

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2024



A THRIVING VILLAGE COMMUNITY
IN THE HEART OF SOMERSET

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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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.

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS - photos by BOB WINN



**PUFFIN &
RAZORBILL**

Cover - A hint of spring, perhaps.



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.

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:

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

Beginners Bridge 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

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



Are you happy living in Bishop's Hull? Have you always lived here or did you decide to move here from another location? Maybe you didn't have a choice, for whatever reason. All these questions often make people wonder about their family history and whether they are 'real Somerset people'. If you have been so inspired, you will by now have done some research and have acquired a pile of records and a lot more questions.

As for myself, with regard to family research, I have been lucky. Many years ago a cousin (third removed) contacted me and has given me a family tree which starts in 1593. I'm sorry to say that I am not a Somerset lad but hold the title of 'a man of Kent'.

In 1593 Queen Elizabeth was on the throne and, five years earlier, the Armada had been fought. Theatre goers were being entertained by William Shakespeare and a mere ten years later James I came to the throne.

Records show that in 1593 (and later) there was much turmoil throughout the land between the Catholics and the Protestants - an unhappy time to be trying to scratch a living from the soil and to live peacefully.

In 1593, in a hamlet named Hinxhill, north of Ashford, (Kent), my ancestors were keeping their heads down and were trying to survive working as labourers on a poor farm. As was usual, there were many children and some did not survive to become adults. As time passed life did become better as the records show a step up the ladder from labourer to yeoman.

My ancestors have lived in Hinxhill, or very nearby, for over the last 430 years and it wasn't until the First World War my family line spread out into other locations in Kent. There were greengrocers, coal merchants, blacksmiths, bakers, commercial travellers and a few farmers, until my generation arrived.

After the last war I and my siblings left Kent and settled as far away as Australia and the United States of America. However, I do still have a sister living not too far from Ashford (in Bekesbourne) and a brother who is living a mere stone's throw from Hinxhill. Thankfully some of my roots are still alive and kicking in Kent.

However, it is with much regret I to have to record that my male line ends for me when my brother and I pass into history. Thankfully my DNA will survive in the lives of two wonderful daughters and my grandchildren.

The vicar writes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We know what to do with Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

We have an idea about Pentecost and Advent, Shrove

Tuesday is easy (Pancake Day!) but how do we 'do' Lent?

Perhaps this article helps... "So where does Lent come

from, and how do we "do" Lent? The Lenten season developed as part of the historical Christian calendar and is typically celebrated by Catholics, Orthodox Christians, and some mainline Protestant churches that follow a liturgical calendar. Although its format has varied throughout the centuries and throughout different cultures, the basic concept remains the same: to open our hearts to God's refining grace through prayer, confession, fasting, and almsgiving as we anticipate Holy Week. Lent traditionally lasts forty days, modelled after Christ's forty-day fast in the desert, and ends on Good Friday. In the Western Church, Lent officially begins with a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday."

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/prayer/prayers-for-lent-pray-for-strength-from-temptation.html>

The article goes on to offer a number of prayers which can be used throughout the season of Lent. Maybe you could use them. Or write your own!

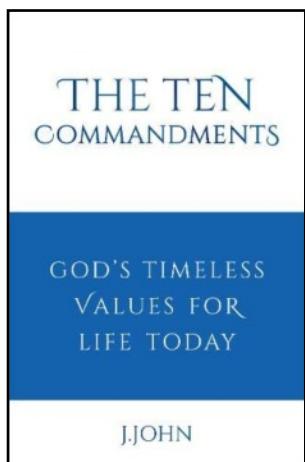
The Church of England has created some resources for 2024 called Watch and Pray. They write, ““Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning.”” Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell.

Maybe you could find out more here...

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and-pray-resources-lent-2024>

However you 'do' Lent, may it be a journey which draws you closer to God. Whether that is through prayer and fasting, art and dancing, giving something up or taking something up, let us be ever-more mindful of God's voice and presence in our lives day by day.

Your brother in Christ
Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar and Chaplain



Just10 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. **Just10** 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 04 February 2024 in St Peter and St Paul, Bishop's Hull Parish Church – and you are welcome to join the adventure!

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 2024.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 24th 2024** please come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.

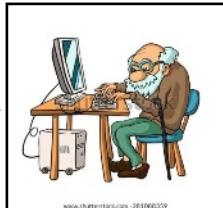




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Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ZERO

Used stamps - collection point

If you would like to donate your used postage stamps to raise funds for the Children's Hospice Southwest, there is a collection box in the Bishop's Hull Post Office.
THANK YOU IF YOU HAVE ALREADY DONATED.



COST OF POSTING A LETTER from OCTOBER 2023

NORMAL SIZE LETTER

FIRST CLASS £ 1.25 SECOND CLASS £0.75p

LARGE LETTER 100g

FIRST CLASS £1.95 SECOND CLASS £1.55

Defibrillators

Hopefully, 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/>

Meet Your Councillor



Name: **Mandi Trout**

Where are you likely to be seen in the village?

I'm likely to be seen at the village allotment site or maybe walking in any of the local green woodland spaces.

Why are you a Parish Councillor?

I've enjoyed living in the village for over 25 years and care about my local community and with this in mind I decided giving a little of my time was a possible way to give something back and to help to look after the village. I'm lucky to have met some really great and interesting people, aka other Parish Councillors, whilst doing this!

When not volunteering as a Parish Councillor, what are you likely to be doing? Caring for my family comes first. Working as a pre-school leader in a small rural school with children under the age of five; I try to help the children learn about themselves and their world both inside the pre-school and outside and in the woodland. I also seem to spend many hours at the allotment growing as much of our veg as possible.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am a part of the team who developed and grew Forest School from its early beginnings here in Somerset which led to meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace.

Sensory Trail — Phase 1 update

Progress is being made with the detailed planning for phase 1 which is primarily the ramp and steps linking the path at the level of the pavilions and The Hub with the upper path by the play park.



The Parish Council have agreed to fund the professional fees of the structural engineer and the landscape architect. They have now been appointed and we hope to have these plans by early December. Once we have those plans, we can go to tender to get the quotes on the likely cost. After that we go into fund raising mode!

We are extremely grateful to Richard Holland for all of the work he has done to ensure the costs for this stage of the process have come within budget.

Letter from The Parish Council Chairman - January 2024

The Parish Council want to share some important information about the future of funding and assets in our village, and would like your thoughts to shape this significant decision that lies ahead.

You may be aware that Somerset Council is facing financial challenges that impact various essential services that Somerset Council provides. While we would all want all these essential services to be given top priority this is unfortunately not the case.

