

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE

JUNE 2020



INSIDE: The Wildlife Group report upon the church “wild area”, plus we proudly present an award winning short story. With gardening and movie tips too, and a tale of one man’s adventure, why not...

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WORLD



Cover – Yellow Rattle in the Churchyard, by Sarah Shuttleworth

Left – the April magazine cover (published online), which was designed by Sophia Winter (aged 11), North Curry Primary School
Winner of the Easter (April) cover competition held in February.

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

www.northcurrychurch.co.uk/ email ncurrymag@gmail.com



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Editor's Comments

Back through unpopular demand, and very little requests, our magazine is relaunched... we have unfurloughed the editor; removed the dust cover from both him and his word processor to bring this issue to you; Welcome to the June magazine, with a distinctively different feel to it. Different, in that the usual catalogue of forthcoming events simply do not exist. How odd our little world has become, and so quickly too.

When we learned about COVID19 in late 2019, no one would have predicted the consequences of it. Just another flu virus, wasn't it! Only last month, we held the 75th year "celebration" anniversary of VE Day. Will there be a 75th year anniversary in years to come, when we are liberated from the lockdown!? I'll let the future editor ponder on that in 2095! Will "everyone" still be clapping at 8pm on a Thursday evening!?

After months of relentless rain, we now have relentless sunshine... Can someone ask Boris to ease the lockdown on the sunshine, as our fields and gardens need the rain!? And what has happened to reducing plastic waste, which was in vogue at the start of 2020! There seems to be more screens and single use plastics in circulations than ever before...

But moving back to now, with all events cancelled or postponed indefinitely, I asked our contributors for news and stories, gleaming snippets here and there; and they all responded in kind. Maybe I should ask you all to send in "what I learned whilst I was isolating", or as someone else suggested, maybe collate all those old family recipes, as we became a nation of home bakers and gardeners. If you have anything you wish to contribute to your village magazine, feel free to email me at ncurrymag@gmail.com.

Announcements

With self isolation and social distancing a government directive, we remind all individuals to wash your hands with soap thoroughly and often. If you are feeling unwell or are highly vulnerable, please stay at home.

We thank our local village store for their super hero efforts since the lockdown restrictions commenced. We all very much appreciate your dedication to see us through this crisis.

Burrowbridge Planned Giving Initiative has begun! If you would like to help your sister benefice church "bridge" the £1500 annual deficit, then contact Rob Ellis, treasurer – rellisscr@hotmail.com/ 01823 490599, and he will send you a pledge form for completion.

A message from the Churchwardens

Covid-19

Given the current situation with Covid-19 all services in church remain suspended until further notice.

The Church will remain closed, pending a change in directive from both the HM Government and the Church of England.

Communication with local residents who may be isolated.

Members of the PCC will endeavour as a minimum to keep in contact (by phone) with all those on the church electoral role. We must not forget the rest of the parish too so please keep in touch with your family and friends.

Other Communication

The weekly benefice bulletin (normally available at services) will continue to be produced with the very latest news and also with the appropriate readings for the week.

Already about 50 people receive this by email and if you would like to have your copy by email then please ask David Walker by sending an email to davidwalker.northcurry@gmail.com.

Other questions

Other questions for example about baptism, marriage, and funerals should be directed to the churchwardens. Under current conditions it is possible to have these ceremonies but with extremely limited numbers of people present for the time being. At present until we have guidance from the dioceses the church building is closed but we are taking bookings for weddings in 2021.

For more information, please contact:

David Akerman 490234

Mary Piers 491434

Given that it is not possible at present to have services or social/ fund raising events the income for the church will be depleted. The outgoings (parish share/ insurance/ maintenance etc..) will not be reduced. If anyone feels that they would like to join the Planned Giving Programme or adjust their present giving please contact the interim Treasurer David Akerman(490234)

Recruitment of new vicar . Unfortunately as yet we have not had any applicants -there are many vacancies within the diocese. However we shall continue the search and meanwhile we are privileged to have and grateful for the unstinting support of John Tyler, Martin Mudie and our readers.

The Rev'd John Tyler writes

My Dear Friends,

'Man, despite his technological pretensions, his sophistication and his many accomplishments – owes his existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.'

Rogation Sunday, which this year fell on 17th May, is a good reminder of this reality. Technically, Rogation is the time of 'Asking for God's Blessing' on our countryside and crops ; but each time I do a Rogation Walk I come to the conclusion that God's Blessing is already there, and in practice it is more a question of appreciating it.

This year's Walk had a downside : Due to the restrictions on 'gathering' it could not be the communal effort it has been in previous years. On the other hand, it was perfect walking weather, and mid-May saw the Somerset countryside at its best. The sheer profusion of blossom, the continual birdsong, and the wildflowers made a striking background to the activity of man. It had already been decided to 'beat the Benefice bounds' in the opposite direction to former years, and it was possible to do the Full Circuit : Starting at North Curry, and along the roads to Lyng (for a short Communion Service in the Churchyard). Then on to Athelney Monument before rejoining the River Tone to walk to Burrowbridge and the Mump. The slopes of the Mump were scattered with a large flock of shorn sheep – they were just some of the domestic animals that received a Blessing that day. On to Stoke St. Gregory via Stathe, and finally back to North Curry via Huntham, Broad Lane and Moredon. It was good to have some company on the way, since those who have been able to participate in other years will remember that it can be a joyous social activity.

In general we were able to report that the countryside seemed in very good heart. Perhaps the only worrying feature was that some of the fields of young maize looked to be in rather desperate need of rain. Otherwise it was emphatically an experience of highlights, from the moment of a Hare leaping out of the verge on Moor Lane, to the final approach to North Curry Church several hours later across the undulating meadows from Moredon. We are indeed Blessed, and it is a privilege to live and work in such a beautiful and vibrantly productive area ; both the agriculture and the wild countryside are breathtaking.

I hope and pray that next year it may be possible for anyone who wishes, to experience this very different landmark in the Church's year. Thank you to all who supported it in thought and prayer and other ways.

Blessings, John Tyler.

