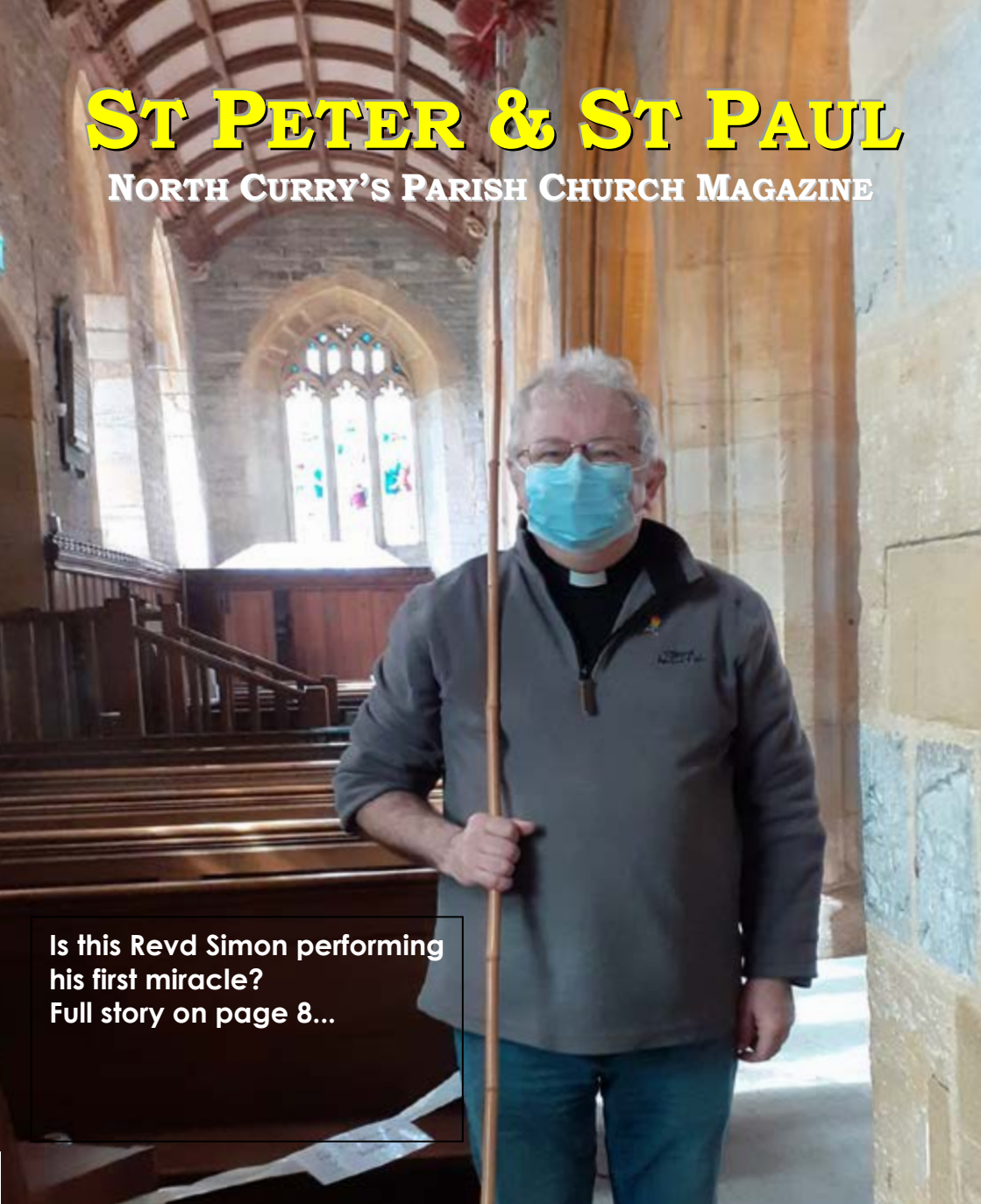


ST PETER & ST PAUL

NORTH CURRY'S PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE



Is this Revd Simon performing his first miracle?
Full story on page 8...

MAY 2021

A FREE PUBLICATION

“IF ONLY EVERYTHING THAT WAS FREE, WAS THIS GOOD”

Easter Sunday,
sunrise from
the Mump



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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

May's Church Services

2nd May 8am, BCP Eucharist, with Revd Simon Bale
10am, Eucharist, with Revd Morey Andrews

9th May 10am, United Benefice Eucharist, with Revd Simon Bale

16th May 8am, BCP Eucharist, with Revd Simon Bale
6pm, Evensong, with Revd Simon Bale

23rd May 5pm, Pentecost Praise, with Revd Simon Bale

Other United Benefice Services

31st May 10am, at Stoke St Gregory, with Revd Simon Bale

For up-to-date listings, including future months,
please visit the Benefice website

www.athelneybenefice.com/worship-and-events

The Churchwardens wish to express that the articles contained within this magazine do not necessarily coincide with their own views or that of the PCC, but respect the freedom of speech from our community's contributors.

Cover picture: Revd Simon at the church spring clean – courtesy of Mary Piers

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 2021.

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.

The Revd Simon Bale writes

E: vicar@athelneybenefice.com T: 01823 490247

Treebeard is on leave

It is traditional for "The Vicar" to take the week after Easter (aka "Easter Week") as annual leave. The argument goes that after all the exertions of Holy Week and Lent before that, it is only right that the poor cleric has some down time. Being a not very traditional type, I have taken the week after Easter Week as a period of annual leave. So, I'm pretending to hide away in Bridgwater—where I still live until we are able to move into the vicarage—but it's typical of "These Difficult Times" that I have chosen to be away just as the lockdown kind of (almost, perhaps) begins to ease noticeably.