There has been an ongoing effort to ensure that Bishop's Hull remains an independent parish rather than being absorbed into the new Taunton Town Council. This is crucial in helping us maintain our identity and has also so far prevented an increase in our Council Tax charges. The process of keeping our parish independent has been complex, involving changes to boundaries and ownership of assets. These changes come with their own set of challenges, including increased responsibilities for the Parish Council in managing open spaces, grass cutting, and bin emptying among other things. Unfortunately, these changes come with additional costs.

Our Parish Clerk, along with myself and Parish councillors, want to make evidenced decisions that benefit our community in these challenging times. With Somerset Council's devolution strategy, Bishop's Hull has an opportunity to secure assets and services that are currently at risk due to Somerset Council's financial constraints.

We understand that many residents contact our Parish Clerk to address specific issues, but they may not be aware of the complexities involved in accessing services from different departments. We want to ensure that your concerns are addressed promptly and efficiently. Through bringing Assets and Responsibilities under Parish Council management, we believe we can efficiently meet residents' expectations. While the new Unitary Somerset Council is positive in many ways, residents still feel strongly that our village issues should be a top priority.

To achieve this, we may need additional resources brought under Bishop's Hull control, from reporting issues to organising works and handling invoices.

As we approach the New Year, the precept will be set at the Parish January meeting, taking into consideration the changes and challenges ahead. Our figures need to be with Somerset Council by mid to end January.

We value your thoughts, questions, and ideas on this matter. Please share them with us in person at the Parish Council meeting on Thursday, 19th January, at 7 pm at Bishop's Hull Hub, or by emailing the parish Clerk. If you plan to attend, kindly let our Clerk know by emailing bishopshullparishclerk@gmail.com, so we can ensure sufficient seating. Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Let's work together to preserve the wonderful and vibrant community of Bishops' Hull.

Warm regards,

Tony Taylor Chair - Bishops Hull Parish Council

Bishop's Hull HUB

Saturday 20th January 7:15pm-9:15pm - **Youth Club** - ages 11-17 for Bishop's Hull youngsters. £1 entry and tuck shop available.

Save the date - for the **next Fish and Chip Quiz Night** on 24th February.

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club

December 2023 winners

£41.60 – Keith Hallet, £20.80 – Jane Gurr and £10.40~ Sam & Dilys Millard

Dates of Parish Council Meeting 2024

Meeting dates 2024

All Thursday evenings, 7pm start at the HUB

- 18th January – Agree 2024/25 Precept request
- February – No meeting
- 7th March
- 4th April – Review policies
- 2nd May – Elect Chairman, Year End accounts
- 6th June - Audit
- 4th July
- August – No meeting
- 5th September
- 3rd October – Half Yearly Statement & Meeting dates
- 7th November – Draft Budget
- 5th December – Finalise budget /Precept 2025/26

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago



At the Bishop's Hull branch of the Women's Conservative Association, Lieut-Colonel Gaunt gave a talk on 'Conservative Sentinels of Democracy'.

Mrs Leslie Fox was president and the company included Mr GU Farrant (chairman of the Bishop's Hull Men's Conservative Association), Major RHE Bennett MC and Mr JC Babcock. Colonel Gaunt believed that the future was a very bright one for the Conservative cause. Their hereditary and traditional enemies, the Liberal Party, had been rather responsible for putting in Mr Ramsey's Government and as a result he thought that a good many Liberals would decide that they could no longer pay allegiance to their party

and join the other side. He sincerely hoped that between then and the next election the Liberals he had referred to would join the Conservative Party.

They were passing through a period of transition, and their first duty as a political party was to stand on the defensive, and, incidentally, to act as the sentinels of democracy and to prevent as far as they could the introduction of any legislation that might be aimed against the State or against the great traditions of truth, justice and freedom, which virtually were the bedrock of Conservatism. Addressing the ladies, Colonel Gault said that during the last few years they have come into their political rights and have taken on their shoulders the great responsibility which the franchise entails. Mrs Gault also briefly addressed the gathering and congratulated Mrs Leslie Fox and the ladies of the committee on the way in which their organisation had been perfected. Mrs Fox proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel and Mrs Gault, the proposition being seconded by Mr GU Farrant, who said that the ladies' association in Bishop's Hull put the men's organisation in the shade. At the last election the bulk of the canvassing was done by the ladies.

50 years ago

Mrs Deighton, president of the Women's Institute, welcomed 24 members to the recent meeting, who saw slides shown by Mr Murless, speaking about the Taunton by-pass section of the M5. He was thanked by Mrs Redford. A buried treasure competition was won by Mrs Chandler and the raffle by Mrs Hodder.

Council house tenants in Mountway Lane won a fight to preserve their front gardens. Taunton Rural Council had proposed that their front walls be set back and the lane widened to ease traffic flow. A petition signed by most of the tenants objected to the proposal. However the Council agreed that modernisation work go ahead without the road widening. ##



BISHOP'S HULL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Bishop's Hull WI is a group of friendly women with meetings held normally on the **4th Thursday of the month** (except August) at 7.15pm at the Bishop's Hull HUB.

- These monthly meetings have a speaker or other activity together with business items.
- Topics for future meetings will be published here each month.
- Lunches and coffee/ brunches are organised monthly.
- Additionally there is a walking group arranged fortnightly(except mid winter and August) and a Scrabble group meets on a monthly basis.
- A day trip usually takes place in August.
- Why not come along to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4.00 (up to three meetings) deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information may be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary Tel: 01823 283884/07963834365.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

Our December meeting took the form of a very enjoyable Quiz presented by Martin Baldock which certainly had our brain cells working overtime. To celebrate the festive season members enjoyed a bring and share supper.

Our February meeting on 22nd has Andrew Pitman of Monkton Elms Garden Centre as guest speaker on the subject of "Topical Plants" and promises to be both entertaining and informative.



'Cinderella'

THURS 15 - SAT 17 FEBRUARY, 2024

Our pantomime *Cinderella* will be presented in Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

The fairytale, originally titled *Cendrillon*, meaning 'little ashes' was written in 1697 by a French academic, based on traditional folklore stories. The title translates into English as *Cinderella*.

Our version of this classic 'rags to riches' love story, written by the author Ben Crocker, is tongue in cheek, escapist magic.

The Ugly Sisters are suitably ugly and mean-spirited. The Fairy Godmother is suitably wise and benevolent. It's always pleasing when Good triumphs over Evil and there's a happy ending!

Come and join us for some light-hearted, family entertainment on Thurs 15th - Sat 17th Feb at 7.30pm, with an additional matinee performance at 2.00pm on Sat 17th Feb.

Tickets Adult £10 : Under 16 £5

Buy your tickets online at: www.ticketebo/bishopslydeardplayers
or via the link on our Facebook page

For all other enquiries, please message Marion: 07761 688564

Bishops
Lydeard
Players



Archbishop urges Government to scrap two-child benefit cap

The Archbishop of Canterbury used his recent House of Lords debate on families and households to urge the Government to scrap the two-child benefit cap.

