



BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE
MARCH 2025

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

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

Proof reader - Margaret Coombs

Magazine Cover:

Photographs by
Bob & Penny Coombs & Bob Winn

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

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

Please help to make the magazine interesting by contributing material.

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

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

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS photo by Penny Coombs



Cover - Spring has arrived.



**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

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2025

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Easter Monday 21st APRIL

Bank Holiday Monday 5th MAY

Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26th MAY

Sunday 22nd JUNE

Sunday 6th JULY

Sunday 20th JULY

Sunday 3rd AUGUST

Sunday 17th AUGUST

Bank Holiday Monday 25th AUGUST

Sunday 7th SEPTEMBER

Sunday 21st SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5th OCTOBER



Start Time 7a.m.

Bishop's Hull Playing Field TA1 5EB

///rocket.force.Monday

Sellers' Cars: £7 Vans: £10 Buyer Parking: £2

The Money raised supports the running and maintenance of the playing field facilities for the benefit of users and community

Sellers responsible for removing their own rubbish

Toilets Available

Dogs allowed on a lead

All events subject to cancellation without notice at organisers discretion. All net proceeds to the Bishop's Hull Village Hall and Playing Fields Trust, a non-profit making registered charity.

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 1.30-4:00**

Wednesday – Flexercise & Tai Chi 10:00-12:00

**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

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

3rd Wednesday in month Games 2.00-4.00

4th Wednesday in month Music Appreciation 2.00-4.00

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

NO MONTHLY LUNCHES

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.

Vicar: Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)
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I cannot but marvel at the incredible speed of the advances that have been made in communications since my parents got their first shared telephone line in 1955. Thankfully, as children, we lived in a world that gave us time to grow up in a more orderly fashion than today's.

Those readers who know me well won't have to be reminded that my whole 'career' was in radio and electronic communications. I started with the dots and dashes of the Morse code and progressed year after year until today where my main communication vehicle is the www. and the Internet and, in some cases, zeros and ones.

I do not envy today's parents with their children having immediate access to all of the latest technology and, for some, even before they can read and write. If you are one of those then the following advice may be of some help.

Many of us adults see our online lives and offline lives as different.

But for children growing up with technology and the Internet, there isn't a difference – online life and offline life is just life.

Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace. So it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.

Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

It also means that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

But it's easy to become overwhelmed with the different technology, the language that children use, the huge number of games and apps which are available and the potential risks.

For older children and teenagers.

Their needs and behaviour will be changing and they may find talking to you about difficult topics embarrassing. They will still look to you for support, so it's worth continuing to check in with them regularly, even if there's nothing they want to talk about.

There is masses of helpful information out there - you could start by trying -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/> Stay Safe.

The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal, a journey of forty days (not including Sundays) preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter. It's not just about giving something up, but about taking something on – a deeper connection with God, a renewed commitment to our faith.



This Lent, perhaps we can consider what truly nourishes our souls. Is it time spent in prayer, reading scripture, or simply being still in God's presence? Maybe it's reaching out to others, offering a helping hand, or sharing a kind word. Perhaps it's decluttering not just our homes, but our minds and hearts, creating space for God to enter more fully.

Lent invites us to examine our lives, to acknowledge our shortcomings, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. It's a time for humility, for recognising our dependence on God's grace. Let us embrace this season with open hearts, ready to be transformed by God's love. Let us journey together, supporting and encouraging one another as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth and blessing for us all.

Two ways you may want to mark Lent this year:

- 1 A weekly evening time of led **reflection and prayer**, Tuesdays in church from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. March 04, 11, 18, 25, April 01.
- 2 Another fantastic concert by Gregory and Ellen Steward on **Sunday 06 April 2025** at 3pm, tickets (£12pp) available from Rev Phil Hughes or on the door.

God bless
Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar, Chaplain and fellow Disciple of Jesus

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

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

The Church has opened **the Bridge** for the return of the Monthly Coffee Mornings to be held on the last Saturday of each month and running now through the rest of 2025. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 29th MARCH**. Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.



Bell Ringing

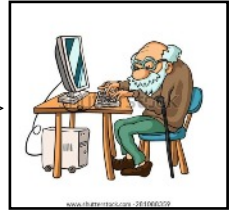
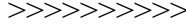
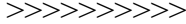
We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

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

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

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





Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

A little bird told me that the Editor really has a considerable`supply of British Organically grown Cooked, Sliced & Bottled Beetroot for sale.

Parish Council news

The January Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday 16th January (after this newsletter has gone to print).

At the January meeting the budget for the financial year 1st April 2025- 31st March 2026 will be agreed and the precept request from Somerset Council will be confirmed.

The precept is the element on your Council tax bill that funds the Parish Council activities (such as managing open spaces/carrying out maintenance in the Parish/paying for the PC owned dog bins to be emptied/supporting local groups and employing a proper officer).

The Clerk has prepared a draft budget and this was discussed by Councillors at the December meeting and a specific budget setting meeting was held in January. Councillors agreed that they did not want residents to incur a large increase in Council tax from the Parish Council. Therefore, the proposed budget will cover the anticipated costs for the next year and will give the Parish Council an extra £3000 from last year, but this will not incur a significant increase in the residents precept element of our Council tax bills.

For example; for a Band D property within Bishop's Hull, the Parish Council precept will equate to an additional 21p per year. Please note different bands incur different charges based on the size of your property, but no one will receive a large increase based on the precept element.

Please also note that the Parish Council does not have any control over how much Somerset Council will increase their Council tax by, but they are legislated by Central Government and have to adhere to the capped percentage increase, to which they are permitted. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/council-tax/your-council-tax-bill-explained/>

There will be no meeting in February but the agreed budget will be added to the Parish Council website for residents to view;

<https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th March 2024, 7pm at the HUB

New Year - Why not take on a new challenge??

Bishop's Hull Parish Council have vacancies for new Councillors. To be a Councillor you do not need to have any qualifications or have worked in Local Government — you just need to have an interest in your local community and want to contribute to how the Parish Council makes decisions. This can be from agreeing the budget as outlined above, supporting local groups, deciding on carrying out extra maintenance or installing a new notice board. The role of Parish Councillor is varied and the only commitment is to try and attend every meeting and read and respond to emails in between meetings, some Councillors take on extra responsibilities but this depends on how much time you have. If you are interested please either contact the Clerk — email: clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk, come along to a meeting (dates are on the website and advertised here every month). ###

Bishop's Hull HUB

On Saturday 8th February from 10-12noon *Join us for the Volunteering Café* event took place. Herewith is the meeting information published pre meeting.

Looking for a new way to get involved in our wonderful community? Want to meet new people, pick up a hobby, or lend a hand to local causes? Then come along to our Volunteering Café on Saturday 8th February from 10am to 12 noon at the Bishops Hull HUB!

