

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and many branches is covered in numerous pink and white flowers, likely magnolias. The tree is set against a clear blue sky. In the background, there are other trees, including some evergreens. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2024

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

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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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.*

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS - photos by BOB WINN

**ROSE
BREASTED
GROSBEAK**



Cover - Spring arrives in Netherclay



[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/
dougie-kerr](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dougie-kerr)
TO SAVE THE LAST BEVERLEY



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 old enough to remember listening to Radio Luxembourg on 208/1440kHz after the war? As youngsters we'd tune our battery driven radios to this frequency to listen to the pop records of the day. However, reception was very poor with an adjacent radio station causing an annoying 'whistle' as the signal faded in and out. The BBC bosses didn't approve of Radio Luxembourg and tried to have it taken off the air. As a youngster I was totally unaware of the war-time use of the transmitter so a quote from the *www* will explain what happened.

1940–1945 On 21 September 1939, the Luxembourg government closed the radio station to protect the neutrality of the country . The station and its transmitters were taken over by the invading German forces in 1940, and were used for English-language propaganda broadcasts by William Joyce (known as Lord Haw-Haw) and others. When Allied forces took over Luxembourg in September 1944, the station was transferred to US Army control and used for black propaganda purposes for the remainder of the war.

Much water has passed under the 'broadcasting bridge' since I was a lad and we are all now able to listen to the highest quality sound on our radios and enjoy stunning pictures on our televisions. So, there is no longer any reason for anyone to complain about 'interference' anymore. Or is there?

I would like to draw attention to today's man-made interference that exists, day in and day out, either on radio programmes or on many TV programmes. I understand that the 'interference' complaints sent to broadcasters are often acknowledged but no one seems to be taking the complainers seriously.

A couple or so examples.

You are trying to listen to the news, a traffic report on the radio or to watch a drama programme on TV but almost always your hearing has to compete with the added music, often varying in volume as you listen or watch. Does the person telling you about road closures or an accident never consider that the information may be important and to TURN OFF THE B.....D MUSIC?

Television programmes of all sorts - news, drama, serious discussions - often 'overlay' their programmes with unnecessary mood music making the spoken word unintelligible.

We have come a long way since the Radio Luxembourg 'whistle'. And our enjoyment is still being plagued by interference. PLEASE DESIST!

The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

I wish you and your family every blessing at this Easter time.



On Good Friday Christians remember the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate his victory over death. On that third day after he was killed, the risen Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to his twelve disciples, and then to hundreds of others. As Christians we believe the risen Jesus is with us still through the Holy Spirit within each one of us and at the heart of the church and of the world. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

But we also know that we live in a deeply broken world. Climate change is happening. Covid is the new 'norm'. Refugees have long fled from wars across the globe, from Syria to Afghanistan, from Somalia to Yemen. And now a year on Ukraine, here in Europe, as millions of women, children and old people are forced to leave their land and their home.

Yet in all this broken darkness there is still a bright light shining. Hope is real and people are opening their hearts and their homes to those in need. Being generous is costly at a time of rising prices and a seeming never ending need. Ever it was and ever it will be.

As Jesus was dying on the cross, he spoke to his mother and his disciple John. He asked Mary to take John as a son, and John to take Mary into his own home as if she were his own mother. Jesus did not forget those who would be left behind, and nor should we.

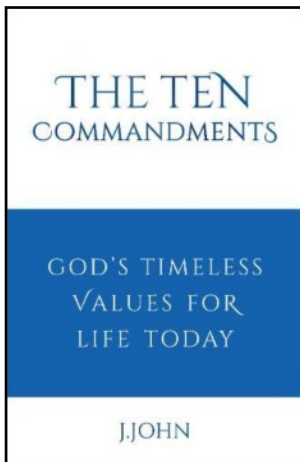
As the risen Jesus met with people after his resurrection he spoke words of peace, of hope, of love. John Newton writes it like this: [God's] Grace will lead me home.

In the end, Easter reminds us that Love is stronger than hate. Love is stronger than death. In the end, Love wins! Amen.



Happy Easter because Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Your brother in Christ
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 03 March 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 30th March 2024** please come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.

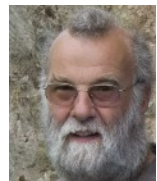
Bell Ringing

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 ringling 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 p 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

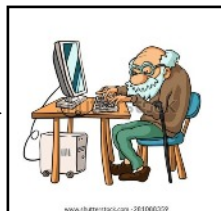




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Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Late January 2024

Dear Editor,

It's a boy!

I'm sure your readers will be pleased to know that Isobel Magowan is for the second time a great grandmother following the arrival of baby Brady.

Congratulation to Isobel and the happy family.

Anwen Sutton



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

NORMAL SIZE LETTER

FIRST CLASS	£ 1.25	SECOND CLASS	£ 0.75p
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LARGE LETTER 100g

FIRST CLASS	£ 1.95	SECOND CLASS	£ 1.55
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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.**

Meet Your Councillor

Name: Jacqui Wilson. Where are you likely to be seen in the village?

I'm most likely to be seen walking around Bishop's Hull village at night time, with my husband Dave, in an effort to walk dinner off!

Why are you a Parish Councillor?

After over a decade of living in our village it's rewarding to be a part of the Parish Council, working together to enhance our community, build a welcoming neighbourhood and help shape local decisions and policies.

When I'm not volunteering as a Parish

Councillor my goal is to try to maintain a healthy work/ life balance. I project manage a new service team at Somerset Foundation Trust NHS Hospital(s) and outside of this I spend time socialising with family and friends. I will often be found perusing travel and accommodation booking sites planning the next adventure!

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Before children, Dave & I took off on a two month adventure across Europe on an old but infallibly trustworthy BMW touring motorcycle. He the rider, me the pillion. We're busy planning how the 'retirement' version of this might look!