The two-child benefit cap means that parents can only get child tax credit or universal credit for their first two children. The cap is for the third child and subsequent children born after April 2017.

Archbishop Justin highlighted research from the End Child Poverty Coalition which stated that, “removing the two-child limit would lift a quarter of a million children out of poverty.”

The Archbishop went on: “The unfair penalty applied to additional children affects their educational outcomes, their mental and physical health, and their likelihood to require public support from public services later on. It is not a good policy.”

Memorial Stones

When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice? The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age.

But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed to be large, to include all this information!

As for the poorer folk, as cheaper stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one’s place of rest, even with just the bare details.

With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stonemason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period.

In different areas of the country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

Also, the ‘floweriness’ of the inscriptions grew over the years. What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, ‘With affection’, then ‘With great affection’, then, ‘Greatly loved’ and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most. Meanwhile, by the early 20th century many churchyards were ‘full’, and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a ‘cemetery’ and was usually not the responsibility of the church.

A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of ‘the church’, whether open or closed.

Because people continued to want to be interred in ‘holy land’, eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.

With Valentine's Day in mind....



Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - *Anon*

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - *Helen Rowland*

What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - *William M Thackeray*

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. - *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, Love, thou art every day my Valentine! - *Thomas Hood*

Two heads are better than one. - Homer (*Illiad*)

13th February - Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting. So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

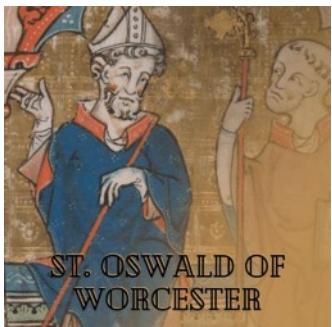
Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

29th February - Oswald of Worcester, the saint for Leap Year



There is a saint for Leap Year: he is St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some surprising 'leaps', all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

For Oswald's great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the 'Great Heathen Army' of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald's uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity,

but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury. From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did.

Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw. He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries.

Oswald was popular as an archbishop, and always washed the feet of the poor every Lent. On 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester when he collapsed and died. In later years, Worcester adopted both him and Wulfstan to be its two chief saints: they flank the tomb of King John, which is before the high altar in the cathedral.

The next Leap Year is in 2028.





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.**

END OF YEAR REPORTS

A car was broken into whilst parked at **Staplegrove Village Hall**, Taunton, on the 6th between 7:30pm and 9:30pm. The unknown suspect smashed the passenger side window of the Hyundai I20 and searched the vehicle. Nothing has been reported stolen from within.

Between 7pm on the 6th and 6am on the 7th suspects forced entry via the gates to the grounds of **Taunton Crematorium** on Wellington New Road. Once inside a digger and trailer were stolen.

December 19th, (9-7-8-8), AWo47 – Vehicle Crime.

A van was broken into between midnight on the 15th and 2pm on the 18th whilst parked on **the bridge on Queensway, Taunton**. The owner of the Mercedes Sprinter returned to find the locks had been damaged and entry to the vehicle established. Inside an untidy search had been carried out, where it appears nothing had been stolen.

December 19th, (9-7-8-8), AWo47 – Theft from a Motor Vehicle.

A van was broken into overnight on the 16th whilst parked on **Orchard Close, Trull**. The suspect used a bar or similar implement to force the deadlock handle, buckling the bodywork. Once inside the Peugeot Partner van, the suspect has conducted a tidy search where garden & power tools have been stolen.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5223307655 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

Free disposal of DIY waste - please book ahead

You can now dispose of some DIY waste free of charge at recycling sites – but you need to book ahead.

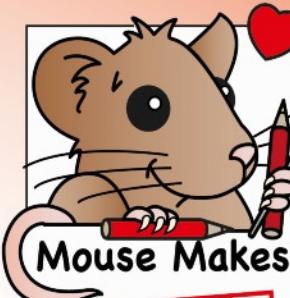


Following a recent change of legislation, charges for disposing of construction and demolition materials including: asbestos, plasterboard, hardcore and rubble from household DIY projects have been removed (limits apply).

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH: RIGHTS OF WAY

Somerset County Council have kindly provided us with a map showing rights of way in Bishop's Hull. However, this is only intended to be a general indication. For more detail, please see the Definitive Rights of Way map at Somerset County Council. The dotted red line on the map marks the parish boundary.

Somerset County Council also provide an interactive map on their website which enables you to view parts of a digitised version of the Definitive map by searching on a range of criteria. It also provides information on specific paths and allows faults to be reported.



CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5

Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter before it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.
NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God. See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A	PRISCILLA



Our precious gift

By Alastair Redfern, Assistant Bishop
for the Diocese of Bath and Wells



*A*s Christians, while we may look to reduce our own carbon footprint, we are called to be stewards and witnesses of a much more radical resource. The clue is in the word 'ecology'.

'Eco' comes from the Greek word *oikos*, meaning house, or dwelling place. Ecology is partly about our responsibility to recognise the precious gift of the Earth, as our dwelling place: to be thankful, and play our part. God made humankind to care for the earthly world: Jesus amplifies the call, as He uses 'nature' as the sign of how we can live in order to flourish and to fulfil God's will.

'*Logy*' comes from a Greek word *logos* interpreted as reason, the ordering of knowledge, logic. In John's Gospel, *logos* is a word to describe Jesus – through whom all things are made and from whom all true knowledge comes. *Logos* is the word, the source of all goodness and grace, for every human life, and for all of creation.

It is the 'logos', the word, who inhabits our lives, our creation – inviting us to recognise His light, and allow it to overcome the darkness of our own limited concerns and agendas. We meet the logos in scripture, in worship, in prayer, and deeper reflection.

In Jesus, as logos, we can find the wisdom, the resources and the commitment to play our part in caring for creation. We are able to invite others to recognise the deeper truths about Eco, our common dwelling place, and to see more clearly how we join with others to work out what to do, how to live, and honour the gift of life that we receive through Him. The Logos is the possibility of good news for humankind and for the Earth.

What a responsibility each Christian disciple is called to bear! And what grace can be ours to enable us to fulfil our calling, and help all of God's children become caught up in the praise and prayer that gives true life to our dwelling place, and to exercise our stewardship appropriately.

Read John 1v1-14. Become an ECO-warrior – committed our common dwelling place – through celebrating the power and presence of the LOGOS. ECOLOGY: we know it makes sense.