For two months, until Easter Day, all worship was "zoom only!" For two months all I could do was peer into my iPhone as it streamed our worship and see who was around; but now, I take a week off just as we can get on with proper, good old-fashioned "traditional" worship. Not hymns though... oh no: they're still "hums". Zoom worship is worship through a letter box and Easter Day was when we went wide screen and IMAX. On top of Burrow Mump around twenty insomniacs gathered (6.30am is very early for me) as the sun rose and we all tingled at the beauty and majesty of the moment.

There followed Easter Eucharists in Lyng, Stoke St Gregory and North Curry, and then the following Sunday (11th) our first United Benefice worship in Burrowbridge. Things are gradually getting back to normal. So, what do I do? I take some time off and it seems odd. But that is a good thing. I arrived (kind of) in February and have spent two months peering at everyone on zoom. Now, when I am away I miss you all!

It hasn't taken long for me to put down ecclesiological roots, and roots are just what makes our world tick. Roots give us strength and resilience and it is the roots we have tangled together in our lives that show us how we are all knitted together. I am a big fan of J.R.R. Tolkien (way before the films) and have always loved the attitudes of The Ents, giant tree-like creatures who think gradually, are slow to be roused but when they do, are all but unstoppable in their determination and commitment. They put down deep roots and those roots can crack rock over time. The roots I have perceived in the villages of the benefice are a sign of determination, strength and commitment. Now I am away from you for even a week, it feels wrong, and this is before Louise and I have moved in.

To overdo the metaphor a little, I am only just sending out young and tender roots. But they are already tangling into the soil and majesty of The Athelney Benefice.

Oh, and changing films and narratives dreadfully ... I'll be back.

The May service rota can be found at www.athelneybenefice.com



A selection of Easter photos, taken by Revd Simon

Church Spring Clean, 27th March

Revd Simon, looking more like Yeoman of the Cleaning Guard on the front cover, leads the way with the Spring clean at the parish church. With cleaning wand in hand and mask worn (this was due to the amount of dust he was disturbing!), he set about with his trusty aides to “resurrect” worship services for Easter by getting the church ready to receive folks once again. A miracle, perhaps, for a resident vicar to be seen rolling up his sleeves! A miracle that he got it all ready in time...

[I think the editor is being a cheeky wotsit!]

Had Denise collapsed at the sight of seeing the vicar with a cleaning instrument; or is she just being ultra efficient at cleaning every nook...



Helen kept the motivation going by playing the organ (and to clear the dust from the pipes).



Meanwhile, Alex continued with the cleaning in front of the lectern; isn't that where we left her in last month's issue?



Well done to all involved for their superb endeavours prior to the Easter Service.

Finally, thanks to Mary, who managed to keep out of the photos (being the photographer!), for sending in these snaps of the industrious crew.

On Saturday 27th March, we had our annual clean up day at the Church. A huge thank you to the few stalwarts who arrived to clear weeds, cobwebs and even a bird's nest. Brass and silver was polished thanks to Alex Dart and the wonderful smell of polish filled the church thanks to Denise Walker and Anne Williams. David Akerman gave Geoffrey Dart a superb tour of the Bell Tower/ roof and sorted various needs in that domain. To keep everyone on the move Helen Griffiths played superb organ music - bless you Helen.

A great job was done by Simon our Vicar. Armed with a very long dusting brush he cleared layers of dust from all the high places. Sure some had not been disturbed for a VERY long time.

Very many thanks to one and all for time and effort so willingly given.

Mary Piers



***Grow, Explore, Discover:
'Together Everyone Achieves More.'***

Little Herons Pre-School is the Nursery Class of North Curry Primary School.

We are open to all children in the area.

We have fully qualified, experienced staff who provide stimulating and vibrant learning experiences with every child's needs being met through exciting and rewarding activities.

Being on-site allows collaborative play with the Reception Class and enables a smooth transition to formal education.

With extensive school grounds and an adjacent playing field to explore, outdoor education is a major part of our daily routine.

- Teacher and Early Years Professional led Early Years Foundation Stage unit
- Forest School
- Qualified PE teacher
- Hot school lunches available (extra cost)
- Ofsted 'Outstanding' school
- Early Years Funding - 15 hours / 30 hours / 2 year old: see Childcare Choices website
- Childcare Vouchers / Tax Free Childcare accepted
- Heron Club wrap around care (7.30am-8.45am / 3.15pm-6.00pm)

For more information, please call 01823 490423

Editor's Comments: Plenty again to read in this issue, with so much material, I had to chop and move some features to June. Thanks to everyone who sent in their news and articles. Dave Patten's article from last month had aroused a bit of interest, so much so, that even I checked out the various websites. Whilst the CMI do not actually have a site in Kentucky, which Mike Scott points out in his article further in the magazine, there is a Creationist's Group that does have a presence in Kentucky, complete with museum and a replica fully sized Ark. All I will add is that Noah chap was one talented boat builder, as the replica looks to be a feat of engineering.

The warm April weather, which I hope continues into May, has certainly encouraged a change in mind set, as most of us now look forward to getting out and about from our homes; where adventure and friends beckon once again as meeting restrictions are lifted. So it's time to unpack those Bermuda shorts and to show off your white knobbly knees ~ the summer and BBQs are not far away!