Letter from the Right
Reverend Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton
Time to show our care for all



(Her April message)

As we reflect on the Easter story this month I'm reminded of the sense of 'touch'. It was Passover, a religious festival, and as Jesus was laid in the tomb, Sabbath was upon them. So the usual burial rites were not attended to by the women who were closest to Jesus. It would have been improper to touch the dead body. Hence their early arrival on that resurrection morning.

In the following days, in attempts to dispel disbelief, Jesus' followers had opportunity to not only talk with him, eat with him, but also touch him as he came among them. Thomas's doubt was dispelled as he was invited to place his hand in the wounds of Christ.

As I write this we are wondering what Covid 19 might have in store for us in the UK. We hear now that Italy has taken drastic action in hoping to contain the virus. I don't know what further precautions we in the UK may have taken by the time you read this.

Currently we are all taking greater care with our personal hygiene in washing hands and ensuring we use and bin tissues. Today, along with the rest of the Church of England, we in Bath and Wells, have recommended that we only receive bread or wafers at Holy Communion and refrain from touching, through blessing, sharing the Peace or prayer through laying on of hands.

There will be various responses to the concerns raised by the Government and the media. Some may feel anxiety or fear about the nature of the virus whilst others may wonder if the emergency planning appears over-reactive. Our response as a Church must be that we do what we can to ensure we stay safe by taking all precautions recommended. And that we do all we can to reassure people who may feel vulnerable and worried by staying calm and showing compassion and care for all.

But how do we express such care? I've realised that touch plays quite an important part in showing we care for someone. When I was training as a nurse for a brief period many years ago, I recall being shown some research on touch. It was an eye-opener! Even the briefest of touches can cause people to feel better, cared for and happier.

But the presence of Coronavirus means that we are having to withdraw touch to prevent the possibility of infection. So how might we try to replace touch with other signals of our care and value? What might that look like?

As folk may find themselves 'self-isolating' due to potential symptoms of the virus we have the opportunity to find new ways to show our care. Phone calls and cards, food deliveries, creative use of social media and streaming of worship services may all be ways to stay in touch and help people to know they are not alone. Rather than finding ourselves paralysed by the situation let us discover how we can create new opportunities to strengthen our relationships and communities.

May our actions be the reassuring, life-affirming 'touch' of the risen Christ this Easter!

Easter blessings

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton
[written 10th March]

(And as a double feature, her message for June 2020)

Recognise the one who stands beside you

'Stay alert' is the message as we 'ease out of lockdown'. We know that for some there is little ease as we begin to re-engage with a world that is still fearful of Covid-19 and uncertain about its future. The requirement to 'stay alert' is to encourage us to watch out for signs of the virus and protect ourselves and others as necessary.

We've just celebrated Pentecost, often recognised as the birthday of the Church. Jesus' message to his followers as he left them to return to his Father was that they were to 'stay alert', not to guard against something fearful to come but rather to be watchful for the Spirit that would free them from fear. It didn't mean that there weren't still physical dangers to face but rather that their spiritual lives should grow in boldness.

We have seen much courage exhibited throughout this crisis to date. Key workers who have continued to serve us day by day even whilst most of us have remained at home. The NHS has quite rightly been applauded and appreciated at this time and there are so many more.

I've been especially impressed by our schools and their teams who have largely been open throughout this period to provide care for key worker families and vulnerable children. Even at weekends and during this past half term holiday they have been tirelessly supporting their local communities. Staying alert to the needs of our young, they have shown their commitment and care. I want to express my huge gratitude to them!

As we move into June we may be seeing more children returning to schools having been home-schooled for a time. This will not be without fear for some and a need to be especially alert to physical dangers. Whatever the situation we find ourselves to be in at this point, we are reminded that we have a Comforter, an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who strengthens and encourages our faith even at times of doubt and anxiety.

Whether still at home and isolated or beginning a return to wider community life, may you find yourself being alert for and recognising the one who stands alongside you, the Spirit, who is friend, guardian and comforter.

With every good wish

The Right Revd Ruth Worsley
Bishop of Taunton

All sorts of information can be found on the Diocese website, including links to prayers as well as social media support.

Go to www.bathandwells.org.uk for general information.

www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-parishes/parish-communication/social-media-support/



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What does a Churchwarden do during “Lockdown”

I suppose you mean apart from the garden!

We seem to have been quite busy.

Sadly, we have had to accommodate two funerals and at this time only graveside funerals are allowed with extremely limited numbers permitted to attend. At least the weather has been kind.

We have endeavoured to keep in touch with the congregation between us and David Walker sends out an email bulletin and other information each week. If you have not received this but would like to, then let us know please.

Unfortunately given that the church must be kept closed (a national decision) some weddings have had to be postponed and rearranged and we have narrowly avoided a clash as far forward as September 2021. The very observant amongst you will know that three families are seeking to reserve grave spaces at present. There has to be liaison with the Diocesan Registry concerning this. (NB All residents of the parish are entitled to be buried or have their ashes interred in the graveyard and a reservation is only necessary if you have a particular spot in mind.)

We are endeavouring to have the churchyard kept tidy with due allowance to the wildlife areas -where slowworms have been sighted. For those whose ashes are interred in the churchyard the names are recorded by date of death in the memorial book and the page is turned daily (whenthe church is open). The updates had not been done rigorously for many years and we are in the process of having this brought up to date -with many thanks to Liz Gibbs and her calligraphy. The weekly offertory, many casual donations, and our fund-raising activities such as the produce market, open gardens, concert, and May Fair have all been cancelled. Our outgoings apart from heat and candles are very littlechanged.

Fortunately,our Planned Giving which was revitalised in 2018 is enabling us to meet our normal expenditure. We have had to provide the diocese with a cash forecast, and we are in a much better position than many parishes. We expect soon to have significant income from VAT and Gift Aid recovery.

