

# **BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2023**



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

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**MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM**

Proof reader - Margaret Coombs

**Magazine Cover:**

Photographs by  
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

Articles relating to all aspects of our village and community  
are always welcome.

**Final date for acceptance: Mid-day on 12th of the month.**

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

**When reading your free online copy or one of the the hard copies  
available in church please remember to support the few remaining  
advertisers whenever possible**

*It is emphasised that the views expressed in this magazine are not  
necessarily those of the the magazine editorial team, unless attributed,  
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

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**IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS - photos by BOB WINN**

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**Cover - Helen Kane's (nee Coombs) Family Christmas tree.**



## **AWARD WINNING FAMILY RUN BUSINESS**

### **Shop and Post Office**

Open Monday – Friday 6.45am – 6pm

Saturday 8am – 6pm

Sunday 8am – 12pm

Tel – 01823 279168

### **Butchers**

Open Tuesday – Friday 8.00am – 3pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

## *The Frank Bond Centre*

84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull.

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCH THURSDAY 21st DECEMBER**

A place for the over 50s to meet new friends

Contact Carolyn 01823 283941 /Nadia 07958 246046

Come along to Frank's cafe on a Friday morning 10:00-12:00 and discover what activities could lie in store for you. The cafe is open to members and non-members.

The centre is centrally heated and open 10:00-16:00 Monday-Friday

#### Weekly Activities:

Monday - The Painting Group 10:00-12:00, Whist Club 1:30-4:00  
Bridge Club 2:00-4:00 (except first Monday in the month)

**Tuesday – Board Games 10:00-4:00**

**Wednesday – Flexercise 10:00-11:00**

**Thursday- Bridge club 10:00-12:00-beginners welcome, Croquet 2:00-4:00**

**Friday Pétanque 10:00-12:00,**

**Friday - Frank's Cafe 10:00-12:00**

#### Monthly Activities:

#### **NEW Beginners Bridge 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays**

1st Monday in month Family History 2:00-4:00

2nd Tuesday in month Parchment 10:00-3:30

1st & 3rd Tuesday in month Crafty Coffee 10:00-12:00

2nd & 4th Thursday in month Mahjong 2:00-4:00

1st Wednesday in month Good companions 2:00-4:00

4th Wednesday in month Music appreciation 2:00-4:00

3rd Thursday in month Monthly lunch-please write name on list in foyer  
Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities... Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

The centre is available to hire

For bookings please contact Nadia 01823 338242/07958 246046



**Vicar:**

Reverend Philip Hughes ,  
The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill,  
Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB  
01823-336102

**Church Warden:**

Mr Will Osmond, 01823-461820



**C**hristmas for many families will continue to be a financial challenge again this year so, having been born in 1937, I began to wonder what the household income for the working man would have been 100 years ago and how hard life must have been. Surely it must be so much better today?

Here's an extract from Hansard of March 1923;

*'The facts about wages are so notorious that I need not labour them. The question of agricultural wages has been before this House recently, and it is known to everyone that there are counties in this country in which the accepted rate of wages for agricultural labourers is only £1.2s. or 22s. per week. In Norfolk notices have been served bringing the rate down below per week for a man doing 54 hours' work per week. I need not dwell upon the condition of things in the mining industry. Engineers' labourers to-day are receiving 40s. 5d. per week, shipbuilders labourers 40s., workers in His Majesty's Dockyards 41s., and workers in India rubber factories 40s. In a great many of these cases men with families out of a wage of 40s. a week are obliged to pay one half in rent. We could cite innumerable instances of men receiving 40s. a week who are paying 13s., 14s., 16s. and 18s. a week in rent, leaving only a margin that under-nourishment and semi-starvation of their children is inevitable. It may be urged that the plight of these people is due to foreign competition, and that their employers are perfectly helpless.'*

From the innumerable number of examples I have managed to unearth from the beginning of the 20th century records, there was, at that time, no help from the State for families with little income. Thank goodness today we live in a more enlightened and caring society which recognises the hardships. However, still we read about Food Banks and people living on the streets. Surely, over a 100 year period, all of the 20th century problems should have been resolved?

It is my hope, and surely yours, that everyone will be in a position to be able to celebrate this Christmas in a festive manner and enjoy a memorable happy time with family and friends. Family life and family support is the backbone of a civilised society but there will always be a need for us to help those less fortunate than ourselves. I am sure that many of us will be doing our best to remember that this is an opportunity to give of our time to make Christmas a time of joy for many who may be less fortunate.

**Happy Christmas to one and all.**

## The Vicar writes .....

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### **Christmas is a time of promise fulfilled.**

There has always been a recognition of the brokenness of Creation. Things are simply not as they should be. Nor as they were intended. Over the centuries many have longed for a better way – but it has always seemed out of the grasp of human beings. Many have worked for justice and truth, only to see it denied and destroyed. And because of this many have felt their own weakness and seeming inability to make a difference.

However, in the coming of Jesus, God fulfilled all his promises and acted decisively. The God who created the heavens and the earth is the same one who sends his servant to fulfil his promise.

### **Christmas is a time of promise realised.**

The events of that first Christmas, when Jesus came to earth as a tiny and helpless baby, happened in a way that was almost unnoticed by the rest of the world. But the impact of that first Christmas has spread across the world as people come to understand what Christmas is all about – God with us. Yes, literally with us as one of us and able to stand in that vast gap between God and mankind. In Jesus we find the one who not only fulfils the promise but realises the promise to the world.

And everything that 'we' do helps us to understand a little more about God's promise fulfilled or God's promise realised not just all those years ago, but here and now in huge cities and tiny villages and everything in between – which includes Bishops Hull! The Angels sang, 'Glory to God!' and we join their heavenly song. O come all ye faithful as we give glory to the one who fulfils and realises for us God's promises in Isaiah, Micah and Zechariah (to name but a few) and hear again the stories in the Gospels and the letters of the New Testament.

In this magazine are details of numerous services where we will be focusing on God's promises, including **Advent Carols (03 Dec)**, **Christingle (10 Dec)**, **Carol Services (17 Dec)**, **Carol Singing (18 Dec)**, **Crib Services (24 Dec)** and **Midnight Communion (24 Dec)** and on **Christmas Day itself (surely you don't need the date for that one!)**. Also, a special **Christmas Concert on Saturday 16 Dec** where we welcome back by popular demand the amazing Gregory Steward.

Maybe you could write to the Editor and share your favourite Christmas Carol?

**Happy Christmas and New Year!**

Your Brother in Christ

Rev Phil Hughes - Vicar and Chaplain





## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

GOD'S TIMELESS  
VALUES FOR  
LIFE TODAY

J.JOHN

**J**ustio for churches is a fantastic ten week series based on the Ten Commandments, designed to equip local churches to communicate the relevance of God's laws of love in a way people can relate to today. Author, speaker, and evangelist J.John creatively brings to life God's Ten Commandments in a fresh and dynamic way.

**Justio** includes ten entertaining and enlightening live presentations filmed in London and the North-East of England.

J.John presents the commandments in a positive light, showing that far from being a set of rules to restrict us, they are the key to finding freedom in life.

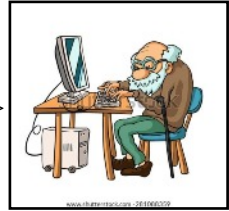
The videos are being shown in the 10am service on the first Sunday of each month. We started in September 2023 and looked at the command "Do not covet" or, as J.John puts it, "How to Find Contentment". The next video will be at 10am on 03 December 2023 in St Peter and St Paul, Bishop's Hull Parish Church – and you are welcome to join the adventure!



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Editor Bob

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I know it's a little early for Christmas cards to be sent but please do consider it in a week or two.

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS**

Editor Bob



### Used stamps collection

If you would like to donate your used postage stamps to raise funds for the Children's Hospice Southwest, there is a collection box at the Bishop's Hull Post Office.

## The FBC Christmas lunch - Thursday 21st December



### COST OF POSTING A LETTER from **OCTOBER** 2023

#### NORMAL SIZE LETTER

FIRST CLASS	£ <b>1.25</b>	SECOND CLASS	£. <b>75p</b>
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#### LARGE LETTER 100g

FIRST CLASS	£ <b>1.95</b>	SECOND CLASS	£ <b>1.55</b>
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### **Bishop's Hull HUB**

Saturday 9th December 10 a.m.-midday, **Christmas Hub Cafe**.  
Details to follow but we hope to offer a grotto again this year.

**Youth club** dates -Saturday 20th Jan 7:25-9:15  
**There is no youth club in December**



**Fish and Chip quiz** night on **Saturday 25th November at 7:30** (apologies for the incorrect dates published last month).



£10 per head to include fish and chip. BYOB.  
Book tickets at [www.bhhub.co.uk](http://www.bhhub.co.uk)

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### **Defibrillators**

**H**opefully, you will never need to use one, but did you know in Bishop's Hull there are four defibrillators!

The locations are: outside the HUB, outside the Frank Bond Centre, outside the Robin Close meeting room and inside Bishop's Hull Primary School.

In addition, to familiarise yourself with where there are defibrillators, please follow the link below: <https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

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

**The Bridge** is what we have called the New Welcome Area.

The Church is opening **the Bridge** for our return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2023.