Easter Review

Last year we were sadly unable to celebrate Easter due to the dreaded Covid Regulations. This year was very different.

Maundy Thursday saw the very moving act of stripping the church of finery. How stark, yet so beautiful it looks. Simon had visited ALL churches assisting with this and reached North Curry about 8pm. Bless him; he now knows just how much there is to take out of our Church.

Good Friday; the lovely Easter Garden set up by Rosalind Hardwick and her family was blessed by Simon and the few gathered outside the Church.

Our Easter Vigil this year was held at the lovely Church in Lyng with the lighting of Parish Easter candles. It was so special being outside with the fire and lighting these candles.

Easter Morn! Wow! Burrow Mump proved the ideal setting for the Sunrise Service. A very cold frosty morning but crystal clear above the mist on the moors. Ethereal! Simon arrived and we now know we have a wonderful guitar playing Vicar - Jesus Christ Has Risen Today. What was quite amazing and exhilarating was just as Simon started to read the Gospel, the sun started to rise and as he finished, the sun truly risen. We all admitted to having goose bumps! Coming down the slippery Mump was a slower feat than going up!

Our Easter Eucharist in the Church was equally uplifting especially as it was the first Service in the Church for some while, plus the first "physical" Church Service for Simon - still Zoomed for those unable to attend.

What a blessing! Unfortunately, congregation singing is still not allowed in Church but the choir were permitted – and they were terrific. Thank you one and all, and to our excellent organist - Helen Griffiths.

Even the pigeons joined in heartily from their nest in the South Porch. Also thanks to the ladies for the stunning flower arrangements; we are so blessed to have such a fantastic Church.



Although we still await Simon's Official Induction Service, it certainly didn't deter North Curry from giving him a very warm welcome and to Louise "on Duty" at St Mary's in Taunton.

As is our tradition, Easter Eggs were to be had by all. Essential in the Verger's book of protocol!! An amazing Easter and one to be remembered and treasured - thank you Simon.

Mary Piers

A final chance! Quilt raffle for the Church Bells Appeal



Tickets £1 each, available from the Post Office or directly through Elaine Moll (elaine.moll@lewtec.co.uk)

The Prize Draw will take place at the end of May.

Announcements/ News in Brief

North Curry Parish Church, congratulations to our 200 Club Winners.

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

February

1st Helen Griffiths
2nd Laurence Leader
3rd Sue Ashton

March

1st Joan Dartnall
2nd Helen Smith
3rd Mary Ginger

April

1st Sue Cable
2nd Michael Joy
3rd Helen Griffiths

North Curry Primary School is seeking a new Parent Governor – see advert on page 13 for more details.

To sign up to the benefice bulletin, please email Revd Simon Bale at vicar@athelneybenefice.com.

The website at www.athelneybenefice.com brings lots more information on worship and how to join the Zoom services.

Dr Robert Dunning, a long time supporter and leader of worship in the Benefice, has decided that he would like to stand down from his involvement. We have invited him to the Stoke St Gregory Evensong on 2nd May and hope you will be able to come along.

As you will be aware, Bishop Peter is retiring this summer. His farewell service will be on the afternoon of 22nd May in Wells Cathedral. It would be good to contribute to his farewell gift as a benefice and details will be shared soon. There is also a facility to contribute to his farewell booklet. If you would like to send a message to be included, please let the vicar know.

2022 Calendar Competition.

The competition is open to all amateur photographers who live in the parish, and the subject is to be the parish month by month – places, events, and so on; family photos are not required.

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 2021.

Letter from
The Rt Revd Peter Hancock
Bishop of Bath and Wells

Called to serve and care

There are many things I shall miss when I retire. One is writing these brief articles for parish magazines. After some 41 years of writing articles and editorials you might think I would be pleased to stop.

However, over the years this is one way I have been able to keep in touch with people and offer encouragement and support to all that is happening in the life of our churches and communities.

In the ordination service for bishops the liturgy begins with the words: 'Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ.

Mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep, they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people, and being known by them.' These monthly articles are one way in which I seek to 'be known' across the diocese.

As I prepare to retire, I want to express my huge appreciation for the welcome I have received in all the parishes and places that I have visited. It has been an enormous privilege to join the churches of the diocese to see what you are doing, to preach and to share in your worship. I am conscious that despite getting out and about across the whole diocese there are still some churches which I have not visited, and I am sorry about that.

Reading the ordination service, I see that as disciples we are all called to 'witness to the resurrection and to preach the good news of salvation in all the world.' That is a calling and a privilege which will not stop as I lay down the See of Bath and Wells. It is at the heart of what it is to be part of the Body of Christ. So, as I say my farewells, I send you my blessing. Please know that my prayers will continue to be with you.

Yours with the love of Christ,
Bishop Peter

The Diocese has a newly designed website, at www.bathandwells.org.uk. Designed by ChurchEdit, it is part of a collaboration with 20 other dioceses to create a standardised website that will serve dioceses across the Church of England.

News from North Curry/ Curland Methodists, by Daphne Gilham

Revd Deborah Kirk, Methodist Minister 01823 334854/ deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com

Churches are beginning to open again,
Spring is upon us and we are starting to feel free again.

In spite of the really chilly wind often blowing through our gardens, we are welcoming visitors to our homes, albeit in small numbers, according to the rule of 'households' and or 'bubbles' and ignoring the layers of coats and scarves we are having to put on!

Clutching our cups of hot drinks as the only warmth available to us, we celebrate our new freedom.
The outlook is good.

