

ST PETER & ST PAUL

PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE

NORTH CURRY WITH WRANTAGE



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**North Curry
Village
Calendar
2021**

Photographs by
Local residents

Published by
North Curry Church

12 iconic
scenes from
around our
village

**No remembrance at the
War Memorial in 2020...**

**No Crib Service,
no Midnight Mass in
December at the Church...**

**and still no clubs or societies, no coffee
shop, no tea room at the market.**

Where is it all leading to..?



November 2020

A FREE PUBLICATION

Congratulations to our village centurion



See page 11 for full story

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

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

For local events, check out the Parish Council website and calendar at www.northcurry.com

Would you like to advertise your business in the magazine?

ADVERTISING RATES 2021– running monthly from January to December

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Full Page: mono £100 for the year - £10 per single issue – Colour £200per annum

Half Page: mono £60 - £6/issue - Colour £120pa

Quarter Page: £40 - £4/issue – Colour £80pa

Enquiries to Sue Harrison at ncurrymag@gmail.com.

Whilst every care is taken to ensure all stated facts are correct, the editor cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions printed in the magazine, or the opinions of the contributors.

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 2020.

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.

PRODUCE

Saturday

7th November

9.30am-11.30am

MARKET

DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

A guaranteed copy of the magazine delivered monthly to your door,

Renewal fees for 2021 due on 1st January!

Please contact Jenny Satchwell on 490463

Announcements/ News in Brief

North Curry Parish Church

Congratulations to our 200 Club Winners

Prizes: First £30, Second £20, Third £10

August

1st Alex Morris

2nd Michael Spearman

3rd Geoffrey Dart

September

1st Mary Haycock

2nd Peter Stanhope-White

3rd Anna Vile

October

1st John de Winton

2nd Jean Smith

3rd John Attwood

To join, please contact Sue Bethune on 490179. Players must be over 18yrs, with all proceeds going towards the churchyard maintenance.

£18 per year – monthly draws plus a special £100 Christmas Prize Draw.

We thank all subscribers for their support - Good luck in the draws!

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Pat Curtis on 17th October, a much loved and respected member of our village, who will be missed by us all.



Restrictions on gathering mean no memorial service at the War Memorial this November, and Christmas Services this year are reduced in number. See the churchwardens' report on page 12 for details.

Church Flowers

Our team is in need of new helpers – would this appeal to you?

No need to be an expert either – you just need to be keen and be part of a friendly group. Please call Lorraine on 491665.

CHRISTMAS AT NORTH CURRY COFFEE SHOP



We will be open for the sale of Arts, Crafts, Jewellery and Cards every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 2-4 pm commencing Tuesday 17th November until Tuesday 22nd December.

We have many local suppliers who have been busy creating a new selection of gifts and decorations including pottery,

knitwear, needle felting and embroidery kits made in North Curry, glassware made in Ashill, fabric creations made in Curry Rivel and wooden puzzles from Taunton. Prices start from £3 and where possible please pay by card. Hand sanitizer will be provided and masks must be worn; only one customer at a time please. Unfortunately we are still not in a position to offer any food or drink due to Covid19 restrictions. We look forward to welcoming you in for a browse.

The Rev'd Martin Mudie writes

November is a month of remembrance.

In the church we keep All Souls Day on the 2nd when we remember with love our dear departed. On the 5th, there is Guy Fawkes night when we remember how the plot to blow up Parliament in 1605 was foiled. On the 8th November the Nation pauses to remember and honour those who gave their lives in defence of their country and finally there are those who follow our American friends and celebrate Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in the month (a very witty friend offered the idea that we should celebrate having exported those of a puritan disposition to the colonies!). You may think that but I couldn't possibly comment.

But the idea of thanksgiving has been at the heart of our communities during the whole of this uniquely difficult year. During the lock down and beyond on Thursday night, the country would pause and remember those in the NHS and front line workers of all trades. Those who put their own lives on the line to care for others and it seems to me that it is a really good thing for all of us to continue to give thanks on a daily basis, for not only those good souls, but also for the many good things we enjoy in our lives.

It is all too easy to concentrate on the challenges and difficulties of life and overlook the people – family, friends and co-workers to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude just for being themselves and joining with us in the daily round and common weal. Also, here in this delightful part of Somerset, we are surrounded on a daily basis by the beauty of God's creation which can not only inspire the creative arts of music and poetry but can lift our spirits in rejoicing in that beauty.

So, let us all, as we head towards what will be a very different Christmas and New Year celebration, resolve each and every day to give thanks for our blessings and use the power that comes from that thankfulness for good in our communities.

Keep safe and well
With every blessing

Martin

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

One more step

As a vicar one thing I really enjoyed, even though it seemed to come round rather quickly, was writing the letter for the parish magazine. I know that not all parishes are able to produce a parish magazine and some find a website is a better way to communicate with people, however, I do still appreciate reading them when I can. So I would like to express my thanks to all those involved in writing, editing and producing parish magazines. They are often still an effective way to share what we are doing in our churches and to share with others the good news of the gospel.

