Diary Events

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December

North Curry WI

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 12 Plants for Christmas

NC & District Gardeners

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, Carol Singing/Service

North Curry WI

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, The Green Book

North Curry Film Club

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas in the Square

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Customs

North Curry Society

(Details on all these events can be found in the magazine)

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

### Church officers phone numbers, and other local useful phone numbers, can now be found at the inside back page.

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

Cover photo – Courtesy of Julian Comrie

The editor thanks all contributors and advertisers for their varied and interesting articles/ announcements throughout the year, along with Character Graphics of Taunton for their printing and support services.

And to you esteemed reader, may you have a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2020.

Would you like to advertise or promote your club or business in the magazine?

See inside back page for advertising rates.

Clubs and local non commercial groups do not pay for their features.

## Announcements/ News in Brief

Congratulations to our November 200 Club Winners

1st Prize - £30: Sally Rossiter (the ever so lucky, after winning last month too)

2nd Prize - £20: Karen Boddy 3rd Prize - £10: Pat Curtis

At the **1st December service**, along with the usual prizes, we again shall have our **Christmas Prize Draw of £60**. Do come along; it maybe you leaving with a £60 cheque – just in time for Christmas shopping!

If you are not a member, and would like to join, please contact Sue Bethune on 490179. The annual subscription is £18. Players must be 18+ yrs.

The Mobile Library Service will return to Queen Square on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 1.45pm-2.30pm.

Advance notice: the annual Grand 2020 Quiz will be on **7<sup>th</sup> March...** More details next month, but hold the date in your diary! Tickets will go on sale from January from Jenny Satchwell (490463).

A kindly reminder with these **dark evenings**, that when out walking the dog or alike after dark, please ensure you have a torch and a hi-viz clothing. Be Seen, Be Safe!

Christmas is nearly here so do come along to our village Produce Market on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. We have lots of festive produce and some new tables offering a wide range of gift ideas. Have a warming hot drink with one of our delicious bacon baps or a mince pie. We look forward to welcoming you there...

At the Autumn Fair on 16<sup>th</sup> November, we raised in excess of £500. Our sincerest thanks to Helen Griffiths for arranging this year's event, and of course to the stall holders and visitors that supported it.

At the TEARFUND quiz fundraising evening held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, North Curry's church team surpassed all expectation (and belief) in finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place! We thank Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church for their hospitality and we believe in excess £150 was raised for this good cause.

At the Remembrance Tide Service on 17<sup>th</sup> November, the congregation were treated to a provocative and reflective sequence of music and readings for the November season of remembrance - for the saints and sinners and fallen. The talented choir from In Ecclesia led the hymn singing and added anthems and motets in the theme, including two familiar pieces from Fauré's Missa pro defunctis. A special mention must also be made too for Dr Robert Dunning's most excellent and thoughtful sermon.

As we go to print the Parish Profile will be doing its final round before going to the Archdeacon, the last hurdle. It has yet to be decided when the advert will appear in the Church Times, certainly not later than January 2020. Well done to all those concerned.



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Carol Singing**  
**6pm – Queen Square Garden**

Come and join us at the start of the Christmas Season.

Sing all your favourite carols; we provide all the hymn sheets and whether you have been before or not, our very own choir members will make you very welcome.

The more the merrier, a real family affair for all ages.

Dress up warmly and bring a torch.

**This event takes place no matter the weather,  
so please do join us.**



On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm we are having a ***STABLE SERVICE*** at Middle Farm, West Lyng, in Dick Brewer's magnificent old working horse stable, in conjunction with North Curry Methodists. If you want to show your children or grandchildren what being 'born in a stable' was **really** like, this is an experience not to be missed! Donkey, sheep and a real baby in the manger . . . . Refreshments afterwards and All Welcome.

John Tyler. 01460281574

## Editor's Comments

The exterior refurbishment on the walls and chancel remain on course to be completed by the time you read this article, so why not take the chance to stroll around to inspect the work yourself! An indepth report to follow in the January magazine, but I would highlight now our gratitude to the architects for overseeing the project with such diligence, the contractor for their hard work and to David Akerman, who had spent many hours liaising between the various parties and the archdeacon's faculty office. It is worth noting too, that all the money paid out for the walls comes from our own funds and fund raising efforts – the diocese or

Somerset councils pay nothing towards the costs. And if David hadnt been busy enough, we see him and Tom Jeanes changing the chain link on the chandelier. Thanks chaps on a splendid bit of engineering.

And thanks to Gill Toller for taking these "rare behind scenes" photos. I bet you thought this all happened by magic or highly paid professionals!

A lot of work is done between Sunday services by wardens and PCC members – not only at the church - we are very fortunate to have such active and dedicated members on our committees – thank you to you all.



And whilst out and about in the New Forest, Kate Roberts spotted this sign for a local church.... Indeed, church CAN BE fun.

Why not find out for yourself this December and 2020 – we look forward to welcoming you!



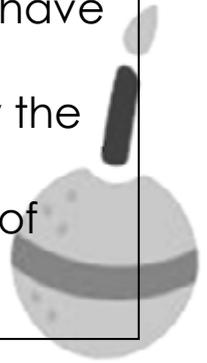
## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Christingle Service 4pm**

Come and join us in the Parish Church for this delightful service.

The other churches within benefice plus the Brownies, Rainbows and Guides have all been invited.

The Christingles are being made by the local Primary School children, and all funds raised will be in aid of Children's Society.



If you would like a guaranteed copy of the magazine delivered monthly to your door, only £6 per year.

Please contact Jenny Satchwell on 490463

### **Little Angels**

**Toddlers Club and Pram Service**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month at the church.

Next meeting 10am – 12<sup>th</sup> December

## Benefice of Athelney – Service Rota December – 2019

Common Worship Year A begins: Matthew

### 1<sup>st</sup> December

### ADVENT SUNDAY

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
10.00	North Curry	United Benefice Eucharist	Very Revd Dr John Davies
15.00	Lyng	Advent Music & Tea	Revd Martin Mudie

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

17.00	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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6<sup>th</sup> December (Friday)

14.00	North Curry	WI Group Carol Service	Mr Ralph Roberts
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### 8<sup>th</sup> December

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.30	Burrowbridge	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd John Tyler
16.00	North Curry	Christingle Service	Revds John Tyler & Deborah Kirk

10<sup>th</sup> December (Tuesday)

19.30	Lyng	Ukulele Carols	Revd John Tyler
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11<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)

17.00	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton
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12<sup>th</sup> December (Thursday)

10.00	North Curry	Little Angels	Mrs Jenny Satchwell
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### 15<sup>th</sup> December

### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
16.30	Burrowbridge	Carol Service	Mr Charles Payton
18.00	North Curry	Carol Service	Revd Martin Mudie

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

18.00	North Curry	Carols in the Square	
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18<sup>th</sup> December (Wednesday)

11.00	North Curry	School Carol Service	Revd John Tyler
17.00	Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

<i>19<sup>th</sup> December</i>		<i>(Thursday)</i>		
18.00	Stoke St. Gregory	Carols in the Square	Revds Martin Mudie & Sonya Setchell	
<b>20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>(Friday)</b>		
<b>18.00</b>	<b>West Lyng Farm</b>	<b>Stable Service</b>	<b>Revds John Tyler &amp; Deborah Kirk</b>	

<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>		<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>		
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd John Tyler	
18.30	Stoke St Gregory	Carol Service	Revd John Tyler	
18.30	Lyng	Carol Service	Revd Martin Mudie	
<i>24<sup>th</sup> December</i>		<i>(Tuesday)</i>		<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
15.30	Stoke St Gregory	Crib Service	Mr Ralph Roberts	
17.00	North Curry	Crib Service	Revd Martin Mudie	
19.30	Burrowbridge	'Midnight' Mass	Revd John Tyler	
22.00	Lyng	'Midnight' Mass	Revd Keith Powell	
23.30	North Curry	Midnight Mass	Revd Martin Mudie	
23.30	Stoke St Gregory	Midnight Mass	Revd John Tyler	
<i>25<sup>th</sup> December</i>		<i>(Wednesday)</i>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
08.30	Stoke St Gregory	Christmas Communion	Revd Martin Mudie	
10.00	North Curry	Christmas Eucharist	Revd John Tyler	

<b>29<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>		
10.00	Burrowbridge	United Benefice Eucharist	Revd John Tyler	

<b>5<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>THE EPIPHANY</b> (anticipated)		
08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler	
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler	
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie	

## The Rev'd John Tyler writes

My Dear Friends,

As I write this in mid-November it is quite a challenge to decide what is really important : We are already two weeks into a General Election Campaign and by the time you are reading this, you will probably be heartily sick of it. Already there have been so many twists and turns that an exhausted note is creeping into the commentaries.