So it was with sadness we received the news of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Many will not remember a time when he was not part of the Royal family. We are now officially in a state of mourning, but accompanied by a feeling of gratitude for all he did for the country.

Condolences have been sent to The Queen from all over the world on the loss of her husband and prayers were uttered in churches up and down the land on the Sunday following the announcement.

We, in our little congregation at North Curry/Curland join with these expressions of sympathy and remember too, those of our community who have died recently.

Meanwhile we are still using our telephones, emails, facetimes etc to keep in touch with our friends and relations and those unable to take advantage of the latest relaxing of rules, and welcome the Spring and the promise of better times ahead.



NORTH CURRY COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

hopes to open on **Tuesday 18th May**, launching the Summer Menu. Sessions are for two hours (9.30 am - 11.30 am and 1.30pm - 3.30pm) and we are looking for volunteers to fill sessions weekly, fortnightly, monthly or just occasionally. If you would like to help, please contact Alison Stone on (01823) 490282 or e-mail: ajcarterstone@gmail.com for an application form or for more information.

North Curry C of E Primary School Parent Governor Vacancy

The school is a small primary school situated in Greenway, North Curry

We are a friendly Governing Body and a new Governor would not need particular experience of schools but an interest in children's development and learning is important. Time to give the school would be needed. There are 8 meetings a year, spread over the year; each meeting usually taking 2 hours. We are looking for a Governor with some finance experience.

Are you the parent governor the school is looking for?

If you are interested and would like an initial discussion with the Head teacher and/or the Chair of Governors please email the school office with your contact details and we will contact you.

We look forward to receiving your expression of interest.

Sue Horne, Chair of Governors.

School contact - office@nc.huish.education

Coming back with a Song... (so we hope)

It was wonderful to celebrate Easter with an in-person service at the parish church. As restrictions are lifted we will be able to get back to opening the church more, and in hopeful anticipation, the committee are lining up a plethora of tantalising events for your entertainment and amusement from the summer onwards.

Already, plans are in hand for four talented professional orchestral players to give a concert on 21st August in aid of the Church Bells Appeal, to include Fenella Humphreys' lively re-imagining of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, led by the arranger herself on violin.

On 14th October, (a Thursday evening), the Mariinski-trained Voskresenije ensemble from St Petersburg hope to be back with a fresh programme of

Russian spiritual, classical and folk music (and a few old favourites), having sung for the school the previous afternoon.

Other groups that have been offered dates in the autumn include Taunton Military Wives' Choir (and girlfriends and servicewomen), and our very own North Curry Village Choir for a Christmas concert.

Not a concert, but visiting choir In Ecclesia will be back to lead us in Choral Evensong or another service with a remembrance/ memorial theme in the autumn.

All this is some months away, and subject to regulations and guidance in place at the time, but something to look forward to. Watch this space in future issues for further announcements...

STOP!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 9th May (directly after the 10am United Benefice Service, obviously at the Parish Church!)

This is **your** chance to hear what has (or not) happened over the last year and what is proposed for the coming year

It is also your chance to vote in the election of Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council, and to volunteer for one of the roles yourself.

Please do come and participate in your church's governance.

Rogation falls on the 8th/9th May, but as yet, the vicar's plans are yet to be shared with us – a surprise in store - though we have learned a walk from North Curry to Burrowbridge is planned. So look out for flyers nearer the time if you wish to join in a countryside romp. It is an ideal way to discover new paths in our glorious surroundings, as well as meet up with friends.



North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

By Heather Williams

News at last!!

Plant Sale:

This will not be following its usual format! We had originally planned for 22nd May and booked the Pavilion, but the Committee feel this is probably too soon for it to go ahead as usual. We are therefore planning to try a "Click-and-Collect" event. A list of available plants and prices will be published in advance and members invited to send in an order. We will take the plants to The Pavilion on the date originally booked - Sat 22nd May and buyers can collect. I hope to circulate the list of plants for the sale and further details, by the beginning of May. Let's hope that by next year we can revert to our usual format.

If any non-members are reading this and would like to participate, please email northcurrygardeningclub@gmail.com and we'll get a list to you. We do have some very good plants!

Summer events:

Depending on the lifting of lockdown restrictions - we will try to arrange two events in the summer - a group booking for an NGS garden visit where members can make their own travel arrangements.

Also -some sort of social get-together, tea / picnic in a member's garden towards the end of the summer.

Speakers and meetings from September:

At the moment it is difficult to predict what indoor gatherings will be possible later in the year. We will be very dependent on numbers allowed in the Pavilion. Until this becomes clearer it is not possible to finalise plans for September to December. Look out for announcements in due course.

The North Curry Parish Church 200 Club always has room for one more!

Players must be 18yrs+ to join. Only **£18 per year (£1.50/month)**

Prizes each month £30/ £20/ £10

Plus a special Christmas bonus draw of £60

Proceeds for churchyard maintenance

To sign up, contact Sue Bethune on 01823 490179

Cheque payments to North Curry PCC

Standing Order/ BACS payments to

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

A Wild Flower Meadow, coming to a close near you...

Residents of Lockyer's Field are in the process of creating a wild flower meadow on the margin adjacent to the hedge which forms the western boundary of Lockyer's Field.

In the pictures below, residents both young and a little older... have seeded the margin with a specialist hedgerow mix which includes twenty one different wild flowers and seven native grasses.



The margin will be cut several times this summer and subsequently annually in late summer with the cut hay raked off. Many of the wild flowers are perennials so will not flower until next year.