This relaxed and informal event is all about showcasing the amazing organisations that make our village such a vibrant and welcoming place to live. It's your chance to grab a cuppa, have a chat, and discover how you can get involved in village life.

Representatives from a fantastic range of groups will be there to share what they do and how you can take part. Whether you fancy helping out with the Parish Council, exploring the great outdoors with Netherclay Woodlands, getting your hands dirty with the Gardening Club, supporting our youngsters with the PTA or Youth Club, or even getting involved with the Frank Bond Centre or Cricket Club, there's bound to be something that sparks your interest. The Church, Playing Field Trust, and of course, the HUB itself will also be there to chat about their fantastic projects and how you can join in. This is a perfect opportunity for residents old and new to connect with local organisations, learn about the wonderful work they do, and see how you can be part of it. Plus, it's a great excuse to enjoy some good company and refreshments!

So, whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just curious to see what's out there, we'd love to see you at the Volunteering Café. Together, we can make Bishops Hull an even better place to live. See you on the 8th!

Fish and Chip Quiz Night: 8th March

Doors open at 7pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm. £11 per person. Teams of up to eight people. Bring your own drinks, we'll supply the Fish 'n' Chips. Book early to avoid disappointment: <https://bishopshull.square.site/>

The Youth Club met on Saturday 15th February 7.15pm — 9.15pm.

The Youth Club now has brand new equipment!

An Air-hockey table; Foosball table; Bean bags for a cosy corner and Spike ball set!

If your child lives in Bishops Hull and is aged 11-17 please do come and try us out. £1 entry and they can bring a friend who doesn't live in the village if they wish. Bring extra money for the tuck shop!

Get in touch with claire.plumbly@hotmail.co.uk if you have questions.

Young people can report a crime anonymously

In the latest police newsletter (which can be found on the PC website and Facebook page) it highlighted that in Youth Hubs, 69% of young people told us that they aren't aware of how to report a crime anonymously.

Young people can visit the Fearless reporting site:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless> or call 0800 555 111

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club

January 2025 winners

£36.80 — Sheila Warden £18.40 — Helen McGladdery £9.20 — Helen Plumbly

Tickets are £2 per month. Email bhhub100club@gmail.com for further details.

The next draw took place at the Hub Cafe on the 8th February

Join our 100 club today and you could be our next winner!

You must be 16 years or older to purchase a ticket.

The 100 club supports the Bishop's Hull HOB.

Could you provide a safe, supportive home for a local child in need?

The number of children needing to be in the care of Somerset Council is rising, so there is a clear need to encourage more families to become foster carers. For this month's article, I thought I'd promote the council's latest fostering campaign. Fostering is a rewarding paid role that requires no experience as full training and ongoing support is provided. Anyone can foster providing they have a spare room in their home and are aged 21 or over, but there is no upper age limit.



Find out more online at www.FosteringInSomerset.org.uk or call 0800 587 9900. You're not committing to anything by getting in touch to find out more, and you could help change a child's story.

Thank you for reading

John Hunt

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 7.30pm 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.

New members are very welcome. Why not come along at 7.30pm to the Bishop's Hull Hub and find out more about us?

New members are always welcome, just come along and see for yourselves what a friendly group of ladies we are!

Meetings are held normally on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bishops Hull Hub. PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED START TIME OF 7.30 pm..

Guests are more than welcome to come along to one of our meetings .

Latest Bishop's Hull WI Report

Our February meeting had as its guest speaker Simon Hellier-Moore, of Crescent Funeral Services...with the topic " No Coffin.... the answers" which proved both informative and interesting.

Earlier in the month members had enjoyed a brunch at Willowbrook Garden Centre and a lunch at La Bonne Vie. Food is not the only interest of members with both the Scrabble group and the walking group meeting during the month although the walks inevitably end up by having coffee and cake!

Our March meeting on Thursday 27th will be Erica Adam , former Vice Principal Denman College talking of her time at the college.

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 7182
Simon PARRY

Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

PCSO Lyndsay Smith - 07802 874297
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Tony Wearmouth 8413 - 07889 655312
tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191
catherine.richards@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

We are looking for support of our Community Speed schemes. Please see the attached document for more information and links to apply.

Attachments: csw-network-lead-volunteer.pdf

Do you recognise this van? We have reason to believe this van has been involved in rural crime across Somerset. The vehicle has now been seized by police however we need your help to track down who may have been using it.

Have you seen it in your local area? If so, please get in contact via 101 quoting 5224325444.

Attachments: red-van.pdf



January 27th, (9-7-8-8), AW047 – Attempted theft from a Garden Shed.

Four males attempted to force entry to a garden shed at a property in Honiton Road, Trull, at 11pm on the 24th. A tin of paint had been thrown through the shed window. Before the offenders could enter, they were confronted by the resident. The 4 men, wearing head torches, made off, climbing a fence into a nearby field.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5225020908 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

January 27th, (9-7-8-8), AWO47 – Theft from Outbuildings.

Outbuildings were broken into on Whitmore Lane, Staplegrove, overnight on the 24th. The offender/s forced entry by bending back the bolts securing both doors, where several power tools were stolen from within. It appears a wheelie refuse bin may have been used to transport the stolen items to a suspected waiting vehicle.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5225021052 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

January 27th, (9-7-8-8), AWO47 – Theft from Outbuildings.

At approximately 1:30pm on the 25th, outbuildings were broken into on Staplegrove Road, Taunton. Motion sensors were activated at this time and upon further inspection the doors had been forced, most likely with hammers and screwdrivers. Once inside a chainsaw was stolen.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5225022034 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

Attachments:

securing-your-garden-and-outbuildings.pdf

It has come to our attention that multiple people in the Burnham on Sea and Highbridge area have been receiving suspicious calls from individuals claiming to be from Nationwide fraud team. They are telling people that their accounts are insecure with various unauthorised transactions being flagged, before instructing them they need to move their current one into a different account. These fraudsters are also asking people to confirm card numbers, addresses and the last time they used the card, in efforts to use these accounts fraudulently. Some members of the community have been coached with what to say at the bank to not raise suspicion on large cash withdrawals.

At this time, it is unclear how many people have been contacted or if anyone has lost any money due to this scam.

Banks will never ask for:

your full Pin or any online banking passwords over the phone or via email

Send someone to your home to collect cash, bank cards or anything else

Ask you to email or text personal or banking information

Send an email with a link to a page which asks you to enter your online banking log-in details

Ask you to authorise the transfer of funds to a new account or hand over cash, at this time, we ask that you make remember to protect your personal information and report any suspicious activity.

If you are anyone you know has been a victim of fraud you can contact Action Fraud on 03001232040.