Then, at the time of writing, there are the floods in Northern England – all-important to those affected by them, as we know from the experiences of five years ago in our own area. . . Most of us can add Family issues, Health anxieties and also perhaps Money worries, to our 'Important' list. Add to these, uncertainties about the environment and climate change, and the unpredictable state of so many global conflict areas and issues. In our Churches there are the concerns about maintaining the provision and standards of our worship, and the pastoral care of the communities that we seek to serve.

Remembrance Sunday and all that it stands for puts all these into a sort of perspective ; for a while we are confronted by the realities of the Kohima Epitaph : "When you go home, tell them of us and say : For your tomorrow they gave their today." Just remembering is not enough. We have to honour the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives and their future, by trying to build the sort of world they would have wanted.

Advent and Christmas can also put our world and our times into a proper perspective : the birth of a baby in poverty in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago has had more significance for human lives than anything that has happened in human history since. That is simply a statistical fact. For Christians, it is God's Light and Love born into the world at a time of great darkness ; from that point on, it changed everything, and the subsequent centuries are unthinkable without it. We shall see it represented in Christmas Cards and Nativity Plays, in the Crib Exhibition at Lyng on December 7th /8th, in a Service in a real Stable on December 20th, in Carol Services and Crib Services and other Christmas Celebrations. God grant that we may all at some point see it with fresh eyes, as if we had never seen it before, as if this was the first time. Then I believe that all the things we have been considering 'important' will fall into their proper place.

With Every Blessing and Good Wish for a Happy Christmas and New Year,

John Tyler.

Letter from the Right Right  
Reverend peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath and Wells



So it has been decided. There is to be a General Election on 12<sup>th</sup> December and much has been made of the fact that this is the first December election since 1923. Things could be worse however, as the 1885 General Election took place over three weeks from 24<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December 1885. It was nonetheless an important milestone in social history, as it extended voting rights so that for the first time a majority of adult males could vote and most constituencies returned only a single member to Parliament. These were quite radical developments and at that election large numbers of men voted for the first time. It saw the Liberals, led by Gladstone win the most seats, but not an overall majority, with the Irish Nationalists holding the balance of power and the Unionist MPs having a significant voice. The 1885 election also saw the first socialist party, the Social Democratic Freedom participate.

So significant was this election that my predecessor, Bishop Arthur Hervey, wrote an open letter on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1885 suggesting that 'all Christian subjects of the Queen had a duty of special prayer to Almighty God that He will be pleased to guide the minds of the Electors to make such a choice of representatives as shall tend most to the glory of God, the honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and the happiness of the people.' In His view Parliament was responsible for establishing 'peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety' and the 'welfare of all people.' In asking people to pray, as well as to vote, he made it clear that whilst people would have different 'political leanings' that they needed to come together to pray for the 'peace and happiness of the nation at large'. I think we all know that this General Election before us now will similarly be critical in helping to determine the future of the United Kingdom – at least for the immediate future. In writing this article I am therefore seeking to follow Bishop Arthur Hervey by reminding us all of the responsibility we have to pray for our country and to work with all people for the welfare and the well-being of everyone.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

The Right Revd Peter Hancock  
Bishop of Bath and Wells

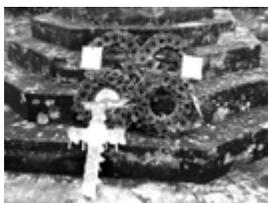
## News from North Curry /Curland Methodists, by Roy Crouch Remembrance Day-A Time to Dream?

Today, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019, we attended the Remembrance Day service at the war memorial in the centre of North Curry. The service was conducted by the Rev John Tyler for the Anglicans and the Rev Anthony Huxtable for the Methodists.



The service followed its now familiar pattern with our prayers for the courage and devotion of those who had fought in past wars, particularly, the first and second world wars and for those who had lost their lives in conflict. We sang the hymns "O God, our help in ages past" and "O Valiant hearts, who your glory came".

The first hymn, "O God, our help in ages past" struck a chord with me this year, especially the verse:



Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away:  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day

A week or so ago in conversation with Tim Aldridge, Chaplain at Queens College, Tim related to me an anecdote concerning his contribution to the poppy appeal this year. When putting his money in the poppy sellers tin the man thanked him for this. To which Tim replied, and here I paraphrase, "no it is I who wish to thank you for your sacrifice to our nation, in comparison my sacrifice of this money bears no comparison."

These words came to me standing at the war memorial. My thoughts were:

Is their sacrifice really appreciated today?

Do we really remember them?

They really did give their today for our tomorrow-your family and mine.



The church council, which was postponed, will now have taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> November, report will follow in the next edition.

### Dates for your diary

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December Taize Service 7pm

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service 3pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December Stable Nativity at Dick Brewer's Farm, East Lyng

Warm Christmas greetings to you all from your Methodist friends at North Curry/Curland.



## North Curry Coffee Shop

This year's autumn exhibition was a great success with 23 entries in a variety of media.

Thank you to everybody who entered and voted, the Art Group prize went to Lindsey Musgrave's pottery beehive and the public voted for Emma Forknall's dog portrait and Yvonne Lawton's sheep painting as joint winners.

A unique variety of Christmas gifts and decorations from local makers are now for sale in the coffee shop, please pop in and support your community.

Opening hours: 10am – 4.30pm, Tuesday to Sunday  
(December/January)

## Burrowbridge Bingo

### Come and join us at Coronation Hall

We try to meet every two weeks on a Saturday evening at 7.30pm, next meetings 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December in the Millennium Room of the Coronation Hall.

We play for small cash prizes and an accumulating cash Jackpot plus coffee break raffle with small raffle prizes donated by members.

A full 10 games as well as two jackpot rounds costs £5 tea/coffee and biscuits just 30p.

For more details, just phone Sue or Brian Walker on 01823 698500.



Pop along – you'll be very welcome Directions to the hall – on reaching Burrowbridge traffic lights, take the left turn at the crossroads, before the bridge, into West Yeo Road. The hall is about 500 yards on the right, with plenty of parking. Go on with you.... what are you waiting for?

# Produce Market

In the Village Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am-11.30am

Lots of new stalls, with plenty of ideas of Xmas

## Who likes diets?

Imagine your doctor announcing that you have some condition which, in later life, will almost certainly cause you serious harm. Would you be willing to adjust your diet to protect your health and well-being many years down the line?

You may ask whether you could take medication instead so there'd be no need to give up the harmful foods; or the doctor might say that within ten or twenty years there could be at least a partial cure for the problem.