Creation of this margin will attract a greater diversity of insects, birds, butterflies and moths and although small it will contribute to the biodiversity in our village.

Further information on the seed mixture can be found at: <https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/view/12>

Paul Deacon
Resident of Lockyer's Field

Somerset Day 11th May

Take pride in living in a great county, in a Great Britain
Fly the Flag for Somerset Day 2021

We want to turn Somerset into a sea of Somerset flags and bunting, flying from public and community buildings, churches, schools, village flagpoles, gardens, windows, cars etc over the weekend of 8th/ 9th May through to 11th May, Somerset Day.

Whether it's the distinctive Somerset flag with its bright red dragon waving from a flagpole, or your own painted picture in your front window, this is the time to Fly the Flag for Somerset.

To get involved, go to <https://www.somersetday.com/get-involved/>

Christian Aid Week 2021



Christian Aid, now in its 75th year, is supported by volunteers from the North Curry churches and is the official relief and development agency of Christian churches in Britain and Ireland, providing humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights.

The charity provides disaster relief across South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. It works in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

Climate chaos is one of the greatest global injustices, from severe drought to relentless flooding. We know on the Somerset Levels about the devastation caused by flood water, but in many parts of the world droughts are now more frequent, more intense and more unpredictable, and millions of people are struggling to get enough food and water.

This year Christian Aid Week runs from 10th to 16th May. For the second year we are unable to deliver gift envelopes door-to-door, still less collect them, or to have the customary coffee morning at the end of the week where you can bring your donations.

Instead, we hope to have a collection point in the village shop.

Donations can also be made online at 'christianaid.org.uk'

Your donation could help communities withstand climate chaos. With your support they can build better earth dams, so when the rains do come they will have a reliable source of the water they need to live. Your gift could help a community sow drought-tolerant crops and demand climate justice at the highest level. Together with you and your friends, Christian Aid can achieve incredible things for some of the poorest people in the world. Thank you for standing with us.

NCS Quiz

For more than 30 years, the North Curry Society has been inviting speakers to the Village Hall on a wide variety of topics of local interest – archaeological, historical or topical - about the land, buildings and people of North Curry. The current programme of talks came to an abrupt halt in March 2020 when society, including North Curry Society, went into lockdown.

In April, Society members were invited by email to complete a Quiz about North Curry and Somerset set by new committee member Colin Trim. Although the quiz is now formally closed, why not test your knowledge. 50 questions in all, with the first 25 in this issue, and the following 25 questions in the June issue.

As Somerset Day falls this month, you might like to tackle the County questions.

Part 1 People

1. Which 17th Century philosopher was born in Wrington, (now in North Somerset!)?
2. Who came to a sticky end at the hands of Jack Keirle ?
3. Which recently deceased circus owner also owned Cheddar Caves?
4. Who reputedly assured the mythical fame of Weary-All Hill?
5. Who defeated a Dutch fleet in 1652?
6. Who made pots at Muchelney?
7. Which literary family lived at Combe Florey?
8. Who met her doom at Oare Church?

Part 2 Places

9. Which Somerset church has featured on an English postage stamp?
10. Where do the Mendip Hills come to a temporary halt at their western end?
11. Which town was reputedly the original County Town?
12. Where have the Luttrells lived since the 13th Century?
13. In which village did Coleridge write his poem 'Kubla Khan'?
14. Barrington Combe inspired which well-known hymn?
15. Which small Somerset town inspired an ancient sailor to recount his well-known tale?
16. The infamous judge who sentenced both Sir Walter Raleigh and Guy Fawkes to death is interred in which Somerset town?

Part 3 A County Miscellany

17. Of which stone is St Mary's Magdalene, Taunton constructed?
18. Foxwhelp, Kingston Black and Yarlinton Mill are varieties of what?
19. Which family should be quaking in their shoes at the growth in manufacturing in Asia?
20. What arrived for the first time in Taunton in 1842?
21. Which plant is cultivated commercially in villages between the A303 and the A378?
22. To which saint is Wells Cathedral dedicated?
23. What is Culbone's claim to fame?
24. A pioneer of flight, he lived at Chard and produced his first 'flying machine' in 1847 but failed to gain the recognition he deserved until long after his death. What was his name?
25. Which nursery rhyme has its origins in the village of Mells?

We hope you have fun tackling these questions. You will find the answers against which they were assessed in the June issue of this magazine (so you may wish to retain this copy to remind you of the questions).

Questions specifically on North Curry will also appear next month.

You can expand your knowledge of North Curry and Somerset by joining the Society when we resume our programme of evening talks in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month, hopefully in September.

Congratulations to Rowena & Steve Jackson and Elsa Small in a dead heat, each scoring 35 points (out of a possible 50); they will share the allotted top prize moneys. Also mentioned in despatches the plucky Ryan family, their entry received slightly after the deadline, scored 34; they take third prize.

The answers can be found on page 29.

The Produce Market is set to return on 5th June.

Unfortunately, the kitchen is not permitted to open,
so it will be stalls only.

As well as the usual favourites, we have 2 new stall holders –
fresh bread and a chocolatier.

In tribute to HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh



God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for the love he shared among us,
and for his devotion to duty.
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Merciful God, be close to all who mourn,
especially The Queen and all members of the Royal Family.
May they know the hope of your promises
and the comfort of your love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Flowers by Liz Gibbs and Heather Jeanes

Funeral of HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh North Curry Bells ring out



Saturday 17th April 2021 is a day which will be remembered by many, when Prince Philip was laid to rest in St George's Chapel, Windsor.