Additionally, we have recently become the fortunate recipients of a sizeable bequest from the estate of the late Charles Woods. The wardens would prefer to see this spent in due course on something significant and lasting rather than on subsidising routine costs. The PCC has already a list of

ideas as to how it might be spent. If you have ideas, then please let Helen Griffiths (PCC Secretary) know. We do not intend to spend it in the short term but to consider carefully and prayerfully how best to spend the windfall for the future development of the church.

John and Martin continue to support the benefice very generously with their time and we might have been lost without them. However, we are beginning to think how and when to reenergise our benefice recruitment for a new incumbent.

Meanwhile do keep well and sane.

The Churchwardens

A reminder that the calendar photo competition continues...

to provide photographs for the 2021 calendar.

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



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

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

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

Each entrant may submit up to three photographs.

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

Entries are to be submitted to the editor of the parish magazine in digital format in high resolution JPEG files, in landscape format, at not less than 200 dpi, and sent to **ncurrymag@gmail.com with an email covering** the instructions in the paragraph above.

The closing date for entries is 31st August 2020.

No fees will be paid to the entrants, and the proceeds of the sale of the calendar are to benefit the parish church.

Selection will be made by a panel of judges, appointed by the PCC; the criteria will be the merit of the photograph and its suitability for the calendar. The judges' decision is final.

Rogationtide Walk, Sun 17th May: A tale of one man's adventure...

*Got up in leisurely fashion at 5 am. A beautiful May morning, sunny but fresh. Breakfast on the terrace at 6 am, and a **Cuckoo** calling a couple of hundred yards away. . . I shouldn't believe in omens but my Mother was Cornish, and I haven't heard a Cuckoo so close for years.*

*By 6.30 I am packed up and ready, but I am not really due at Lyng until about 8 am. What to do? Inspiration descends and I decide I am going to attempt the **Full Circuit**, which will add another 3 miles or so to the route. Meg acquiesces and drives me over to North Curry. A **Stoat** runs across the road at Newport, but no sign of villainous Mr **Fox**. Meg drops me at the Old School and drives on to Lyng and I set off at a brisk pace (will I be able to keep it up?). The one compensation about doing this Walk on my own is I can really focus on What Needs Blessing (Firewood, Livery Stables, bullocks lowing, dog-roses, Withies, flood-meadows . . .). I cannot attempt to list them all; suffice it to say I anticipate repetitive strain injury from making the Sign of the Cross before the day is out.*

*One of the best encounters of the day occurs on Moor Lane when a **HARE** leaps out of the verge and runs along the road ahead of me till it can find a field gateway; really my favourite British animal, and I haven't seen one for years. A bit of high cloud, but a lovely sunny morning. I join the main road at West Lyng, sending Blessings to Outward as I turn to the right. I stride along through the Village. I find myself both remembering those living in the houses now, and those who were living there more than 40 years ago when I first took charge of Lyng. Of course not just people, living and departed get Blessed (Cider, grass cut for silage, farm contracting . . .). As I pause and Bless Organic Dairy Farming I encounter Roger, and we exchange a few cheerful words. He works far too hard, I think.*

On to Lyng Church where Meg is waiting for me. We go through the lush grass of the unmown Churchyard and find a sunny spot on the back wall looking down on the ancient orchard and earthworks of the Saxon village. Here we have a short Communion Service using a Celtic rite. Set off through East Lyng Village, Blessing the houses and inhabitants and their gardens (Grace has done wonders with her Grandparents' garden; Reg would be so pleased). As I am leaving East Lyng I encounter Pat Mennim (just after I have Blessed her house) and we have a 5 minute chat. She has made a good recovery from her broken shoulder and I compliment her that her 'left hook' is restored.

*Off across the Causeway towards Athelney. A familiar sound makes me turn briskly and admire a single **Mute Swan** winging overhead on thrumming pinions – just like the swans on the Lyng altar rail kneeler. On through the lush avenue of willows to Athelney Farm,*

where Tim Morgan's magnificent little herd of North Devon cattle (bullocks, cows and calves all together enjoying the May grass) get special Blessings. So does the old Farm, which shelters old Mrs Morgan (aged 104 this year) as well as Tim. A pause at **the Monument** to pray and admire the view, then back to the road and encounter the River Tone for the second time today. The low tide and lack of rain means the water level is pretty low – extraordinary to think that about a month ago **Three Porpoises** found their way as far up as New Bridge. The grassy path along the River Bank has either been mown or grazed tight by sheep, so easy walking. Someone on the Curload side has an impressive flotilla of dinghies, canoes and a scull, so I can Bless 'all who go down to the sea in **ships**, and have their business on the great waters'. Encounter the first of many dog-walkers and we chat from a social distance.

On to Borrowbridge (Blessing confluence of Parrett and Tone), scattering benisons right and left, especially on excellent King Alfred pub, St. Michaels's Church and Old Bakery. Tackle the Mump straight away. My old shepherd's crook, dating from my own flock in the 80s and 90s comes in very useful on the steep slopes up and down. The Mump is thronged by a magnificent flock of what seems like several hundred **Sheep**. Query : ought I, as a conscientious pastor and priest, Bless each of them **individually** ? Interesting train of thought as I envisage organising them into an orderly queue, and trying to detect when the overkeen ones run round to join the back of the queue again; sheep are not easy to recognise as individuals unless you know them very well . . . I'm afraid they have to make do with a General Blessing.

Up to the top of the Mump for prayers and a Blessing of the Benefice from this extraordinary vantage point. I can both see most of the Benefice from here and also a large chunk of the (obviously less important) wider **Outside World**. Scramble and slide down the Mump (it might be quicker to roll, but lavish deposits of sheep-manure are a deterrent), and set off up the Parrett on path and road. Many more **Cyclists** are out and about now. **Gardens** are magnificent in May. I see the first field of **Maize**, with sprouts no more than a few inches high, and realise how desperately it needs **Rain**. Definitely something to pray for. An unidentifiable bird is singing beautifully in the reeds and I linger but cannot get a glimpse. **Birdsong** and **Wildflowers** are an ever-present accompaniment of this May Walk, and of course they get regularly Blessed. Occasional phone-calls and texts from kind people enquiring after progress, but it does not prove easy to arrange meetings. I pass the first of our **Benefice Rookeries**.