Recently I was reading one which had an article by someone recalling a visit made to the northwest of the USA some 40 years ago. They spoke about the warmth of their welcome and the joy of being invited to preach in the church. What caught my eye, was that they remembered visiting Lake Wallowa where it is said: 'the air is so pure and the sky so clear that one can see the dawn of the day after tomorrow!' What a glorious expression!

Of course, the truth is that we don't know what the future holds and at the moment things are challenging and uncertain for all of us and indeed for the world.

One night recently when I was in hospital, unable to sleep and waiting for the dawn to break, I found myself singing the words of 'One More Step Along the Way' I go which has the chorus: 'And it's from the old I travel to the new, Keep me travelling along with you'. Maybe as we look to the future, with the joys and challenges that it will bring, that should be our prayer – Lord help us to travel with you wherever you may be leading.

With my warmest greetings,

Bishop Peter

Praying God's blessing on us all

Bath and Wells churches receive grants from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage

Posted on 9th October 2020 in News, Bath & Wells Diocese website

Seven of the 66 churches and cathedrals awarded grants from Heritage Fund UK and Historic England are in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. In all grants amounting to £10.7m to 66 were awarded to churches and cathedrals across the country. In Bath and Wells, Wells Cathedral, Bath Abbey, St Michael's Without in Bath, St Mary's Bridgwater, St John's Glastonbury, St John the Baptist Frome and Castle Cary and Ansford.

A total of 16 cathedrals and 50 parish churches will receive grants under the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, a scheme designed to support organisations in England from across the heritage ecosystem that were financially viable prior to COVID-19 and who are now at risk of failure. The programme has today announced grants of between £10,000 and £1million, with all funding awarded to be spent by the end of the financial year. The grants will help them continue the wonderful work they do to support and serve their communities.

Emma Brown is the Church Buildings Adviser for Bath and Wells.

“Delighted to receive the fantastic news that 6 parish churches and Wells Cathedral in Somerset have been awarded grants under the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, a scheme designed to support organisations in England from across the heritage ecosystem that were financially viable prior to Covid-19 and who are now at risk of failure.

The Covid-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on our parish churches, with income and fundraising decimated and the buildings closed, resulting in a loss of visitors and planned activities and events, there will undoubtedly be long lasting repercussions. The grants will make a real difference, to keep those churches open, viable and able to serve at the heart of their communities.

Our parishes churches are run by and cared for by local volunteers, thanks to the commendable hard work and dedication, this achievement has been made possible. ”

Roger Driver, Rector of St. Michael's Without which was awarded a grant from the fund said: “It was a difficult period when our building was closed. For our core Church family we could keep in touch, move services online and enable

people to engage with those as much as we could; there were many positives that came from this, but we were always conscious that there were other people we were missing.

Being open again has been positive and we see how our space is valued every day so it's a huge blessing to be awarded this grant which will enable us to maintain and even improve our covid mitigation measures, support our staff and volunteers and give our visitors confidence that we are a safe space to come to. Being a place of sanctuary, of community is as much a part of our heritage as the stone and stained glass that form our beautiful building; thanks to the DCMS and the Heritage Lottery Fund this will continue."

Revd Colin Alsbury from St John the Baptist Frome said: "A sad consequence of measures keeping people safe during the current pandemic has been that we have not been able to welcome as many visitors as usual to explore our heritage here in Frome. Today we are pleased to announce that we are one of the sites receiving support from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage. The grant we are being given will help us keep our site clean and safe allowing us to increase opening hours. It will enable us to provide a virtual visitor experience for those currently unable to visit in person and to provide a safe place for researchers to access our archives.

We've been at the heart of Frome since St Aldhelm founded a church here in 685 AD: Saxon Kings held great court here and King Eadred died here: The church was rebuilt between the 12th and 15th centuries and has survived the Black Death, the English Civil War and the World Wars. Bishop Thomas Ken was buried here; The 19th century restoration gave us the unique Via Crucis and significant stained glass and stonework decorating the church. Our archives dating back to Elizabeth I's reign give fascinating insights into the story behind our church and town."



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Our Diocese website has all sorts of useful information on it regarding the Christian faith.

Do take the time to have a look and explore for yourself on what your Diocese is doing and what support it can provide.