Bishop Alastair

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING FEBRUARY

CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP



1 Spring chicken
3 large carrots
1 onion
Small piece of turnip
Heaped tablespoon of cornflour
½ teacupful cream
1 heaped tablespoon of chopped parsley
Salt and pepper to taste

PREPARE chicken and put in stock pot with 5 pints of cold water. Bring very slowly to the boil. Have ready carrots, onion and turnip, and add. Simmer gently for 3 ½ hours.
Lift chicken, remove skin and bones, and either cut flesh finely or put through the mincer.
Strain stock, add chicken along with a heaped tablespoonful of cornflour blended smoothly with ½ teacupful of cream.
Bring to the boil, add chopped parsley, pepper and salt to taste, and serve piping hot in well-warmed tureen.

*From Miss Christian Milne,
Aberdeenshire.*

HADDOCK WITH SAVOURY BALLS

2 lbs of fresh haddock
3 slices of fat bacon
Stuffing
2 ozs of breadcrumbs
2 ozs of chopped bacon

2 teaspoonfuls of chopped parsley
½ teaspoon of mixed herbs
1 boiled, chopped onion
Pepper and salt, and egg to bind



WASH and dry fish well. Put two slices of the fat bacon into a baking-dish, place the fish on top and cover with the third slice of bacon. Mix all the stuffing ingredients together, form the mixture into balls and place these round the fish in the baking-dish. Cover with greased paper and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes.

From Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham

CHEESE TARTLETS

Short pastry or flaky pastry.
1 ½ ozs. of grated cheese.
1 egg.
1 oz. butter.
1 oz. flour.
1 teacupful milk.
Pepper and salt.

LINE patty tins with pastry. Melt butter in a saucepan. Stir in flour. Add milk and stir until mixture thickens as for white sauce. Boil for 2 minutes. Cool. Add grated cheese, egg, pepper and salt. Half fill lined patty-tins. Cook for 20 minutes in a quick oven. These can all be prepared the day before.

From Mrs. Birkett, Cumberland.

STUFFED APPLES



TAKE some large cooking apples and core them. Prick over with a fork to prevent them bursting.

Next prepare the filling as follows:

2 ozs. stoned dates (chopped),
1 oz. Walnuts,
1 oz. brown sugar,
grated rind of 1 lemon,
juice of 1 lemon.

Mix all the ingredients together. Put some of the filling into the core. Put the apples in a pie-dish, with some water.

Cook in a moderate oven until the apples are soft.

From Miss L. Rice, Glamorganshire.

JANE'S CHOCOLATE SPONGE



7 ozs. self-raising flour.
1 large tablespoonful of coffee essence
1 small teaspoonful salt.
3 ozs. Chocolate.
A few drops of vanilla
5 ozs. Butter.
3 ozs. sugar.
2 eggs.

SLIGHTLY warm butter, add sugar, beat until creamy.

Beat yolks of eggs well, and add to butter and sugar.

Mix chocolate powder, salt and flour together, stir into the mixture.

Add coffee essence in a tablespoonful of warm milk.

Beat the whites of eggs to a stiff froth, add vanilla essence and fold into the mixture gently.

Add 1 teaspoonful of boiling water just before putting the mixture into well-papered tin.

Bake in fairly sharp oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Care must be taken not to have the milk too warm.

From Mrs. D. L. Brown, Essex.

JAM SLICES



Photo © iStockphoto.com

Stale bread in slices.

Dripping.

Jam. Water.

CUT the bread into slices about 3 inches long by 2 inches wide, without crusts (these can be used otherwise). Damp one side of each slice with water, but not enough to make it Sodden.

Heat some dripping in a pan until very hot, then drop the bread pieces into this, dry side up.

Fry the damp side a golden brown, then turn over the bread and fry the dry side. Spread this second side with warmed jam and serve hot.

Cooking time 10 minutes.

From Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham.

LOOKING AT YOU

Food shortages are 'likely' this year



You might find some supermarket shelves empty in the coming months.

A combination of global conflicts, climate change and transportation issues are making it harder for food producers to get their products out of the field and onto your plate. And as at the end of last month (January), it got even more complicated, with the introduction of new checks on the goods coming from the EU into the UK.

Professor Chris Elliott of Queen's University Belfast is a food security expert. He explains: "It'll be about affordability but also availability, and the likelihood of empty shelves, particularly fresh produce shelves, in 2024 is alarmingly high."

Professor Elliott said: "We are virtually totally dependent on other countries for most of our fresh produce, our fruit and our vegetables. We were reasonably self-sufficient in dairy, we were reasonably self-sufficient in poultry and eggs. But that's also on the decline now, as a result of the collapse of some sectors of the food industry in the UK."

According to the gov.uk website, just under half of the actual food on our plates is produced within the UK.

Why tea is "the drink of getting things done"



The drinking of tea has found an unexpected new champion: James May, the former Top Gear presenter.

Speaking recently on Radio 4, James May said: "I'm just worried that the cult of coffee is going to destroy tea. And I don't like coffee, it is just rubbish. I like tea." He added: "Tea is the drink of getting things done."

How did tea get so embedded in UK culture? Food historian Polly Russell says the answer lies in the Industrial Revolution of the mid-18th century.

"Tea became less expensive and at the same time you had agricultural wages slumping, and agricultural workers literally not able to buy food, to buy fuel, or to afford a hot meal. So, tea became a way of having something hot and restorative – often with sugar – and that habit then also translated into the urban, as the industrial revolution expanded into our cities."

And so it was that "tea became absolutely central to the diet of the working poor." And this provided the basis for the idea "that tea and sugar were fuelling the industrial nation."

James May argues that tea drinking is still fundamental to "bringing everyone together and ensuring happiness as well as productivity."

He believes: "Tea in the British workplace is more than a drink, it's a social glue. Britain is falling apart because we don't drink enough tea."

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The cost of parking at your local hospital



Have you been a patient or visitor to a hospital this past year? If so, you are not imagining it: the cost of parking there has skyrocketed. In fact, parking charges for hospital patients and visitors have leapt by £50 million in a year.

Recent NHS accounts show that hospital trusts made nearly £146 million in income from patients and visitors in 2022-3. That is a whopping 50 per cent increase from the £97 million received the year before.

There has also been a major jump in the amount hospital staff have to pay to park. In 2021-22 the staff members paid just £5.6 million, which increased to £46.7 million in 2022-23. These latest figures have been met with criticism from Royal College of Nursing, which has slammed the growing cost of parking for staff.

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Who is hiding in your car?

You may not be the only one enjoying the comfort of your car this winter.

According to recent figures from the RAC, if you have left your car

standing alone for even a week, then anything from rats, squirrels, mice, foxes and even snakes may have moved in.

A squirrel stockpiling nuts in a car air filter, ten mice nesting under a



windscreen, rats living in engine bays, and foxes chewing brake hoses, are only some of many culprits listed this year as having caused a breakdown. There was also the baby python found behind a wheel trim.