Attachments: the-little-book-of-big-scams-v5.pdf

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

143 years ago



The A and B Companies of the 2nd Somerset Rifle Volunteers assembled at the Castle yard, Taunton, for the purpose of attending Divine service at Bishop's Hull Church. The companies were under the command of Colonel Patton and also present were Major and Adjutant Peard, Captain Thompson and Lieutenants Sweet, Woodhouse and Norman. The Rev WP Williams, vicar of Bishop's Hull, preached a very suitable sermon from the words "Show yourselves men" (from Isaiah). There was a good muster.

140 years ago

In his report to the Taunton Rural Sanitary Authority, Surveyor Mr A Richmond stated that his attention had been drawn to a nuisance in the parish caused by a large quantity of foul drainage being poured into an open gutter on the side of the road leading to Galmington. He had reported this about 3 years ago when the drains were altered. Since the eight additional houses have been built and the whole of the slop-water from these and five others, as well as overflow from two closet cesspools, is discharged into this channel, it has caused a great nuisance.

100 years ago

Taunton's only centenarian, Mrs Sarah Bloomfield, celebrated her 101st birthday and received many messages of congratulation, including one from the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs JC Lane) which was expressed in a personal visit by the Mayor. Mrs Bloomfield, who had been a widow for many years, now resides with her son, Mr J Bloomfield, a Taunton tradesman, at Rozeldene, Bishop's Hull Road. She still continues hale and hearty, possessing all her faculties excepting weak eyesight. She gave a happy birthday party to her sons, daughters and grandchildren, a special cake being made in honour of the occasion. The previous year she received a message of congratulations from the King and Queen. Mrs Broomfield was a native of Exeter and told some interesting stories of life in her young days when she used to travel to Taunton by waggon drawn by cart horses. When she married at Trull over 80 years ago, her husband was earning 9s a week.

An inquest, conducted by Colonel T Foster-Barham OBE, coroner for the district, was held at the Ring of Bells in Taunton, relative to the circumstances attending the sudden death of Mrs Emilia Welch, aged 78 years, who had

passed away at her home on New Road, Bishop's Hull. PS Bruford was the Coroner's officer and evidence was given by Mr Walter Welch, draper, son of the deceased, who said he had been living with his mother up to the time of her death. Dr AE Joscelyne, of Taunton, said he had never previously attended the deceased, who had a sort of objection to doctors and had never been attended by one in her life. The Coroner returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

85 years ago

An open meeting of Bishop's Hull Adult School Union was held at the vestry of Bishop's Hull Congregational Church. The speaker was Mr Wadham JP, who took for his subject 'Citizenship'. The preliminaries were taken by Messrs J Whittle and Harold Symons. The chair was taken by the Rev David Davis. A vote of thanks was taken by Mr W Martin and seconded by Mr Whittle.

63 years ago

The President, Miss Waterfield, presided at the monthly meeting of the Women's Institute, when Mr Geoffrey Self, the County Music Organiser, gave a delightful talk, illustrated with an accompaniment at the piano. He was thanked by Mrs Parsons. Mrs Gommo agreed to act as delegate at the Group meeting. It was agreed to invite Mrs Bent, a past-president, to the forthcoming birthday meeting. It was decided that the Institute should join in a group entertainment to raise money for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Two entries received for the competition, a lampshade, will go forward to the Group meeting. Mrs Brown was the winner. Mrs Williamson organised a game of 'Hyde Park', members drawing a subject from a hat and having to speak on it, soap-box fashion, for one minute.

John Hamer



Taunton Reuse Shop reopens



The popular reuse based at Tshop Taunton's Priorswood Recycling Site recently reopened. The shop promotes reuse by stopping items that still have life from being recycled or thrown out, helping them find a new home, reducing demand for new items and saving precious materials. The Reuse Shop can take and offer good quality items, from books, bikes, toys, games, furniture, CDs, DVDs and sports equipment to crockery and cutlery. Electrical or gas appliances, or safety related items such as those needed for working at height or head protection cannot be taken. For those who are not local to Taunton, there are many other ways to reuse and we still encourage people to donate to charity shops and furniture reuse groups or to give items away on Freecycle or Freegle.

Schools Against Waste lesson

Our Schools Against Waste programme recently celebrated reaching 60,000 pupils with its popular waste-reduction lessons. Delivered on behalf of the Council by Carymoor Environmental Trust, the Schools Against Waste (SAW) team help to raise awareness amongst children and staff, encouraging



everyone to practise the 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The programme began in 2018, and last year the team reached the milestone of 60,000 schoolchildren in Somerset having learnt about recycling, waste reduction and how to properly sort materials. As well as reaching the milestone, in 2024 the team:

visited 38 schools

reached 4,600 children in assemblies workshops and learning days

delivered 90 workshops engaging 2,325 children

We know many children are advocates for recycling at home. It's great to see the next generation enjoy learning about where their recycling goes.

Teachers in Somerset have praised the SAW team and the most frequent feedback received is that the sessions are "informative, engaging, and fun", with staff praised as: "enthusiastic, engaging, and knowledgeable". The team have begun developing an electricals reuse, repair and recycling workshop.

Schools that would like to sign up for a free assembly and lesson can find out more via the [Carymoor website](#).

Hundreds of churches are part of networks offering 'warm spaces' to people

This past winter the Church of England has provided warm spaces for people struggling to pay energy bills. The C of E has been offering not just a refuge from the cold, but in many cases, food, activities and a chance to make friends and be part of a community. A total of 485 Church of England churches so far have signed up to a Warm Welcome Spaces campaign – a UK wide network of more than 5,000 venues across the country including libraries and churches – offering a warm place for anybody in the community.



Nearly 400 Church of England churches are also part of the Places of Welcome network, coordinated by Church Urban Fund, which encourages community groups to provide their neighbourhoods with venues to meet every week all year round.

As one volunteer in the scheme explained: “The cold is less of an issue for many of the people who attend – they are more concerned about isolation and the need for company and conversation. We also have some limited emergency funding to buy food parcels for people who are in need.” ##

The Meaning of Baptism

One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed.

We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person – regardless of their age – into their fellowship.

If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before ‘Christianity’ came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism 'into Moses in the sea'. This comes from him being a Hillelite rabbi who argued that as 'the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the "promised land" '.

Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the ‘group’ to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person’s inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately).

In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

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Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal



Throughout the month of March, the end-of-life charity Marie Curie will once again be holding their annual flagship fundraiser, the Great Daffodil Appeal.

There's only one chance to give someone the best possible end of life. And one chance for you to help fund care that makes that possible. Care that protects someone's dignity – instead of leaving them to die alone or in avoidable pain. This Great Daffodil Appeal is that chance.

Every five minutes, someone dies without the support they need. But by donating and wearing your daffodil this March, you can change that – and help Marie Curie Nurses bring expert end of life care when there's no cure, whatever the illness.

Money raised also funds the charity's free support line and webchat which is available to anyone with an illness they're likely to die from and those close to them. It offers practical and emotional support on everything from managing symptoms and navigating care to financial information, including how to get help with energy bills and bereavement support.