Do you think, "I'll see how it goes for a few years" or do you resolve to do something now? There may be no immediate, visible benefits to encourage you onwards with your resolve so it could be the greatest test of will-power that you've ever faced.

Now imagine your doctor telling you that all your relatives have the same condition. You could all go on the same diet and encourage one another as you go along. This could certainly make things easier—there's nothing worse than seeing others enjoying all those little (or large) pleasures that you've just given up!

So, similarly, could this be our attitude to climate change? "It's so big—nothing I can do would make any difference!" We can all say that! However, when we think about it, it is so big now simply because of our behaviour and that of our forebears.

We often hear of clever inventions which will mitigate the effects (carbon capture, etc.) or even nuclear fission which in itself could be the ultimate answer to all our worries, though this has been predicted to be 10-20 years away ever since it was first mooted in the mid 1950's.

Well, what are we to do? Do we resolve to turn down the heating, walk or cycle more, share car journeys, eat less meat, buy locally, grow our own veg, holiday in Britain, fly less far, less often or even give up flying altogether?

And what about wildlife? We can all watch David Attenborough and think that something should be done yet do nothing, apart from fly to see it before it all disappears. Wildlife isn't just exotic species—it's all those moths and other insects, almost unnoticed plants, birds we take for granted and sometimes are annoyed by when we park our car under a tree and even those trees themselves. It's all under a man-made threat. Everything in nature is inter-related; these relationships don't always become apparent till a link is broken by the loss of a species and then, of course, it's too late!

We can all make a difference to wildlife—there are opportunities in our own gardens by means of what we grow. We can support local projects such as the North Curry Wildlife Group or larger regional and national organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts.

It's up to us all to try to do something about the condition of the planet.

Are we willing to resolve to do something? There may be no visible, tangible result in our lifetimes but it's worth a try for the sake of our successors who, we hope, will follow us and live on this beautiful and wonderful planet.

Brian Jeanes

# Something Special for Christmas...

On Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> we shall be having a **CHRISTMAS CRIB EXHIBITION** in the Church of St. Bartholomew at Lyng. We particularly hope to display Cribs that are unusual (perhaps even quirky) ; the Exhibition will be open to ALL the Churches of the Benefice, though constraints of space may restrict what we can put on display.

Cribs should be brought to the Church as soon after 9 am as possible and should be collected before lunch on Sunday.

December 7<sup>th</sup> will coincide with the Lyng Advent Fair.

John Tyler. 01460281574. tyleruk@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 7th December

7:30pm

St Mary Magdalene  
Church, Taunton

the lark n d i n g...  
a s c e n d i n g...

Vaughan Williams -  
'Five Mystical Songs'  
and  
'The Lark Ascending'  
(Mary Eade - violin)



Tippett - 'Five Negro Spirituals'  
and  
'Little Music for String Orchestra'

Plus works by Fauré and Brahms



Pre-concert  
talk at 7:00pm

**Tickets: £16** (Students £8 - Under 12s Free)

**Taunton Visitor Centre - 01823 340470**

or

**[www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.tauntonchoralsociety.org.uk)**





Presented by Don Hoyle

Wednesday

11<sup>th</sup> December



we are showing the dramatic and true story

### **The Green Book.**

In 1962, Tony Vallelonga, a tough bouncer, is looking for work. The most promising offer turns out to be the driver for the African American classical pianist Don Shirley for a concert tour into the Deep South. Tony accepts the job and they begin their tour armed with The Negro

Motorist Green Book, a travel guide for safe travel through America's racial segregation. Together, the snobbishly erudite pianist and the crudely practical bouncer can barely get along with their clashing attitudes to life. However, as they witness and endure America's appalling injustices on the road, they find a newfound respect for each other. The film won 3 Oscars.

Doors & bar open at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. Also open to non-members (£5 on the door).

We don't have a Winter Warmer in December due to the lack of availability in the Hall.

More information on our films on [www.northcurryfilmsociety.org.uk](http://www.northcurryfilmsociety.org.uk)

### North Curry Film Club – a personal review

It was suggested that we include in this magazine a review of one of the recent films shown. I have given myself the bigger task of reviewing the films shown since the Club began, way back in September 2011! During that time, the club has shown 136 films, so it is quite a task. To make this more manageable, I have chosen a few headings:

#### **Most Surprising Films**

The film that most surprised me was **Gone with the Wind**, shown in January 2018. I had never seen it and had low expectations. Made in 1939, I expected it to be of historical interest only, with old-fashioned ham acting. At nearly 4 hours, I also expected it to be an ordeal. It wasn't like this at all – it is so dramatic the time went easily. The burning of Atlanta scene was awe inspiring. The acting of Clark Gable, Vivian Leigh, Olivia de Havilland & Leslie Howard was so strong you were carried along with the dramatic flow. It suffered from a racist context of the time it was made – the southern slaves were portrayed as happy servants. On the other hand, I was surprised when we showed **Dr Zhivago** in February 2016. I had loved the film when it came out in 1965. I had remembered it as a dramatic

story, beautifully shot, haunting music and a powerful historical setting. Second time round, I found it dragged and, at 3 ¼ hours, it lacked pace. These films were shown as 'Winter Warmers', on Saturday afternoons with an interval for tea and cake. They certainly brighten a cold winter's day! The programme includes some familiar films, which many of us will have seen several times:

### Well-loved classic films



My favourite film of all time is **Casablanca** and, again, it didn't disappoint when we showed it in November 2018. Made in 1942, I saw it at the cinema when it was re-released for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Of course, it has been on TV many times, but it is a different experience seeing it on a big screen enjoying the so familiar lines with the whole

audience. Likewise, I've watched the DVD of **Cinema Paradiso** many times but loved seeing it again when we put it on in January 2015. A delightful film with such evocative music from Morricone.

Of course, the Film Club doesn't just show old classic films:

### Best contemporary films

I really enjoyed **The Lives of Others** which we showed in June 2017. It is set in 1984 in East Berlin and about a Stasi officer who starts to get too involved in the life of a suspect. A gripping story that also gave you a sense of life before the fall of the Berlin Wall just 30 years ago. Another powerful story was **I, Daniel Blake** shown in October 2017. A damning criticism of the benefit system by Ken Loach, we will follow it up this year with his most recent film **Sorry to have missed you**, about the gig-economy, which



we will show on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020. I expect to be moved and angered in equal measure by the portrayal of ordinary people caught up in insecure employment.



The Film Club also shows films that aren't shown at commercial theatres. Many of these are foreign language films:

### Best foreign language films

It is hard to choose a favourite, but **The Lunchbox** which we showed in January 2015 was one of the best. A simple story told in an unpretentious way, it showed the consequences when Mumbai's incredible system for delivering home made hot lunches went wrong and thereby a lonely widower, Saajan, gets know, Ila, an unhappy housewife, as they start to exchange notes with the lunches. Another wonderful film was **Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress**, shown in October 2015. It was about the re-education of two students during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. As one of the audience said after watching the film – 'that was worth the whole year's fees, just to see that one film'. There was also **The Butterfly's Tongue**,

a Spanish film shown in February 2016. The film is set in a village during the Spanish Civil War and follows the relationship between a young lad and an elderly schoolmaster who often took them on nature trails, including showing them the long, spiral tongue of a butterfly as it feeds on nectar. The film has a dramatic conclusion as the teacher is denounced for his progressive views. My last favourite foreign language film would be **Frantz**



which we showed in July this year as it is set in 1919 showing life in Germany after the First World War. This provides the background, interesting as we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but in the foreground was an intriguing story of a French soldier and the bereaved fiancé and parents of a fallen German soldier.