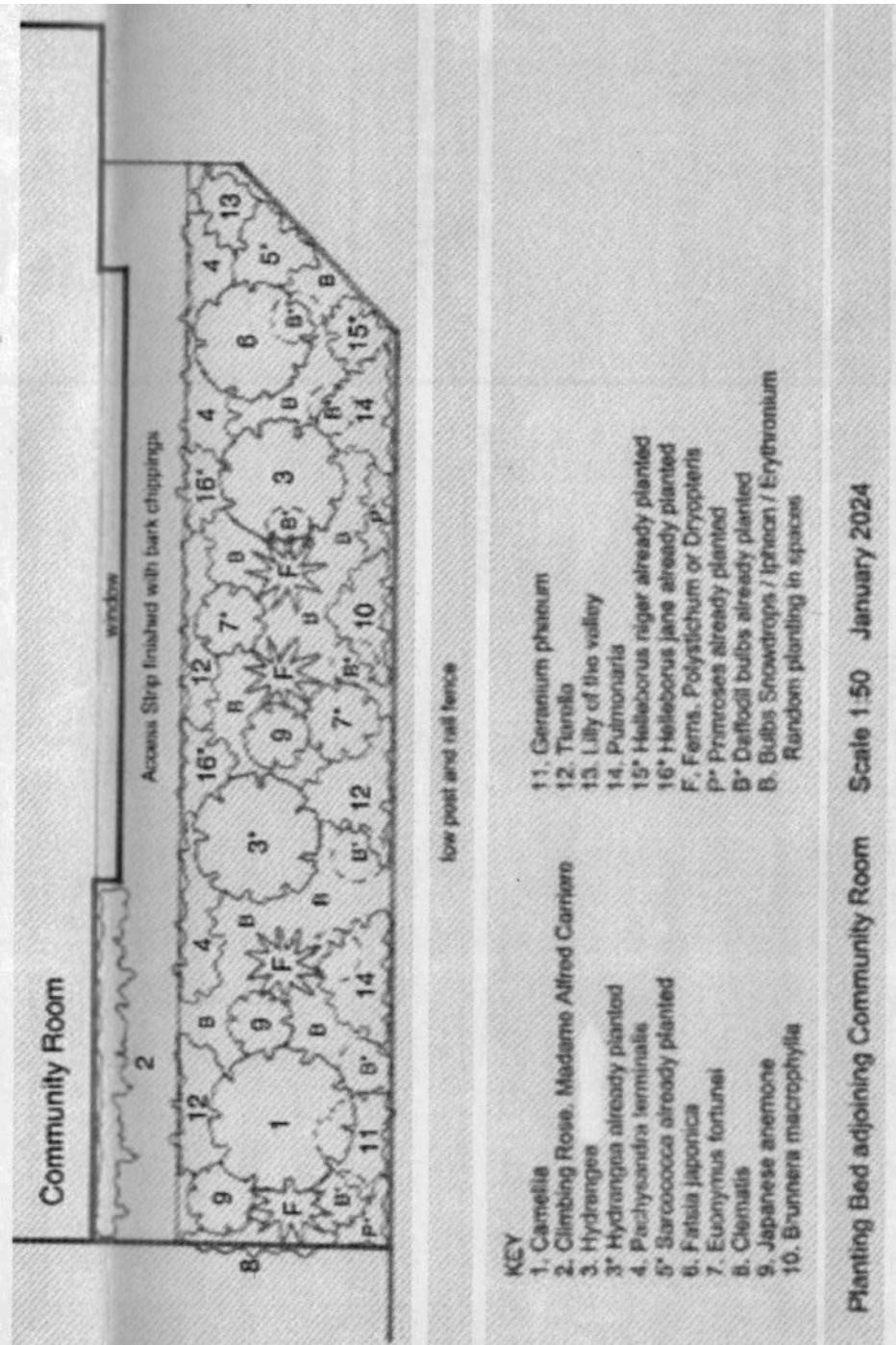


School Flower Bed

The Hub gardening team has been asked by the village school to design and plant the flower bed by the entrance to the school. After a lot of good work by Jane Emmott and Richard Holland the team has come up with a planting plan (see over page). A coloured copy of the plan will be available on the village web site. £115 towards the cost of the plants has been raised thanks to generous donations from the community and plants have been donated. We are about half way to getting the bed completed by mid spring. However, to complete the bed we are looking to raise a further £215 through grants and donations. If you would like to make a contribution towards the fund please put it in an envelope marked 'Plants' and hand it in to the school or to any of the Hub gardening team at the Hub on a Saturday morning. The gardening team will finalise the planting but we are looking for ongoing voluntary support to help maintain the bed. I would anticipate this taking no more than a couple of hours per month to keep it free of weeds and we will support with any specialist pruning as required.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role please contact me for further details. **David.gurr@btinternet.com or mobile 07977 474873.**

Many thanks, David



PARISH COUNCIL - Chairman's letter

I would just like to give a short update on the upcoming changes for Bishop's Hull Parish precept. Firstly, we need to establish a strong financial position now, thus ensuring the future' stability of our village. The immediate future is uncertain, so we need to be prepared! Secondly, I believe we all have a role to be physically involved if we are able. From Bishop's Hull Primary School children's litter picking group, helping to keep our village tidy to dog walkers ensuring all mess is collected and binned. Along with householders ensuring clearance of overhanging vegetation. We are extremely lucky that Bishop's Hull has a low crime rate for which I personally thank you all for your part in enabling this. This does not of course mean Police officers should not visit us! Their presence can provide a calming and reassuring effect. If Somerset Council ends up being controlled by central government, we will see big changes and a negative impact for all residents. This is why the PC members have identified steps to ensure the funds are available to keep Bishop's Hull to the standards we all wish. There may not be additional funds for some time to come! If the Parish Council is successful in the devolution of services from Somerset Council, this will enable residents to maintain the village to the standards we expect but also gain control over future management processes to further enhance particular areas. The PC will be in control of when and how, plus the quality, of any work carried out by us and or contractors. No one wants to see litter everywhere, no one wants to see broken and dangerous play park equipment. It is sincerely hoped that this once in a lifetime opportunity for Bishop's Hull Village will truly set a positive and secure future free of the past restraints and difficulties arranging work to enable a safe, clean and pleasant environment. We are asking everyone to be involved in these challenging times. As you are aware, Somerset Council is requesting City, Town and Parish Councils to take on various services for which Bishop's Hull Parish Council is considering taking on from SC if and when agreed, the following: grass cutting and hedge trimming, litter and dog bin emptying, footpath clearance, gully emptying and general maintenance of open spaces and play park equipment. As we have stated previously, this does come at a cost to us all. Please may I ask residents to focus on the most important part: that of the financial commitment from residents. This does of course differ dramatically from parish to parish subject to population, facilities etc. The Parish Council has been open and clear as near as possible with the information given to us in order to arrive at the agreed budget forecast. The percentage increase sounds high but let's look at the actual commitment in monetary terms: the increase for the average band D household of an additional 50p. per week. That's £2.18 per month; less than the price of a cup of coffee! The increase will enable us to control and organise our own future maintenance and improvements across from the village ensuring we get the best prices and value for money. Please remember the figures above are representative of Band D properties only. I would personally like to thank you all for your comments, contributions, passion and patience throughout this whole process

Changes to waste collections

From w/c 12th February waste collections will be changing.

I can let you know that all areas of Bishop's Hull will have collections on THURSDAYS. This will be recycling every week and black bin every 3 weeks. Garden collections will remain the same. You will receive a leaflet explaining the changes or can check here:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/reroute-of-waste-collections/>

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

Already this year Bishops Hull WI has had two very interesting speakers, George Bethell from Secret World Wildlife Rescue Centre and Andrew Pitman from Monkton Elms Garden Centre.

Our March meeting on Thursday 28th promises to be another very interesting evening with our guest speaker being Ru McDonagh who will be telling us about the Health Improvement Project he founded in Zanzibar.

Guests are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings which start at 7pm

Other activities taking place each month will be the walking group and Scrabble group together with the regular lunch and coffee/ brunch events.

Dates of Parish Council Meeting 2024

Meeting dates 2024

All Thursday evenings, 7pm start at the HUB

- 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 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.

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 IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago



Mac Purchase's Vaudeville Company visited the Club Hall and gave a benefit concert in aid of the District Nursing Association. The company played to a packed house and every item was well received. A great hit was made by Mac Purchase, a comedian who also has an excellent tenor voice. Gladys Purchase also sang a couple of songs. Kitty Rabjohns was a comedienne who also gave two speciality dances. The mezzo soprano of the company, Ethel Mogg, delighted the audience with her two songs. Fred Webber, baritone, rendered his numbers in his usual polished manner. Walter Benson proved a valuable asset to the company as an actor and elocutionist. The company's bijou orchestra, with Florine Rabjohns as musical directress, rendered good service during the evening. Mac Purchase was the company's courteous manager and producer and Gilbert Purchase and Billy Robinson efficiently carried out the duties of stage directors.