In all, last year the RAC responded to over 300 incidents of vehicle damage caused by animals. That's a 55 per cent increase from the 196 recorded in 2018. Alice Simpson, spokesman for the RAC, said: "Finding a rat or mouse in your car is not only a nasty shock, but often the cause of very expensive damage.

"Our best advice is to make sure no food is left inside. Also, check for unusual smells in the vehicle, and be mindful of any dashboard warning lights that don't disappear after a minute or two."

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When bigger is not better

Women have added almost three inches to their waistlines over the last three decades.

A recent mass survey across England has found that the average woman now has a waist span of 35 inches.

That is up from an average of just over 32 inches in the 1990s. A 'very high waist circumference' is defined as being 34.6in or above.

Male waistlines have also continued to grow, but at a slower rate. 36 per cent of men are now classed as having a 'very high waist circumference' – which is 40in (102cm) or above. In the Nineties, just 20 per cent of men were this big.



The data comes from the Health Survey of England carried out in 2019, when waistlines were last measured. Tam Fry, from the National Obesity Forum, said: "The figures are alarming – too many of us are eating as though it is Christmas every day."

Draft guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) urges everyone to regularly measure their waistline. It should be less than half their height.

A recent study by the University of Oxford has found that every extra inch on the waistline increases the risk of heart failure by 11 per cent.

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Abandoned and helpless

If February is the month of love, shouldn't that include some compassion for animals?

The RSPCA reports that animal abandonment incidents have reached a three-year high.

Latest figures for 2023 reveal more than 20,000 reports of animals being simply dumped by their owners.

Dermot Murphy, RSPCA inspectorate commissioner, says: "Behind these shocking statistics are thousands of vulnerable animals. Each one is a valuable life in urgent need of our help."

He goes on: "The combined effects of the pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has created a perfect storm, and means we expect more animals than ever will need our help this year."

Yet many rescue centres are already full to bursting, "so we are facing an unprecedented winter crisis. Our rescue teams are busier than ever. We need animal lovers to donate to help us be there for animals in desperate need."

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Why buying your lunch at the train station is not a good idea

When commuting to work, it is easy to grab a sandwich and drink at the station before catching your train.

It may be easy, but it comes at a price. Commuters buying their lunch at a train station pay around 10 per cent more for food and drink than they would on the high street.

The Office of Road and Rail (ORR) has found that on average food retailers are charging premiums of up to 34 per cent for goods in stations, when compared with the same outlet elsewhere.

20 years of Facebook

Twenty years ago, on 4th February 2004, Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

Originally known as thefacebook.com, it was intended by Mark Zuckerberg and four other Harvard students – Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes – to create “a directory of information for college students”, but it soon expanded, and each of the five co-founders developed different roles. All except Moskowitz are now not part of the Facebook empire, but all are extremely rich.

A year after it was launched, Facebook lost the “the” from its name, and the following year it got rid of its students-only restriction. In its new form Zuckerberg, from an early stage the main man of Facebook, said the original aim was for Facebook users to take their online identities with them around the internet without having to register individual accounts for each website or app.

The swift development of Facebook, which went public in 2012, has involved Zuckerberg in many lawsuits, and he has demonstrated a wide-ranging ability to win people over. He is also extremely clever. He has never revealed his own political affiliation or voting history, and is hard to pin down. He was raised as a Reform Jew, went through a period when he espoused atheism, but more recently has said he “believes religion is very important”.



In September last year his net worth was estimated at not far short of £50 billion, but he receives a one-dollar salary as CEO of Facebook, and he and his wife Priscilla Chan give away huge amounts of money, some of which goes to fighting antisemitism and backing educational and community initiatives. Facebook is banned in China.

As of late September 2023, Forbes estimated Zuckerberg's net worth at about \$64.4 billion, making him the 16th-richest person in the world.

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

(Continuation from January's magazine).

How far do these explanations apply to autumnal and winter song? Perhaps, as M. Delamain says in *Why Birds Sing*, the amorous impulse, which may be slumbering, but is never quite absent, awakens.

My own theory is that after the moult depression has passed the spring sexual impulse is aroused in autumn and Winter by Favourable climatic conditions, but that the shortening hours of daylight check this urge, and may, if severe weather coincides, especially high wind from the north or east, put a stop to it altogether for the time being. It is significant that song waxes soon after the shortest day has passed. Professor Rowan, of the University of Alberta, has shown by a series of experiments on captive juncos, an American migratory species, that daylight is for them the primary stimulus to migration. In those birds which were kept in aviaries artificially lighted for gradually increasing periods during winter, the sex organs were developed to the same extent as in spring; in those not subjected to artificial light the sex organs diminished in a normal manner. The first class, when released, disappeared, presumably on migration; the second class remained behind. If length of light, by developing the sex organs, stimulates migration, it would equally stimulate song.



Or, again, autumn and winter song may be with some species partly territorial. In the breeding season song is probably both territorial and amorous. But with the **robin**, who outside the time of courtship and nesting will not tolerate another of his own species anywhere near him, it must in autumn be partly territorial, though there is pure enjoyment in it also. With the **woodlark**, too, it may be in part territorial.

Lord Grey suspects that the Wren's song is, in the same way, connected with territory. There seems to be only meagre information about the songs of our summer migrants in their winter quarters. Professor Julian Huxley writes in *Bird Watching and Bird Behaviour* that he heard a willow-warbler sing near Lake Nyanza in December. My friend, Major W. Murray Marsden, also heard a willow-Warbler in full song in February in Cape Province E., S. Africa.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, in *Problems of Bird Migration* mentions that birds of the same species were heard singing feebly on the Congo in October. A



correspondent some years ago wrote in the Spectator that in Southern Nigeria she heard and saw a **nightingale** singing in December. Such song can hardly be related to courtship. It may be territorial or pure happiness; perhaps both.



Song evidently expresses various emotions.

But, listening to a woodlark on a fine October morning, when the wind is gentled, 'and all over upland and lowland the charm of the golden rod'. I recall Ford's lines -

*Far better 'tis
To bless the sun than reason why it shines.*

As Lord Grey put it: '*Perhaps the conclusion of the whole matter is that we should enjoy the song of birds without questioning too closely why they sing. Enjoyment may be impaired by teasing one self with trying to understand.*'

MURMURATION OF STARLINGS - LOCATION POSSIBLY LOCAL



HOUSEHOLD 'REMEDIES FROM THE PAST'

Elder Ointment.—This recipe is old, and comes from the West of England. Steep 1 pt. of elder Flowers, closely clipped from the stalks, in a jar containing 1 lb. of hot clarified lard, which should be home-made. Let the flowers remain in the lard till they are crisp and brown, the jar standing in the oven.

Strain the lard, add a handful of fresh elder leaves, and put the jar back on to the stove for an hour. Strain again. The ointment will be a pale green, and will possess great healing and cooling virtue for inflamed skin.