So all in all, some wonderful memories of films shown over the last 8 years. I'm confident we will have many more created as we go through this and future seasons of films.

Don Hoyle  
North Curry Film Club

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## **North Curry Wildlife Group**

### **Community Woodland Update by Phil Stone and Sue Ashton**

The Wildlife Group was very pleased to take some 60 pupils from North Curry Primary School on a tour of the Community Woodland at the end of October. Luckily, it was a dry day and the children spent two hours, in three groups, learning about the birds that visit the site, the bugs, bees and butterflies, and the trees and shrubs at the woodland and how the site is managed for wildlife. The children seemed to enjoy it and asked lots of questions.

Back at the school, Tony Hoskin and Phil Stone showed the children the North Curry Wildlife website projected onto a big screen. Tony talked about some of the bird photos he has taken around the village in the past year which gave rise to many more questions. Some of the children have already been back to the woodland with their families, and we hope more will visit throughout the year when there are different things to see. Even in December there is something to see at the woodland when the bird feeders will be visited by Blue, Great, Coal and Long-tailed Tits, Reed Buntings and Greenfinches. If it is not too cold, stay quietly for a while and see what comes to feed. In the autumn, squirrels busied themselves collecting hazelnuts from the hazel grove which was littered with empty shells, and the hawthorn berries were enjoyed by birds, including passing Fieldfares.

Other creatures will have found a warm dry place to overwinter, such as the Peacock butterfly that was seen exploring one of our 'insect hotels' before hopefully finding shelter there for the winter. Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies often come into outhouses and sheds in autumn and even sometimes into our houses. This is fine until we turn up the heating and this wakes them prematurely. If you find a butterfly in your house in winter, it is best to move it gently to an unheated room, garage or outhouse, but always make sure it can escape in spring.

For more information about the Wildlife Group's projects or about species you can see locally, please see our website [www.northcurrywildlife.com](http://www.northcurrywildlife.com) or follow us on [twitter.com/ncurrywildlife](https://twitter.com/ncurrywildlife)

### New Year Wassail

Join us for a village Wassail on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January in a celebration of apples, orchards and the New Year, the Community Woodland at White Street Recreation Ground. Last year's event was a great success and the evening is part of seasonal celebrations being coordinated by the village

Wildlife Group. There will be a lantern procession from the Village school, music from the North Curry Village band, songs, food, drink, toasting and more. Starting at 6pm. If you would like to get involved, contact Tim Hill at milton3hill@yahoo.co.uk.

### Apple Day Celebration

Apple Day was a great success with over a hundred residents and friends gathering at White Street pavilion to celebrate.

A range of 20 different apple varieties were on display for people to taste, there was home-made apple cake to try, and face painting and leaf printing on T-shirts, while apple-themed music was played by a group of local musicians, led by Tim Hill. Apple-pressing demonstrations were carried out using Climate Change Athelney's press, and apple juice could be sampled by all. With thanks to Kathryn and Brian Jeanes and Caroline Vaughan.

Tours of the nearby Community Woodland and orchard were led by Phil Stone who described the range of experimental habitats being created for wildlife, including hazel coppice, bug hotels, a pond, and bee and butterfly banks.

\* \* \*



### **North Curry W.I., Jill Cox reports**

One of the most joyous parts of Christmas must be to hear voices joined in song, and most especially, the sound of children singing. What better or more delightful way then, than to begin our December meeting with entertainment from our primary school choir.

The afternoon continues with games, gifts and festive fare as we celebrate our Christmas party.

Two days later, on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, we invite local group W.I.'s to our United Carol Service followed by tea in our Parish Church. This presentation will be our final event, in our role as group organiser for 2019, in what has proved a very worthwhile and successful year.

Lastly, we join all W.I.'s throughout Somerset for the annual carol festival in glorious Wells Cathedral where as always the mix of wonderful music, the massed voices singing and some special readings signal to us the true start of Christmas and we take this opportunity to send special greetings to you all.

## **Open Gardens returns for 2020!**

**Pencilled in for 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June,  
Would you like to be involved,  
either by showing off your  
garden or by assisting in the  
planning and organising.  
Please call Lorraine on 491665**



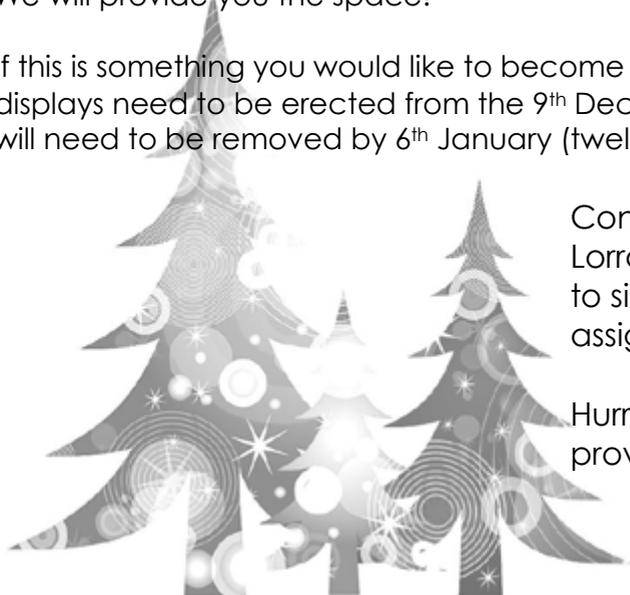
## **Decorate an Xmas Tree in the Church!**

**Following on from the very successful garden displays in the  
summer, would you or your organisation like to decorate a  
Christmas Tree in the Church?**

This is an an excellent chance to help bring some festive colour to the village church as well as promoting your club/ organisation.

You must provide your own tree (artificial or real) and decorations. We will provide you the space!

If this is something you would like to become involved in, the displays need to be erected from the 9<sup>th</sup> December, and of course, will need to be removed by 6<sup>th</sup> January (twelveth night).



Contact  
Lorraine on 491665  
to sign up and to be  
assigned your spot.

Hurry though, as this may  
prove popular!

## North Curry Primary School News

Alex Colling Minnow Class reports this month

On the week of 21<sup>st</sup> October, we celebrated our Autumn enrichment week throughout the school. The topic was Harvest and children explored the theme with lots of events and activities running on each day. We planned the event with Tim Hill to complement the North Curry Apple celebrations on 20th and thought of ways to make the experiences as local and pertinent to our children as possible. We were thinking apples, local wildlife, seasonal events and local history!

Highlights included Steve Horne sharing his expertise of bee-keeping, Jamie Jensen bringing some Withies Deli magic and making apple bannocks, Tim Hill teaching us brand new songs to celebrate the apple tree planting, Rodney Down and a calf and blowing our socks off with his farmer talk, Betty Koppa's local photographs featuring local orchards and harvest events, and we had some fantastic wildlife workshops and walks from Philip Stone and Christine Poulosom. Charlton Orchards kindly donated a Blenheim Orange apple tree which has been planted near the willow sculptures on our playground. Children and staff had an enjoyable and interesting week.

The highlight for Minnow Class (4-5 year olds) was making delicious apple crumble using apples from our gardens. We look forward to our next enrichment week in the Spring and thank everyone who helped to make it a magical experience for the children.



## Would you like to help to decorate the church this year?

From the 9<sup>th</sup> December, we require volunteers to help with putting up all the different festive decor in the church. Your chance to proudly show off your artistic flair!

If you're not that artistic, we still need help with holding ladders and the mundane stuff, so there is a job for everyone!

Do not be backward in coming forward! Please help to bring colour and life to the 2019 Christmas festive celebrations!