Eventually arrive at Stathe Corner and leave the River Parrett behind ; I think this marks about 3/5 of my overall distance ? On to Walker's Farm (appropriately named), where I am kindly welcomed by

*Will and Di and we chat on their lawn before I set out for Stoke St Gregory (where we arrange to meet again). A special Blessing for Parsonage Farm and I wave to Richard whom I see on a tractor in the Yard. I turn down by Woodhill Terrace (I wish I knew all the people in the houses I pass ; perhaps the New Vicar will get to know them all ?) and walking – perhaps slightly less briskly now ? – down the long gentle gradient into Stoke St Gregory. I meet Will and Di in the Church carpark and we have a short time of prayer in the Churchyard before setting out through the Square and down Huntham Lane. A special Blessing for the **School**.*

*On through Huntham ; time and the miles pass even more pleasantly with company and someone to chat to. We encounter John Hembrow and chat about **Badger Deterrence** and other matters. John and Liz did the whole Walk with me two years ago, so he knows what it is like. His orchard and the dairy farm are Blessed in passing. As we approach Broad Lane we encounter Rob and **Rosco** – who is beautifully behaved, but perhaps more interested in his frisbee than in being Blessed as a **Representative Dog**. Other dogs are encountered en route, and one small farmdog has to be discouraged from joining herself to our Party, being obviously smitten by the charms of Rosco, as the tall dark stranger of her dreams ... I mentally christen her 'Babe'. Di and Will decide to take the route through the Orchid Field : as Rob, Rosco and I walk on to join Stoke Road, my eye is caught by something happening outside a Barn ; a **Smallholder** is having his 18 **Sheep shorn** and we chat briefly before I give him a Blessing. On Stoke Road we soon encounter Meg walking out to meet us .*

*We take the route up Moredon Drive and approach North Curry Church across the field from the East. A few spots of rain at this point. Query : Have my prayers on behalf of the parched fields of **Maize** been only too effective ? But if so I can't have prayed hard enough as it doesn't come to anything. In general not a lot of blazing sunlight, but warm and pleasant walking weather. We meet and chat to a Stoke St Gregory gentleman and then Geoff Dart (with two dogs). Up into the Churchyard where we say our final prayers – turning to the points of the compass - and then have a snack. Rosco helps me out with the less attractive bits of a cheese and onion pasty crust.*

A lovely Walk for me, and, though sad not to be able to share it with many people, by God's Grace we can look forward to next year, when I ought to know better what I am doing (if I am still around !).

Calculated at 13 miles (just under a Half Marathon) ; 4 hours 20 minutes actual walking.

J.T.T. May 17th 2020.

News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

This report was written in the days of lock down, when no one was quite sure what was happening and in common with all places of worship in the country, the Chapel at North Curry stood empty. The doors were shut, the pews unoccupied and everywhere un- dusted and desolate.

However, we were not unable to communicate with each other thanks to modern technology. Easter greetings were passed between friends via emails and face time. Even the 'old' method of telephoning had resurged! No Easter cards this year but how much nicer to hear a voice or see one another albeit through a screen!

By means of clever people in the Methodist Circuit, Sunday services have been available on line when worshippers could join with others and pray and sing together. Thanks to Tony and Deborah for leading worship and all the others who have provided prayers and readings.

No amount of isolation, however tedious and frustrating, could separate us from the love of God and we are able to rejoice apart but together.

All future events are suspended for the time being

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Please Colour Me





Presented by Don Hoyle

You will know that the Film Club Committee decided to **cancel the showing of the rest of this year's films** (i.e. up to August). These films will be carried forward to next year and make up the first half of that season which starts in September. Those who are members for this season will be able to join next year, for half price. If in the unlikely event we can show films before September, we are sure we can come up with something to celebrate being able to get together again!

In the meantime, where to go to get to see a good film? – most on TV have been on so many times before! Luckily, there is a lot of choice if you can stream films via the internet. In fact, we have mostly been watching relays of theatre including the fabulous shows from the **New York Metropolitan Opera**– all for free! The **Strode Theatre** are doing a weekly summary of streamed theatre.

You need to set up an account and ask for these emails. We find Netflix has too much on offer, so best to have a film in mind. We watched **Roma**, which won 3 Oscars. Set in the early 1970s, it is about the life of a live-in maid to an upper-class Mexican family. Quite an arty film, it is filmed in black and white. **MUBI** are a quality film streaming service. They offer a daily film which is then available for 30 days. These

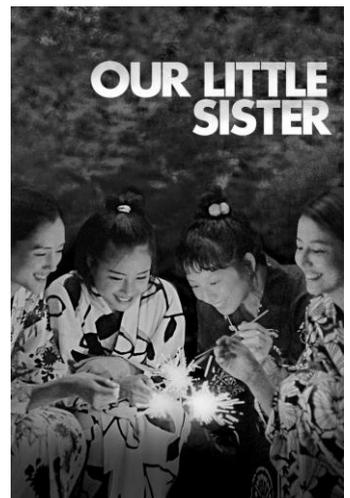


range from the most recent to classics by Fellini, Renoir, and the like. Normally it costs £9.99 a month but they have offered 3-months free membership. It might still be available so try:

<https://mubi.com/cinemagoeson>.

Our favourite from them is **Our Little Sister** – a tender family drama set in Japan. We'll be recommending this as one of our season next year.

As I said, we expect to start showing films again in September with **The Bookshop** starring Emily Mortimer and Bill Nighy. Hope to see you there. It will be great to be back showing films.



NEW BEGINNINGS, by Zillah Sykes

Angela poured filter coffee into her favourite mug, appreciatively breathing in its rich aroma as she did so, and then made her way to the comfy armchair that was tucked away in the corner of her kitchen. She was not surprised to find it already occupied by Amber, her beloved springer spaniel, whose adoring gaze invited her to share this space with her. As they snuggled together, Angela slowly sipped her coffee, warming her hands with the heat of the mug, and allowed the quiet of the place to wrap itself around her like a soft blanket.