50 years ago

The annual meeting of the Flower Show was conducted by the chairman, Mr C Smith. The officers were re-elected and a committee formed with vacancies to be filled. The layout of the schedule was agreed upon and arrangements for the show in August were made. A silver salver presented by Mr T Nash was received and it was agreed that it would be awarded as a perpetual trophy to the winner of the most prize cards.

At the Labour Party meeting, the panel members for an 'Any Questions' session at the school were Mr Brian Bailey (county councillor), Mrs Sybil Gwyther (district councillor), and Mr Bob Ealey (parish councillor), with Mr Stan Gwyther representing the constituency Labour Party and Mr Allan Payne presiding. After refreshments, the annual meeting was held with the secretary, Mrs Gwyther, reporting on the year's activities. After a healthy financial report, it was decided to send a contribution to the General Election fighting fund.

At the Women's Institute meeting the president, Mrs Deighton, welcomed members who saw travel films shown by Mr and Mrs Barnard on Switzerland, Cornwall and Wells Cathedral. They were thanked by Mrs Bailey who also won the raffle prize.

The 1st Bishops Hull Brownie Guide pack thanked all who helped them collect tin foil and milk bottle tops. The pack collected 2 cwt towards the Taunton Cub Scout and Brownie Guide Fund, which raised almost enough for a guide dog for the blind.

With her original recipe for egg and tomato flan, 13-year-old Susan Kerridge of the Post Office Stores was runner-up in the national finals of the 1974 'Junior Cook of the Realm' competition. She cooked her dish before a panel of judges at the Connaught Rooms, London, and won a prize of £5.

“Eyes down”

My first time ‘calling’ Bingo was at the Constitutional Club for Taunton and District Riding Club members, just before Christmas and I can tell you, it’s a lot harder than it looks. To start with I was calling the numbers far too slowly and finding it awkward using the electronic number selector, I was expecting actual bingo balls, lol. Thankfully I soon got the hang of it and the evening was a great success.

You’ll probably know, that each number has a word or short phrase associated with it. Traditional ‘calls’ include: two little ducks number 22, Kelly’s eye 1. Dancing queen 17 and droopy drawers 44.

As this was my first attempt, I decided to change it up a little with my own versions, to include a festive and horse theme, for example: Red Rum number 31 and Christmas Tree 3. I think they’re more fun if they rhyme too.

For my second event, Caroline from the Frank Bond Centre (FBC) has asked me to ‘call’ the bingo numbers at the centre’s Easter bingo event taking place at 2pm on Wednesday 20th March. This should be lots of fun with chocolate prizes. It’s only £3 to play, and includes complimentary tea and coffee. Everyone’s welcome, tickets not required, just turn up.

This time, I’d like to link as many of the 90 bingo numbers (1-90) to an Easter theme. So, for a bit of fun, would you like to help me? If so, then please do email your ideas to me at john@johnhunt.me.uk – An example could be: Chocolate Heaven, number 7.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the Frank Bond Centre, 84 Mountway Road, Bishop’s Hull, Taunton TA1 5DS – where there is always a warm, friendly welcome. It really is a great place to make new friends. Over 50s.

Happy Easter – John Hunt

Glorious Gardens opening their Gates in aid of St Margarets Hospice



We are thrilled to announce our Glorious Gardens Season is commencing at the end of March, **with a variety of gardens and village openings across the county**, details available on www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

Proceeds support our essential 24-hour care, available free of charge to anyone facing life limiting illness in Somerset.

As a small local charity, we support over 5,000 people annually, and rely on community support to help us. If you would be interested in taking part in our Glorious Gardens Season by volunteering to help on a garden open day, donating plants for sale, or offering a raffle prize, we would be delighted to hear from you.

In 2025 the hospice is celebrating its Sapphire Anniversary, having served the community for 45 years. We hope to commemorate this milestone by having 45 gardens taking part in the season, so if you have a lovely garden or interesting space that our supporters would enjoy visiting, please get in touch – perfection not required, weeds welcome! All gardens are covered by St Margarets Public Liability Insurance.

We look forward to hearing from you at fundraising@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk, or by phone on 01935 709485.

Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust

2024 Car Boot Dates

MONDAY	01/04/2024
SUNDAY	21/04/2024
MONDAY	06/05/2024
MONDAY	27/05/2024
SUNDAY	09/06/2024
SUNDAY	23/06/2024
SUNDAY	07/07/2024
SUNDAY	21/07/2024
SUNDAY	11/08/2024
MONDAY	26/08/2024
SUNDAY	08/09/2024
SUNDAY	22/09/2024



Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Police Community Support
Officer
PCSO 2582
Simon FARRY

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

We have been advised by the NPT (Neighbourhood Police Team) of the below occurrence, please take note and remain aware:

Two males attended a property in Taunton claiming they were from the council, stating they needed to enter the property to cut the bottom off the internal doors. The resident allowed access and asked for ID, which upon checking did not appear official, at this point the males pointed to a logo on their shirts. The men left the address claiming they would return the following week.

The resident called the council who confirmed they had no knowledge of the visit and therefore this must be treated as suspicious.

Always check ID prior to allowing entry.

Phone / Check with the company before allowing entry.

Call the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Do please take a moment to read the attached advice.

Attachments: *doorstep-crime.pdf*

DRINK DRIVING REPORT

Avon and Somerset Police arrested 324 drivers for driving under the influence of drink and/or drugs as part of a national policing operation, aimed at reducing fatal and serious Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and protecting other road users, which ran during the month of December. This was a 10 per cent increase on the number of arrests made during the same period in 2022. Drink driving accounted for 68 per cent of the offences, and drug driving for 32 per cent.

Through a combination of stop check sites, intelligence, public reports, and proactive patrols there were in the region of 2000 drivers stopped during the operation.

Community intelligence also formed a key part of Avon and Somerset Police's strategy to target dangerous drivers. Throughout the media campaign, the public were urged to contact police if they suspected an individual was driving while intoxicated, with the message that reports from the public really can help police to keep our roads safer.

One such report was received from a 999 call on Sunday 3 December, after a concerned motorist witnessed a vehicle being driven erratically on the M5 near

junction 25. After officers located and stopped the vehicle, the driver was breathalysed, arrested and subsequently charged with driving a motor vehicle when alcohol level was above the legal limit. He appeared in court on Thursday 21 December and received a 20-month disqualification from driving and a £120 fine.

During the winter operation, those aged between 25-34 accounted for 30 per cent of the arrests, followed by those aged 35-44 accounting for 26 per cent of the arrests.

These were followed by those aged between 45-54 (17 per cent) and those under 25 (17 per cent). Four in five of those arrested were male (79 per cent). The Bristol area saw 27 per cent of the arrests, while Somerset West had 24 per cent of the arrests and South Gloucestershire had 16 per cent of the arrests. Assistant Chief Constable Joanne Hall said,

“Over the festive period, 324 drivers have been taken off the road before they could cause harm through drink or drug driving.

“Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not only illegal, but also a reckless and dangerous choice that puts lives at risk. The consequences of such decisions can be catastrophic, causing irreversible harm and heartache to families and loved ones.

“I would like to thank the public who are helping us to target those people that they suspect are drink or drug driving. By doing this, you are helping us to reinforce the message that getting behind the wheel while under the influence is never acceptable. Together we are keeping the roads of Avon and Somerset safer.”

“I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our teams who work tirelessly to keep our roads safe, and will continue to do so throughout the year.”

Drivers risk up to six months' imprisonment, an unlimited fine and a substantial driving ban if they are caught driving while above the legal limit. Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of alcohol carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/drink-driving-penalties>

Recently a resident in Somerset took a phone call from a man pretending to be a Detective Constable who falsely claimed their debit card was being used by someone else. He said they would hear a bleep and then should dial 999 - in reality the fraudster would hold open the phone line and would not be connected to police but instead would still be talking again with the fraudster or one of their accomplices.

Fortunately, they realised it was a scam and told the fraudster they would hang up and go to a local police station to report it - which we are grateful they did. However, we are aware of other incidents recently in which people have received similar calls including from fraudsters claiming to work for the 'Fraud Department'.

Earlier this month another Somerset resident was encouraged to check the legitimacy of an officer by calling 999 - again the phone line was held open, so

they remained on the call with the fraudster and did not come through to our control room like they thought.

The victim was encouraged to withdraw thousands of pounds in cash from the bank to supposedly assist with a criminal investigation and was later asked to hand it to a courier who would take the bank notes away for analysis, after giving a pre-agreed password.

The courier attended the residents address in an estate car promising the money back within a few days, but when that date passed it became clear it had been a scam and reported what had happened.

What you should know:

"No police officer will ever ask you to hand over money, sensitive banking information or valuables to help with any criminal investigation."

That is the message we want people to share with friends and family following several reports recently of fraudsters pretending to be police officers phoning potential victims.

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/>

A LIGHTER MOMENT

Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display

Mothers and teenagers

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times



We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, but the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza grind on, as does the cost-of-living crisis. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction.

Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally. ##

New life for all the world

By Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells



Bishop's letter

Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (Jn 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam – come

to bring new life that has no end. What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners – like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?



For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

*Happy gardening and a very Happy
Easter to you all
Bishop Michael*

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING MARCH

TATTIE HUSHLE



3 fair-sized potatoes.
Skimmed milk.
Small leek or onion.
A little sauce.
1 heaped tablespoonful oatmeal.
Salt and pepper.
Nut of margarine.

Put potatoes and leek in a pan.
Season and cover with water.
Boil till tender, mash and add the margarine.
Soak the oatmeal in a little of the milk, then pour off the liquid into the soup and add the rest of the milk (about 1 pint).
Bring to a good boil and add a teaspoonful of sauce.
If you wish to keep some until the next day do not add the sauce until required.

I can thoroughly recommend this soup for it is economical, quick and delicious.

From Mrs. E. Grant, Surrey.

KROMESKIES

(This is a very good way of using up herring roes).



6 croutons of bread.
3 rashers of bacon.
6 soft roes.
2 tomatoes.

SKIN tomatoes, cut into slices, and bake on a greased baking-sheet in a moderate oven.

Cut rashers in half, wash roes, and roll each roe in a piece of bacon.
Dip in the following batter and fry.
Fry croutons of bread first, and keep tomatoes and croutons hot while frying roes.

Batter:

2 ozs. Flour.
1/2 gill tepid water.
1 white of egg.
1 dessertspoonful salad oil.

Mix flour into a smooth dough with water and salad oil.
Beat up white of egg stiffly and fold into batter.
Lay the cooked tomato slices on the fried croutons, and the roes on top of the tomatoes.
Serve hot.

From Miss H. Butler, Hertfordshire.

BIRD NESTS

TAKE the required number of hard-boiled eggs, cover them with smoothly mashed potatoes in which 1/2 tea- spoonful of curry powder has been mixed.
Roll in egg and breadcrumbs and fry to a golden brown.
Cut in half and serve each half on buttered toast.



From Mrs. C. Davenport, Shropshire.

CHOCOLATE APPLE STIRABOUT



1/4 lb. flour.
1 1/2 ozs. sugar.
3 or 4 cooking apples.
1 tablespoonful of cocoa.
Pinch of salt and milk to mix.
2 ozs. Margarine.

MIX flour, cocoa and salt, rub in margarine.

Add sugar and apples, pared, cored and cut into small pieces.

Mix with milk to the consistency of a thick batter. Pour into a greased baking-dish and bake in a hot oven for 20 to 30 minutes.

Serve with golden syrup.

*From Miss E. Rutherford,
Nortlumberland.*

FRUMENTY AND FLUFFIN

FRUMENTY, which is an old yeoman farmer's dish, and Fluffin were made at Christmas time.

The old custom was to sup a wee bowl on Christmas Eve, and offer it to the stranger within the door. It is a great favourite in the districts of Stockton-on-Tees and Coxhoe.

To make Fluffin, simmer enough barley and milk until it is as smooth as velvet.

Add enough grated nutmeg and sugar to taste, and a few drops of brandy.

Frumenty takes a lot of cooking. Simmer enough kibbled wheat for 12 hours; then add a nut of butter,

mixed spice, currants (if liked), sugar, cream and rum.

It is as near a liquid spice loaf as one can imagine, delightful and fragrant. One farmer I heard described it as "Gruel with its best clothes on."

*From Mrs. E. Symes,
Northumberland.*

HATTED KIT

(A very old Highland dish)



WARM slightly over the fire 2 pints of buttermilk.

Pour it into a dish and carry it to the side of a cow.

Milk into it about 1 pint of milk, having previously put into the dish



sufficient rennet for the whole.

After allowing it to stand for a while, lift the curd, place it on a sieve, and press the whey through until the curd is quite stiff.

Season with sugar and nutmeg before serving.

Whip some thick cream, season it also with a little grated nutmeg and sugar, and mix gently with the curd.

This dish can quite well be made without milking the cow into it, although direct milking puts a better "hat" on the Kit.

*From Miss H. Stuart, Wigtownshire,
Scotland.*

Reflecting Faith: Lychgates

On the moors near to where I used to live in West Yorkshire, there were a couple of large stones with crosses marked on them. Many people thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area they were. To be more exact, they were on the route towards the oldest churchyard.

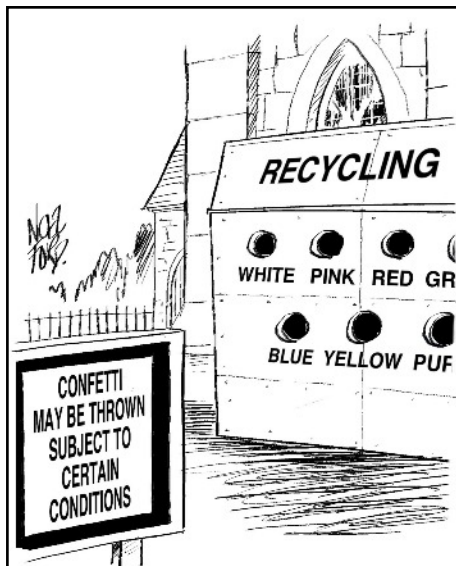
In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.