To find out more, just call Lorraine on 491 665 to know when to come down to join in... *you might even get a free cuppa and biscuit for your efforts (wooweee).*

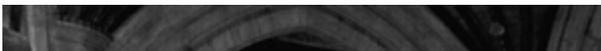


Photo – kindly provided by Julian Comrie



Church 2020 Calendars are now available!

Professionally photographed by Julian Comrie.

Just £10 each

On sale at the Post Office or at the church.

**Christmas in North Curry** has for years been a terrific community event, and this year will be no exception. Gathering in Queen Square on the afternoon of Sunday **15<sup>th</sup> December**, we'll see the Tree lights switched on, enjoy food and drink at the various stalls, and sing Christmas songs with the village choir and possibly North Curry Bluebirds while waiting for the arrival of Santa Claus. Then at 6pm (slightly later than usual) down to the parish church for the traditional readings and carols.

The following evening, back to Queen Square Garden for "carols in the square", at 6pm again, unaccompanied singing with your lanterns from the Bethlehem carol sheet.

The three North Curry churches will welcome you to their Christmas services, and the parish church hopes to collaborate with the Methodist and Baptist congregations to deliver a Christmas Card with their dates and times.

It's not just the secular world that anticipates Christmas. The Dean of Wells , the Very Revd Dr John Davies is venturing to us on **1<sup>st</sup> December** to preside at our Advent Benefice Service in SS Peter and Paul church: one advantage of the Vacancy in Benefice is the generous supply of visiting preachers. The newly-formed Benefice Choir will be making their third appearance in as many months.

The Methodist Church will be having a service using the lovely Taizé chants at 7pm Thursday **5<sup>th</sup> December**, and on Sunday **8<sup>th</sup> December** at 4pm there is a Christingle service on behalf of the Children's Society, using Christingles made by the school, Brownies and Guides.

The Village Choir give their Christmas concert in the parish church on Thursday **12<sup>th</sup> December** at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm), with the lovely settings of Magnificat and spirituals by John Rutter and Haydn's St Nicholas Mass (Santa Claus again); your chance to sing along with the choir.

The joint Open the Book team will be going into North Curry and Stoke St Gregory schools at the collective worship slot on **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December** to bring the authentic story of the first Christmas, though they will have to wait until 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> January for the arrival of wise men from their long journey. The school carol service is on **18<sup>th</sup> December**; there are more of them now: when the children came into church in October to hear (and sing to) the Russian choir, they spilled into the side aisles for the first time.

On **Christmas Eve**, we have the annual Crib Service at 5pm and Midnight Mass at 11:30pm, with a sung Eucharist on Christmas morning at the usual 10am. Then into 2020, the Epiphany anticipated on 5<sup>th</sup> January and a final look back at Christmas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February for the presentation of the infant Christ in the Temple at Jerusalem.

David Walker

## **Christmas Customs** by Brian Wright



It is a Christmas Custom that the North Curry Society's December meeting is rather more convivial than usual. So be ready to socialise from 7:30pm on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** in the Village Hall before Brian Wright begins his talk at 8pm.

Many traditional customs are associated with the Christmas season, and some of these will be explored including the 'real' Father Christmas, who invented the Christmas tree, why we decorate our houses with greenery and other decorations, and a look at Christmas cards, among other things, in a fun and eye-opening session.

Brian now works primarily as an historian. He qualified as an archaeologist, has participated in a number of excavations and specialised in the microscopic study of pottery. He has written a number of books on early firefighting, historical subjects and folklore. His present interest and research is into the ceremony of Beating the Bounds.

The North Curry Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Annual membership of £5 includes admission to talks, discussions and refreshments; visitors pay a small charge. Whether you are a visitor, new to the Society or an established member, we look forward to welcoming you this month and to our lively programme of meetings in 2020.

\*\*\*

## **North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners, by Heather Williams**



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** when our speaker will be **Julie Henderson** giving a talk on "**The 12 plants of Christmas**". Come early at 7.15'ish and enjoy a festive glass of mulled wine with a mince pie or two!!

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in the Pavilion of the Greenway Playing Fields at 7.45pm for 8.00pm but there will be no meeting in January.

Do come and join us for an interesting talk, festive cheer and even a cup of coffee at the end if you would like to stay for a chat. We look forward to seeing you all!

# *Christmas in the Square*

*Continuing the tradition of the village  
getting together just before Christmas*

***Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 4.00 - 6.00 pm***

*Festive fun for all ages*

***Christmas Tree in the Square  
with switching on of the lights***



***Hog Roast from Pyne's of Somerset***

***Licensed Bar***

***Guest singers and musicians***

*Children's Games, Hot Dogs,  
Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Hot Chocolate,  
'Rhum au Chocolat' and Raffle.*

***Father Christmas,  
if we are all very good .....***



Sponsored by North Curry Post Office & Stores and Pyne's of Somerset  
and Supported by North Curry Pavilion and Playing Fields  
All proceeds to the Playing Fields and Local Charities



## Advent and Christmas services in North Curry 2019

(at the **Parish Church**, unless shown as elsewhere)

### 1 December ADVENT SUNDAY

8am Holy Communion  
10am United Benefice **Eucharist**  
with the Dean of Wells

5 December (Thursday)

7pm Advent **Taizé Service**  
at **Methodist Church**

6 December (Friday)

2pm WI Group **Carol Service**

7-8 December

Christmas Crib Exhibition & Advent Fair  
at **Lyng parish church**

### 8 December THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4pm **Christingle Service**

10 December (Tuesday)

7:30pm **Ukulele Carols** at **Lyng parish church**

12 December (Thursday)

10am Little Angels  
7:30pm Village Choir **Christmas Concert**

### 15 December THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8am Holy Communion  
3pm **Carol Service** at **Methodist Church**  
4pm Community **Christmas in the Square**  
6pm **Lessons and Carols**

16 December (Monday)

6pm **Carols in the Square**  
unaccompanied singing  
in **Queen Square Garden**

18 December (Wednesday)

11am School **Carol Service**

20 December (Friday)

6pm **Stable Nativity** at **West Lyng Farm**

### 22 December THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10am Eucharist  
11am Service of the Word at **Methodist Ch**

24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm **Crib Service**  
11.30pm **Midnight Mass**

### 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

10am **Christmas Eucharist**

### 29 December THE 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10am United Benefice **Eucharist**  
at **Burrowbridge parish church**  
11am Holy Communion at **Methodist Ch**

### 5 January THE EPIPHANY

8am Holy Communion  
10am **Eucharist**

9 January (Thursday)

10am Little Angels

### 12 January THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

10am United Benefice **Eucharist**  
at **Stoke St Gregory parish church**

### 2 February THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

8am Holy Communion  
10am **Eucharist**

An old story tells of two shoe salesmen who were sent by their company to a region in Africa where everyone went barefoot.

One salesman dejectedly informed his superiors, "We might as well forget these people. No one here wears shoes." The other salesman elatedly informed the company, "Send as many shoes as you can as quickly as you can. Everyone here needs shoes!"

Are you a glass half-full person, or a glass half-empty person? Or to put it another way: is your church half-full, or half-empty?

This is the month our congregations record their data for the analysts to sift and compare with trends over previous years. However, this year, as last, 'counting the congregation' over the Sundays in October has been replaced by the request to simply state the average number in the congregation over the past year.

In spite of the time saved in filling out the form, I am sorry that we no longer add the figures for the mid-week groups meeting for worship, or the inflated numbers at our harvest festivals (which used to make us feel so much better), or the children and young people who are part of our church life.

Of course, it isn't all about numbers, but the numbers do tell a story. I like the way Howard Mellor reportedly used to tell the numbers story to his fellow travellers on his daily train commute: he travelled with the same passengers every day, and they talked about their work and their leisure interests and their families and got to know each other through the daily conversations.