We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 25th November 2023**, please come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.



## **Meet Your Councillor**

**Name Ant Plumbly**

### **Where are you likely to be seen in the village:**

*On a walk with one, two or all of my three kids, attending an event at the Hub or cycling to/from the station (normally out of breath if the latter!)*

### **Why are you a Parish Councillor:**

*Originally because I thought I could add some value due to my background in town planning, but increasing because the village needs people to help look after it. Plus supporting my fellow Councillors and Clerk, who are a lovely group of people.*

### **When not volunteering as a Parish Councillor, what are you likely to be doing:**

*Working to deliver new or rebuilt schools across SW England (my job), trying to navigate the maze that is our town planning system, watching cricket, spending time with the family or enjoying a drink with friends.*

### **What would people be surprised to know about you:**

*That I grew up in Hong Kong, but much of the family has gravitated to Somerset over the years, despite the vast differences! And if anyone has any tips on good authentic dim sum in Somerset, please let me know...*

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## **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

Resolutions made at September meeting, Members agreed to -

- - Take over responsibility for the play park adjacent to the playing fields on or before the date of the transfer of the public open space at the development formally known as Kinglake (due January 2024) provided satisfactory repairs were carried out to the roundabout, gate and bench (as per ROSPA report). The insurance claim would also need to be resolved before the area could be handed over
- ~ To allocate £4000 from Parish Council reserves (As CIL funds are not permitted for professional fees) to the sensory trail to allow the professional plans to be draw up and to instruct a structural engineer.
- 'To Renew Somerset Association of Local Councils membership at a cost of £919.48 for the year
- ~ To approve the purchase of an additional solar charger for the Speed indicator device from CIL funds
- ~ Reviewed standing orders and financial regulations were adopted
- ~ 2024 meeting dates approved
- Following the receipt of £2500 grant from SALCs health and well being fund for raised beds at the allotments the Clerk will obtain three quotes
- ~ The Clerk to contact Dan Mawer — Persimmons Adoption Manager to express concerns at the lack of communication and to advise that if

information is not forthcoming, the date of adoption of the Kinglake park and green space by the PC will be pushed back.

The next meeting date was set as Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm at the HUB.

At the next meeting the Parish Council will discuss implementing an emergency plan for the Parish. If you have an interest in volunteering to help in an emergency, anything from checking on elderly neighbours in the snow to helping with sand bags in the floods, however big or small a contribution you may be able to offer. Please email the Clerk:

bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com

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### **Speed Indicator Device - Waterfield Drive Summary**

**Total Vehicles** - Over the time period (7/8/23-25/9/23) **52,808** vehicles passed the SID on Waterfield Drive. This averages 1,150 vehicles daily. The peaks of traffic were observed to be on Fridays and Wednesdays, which both average over 1,300 vehicles a day during the time period. The road is most used in the afternoon.

**Average speeds** - The average speed of vehicles passing the SID was 24mph — with 2/3rds of all vehicles passing at below 25 mph.,

**Fastest average speeds** were seen overnight and in the early morning and evening. In the early morning and evening there was a significant difference between observed and unobserved speeds. This indicates that at these times the SID had a marked influence on the speed of vehicles on the road.



Over the course of the SID being based on Waterfield Drive there was a decrease in the average speed of vehicles on the road. The data shows that vehicles travelling uphill (from Silk Mills towards Bishop's Hull Road) were more likely to drive faster when the SID was facing away from them.

**Maximum speeds** - Speeding activity was seen at all times of the day, and on every day of the week.

Looking at the total number of vehicles speeding 7% (3,465 vehicles) sped while the SID was in place on Waterfield Drive. 700 of these vehicles exceeded 36 mph.

**Action:** This information has been passed to the local PCSO's to request action from them to observe and prosecute speeding individuals.

The Speed Indicator device has now been moved to a new location on Bishop's Hull Road and data will be shared with residents in next month's edition..

## GREGORY STEWARD

Professional Tenor

Presents a Christmas themed concert

Featuring:-

*O Holy Night*

*White Christmas*

*In The Bleak Midwinter*

*Ave Maria*

and more

**St Peter and St Paul Church,  
Bishop's Hull**

**Saturday December 16th  
2023 at 3 p.m**

Tickets £12

Refreshments available

To book tickets please  
contact the Church Office

01823 336102

Or Pay On The Door



### **ST PETER & ST PAUL 'EVENTS' FOR DECEMBER**

A summary of the 'special' services/events in December is:

03 Dec @ 10am - Advent Carols plus 'just10' video .4

10 Dec @ 10am - Christingle Service

16 Dec @ 3pm - Christmas Concert with Gregory Steward (£12 per ticket) "back by popular demand!"

17 Dec @ 6.30pm - Traditional Carol Service

18 Dec @ 6.30pm - Community Carol Singing outside church

24 Dec @ 4pm - Crib Service

24 Dec @ 11.30pm - Midnight Communion Service

25 Dec @ 10am - Family Christmas Celebration

27 Dec - no services

31 Dec @ 8am & 10am Communion as usual



## **BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST**



### **50 years ago**

**A**t the Women's Institute meeting Miss Waterfield welcomed members and guests and Mrs Spurway reported on a one-day conference organised by SWEB to introduce the latest electrical appliances for use in the home. Mr Winter of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council told members that a breakthrough in research on the causes of arthritis was hoped for in the 1970s. He was thanked by Mrs Beer. The competition, a hat trimmed with berries, was won by Mrs Roe.

In considering the judge's report in connection with this year's best-kept village competition, Parish Council members again expressed their disappointment as to the current state of the village, both in terms of the regularity of the road sweeping and a general untidiness caused by litter. The clerk, Mr T Hodge, was asked to take action on these matters. Street lighting problems in Mountway Road and Shutewater Hill caused by overgrown trees and hedges were discussed and the chairman, Mr AE Smith, undertook to discuss the matter with SWEB. The clerk informed the council that following complaints that heavy lorries are using the narrow roads at Rumwell, the Divisional Highways Surveyor had been asked to erect prohibition notices. The council was informed that following the Government's 'cutback' on minor Road expenditure the county surveyor had informed Taunton Rural Council that the proposed roadway between Bishop's Hull School and Northfield Stores would be deferred. The clerk was asked to express to the RDC the council's bitter disappointment that this project should be delayed.

Members of the Good Companions went on an afternoon trip by coach to Tiverton, with the return trip through the Exe Valley. They played bingo at a previous meeting and have said farewell to a member, Mrs Horne, who has left the village.

In the municipal baths in Taunton, six pupils from Bishop's Hull Primary School qualified for their ASA personal survival bronze awards. As part of the test each had to swim a quarter of a mile. The successful pupils were Neal Craddock, Nicholas Clarke, Belinda Flynn, David Oaten, Gary Rouse and Andrew Lamb. Previously this term another pupil, Brian Lowe, gained a gold award, securing a free entry pass to the municipal baths for one year.

The women's group of the Conservative Association held its monthly meeting at Meryan House Hotel. Mr E Cinderey spoke about the working of the Telephone Department and answered many questions. After a vote of thanks to the speaker, tea was served and the competition held. In lieu of the following meeting, a mini-coach trip was arranged to Lynton, with a visit to a sheepskin factory. The members had tea on the beach at Blue Anchor.

### **145 years ago**

Bishop's Hull Choir entertained an audience at the Reading Room in the centre of the village, kindly lent to the village by Mr Edwin Bryant of Roughmoor. Colonel Rawlings presided and briefly addressed the audience in terms of congratulations on the recent establishment of the choir and expressed the hope that it would have the effect of attracting the young men of the village from the public houses. He spoke a word too in favour of coffee inns and hoped to see such an institution established in Bishop's Hull. The evening continued with readings, songs and glees. The following ladies and gentlemen took part: - Mrs Williams, Miss Mills, Miss Atkyns, Miss Bryant, Miss Seamen, Miss Elton, Miss Richards; Colonel Rawlings, Mr Barnwell, Mr Whale, Mr Turner, Mr Perry, Mr B Tomlin, Mr Drillien, Mr T Patton, Rev W Williams, Mr J Mayes and Mr Munro. The Bishop's Hull church choir also rendered a couple of glees. The room was tastefully decorated, some handsome pot flowers being lent for the occasion. The party then adjourned to an excellent supper at the vicarage, after which dancing was the order of the evening.

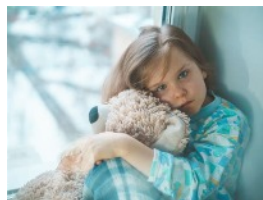
A vestry meeting was held at Bishop's Hull Church for the election of parish officers. The Vicar, the Rev WP Williams, occupied the chair. The last year's accounts and the charity accounts were passed, the latter showing a slight balance in hand. Mr E Bryant was elected waywarden, Mr HJ Hill guardian of the poor for the rural district of the parish and Mr James Payne was appointed guardian of the urban district.

The Taunton Volunteers had a march out to Bishop's Hull, where they drilled in a field kindly lent by the Rev Williams of the vicarage. The company, under the command of Lieut Saunders, numbered 9 sergeants, 92 rank and file and 20 band.