When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So, a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church.

The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

Because of typical English weather - rain and wind - it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the anglo-saxon word lich or lic, related to the modern German word leiche, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today, as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed. In the eighteenth century, when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined, many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continues to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties.



A LITTLE ADVICE



Rules of living well after 60

You are, as some may say, passing your 'sell by' date and everything seems to be getting a little harder to achieve. You are also beginning to believe that you should slow down a bit.

You shouldn't slow down," says Sir Muir Gray, 80, former chief knowledge officer for the NHS. "Ageing exists as a normal biological process but until the age of 90, it has little effect on your ability to look after yourself, engage with others or get about independently. In fact, paradoxically, as we get older, we need to become more active – physically and mentally. Ageing doesn't make you feel old – disease and loss of fitness will."

A study from the Yale School of Public Health found that people who had positive ideas about their own ageing ("I have as much pep as last year") lived for an average of 22.6 years after they first participated in the study, while the people who felt less positively about ageing, lived for just 15 years more on average.

Of course, getting older does involve some loss of energy. But slowing down a bit is never something to be ashamed of, and getting enough rest is the very cornerstone of leading a good life.

Exercise is also crucial as we get older. Focus on the four Ss: stamina, strength, skill (balance) and suppleness. Maintain your stamina by brisk walking every day for 30 minutes.

When you are ill, get up again as soon as you reasonably can. Otherwise, you are at risk of 'deconditioning syndrome', a physiological decline where muscle strength can decrease dramatically if you are over 70.

Thoughtfully review of your personal life-balance. Try to find the 'sweet spot' between activity and rest. Gray advises: *"If you're only doing activities, you are inevitably going to burn out. But if you only rest, you will become sedentary and you're more likely to fall ill, feel disconnected and lonely."*

LOOKING AT LIFE

Our young people are just so unhappy



Young people in the UK are feeling more lonely, and yet are less likely to have a stable relationship or friendship than they did, even a decade ago.

So finds the Boys Brigade, which carried out an extensive study as part of its recent 140th anniversary events.

Almost half of the young people questioned admitted that they were in regular mental distress, and yet had had no medical diagnosis or treatment.

Rates of self-harm, disability, and obesity have also gone up. One in every seven young people is even unhappy with their appearance.

The study, Youth Culture and Trends also found that the shift to spending more time online with others, rather than in face-to-face relationships, mirrors a reported decline in the satisfaction with friendships and rise in loneliness.

**

Mr Bates vs The Post Office: not the only one

“We’re here because the Post Office told every single one of

us sat here today, told us over and over, ‘You’re the only one.’ And that was wrong. That was a lie, actually. Because... well, look at us. Here we all are. And from this moment forwards, none of us will be the only one ever again.”

By now, most of us know what the Post Office did all those years ago. It’s hard to believe that hundreds of innocent sub-postmasters were repeatedly lied to and prosecuted in what has been called ‘the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history’.



Yet when Horizon, the computer system rolled out to each post office, incorrectly showed huge account shortfalls, these were blamed on sub-postmasters. They were told that nobody else had any issues, that they were the only one.

Except that they weren’t – and the Post Office knew this.

But still the Post Office went ahead and prosecuted these sub-postmasters. Some went bankrupt, some went to prison, some committed suicide.

The anger and outcry against the Post Office is welcome. The cry for justice is right. We all want to live in a society where justice is done.

**

This Mothering Sunday, could you give the Gift of Dignity?

The Mothers' Union has launched 'Make A Mother's Day', its annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign. It hopes to raise funds to support the MU's global community projects, which "transform lives every day."

The MU says: "We know how important mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are, and how much they do to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks."

And so, for Mothering Sunday (10th March) the MU is asking people to buy a 'Gift of Dignity', to help empower women in developing countries to transform their lives, and to reach their full potential.

"When buying these life-changing gifts, you will receive a card that explains your gift along with a Mothering Sunday greetings card, which you can give to a loved one. You are also able to give a gift in memory of someone special."

The Mothers' Union also says: "We look forward to hearing about the events, coffee mornings and church collections you hold to fundraise for our Make A Mother's Day 2024 campaign." You can tag any posts using #MAMD24 or #MU

The Mothers' Union has been running the 'Make A Mother's Day' campaign since 2006, to celebrate all mothers and caregivers - how they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

<https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

Thanking two kinds of Mother on 10th March



Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages.

Mother's Day is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907.

In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds.

If you ask Google for ideas of how to be nice to your church on that day, you won't find much. But if you want to be kind to your mother that day, you will be spoilt for choice. High on all the lists are suggestions for taking her to lunch, giving flowers, a card, or paying for her to have a day doing something she loves.

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best thing to give your mother must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her.

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

DOES THE ADDER SWALLOW HER YOUNG?

The ancient controversy as to whether the female adder swallows her young (not *se offledendo*, as Hamlet's gravedigger would have it), but in order to protect them from danger, revives periodically. The problem is still unsolved though it is at least as old as Gilbert White.

The *Natural History of Selborne* contains his letter to Pennant (dated June 1 8th, 1768) in which he wrote:

'Several intelligent folks assure me that they have seen the viper open her mouth, and admit her helpless young down her throat on sudden surprises, just as the female opossum does her brood into the pouch under her belly upon the like emergencies; and yet the London viper-catchers insist on it, to Mr. Barrington, that no such thing ever happens.'

In a letter to Daines Barrington, dated April 29th, 1776, he describes how, in the previous August, he killed and cut open a female viper and found fifteen live young in her belly. The letter ends:

'There was little room to suppose that this brood had ever been in the open air before; and that they were taken in for refuge, at the mouth of the dam, when she perceived that danger was approaching; because then probably we should have found them somewhere in the neck, and not in the abdomen.'

These quotations present the two opposing views in the controversy. There are on record numerous circumstantial accounts given by eye-witnesses. These reports do not greatly vary: the adder was heard hissing; the young ones were seen all round her; she raised her head a little above the ground and the young crawled into her mouth and disappeared. Some witnesses saw the tail of a young adder curling round its mother's jaws. Often they killed the reptile and squeezed the young out of her mouth, or found the fry alive inside her.

So much for the evidence on this side. Now listen to the other. First, it must be remembered that the oviduct of the female adder extends some two thirds of her length, towards the head, so that it is quite possible for the unborn young to be forced out of the mother's mouth, if, as often happens, her body has been shattered by shot or battered by a stick; for the female adder, unlike the grass snake, does not lay eggs, but brings forth her young alive. And further, though the late Mr. Tegetmeier, through *The Field*, offered many years ago a prize of £5 for the production of convincing evidence that female adders swallowed their young, the prize was never won. On 20th October 1927 *The Field*



published a short article which stated that one applicant, who wrote that he had seen the last of the brood disappear down its mother's throat, killed the reptile, tied a noose round its neck to prevent the young escaping, and sent it to Dr. Gunther, the then keeper of the Zoological Department of the British Museum. Dr. Gunther dissected it in the presence of the Fellows of the Linnean Society. The stomach of the viper contained a recently swallowed field mouse! Indeed, a (sic) *ridiculus mus*! Its tail had been mistaken for that of a young adder. I am not aware of any later expert pronouncement on the point but I believe that there is as yet no scientific proof that the adder swallows her young.