Whether it's taking part in a fundraising challenge, organising an event including bake sales, charity walks or concerts or volunteering your time to collect donations, every penny will help Marie Curie deliver quality care to those who need it most.

The Great Daffodil Appeal only happens once a year. This is your chance to make it count. For information and to donate visit:
Mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil



DO YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THESE ? All in the month of March

175 years ago, on 5th March 1850 that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

125 years ago, on 28th March 1900 that the British archaeologist Arthur Evans began excavating the ancient city of Knossos, capital of the Minoan civilisation, in Heraklion, Crete. Knossos is regarded as the oldest city in Europe. It was abandoned (unknown reasons) more than 3,000 years ago.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935 that driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19th March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

80 years ago, on 24th March 1945 that Operation Varsity took place in Wesel, Germany. The USA, Britain and Canada carried out the largest single-day airborne landing operation in history, involving more than 16,000 paratroopers and thousands of aircraft. Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1955 that Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1985 that British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

30 years ago, on 2nd March 1995 that the 'rogue trader' Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on 6th March, the Dutch bank ING purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th March 1995 that the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Seven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls and tightened their external borders.

10 years ago, on 24th March 2015 that the Germanwings Flight 9525 crashed in the French alps, killing all 150 people on board. An investigation found that the co-pilot had deliberately caused the crash. His doctor had declared him unfit to fly due to suicidal tendencies, but he had reported for work anyway. ##

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING MARCH

Courgette soup with blue cheese



450 g/1 lb courgettes, trimmed and sliced .

40 g/ ½ oz butter

1 medium onion, peeled and chopped

2 cloves garlic, crushed

1.1 litre/2 pints vegetable stock

150 ml/ ¼ pint single cream

175 g/6 oz dolcelatte cheese

2 tsp fresh basil, chopped

Melt the butter, add the onion and garlic, frying gently for 5 minutes. Add courgettes, stir frequently and cook gently for 10 minutes. Add stock, bring slowly to boil. Lower heat, add basil, salt and pepper to taste.

Cover and simmer gently for 20 minutes stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, remove rind from cheese and dice. Place in blender or food processor with cream and blend to smooth puree.

Add hot soup to blender and process until really smooth.

Return soup to clean pan and reheat gently. Adjust seasoning if necessary.

Audrey Pike

Coronation chicken



1800 g/4 lb chicken

570 ml/1 pint boiling chicken stock

275 ml/½ mayonnaise, reduced calorie

1 tsp lemon juice

salt and black pepper

2 tsp of curry powder

2 tbsp of quark skimmed milk

½ tsp of tomato puree

2 tsp of apricot jam, sieved
watercress sprigs, for garish

Wipe the chicken and season with lemon juice, salt and pepper.

Place in a steamer and cover with a tight fitting lid.

Steam over the stock for one and a half hours, checking the liquid level and adding more stock if necessary.

Allow the chicken to get cold.

Mix together all the remaining ingredients to make a sauce, stirring in enough milk, to make a smooth coating consistency.

Take the meat off the chicken bones and mix with the sauce, reserving a little of the sauce.

Arrange the chicken on the centre of a serving dish and coat with the remaining sauce.

Garnish with the watercress and serve with wild rice salad.

Sharon Osmond

Mama Annie's chocolate pudding



225 g/8 oz dark chocolate
110 g/4 oz butter
225 g/8 oz soft brown sugar
4 tbsp plain flour
6 eggs

Melt the chocolate, sugar and butter together in a pan, then stir in the flour and egg yolks.

Now beat the egg whites until standing peaks are formed.

Fold into the chocolate mixture.

Pour this into a large oblong dish (you can leave it now until you are ready to cook it).

What we do in our family is to put it into the top right hand side of the Aga at about 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 when we start our main course, and one of us takes it out 10 minutes later.

Serve with lashings of cream, just to make it even more wicked than it already is!

*Isabel Wood
Somerset Farm Direct*

Meringue Roulade

6 egg whites
275 g/10 oz caster sugar
2 tbsp icing sugar, sifted
vinegar
2 tsp cornflour for the filling:
fresh fruit, raspberries, strawberries
or grapes, as desired

450 ml/16 fl oz double cream,
whipped
50 g/2 oz graded chocolate, optional
icing sugar, to dust



This recipe needs a large baking tray,
45 x 30 cm 18 x 12 inch.

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4.

Line the baking tray with greaseproof paper.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff.

Continue whisking fast, then add the
caster sugar a spoonful at a time.

The mixture should be thick and
white.

Using a serving spoon, fold in the
icing sugar and com flour and add a
few drops of vinegar.

Put into the baking tray, smooth and
bake for 30 minutes or until set on
the top, but still soft in the middle.

Allow to cool.

Turn the meringue out upside down
onto a fresh piece of greaseproof
paper, then spread with whipped
cream.

Arrange the fruit evenly on the top
and sprinkle with the graded
chocolate if using.

Holding the long ends, roll up
fairly tightly like a Swiss roll, and
then, using both hands, lift onto a flat
serving dish. Dust with icing sugar,
chill and serve. Cut in slices like a
Swiss roll.

Liz Huddy

LOOKING AT YOU.

Don't make your children finish their food



If you do, you could make them obese.

So says a recent poll for the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF). It found that half of parents force their children to eat everything on their plate at least some, if not most, of the time.

But it was found that often, these parents pile an enormous portion of food on the plate and then get angry when their children don't want it all. Instead, the BNF advises that parents should start by putting a small amount of food on their children's plates, and then allow them to have seconds, if they are still hungry.

Bridget Benelam, nutrition communications manager for the BNF, points out: "Research has shown that large portions of food encourage both adults and children to eat more, so getting portion sizes right is an important element of having a balanced diet that supports a healthy body weight."

**

Changing a light bulb is a generational thing

Do you know how to clean a car, change a lightbulb, hang a picture and identify a spanner? If yes, then chances are that you are a Baby

Boomer (1955-1964) and not a Gen Z (1997-2012).

For recent research has found that some Gen Z are paying up to £1,300 a



year for simple household tasks to be done, because they don't want to tackle them.

Changing a light bulb? Gen Z worry that a step ladder can be dangerous, and that the bulb might be "too hot". They do not want "to mess around with electrics."

Hanging a picture frame? Add air to a car tyre? Identify a spanner? Fit a wiper blade?

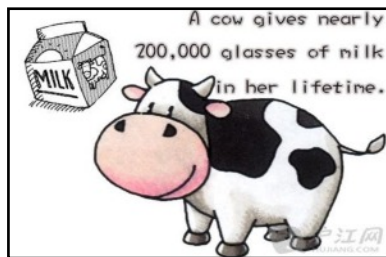
Clean a car? The list of practical jobs is endless, and huge numbers of Gen Z get round them by asking a parent or even paying a professional, to do it. The research was commissioned by Halfords. It concluded that DIY may sadly be a dying skill, because too many Gen Z-ers are simply not practically minded.