A bruised elder leaf rubbed on the face and neck prevents irritation from insects when out walking.

Hair Tonic.—Boil 1 lb. of rosemary in 2 quarts of water. Strain, and add to the liquid 1 oz. of spirits of lavender, 1 oz. of salts of tartar. Bottle and cork well ; use as required.

Embrocation.—4 parts of turpentine, 8 parts of vinegar, 1 part of sweet oil, and 1 raw egg. Mix all together and bottle.

Remedy for Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sprains, Bruises and

Unbroken Chilblains.— 2 raw eggs well beaten, 1 pint of vinegar, 2 oz. of spirits of turpentine, half oz. of spirits of wine, and half oz. of camphor. Mix these ingredients well, put into a clean bottle, shake for 10 minutes and cork tightly. In half an hour it is ready for use.

Honey will cure the stings of bees, wasps, mosquitoes and other insects. Smear it on the affected parts, and the inflammation will disappear.

If a **poultice** is needed and linseed meal is not at hand, plain flour and water pancakes fried in plenty of fat, placed between two layers of flannel and applied will answer the purpose. Renew as they cool, either making fresh or reheating between two plates in the oven.

To avoid **chapped hands** take common starch and grind it with a knife to the finest powder, and put it in a clean tin box, so as to have it continually at hand for use. After washing your hands, rinse them in clean water, wipe them, and while they are still damp rub a pinch of the starch over them, covering the whole surface. The effect is magical.

For a **rough skin** make half a teacupful of milk very hot, then add a tablespoonful of glycerine, half a teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda, and the same of powdered borax. Stir all together till dissolved, then allow to get cold. Rub a little on the face and hands night and morning.

A simple cure for **Eczema**.—Take a good handful of watercress (the coarse leaves are best), wash it well and put into a saucepan with enough water to cover it. Boil up and simmer until tender. Strain the liquid through muslin, and let it get quite cold. Bathe the afflicted part two or three times a day. It will be found very soothing and healing. It is also good for rough skin.

Cure for **Chilblains**—or any broken skin.—Melt sufficient beeswax and sweet oil to form an ointment the consistency of cold cream. Apply this, and it will heal in a marvellous way.

Remembering Sir Ernest Shackleton



One hundred and fifty years ago, on 15th February 1874, Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in County Kildare, Ireland – into a family that was English in origin and had Quaker connections. Sir Ernest was one of the leading explorers during the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

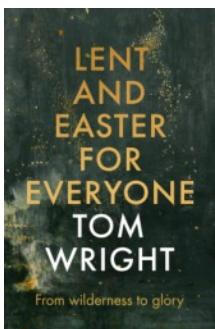
His father, Henry, was a farmer, who then qualified as a doctor, and the family moved to Sydenham, London in 1884. Ernest learnt seafaring in the Merchant Navy, becoming in turn second mate, third officer and first mate, before certifying as a master mariner in 1898: this qualified him to command a British ship anywhere in the world.

Expeditions he led included the Nimrod (1907-09), the Endurance (1914-17) and the Quest (1920-22). He was also on Scott's earlier Discovery expedition, but was invalided home early. From early on he had health problems, and the medical officer on the Nimrod expedition believed he had a hole in the heart.

Shackleton was described as spiritual but not religious. While crossing the mountains in South Georgia with two others to complete his heroic rescue of the crew of the Endurance, he and his companions said they were aware of a fourth presence, which they called 'providence', walking with them.

Although Shackleton did not make any major discoveries or register any notable firsts in Antarctica, he took part in some amazingly courageous enterprises and, although he was largely overlooked for many years, is now regarded as one of the giants of polar exploration, always admired by his crewmen. He died of a heart attack on the Quest at the age of 47 and was buried – at his wife's request – in the graveyard of the English church at Grytviken in South Georgia.

BOOK REVIEWS



Lent and Easter for Everyone
From Wilderness to Glory
by Tom Wright

Brilliant devotional theology for the everyday Christian.
Christianity

Join Tom Wright on a transformative journey through the Gospels as he explores the life and impact of Jesus: the highs and lows of his earthly ministry, the power of his teaching and his victory over sin and death.

Offering seven weeks' worth of daily readings and reflections, Lent and Easter for Everyone enables you to relive Christ's journey - from his temptations in the wilderness to the darkness of the cross and beyond into the glory of Easter.

Family For Beginners
By Sarah Morgan

Who says you can't choose your family? When Flora falls in love with Jack, suddenly she's not

only handling a very cranky teenager, but she's also living in the shadow of Jack's perfect, immortalised wife, Becca. Every summer, Becca and Jack would holiday with Becca's oldest

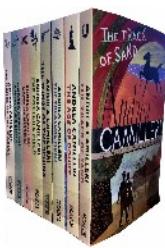
friends and Jack wants to continue the tradition, so now Flora must face a summer trying to live up to Becca's memory, with not only Jack's daughter looking on, but with Becca's best friends judging her every move... The more Flora tries to impress everyone, the more things go horribly wrong...but as the summer unfolds, Flora begins pushing her own boundaries, and finding herself in a way that she never thought she needed to. And she soon learns that families come in all shapes and sizes.

**** Readers have fallen in love with Family for Beginners A truly heartwarming book about love, friendships, grief, honesty and forgiveness.

'Family for Beginners has the ability to draw you in and keep you entertained and enthralled. I read it in one sitting and the characters are staying with me long after the book closed

This is another winner from Sarah Morgan, and I look forward to her next novel! 'If I could I could give it more stars then I would! Picked this up this morning and not put it down all day until I finished it. Heart felt and touching . . . One of best feel-good books I've read in a long time. Can't recommend enough!!!'





Inspector Montalbano Collection Andrea Camilleri 8 Books Set Pack (paperback)

The Wings of the Sphinx

The Wings of the Sphinx is the eleventh book in the wickedly funny Inspector Montalbano series by Italian author, Andrea Camilleri.

The Track of Sand

The Track of Sand is Andrea Camilleri's twelfth outing in the wryly humorous Inspector Montalbano series. Inspector Montalbano rises one morning to find the carcass of a horse on the beach in front of his seaside home.

The Potter's Field

A major BBC4 television series. Winner of the CWA international Dagger Award 2012 From the Italian crime legend, by Andrea Camilleri,

The Age of Doubt

Andrea Camilleri's sensational Inspector Montalbano continues in the fourteenth instalment, The Age of Doubt. A chance encounter with a strange young woman leads Inspector Montalbano to Vigàta harbour .

The Dance Of The Seagull

The Dance of the Seagull is the fifteenth darkly humorous adventure starring Inspector Montalbano from bestselling author Andrea Camilleri.

The Treasure Hunt

The Treasure Hunt is the sixteenth gripping novel in Andrea Camilleri's bestselling Inspector Montalbano series.