It's an ancient tradition that church bells nationwide are rung at the death of a sovereign, or the death of a sovereign's consort. And North Curry was to respect this tradition.

Restrictions on bellringing have been tight recently. The average tower has very limited space in its ringing chamber, which means distancing is a problem, and ventilation often presents problems too. So bells have been silenced in many churches. Also here we have our own problem, namely the state of the bells themselves and the restrictions we have had to impose on ringing them, on grounds of safety, until a programme of restoration can go ahead.

So to ring here at the moment presents challenges. Everything in the belfry needs very careful checking: each time needing several hours work before ringing can go ahead, and then only for a limited duration.

An extra task on this occasion was to fit "muffles" on each of the bell clappers, which produce a softer echo effect, for funerals, and Remembrance Sunday. These are strapped firmly on to each bell, with a good deal of crawling about underneath them prior to ringing up. Made of leather and normally strapped on one side of the clapper, this affects every other stroke of the bell; however on the death of a sovereign, or consort, the tradition is to ring "fully muffled". So, with the aid of an old set of muffles it was possible to set them up on both sides of each clapper, meaning every stroke counted. A softer sound for a sad occasion.

Whilst sadly ringing can't happen for normal services, this was felt to be different. So the work and the hours were put in and the bells rang out. This thanks to the team of ringers who turned out – inevitably rather out of practice! – and above all to Darren with his expertise in belfries, and unique ability in terms of crawling under bells, and adjusting or tightening anything that moves. Thank you Darren for making it safe enough for the rest of us. We look forward to the day when ringing will be possible on a normal basis again. Until then, apologies to the village for the lack of bells generally. We hope though that this tribute to HRH was well received.



AN APPEAL of BELLS

Our beautiful church has been at the centre of village life for nearly 1000 years. Its bells have been rung for at least 500 of those years... until 2019, when a structural engineer's report left the Churchwardens with no alternative but to suspend regular ringing. The frame that holds the bells – all four tons of them – is loose and has deteriorated; it is no longer safe.

Bells have rung in our church continually since at least the reign of Henry VIII. They probably sounded the alarm for the Spanish Armada and the battles of the English Civil War, and celebrated the victories of Trafalgar and Waterloo and the end of two World Wars. At all times the bells have called people to worship and marked events in the village – remembrance days, weddings, funerals, baptisms and many others. They are intimately bound up in our history and tradition.

We now have the opportunity to secure the future of our bells for another 200 years.

The 19th-century wooden frame must be replaced, urgently. This will entail opening up the tower ceiling, lowering all eight bells to the church floor and installing a new steel frame which will spread the weight more evenly, so reducing wear on the tower structure.

To add to the situation, our original four bells, dating from 1811, are near the end of their useful life: they are worn and are at risk of cracking. The eight bells, including those cast in 1894 and 1953, have never been tuned as a harmonious set.

The plan is to re-cast all eight bells and tune them properly. They will sound just as you remember them – but sweeter. We can do this while reducing the weight on the tower: the eight 'new' bells will weigh a whole ton less than they do now. The clock will continue to strike the hours and quarters.

Attracting and training youngsters in bell ringing is an important aim of the project, and the new lighter bells will allow youngsters of 9 or 10 to ring them with ease. (The same is true, of course, for older enthusiasts as well!!)

We have considered many different options. This plan retains the history of our bells and secures their future for centuries to come. It is also environmentally friendly and sustainable as we are recycling what we already have rather than starting from scratch.

The total cost will be around £150,000. This is good value for money compared to simply replacing the frame and fittings, which alone would cost around £125,000 – with only a limited remaining life for the existing bells.

We are therefore announcing an Appeal of Bells to raise the £150,000 and invite you to help and support us. We'd love you all to get involved.

Perhaps you and your family would like to sponsor a bell? Could you hold or support a fundraising event, or volunteer labour when we remove and then re-install the bells? We will be coming up with new ideas in the coming months. Irrespective of size of donation, the names of everyone who contributes will be inscribed in a memorial book to be displayed in the church. The book will then be preserved in our Church Archives and a copy lodged with the County Archives.

All monies raised will go into a designated fund purely for the bells. It is administered by the Parochial Church Council and qualifies for Gift Aid, which adds 25% to all donations from UK taxpayers, at no extra cost to the donors.

This is a real opportunity for us all to secure our bells and bell ringing for the next 200 years and put the last difficult, and distressing, 15 months behind us. Let's focus on something joyous for the church, the village and for future generations.

The 'Cathedral of the Moors' will then be heard again, singing out across villages and moors for the next two hundred years!

If you are willing to contribute or help in any way please contact –

Geoffrey Dart Chair, Appeal of Bells (a PCC's committee)
Phone: 0777 1713 444 or
email:geoffrey@thedarts.co.uk

Martin Horrox Fund Raising, Appeal of Bells
Email: m@martinhorrox.co.uk or phone: 01823 491349

OR

David Akerman Churchwarden
Phone: 01823 490234

Mary Piers Churchwarden
Email: marypiers@btinternet.com or phone: 01823 491434

We plan to re-open September 22nd with The Bookshop. In the meantime, this may be of interest: Court Room Dramas

Recently, we watched the new film *The Trial of the Chicago 7* (2020) available on Netflix. It had an extremely limited cinema release last October but it has now received 6 Oscar nominations. It is politically an interesting film about the trial of a range of anti-Vietnam war protestors who mobilised to pressurise delegates at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. The denial of justice is extreme, but what lifts the film is the acting of Sacha Baron Cohen as the radical 'Yippie', Abbie Hoffman. He is quite charismatic in this role.