**

Many millennials are still at home

Renting and buying your home is much more expensive than it was 20 years ago. So, no wonder that nearly half a million more young people are currently still living with their parents.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the 'Hotel of Mum and Dad' is flourishing, with nearly a fifth of all millennials still at home.



Bee Boileau of the IFS says: “In the last decade and a half, there has been a substantial increase in the proportion of young adults living with their parents. This has occurred alongside, and indeed has been fuelled by, increases in rents and house prices.”

There are many advantages to living at home: young people can save more of their incomes, and living at home also provides a shelter for those recovering from bad relationships or redundancy.

Overall, in the 25 to 34 age brackets, men are more likely than women to be living at home (23 per cent compared with 15 per cent). Rates are higher among UK-born young people from Bangladeshi and Indian backgrounds (62 per cent and 50 per cent respectively).

**

Why a glass of milk may help save your life

Drinking a glass of milk a day could cut the risk of you getting bowel cancer by almost a fifth.

So say researchers at the University of Oxford. They have found strong evidence that calcium protects against the deadly disease.

According to the data, it takes only an extra 300mg of calcium a day (found in a large 240ml of milk, or a couple of pots of yoghurt) to result in a 17

per cent lessening of the risk of bowel cancer.

Currently, one in 20 women and one in 17 men in the UK will be diagnosed with bowel cancer during their lifetime. It affects around 44,000 people each year in the UK.

**

Social media is not for children



Most adults would support a ban on under-16-year-olds visiting social media platforms such as X and Instagram.

Such are the findings of a recent survey. It found that 75 per cent of adults favour the minimum age for accessing social media sites to be raised, from 13 to 16 years old.

The survey was conducted by the More in Common think tank. It reports that support for raising the age level is found right across the political spectrum: 79 per cent of Conservative voters, 75 per cent of Labour voters, 76 per cent of Liberal Democrat voters, and 81 per cent of Reform UK voters

Concern about the effects of social media on young people comes at a

time when tech giants are facing increasing criticism about the impact their platforms can have on young people.

The survey also found that 71 per cent of adults want a ban on all smartphones in school, while 14 per cent oppose the idea.

**

Whisper it softly,
but many of us prefer instant coffee



In this age of exotic coffee making machines, there are still a good 39 per cent of us in Britain who reach for the instant coffee – and even prefer it.

In fact, a 2024 Kantar report has found that seven million of us happily drink instant coffee two or three times each day.

Nescafe Gold Blend is the UK's leading instant coffee brand, with 4.3 million of us buying it in 2023. As James Chiavarini, patron of the Italian restaurant Il Portico says: "Gold Blend is weak and sweet, and I can drink it all day without the risk of a stomach ulcer."

**

And still the potholes grow

It is Spring, and daily it gets easier to walk outside.

But not easier to drive. Not on our pothole-plagued local roads.

There are currently an estimated million potholes across the UK. And

they need a staggering £16.3 billion to fix them.



All in all, they are a "national embarrassment", according to the chair of a House of Commons committee, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP says: "As well as harming the prospects for our economy and communities' own social wellbeing, highways riddled with potholes pose an increasing safety threat to road users."

Potholes do terrible things to car tyres and wheels, but even worse things to cyclists who cannot avoid them in heavy traffic. People have died because of potholes.

**

The crisis in our A&E departments



Reform the NHS, or half the population could end up in A&E. That is the dire warning of the medical director for NHS in England.

Sir Stephen Powis says that the health service must 'go for broke' in delivering more care outside of hospitals, if the A&E system is not to face a total collapse. There are simply too many of us turning up at A&E departments.

Looking ahead, Sir Stephen, the top doctor in England warns: "If A&E attendances increase at the same rate as they have over the past 10 years, NHS staff will need to manage six million more A&E attendances every year from 2034.

In the end, that would mean "the equivalent of almost half the population attending A&E at least once every year – that is not feasible for a 21st-century health system. Instead, millions of patients will need to receive the care and support they need outside of a hospital."

Sir Stephen's warning came in a recent speech to the Liverpool Medical Institution.

**

Watch out for house spiders – some can bite!



When you Spring-clean your home and shed this year, be just a bit careful about thrusting your hand into dark corners. You may get an unpleasant surprise.

Noble false widow spiders put a record number of people in hospital last year. They may be less than 2cm

long, but they are among the very few (only ten) of all spider species in the UK whose fangs are strong enough to pierce human skin.

Their bite burns like a wasp sting, and their venom is 230 times more toxic than our other spiders. A bite can trigger very unpleasant symptoms that last for days.

Scientists say that the noble false widow is "responsible for the overwhelming majority of genuine spider bites occurring in the UK and Ireland."

The good news is that noble false widows are not aggressive. They will not come hunting for you, but just don't you interfere with them.

The bad news is that noble false widows, who arrived from the Canaries in banana shipments in the late 19th century, are busy colonising the UK. Having settled throughout England, Wales and Ireland, they are now heading for Scotland. They get around the same way as we do – in cars and trucks, and also like us, they prefer warm homes or outbuildings rather than rainy gardens.

According to NHS figures, nearly 100 people ended up in hospital last year with suspected spider bits, which is four times as many as a decade ago, and already twice as many as only two years ago.

Last year more people in the UK were bitten by spiders (98) than by snakes (59), but bee and wasp stings (736) are still at the top of the list.



The latest in flower fashion?
Go chocolate



How do you choose the colour of flowers for your garden? This year, it seems that many of us will pick up on Pantone’s ‘colour of 2025’ for our homes, and plant variations of its ‘mocha mousse’ into our gardens. That means flowers in various soft chocolate hues of burnt browns, complemented by deep maroons and purplish taupes. According to Guy Barter, chief horticulturist at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), this year is all about “quite a boost for chocolatey plants”. He adds, however, that “I do suspect a chocolatey garden with nothing but chocolatey plants would seem poor.” Some garden designers believe that the more neutrally coloured flowers will be around for some years to come. As one consultant Jake Croft explained: “I think people are looking for a slower pace of life and more balance and I think soft browns and neutral colours give off that cosy, warm, comforting feeling, as opposed to bright, in your face, clashing colours.” But some experts have doubts. Karl Harrison, a professional landscaping consultant, says that brown is “not a happy colour. It’s a bit depressing. You are going to have to do wonders

in a garden to make someone happy with brown flowers.” And Mike Palmer, a columnist for Amateur Gardening magazine, finds dark brown plants and flowers are “reminiscent of dying plants”. The Pantone colour of the year is selected annually by the paint brand’s colour institute. ‘Mocha mousse,’ PANTONE 17-1230, is supposed to evoke “thoughtful indulgence,” and be “sophisticated and lush, yet at the same time an unpretentious classic.”