The Athelney Benefice – Service Rota November 2020

1st November	ALL SAINTS DAY	
08.00 North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30 Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00 North Curry	Eucharist <i>(with All Souls)</i>	Revd John Tyler
11.00 Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer <i>(with All Souls)</i>	Mr Ralph Roberts
 4 th November	 <i>(Wednesday)</i>	
16.30 Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

8th November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
10.00 North Curry	Remembrance Service	Revd Martin Mudie
10.50 Stoke St Gregory	Remembrance Service	Revs John Tyler & Sonya Setchell
10.50 Lyng	Remembrance Service	Mr Ralph Roberts
10.50 Burrowbridge	Remembrance Service	Revd Morey Andrews
 11 th November	 <i>(Wednesday)</i> Martin of Tours	
16.30 Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

15th November	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
08.00 North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30 Burrowbridge	Holy Communion	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00 North Curry	Morning Prayer	Revd John Tyler
11.00 Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Ven. Simon Hill
 18 th November	 <i>(Wednesday)</i> Elizabeth of Hungary	
16.30 Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

22nd November	CHRIST THE KING	
09.30 Lyng	Service of the Word	Mr Ralph Roberts
10.00 North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
11.00 Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Dr Jane Sutton (with Revd J.Tyler)
 25 th November	 <i>(Wednesday)</i> Catherine of Alexandria; Isaac Watts	
16.30 Stoke St Gregory	Evening Prayer	Revd Dr Jane Sutton

29th November	ADVENT SUNDAY Year B (Mark) begins	
09.30 Lyng	Advent Music	Revd Martin Mudie
10.00 North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Prebendary Jane Haslam
11.00 Stoke St Gregory	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie

2nd December (Wednesday)
16.30 Stoke St Gregory Evening Prayer

Revd Dr Jane Sutton

6th December THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08.00	North Curry	Holy Communion	Revd John Tyler
09.30	Lyng	Holy Communion	Revd Keith Powell
10.00	North Curry	Eucharist	Revd Martin Mudie
11.00	Stoke St Gregory	Morning Prayer	Mr Ralph Roberts

A Message from Rev. John Tyler.

Dear Friends and Members of North Curry Church,

To say I was overwhelmed by the incredibly generous presentation made to me on your behalf by Mary Piers after the Eucharist on October 4th . . . is a complete understatement. £50 notes have never come my way very often, and to open the envelope and find a sheaf of TEN of them, literally took my breath away.

Thank you very, very much for your kindness and generosity.

Meg and I were also delighted with the hamper of delicacies from the Smokery – lots of treats to enjoy . . .

I can only repeat once more that it has been a great privilege and joy and blessing to minister among you during these extraordinary and sometimes challenging times. As you know I will be continuing to take occasional Services for the time being.

Every Blessing and Much Love, John Tyler.

On behalf of the editorial team, we send our warmest happy birthday greetings to Joyce Stagg, who in October, celebrated her 100th birthday.



Jill Cox, North Curry W.I. adds...

The restrictions of Covid 19 did not stop North Curry from paying tribute to a very special lady. Last month family, friends, and neighbours gathered together in small groups outside the home of Joyce to wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

It was heart warming to see some of her very young neighbours lining up to present her with flowers and gifts. Six members of North Curry Choir were there to lead the rendering of Happy

Birthday and some of the ladies from North Curry W.I. had made a lofty sign which they left outside Joyce's window for all to see for the rest of the day.

In anticipation of Joyce reaching her century year, the W.I. group had planned a special party for their oldest member, whose mother was one of the founders back in 1928 - obviously, this could not go ahead, but nevertheless Joyce was able to enjoy a deserving unforgettable day with some of her family and amongst her many birthday cards was one from the Queen!

Joyce was born at Frog Lane Farm, Stoke St Gregory on the 10th October 1920, daughter of Dairy and Arable Farmers Albert and Nellie Stagg. She was the youngest of three girls and has succeeded her sisters who died aged 94 and 99 years old, her mother died when she was 99, so longevity is certainly in the Stagg genes.

She went to boarding school with her two sisters at Taunton High School for Girls which had re-located to Burnham on Sea. On leaving school she spent time in Yorkshire as part of the forces.

In 1947 her parents gave up the farm and retired to Stoke House, North Curry. Her father died in 1961 and in October 1963 Joyce moved to her present home in Stoke Road, a house that she watched being built. She worked for Barclays Bank and took early retirement to look after her mother.

Joyce made a beautiful embroidered altar frontal cloth and lectern cover for the church and has many interests especially W.I., playing Bridge and her garden.

Churchwardens' Report

Thankfully new restrictions from the Government have not altered current arrangements in the Church unduly.

However at the time of writing and given current restrictions we have had to adjust arrangements for both Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. The Parish Council have cancelled the normal Remembrance Service held in the Square. There will however still be a Eucharist in the Church but at 10am NOT 9:30am as before. The Service will naturally have a strong reflection of Remembrance.