The 90th anniversary of the Bishop's Hull Congregational Sunday School was celebrated with sermons being preached in the morning by Mr W Rawlinson and in the evening by Rev W Lee, pastor. As part of the celebrations, the improved school house and new classrooms were opened.

**Prospect of winter energy bills causing anxiety for millions, says Archbishop of York**

Millions are looking ahead to this winter with ‘fear and anxiety’ about the cost of heating their homes, the Archbishop of York has said as he backed the recent launch of a campaign to provide a network of warm spaces for people who struggle to pay their energy bills.



Archbishop Stephen Cottrell is encouraging churches to consider getting involved in the Warm Welcome campaign, a network of venues from community centres to churches providing warm spaces over the winter for people struggling to heat their homes.

Archbishop Stephen said: “Sadly, what began as a cost-of-living crisis has simply become the new normal for many.

“Millions of people will look ahead to this winter with fear and anxiety, wondering how they are going to cope with high living costs. That is why I am proud to endorse the Warm Welcome campaign this winter.

“But a warm welcome isn’t only about the temperature. It is about kindness and community, giving people the chance to be seen and known, to belong and to be part of something. It is about celebrating the God-given value and dignity of every single person, finding hope and community together. But of course, none of that will happen if people are cold.”

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**Big Ben**

Do you stay up until midnight on New Year’s Eve? If so, this year will be special – it is 100 years ago, on 31st December 1923, that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome in the New Year.

For it was not until 31st December 1923 that the chimes of Big Ben were ever heard outside of Parliament and Westminster. But then the BBC got permission to broadcast them to the nation, and history was made.

That first year, the BBC engineers were not allowed into Parliament, and so had to access Big Ben from the roof of the Palace of Westminster. This meant that their microphone picked up not just the chimes, but a lot of traffic noise as well. But a tradition had started, and by 1924 the Big Ben bonges were being broadcast every day. By then the BBC had installed low sensitivity microphones very close to the bells, so that they missed the sound of the clock mechanism.

The nation quickly came to love the sound of Big Ben, and during the Second World War the chimes were broadcast across occupied Europe – encouraging millions in their struggle against the Nazis.

The Big Ben daily time signal on the BBC is still cherished today, and Big Ben rings live for important events such as Remembrance Day and New Year, when the BBC sends the sound right around the world.

<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/december/big-ben-new-year/>

## **Village Agent Newsletter – November 2023**

### **Helping you stay warm this winter.**

**W**hilst we have had a reasonably mild autumn, winter is now here and many households across Somerset will be bracing themselves for a tough few month ahead, trying to stay warm and put food on the table.

No one should ever have to choose between heating or eating, but sadly this will be the reality for many in our communities.

We are launching our 'Knit for your Neighbour' campaign this month.

We are calling on all knitters, crocheters and quilters in Somerset to make blankets for those in need, helping them stay warm and healthy this winter.

All completed blankets can be dropped off at any of our Talking Café venues across Somerset. Blankets can then be collected through the Talking Café venues as well, or our team of Village Agents will make sure that blankets are delivered to the most vulnerable if unable to get to a Talking Cafe.

If you don't knit or sew, but would like to donate a blanket, we will also accept new blankets with tags on, but we are unable to accept secondhand blankets.

**The Community Council for Somerset** can support anyone who finds themselves struggling to heat their home at a temperature needed to keep warm and healthy. Among our team of Village and Community Agents, we have 'Energy Champions' who work closely with the Centre for Sustainable Energy and can offer clients advice on how to stay warm this winter.

Our Energy Champions can provide support with:

- Boiler efficiency

- Stopping draughts

- Installing thermal curtains

- Making sure there is sufficient flooring.

- Checking that you are on the correct tariff and/or moving you to a better one.

We can also make referrals to others who can help, such as National Energy Action. Our partners at the **Citizens Advice Bureau** can help make sure that you are receiving any benefits that you might be entitled to.

If you or someone you know is struggling to stay warm this winter, please pop along to your local Talking Café.

**The Community Council for Somerset** will once again be one of the local agencies responsible for administering the '**Surviving Winter Grant**' funds which are made up from people who donate their winter fuel payments back to be used for those elderly in need. Surviving Winter grants are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes. If you or someone you know is struggling to heat their home, please do contact your local Village Agent or call CCS on 01823 331222. You will need the consent of the person you are referring to us.

**'Warm Spaces'** will again be available across Taunton Deane for those who wish to attend a warm environment which will also have hot refreshments available. The list is currently being put together by 'Spark' and will be ready at



some point in November. Please contact CCS or talk to your local Village Agent for more information.

**Wellsprings Community Church** will again be providing free Christmas lunches on Christmas Day for anyone who would welcome a hot Christmas lunch and some company. Your Village Agent has full details and can book a space for you or pass on details for you to do so yourself.

**Your nearest Talking Café is: St Michael's Church, Galmington.**

1st Friday of the month 9am-10.30am.

Your local Village Agent is: NAME: Jacqui NUMBER: 07375 371546

EMAIL: jacquid@somersetccc.org.uk

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### **21st December    Winter Solstice**



**A** Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens.

Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches.

With the advent of Christianity, the Spring gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World.

The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green...." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs, as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance.

By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene."



## Neighbourhood Beat Team

PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.police.uk



**Avon and Somerset Police**  
**SERVE.PROTECT.RESPECT.**

**D**ear Coordinators,

We continue to receive reports of this type of text message fraud. Typically, the potential victim will receive a text or email message from a recognised company to say that they have tried to deliver a parcel and that there is now a delivery fee for it to be resent. These “phishing” messages are sent to thousands of phone numbers, in the hope that someone is actually expecting to get a parcel and that they’ll click on the link without thinking.

If you click the link the fraudsters will request personal and bank or card details in order to rearrange delivery. The details you provide are then used to commit identity fraud or make fraudulent transactions. The link may also be used to download spyware or a virus onto your phone or computer. You may then be contacted a short time later by the fraudster who will claim to be from the bank to say that there is a problem with your account and that your money is at risk. Using the information that they got from the initial phishing text, they will then try to get you to move your money into a “safe account” which is one belonging to the criminal and you

are simply handing them your money.

They may even contact you to say that they are police officers and that your money is at risk and needs to be moved urgently or you’ll lose it. Unfortunately, these criminals are very good at panicking people into believing their lies.

Why is Fraud a priority for Avon and Somerset Police?

Fraud now represents a third of all crime reported in the United Kingdom

It costs the UK economy an estimated £210 billion a year

Only 20% of frauds are reported to the police

One in three people have been a victim of fraud

Fraud can affect people’s mental health as they feel too embarrassed to reveal they were a victim.

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**A** home was burgled between 1pm and 2pm on the 30th of September in Morgans Rise, Bishops Hull. The informant reported on behalf of a vulnerable resident that men had arrived to collect payment for guttering work on the property and when entering the address were presented with a cheque for payment.

Whilst in the process of writing the cheque the suspects distracted the resident and stole cash from within. Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5223252697 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

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October 23rd, (9-7-8-8), AWO47 – Theft, Garden Shed & Motor Vehicle. An attempt was made to gain entry to a garden shed in Wassail View, Norton Fitzwarren, on the 20th around 3am. After failing to gain entry to the shed, the suspect then entered the owner's vehicle (details not provided) where inside a small amount of cash and phone chargers were stolen from within.

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October 23rd, (9-7-8-8), AWO47 – Residential Garage Burglary. A garage was burgled in Stembidge Way, Norton Fitzwarren, between 10pm on the 20th and 7am on the 21st. The offenders gained entry to a van, without force, where they stole keys to access a garage. Once inside they then stole a KTM Duke 390 motorcycle in Orange and White. Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5223256374 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support

\*\*\*\*\*

There has been an increase in theft from / of vans, particularly Ford Transit vans in your area. Our intelligence has highlighted these mostly occur during the early hours

between 1am and 3am but are not exclusive to these times.

It is imperative that any victims report their incident either through 101 or the online reporting method below.

If you do make a report online, please include the following details:

Make & Model of Vehicle.

How the offenders gained access.

Any other details you feel may be relevant.

Report on 101 Or online at:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### September 2023

340 crimes were recorded in Taunton Central

### Category . Crimes recorded

Anti-social behaviour	54
Bicycle theft	1
Burglary	8
Criminal damage arson	29
Drugs	4
Other theft	16
Possession of weapons	3
Public order	25
Robbery	2
Shoplifting	66
Theft from the person	4
Vehicle crime	16
<b>Violent crime</b>	<b>107</b>
Other crime	5

\*\*\*\*\*

### **STAY SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS**



### **What does your TV licence cover?**

**I**magine something unlikely! This Christmas, there is one television programme that the whole family wants to enjoy, but everyone will view it differently. So - you are resting upstairs and watching it on the portable set in the bedroom. Your partner is still at work and watching it on a laptop in the office. Your son is at university and watching it on his computer live. Your daughter who lives with you is on the train coming home for Christmas, loaded with dirty clothes, and using her mobile phone to see the programme. Your neighbour does not have a television but will listen to the King's speech on the radio. A happy typical family scene!

You are covered if you have a television licence as it includes the whole house. If you have let out a part of your house on a separate tenancy, the tenant needs a licence.