**

WORD SEARCH

I	x	b	d	q	m	i	n	d	y	j	q
t	o	i	r	u	i	l	a	w	y	e	r
w	a	v	j	e	x	t	r	h	u	r	t
p	r	i	e	s	t	e	o	m	u	i	t
h	e	a	r	t	t	a	b	o	o	c	e
e	r	c	u	i	d	c	b	t	r	h	t
l	i	r	s	o	n	h	e	g	r	o	e
p	g	d	a	n	g	e	r	o	u	s	r
r	h	x	l	i	g	r	s	o	u	l	n
s	t	r	e	n	g	t	h	d	e	n	a
w	v	n	m	s	a	m	a	r	i	a	l
d	o	n	k	e	y	b	i	b	l	e	u

Teacher	strength	right
Jericho	heart	mind
lawyer	Samaria	robbers
good	donkey	hurt
eternal	love	neighbour
inn	Bible	paid
Jerusalem	dangerous	help
priest	question	soul

The Last Bomb

Nigel Beeton writes: Eighty years ago the war was, thankfully, entering its final stages. As Allied troops advanced across Europe the Nazi war machine was losing the territory and resources with which to fight. On 29th March the very last V1 'doodlebug' flying bomb was launched before its launch ramp was captured, and, again thankfully, it crashed harmlessly into a field near Woolmer Green in Hertfordshire.



09:00 29th March 1945 Woolmer Green, Hertfordshire

*They heard it rattle, and they heard it stop.
They ran for cover, and they heard it drop.
A mighty bang – but far away
They watched the smoke cloud drift away.*

*“No-one hurt!” The news went round,
“Within a field it hit the ground!”
There was joy that day in Woolmer Green
But no-one knew just what they’d seen!*

*The bomb that fell that fell upon that day
The last that ever came our way!
The launching sites were overrun
The German bombs no more could come.*

*For five and sixty months they fell
Causing death and living hell
Forty thousand folk – now dead
Our whole nation lived in dread.*

*For our lost people still we grieve
We wonder what their loss achieved?
The old and children don’t fight wars;
Their deaths advanced no evil cause.*

*And yet, right to the present day
In wars they’re fighting far away
Upon the young, the old, the ill
The futile bombs are falling still.*

By Nigel Beeton



G M TREVELYAN's - English Social History -
A SURVEY OF SIX CENTURIES Chaucer to Queen Victoria

A chief cause of social malaise was the casual and irregular incidence of the price-rise on various classes of men. One part of the peasantry, who were lucky enough to have long-term leases or copyhold tenures of the kind that was by law not breakable, reaped the full advantage from the soaring prices of their products because their rents could not be raised. Since therefore the landlords could not raise rents all round in moderation, they recouped themselves by extorting high rents and heavy fines for renewal of leases from the other less fortunate part of the peasantry and farmers, whose leases were renewable annually or fell in upon death or after a period of years. The result was that one group of peasants was coining money without paying an extra penny of rent, while another group, not socially distinguishable except by the date of their leases of the legal forms of their tenure, were being oppressed all the more to make up for the immunity enjoyed by the others. Meanwhile the yeoman freeholder, who paid no rent or a purely nominal one to the lord of the manor, was selling his corn and cattle for three times the price that his grandfather had been able to ask.

Thus, while some men flourished exceedingly, others, including many lords and squires, were in real distress during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary, largely as a result of their 'royal father's unscrupulous juggle with the coinage. For the same reason the landless labourer suffered from the time-lag of wages behind prices. But the landless labourer was then a much smaller proportion of the working-class than he is today, and as he was to some extent paid in kind, his loss from the fall of the value of money was often not very great. On the other hand, the craftsman, manufacturer, and merchant gained by the rise of prices as much as the peasant whose rent could not be raised. More generally, the rise in prices, which brought poverty to some and wealth to others, had the effect of stimulating trade, production, and enterprise both in the towns and on the land. It was a factor in the development of the new England of adventure and competition, replacing the old England of custom and settled rights. Before the end of the century equilibrium had been reached for a time. In the last years of Edward VI a real financial reform had been begun which Mary continued and Elizabeth carried to fruition. As early as the second year of her reign (1560-61) the great Queen was able to restore the purity of the currency. Prices were for a while stabilized. Gradually, as more and more leases fell in, rents were adjusted all round, and in the age of Shakespeare there was agrarian peace and a high general level of prosperity and content, except in times of bad harvest.

By the time that this new balance had been adjusted, important changes had been brought about under the pressure of the bad times. The number of farmers in the modern sense of the word, men with a considerable acreage held on terminable leases, was greater than before, and the typical peasant holder of the Middle Ages was rather less common. But there were still many small

peasants, and the bulk of the best arable land in the Midlands was still cultivated in open-field strips, either in large or small holdings. The continuous effort of successive Tudor governments, by legislation, commissions, and the judicial action of the Star Chamber and Court of Requests, had done something to check the abuses of enclosure and to protect the old-fashioned peasant against his landlord. But it had not stopped the gradual process of inevitable change.

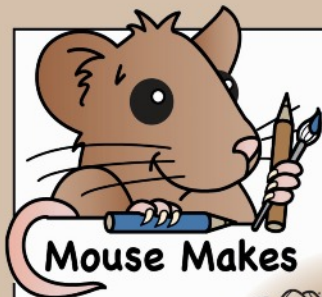
As a result of these conditions, the class denominated 'yeomen' was more numerous, more wealthy, and more important than in any former age. The term 'yeoman' covered at least three different classes, all now prosperous: the freeholder cultivating his own land; the capitalist farmer, who might be a tenant-at-will; and the peasant who was lucky enough to enjoy a secure tenure at an unalterable rent. All these three types of yeoman might be cultivating either land enclosed by hedges, or scattered strips in the open field. The wealth of many of them was derived wholly or in part from the fleeces of their sheep. The praise of the yeoman as the best type of Englishman, holding society together, neither cringing to the high nor despising his poorer neighbour, hearty, hospitable, fearless, supplies a constant motif of literature under Tudors and Stuarts. And it corresponded to a social fact.

The yeomen were held to be the real strength and defence of the nation. Of old they had won Agincourt and but yesterday Flodden, and were still the nation's shield and buckler. If the yeomanry of England were not, in time of war we should be in shrewd case. For in them standeth the chief defence of England. Other nations, Englishmen boasted, had no such middle class, but only an oppressed peasantry and the nobles and men-at-arms who robbed them. A strong feeling already existed among the English against professional soldiers, largely derived from memories of what had been endured by quiet folk at the hands of the lords' retainers. The Tudor Kings had put all that down, and had no standing army of their own: hence their popularity. The English were conscious and proud of their liberty, not yet defined as the liberty of governing their King through Parliament, or of printing what they liked against the authorities of Church and State, but simply freedom to live their own lives undisturbed either by feudal or royal oppression. In the *Discourse of the Common Weal* in Edward VI's reign, the Husbandman and Merchant discuss whether there should be a standing force in England to repress 'tumults:

HUSBANDMAN: God forbid that we have any such tyrants 'amongst us; for, as they say, such will in the country of France take poor men's hens, chickens, pigs, and other provision and pay nothing for it, except it be an evil turn, as to ravish his wife and daughter for it.