Sadly Christmas is going to be a very strange time for all of us and who knows if we will be able to celebrate with families as one usually does. We have planned a Service of Readings and Carols on 20 December at 4pm - unfortunately no singing in the Congregation but the Choir will bring us joy. On Christmas Day we will have a 10am Eucharist. We regret with the current regulations, we will not be able to have our wonderful Crib Service or a Midnight Eucharist. Such a disappointment. We have to maintain social distancing thus capacity is limited to 42 people within the Church. Masks must be worn and hands sanitised. Unless you sign in with the QR code at the entrance to the Church, your name and contact details will be recorded and kept for 21 days.

Plans are afoot to put a Crib in the Square next to the Christmas tree by the Monument or in one of the Shop windows. We hope this will bring the joy and spirit of Christmas to the Village.

At the end of November Interviews should take place for a new Incumbent - prayer mats out for vibrant applicants and one ideally suited for the Benefice. We will keep you posted.

Efforts continue to maintain a level of normality, but should you feel something is missing or we could do something better, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Churchwardens

Mary Piers 01823 491 434
David Akerman 01823 490 234

The Somerset Village Agent project is run by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS).



The project uses paid, part time, highly trained individuals living in the parish 'clusters' they support.

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.

We work with people of all ages and deal with a wide variety of issues although a considerable number of our clients are elderly and involves social care issues.

Ruby Coles has recently taken over as our Village Agent, and for the surrounding villages. She is keen to get to know the community and offer signposting and support. The objectives of the Somerset Village Agent project are to:

- Ensure that people receive the benefits they are entitled to
- Direct people to organisations that can help them
- Ensure people living alone are not forgotten
- Make the local community aware of social problems in their area
- Offer advice, particularly to the elderly
- Locate people who are lonely and need help such as food or local services
- Advice on energy problems and how to save money

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

Ruby Coles, Village Agent,
Tel: 01823 331222 – ext 625
Email: rubbyc@somersetccc.org.uk



The winter flu vaccination programme is in full swing – it's especially important this year to get your flu vaccine if you are eligible for the free treatment, and maybe consider paying for one if you aren't.

This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- children aged 2 and 3 on 31st August 2020, children in primary school & year 7 pupils
- frontline health or social care workers

Magazine distribution boxes



Thanks to our very own handy Andy, the magazines now disappear quicker than ever, due to 2 new distribution points at the church. One at the lych gate, the other at the vicar's parking bay.

Paul Scott keeps them stocked, but our print run of 200 is soon taken up by our avid readers!

However, to avoid disappointment of missing out on your future copy of the magazine, why not arrange to have it delivered to your door.

The modest delivery charge not only guarantees a copy put through your door, but also helps to pay for the running cost of the magazine which is completely paid from church funds.

DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

A guaranteed copy of the magazine delivered monthly to your door,

Renewal fees for 2021 due on 1st January!

Please contact Jenny Satchwell on 490463

Thoughts for the next magazine....

COVID rule of 6 – this winter, Snow White will have to do without one of her dwarves; presumably Doc as he is on COVID duty...though rumour has it, Sneezzy is also banned as a precaution.

The Magnificent Seven will only be allowed Six to fight the banditos this winter – which one though is to drop out...

How come the choir can sing in church, but the congregation cannot?

Do choir members have sanitized tonsils?

With Brexit coming to a conclusion, does this mean that once again, petrol can be sold in gallons, and vendors can sell in pounds and ounces?

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2020

Welcome to the 35th "AGM" of North Curry Society. We had programmed this event for 21st October 2020, but of course, this year everything is different.

Firstly, I hope you are all well and surviving all the restrictions.

Our year, like most other societies, has been a short one. We started off in fine form with Airfields in the South West, followed by a fascinating tour of Pompeii, and that was it! We have, hopefully, re-booked most of our speakers for 2021 when we hope to re-start our programme but who knows!

The Committee have decided that all fully paid-up members in 2020 will be given free membership for 2021. New members will be able to join when we have our first meeting. Regretfully we cannot yet publish a 2021 programme.

Fortunately, we are financially sound with assets of about £3,000, since we have had very little expenditure during the year.

We are very sad that Heather Richards is leaving the committee and North Curry – she will be greatly missed by all. We have invited Colin Trim, who is hopefully returning to North Curry, to join the committee.

I have managed to survive eight years as your chairman, but the credit must go to my fellow members (and Sheila) who do all the work. However, I am standing down this year - it is time you had a younger person at the helm. We are pleased to announce that Gill Slocombe and Sherry Keith-Welsh have agreed to stand as joint chairmen of the Society. We thank them and wish them every success and we ask that members give them their full support in this difficult time.

I have really enjoyed my spell in office; have met some fascinating speakers, and wonderful members.

Thank you all for your support.

Alan Billinghamurst 21st October 2020

The new 'chairs' would like to thank Alan (and Sheila) for his loyal and unstinting work over the past 8 years as chairman, and before. We look forward to his continued support on the NCS Committee, and will continue to keep him as busy as he wants to be and for as long as he wants to stay involved.