Your student son must have his own TV Licence if he watches or records programmes as they are being shown on TV or live on an online TV service, download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer. If he shares a house, then one licence is sufficient for the house.

Your partner needs a separate TV Licence for the office if he watches live on an office phone, tablet or computer.

Staff or customers do not need a licence if they watch live TV at the business address using their own device, if it is not plugged into the mains, and there is a TV Licence at their home address.

Your daughter is covered by your home licence. The neighbour does not need a licence to listen to the radio.

You must have a TV Licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand. If you already have a TV Licence, you are already covered.

As always this is only a guide, and if in doubt get advice. The TV Licensing website has some very clear and helpful advice and a set of FAQs.

<http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/>

---

**O**ld age, believe me, is a good and pleasant time. It is true that you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator, and, if you really have played your part, you are more content to sit down and watch. - *Jane Harrison*

**C**onstant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. - *Albert Schweitzer*



### **The Most Beautiful Story**

A well-known atheist was once interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, and he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. 'But you're an atheist', his interviewer protested. 'Yes', he replied, 'but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told'.

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.



Most of us are familiar with probably the best-known statue in the world, Christ the Redeemer, towering over Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough. His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.

---

### **25th December Why begin at midnight with Holy Communion?**

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the real hour of His birth.

Certainly, in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time." (So things don't change, then!)

## **EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING DECEMBER**

### **MEATS (REHEATED)**

#### **SCRAP ROAST**

1/2 lb. of lentils  
chopped parsley and sage  
1/2 lb. of stale breadcrumbs  
1 pint of vegetable stock or water  
2 or 3 onions  
1 oz. of margarine  
Remains of mutton  
Salt, pepper

(Lentils and breadcrumbs to be soaked overnight)

Peel the onions and slice finely, drain the lentils, put them in a saucepan with the margarine and onions, and stir over heat for 5 minutes, add stock or water, and cook till soft. More water can be added if necessary, but the mixture should be fairly dry when done.

Squeeze the bread dry and beat up with a fork, mince the meat, and add pepper and salt and herbs\_ and prepared lentils.

Mix well with the dripping in dish or baking tin, and press the mixture well in.

Smooth top and dot with pieces of dripping.

Bake in a fairly hot oven till brown; turn out, serve with brown sauce poured over.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CASSEROLE**

Put any stock or left-over gravy into a casserole with 3 carrots cut into dice and 3 tomatoes sliced. Place on the stove or in the oven to cook.

Fry 3 good-sized onions and add, then cut up left-over meat, beef preferably, into dice shape, and put with vegetables in the casserole ;

season with pepper and salt to taste. Thicken the gravy with a table-spoonful of flour, a little gravy browning, and a little Worcester Sauce.

Return to the oven to finish cooking. Meanwhile, fry sliced potatoes a nice golden brown, and just before sending to table arrange nicely over the top.

Serve at once, so that the potatoes do not get sodden.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CASSEROLE OF COOKED MEAT**



1 lb. of cooked meat  
1/2 pint of gravy  
2 oz. of macaroni  
1 egg  
cold potatoes  
Salt and pepper

Sieve the potatoes, season and mix with the egg; line a well-buttered mould with the potato mixture, and bake for half an hour in a moderate oven.

Remove from the mould, and place on a hot dish.

Boil the macaroni till tender, cut into small pieces ; chop or mince the meat, adding the gravy and seasoning.

Make hot, and put in the centre of the potato, and serve hot.

### **THRIMBLE MILL PUDDING**

4 oz. of flour  
1 egg  
2 oz. of suet  
1/2 teacupful of milk  
2 oz. sugar  
1/4 teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda  
2 oz. grated apple\_  
rind and juice of half a lemon

Mix the flour, suet, sugar, grated apple and rind of lemon together. Mix to a paste with the lemon juice, well-beaten egg and milk, and last of all the bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in some of the milk.

Turn into a greased pudding basin coated with demerara sugar; cover with two thicknesses of greased paper, and steam from 1½ to 2 hours.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MOUSSELINE PUDDING**



1 oz. butter  
1 oz. sugar.  
3 small eggs  
The rind and juice of 1 lemon

Stir butter, sugar, and yolks of eggs, grated rind and juice of the lemon over boiling water till it is as thick as honey Beat the egg whites very stiffly and stir into the mixture very lightly, and steam for half an hour.

### **MELROSE PUDDING**

3 oz. flour  
2 oz. butter  
1/2 oz. baking powder  
1 oz. ground almonds  
2 eggs  
A few preserved cherries or raisins  
3 oz. caster sugar

Measure out the ingredients.

Butter a plain mould, dust it with sugar and decorate with a. few cherries or raisins.

Beat the butter and sugar to a cream, beat up the eggs and add them.

Stir in the flour, almonds and baking powder, and mix thoroughly.

Pour at once into prepared mould, cover with a piece of buttered paper, and steam for 1 ½ hours.

Turn out and serve hot with jam, marmalade or golden syrup.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BROWN BREAD PUDDING**



2 eggs  
1/2 pint milk  
1/2 lb. stale brown bread, grated  
1/2 lb. shredded suet  
1/2 lb. sugar  
1/2 lb. currants  
Half a nutmeg

Mix well together and boil in a greased basin for 3 hours. Serve with treacle.

## **Tim's Tech Tips**

### **Floating away down the Photostream**

**T**he wonder of a young child, standing on a bridge and dropping sticks in the river, running to the other side of the bridge, and seeing it come through and float away!

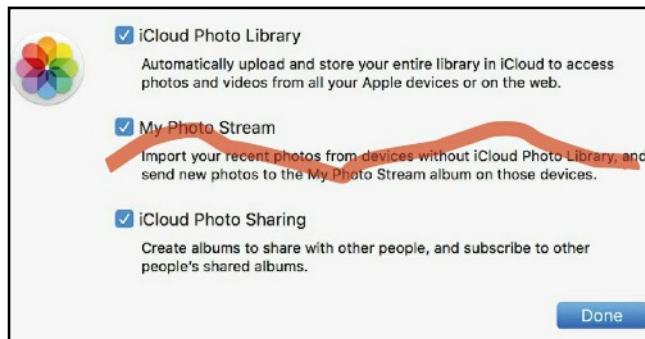
This analogy is apt in two ways concerning the changes Apple made to the My Photo Stream service, in July 2023. Firstly, Photo Stream - often misunderstood - was like a river, that carried things in a one-way direction. You take a picture with your iPhone. The photo stores on the iPhone but, if you used the My Photo Stream facility from Apple iCloud, the photo would also travel one way like a stick on a river, from the iPhone to, say, your iPad or Mac computer. It would pass through iCloud, but - crucially - not stay there. It was a simple and effective way of accumulating your digital photos, you take out and about, on your Apple (or if you could with the additional pain, Windows) computer.

However, in July 2023, Apple decided to drop 'My Photo Stream' into our metaphorical river, and let it float away downstream, never to be seen again. I had a deluge of calls from people saying 'Help, what do I do now?' You see, Photo Stream was free to use but didn't make Apple any money. Crucially, it meant people didn't have to use iCloud Photos - the parallel service that also transfers your images from one Apple device to another - with the key difference that photos are also stored in iCloud - a free but limited storage space service on the internet. Free, that is, until you hit 5Gb of space used. 'No worry', say Apple, you can have more iCloud space - eg. 10 or 25 times - if you pay £1 or £2.50 a month.

So, for many who I have helped, to keep wirelessly transferring photos from iPhone to Mac or iPad, they have had to start paying. The more cynical view sees Apple's decision to turn off Photo Stream as a way to massively increase revenue. Imagine £1 a month from, say 10 million people in the UK. Its a great business model to have. "Its only £1", 10 million times.

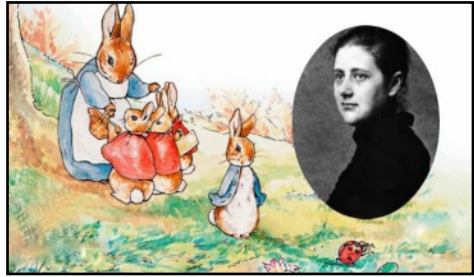
Good news, however. To carry on transferring photos for free, simply plug in your charging cable from the iPhone into the back of the Mac.

Then, in the Mac Photos app, head to File and Import. Photos app will bring in all missing pictures from the iPhone, and store them like before. It is a bit more hassle, but it works for some to carry on, post My Photo Stream.



## **Beatrix Potter**

**I**t was 80 years ago this month, on 22nd December 1943, that Beatrix Potter, the children's writer and illustrator, died. Her animal characters such as Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle, and Jemima Puddle-Duck brought her worldwide fame – and made her loved by children right round the world.



Helen Beatrix Potter (28 July 1866 – 22 December 1943) had enjoyed an upper-middle-class childhood, but it was also solitary. Instead of access to childhood friends, she was given numerous pets and spent holidays in Scotland and the Lake District, where she learned to love landscape, flora and fauna.

Beatrix Potter was in her thirties when she first self-published *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* in 1902.