Just a few short weeks ago, cups of coffee had been left to go cold on her desk, as she had struggled to meet the demands of a busy office. She deserved this rest, she reflected, but it had come quite unexpectedly, not at all in the way she would have chosen. Tony, her husband, announced that he had found someone that he “really loved” and with that, their marriage of twenty years had been ripped apart. Angela found that, with her husband, she had lost everything that had been her life. “So glad that I’ve still got you,” she said to Amber, stroking her soft, silky ears. “You and my darling daughter Georgia”. Georgia had moved into the cottage with her at the end of the year, and she had spent Christmas with her mother before returning to university just a week ago.

Angela finished her coffee and placed the mug on the table. Immediately Amber leapt from the chair and bounded towards the back door waiting impatiently for the highlight of her day. It wasn't long before they were walking through the village, Angela in wellingtons and covered in waterproofs, for the January day was grey and threatening to rain. They made their way through the churchyard and out onto the field, where Amber was allowed the joy of freedom- to chase after rabbits, to follow scents and altogether delighting in being what she was created to be – a springer spaniel!

Meanwhile, Angela proceeded cautiously through the squelching mud and followed the path up the hill, where the ground was firmer, and, able to take her eyes off the mud, she looked up. As she did so, she was surprised to see the most beautiful rainbow she had ever seen. She stood transfixed, gazing at the beauty of the

scene before her, the rainbow's unbroken arc of luminous colour that stretched across a sky that was heavy with dark rain clouds, with another, faint, above it. A double rainbow! The colours, shimmering, iridescent, were clearly defined from red through to violet. This was a truly awesome, never to be forgotten moment, that she wanted to capture and fix on the lens of her mind forever.

All too soon the rain began to fall and the grey clouds filled the sky again. Angela called Amber and as the two of them hurried homewards, Angela sensed her spirits lift and a feeling of hope beginning to return. Hope that her shattered heart would mend and that she would find the courage to really live again. As they walked back through the churchyard, the rain became heavier so they took shelter in the church porch, and while she was there, she opened the heavy oak door, peered inside the church, and immediately sensed its peace.

And so it was that, on the following Sunday morning, as the church bells rang out their invitation to morning worship, Angela answered their call. Feeling more than a little nervous (it had been years since she had attended church) she reminded herself to keep her bruised and battered heart hidden right away, and to cover it up with a smile.

Bob Bailey shivered. The day had been cold, grey and wet. The chill, damp air had penetrated his bones and then had settled heavily upon his soul. "Another January," he groaned and as the light was fading fast he decided it was time to light the fire, and, kneeling down at the hearth, he began to clear the grate. Having a real fire, roaring up the chimney and to feel its heat warming him right through, was his one winter consolation. As his hands methodically prepared the paper and wood to light the fire, Bob allowed his thoughts, once more, to return to the previous Sunday morning. He had been in his usual pew, alone, allowing the stillness of the ancient building to calm his soul, when, just as the service was about to begin, Angela hurried in, and looking a little flustered, had sat down beside him. Then, at the end of the service, they had politely introduced themselves, chatted briefly, and with a smile that lit up her lovely face, she was gone.

Quite suddenly, Bob felt alone and cold. His reverie at an end, he shook himself into the present and rubbed his hands together to warm them. "Better get this fire going," he said to himself, and with expertise born of much practise, he soon had the flames leaping and crackling up the chimney. Satisfied, he sat back on his heels and held his hands out to the blaze. His rugged features were softened in its golden glow and his grey hair had become like burnished bronze. He smiled slowly. "Tomorrow's Sunday, he thought, allowing himself to feel just a tinge of excitement. "Maybe....."

His thoughts were rudely interrupted as the door opened and the electric light was snapped on. He blinked as the harsh yellow light flooded the room. "Your dinner's ready!" his wife announced, sharply.

It was Good Friday. The April sun shone brightly from a cold blue sky and drew Bob Bailey, with an irresistible force out into the chill, but glorious freshness of his garden. He soon got to work digging over his vegetable patch, welcoming the cool breeze upon his face as his body grew warm with the exertion of his work. He stopped to rest savouring the smell of the newly turned earth, and as he did so, a robin joined him, hopping about on the soft earth around his feet. Bob smiled as he watched it fly up onto the branch of an apple tree and began to sing. Clear, melodious notes filled the air with their sweetness "A song for the joy of life," thought Bob, his smile broadening. It was good to be alive on such a day as this. The dark months of winter were gone and spring had arrived at last.

He had always loved the spring. Each year he wondered anew at the power of the sun to bring forth life from apparent death – and in such abundance! New green shoots appeared, trees burst into blossom and new leaf, and flowers bloomed everywhere. Daffodils were a special favourite of his, and he had planted them generously around the garden. He loved to see these bright, golden yellow flowers swaying and dancing in the breeze, their trumpets silently but cheerfully announcing the arrival of spring. How he longed to gather a huge bunch of these bright blooms for Angela, the lovely girl with the smile that had so captivated him one dreary January morning. Since then she had attended morning worship regularly and had sat by him. After the service they would

sit and chat, then, all too soon, she would smile at him and take her leave. A brief, but delightful encounter mused Bob, the highlight of his week.

The sunlight that had compelled Bob out into his garden flooded into Angela's kitchen, and, snuggled up in the big armchair, she and Amber basked in its warmth. As she stroked the dog's soft fur, Angela's thoughts, that concerned Bob, her new friend, were troubling her. She appreciated his kindness and concern for her, but she now feared that he was becoming too close. Also she understood that he was married, unhappily, and that he was carrying deep within him a load of hurt and disappointment. She did not want to cause him more pain, but neither did she want to encourage him. She was at a loss, wondering, what would she do?

Meanwhile, Margaret, Bob's wife had noticed a change in her husband's demeanour. He was more cheerful now and there was a lightness in his spirit she was not accustomed to. Something was going on and she was determined to find out what it was – or WHO it was!