How, then, can the evidence of so many eye-witnesses of this phenomenon be explained away? One theory is that the supposed swallowing is an optical illusion. The young wriggle towards the mother and endeavour to conceal themselves underneath the folds of her body: the open jaws of the hissing snake and the celerity of the movements of the youngsters create the illusion that they are being swallowed, whereas really they have disappeared into the maternal coils. In fact, the adder performs an involuntary conjuring trick which the human eye cannot follow. Another suggestion is that what has been seen is an act, perhaps occasional, of cannibalism.



I have also seen it objected that it is physically impossible for an adder to swallow her young. I think this objection cuts no ice. Snakes have no breast or collar bones: the ribs, being free at the ends, can be flattened out to allow distention of the body when the prey is swallowed. The bones of the skull, too, are connected so loosely that the head can be widened, so much so that it is stated that the mouth can admit an object three times the size of the snake's head: further, the two halves of the lower jaw are not connected by bone but by ligaments.

A more serious objection is raised by Mr. Douglas St. L. Gordon in *Dartmoor in all its Moods* (pp. 274-5). He writes :—

‘The difficulties of belief are numerous . . . , but most insuperable, perhaps, is the question of time. The act of swallowing even one young viper could scarcely be otherwise than a lengthy proceeding, and if the reptile can indeed absorb its entire family in the space of a few seconds. It must be a singularly gifted creature, particularly when one remembers that the adder is viviparous, its brood numbering as many as fifteen - a liberal mouthful.

(Ed. To be continued next month)



Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

The month of March brings us the Great Daffodil Appeal. This annual campaign is a fundraising initiative by the Marie Curie charity, which provides care and support to people living with terminal illnesses and their families.

The Great Daffodil Appeal says: "Right now one in four people don't get the care they need at the end of life. With your support, we can help bring end of life care and support to everyone who needs it, in their homes and in our hospices."

Here are some ways to participate:

Purchase a Daffodil Pin: And wear it as a symbol of support.

Organise or Attend Fundraising Events: Many events, such as charity walks, bake sales, and concerts, are organised to raise funds during the appeal.

Donate Online: Visit the Marie Curie website to make a donation online, which goes directly to providing care for those in need.

Volunteer Your Time: to help with various activities during the appeal.

Spread Awareness: Use social media to encourage others to get involved and donate.

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal was established to honour the memory of Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist known for her work on radioactivity, as well as her dedication to providing care to those with cancer. The daffodil, a symbol of renewal and hope, was chosen to represent the campaign's message of support and care for individuals with terminal illnesses.

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil>



Field of
Daffodils
Ludgvan
Cornwall



Tim's Tech Tips

Taunton Deane's Own
Tech Tips Column

Aye Aye, A.I.! Keeping an eye on you!

A.I. (or AI) It appears to have come out of nowhere in the last year. But what is it? *AI means machines can do things that people can do with their brains. For example, AI can help computers talk, choose, fix, or make new things. AI is not one thing, but many different ways and tools to help machines do different things. Some of the ways are machine learning, deep learning, and natural language processing. AI is in many things we use every day, such as chatbots, music apps, maps, and voice helpers. AI can make our lives better, but it also has some problems and dangers we need to think about.*



Now, cards on the table. I just used an AI computer program called ChatGPT to write the above text in this article, that is in italics. (Everything else is written by me, a real human!) AI, or Artificial Intelligence is a slightly concerning term to describe new types of computer programs that attempt to emulate aspects of how humans think. Some concepts have been emulated quite well whilst others, presently at least, leave a lot to be desired.

One of the tools available for the everyone to try out is called ChatGPT - not exactly the funkiest brand name ever invented. But nonetheless, it is very easy to use. (If you want to try it yourself, go to the website [bing.com](https://www.bing.com) and then click on the blue 'chat' icon). The idea with ChatGPT is that you ask real human-type questions.

I posed this question: "Write me a 150-word summary on what AI is, for a non-technical adult audience." The first response, whilst quite succinct, still had too much technical jargon in it - but it was the right length. So, I then wrote back to ChatGPT "Write me simpler version of the last answer". The result is what you see in Italics above.

Quite impressive! You could search Google for something on AI but you would then need to rewrite it yourself - possible reading multiple sources. ChatGPT is attempting to do that interpreting and combining for you.

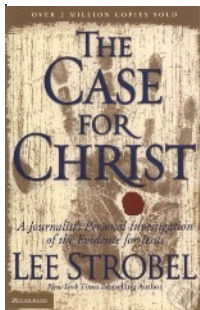
However, AI Picture Drawing is, ahem, somewhat experimental still. I asked ChatGPT "Draw me a simple diagram that represents AI in use." The first result wasn't what I wanted. So I said "Redraw the picture but with cartoon characters, to depict what AI is in 2023." Errr, the strange result is the image you see above!

There are real concerns, of course, where this all leads. Worries over job losses, over reliance on machine-produced information that may be wrong, and on it goes. But AI is here, and already widely in use, and ChatGPT gives us early insights into how it works.



By Tim Finch
07514 059313
www.taunton.it

BOOK REVIEWS



The Case for Christ - a Journalist's Personal Investigation Of The Evidence For Jesus

By Lee Strobel,

Is there credible Evidence that

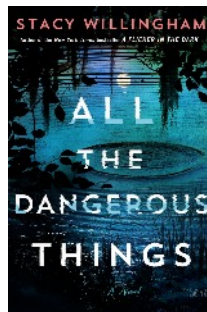
Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God?

Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognised authorities in their own fields.

Strobel challenges them with questions like, How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event?

Winner of the Gold Medallion Book Award and twice nominated for the Christian Book of the Year Award, Strobel's tough, point-blank questions read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it's not fiction. It's a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure.

The new edition includes updated material on archaeological and manuscript discoveries, and an interview with the author that tells dramatic stories about the book's impact, provides behind-the-scenes information, and responds to critiques of the book by sceptics. #####



All the Dangerous Things

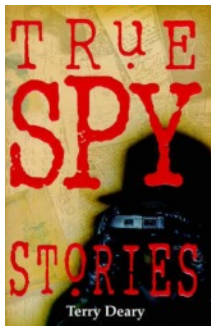
Stacy Willingham

One year ago, Isabelle Drake's life changed forever: her toddler son,

Mason, was taken out of his crib in the middle of the night while she and her husband were asleep in the next room. With little evidence and few leads for the police to chase, the case quickly went cold. However, Isabelle cannot rest until Mason is returned to her—literally.

Except for the occasional catnap or small blackout where she loses track of time, she hasn't slept in a year.

Isabelle's entire existence now revolves around finding him, but she knows she can't go on this way forever. In hopes of jarring loose a new witness or buried clue, she agrees to be interviewed by a true-crime podcaster—but his interest in Isabelle's past makes her nervous. His incessant questioning paired with her severe insomnia has brought up uncomfortable memories from her own childhood, making Isabelle start to doubt her recollection of the night of Mason's disappearance, as well as second-guess who she can trust... including herself. But she is determined to figure out the truth no matter where it leads.