Its immense success meant that she began writing and illustrating children's books full-time. In all, Potter wrote more than 60 books. Her best-known ones were her 23 children's books. Her books went on to sell more than 250 million copies. When in 1903 *Peter Rabbit* was made into a patented stuffed toy, he became the first fictional character to have this honour.

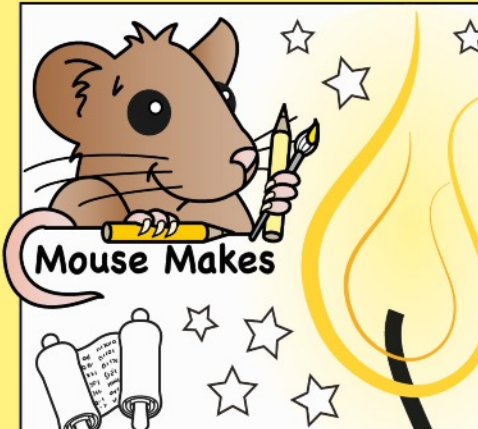
Potter used the sales of her books and a legacy from an aunt in 1905 to buy Hill Top Farm in Near Sawrey, a village in the Lake District. Over the following decades, she bought many additional farms, in order to preserve the unique hill country landscape from developers.

In 1913, when she was 47, Beatrix married William Heelis, a local solicitor in Hawkshead. By now she was also a prize-winning breeder of Herdwick sheep and a farmer.


In 1943, when she was 77, Potter died of pneumonia and heart disease at her home in Near Sawrey. She left most of her property to the National Trust, which means that she deserves the credit for so much of the land that now makes up the Lake District National Park.








**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**  
*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**  
*Luke 1:26-38*


ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.

**A LONG JOURNEY**  
*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**  
*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

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

Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## **Bishop's letter - A unique story**



*When I speak to my Mum on my birthday, she often recalls to me the events that surrounded my arrival in the world. These include nearly being born in the hospital lift, my older brother being smuggled in to see me under my Dad's overcoat and of various aunts sneaking onto the maternity ward out of visiting*

*hours by wearing their WRVS uniforms.*

*Each of us has a unique story about our birth. At Christmas we'll be recounting once again the story that we share about another birth - the birth of Jesus. Across the world we'll be re-telling and re-enacting what happened in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. We'll recall the journey of Mary and Joseph, the birth in the stable, the arrival of the shepherds, the song of the angels, the visit of the Magi.*

*Our own birth stories are unique to each of us. Jesus's is common to us all. And not just because we all know about it. For in our recollection of Jesus' birth, we'll also be remembering that in him, God came to be at one with us. In Jesus God arrived to share fully in our humanity, experiencing complete solidarity with every aspect of our human condition. Jesus is 'God with us' – in trenches in Ukraine, bomb shelters in Israel and Gaza, in hospital wards where loved ones die, in relationships where there is conflict and distress.*

*Just as much as he is with us in our greatest joys and our deepest woes, Jesus is also for us. One of the earliest teachers of the Church said this: 'He became what we are so that we might become what he is.' The baby born in Bethlehem stands with us not only in all that we experience. This child also comes to offer us the possibility of opening every part of our lives to the transforming power of God's life of love and joy and peace. He comes so that every day we can become a little more like him.*

*This is the good news of Christmas and may it be yours this year.*

*A very Merry Christmas to you all.*

*Bishop Michael*

**A further extract from E W Hendy's book (1943)  
Somerset Birds and some other folk.**

**A**mong other continental nations 'there exists—or did before the War——a more humane attitude towards bird life. The transportation by aeroplane to Italy of swallows overcome by cold in Germany and Austria is a memorable instance. In Switzerland there are several bird protection societies. The English-speaking races have a good record: many wild life and bird sanctuaries 'exist in our colonies and mandated territories. America has her National Association of Audubon Societies. A Migratory Birds Convention was completed between the United States and Canada in 1917, which, on paper at any rate, gives protection to many migratory birds, though from the criticisms made by Mr. H.J. Parham in his book *A Nature Lover in British Columbia* it seems that the administration of the law still leaves much to be desired. In Great Britain we have many societies among whose objects are the better protection of bird-life. The Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds proclaims that its aim is 'to make Scotland the most bird-loving country in the world'. 'Grey Owl', with his teaching of tolerance of man towards animals, was another sign of the times, and he loved birds as dearly as he loved his beavers.

All these activities are signs of increasing sympathy for birds and therefore of their kindly influence upon human nature. But it is here in England that these traits are most remarkable: my own experiences, which have, no doubt, been shared by many, seem to illustrate my point. Of the 'sweet friendliness' of some birds in my own garden I have written in another chapter. And from their example their youngsters learn that our house and its environs form an oasis of safety, where food, drink and baths may always be obtained. And our love of birds is evidently an infectious complaint, for our neighbours have learned its fascination: they have bird-tables, and some of them nesting boxes as well. In fact, all the adjoining gardens are bird-sanctuaries, and the tameness of the bird population in our lane is becoming proverbial in the village: the tamest chaffinches mob passers-by in the expectation that they, like us, carry food about in their pockets for their pleasure .

Wounded birds are often brought to me. When I lived in the North a farmer sent me an injured kestrel which had been shot and afterwards caught by a dog: it lived two months in my greenhouse the only safe place then available, and had become extraordinary tame by the time I released it. Here, at Porlock, the wire cage which covers my small fruit is a bird-sanatorium.

These straws show which way the wind blows; the growing kindness towards birds which they reveal is symptomatic of a changed attitude in this country: fifty years ago the few who took any interest in wild birds cared only to keep them in cages or collect their eggs. These atavistic hobbies still persist, but they are, as regards many species, illegal, and their unpopularity is increasing.

To most people a bird in the bush is now Worth more than two in the hand; for the former is in its natural environment while the latter are either corpses or prisoners. '

In the *Life and Letters* of John Galsworthy (Marrott) there is a letter by Galsworthy to a man who had caged a hawk which had pursued a sparrow into his house, from which the following is an extract:— 'I beg you most earnestly to reflect on what captivity means to a hawk or any of the large soaring birds. To keep such a bird caged is to keep on one's premises a piece of solid permanent suffering. . . . Watching the eagles and hawks in our Zoo, where, of course, they have a maximum of freedom and company as compared with private caging, I have often thought what living tragedies they looked. When one reflects on the nature of his (i.e. a hawk's) existence, the huge spaces that he covers, the way his eye is only fitted, as it were, for seeing at vast distances, the more one is forced to the conception of the utter misery he must suffer in a cage. It is as if some demon, for no reason that we can fathom, had seized one of us and shut us away from all the elements of our natural existence, pinned one of us down to perpetual suffering without rhyme or sense—this is what captivity must seem to a hawk. '

I must confess that my own feelings as to the larger raptures in Zoos are similar. To see them thus confined gives me no pleasure. It is different when they are captured and trained for hawking, which is their natural bent. There is, of course, no cruelty in a hawk killing for food, any more than in a thrush devouring a worm or a blue tit picking green-fly off rose leaves. They are merely following their instinctive modes of getting a livelihood. .

I believe that the waterfowl in St. James's Park have done much to make bird-watching popular and advertise its charms to the public. (They are a boon to the ornithologist too, who elsewhere knows them only at the end of a telescope.) They owe their introduction to Charles II, and that deed, at any rate, must be accounted to him for righteousness. To find birds as wild as mallard, widgeon, tufted duck and coot taking bits of currant bun from your fingers is a liberal education. And the interest shown in the pigeons in Trafalgar Square, at the Bank, in the Parks and at other frequented places in London, is significant. And among sportsmen who shoot game birds I have many friends who have learned to know and love wild birds also.

Though the birds-nesting boy is still a menace, school children are, as a race, more kindly in their feelings towards birds than they were when I was young. I am sure that the Bird and Tree Scheme, organised by the Society for the Protection of Birds, has had a salutary influence: each child chooses a bird and a tree for observation during the whole of a year, and at the end of the period writes an essay upon them. I have read a good many of these essays, and the knowledge and love of bird-life which they reveal is very heartening. These

children will never lose the affection for birds which they have learnt at this susceptible age.

It may seem to some that these facts are trivial, and have small significance today when cruelty and injustice have brought about a state of affairs in which civilised nations are killing each other by the most ingeniously scientific methods and when the barbarities of warfare make us sometimes doubt whether the spirit of man has made any real progress since the stone age. But sooner or later the world will return to sanity. Cruelty and injustice bear in themselves the seeds of their own decay; the brutal tyrannies, which now oppress so large a portion of the earth will perish as other tyrannies have perished. Meanwhile let us not forget the humanities. Love, the 'onlie begetter' of gentleness and kindliness, is eternal. It is the feelings of individuals which, in the end, form the national conscience. Those who have learned to love our 'little sisters the birds', as St. Francis called them, and their 'sweet friendliness', are on the side of the angels. In calmer days their influence will count.