When he was asked what he did, instead of saying apologetically 'I'm a Methodist minister' and as he says, being firmly put in the box marked 'boring' he would tell them: 'I work in the charity sector – it's an international charity with outlets in 180 nations all around the world and about 70million volunteers worldwide. It is substantially located here in the UK, where we have 5,000 outlets, 2,200 key workers, and approximately 300,000 volunteers, who are involved in children's work, work with elderly, health and education. It's a charity about social and personal transformation, it is involved in fair trade and justice and peace, politics and conversations about climate change.'

Well, that was a while ago, and perhaps the figures are not so accurate for today, and of course we shouldn't ignore any of our current challenges, and we should always be looking at new ways to share God's story with others. But challenges are also opportunities, and difficulties can also be possibilities, and perhaps we should never be so overwhelmed by the problems in the church that we lose sight of and confidence in the God who gifts and guides it.

Peace for the journey

*Rev Deborah Kirk, Minister,*

*North Curry and Curland Methodist Church*

*Taunton Deane & S Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit*

I would not normally publish the following lengthy tribute, but it is so well written that I hope you will appreciate the content as much as I did.

Rob Ellis, editor

**Tribute to Geoffrey Timothy ("Tim") Guernsey**  
**As delivered by Katherine Guernsey (daughter)**  
**25<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

Thank you all for coming today – it means a great deal to us for you to be here, and I know it would have meant a lot to my dad as well. We've received a lot of kind messages of support over the last couple of weeks, and some of the common descriptors for my dad include "kind," "gentle," "smart," "funny," "creative," "calm," "sensible," "always ready to laugh" (including at himself), "unique," "determined to navigate the world on his own terms, and leave it better than he found it." All true. My hope today is to share some recollections of my father that explore those descriptors, and perhaps add a little colour and texture to go with them.

Talking of colour, first, his sartorial style. Thank you to anyone who was able to pull off wearing something plaid or maroon (his favourite colour). So frequently spotted in plaid flannel shirts was he, that we adopted Monty Python's "I'm a lumberjack" as his unofficial anthem, and many people assumed that he must surely be Canadian, rather than American. He could certainly smarten up when needed, but when most colleagues at work were sporting 2 and 3 piece suits, he was much more likely to be seen in a tweed or corduroy jacket, paired with a nice jumper.

Whilst working for Burtons, they once arranged for his photo to be taken for a corporate publication. As we were leaving from Heathrow that same morning to go on holiday to the States, Burtons sent a professional photographer to the airport to wait for us at check-in and snap the required photo. Top tip – if you want a free upgrade on a flight, have someone bedecked in cameras and giant lenses loiter for you in departures – it works a treat! Having checked in and burst the bubble of the Pan Am staff by revealing that we were neither famous nor "on trend" in our attire, my dad and the photographer set to work. By now, a small crowd had gathered to watch my dad be photographed in all his velour and corduroy glory. We could overhear whispers of "Do you recognize him?" "I'm sure he must have been on the tele!" Eventually, curiosity got the better of a security guard, who sidled over and asked my mum if he ought to recognize my dad.

"No, probably not."

"Well who does he work for then?"

"Burtons."

"What, the menswear company?"

"Uh huh."

"And they couldn't lend him something?!"

Less obvious than his clothing was my father's lifelong prosopagnosia. Better known as "face blindness," it's a condition that leaves affected individuals able to

see, but unable to readily recognize faces, even the faces of those they know intimately. This made discussions of school trip photos particularly noteworthy. Upon looking through pictures from one trip he remarked,

"Aha, there you are!"

"Ahh, no, that's David Forte."

"Really?"

"Mmmn."

"Well then that must be you."

"No, that's David's brother Dario."

"Well, where are you then?"

"I'm here."

"Are you sure about that???"

Recognising folks, particularly in a place as friendly as North Curry, required him to develop workarounds. Your gait, clothes, voices, and mannerisms were all studied in an effort to place you. If you had a dog you were all set, as he could recognize dogs right away. Without them though, or if you were out of context, things could get interesting. It's at this point I should like to apologise to any of our neighbours that my dad may have inadvertently charged for parking when volunteering for the annual May Fair, when you were entitled to park for free – he simply didn't recognize you!

You may also be unaware that he was extremely dyslexic. Not officially diagnosed until in his forties, he had by then spent a lifetime both adapting to and leveraging the strengths that came with his condition. I am convinced that his infamous skills at negotiation were honed as a youngster. On multiple occasions teachers failed him in exams because they couldn't read his handwriting, and he would go in and persuade them – successfully – that he instead deserved an A. With the benefit of a diagnosis, his return to law school in the '90s was aided by access to supports and accommodations for his disability – something unavailable to him when originally a law student in the '70s. He worked extraordinarily hard for that degree, and earned it one year before I earned my own law degree. When I asked him what prompted him to go back to law school at that particular time, he replied, "Well, I figured I should try to stay at least a degree ahead of you!"

I suspect such experiences also contributed to his seeing solutions to problems that others didn't, as well as his drive to implement those solutions. One prosaic example. Earlier this year, we visited him on one of his many stays in the respiratory ward at Musgrove Hospital, and found him looking rather chuffed with himself. He had taken possession of a new breathing machine that day. It was missing an optional strap that would make it more comfortable and efficient. Naturally, he asked the ward staff about getting the strap (it was the respiratory ward after all), but was told they didn't keep them in stock. Could they request one from the Lung Centre just down the corridor perhaps? Oh no, that would require lots of paperwork to put in a procurement request ... it could take weeks to obtain etc. etc. They might as well have waived a red flag at him. As soon as the staff left his side, he hopped on his mobile, called the hospital switchboard, got transferred to the Lung Centre, and had a Lung Centre employee at his bedside, strap in hand, all within the hour! He confessed he wasn't sure which had pleased him most –

getting the strap, or seeing the looks on the faces of the ward staff when it was delivered directly to him.

It could fairly be said that he was not short of applying a “Jedi mind trick” or two. Fifty years ago, whilst millions of people prepared to watch the Apollo 11 Moon landings on the tele, my dad was instead driving with a friend to Wapakoneta, Ohio – birthplace of Neil Armstrong. Approaching the police cordon, my dad told the guard that they were there from the Bowling Green State University student press. My dad was not on the student newspaper, and his friend didn't even go to that university! Nevertheless, he talked his way through security, and they watched the moon landings on a giant Associated Press screen, standing on the lawn of none other than Neil Armstrong's parents. Not bad for a guy prepared with nothing but a couple of stenographer's notepads, pencils, and an air of confidence!

Of course, he also applied his powers of persuasion for more important endeavours. He and my mum were engaged after knowing each other for only six weeks, and he knew that his rather conservative parents would be hard pressed to bless such a fast-paced union, and with a foreigner at that! This was going to require persuasion of the highest order. Taking note that my Grandpa was an appellate court judge, my father told them he had met the perfect woman, they were very much in love, and they couldn't wait to be married – just as soon as she was out of prison! For the record, my mother has no criminal predilections, and of course reality was so much better than what my father had told my Grandparents, that they couldn't help but give their blessing.

He could also be a great listener, and I'm convinced this quality helped him to be on good terms with people from all walks of life. Even strangers seemed to sense that in him, and often shared quite detailed information about themselves without prompting, or asked him for advice. I assumed it was a stranger who approached us in McDonalds' one day and started chatting amiably to my dad.

“Anyone you know?” I asked afterwards.

“Oh yes,” he replied. “He's someone I once fired.”

“Wait, fired?! But he seemed so happy to see you!”