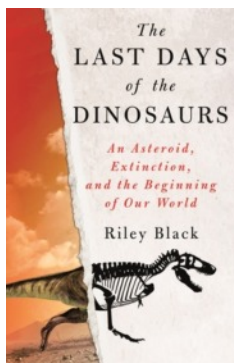
True Spy Stories

Terry Deary

In these true tales of international espionage, find out about: the Internet spy who hacked into military secrets and ended up dead; the

ruthless emperor who spied on his own army; and the double agent who was awarded medals for bravery by the country he betrayed.

What's it like to be a spy? Glamorous and exciting? Just like James Bond? Find out in these true tales of international espionage. Hear about the Internet spy who hacked into military secrets - and ended up dead; the ruthless emperor who spied on his own army; and the double agent who was awarded medals for bravery by the country he had betrayed. Discover amazing facts about equipment, codes and disguises and enter the intriguing world of real-life spies!



The Last Days of the Dinosaurs:

An Asteroid, Extinction, and the Beginning of Our World

Riley Black

In The Last Days of the

Dinosaurs, Riley Black walks readers

through what happened in the days, the years, the centuries, and the million years after the impact, tracking the sweeping disruptions that overtook this one spot, and imagining what might have been happening elsewhere on the globe. Life's losses were sharp and deeply-felt, but the hope carried by the beings that survived sets the stage for the world as we know it now.

Picture yourself in the Cretaceous period. It's a sunny afternoon in the Hell Creek of ancient Montana 66 million years ago. A Triceratops horridus ambles along the edge of the forest. In a matter of hours, everything here will be wiped away. Lush verdure will be replaced with fire. Tyrannosaurus rex will be toppled from their throne, along with every other species of non-avian dinosaur no matter their size, diet, or disposition. They just don't know it yet.

The cause of this disaster was identified decades ago. An asteroid some seven miles across slammed into the Earth, leaving a geologic wound over 50 miles in diameter. In the terrible mass extinction that followed, more than half of known species vanished seemingly overnight. But this worst single day in the history of life on Earth was as critical for us as it was for the dinosaurs, as it allowed for evolutionary opportunities that were closed for the previous 100 million years.

Where is the most generous place in the UK?

The fundraising website *GoFundMe* has praised the British public, as recent figures show that it receives a donation every second of every day.

The generosity of the British can even be broken down into regions. Last year Manchester was the most generous place in the UK, with 43,135 donations, while Liverpool (36,739), Brighton (19,641), Lisburn (11,122) and Saint Albans (10,474) came in second, third, fourth and fifth respectively. This past year, many British donors have given to the victims of conflicts and natural disasters, from Ukraine to Syria, Turkey to Morocco, not forgetting those impacted by the various storms that battered the UK itself.

One notable success was for victims of Storm Babet, whose homes were flooded in Chesterfield. The fundraiser, organised by a team at Lifehouse Church in the town, raised more than £92,000, from a total of 1,600 donations.

All in all, the UK was ranked as the third most generous country in the world per capita, with more than four million donations made last year.

Tim Cadogan, chief executive of *GoFundMe*, said the organisation has now celebrated its “billion-pound milestone” of donations raised from the UK since its inception in 2017, and he estimates a quarter of a billion pounds was raised on the platform in 2023 alone – which he said were “incredible numbers”

What do you think of the weather forecasts?



It seems there is some turbulence between the Met Office and the Royal Meteorological Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society has objected to the recent “deluge” of cautionary statements that the Met Office put out concerning the recent storms. It says that “probably not a day went by” during one week of bad

weather, “without a weather warning.” It fears that too many warnings will risk making people “complacent”.

The Met Office, backed by a Cabinet Officer minister, Alex Burghart, disagreed. Responding to an urgent question in the House of Commons, he said:

“The forecasting capabilities of our experts in the Met Office and the accuracy and speed at which they can warn and inform the public of incoming severe weather events does, with no doubt, save lives and protect our homes and businesses.”

What do you think? Is the Met Office playing Nanny, or getting it right?

A LITTLE HUMOUR

Missing socks in your life

What does it mean when all the socks in your laundry match, with none left over? You're now losing them in pairs.

The end is near

Every time a little boy went to a playmate's house, he found the friend's grandmother deeply engrossed in her Bible. Finally his curiosity got the better of him.

"Why do you suppose your grandmother reads the Bible so much?" he asked.

"I'm not sure," said his friend, "but I think she's cramming for her finals."

A businessman went into the office and found an inexperienced handyman painting the walls. The handyman was wearing two heavy parkas on a hot summer day.

Thinking this was a little strange, the businessman asked the handyman why he was wearing the parkas on such a hot day.

The handyman showed him the instructions on the can of paint. They read: "For best results, put on two coats."

John visited his 90-year-old grandpa who lived way out in the country. On the first morning of the visit, John's grandpa prepared a breakfast of bacon and eggs. John noticed a film-like substance on his plate, and asked, "Are these plates clean?"

His grandpa replied, "They're as clean as cold water can get them. Just go ahead and finish your meal."

For lunch, Grandpa made hamburgers. Again, John was concerned about the plates, as his appeared to have specks of dried egg on it. "Are you sure these plates are clean?" he asked.

Without looking up, Grandpa said, "I told you before, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them!"

Later, as John was leaving, his grandpa's dog started to growl and wouldn't let him pass.

John said, "Grandpa, your dog won't let me get by!"

Grandpa yelled to the dog, "Cold Water, go lie down!"

So the Pope is SUPER early for his flight.

He asks his driver on his way to the airport if he could drive around for a while because they have time to kill and he hasn't driven a car since becoming the pope.

Naturally, he's a bit rusty, so he's driving poorly, when suddenly he sees police lights behind him. He pulls over and when the officer comes up to the window his eyes go wide. He says to the pope "Hold on for a minute," and goes back to his car to radio the chief.

Cop: "Chief we have a situation. I've pulled over an important figure."

Chief: "How important? A governor or something?"

Cop: "No sir. He's bigger."

Chief: "So, what? a celebrity or something?"

Cop: "More important, sir."

Chief: "A major politician?"

Cop: "No sir, he's much more important."

Chief: "WELL WHO IS IT!?"

Cop: "Well actually I'm not sure. But the pope's his driver." *****

The world's leading expert on European wasps walks into a record shop. He asks the assistant "Do you have 'European Vespidae Acoustics Volume 2? I believe it was released this week.'"

"Certainly," replies the assistant. "Would you like to listen before you buy it?"

"That would be wonderful," says the expert, and puts on a pair of headphones. He listens for a few moments and says to the assistant, "I'm terribly sorry, but I am the world's leading expert on European wasps and this is not accurate at all. I don't recognize any of those sounds. Are you sure this is the correct recording?"

The assistant checks the turntable, and replies that it is indeed European Vespidae Acoustics Volume 2. The assistant apologizes and lifts the needle onto the next track. Again the expert listens for a few moments and then says to the assistant, "No, this just can't be right! I've been an expert in this field for 43 years and I still don't recognize any of these sounds."

The assistant apologizes again and lifts the needle to the next track. The expert throws off the headphones as soon as it starts playing and is fuming with rage.

"This is outrageous false advertising! I am the world's leading expert on European wasps and no European wasp has ever made a sound like the ones on this record!"

The manager of the shop overhears the commotion and walks over. "What seems to be the problem, sir?"