Sherry and Gill

News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

Rev'd Deborah Kirk, Methodist Minister 01823 334854/ deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com

November 2020



27th September duly arrived, the sun shone and there was an air of expectancy about the place. About 16 folk arrived all properly masked and the sanitiser outside the building was generously applied.

Andrew at the organ played appropriate Harvest music and the hymns were enjoyed, albeit, in silence.



Deborah led the service and the atmosphere was joyful at being in the chapel again after so many months of shut down.



Following the service, the congregation met outside, where two boxes of apples, picked from the chapel garden, were available for the taking. Bags for those who needed them, were distributed and the congregation dispersed happily taking their 'harvest' home with them.

Services now return to the normal time of 11am each Sunday, starting from 4th October when Mrs Glenys Allinson was the preacher.





North Curry Sport Ltd (White Street sports ground)

200 Club

Congratulation to this month's winners:

Neil Grant: £25

Youth Football Club: £15

Adult Football Club: £10

We have a few places available in the 200 Club. Cost is only £12 per year, payable by standing order. To apply, please email: whitestreet@northcurry.com

Improvements Almost Completed

We have received Section 106 grant funding this year that has enabled us to make several improvements. We have already reported on the new path from the car park to the pavilion and new driveway. Now the new fencing and gates have been finished on the junior football field and the new storage container is now in place. The last bit of work will be fixing the fencing on the east end of the cricket field.



Covid-19

During the Covid-19 restrictions, you are welcome to walk around the border of the site and through the Community Woodland. But all pitches and facilities remain off-limits, except for activities organised by authorised clubs. You may see workers maintaining the pitches or doing other jobs, but please respect their space and safety.

Opportunity to be our Treasurer – Still Available

We still need a Treasurer: please consider helping us manage our fantastic 14-acre site. All you need to do is commit a few hours a month and are reasonably well-organised. You don't need to be an accountant; we'll train you. If you're new to the village, this would be a great way to get to know people. If you might be interested, please give Laurence Leader a ring on 490474.

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

TULIPS, by Sue Cable

November is the best month to plant tulips. Planning for next spring seems particularly important in these strange times and tulips bring that wonderful burst of warm and vibrant colour in late April and May, taking over from the mostly yellow narcissus.



So why is November the best month to plant tulips? They are planted late to avoid disease. Tulip fire, a fungal disease, is killed off by frosts so a good burst of cold weather will help your tulips on their way. Tulip fire will burn the leaves and turn the flowers into twisted deformed specimens. If planting in beds and borders ideally plant in a different area every year, again to avoid the build-up of fungal disease.

As they like fresh soil, tulips are ideal for containers and pots and they can be used to create a striking focal point in your garden.

Tulips originated in the eastern Mediterranean mountainous areas and ideally they like light, free-draining soil, cold winters and hot summers – conditions that are not always possible here in the South-West! They will do well in pots where you can give them good drainage by adding grit to your potting compost. It's also useful to incorporate grit into your planting hole when putting tulip bulbs in borders.

Tulips are amongst the very best plants to grow for cutting. Their flowers come in a range of colours, shapes and sizes. If you want straight stems in your vase then wrap the cut tulips fairly tightly in a paper roll, tie with string and stand in water overnight. Unwrap and arrange. Once tulips have soaked water up into a bent stem they will stay bent, some people prefer the more relaxed look.

Because the dormant bulbs need warm, dry conditions in summer, they can be lifted once the foliage has died down, and stored in trays in a dry place out of direct sunlight to ripen until re-planting in autumn. Those used in formal bedding schemes are usually lifted to make room for summer displays. When grown in more informal displays in mixed borders, the bulbs can be left in the ground and will usually perform well for several years, providing the site is warm and dry, and the dormant bulbs are not overshadowed by too much foliage. Even these will benefit from lifting and replanting every 4 to 5 years.

Stay well and enjoy your garden

Bells and Covid

Thoughts from an out-of-work bellringer.

Never thought to see these two words together ... though indeed we never knew the Covid word at all until recent times ...

What a dire influence this little word has had on our wellbeing. Even alas on the little world of North Curry's church bells ...

We just didn't time things right. Choosing to launch a "Save our bells" appeal over Christmas last year, and following on into January and February, was in hindsight not the best of plans. March followed ... and like every corner of life, bell ringing came to a halt – as did the hopes of attracting funding from national bodies such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Many village folk kindly gave their support – but the plans needed wider support too and this was not going to materialise.

So a "Plan B" gradually evolved, which centred on the idea of locating bells and if possible a bellframe from a disused church – a lower cost option than the initial plan of new frame and new bells. Through the Keltek Trust, which specialises in this field, a possible source was found in a redundant church in Lancashire. This looked encouraging... Until, that is, Covid played its hand again. For the second – or is it the third time ? – plans to go and inspect these bells – a critical element in the procedure – have been put on hold. "Tier 3" being declared in Lancashire now forced a last minute cancellation of the trip there planned by tower captain Darren along with Mike Hansford, Bath & Wells Diocesan Bells advisor.