In his delightful book, *A Bird in the Bush*, Lord Kennet says: 'To seek the company of birds from time to time . . . is an instinctive search for healing from the wounds of civilisation.' Who feels that has got at the heart of a bird; he knows, to use Lord Kennet's own words, 'the healing in birds' wings.' In these turbulent times let us remember that :—

*I come in the little things,  
Saith the Lord :  
Yea! On the glancing Wings  
Of eager birds . . .  
On every nest  
Where feathery Patience is content to brood  
And leaves her pleasure for the high emprise  
Of motherhood—  
There doth My Godhead rest. 1*

**1** From *Immanence* by Evelyn Underhill.





**From the archives: 1998 Kingston and Bishopsbourne magazine**

**Hints on pronunciation for foreigners**

*I take it you already know  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough.  
Others may stumble, but not you,*

*On hiccough, thorough, lough and though.  
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,  
To learn of less familiar traps?*

*Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.  
And dead, it's said like bed, not bead.  
For goodness sake don't call it 'deed'!*

*Watch out for meat and great and threat,  
(They rhyme with suite and grate and debt)*

*A moth is not a moth in mother  
Not both in bother, broth in brother,*

*And here is not a match for there  
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,  
And then there's dose and rose and lose —  
Just look them up - and goose and choose*

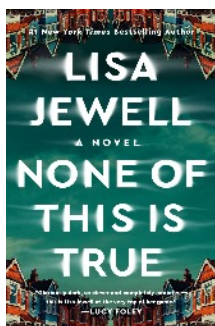
*And cork and work and card and ward  
And font and front and word and sword  
And do and go and thwart and cart —  
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!*

*A dreadful language? Man alive,  
I'd mastered it when I was five!*

(from Susan Gray)



## BOOK REVIEWS



### **None of This Is True**

Lisa Jewell

**C**elebrating her forty-fifth birthday at her local pub, popular podcaster Alix Summers crosses paths with an unassuming

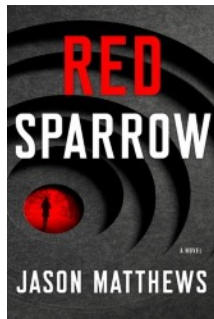
woman called Josie Fair. Josie, it turns out, is also celebrating her forty-fifth birthday. They are, in fact, birthday twins.

A few days later, Alix and Josie bump into each other again, this time outside Alix's children's school. Josie has been listening to Alix's podcasts and thinks she might be an interesting subject for her series. She is, she tells Alix, on the cusp of great changes in her life.

Josie's life appears to be strange and complicated, and although Alix finds her unsettling, she can't quite resist the temptation to keep making the podcast. Slowly she starts to realise that Josie has been hiding some very dark secrets, and before she knows it, Josie has inveigled her way into Alix's life—and into her home.

But, as quickly as she arrived, Josie disappears. Only then does Alix discover that Josie has left a terrible and terrifying legacy in her wake, and that Alix has become the subject of her own true crime podcast, with her life and her family's lives under mortal threat.

Who is Josie Fair? And what has she done?    ##



### **Red Sparrow**

Jason Matthews

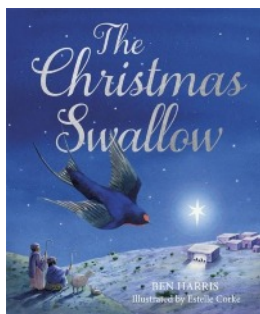
**I**n present-day Russia, ruled by blue-eyed, unblinking President Vladimir Putin, Russian intelligence officer Dominika Egorova struggles to survive in the post-Soviet intelligence jungle. Ordered against her will to become a “Sparrow,” a trained seductress, Dominika is assigned to operate against Nathaniel Nash, a young CIA officer who handles the Agency's most important Russian mole.

Spies have long relied on the “honey trap,” whereby vulnerable men and women are intimately compromised. Dominika learns these techniques of “sextionage” in Russia's secret “Sparrow School,” hidden outside of Moscow. As the action careens between Russia, Finland, Greece, Italy, and the United States, Dominika and Nate soon collide in a duel of wills, tradecraft, and—inevitably—forbidden passion that threatens not just their lives but those of others as well. As secret allegiances are made and broken, Dominika and Nate's game reaches a deadly crossroads. Soon one of them begins a dangerous double existence in a life-and-death operation that consumes intelligence agencies from Moscow to Washington, DC.

Page by page, veteran CIA officer Jason Matthews's *Red Sparrow* delights and terrifies and fascinates,

all while delivering an unforgettable cast, from a sadistic Spetsnaz “mechanic” who carries out Putin’s murderous schemes to the weary CIA Station Chief who resists Washington “cake-eaters” to MARBLE, the priceless Russian mole. Packed with insider detail and written with brio, this tour-de-force novel brims with Matthews’s life experience, including his knowledge of espionage, counterintelligence, surveillance tradecraft, spy recruitment, cyber-warfare, the Russian use of “spy dust,” and covert communications.

\*\*\*\*\*



### The Christmas Swallow

By Ben Harris

A swallow flits from here to there seeing the events of the Christmas story unfold.

This captivating picture book has a well-written narrative that uses repetitive phrases to engage young readers, introducing Biblical truths about the birth of Jesus, as rescuer and born from God. The excitement of the shepherds and the heart-warming visit of the wise men are brought to life with the vibrant colours and radiance of the illustrations by Estelle Corke.

Ideal for sharing with young children aged 3+ years during the Christmas season.

### Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies

by Robin Ham

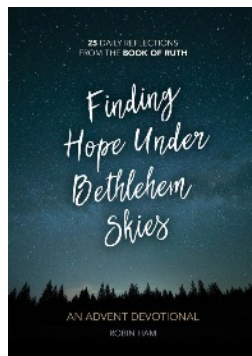
We’re all familiar with the Christmas story, but do you know the story behind the story?

Tucked away in the Bible, hundreds of years before

Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus, is the story of a girl called Ruth. It’s a story that rings true to our world a story of sadness and tears, even of death, but also a story of where hope can be found in the darkest places. A story that points us forward to the promise of a king.

Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies takes us on an Advent journey through 25 daily reflections. Each day has a short devotion, a suggested prayer and links to a response song. Come along to Bethlehem and discover the hope that shines brightly even on the darkest of nights.

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**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR READERS**



## Looking at You

### What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

**T**he time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual gasp at the cost of cards, and sheer disbelief at what the Post Office charges to send them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers, and the selective givers. Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying... However you decide to do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Proverbs 25:25. They will enjoy hearing from you!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Stop mist on your windscreen

**I**f you will be out in your car a lot this Christmas, here's an easy way to stop your windscreen from misting up: Simply clean it with shaving foam. It provides a protective barrier which stops mist forming. Ice hockey players use it to stop their face masks from steaming up while they're on the ice.

It's easy to do. Put a good dollop of shaving foam onto a clean towel, and then wipe it all over the windscreen.

Then take a second clean towel, and gently wipe off the shaving foam. This leaves a protective barrier, but it will need to be regularly reapplied, to continue to work.

This tip can be found on the RAC website: [www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk)

\*\*

### Tips to protect things from freezing

**T**his may look silly, but it works: Cover your windscreen wipers with old socks, to stop them sticking to the windscreen on a freezing morning. The RAC warns that if windscreen wipers cannot move, there is a risk the circuit will overheat and blow a fuse.

If you are cycling to work, try wearing a swimming cap under your cycling helmet – Cycling UK recommends it as a good extra layer, to keep warm. If you need to be outside for long, wear several thin layers instead of one big chunky one. The UK Health Security Agency says that the air which gets trapped between the layers also helps keep you warm.

\*\*

### Cold weather tips for pet owners

**C**heck your dog's paws for road grit salt after every walk – the stuff may clear snow and ice, but it is toxic to dogs.

Protect your rabbit and guinea pig hutches from snow, winter rain and cold draughts, and check that their water bottles are not frozen.

Don't leave your dog outside a shop in extremely cold weather – it is very stressful for them.

Don't leave your cat outside all night in freezing weather.

\*\*

### Why King Charles never throws cake away

King Charles is on a mission to tackle food poverty and rising food waste. It is said that he and the Queen eat daily slices from the same cake until it is finished, as part of a drive to curb their personal food waste.

As for the nation, the king has been increasingly concerned that in the UK, 12 million tons of food is thrown away each year - even though almost three quarters of it could still be eaten, according to experts. In contrast, an estimated 4.7 million people are living in food poverty. To combat this problem, King Charles has launched The Coronation Food Project, to coincide with this, his 75th year.

Up to eight new food hubs around the country will store food, prepare it, and package it, before redistributing it to organisations like food banks and community kitchens. The long-term goal is to circulate 200 million meals a year.

In the meantime, King Charles is careful not to throw his cake away. Is there one simple thing you could do in your own kitchen this Christmas, to curb your personal food waste?

\*\*\*\*\*

### Drink tea or coffee each day – and keep old age weakness away!

Recent research has found that drinking coffee or tea in midlife may help keep you stronger in later life.

A study at the National University of Singapore concluded that higher caffeine intake is associated with lower odds of physical frailty in old

age, regardless of the source of the caffeine.

Physical frailty in old age was defined as having at least two of the following: weight loss, exhaustion, slowness and weakness. The scientists also measured handgrip strength and the time taken to complete a timed up-and-go (TUG) test.

In addition to caffeine, coffee and tea contain rich bioactive polyphenols, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. These have been associated with reduced risk for diseases that increase frailty, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, obesity and neuro- degenerative disease.