MERCHANT: Marie, I think that would be rather occasion of commotions to be stirred than to be quenched, for the stomachs of Englishmen would never bear it.

The English yeomen would not stand that kind of thing!



Mouse Makes

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ
the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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



Find the words from the questions too!



Open yourself afresh

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

***D**id you ever wonder where the term 'Lent' comes from? The word is a gift from our Anglo-Saxon past. It means 'lengthen', a naming of the longed-for reality of this time of year when we become aware that, at last, the short days of winter are coming to an end, the nights are drawing out and the days are getting longer, they're lengthening.*

As well as naming what we're seeing, Lent has its meaning within the life of the Church. Its season of 40 days is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter, our annual celebration of Jesus rising from the dead. It reflects the 40 days that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after his baptism. So, for much of Christian history it's been a time of prayer and fasting - the origin of our 'giving something up for Lent'.

Lent developed from the practice of the early Church. Back then, as still happens today, converts entered into the faith through baptism. The main time that baptism took place was Easter Eve, the night before Easter Sunday. Lent marked the final, intensive 40 days of preparation experienced by those to be baptised (known as catechumens) in readiness for their embarking fully on their new life with Christ.

The time to get ready for Lent is now. This year its first day, Ash Wednesday, falls on the 5 March. There's so much we can do to bring this season home into our hearts. Why not join your church's Lent Group? Read one of the Lent books available at this time of year? Take something up? Commit to a regular time of prayer? Find out about getting confirmed? Lent is a rich gift to us to go deeper into our Christian life. As the days lengthen and the light comes, I encourage you to use this time to open yourself afresh to the one who comes to us afresh with new life at Easter - the risen Lord, Jesus Christ himself.

##

GARDENING JOBS FOR MARCH

Spring arrives

Spring usually starts to arrive across the country in March, and the longer days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds and sowing seed, and it's your last chance to prune roses.

Fruit and vegetables

Avoid carrot root fly by sowing an early crop of carrots under cloches or fleece

Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers and aubergines in pots indoors

Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers, at a depth of 10-15cm, spaced about 30cm apart

Plant onion and shallot sets, spacing them 10-15cm apart

Make the first outdoor sowings of hardy veg, such as spinach, covering with cloches or fleece - find out how else to protect young veg plants

Plant early potatoes in trenches on the veg plot, or in large tubs if space is limited. Find out more about the different types of potato

Sow parsnips as soon as the soil starts to warm up, as they're slow to germinate and need a long growing season

Feed cabbages and other brassicas with nitrogen-rich fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure

Start hoeing veg beds as soon as the weather starts to warm up, as weeds will germinate quickly

Plant strawberries in a hanging basket to keep the fruits away from slugs

Give blackcurrant bushes a high-nitrogen feed

Sow salad seed in modules

Flowers

Pick off any developing seedheads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally

Finish pruning roses early in the month

Cut dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth

Tidy up alpine as they start to flower, removing dead foliage, then mulch with grit to keep the foliage off damp soil

Plant lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders. Take a look at our complete guide to planting bulbs.

Feed ericaceous shrubs, such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and pieris, with an ericaceous fertiliser

Mulch borders generously with garden compost

Plant new roses and other shrubs and climbers

Sow wildflower seeds in trays or modules, to produce plants for your own mini-meadow

Continue deadheading spring flowers and any remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed

Greenhouse

Get crops off to a good start indoors to transplant into the garden later, such as celeriac, celery, lettuces and parsley

Take down bubble insulation in the greenhouse once temperatures start to rise, to let in more light

Sow a selection of vibrant annual climbers, such as Spanish flag (*Ipomoea lobata*) and black-eyed Susan (*Thunbergia alata* 'Arizona Glow')

Buy good value young bedding plants for growing on to a larger size under glass, or sow your own in a heated propagator

Sow dwarf French beans in a large pot for an early indoor crop in June

Plant prepared freesia bulbs in pots of rich, loam-based compost, for fragrant flowers indoors this summer

Pot up overwintering cannas into fresh compost, water in, then place in a warm spot to spur them into growth

Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill

Take cuttings from dahlia tubers planted last month to raise new plants

Protect greenhouse sowings of peas, mangetouts and sweet peas from hungry mice

Open greenhouse vents on sunny days to prevent humidity building up. Take a look at what else to do to prepare your greenhouse for spring.

Take basal cuttings from perennials, such as delphiniums and lupins, to root in a pot indoors

Garden maintenance

Find out how to give your lawn a spring boost

Build or buy a new compost bin, ready to recycle the coming season's garden waste

Dig out a new pond, or install a water feature, to attract more wildlife

Put slug barrier products around the new shoots of hostas and other susceptible perennials.

Replant pots of bulbs from indoors into borders, once the display is over, then water in well and apply liquid feed

Check that tree ties aren't too tight and that stakes are still firmly anchored in the ground

Prune out any wind-damaged branches on trees and shrubs

Place bug boxes or bundles of hollow stems in sheltered corners, where insects can lay their eggs. Find out how to make a bug box

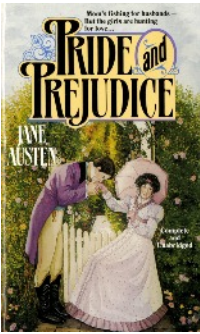
Keep putting out food for garden birds, as the breeding season gets underway

Chop down winter-grown green manure and dig into the soil, to get the veg plot ready for sowing

Cut back winter-flowering jasmine to keep it within bounds and encourage flowers next year

BOOK REVIEWS

Pride and Prejudice **Jane Austen,**



Since its immediate success in 1813, *Pride and Prejudice* has remained one of the most popular novels in the English language. Jane Austen called this brilliant work "her own darling child" and its

vivacious heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print." The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr. Darcy, is a splendid performance of civilized sparring. And Jane Austen's radiant wit sparkles as her characters dance a delicate quadrille of flirtation and intrigue, making this book the most superb comedy of manners of Regency England.

The Couple Next Door **Shari Lapena**



Your neighbour told you that she didn't want your six-month-old daughter at the dinner party. Nothing personal, she just couldn't stand her crying. Your husband said it would be

fine. After all, you only live next door. You'll have the baby monitor and

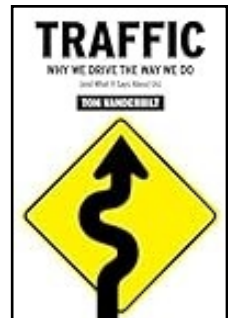
you'll take it in turns to go back every half hour.