This is frustrating news which delays things yet again. Patience it seems is required still. Not least by the Parochial Church Council which has been getting into gear recently with a bells sub-committee poised for relaunch...

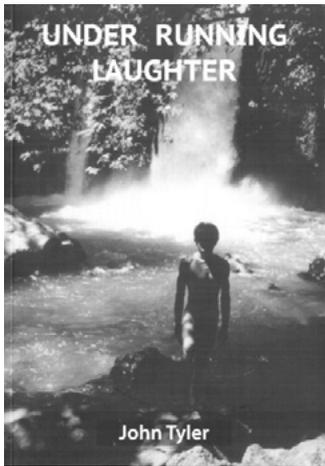
Fundraising still continues though! The March jumble sale which never happened, followed by the September one which didn't either, still has some life left in it – have you seen the Post Office window recently ? Some way has to be found to clear the piles of treasures lurking in sheds and garages round the village ! Big thanks to Frances, Lorraine and Anne for this initiative, and indeed David B who continues to do clever things behind the scenes. Sum raised at time of going to press was over £150. Added to which Anne raised £100 at the Produce Market. Phone Frances Machen on 490881 for further information. She still has goodies for sale, and it's a good opportunity for supporting the church and bells, gift-aided if appropriate.

In the meantime, that august body the “CCCB” (Central Church Council of Bellringers) continues to negotiate with Government and Church of England – and inform the rest of us what we can and can’t do. Which in effect is not a lot. Ringing chambers in church towers don’t have much space for social distancing. Ropes need sanitising, etc. At the most we can ring three bells here in North Curry; in theory it could be four – but the state of the bellframe doesn’t allow. It’s not “Bells on Sunday” as we know it ...



So – better watch this space. Maybe it's got to be handbells in the garden for now. Or perhaps that's not allowed either.

Next time – “Bells and Brexit”? No, on second thoughts, someone else can tackle that one ...



Revd John Tyler, although retired and supposedly relaxing at home, has published (yet another) a poetry book – the one opposite is just one of many to be found in his book.

His book is available from the church, price £4, with every £2 going back to the church funds.

Readers reviews in the next issue....

Readiness.

May I be ready when the call shall come
to set out on that voyage without a glance
behind me. Joy shall fill the sails. The thrum
of tautened mainsheet in the frolic dance
of freshening wind, the sparkle on the foam,
the yelping cry of herring gulls – all these
shall summon me towards my real home
which lies far, far beyond Earth's troubled seas.

O let me be prepared, O let me leave
no tattered flotsam of my weary years
as wreckage on the shore ; let me believe
I can transcend, through Grace, all hopes and fears.

How eagerly I long to be set free :
O my dear friends, no need to weep for me !

The Spirit of Ernie lives on...

If you are one of those that are still up late in the evening, and live along White Street, you will no doubt hear the milkman driving like a maniac on his delivery. Every time he delivers, he tears up White Street, with all the prowess of Colin McRae, into Overlands, across to Barton Way, down to Helland, before returning through White Street with such pace, that if his van had wings, it would surely have taken off. Now for the those of a certain age, you may recall that Benny Hill sung an ode on Ernie, the fastest milkman in the West.

I can only presume our new "Ernie" carries a lot of pasteurised milk, as before you know, that van has gone "past your eyes".

If anyone knows Ernie, perhaps you might pass on that despite it being midnight, it remains a 30mph. The village speed limits do not change overnight to 130mph.



Presented by Don Hoyle

As you probably know, North Curry Film Club had to postpone film showings last March due to the lock-down. We hope to resume in March 2021.

In the meantime, here is an article that may be of interest:

Cinemas closing due to lack of films as well as a lack of an audience

Cinema giant to shut after 007 fiasco

You may have heard that Cineworld is temporarily closing their 127 cinemas in the UK (and 536 in the US). Also, the Odeon has put a quarter of their cinemas onto weekend only showings (including Taunton). Even after reducing capacity to ensure social distancing, audience figures have been generally low, but the main cause has been the lack of big blockbuster films to show. The latest was the postponement, again, of the new James Bond film, *No time to Die*, which is now not due to be released until April next year. It was due to open last April. It is not the only film to be delayed. A whole number of Marvel Comics films have been pushed back to next year – these are the bread and butter of film complexes. Stephen Spielberg's re-make of *West Side Story* has been delayed a whole year to next Christmas. Some films such as Disney's *Mulan* have by-passed cinemas and gone straight to streaming.