It was Easter morning and Bob was up early. He spent much longer in the bathroom than usual and shaved and showered, he dressed himself in the clean clothes that he had carefully laid out on the bed. Then, after a final look in the mirror as he adjusted his tie, he bounded down the stairs and into the kitchen for a quick breakfast, when he stopped short. "Morning Bob," his wife said, smugly. "I've a mind to go to church with you today, it being Easter Day".

The church bells of St.Peter's were ringing out, loud and long, their invitation to worship on this most glorious of mornings, and a good number of parishioners were responding to their call, Angela and Georgia among them. The spring sun shone brightly and the air was cool and fresh as they hurried past a row of neat cottages and entered the churchyard, where their steps slowed as they marvelled at the beauty of the place, for all around them the trees were glorious with masses of delicate pink and white blossom, as lovely as a bride on her wedding day, and at their feet, the grass was decorated with clumps of primroses, daffodils and swathes of blue anemones. The church was full of smiling villagers who chatted

quietly as they waited for the service to begin. Its cool, grey interior was bright with shafts of sunshine and arrangements of spring flowers that adorned every available space.

It was not long before mother and daughter were joining the congregation and lifting their voices in praise, for on Easter day the church is filled with Alleluias, for "Jesus Christ is risen today!" They were sitting quite near the front, by an enormous display of white lilies, for Angela's customary place was already taken by a thin, tight-lipped woman. Bob sat next to her, looking very uncomfortable.

As Angela had looked at them both, she had said goodbye to Bob in her heart. Her new life was here, but not with him. She squeezed Georgia's hand, smiled and continued singing.

THE END

We are grateful to Zillah for sharing her story, which won the WI best Short Story at their prize giving last year.

And for all your wordsmiths out there, I was sent this article, where The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are the winners:

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an arse.
3. Intaxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

5. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
7. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
8. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
9. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease.
10. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
11. Decafalon (n): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
12. Glibido: All talk and no action.
13. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
14. Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
15. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
16. Caterpallor (n.): The colour you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

North Curry Primary School News (written for the April issue)

Trish Green, teacher of Shark Class (Yr6) reports...

Shark Class were delighted to be asked to design the cover for the Church magazine for the April [Easter] issue.

It was a very relevant task as our R.E. topic for this term is Salvation. The children were given a planning brief to create a magazine cover picture that would get their happy Easter message across by their design and lettering being clear, big, bold and colourful with an effective colour scheme to help illustrate their message.

Their designs were anonymously displayed in the church for 2 weeks in February and voted on by visitors to the church in that time. They got lots of positive comments and the winning design was by Sophia Winter, age 10. Congratulations, Sophia!

Continuing with the Easter theme, the children in Shark Class were due to re-enact The Easter Story at the school's Easter Service in the church at 2nd April. However, this has now been cancelled due to the spread of the coronavirus.

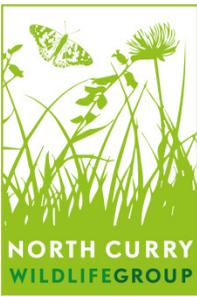
In Shark Class this term we have been studying Shackleton's Journey and thoroughly enjoyed the topic. We are also studying Evolution and Inheritance and had a wow starter trip to Lyme Regis to Dinosaurland Fossil Museum which was amazing. Steve Davies, the curator, opened the museum just for our visit so Shark Class had the whole museum to themselves!

The week beginning 2nd March was an enrichment week for reading which also involved lots of writing and art. We linked number to this work too as it was World Maths Day on March 4th. Shark Class designed and made number books for Minnow Class. We celebrated World Book Day we dressed up as our favourite story characters and words so that we can further extend our vocabulary; children and staff went to a great effort and many were unrecognisable as themselves! We also had a sponsored read. After school many of the children and their parents returned to school in their PJs with cuddly toys, blankets and books, for Bedtime Bookshare. We enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate and had a range of stories read to us. A lovely way to end a special day.

Next term Shark Class will be looking forward to swimming lessons and a Science Investigation Day which the whole school will take part in as well as sports Day in June.

Our Year 6 Leavers will be looking forward to their two-night residential at Kilve Court in June as well as their Leavers Pilgrim Day at Wells Cathedral, Huish College Primary Day and, of course, their annual leavers' trip to Crealy Adventure Park. KS2 will be putting on their annual production – the theme yet to be decided and Y6 being the main protagonists.





North Curry Wildlife Group Community Woodland Update

Waiting for Spring, by Sue Ashton



Following a mild but very wet winter, spring has seemed a long time coming, but is hopefully here now; although it wasn't until the sun shone in March that the first butterflies began to appear, including bright yellow Brimstones which hibernate over winter and come out with the first truly warm days of spring. Many butterfly species overwinter as eggs, caterpillars and pupae, and emerge later in the spring and summer, but Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals and Comma butterflies could all now be on the wing, searching for nectar along with early bumblebee queens.

At the Community Woodland, the bird feeders continue to be popular, and even the badgers found a way to get at the fat balls we put out until we realised what was happening and hung the fat ball feeders out of



reach. Now the Long-tailed Tits and Reed Buntings can feed again undisturbed. Other birds, including Dunnock, Wren and Song Thrush, have been singing loudly to establish territories and attract a mate, and many will now be raising young, so look out for any activity around the nest boxes at the woodland or in the churchyard or Queen Square garden.

Meanwhile, as Blackthorn begins to blossom and Pussy Willow is bursting into bud, we look forward to the Community Woodland coming to life again. We are excited to see how our new 'bee bank' will fare this year, what comes to the pond (which is now more full than ever before) and whether the flowering plants we have sown on the back of the 'butterfly bank' will attract lots of butterflies and bees.

It has been muddy underfoot at the woodland over winter, but as the site begins to dry out, do come for a stroll and see what is growing, flowering, feeding or flying! (For further information, please see our website: www.northcurrywildlife.com).