### No more 'postcode lottery' recycling

Life is going to become simpler when it comes to recycling. From 2026, the national recycling laws are to be standardised, with Councils across the UK all having to collect the same glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, food waste and garden waste. It is expected that the plans will lead to packaging that is clearly labelled 'recyclable' or not, without the need for households to check local provisions.

"Simpler recycling will help us all recycle more easily, doing our bit to help save the planet and make the best use of precious resources that we use every day," said Therese Coffey, the Environment Secretary.

"Alongside weekly food waste collections, we are ending the postcode lottery of what you can put in your bin, so that wherever you live in the country, you will be able to recycle the same products with confidence."



## SMILES

### Mother in a storm

One cold winter night, during a violent storm, a mother was tucking her small, frightened little boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he said with a tremor in his voice: "Mummy, will you stay with me tonight?" Mummy smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said, "I have to sleep with Daddy." A long silence – and then came his shaky reply: "The big coward!"

\*\*

### Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange."

The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"

\*\*

### A Shaggy Dog Story from the Atlanta Daily

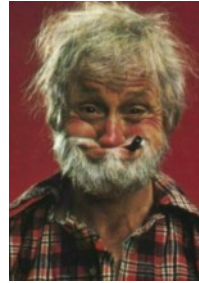
SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cosy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call (404) 874-7421 and ask for Petra.

*Over 10,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane*

*Society about an 6-week old black Labrador puppy.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Classic Shaggy Dog Story - No Dogs Involved!



Take a good look at this man's mug shot then read the paragraph underneath.

### Golf Story

A man was walking down the street when he was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless man (see above) who asked him for a couple of dollars for dinner. The man took out his wallet, extracted ten dollars and asked, 'If I give you this money, will you buy some beer with it instead of dinner?' No, I had to stop drinking years ago, 'the homeless man replied. 'Will you use it to go fishing instead of buying food?' the man asked. 'No, I don't waste time fishing, 'the homeless man said. 'I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive.' 'Will you spend this on greens fees at a golf course instead of food?' the man asked. 'Are you NUTS!' replied the homeless man. 'I haven't played golf in 20 years!' 'Well, 'said the man, 'I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you home for a terrific dinner cooked by my wife.'

The homeless man was astounded.' Won't your wife be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting.' The man replied, 'That's okay. It's important for her to see what a man looks like after he has given up beer, fishing, golf, and women.'

\*\*\*\*\*

### Easy to Swallow?

**M**y sister, Paula, and her husband, Chris, had just finished tucking their young ones into bed one evening when they heard crying coming from the children's room. Rushing in, they found Tommy crying hysterically.

He had accidentally swallowed a 5p piece and was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking could change his mind. Trying to calm him, Chris palmed a 5p coin that he happened to have in his pocket and pretended to remove it from Tommy's ear. Tommy, naturally, was delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed it and demanded cheerfully - 'Do it again, Dad!'

\*\*\*\*\*

**P**utin is held hostage by a terrorist. A Russian truckdriver stops at the back of a long queue on the motorway. He sees a policeman walking down the line of stopped cars to briefly talk to the drivers. As the policeman approaches the truck, the truckdriver rolls down his window and asks, "What's going on?" Policeman: "A terrorist is holding Putin hostage in a car. He's demanding 10 million roubles, or he'll douse Putin in petrol and set him on fire. So we're asking drivers for donations."

Driver: "Oh, ok. How much do people donate on average."

Policeman: "About a gallon."

\*\*\*\*\*

**A**fter a prolonged drought when the rain came, all the animals in the forest were happy except the Kangaroo. When the others asked him what the reason was for such sadness, the Kangaroo revealed that the rain meant that all its kids would now be playing inside.

\*\*\*\*\*

**A** man is sitting at home when he hears a knock at the door. He opens the door and sees a snail on the porch. He picks up the snail and throws it as far as he can.

A year later, there's another knock at the door. He opens it and sees the same snail. The snail says, "What was that all about?"

\*\*\*\*\*

**M**y nagging wife died suddenly on a trip to Jerusalem. Funeral director, "Sir, it would cost about \$45,000 if we send her home back to the states or \$500 if we bury her here in Jerusalem."

Me: "Ship her home."

Funeral director: "But sir, why don't you bury her here in the Holy Land and you can save money."

Me: "A long time ago a man was buried here and three days later he rose from the dead, I can't take that chance."

\*\*\*\*\*

**I** was visiting the house of a distant cousin when I saw that he was playing chess with his cat. I said that it had to be the most intelligent cat ever. My cousin replied, "Absolutely not! She has lost all her matches!"

\*\*\*\*\*

"Mother's Day."

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs.

"As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "we decided to cook our own breakfast."

\*\*\*\*\*

A New York attorney representing a wealthy art collector called his client and said to him, "Saul, I have some good news and I have some bad news."

The art collector replied, "I've had an awful day; let's hear the good news first."

The attorney said, "Well, I met with your wife today, and she informed me that she invested \$5,000 in two pictures that she thinks will bring a minimum of \$15-20 million. I think she could be right."

Saul replied enthusiastically, "Well done! My wife is a brilliant businesswoman! You've just made my day. Now I know I can handle the bad news. What is it?"

The attorney replied, "The pictures are of you with your secretary."

\*\*\*\*\*

After Sunday church, the priest would hand us each an orange and a big cookie. A little girl once lied and took two oranges, but the priest told her she mustn't lie because God is watching. Then, the girl took two cookies and lied about it. When asked why she had done

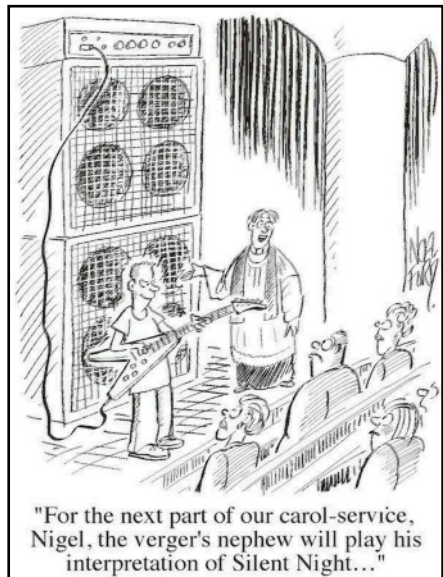
that, she said because she thought that God was only watching oranges.

\*\*\*\*\*

A tough old cowboy from Texas counselled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning.

The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103, when she died.

She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'... If you would like a copy of our published booklet of Uncle Eustace's letters, please email us at: [enquiries@parishpump.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@parishpump.co.uk)*

## **On how to make the most of carol singing**

*The Rectory  
St James the Least of All*

*My dear Nephew Darren,*

*Carol singing is not what it used to be. My fond memories of a group of choristers, muffled in scarves and overcoats, carrying lanterns, and walking from door to door in the snow, as they sang 'While shepherds watched ...' had to be suddenly revised when I saw your own music group, in T-shirts inscribed with 'Jesus loves You', singing 'Little donkey', in your shopping centre. I suspect any money you raised would just about have paid for the electricity used to power your banks of electronic equipment. Singing in the main square of the Centre next to the fountain may have looked good, but it seemed to mean that the choir men were obliged to make constant trips to the lavatory.*

*Here at St James the Least of All, carol singing is regarded as a staff perk for the choir; the year when the Boys' Brigade tried to break their monopoly was suppressed with a ruthlessness that would have impressed Genghis Kahn.*

*Our annual carol-singing route involves months of meticulous planning. We find that a transparent collection box is vital, so that donors can see what earlier patrons have given. This means that those who are bound to put in notes must be visited first – 'pour encourager les autres'. It also needs a detachable base, so that if coppers are given, they can be removed from sight before the next call.*

*Those homes that contain several children are visited just after bedtime, so that parents will give generously simply to get the choir to go somewhere else. Veiled threats to stay and sing more carols (unless they give generously) are usually very effective. Getting whoever looks the most innocent and photogenic to ring the bell and ask for money is a far more subtle way of ensuring a donation than planting any number of mafia lookalikes (such as our church treasurer) on the doorstep.*

*The choir always finishes its evening at the local pub – but again, the timing must be carefully managed. Too early and there will only be the landlord, his wife, and their Labrador to listen; too late and people will be so full of Christmas cheer that any carols will be hi-jacked and become the equivalent of back-of-the bus rugby songs.*

*Your loving uncle,  
Eustace*

### **Taunton (Priorswood)** **Recycling centre**

**T**aunton Recycling Site has been closed since the beginning of October, due to a fire that broke out in the neighbouring Material Recovery Facility (MRF), where materials are sorted to be sent on to recycling re-processors. Although the fire was not in the public area, the structure was too damaged to safely open the site. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

Last week specialist demolition crews begun to take down the facility. The site will be back open soon, keep an eye on social media or our website for details.

We'd like to thank residents for their patience during this time. We expect the site to be busy for the first fortnight after it reopens, and if you have the space to safely store it, we ask you to continue to hold your waste for a couple of weeks.