Still there are some interesting films coming up. The Odeon is not listing too far ahead but plans to show *Ammonite* with Kate Winslet as the fossil hunter Mary Anning. Warning: it has sexual content as the film is about her relationship with a wealthy tourist played by Saoirse Ronan. Peter Bradshaw in *The*



Guardian gave it 4/5 stars. He called it a "fine, intimate, intelligently acted movie about forbidden love in 1840s Lyme Regis".

Just before Christmas there is a new film of *Blithe Spirit* with Judi Dench as Madame Arcati. How will she compare with Margaret Rutherford who did that role in the 1945 original film? Dan Stevens, who played Matthew Crawley in *Downton*, plays Charles Condomie, the mystery novelist wanting inspiration from the mystic Arcati. Again, he better be good if he can compare favourably with Rex Harrison in the 1945 film. Once cinemas are operating more normally, there will be a huge backlog of films to be shown. We will be spoilt for choice!

Don Hoyle (in a personal capacity – these views are not necessarily those of the Film Club).

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Cheque payments to North Curry PCC

Standing Order/ BACS payments to

North Curry PCC – Account No: 00514650, Sort Code: 30-98-45

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.

The enforced government lockdown restriction will cause financial ruin and hardship to many, and once furloughing ends, the unemployment and fallout of closed businesses will hit many young individuals who have no guaranteed income. TADA is a local based charity that help these individuals to best plan and manage their financial stresses. If you would like to know more, either to help, donate or are in need of help yourself, please contact them 07921 526087.

Anti-social behaviour

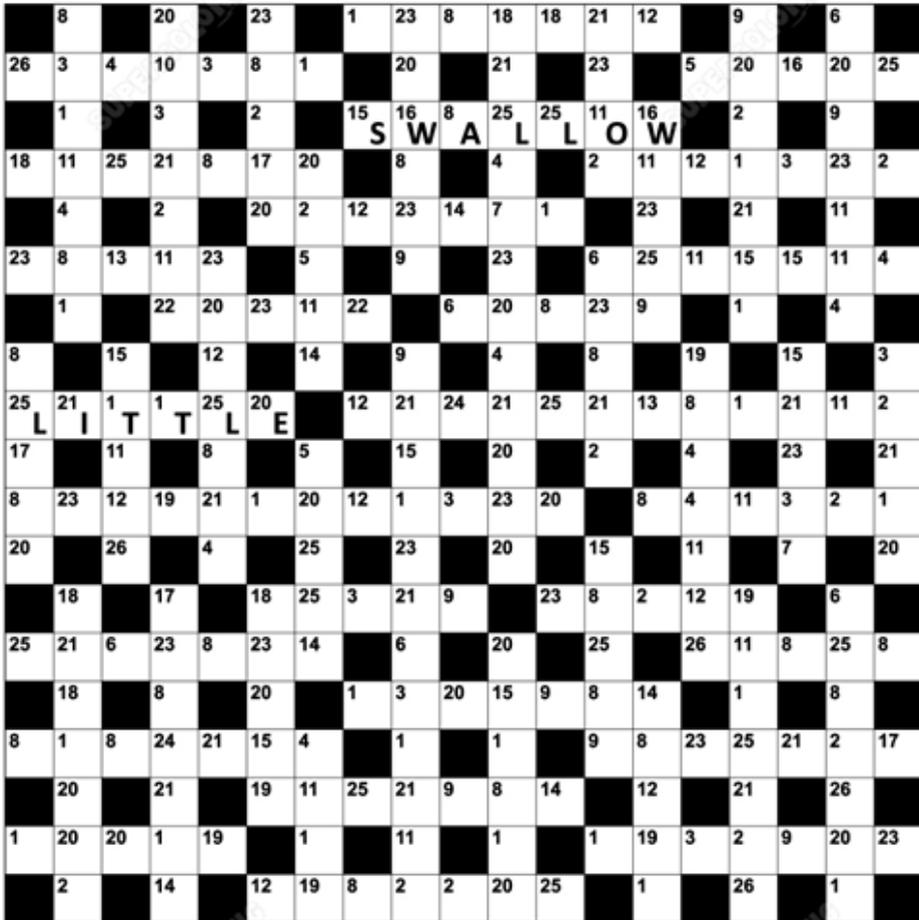
We are pleased to report, that since the message in the last magazine, no more disruptive or anti-social behaviour has been observed. It was probably high jinxing youths (you can remember doing the same I'm sure) at the end of summer, not properly observing and respecting their locale than outright bloody mindedness vandalism. However, we can all continue to do our bit in keeping an eye out for anymore hyper active shananagins.

With our dark evenings...

Please ensure whilst out and about along our main road after dark, you can be seen by motorists by wearing hi-viz reflective clothing – and carrying a torch wouldnt go amiss either! I was thinking on a battery operated torch, but I suppose a lit olympian styled torch would also do the job!

Tea Break!

This month, a codeword challenge!