"This is an outrage! I am the world's leading expert on European wasps. Nobody knows more about them than I do. There is no way in hell that the sounds on that record were made by European wasps!"

The manager glances down and notices the problem instantly. "I'm terribly sorry, sir. It appears we've been playing you the bee side."

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back toward his car when his attention was diverted to another man kneeling at a grave. The man seemed to be praying with profound intensity and kept repeating, "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?"

The first man approached him and said, "Sir, I don't wish to interfere with your private grief, but this demonstration of pain is more than I've ever seen before. For whom do you mourn so deeply? A child? A parent?"

The mourner took a moment to collect himself and replied, "My wife's first husband."

A few minutes before the services started, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate. Soon the church was empty except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the man and said,

"Do you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

"Aren't you afraid of me?" Satan asked.

"Nope, sure ain't." said the man.

"Don't you realise I can kill you with one word?" asked Satan.

"Don't doubt it for a minute," returned the old man, in an even tone.

"Did you know that I can cause you profound, horrifying AGONY for all eternity?" persisted Satan.

"Yep," was the calm reply.

"And you are still not afraid?" asked Satan. "Nope," said the old man.

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied,

"Been married to your sister for 48 years."

A doctor was addressing a large audience in Oxford "The materials we put into our stomach should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago.

. Red meat is full of steroids and dye.

Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining.

Chinese food is loaded with MSG.

High transfat diets can be disastrous and none of us realises the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. But... There is one thing that is the more dangerous to all us and most of us have had it, or will have it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 70-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake". ##

George Bush the Younger noticed a man in a long flowing white robe in an airport lobby

The man had a staff in one hand and some stone tablets under the other arm. George Bush the Younger approached the man and inquired,

"Aren't you Moses." The man ignored him and stared at the ceiling. Bush the younger positioned himself more directly in the man's view and asked again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man continued to peruse the ceiling. Bush the Younger tugged at the man's sleeve and asked once again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man finally responded in an irritated voice, "Yes I am." Bush the Younger asked him why he was ignoring him. Moses replied, "The last time I spoke to a Bush I had to spend forty years in the desert!"

One day a man with an elephant walks into a movie theatre.

"I'm afraid I can't let your elephant in here, sir," the manager says.

"Oh, I assure you, he's very well behaved," the man says.

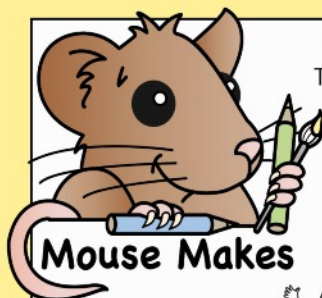
"All right then," the manager says. "If you're sure. ..."

After the movie, the manager says to the man, "I'm very surprised! Your elephant was well behaved, and he even seemed to enjoy the movie!"

"Yes, I was surprised, too," says the man. "He hated the book."

For a long time, I was told I should weigh myself naked, because it's the most accurate way of measuring my weight.

If that's true, I still don't get why I was kicked out of the pharmacy.



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible
passages to find
the answers to the
crossword clues

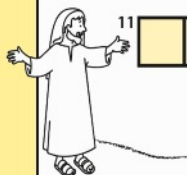
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

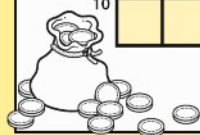
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



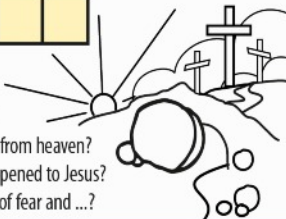
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.



Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

St James the Least of All

The Revd 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 pews SHOULD be uncomfortable

*The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren,

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are meant to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built 500 years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter, and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday. I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing “let us pray” from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward-thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick, and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation’s religious zeal would soar.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*

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

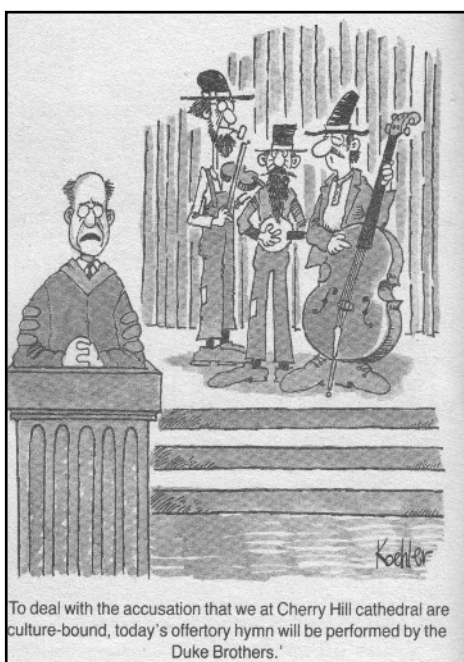
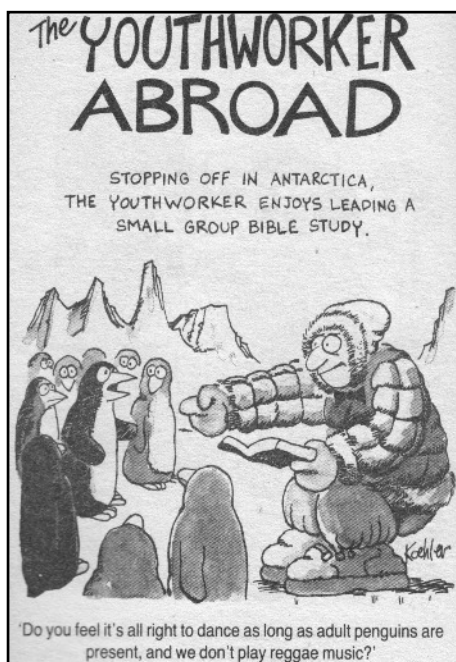
6.15-7.00 Group Fitness Training HUB
 10.00-12.00 Baby Badgers BH HUB
 10.00-12noon Bridge Club FBC
 12.30 Prenatal/Little Ones Yoga HUB
 2.00-4.00pm Croquet FBC

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



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@googlegmail.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 MARCH 2024

Sunday 3 March Lent 3	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22	Will Osmond
Wednesday 6 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 10 March Lent 4	Holy Communion Holy Communion MOTHERING SUNDAY	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. ..	Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21	David Ager
Wednesday 13 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 17 March Lent 5	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33	Paul Curry
Wednesday 20 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Selected readings for Palm Sunday	TBA
Monday 25 March	Evening Prayer	7.30 p.m.		
Tuesday 26 March	Evening Prayer	7.30 p.m.		
Wednesday 27 March	Holy Communion Evening Prayer	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.		
Maundy Thursday 28 March	Holy Communion	7.30 p.m.		
Good Friday 29 March	Hour of Reflection	2.00 p.m.		
Sunday 31 March Easter 1	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18	Sally Adams



GRASS CUTTING -

3 March Peter Willis
17 March Stuart English
31 March Will Osmond

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**

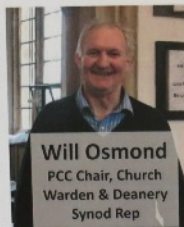
Safeguarding Officer: **Mrs Sally Adams**
254413

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!