This got me thinking about this genre of films – Court Room Dramas. There were some obvious prompts. In this film, Mark Rylance plays the lawyer defending the Seven. In another great true story legal drama, *Bridge of Spies* (2015), he plays the Russian Spy Rudolf Abel defended, at the height of the Cold War, by lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks). Another link is that *The Trial of the Chicago 7* was written and directed by Aaron Sorkin. He also wrote the story of another favourite legal drama *A Few Good Men* (1992) about the death of a soldier at US military base at Guantanamo, Cuba. Anyone who has seen this film will remember

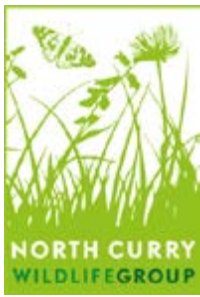


Jack Nicholson as Colonel Jessup – “You can’t handle the truth!” In April, a new court drama about Guantanamo was released (Amazon Prime) – *The Mauritanian* about the legal battle of Mohamedou Ould Slahi to end 14 years of imprisonment without trial. Tamar Rahim got a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Slahi, as did Jodie Foster for that of his lawyer. I have not seen it yet, but it looks promising, if you like strong, true story dramas.

So far all of these films are American – and there are more! Probably the best court room drama of them all is *12 Angry Men* (1957) where the sole dissenter against a guilty verdict is played by Henry Fonda. In spite of

the claustrophobic setting, this Sydney Lumet film is gripping. Aren't there any really good British Court Room dramas? Wikipedia could only list some 20 British legal dramas and some are hardly British (*Woman in Gold* 2015, though it stars Helen Mirren, it is set in the US) or the court room is only a part of the plot (*A Man for All Seasons* 1966). Any suggestions?

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



North Curry Wildlife Group

Spring on the New Bee Bank!

By Liz Gibbs

I have been keeping an eagle eye on the new bank at the Community Woodland, hoping to see that the seeds sown last autumn have produced plants and that recently introduced wild flower plantlets have survived. Also, hoping to deter passing dogs, I planted a couple of "Keep off" signs! To my delight, the surface of the huge bank is now pretty much covered in greenery. Some plants from the next-door bank I can identify; others are definitely progeny from the first bee bank by the pond and also wild flowers from other areas of the woodland. Some may be volunteers from elsewhere. Part of the plan was to provide as many nectar-rich plants as possible, especially in spring, so Primroses and Comfrey are now growing there.

When I visited at the beginning of April, I noticed an area of activity around a rather bare patch where about a dozen small bees were cruising over the surface. I suspected they were mining bees prospecting for a nest site or, even more excitingly, they were bees that were already occupying the site. Some were honey-bee sized and even similar to a honey bee in colouring; some were much smaller and much darker.

There are numerous different mining bees, up to 50, I think, mostly unknown to me. I didn't have my specimen pots or specialist reference book with me and so I had to content myself with photos. I'm pretty sure that there were both male and female versions of the Chocolate Mining Bee or *Andrena scotica*.

Very suitable for the Easter weekend! The female is shown in the photo, and the males are smaller, darker and altogether daintier versions.

They produce a single generation which favour the flowers of blackthorn, fruit trees and willows, all of which were in flower at the Community Woodland. Nesting can occur in loose aggregations on sunlit banks and slopes, and that is exactly what I saw. They also appear to be common in this part of Britain.

Unfortunately, a cold spell with frost and biting winds followed, so further investigation had to wait. But if there is a still, warm day, go and see if you can spot them!



Beyond Belief?

A response to Dave Patten's article. By Mike Scott.

As the one who invited the village to the Creation Ministries International (CMI) meetings that Mr Patten attended, I feel compelled to respond to his article published in the last edition of this magazine. I do so in the light of Proverbs chapter 18 verse 17 which reads: **The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.** The wisdom of that Bible proverb holds true for both Mr Patten's article and for the debate regarding origins.

I was thrilled that Mr Patten attended the CMI meetings we held at the Baptist Church and I was delighted he engaged with the speakers on both occasions. It was also a pleasure to talk with him personally after the meeting. So, it is with a heavy heart that I must say I was shocked by how CMI were so obviously misrepresented in his article, as were CMI when I sent the article to them! They were very clear in their reply: **"Some of the answers here are bordering slander and are not things any of our speakers would have said"**. So, I'm grateful to Rob Ellis for the opportunity to correct and clarify on behalf of CMI and for myself too, as the pastor of the Baptist Church and a convinced 'biblical creationist'.

I think it might help in the first instance to clear away some of the article's errors regarding the organisation itself. CMI have no links with Kentucky. Sadly, neither do they have a museum or a full-size replica Ark; I wish they did! They make no connection between Darwin and Satan. They only email those who have signed up to receive emails and you can unsubscribe at any time. They have about 175 books and pamphlets on the subject, not thousands - many written by PhD peer-reviewed scientists from a wide variety of disciplines.

In the article Mr Patten asks a number of questions and then answers those questions himself and attributes his answers to CMI.

Below are the questions Mr Patten posed. For those who might be interested in CMI's actual answers, these are a few links of many:

How did dinosaurs become extinct?

<https://creation.com/media-center/podcast/ct-podcast-did-dinosaurs-go-extinct-millions-of-years-ago> (Video)

Why are there only kangaroos in Australia?

<https://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter17.pdf>

Were dinosaurs on the ark?