### **Wellington (Poole)** **Recycling centre**

Opening hours from 1 April  
Summer 1 Apr - 30 Sept  
Winter 1 Oct - 31 Mar

Monday

Closed\*

Closed\*

Tuesday

Closed\*

Closed\*

Wednesday

9am to 6pm

9am to 5pm

Thursday

9am to 6pm

9am to 5pm

Friday

9am to 6pm

9am to 5pm

Saturday

9am to 4pm

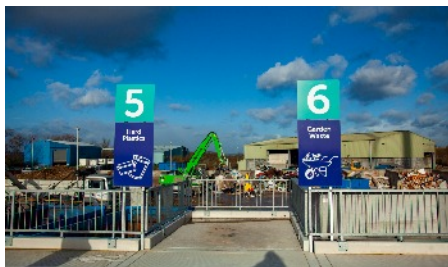
9am to 4pm

Sunday

9am to 4pm

9am to 4pm

**\*When this site is closed, open site options include: Taunton and Williton.**





## Regular Weekly Events

### **MONDAYS**

10-11am Nia	BH HUB
10-12noon Painting Group	FBC
11.15-12.45 Sweaty Mama	HUB
1.30-4.00pm Whist Club	FBC
2.00-4.00 Bridge Not 1st Mon	FBC
6.30--7.30pm Zumba	BH HUB
7.30pm Tone Big Band (1st & 3rd Mon)	BH HUB

### **TUESDAYS**

12.30-1.30 Postnatal Yoga	BH HUB
6.15-7.00am Group Fitness	BH HUB
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi & QI	BH HUB
10.00-4.00pm Games	FBC
7-8pm Yoga	BH HUB

### **WEDNESDAYS**

10.00--11.00 Mum&Baby Pilates	HUB
2.00-4.30 Short Mat Bowls	BH HUB

10.00-11.00 Flexercise	FBC
11.00-12.00 Pilates 4 Everyone	HUB
6.00-7.00 Tae Kwon Do	BH HUB
7.15-8.45 Tone Guitar Group	BH HUB

### **THURSDAYS**

6.15-7.00 Group Fitness Training	HUB
10.00-12.00 Baby Badgers	BH HUB
10.00-12noon Bridge Club	FBC
12.30 Prenatal/Liile Ones Yoga	HUB
2.00-4.00pm Croquet	FBC

### **FRIDAYS**

8.30am -1pm Star Bubs	BH HUB
10.00-12.00 Petanque	FBC
10.00-12noon Frank's Café	FBC
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts	BH HUB

### **SATURDAYS**

6.30-7.15 Group Fitness Training	BH HUB
9.30-11.30 Hub Gardening Club	BH HUB

## Single use plastic ban

In January 2023, the Government announced a ban on a range of single-use plastic items that will come into effect from the start of October 2023. From that point on, businesses across England will not be able to buy or sell certain single use plastic items. The ban includes single use plastic cutlery, trays, plates, bowls, and balloon sticks, as well as certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.

### Why are these plastic items being banned?

It's estimated that England uses 2.7 billion items of single use cutlery each year, and 721 million single use plates. Only 10% of these items are recycled. Plastic pollution takes hundreds of years to break down and damages our oceans, rivers and land. It is also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, from the production and manufacture of the plastic itself to the way it is disposed of.

It is expected that banning these items will have a significant impact on reducing plastic waste and littering in England. Plastic cutlery, for instance, was in the top 15 most littered items in the country by count in 2020. This move follows an in-depth Government consultation, which saw over 95% of respondents in favour of the bans.

### **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

Your Somerset County Councillor  
John Hunt (Independent) 07880  
794554 [john@johnhunt.me.uk](mailto:john@johnhunt.me.uk)

### **Your Somerset West & Taunton Councillors**

Cll Caroline Ellis Associate Lead  
Member - Education  
**07473119425**  
[cjellis1968@googlemail.com](mailto:cjellis1968@googlemail.com)

John Hunt (Independent)  
07880 794554  
[john@johnhunt.me.uk](mailto:john@johnhunt.me.uk)

### **Your Member of Parliament**

Rebecca Pow MP  
443062 [office@rebeccapow.org.uk](mailto:office@rebeccapow.org.uk)

### **BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES**

BH Parish Council  
Helen McGladdery 07518  
[bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com)  
BH Pre School 07928 950230  
BH Primary School 331624  
Castle School 274073  
Community Room & School Hall  
Rick Moon 354908  
Frank Bond Centre  
Nadia 07958 246046

### **Neighbourhood Beat Team**

PCSO Lyndsay Smith  
[lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk) or call 101  
PCSO Marshall Bernhardt  
[marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk) or call 101  
PCSO Catharine Richards  
[catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk) or call 101

Robin Close Hall 356389  
[deanehelplineadmin@tauntondeane.gov](mailto:deanehelplineadmin@tauntondeane.gov)  
St Peter & St Paul Parish Church  
Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

### **BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS**

Access Group (Fledgling Centre)  
Kelly Enfield 333363  
BH Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show  
Amanda Gallacher 337720  
Bishops Hull HUB

07500 748 609, booking:

[bhhubbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bhhubbookings@gmail.com)

General enquiries and events:

[bishopshullhub@gmail.com](mailto:bishopshullhub@gmail.com)

BH Short Mat Bowls  
Alan Chapman 710938  
[bhsmbc@yahoo.com](mailto:bhsmbc@yahoo.com)  
BH VH & PF Trust  
Paul Bulbeck 283941  
BH WI  
Margaret Lomax 412218  
Brownies Sheena Grinter 331184  
Community Woodland Volunteer  
David 272415  
FBC Activities Carolyn 283941  
Golden Group Keep Fit Session  
Karie at Castle Sports Centre 322934  
[orkcrane@1610.org.uk](mailto:orkcrane@1610.org.uk) Jon 07736  
714370 [jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Pilates Liz Grant 338409

Slimming World

Judy 256010 / 07939 431264

Sheena 07517 441766

Somerset Hills Chorus  
Brenda Palfrey 07857 244272  
Tae Kwon Do  
Sebastian Morey-Weale 07900 517767  
Wed Art Group  
Rose Humphreys 277633  
Zumba / Zumba Gold  
Jackie Bradford 07949 735139

**SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL DECEMBER 2023**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>3 December</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Holy Communion-</b> <b>ADVENT CAROLS</b>	<b>08:00 a.m.</b> <b>10.00 a.m.</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>6 December</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>		
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10 December</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Christingle</b>	<b>08:00 a.m.</b> <b>10.00 a.m.</b>	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8	Sally Adams
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>13 December</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>		
<b>Sunday</b> <b>17 December</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Advent</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Carol Service</b>	<b>08:00 a.m.</b> <b>10.00 a.m.</b> <b>6.30 p.m.</b>	Psalm 126; John 1:6-8, 19-28	Christabel Ager
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>20 December</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>		
<b>Sunday</b> <b>24 December</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Advent/Xmas</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>CRIB SERVICE</b> <b>Midnight</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>08:00 a.m.</b> <b>10.00 a.m.</b> <b>4.00 p.m.</b> <b>11.30 p.m.</b>	Psalm 89:1-8; Luke 1:26-38	Rosemary Lockley
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Family Christmas</b> <b>Celebrations</b>	<b>10.00 a.m.</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>27 December</b>	<b>NO SERVICES</b>			
<b>Sunday</b> <b>31 December</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> of Christmas</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>08:00 a.m.</b> <b>10.00 a.m.</b>	Psalm 148; Luke 2:15-21	Shirley Stapleton

**Bell Ringing**

We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringling happens for the main service on a Sunday (usually ringing starts at 09.15am and rings until the service starts at 10am). Practice night is a Wednesday at 7.30pm.

Quarter peals ( 50 minutes) may be attempted up to twice a month at 11.30am, usually on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

Our Tower Captain is Giles Morley and he can be contacted on 01823 430710



**GRASS CUTTING** 3<sup>rd</sup> December Will Osmond

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)**

**Church web site:** [www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk](http://www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk)

**Vicar:** **Rev. Philip Hughes**  
336102  
(Usual day off - Friday)  
[phil2overflowing@gmail.com](mailto:phil2overflowing@gmail.com)



Rev Philip Hughes

**Church Warden:** **Mr Will Osmond**  
461820

**Treasurer** **Rachel Horder**

**Electoral Roll Officer** **Mrs Shirley Stapleton**

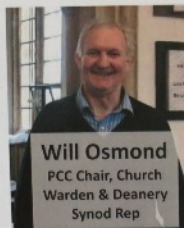
**Safeguarding Officer:** **Mrs Sally Adams**  
254413

**Other PCC Members -** **Mark Dakin, Helen Pearce, Susan Martin**

**Tower Secretary:** **Giles Morley 430710**



Sally Adams  
Parish Safeguarding  
Officer



Will Osmond  
PCC Chair, Church  
Warden & Deanery  
Synod Rep



Mark Dakin



Sue Martin



Rachel Horder  
PCC Treasurer



Shirley  
Stapleton  
Electoral Roll Officer



Helen Pearce

**Your  
PCC  
2023/24**



The PCC is a great team to belong to and is there to assist the Vicar in the Mission and function of the church.

If you would like to serve in this way there are lots of **opportunities**, so do have a chat to one of the fab team!