(Photos by Tony Hoskins, Above: Long-tailed Tits feeding/ Top right – a Wren singing.)
(written for the April issue)



North Curry Wildlife Group

Churchyard Wildlife Area, by Sarah Shuttleworth

As a new member of the village and the wildlife group with skills as a botanist and naturalist, I offered to do a full botanical survey of the churchyard, the results of which I hope can inform which areas can be enhanced for wildlife. The wildlife area, despite being left to grow long during the summer, was generally floristically poor and dominated by coarse grasses. After speaking with Lorraine Bryan Brown about her ideas to develop this area, it was decided to seed the sunnier areas with Yellow Rattle, a native meadow species which is semi-parasitic on grasses and reduces their vigour and dominance, allowing more wildflower species to be introduced. In order to ensure this initial stage was successful, the area needed to be scarified before sowing in October. I also reassured interested parties that none of these activities would affect the appearance of the Wood Anemone cultivar and primroses in the spring as these plants would have finished flowering before the Yellow Rattle begins to get established.

I was thrilled to discover that so much of the Yellow Rattle had successfully germinated. It is now in full flower and already attracting bees, and will soon begin forming the rattling seed heads that give it its name. The next stage will be to sow more wild flower seed this autumn, including Common Bird's-foot Trefoil, Lady's Bedstraw, Field Scabious, Meadow Cranesbill, Meadow Vetchling and Common Knapweed. Before sowing, the sward will need to be cut in September with the cuttings removed after a maximum of two days to allow the seeds (from the Yellow Rattle or other species) to disperse into the ground. The cuttings need to be removed to prevent a build-up of nutrients in the soil, which ultimately encourage proliferation of coarse grasses, docks, nettles and thistles, as wildflowers do better in less competitive, nutrient-poor conditions.

Our plan was to involve the school children as much as possible in the wildlife area, but given the situation faced by all of us due to Covid-19 this will have to be reviewed. We nevertheless hope that in the future they will be involved in further planting and monitoring of the site.



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams



It seems strange not to be telling you about a meeting or an outing but what I do need to tell you is that regrettably all this year's outings are cancelled; even if the gardens have reopened we think social distancing will make the coach trip impossible. It's a real shame but hopefully back to normal next year.

Instead, in the coming months, I'm going to try and find something garden wise to tell you about. Did any of you watch the virtual Chelsea Flower Show? There are some good sites for virtual garden visits, an excellent one is gardensillustrated.com/gardens/gardens-to-visit and offers 11 virtual garden tours and there are also some good tips for gardening in isolation including how to re-plan your borders.

The editor thought that I might be able to give you some gardening tips although I really don't think there's much I can tell you that you don't already know. However, there are some June things that I often forget like pruning my spring flowering deciduous shrubs and keeping the succession of salad crops, carrots and beetroot on the go; no time-based excuses this year! It's also a good month to prune back your clematis montana, you can be fairly brutal and cut back to 60cm but remember to give it a really good drenching with some liquid feed afterwards.

Did you know you could make a good liquid feed from comfrey? Cut the leaves close to the base, stick them in a large bucket, mash them up a bit with anything that works and weigh it down with a stone, fill it with water and leave in a cool place for two weeks then top up with water again. The resulting liquid can be stored in an old milk container and diluted at a rate of 1:20 of water before you feed. Smelly but dirt cheap and effective! If you haven't got much space you can grow runner beans and sweet peas up the same sticks, it really works as both like the same growing conditions and need constant picking to keep producing.

My all time favourite hot top tip for June is to sit with a G&T, a beer or whatever you fancy and enjoy your garden no matter how large or small, we are truly blessed to have outside space. Enjoy the birds, butterflies and all kinds of bees, day moths and pollinating insects and please try not to be too tidy so they can live too.

Enjoy June, stay well and safe and in the words of HRH and Vera Lynn, we'll meet again.....!



North Curry W.I.

Presented by, Kate Roberts, President

North Curry Womans Institute held its very first meeting on the first Wednesday in February 1928. Since then, apart from the odd snow drift nothing has prevented us from holding our meetings, not even the Second World War until March this year.

Then along with every other association in the village we were forced to cancel all future events and meetings because of a different kind of war Covid 19. So here we are still in lock down, still keeping our social distance, some in self isolation and some staying completely isolated by shielding.

But the Womans Institute is still active in North Curry doing its best to keep in touch with every member making sure they are being looked after, asking if they need help or just for a chat via a Telephone Tree with each committee member telephoning four or five members. But in the true spirit of the W.I. members have formed little groups of their own all keeping in touch with each other on a regular basis.

The W.I. ever ready to learn new skills have taken to technology setting up a WattsApp Group, video telephone calls and Zoom conference calling. The County News our monthly news magazine is being sent to all members electronically by our secretary Gill Cox and, for those who don't have access to email Gill is printing them at home and delivering them to members.

I'm hosting Zoom committee meetings and I am delighted that every member of the committee has been able to join me from their home. These allow us to keep up to date with national and county policy and any possible future events.

At present we have no idea when any of us will be able to meet up again, I hope some restrictions may be lifted in June, but you can be sure as soon as it is safe to do so North Curry Womans Institute will be back in the village hall the first Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m.

Until then stay safe.

An Interview with God *(Author unknown).*

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

"So, you would like to interview me ?" God asked.

"If you have time." I said.

God smiled. "My time is eternity, A thousand ages in my sight are like an evening gone . . . Sorry ! I forget other people's time is limited. What questions do you have in mind for me ?"

"What surprises you the most about people ?"

"That they get bored with childhood, that they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money . . and then spend all their money to try and restore their health and youth.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future.

That they live as if they would never die, and die as though they had never lived."

God's hand took mine . . and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked, " As a parent, what are some of life's lessons that you want your children to learn ?"

God replied, "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it may take many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive, and to accept forgiveness.

To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

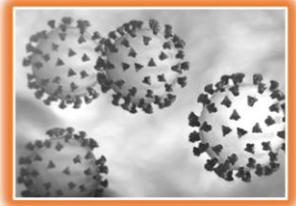
To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not yet know how to express or show their feelings.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing, and see it differently.

To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but that they must also forgive themselves."

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know ?"

God smiled and said , "Just know that I am here. Always."