Angelica's Smile

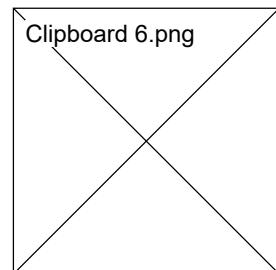
Angelica's Smile is the seventeenth gripping title in the hit Italian Inspector Montalbano series by Andrea Camilleri.

Game of Mirrors

Game of Mirrors is the eighteenth exciting instalment in the Inspector Montalbano mysteries by Andrea Camilleri.

England The Official History Book by Daniel Storey

The complete, official history of the England football team as you've never seen it before!



England: The Official History is a fascinating account of the world's oldest and most iconic national football team.

- Includes England's fantastic performance at EURO 2020.
- A great gift for any England fan.
- Features more than 250 exceptional photographs of England icons past and present including Alf Ramsey, Bobby Charlton, Gary Lineker, Hope Powell, David Beckham, Steph Houghton and Harry Kane.
- The complete story of the England men's and women's teams – from 1872 right up to the present day.

Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff – the way children see it....

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

I think 23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.
- Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have

something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

- Anita, age 9

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. - Ricky, age 10

OBSERVATIONS

Learning to drive

As a learner driver in London, I was taking the road test for my driver's licence. When someone cut me off, I held my temper so I wouldn't look out of control. "You have a lot to learn," said the inspector.

Then at a red light, the car behind me tapped my bumper. I still remained calm, but the inspector shook his head. When the light turned, I accelerated, but the car behind me then sped up and cut me off. That did it! I hit the horn as hard as I could. The inspector turned to me, smiled, and said, "Now you're getting the hang of it."

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Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands. ..

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged. "You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded. "Counting your ribs," said Eve.

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Do what we can to help...

Several women in the church prayer group were visiting an elderly friend who was ill. After a while, they rose to leave and told her: "We'll do what we can to help. We promise to keep you in our prayers." "Thank you," she said. "But really, I

can do my own praying. The thing I can't do is the dishes in the sink in the kitchen...."

God's army

Dewey was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the minister was standing at the door, as he always is, to shake hands. Suddenly he grabbed Dewey by the hand and pulled him aside. The minister said sternly, "Dewey, you need to join the Army of the Lord!" Dewey replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The minister retorted: "Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" Dewey replied in a whisper: "Well, I'm in the secret service."

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Off to the vet

In his younger days our golden retriever Catcher often ran away when he had the chance. The vet's surgery was about a mile down the road, and Catcher would usually go there. The nursing staff knew him and would call me to come pick him up. One day I called the vet to make an appointment for Catcher's yearly vaccine. "Will you bring him," asked the receptionist, "or will he come down on his own?"

**

And if love should die....

While we were working at a men's clothing store, a customer asked my colleague to help her pick out a tie that would make her husband's blue eyes stand out. "Ma'am," he explained, "any tie will make blue eyes stand out, if you tie it tight enough."

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Definition of old

Grandchildren don't make a man feel old; it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother

Nigel Beeton writes: I must be careful! You know that you can now call up 'Chat GPT' and say 'Give me a poem about February!' and it will push out dozens of suggestions for you to choose from, having soaked up the best work from the best poets all through the ages?

I've been replaced by a Robot!

I've been replaced by a robot -
His name is 'Chat GPT.'
He is a poet of a robot -
And that's what troubles me.

He can read in a moment
Shakespeare, Keats, and Lear -
More in that one single moment
Than I can read in a year!

He has an acceptable metre;
His work runs quite nicely to time,
His work gets neater and neater,
And he is quite good with a rhyme!

In fact, so good is his manner
The robot is quite hard to see:
So, I'll have to dumb down my
grammar:
"This poem, it woz writ by me!"

By Nigel Beeton

I was in the library once when a man walked in asking for some ham and cheese. The librarian politely told him that he was in a library. The man first apologized and then whispered to the librarian, "Can I please have some ham and cheese?"

An old man walks into a town square with a big sign around his neck that reads, "Old Man's Message: Wisdom for a nickel!" A sceptical passerby tosses a nickel into the old man's hat and says, "Alright, wise guy, what's your message?" The old man looks up, grinning ear to ear, and says, "Never spend a nickel on something you can learn for free!"

An American soldier called his family from overseas. "Hi Mom, I learned to speak three languages since I've been deployed." His mom responded, "Well, I hope one of them is better English so you can tell us all about it!"

I was in a barbershop when a man and his young son walked in to get a haircut. The man asked the barber to give his son a haircut while he shopped for groceries nearby. The barber finished the haircut but there was no sign of the father. An hour passed, and two more but nobody came. We finally asked the son where his father was. The boy shocked us by saying, "That man was not my father. He just told me that if I wanted to get a free haircut at the barbershop, I should come with him."

Two guys are walking through the woods one day when they stumble across a big deep hole. The first guy peers into it and says, "Wow! That looks deep."

The second guy says, "It sure does. Let's throw a few pebbles in there and see how deep it is. We'll be able to tell the depth by how long it is before we hear the noise of the pebbles landing." So they pick up a few pebbles and throw them in and wait. Nothing. There's no noise.

The first guy says, "Jeeez. That is really deep. I know, let's throw one of these great big rocks down there. Those should make a noise."

So they pick up a couple football-sized rocks and toss them into the hole and wait... and wait... Again, nothing.

They look at each other in amazement. Then the first guy gets a determined look on his face and says, "Hey, over here in the weeds, there's a railroad tie. Help me carry it over. When we toss that sucker in, it's gotta make some noise." So the two of them drag the heavy tie over to the hole and heave it in. Once again, not a sound comes from the hole.

Suddenly, out of the nearby woods, a goat appears, running like the wind. It rushes toward the two men, then right past them, running as fast as its legs will carry it.

Suddenly it leaps in the air and into the hole.

The two men are astonished with what they've just seen and look at each other in amazement.

Then, out of the woods comes a farmer who spots the men and ambles over. He asks them, "Hey, you two guys seen my goat out here?"

The first guy says, "You bet we did! Craziest thing I ever saw. It came running like crazy and just jumped into this hole and disappeared!"

"Nah", says the farmer, "That couldn't have been my goat. My goat was chained to a railroad tie."

A husband and wife who work for the circus go to an adoption agency looking to adopt a child, but the social workers there raise doubts about their suitability.

So the couple produce photos of their 50-foot motor home, which is clean and well maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery. The social workers are satisfied by this but then raise concerns about the kind of education a child would receive while in the couple's care. The husband puts their mind at ease, saying, "We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and computer skills."

Next though, the social workers express concern about a child being raised in a circus environment. This time the wife explains, "Our nanny is a certified expert in paediatric care, welfare, and diet." The social workers are finally satisfied and ask the couple, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" The husband says, "It doesn't really matter, as long as the kid fits in the cannon."