<https://creation.com/were-dinosaurs-on-noahs-ark>

How did sedimentary layers arrive?

<https://creation.com/geological-strata>

Do you believe in continental drift and tectonic plates?

<https://creation.com/probing-the-earths-deep-places>

If water covered the entire earth, including Mount Everest, how did the 10,000 species of land birds survive?

<https://creation.com/how-did-the-waters-of-noahs-flood-drain>

How did Noah get polar bears, penguins, lions and rhinos into his voluminous Ark?

<https://creation.com/how-could-noah-get-all-the-animals-on-the-ark>

In regard to the percentage similarity between human DNA and that of an ape or a banana.

<https://creation.com/1-percent-myth>

In regard to the weekly discovery of fossils going back millions of years.

<https://creation.com/dna-detected-in-duckbilled-dino-fossil>

The debate about origins and the age of the earth is actually not a scientific debate at all, it's a philosophical or religious debate. Science is unable to prove either, and for anyone to suggest otherwise is to confuse operational, (empirical) science with historical science. This PDF helps explain the difference...and more: <https://creation.com/images/pdfs/home-school-corner/ebooks/creation-vs-evolution.pdf>

Atheistic evolution puts forward a number of theories regarding life, the universe and everything, the most well-known being the big bang theory. But what went bang? How did 'nothing' explode? And how did 'nothing' explode into 'something' so beautiful and so complex and something that gives every appearance of being designed?

For a theory to be proven scientifically it has to be tested repeatedly, and if it can't be tested it can't be proven and if it can't be proven it will always remain a theory. We cannot scientifically test something that is claimed to have happened billions of years ago, and that's why evolution will always be a philosophical conundrum and not a scientific one.

Evolutionists and creationists live in the same world, they consider the same evidence, they interpret the same facts! But they do so through very different world views, and that's why they come up with very different conclusions. It's not about science, it's about interpretation, and an atheistic evolutionist by definition cannot and will not allow for the possibility of the creating God of the Bible in any interpretation.

Creation Ministries International is an organisation who boast an impressive array of scientists who take their ultimate authority from the Bible. They unashamedly interpret the facts through their biblical world view and present their conclusions. Sadly, in an increasingly secular and humanistic society they are often misrepresented and maligned.

I will invite CMI to come and speak at the Baptist Church again once the Covid restrictions have been sufficiently relaxed. Perhaps one or two of you might come along and judge for yourselves what, if anything, all the fuss is about. In the meantime, may I close with something in Mr Patten's article I can wholeheartedly agree with: "The CMI website is worth a visit". You'll find it at **creation.com**.

Tea Break

When is it a good time to ask a priest for a loan? During "Lent"!

And now, it is exam time... with some suggested answers...

PETER 1.21

3) Expand

$$(a+b)^n$$
$$= (a + b)^n$$
$$= (a + b)^n$$
$$= (a + b)^n$$

etc...

3. Find x.

Here it is

Transparency Worksheet 23
Hard and Soft Water

1. Briefly explain what hard water is.

ice

2. Note that calcium is one of the solids dissolved in ocean water. Describe...

What is a vibration?

There are good vibrations and bad vibrations. Good vibrations were discovered in the 1960s

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for Bicycles.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears
~~Three~~ Four seals

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements.

Learning to speak Latin.

NORTH CURRY W.I.

PERHAPS? MAYBE? POSSIBLY? HOPEFULLY! OPTOMISTICALLY!

Words often mentioned now amongst members of North Curry W.I. group as we wonder if we will be able to meet up later this year. If Boris' cautious Road Map continues as planned and in mid June he produces the key to unlock lockdown then we can look forward to a long awaited and anticipated get together in July. Meantime, we like to think that the WI's sense of belonging and fellowship continues as, despite not meeting for over fifteen months, we manage to keep in touch with each other via the WI grapevine.

Whether in lockdown or not, as months go by changes will always occur and we realise when we meet there will be some faces no longer with us, but always fondly remembered. One or two members have been in hospital, but happily have made good recoveries. We have all seen at least one birthday come and go during lockdown (just one with 2 noughts on the end so far!) but we still manage to share greetings as we have always done. Recently we have been proud to acknowledge the achievement of one of our members who made the front page of the County Gazette announcing her retirement after working for the NHS for over 50 dedicated years. A time to meet and share good times together again is well overdue!



So, as we write this report in April, we are asking our members to 'pencil' in Wednesday 7th July, our first meeting of 2021, which will be outside, weather permitting, and then hopefully our planned indoor programme will follow on the first Wednesday of each month.



NCS Quiz from page 19 Answers to the County questions

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. John Locke* | 2. The Duke of Monmouth |
| 3. Gerry Cottle | 4. Joseph of Arimathea |
| 5. Robert Blake | 6. John Leach |
| 7. The Waughs | 8. Lorna Doone |
| 9. Huish Episcopi | 10. Crook Peak |
| 11. Somerton OR Ilchester | 12. Dunster (Castle) |
| 13. Porlock | 14. Rock of Ages |
| 15. Watchet | 16. Wellington |
| 17. Sandstone | 18. Cider Apple |
| 19. Clark | 20. A passenger steam train |
| 21. Teazle | 22. St Andrew |
| 23. Smallest church in England | 24. John Stringfellow * |
| 25. Little Jack Horner | |

Only 'key' words are provided. Brackets indicate acceptable additions or alternatives. Questions marked with a * were 'stinkers' to ensure (hopefully) a spread of marks!

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