Present situation

Although those who cannot work from home are encouraged to return to work (school even, after half term), North Curry Society, and society generally, continues in lockdown. May Fair was cancelled of course. Having already cancelled talks on Driving Safer and Eels On The Levels before the official lockdown, your committee have now cancelled all speakers up to June (A Lady with Altitude and Tales From The Quarter Sessions) and rebooked them for 2021. With no collective exercise or public gatherings allowed, we have also abandoned plans for the annual footpath walk and coffee morning in July. Noel & Alison, family and staff have been local heroes keeping the shop & post office going during the past months. We gave them a box of champagne in appreciation.

The speakers for September, October, November & December remain booked at present and we can only review these as time goes on. Speakers may not wish to travel anyway. It will also depend on when the village hall can reopen.

The Society's Annual General Meeting is due to take place in October, when we normally review the previous year and announce the programme of talks for the following year. When we get back to something like normal we will carry on researching further speakers for 2021. Members have had little for their subscription this year; those who signed up and paid for 2019/20 be given free membership for 2021.

Whether you are a visitor, new to the Society or an established member we do hope to welcome you back after the summer to our lively programme of meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Bell Appeal and Covid-19

It seems strange at the present moment mentioning the Bell appeal because like everything else this came to an abrupt halt overnight. All of our focus shifted onto wellbeing and making sure everyone was safe. People we love have been out of reach and everything is being done through technology. At the moment even I am only able to get my fix of bellringing through an app on my phone, which is pretty amazing knowing I'm ringing with people from all around the world.

Actually, things have moved on with the bells and I thought it would be a good idea to give you a bit of an update.

For the foreseeable future all grants have been put on hold. Lottery have redirected money into the community to help the most vulnerable and those who are struggling through this pandemic. This was a bitter blow to the campaign but is such the right thing for those organisations to be doing. That is what they are there for, to help people. On the announcement of this news I have to admit I felt that we could be without bells for many years, even maybe a decade. The figure to reach was achievable with the grant help and everyone else chipping in. Even when this is all over and I think most people agree money is going to be in very short supply.

Knowing all this information, like in all conflicts you adapt and find a way forward. Over the past few months I have been working very hard on trying to adapt and find our way forward. The good news is that we may have found it.

Unfortunately, around this country some churches don't have congregations or have fallen into disrepair. They sit dormant and then the Church of England have to sell them on. When this happens, all assets from the church are taken and sold or relocated. Bells are an asset to a church. There is a charity called the Keltek Trust who do just that. They work with the redundant churches DAC and find a way forward to relocate bells. I have been having many conversations with the Keltek Trust to see if there were a set of redundant bells coming forward. Fortunately they have said yes. Usually they don't have full peals like we need but like buses there are actually two sets that are going to be available. One set is better than the other and has nearly everything that we need. Also, they are the correct weight for what we require. It is not as straight forward as taking the bells out and placing them in our tower. There is a lot of paperwork that is needed so that it is all done legally but this is our glimmer of hope because the cost in relocating and rehoming a set of bells is greatly reduced. The bells we are looking at are in very good condition and would give us well over 150 years worth of service. This may not be as much as a brand new set but its not far off and is definitely over 100 years more than what ours could give us. With the promises we have been pledged by people, the money we have already and with other funds and through selling our old frame etc we may be able to reach our target without any grants and also get this project done in a matter of a few years instead of a decade. I hope to be able to keep you up to date with information through the magazine over the coming months.

Stay safe and well.

Darren Woodyer



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@somersetcc.org.uk

What does being in debt feel like?

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

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

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

Rosco asks the question, that is on every dog's mind...



North Curry Church

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

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

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

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

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

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

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

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

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

Hiring the Church

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

Will Planning and Legacies

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

Planned Giving and Donations

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

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

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

Church Opening and Closing Rota

Closed until further notice.

Commonwealth War Graves

Private Harry Udell Gannett, Devonshire Regiment died 13th January 1919

Private Charles William Stodgell, Devonshire Regiment died 2nd February 1919

Second Lieutenant Peter John Carr , Royal Artillery died 11th October 1941

Sgt John Bernard Hebditch, Royal Airforce Volunteer Res. died 1st December 1943

Information taken from the War Graves Commission website

Register of:

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals (December 2019 – May 2020)

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

Baptisms

Felix Tickner, Grace Tickner

December 2019

Weddings

Ben Plaw/ Abigail Badger

January 2020

Funerals

Ena Hawkins (Service only)

January 2020

Tony Brooker

February 2020

Phylis Pine, Sheila Bailey

April 2020

With the Government directive for places of worship to remain closed until at least 4th July, there will be no public services at the parish church this month. Under current guidelines Pastoral Visiting is also not yet possible.

We continue to pray, to love and to care for the vulnerable from the confinement of our own homes. Our worship of God and our care for each other continue.

We are preparing a weekly eBulletin of Sunday readings, news and prayer intentions for distribution by email. If you know of someone who would like to receive the bulletin, please ask them to contact a churchwarden. The websites contain details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life. See: churchofengland.org and northcurrychurch.co.uk .

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SOMERSET

NIGEL K FORD

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www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local



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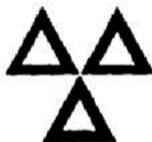
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Vicar	Vacant	
Honorary Associate Priest	Rev'd John Tyler	01460 281574
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Churchwarden	David Akerman	01823 490234
Churchwarden & Verger	Mary Piers	01823 491434
Churchwardens Emeritus	Janet Dare	01823 490747
PCC Secretary/ Safe Guarding	Helen Griffiths	01823 491298
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Tower Captain	Darren Woodyer	01823 690162
Flower List Organiser	Lorraine Bryan Brown	01823 491665
Events Bookings Secretary	David Walker	01823 491231
Produce Market Organiser	Anne Williams	01823 490319
Little Angels/ Electoral Roll	Jenny Satchwell	01823 490463
Choir	Jean Smith	01823 490961
PCC 200 Club	Sue Bethune	01823 490179
Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis, email: 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

Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Herons	01823 491615	www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	www.northcurry.com
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