“I know. I'm very good at firing people, if I say so myself!” And he was. Although a workplace conduct issue left him no choice but to let this chap go, typical of my dad was that he'd also worked to help the guy find a new job.

It happened again at a car boot sale, when another man came up to chat happily to my dad and went away chuckling.

“Let me guess, someone else you fired?”

“Yes. Although not until I'd helped store security run a sting operation, caught him red-handed, and had him arrested for theft by the police. Then I fired him. Nice guy though!”

Though not actually omniscient, my father could do a passable impression of it. In the autumn of 2017, my husband and I were on a weekend bicycling trip when I stupidly fell off my bike and ended up in the hospital with a broken jaw. Because of the trip, I was due to speak to my parents on the following Monday, rather than

our customary Sunday chat. Come Sunday though, I'd spent one night in the hospital, and figured I'd better call well ahead of surgery on Monday, or risk getting in trouble. My dad picked up the phone.

"Hey, it's me!" I said nonchalantly, making sure to call from my mobile and well away from any beeping 'hospitally' noises.

"You're not supposed to be calling today. You're supposed to be on your trip. [GASP!] You must be in hospital!!!"

"OK, well technically yes, but why on earth would you think that?!"

"Because I'm your father and I just know these things." And so he did.

Alas, there are too many stories to share here today. My dad seemed to have lived enough stories for several lifetimes. There's simply no time to explore here his meteoric rise from part-time Father Christmas to Store Administration Manager at Debenhams; how he became known by management as one of the "Three Witches" of the Non-Executive Directors of the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; his cookie jars theory of accrual accounting; his penchant for drafting meeting notes before he'd chaired said meetings; his role singing and dancing in a televised performance of the Music Man; why Darth Vader still owes him a favour; and how he learnt that trying to evade the scrutiny of the nuns of St Rita's Memorial Hospital (in Lima, Ohio, where he grew up) could be hazardous to one's health.

In closing I will just share that, in later years, my father proved that you could take the boy out of America, but you couldn't take America out of the boy, and much to my mother's chagrin he developed that time-honoured American pastime of obsessing about a burial plot. As you will have noticed on your way in, his customary determination paid off. In this case though, no subterfuge or Jedi mind tricks were required. A distant ancestor from the Garnsey side of the family clan is just a few plots to the left, providing the requisite family connection to that part of the churchyard.

I like to think that with his "pole position" on the approach to the church, my father will still be in a position to be a good listener to family, friends, and strangers alike. I'd strongly suggest you bring your dog with you though – it will save a great deal of confusion.

\*\*\*

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



somerset  
**village & community**  
agents

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

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

Linda Burton | Village Agent | Tel: 01823 331222 | Mobile: 07931018019 |  
Email: [linda@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:linda@somersetccc.org.uk)

## North Curry Bellringers, Darren Woodyer, Tower Captain, writes

### They think it's all over!

I always try to bring **optimism** and hope when writing in the paper. I get great satisfaction knowing that people understand a little more what happens within our village's beautiful tower.

This month though we had another reality check. We were fortunate enough to have a visiting band of ringers that wanted to ring on our bells. They did themselves proud and **rang** beautifully. When we ring on the bells, as most of you are aware, we have to silence the clock. This is because the hammers strike the bells when we are not ringing. Also they have to be in what we call the down position for the clock to strike. When the bells are facing in the upward position they are ready to ring and the hammers would get in the way. The visiting band were requested to leave the bells up for us so that we were ready to ring the next morning. This was all done. Unfortunately something happened between the time that they left and the next morning. When I came into the tower the largest bell, the tenor's hammer was striking. It wasn't striking the bell but the wooden wheel that holds the rope. This damaged the wheel beyond repair. In a way it was a blessing because when we went up to inspect the breakage we found that the wheel was becoming unsafe due to woodworm and rust which had corroded away the outer wheels nails.

With everything we are trying to do and our focus on the future of the bells this is a setback as we now **can't** ring the tenor any more without purchasing a new wheel. This is not cheap and would be a waste of money in the long run.

On a slightly more positive note we have had the structural engineer out to inspect the bells and the frame. We are now awaiting this report so that we can make the right decision on moving forward.

We have had another very enthusiastic learning band from North Curry School. The eight girls who all attended passed with flying colours and I must say were the **fastest** learning band to pick up bell handling so well done to them.

Why not come and give ringing a go.

Practice Evenings: Monday, 7pm – 9pm.

Contact Darren, tower captain 07718 059071

email: [gograndsiredoubles@gmail.com](mailto:gograndsiredoubles@gmail.com)

For pictures and information please visit our website:

[www.northcurrybells.com](http://www.northcurrybells.com)

#### **Bell Tower Appeal**

If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please back to

North Curry Bellringers:  
Account: 38229860  
Sort Code: 30-91-91

or give a cheque in person to Paul or Darren.

On Sunday 17 November In Ecclesia Choir from Taunton gave a Service of Words and Music in the Season of Remembrance.

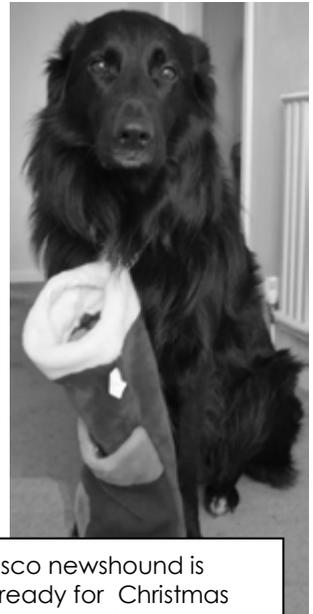
In Ecclesia was founded in 1955 by a small group of Church music enthusiasts, whose aim was to bring to the Churches of Somerset part of the great choral heritage of the Church of England. The Choir was first known as the Rural Church Singers and was renamed In Ecclesia in 1995 but preserve the original aim of the Choir. In Ecclesia bring choral Services, usually Evensong, to Churches which no longer have a full Choir or where Evensong is rarely sung. In Ecclesia also sing in Cathedrals nationwide.

The talented Choir sang a reflective sequence of hymns, anthems and motets including two familiar pieces from Faure's Missa pro defunctis. It was an extremely moving Service and following Dr Robert Dunning's truly inspiring and thought provoking Address the Congregation and Choir were invited to light a candle as a prayer of Remembrance and to take a leaf as a reminder of one's prayer. The candles on the Nave Altar with the High Altar as backdrop was quite stunning.

We are planning to invite the In Ecclesia back to St Peter and St Paul in 2020, possibly for a similar Service.

Report by Mary Piers

*Tides ebb and flow,  
Moons wax and wane,  
Priests come and go ;  
Faith shall remain.  
Blossom on bough,  
Floods on the moor,  
Harvest and plough. . .  
Still we adore  
Father of all,  
Bearing us up,  
Hearing our call.  
With bread and Cup  
Making us whole ;  
Strong to endure,  
Feeding the soul,  
Nourishment pure.  
Scatter the darkness,  
Gather the flock,  
Looking to Jesus,  
Shepherd and Rock.*



**Even** Rosco newshound is getting ready for Christmas this year... he decided to hang the stocking on himself so that Santa didnt miss him!

# Calendar Photo Competition

The 2020 calendars are ready and are on sale now, £10 at the Post Office and the church.



However, for 2021, we would like you the villagers to provide the photos. So during the course of the next year, to September 2020, please take as many photos as you can of North Curry life for inclusion in the calendar (ideally, something from each month to reflect our village through a year).

The competition is open to all, and can be of any aspect over of village life you would like seen in our calendar.

In later issues, we shall give more details on where to email/post your photos, but ideally, digital images are easier to handle (and a better quality) than scanning in from paper photos. But for now, just get snapping away!