Crocodile Wrestler

A multi-millionaire living in Darwin, Australia, decided to throw a party and invited all of his buddies and neighbours. He also invited Brian, the only aborigine in the neighbourhood. He held the party around the pool in the backyard of his mansion. Everyone was having a good time drinking, dancing, eating prawns and oysters from the barbecue, and flirting.

Then at the height of the party, the millionaire said, "I have a 15 foot man-eating crocodile in my pool and I'll give a million dollars to anyone who'll join him in the pool."

The words were barely out of his mouth when there was a loud splash. Everyone turned around and saw Brian in the pool fighting madly with the crocodile, jabbing it in the eyes with his thumbs, throwing punches, head butting it, getting it in choke holds, biting its tail and flipping it through the air like some kind of martial arts expert.

The water was churning and splashing everywhere. Both Brian and the crocodile were screaming and raising hell.

Finally, after what seemed like an age, Brian strangled the crocodile and let it float to the top of the pool like a dead goldfish.

An exhausted Brian wearily climbed out of the pool with everybody staring at him in disbelief.

The millionaire said, "Well, Brian, I reckon I owe you a million dollars then."

"Nah, you all right boss, I don't want it," said Brian.

So the millionaire said "Man, I have to give you something. You won the bet. How about half a million bucks?" "No thanks, I don't want it," Brian insisted.

The millionaire said, "Come on, I insist on giving you something. That was amazing. How about a new Porsche, a Rolex and some stock options?" Once again, Brian said, "No." Confused, the rich man asked, "Well Brian, then what do you want?" "I want the b.....d who pushed me in," said Brian.

When NASA was preparing for the Apollo project, they did some astronaut training on a Navajo Indian reservation.

One day, a Navajo elder and his son were herding sheep and came across the space crew. The old man, who only spoke Navajo, asked a question, which the son translated, "What are the guys in the big suits doing?" A member of the crew said they were practising for their trip to the moon. The old man got really excited and asked if he could send a message to the moon with the astronauts.

Recognizing a promotional opportunity for the spin-doctors, the NASA folks found a tape recorder.

After the old man recorded his message, they asked the son to translate. He refused. So the NASA reps brought the tape to the reservation, where the rest of the tribe listened and laughed, but refused to translate the elder's message to the moon.

Finally, NASA called in an official government translator. He reported that the moon message said: "Watch out for these guys; they've come to steal your land."

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

On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church

*The Rectory
St. James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, and complain about the half an inch of slush outside, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow-free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten-foot drift under the lynch gate.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As they both explained, they couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, a few flakes of wet snow may close your car park for health and safety reasons, but we shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity. We return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*



Tim's Tech Tips

Taunton Deane's Own
Tech Tips Column

OK, I'll send you a message!

Remember the archaic days of email in the late 90s and early 2000s? You had to power up the PC, dial up the internet, wait for emails to download. And when they did there was no attaching photos of the holiday - just plain text messages. Thank goodness for our modern era when we can easily communicate with our mobile phones.



Dramatic pause. "Is he for real?" I hear you say. ("I never got your message, when did you send it?" "Oh yesterday after we met." "Well, I haven't seen it.") The problem, in the 21st century is that we have **too many ways** to 'send that message' to one another. In the early 90s Text Messaging was invented. As a result texting (or 'SMS', if you want its official name) is on *every single phone*. In the Late 90s/early 2000s this worked well - you could send messages and it just arrived across all makes of phone. So, at that point, the world used email on the computer, and texting on our pre smart phone era mobiles.

But... *then it all went crazy*. Apple introduced the iPhone in 2007, and (somewhat quieter) Google launched Android, and the race to bring smart phones to the masses began. And with it came multiple innovations 'to improve how we can communicate'. In no particular order, we ended up with Apple iMessage, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Instagram Private Messaging, Telegram, Signal. Over in Windows PC land, we also had, originally, Skype (still around now by the way), but more modern ones like Teams. There is no longer any differentiation between 'mobile technologies' and 'PC technologies'. Then you have confusions like 'WhatsApp' needs a smart phone to activate, Skype doesn't. You need an Apple device for iMessage, but no good on Android phones and on it goes.

So, its **no wonder** you haven't got any idea if someone messaged you. And even if you did see it, two weeks later you can't recall for the life of you which app it was via. Text? WhatsApp? Email? Messenger? Then there are contacts you have who 'don't do WhatsApp' or whatever - so you have to remember to message them an alternative way than others.

Is there any hope to this mess? Well, I *cautiously* say 'Yes. Maybe.' A new messaging technology called RCS is on its way. Google already have implemented it on Android mobiles. The big news is that Apple are bringing it to the iPhone in 2024. This is a big deal - and means that your Texting app on your mobile will be able to do what WhatsApp does across iPhone & Android. The question is whether (Facebook-owned) WhatsApp has cornered the market. Is RCS too late to the table? When I find out the answer, I'll send you a message!



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
6.15--7.30pm Zumba	
07939 580327.	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/Little 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

Don't forget those nestboxes!

On 14th February our annual National Nestbox Week begins.



Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Your Somerset County Councillor
John Hunt (Independent) 07880
794554 john@johnhunt.me.uk
**Your Somerset West & Taunton
Councillors**

Cll Caroline Ellis Associate Lead
Member - Education
07473119425
cjellis1968@googlemail.com

John Hunt (Independent)
07880 794554

john@johnhunt.me.uk

Your Member of Parliament

Rebecca Pow MP
443062 office@rebeccapow.org.uk

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council
Helen McGladdery 07518
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 or call 101
PCSO Marshall Bernhardt
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk or call 101
PCSO Simon Parry

Robin Close Hall 356389
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
General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls
Alan Chapman 710938
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 Jon 07736
714370 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
Felicity Ovando 07939 580327

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL JANUARY 2024

Sunday 4 February 2nd before Lent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14	Sally Adams
Wednesday 7 February	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 11 February Next before Lent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. ..	2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9	Christabel Ager
Wednesday 14 February	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 18 February 1st of Lent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	I Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 21 February	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 25 February 2nd of Lent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Romans 4:13- 25; Mark 8:31-38	Shirley Stapleton
Wednesday 28 February	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		

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.



Ringing 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 - 4 February Paul Curry
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CHURCH DIRECTORY (01823)

Church web site: www.stpeterandstpaul.org.uk

Vicar: **Rev. Philip Hughes**

336102

(Usual day off - Friday)

phil2overflowing@gmail.com



Rev Philip Hughes

Church Warden: **Mr Will Osmond**

461820

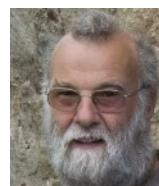
Treasurer **Rachel Horder**

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!