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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2021 Calendars are now available!
 "Professionally" photographed by the residents of North Curry, depicting local scenes.
 Just £10 each, available at the Post Office or the church.

November is also that traditional month of fireworks, bonfires and carnival processions, but not this year!

As kids we were taught the rhyme:
Remember, remember the fifth of
November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.
We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

But the tradition of guys and bonfires had already begun to wane, even before this year's pandemic restrictions took that to a whole new level.

Mainly due to health and safety protocols, and probably insurance and the fear of being sued, many amateur night and bonfire societies no longer exist or function.

At least the pets will be happy at the reduction of bangs and alike, and the fire brigade should have an easier night.

For those in need of a bit of colour though, have a go at this colouring sheet!



Rumour and speculation, that in 2021, new 20mph Speed limits have been approved for installation in North Curry.

Apparently it is true, that some residents of North Curry do like to drive through the village in an awful hurry. If you do not want to receive a hefty speeding fine, you had better adhere to the new limit sign!



And a final thought this November, no honouring the fallen...

Shame on them for introducing a ban to gather at the war memorial;
Shame on us for allowing them to enforce such a bylaw.

They sacrificed their lives in the face of bullets and much more to preserve the freedoms we enjoy and take for granted today. What are we facing in return not to attend..?

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 is just over two acres and remains 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. The lower part to the north has been in use since 1952, whilst around the church, gravestones that are centuries old can be located along with 4 war memorials. A plan of the graveyard can be found in the church porch.

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, along with COVID-19 protocols. There are 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.

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

Health and Safety

Our policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities are carried out safely and do not pose a risk to the health of our volunteers, visitors, congregation, and others who may use the church and churchyard. This will be in accordance with good practice and any relevant statutory provisions where they apply.

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. Currently, with COVID restrictions in place, face masks are to be worn at all times whilst inside the church, and the use of hand sanitizer upon entry is required.

Specific Considerations

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.

Grave Stones and Memorials

Who is responsible for a grave?

Anyone resident in the parish is entitled to be buried in the churchyard. Subject to church council agreement, specific spots may be reserved for a fee and a "faculty" confirms their right to a specific location. At present the old churchyard outside the west door of the church is being reused. (plots are left undisturbed for at least 75 years and usually much much longer).

The choice of headstone is strictly governed, along with plot ornaments. Check with the Churchwarden or the Stone Mason on what is, and what is not acceptable.

The upkeep and maintenance of grave stones and memorials are the responsibility of the family they pertain to, and not the responsibility of the church, its wardens or officers. Please keep to the marked church paths to avoid unnecessary risk/ damage to yourself and unstable gravestones.

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 (May – October 2020)

We ask for God's Blessing on all the following

Baptisms

None

Weddings

Stephen Ball/ Felicity Colston-Lane August

Funerals

Paul White June

Margaret Hayhoe August

CHURCH OPENING & CLOSING ROTA

November/ December 2020

Duty weeks commence on Sunday morning

November

1 Robin Rudman 491384
8 Mike Baker 490093
15 Alan Billinghamurst 490421
22 Richard Jackson 490418
29 Alex Morrice 490917

December

6 Geoffrey Dart 491695
13 Sarah Franks 491223
20 David Walker 491231
27 Teresa/George Jones 491035

Church open every day 9am to 5pm – (8am on early Sunday if applicable – see service listing) COVID: Masks to be worn at all times.

Churchwardens /officers numbers see inside back page

Church Officers and Contacts

<u>Officer:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Contact Number:</u>
Vicar	Vacant	
Reader	Ralph Roberts	01823 490933
Churchwarden	David Akerman	01823 490234
Churchwarden & Verger	Mary Piers	01823 491434
Churchwarden Emeritus	Janet Dare	01823 490747
PCC Secretary/ Safe Guarding	Helen Griffiths	01823 491298
PCC Treasurer	Vacant, Interim - David Akerman	
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

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

Magazine Editor	Rob Ellis	01823 490599
Advertising Enquiries	Sue Harrison	use email below
Magazine Distribution	Jenny Satchwell or Paul Scott	01823 490463 01823 490679

General enquiries - email: ncurrymag@gmail.com

Other useful numbers for North Curry

Coffee Shop	01823 491414	
Little Herons	01823 490423	www.northcurryschool.co.uk/little-herons-pre-school/
Methodist Minister	01823 334854	Revd Deborah Kirk
Parish Council Offices	01823 490136	www.northcurry.com
Post Office/ Stores	01823 490261	
Primary School	01823 490423	www.northcurryschool.co.uk
Surgery	01823 490505	www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk

Community Police officers:

Tony Wearmouth 07885 655312 tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Steve Chapman 07889 655196 steve.chapman@avonandsomerset.police.uk

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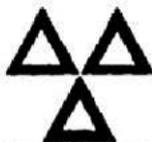


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