\* \* \*

## **What does being in debt feel like?**

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

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

TADA is supported by local churches, but offers its free debt advice to people of faith or no faith at all. The TADA Debt Advisers are regulated and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. People can gain access to this free support by going to the web site [www.tauntonareadebtadvice.uk](http://www.tauntonareadebtadvice.uk) or calling the helpline 07921 526087. TADA is a member of Community Money Advice which is a national charity with 1300 volunteers working in 160 debt advice centres across the United Kingdom.

Tea Break  
 Something to colour....



And something to work  
 out...

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

**Ohh ha ha ha**

Comedians have been  
 "green" for years... they are  
 forever recycling their jokes!

I used to work in a recycling  
 plant, crushing cans...  
 but I had to quit, it was soda  
 pressing.

I used to work long and  
 unsociable hours in a shoes  
 recycling factory....  
 ... it was sole destroying!

## **North Curry Church**

Is part of the Benefice of Athelney, along with the parishes of Stoke St. Gregory, Lyng and Burrowbridge – the Parish Church is frequently referred to as 'The Cathedral of the Moors', and from the River Tone valley it is easy to understand why. It was built on a site of an earlier Norman church in about 1300 in the Decorated style, using Ham Hill stone, blue lias stone, and some grey sandstone from a quarry within the parish. About a hundred years later it was updated in the Perpendicular style when the roofs of the nave and aisles were raised to accommodate larger windows.

Evidences of the original pitches can be seen both outside on the south and east faces of the tower, and inside on its west arch. At this time the upper stage of the tower and the parapets were added, as was the interesting collection of gargoyles and hunkypunks.

The North Curry Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials date from 1539 and are almost complete.

The churchyard, just over two acres, is in two parts, with the lower 'new' part has been in use since 1952. The upper 'old' part has gravestones that are centuries old, and includes war memorials. A plan of the graves, complete with the names of the occupants, can be found in the church porch. This is a place of solace and tranquillity, with seating on the north (far) side affording magnificent views across the River Tone to yonder hills in all directions. In springtime, the natural beauty is never more apparent, when the flora carpets amongst the headstones and trees.

## **Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals**

If you are interested in getting married, having a church blessing for a civil marriage or organising a baptism or funeral please contact one of the churchwardens.

The statutory fees are set by the Church of England and a fee list is displayed in the church porch, or is available online from [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org).

Additional local fees may be due in accordance with the services required. At the time of your enquiry, all fee options will be explained.

There are also regulations governing the condition of the churchyard and graves, designed to ensure it remains a special peaceful place. Again, a copy is available in the church porch.

## **Hiring the Church**

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

## **Will Planning and Legacies**

Having a Will in place, for when the time comes, is strongly recommended for all individuals, to ensure your final wishes are clearly laid out to friends and family.

## **Planned Giving and Donations**

Planned Giving, by standing order, is a regular charitable payment (or pledge) to the church. This type of giving is an important and integral aspect of our finances, as the majority of our income comes through the planned giving scheme.

Donation pledges by standing order are easier to administer, both for you and us. Regular planned giving can also attract tax gift aid, enabling us to boost your donation by 25%. Donations can be given monthly, quarterly, or yearly, and the amount is very much up to you. You are not beholden once started, and can be cancelled at anytime. Please contact our Treasurer, Rob Ellis 01823 490599, for the appropriate forms to complete, or to discuss your giving pledge. Standing order mandates are not the same as direct debit mandates. The amounts and dates are fixed, and the instruction to your bank is completely controlled by you.

One off donations can be made anytime – cheques payable to North Curry PCC, and can be mailed to the Church address – see inside back page for details. BACS to North Curry PCC – Account No: 00514650, Sort Code: 30-98-45

## **Prayer for the Athelney Benefice**

Almighty God,

Who made all things and sustains all things;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amen

## **Church Opening and Closing Rota**

Sunday, week commencing during:

December

\*1<sup>st</sup> D&S Franks

8<sup>th</sup> Robin Rudman

\*15<sup>th</sup> Mike Baker

22<sup>nd</sup> John de Winton

29<sup>th</sup> S&A Billinghamurst

\* 8am service

January

\*5<sup>th</sup> Tony Brooker

12<sup>th</sup> David Walker

\*19<sup>th</sup> Ralph Roberts

26<sup>th</sup> Tom Jeanes

## Commonwealth War Graves

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

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

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

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

Information taken from the War Graves Commission website

Register of:

### **Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals** (June 2019 - November 2019)

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

#### Baptisms

Imogen Ruby Wilson	June 2019
James William Parrington, Luca Pine	August 2019
Oliver Nathaniel Smith/ Noah Jeffrey Chedzoy	August 2019

#### Weddings

Robert Walker/ Anna Brice	October 2019
---------------------------	--------------

#### Funerals

Muriel Mudie, Avril Madeley, Michael Griffiths	June 2019
Tim Guernsey	October 2019

## Health and Safety

A reminder notice to all volunteers working in the church.

### **Personal Responsibility**

It is the duty of each and every person using or visiting the church and churchyard to exercise personal responsibility for their own safety and that of others.

### **Specific Considerations**

It is anticipated that a fully revised policy will be adopted at the next PCC meeting. Meanwhile in addition to exercising personal responsibility it is essential that:

- Anyone using a ladder or reaching high places is accompanied.
- Ideally "lone working" will be kept to a minimum. Any lone workers must have an operating mobile phone on their person and ensure that someone knows where they are and that they have returned safely. No one should enter the cellar (boiler room) or bell chamber (above the ringing chamber) or onto any church roof unless accompanied.
- No easily combustible materials or sources of ignition may be left unattended in the church.
- Those who close the church must check diligently that there is no one left in the church.

David Akerman and Mary Piers, Churchwardens

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## Church Officers and Contacts

<u>Officer:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Contact Number:</u>
Vicar	Vacant	
Honorary Associate Priest	Rev'd John Tyler	01460 281574
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Churchwarden	David Akerman	01823 490234
Churchwarden & Verger	Mary Piers	01823 491434
Churchwardens Emeritus	Tony Brooker	01823 490422
	Janet Dare	01823 490747
PCC Secretary/ Safe Guarding	Helen Griffiths	01823 491298
PCC Treasurer	Rob Ellis	01823 490599
Tower Captain	Darren Woodyer	01823 690162
Flower List Organiser	Lorraine Bryan Brown	01823 491665
Events Bookings Secretary	David Walker	01823 491231
Produce Market Organiser	Anne Williams	07531 382078
Little Angels/ Electoral Roll	Jenny Satchwell	01823 490463
Choir	Jean Smith	01823 490961
PCC 200 Club	Sue Bethune	01823 490179
Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis, email: ncurrymag@gmail.com	

PCC (Parochial Church Council) Address, for general correspondences  
St Peter and St Paul Church, Church Road, North Curry, Somerset. TA3 6LJ  
(Post box by kissing gate, at vicar's parking area)

The church website is [www.northcurrychurch.co.uk](http://www.northcurrychurch.co.uk)

## Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Acorns	01823 491615	<a href="http://www.littleacornsnorthcurry.co.uk">www.littleacornsnorthcurry.co.uk</a>
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	<a href="http://www.northcurry.com">www.northcurry.com</a>
Post Office/ Stores	01823 490261	
Primary School	01823 490423	<a href="http://www.northcurryschool.co.uk">www.northcurryschool.co.uk</a>
Surgery	01823 490505	<a href="http://www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk">www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk</a>

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The views expressed in the magazine are those of the individuals/societies who send in items. The deadline for contributions is the 13th of the previous month. The editor reserves the right to change any copy provided without recourse to the contributor. Copyright 2019.

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

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