Your daughter was sleeping when you checked on her last. But now, as you race up the stairs in your deathly quiet house, your worst fears are realized. She's gone.

You've never had to call the police before. But now they're in your home, and who knows what they'll find there.

Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do and What It Says About Us **Tom Vanderbilt**

Would you be surprised that road rage can be good for society? Or that most crashes happen on sunny, dry days? That our minds can trick us into thinking the next



lane is moving faster? Or that you can gauge a nation's driving behaviour by its levels of corruption? These are only a few of the remarkable dynamics that Tom Vanderbilt explores in this fascinating tour through the mysteries of the road.

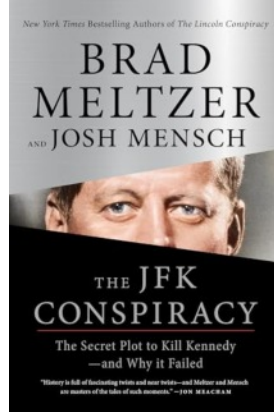
Based on exhaustive research and interviews with driving experts and traffic officials around the globe, *Traffic* gets under the hood of the everyday activity of driving to uncover the surprisingly complex web of physical, psychological, and technical factors that explain how

traffic works, why we drive the way we do, and what our driving says about us. Vanderbilt examines the perceptual limits and cognitive underpinnings that make us worse drivers than we think we are. He demonstrates why plans to protect pedestrians from cars often lead to more accidents. He shows how roundabouts, which can feel dangerous and chaotic, actually make roads safer—and reduce traffic in the bargain. He uncovers who is more likely to honk at whom, and why. He explains why traffic jams form, outlines the unintended consequences of our quest for safety, and even identifies the most common mistake drivers make in parking lots.

The car has long been a central part of American life; whether we see it as a symbol of freedom or a symptom of sprawl, we define ourselves by what and how we drive. As Vanderbilt shows, driving is a provocatively revealing prism for examining how our minds work and the ways in which we interact with one another. Ultimately, *Traffic* is about more than it's about human nature. This book will change the way we see ourselves and the world around us. And who knows? It may even make us better drivers.

The JFK Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Kennedy—and Why It Failed
Brad Meltzer, Josh Mensch

From the New York Times bestselling authors of The Nazi Conspiracy and The Lincoln Conspiracy comes a true, little-known story about the first



assassination attempt on John F. Kennedy, right before his inauguration.

Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president of the United States, is

often ranked among Americans' most well-liked presidents. Yet what most Americans don't know is that JFK's historic presidency almost ended before it began—at the hands of a disgruntled sociopathic loner armed with dynamite.

On December 11, 1960, shortly after Kennedy's election and before his inauguration, a retired postal worker named Richard Pavlick waited in his car—a parked Buick—on a quiet street in Palm Beach, Florida. Pavlick knew the president-elect's schedule. He knew when Kennedy would leave his house. He knew where Kennedy was going. From there, Pavlick had a simple plan—one that could've changed the course of history.

Written in the gripping, page-turning style that is the hallmark of Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch's bestselling series, this is a slice of history vividly brought to life. Meltzer and Mensch are at the top of their game with this brilliant exploration of what could've been for one of the most compelling leaders of the 20th century.

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Russian joke.

A boy sits on his couch and sees a newspaper there. Curious he picks it up and reads the front headline: "Vodka Prices on the Rise." He shows this to his dad and says: "Dad does this mean you are going to drink less?"
Dad: "No son, this means you are going to eat less."

Death Notice

An old man and his wife had just moved to Australia when the wife passed away after a short while. While talking to the neighbour about her passing, it was mentioned that in their new country, it is common to announce deaths with a classified ad in that section of the newspaper. Well, the old man decides that's a great idea and heads back home to dial the newspaper.
"Hi there, I'd like to place a death notice."
"OK then. Firstly, sorry for your loss. Now what would you like it to say?"
"Have it say, "Ruth died.""
"Well, um, that's, um, somewhat blunt, but the minimum charge is for five words. Is there anything else you'd like to add?"
"OK. Let me think, um... "Ruth died. Toyota for sale.""

New Old House

While carpenters were busy working outside the old house I just bought, I busied myself with indoor cleaning. I had just finished washing the floor when one of the workers came in and asked to use the washroom. I looked at his muddy boots and said "Just wait a second, I'll grab some newspapers"

"That's alright lady," he responded, "I'm already trained."

Last day for your taxes

A man walked into a restaurant with his young son. He gave the young boy three nickels to play with to keep him occupied. Suddenly, the boy started choking, going blue in the face. The father realized the boy had swallowed the nickels and started slapping him on the back. The boy coughed up two of the nickels, but kept choking. Looking at his son, the father panicked and shouted for help. A well-dressed, attractive, and serious looking woman in a blue business suit was sitting at the coffee bar reading a newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion, she looked up, put her coffee cup down, neatly folded the newspaper and placed it on the counter, got up from her seat and made her way, unhurried, across the restaurant. Reaching the boy, the woman carefully grasped his hand, took hold of the boy's wrist and started to squeeze and twist, gently at first and then ever so firmly. After a few seconds the boy convulsed violently and coughed up the last nickel, which the woman deftly caught in her free hand. Releasing the boy's arm, the woman handed the nickel to the father and walked back to her seat at the coffee bar without saying a word. As soon as he was sure that his son had suffered no ill effects, the father rushed over to the woman and started thanking her saying, "I've never seen

anybody do anything like that before, it was fantastic. Are you a doctor? "No," the woman replied, "I'm with the Internal Revenue Service."

Morris Schwartz is dying and on his deathbed.

He is surrounded by his nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, and knows the end is near. So he says to them:

"Bernie, I want you to take the Beverly Hills houses."

"Sybil, take the apartments over in Los Angeles Plaza."

"Henry, I want you to take the offices over in City Centre."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings downtown."

The nurse is just blown away by all this, and as Morris slips away, she says to the wife, "Mrs. Schwartz, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated so much property."

Sarah replies, "Property shmoperty...the silly old man only had a newspaper route."

Value of a season ticket!

A woman was reading a newspaper one morning and said to her husband,

'Look at this, dear. There's an article here about a man who traded his wife for a season ticket to Arsenal. You wouldn't do a thing like that, -would you?'

'Of course I wouldn't!' replied her husband. 'The season's almost over!'

A 100 year old Japanese man is being interviewed for a newspaper piece about extreme old age

and the reporter asks "do you think there's any merit to the stereotype that people from this village live a lot longer than others?"

The old man thinks for a second and says "you know, I'm not sure. Let me go ask my dad". And the reporter, stunned, stammers "y-your dad? Where is he right now??" and the old man says "I think he's out fishing with my grandpa".

One of the British national daily newspapers was asking readers: "What it means to be British?"

Some of the emails were hilarious but this one from a Swiss was a winner.

"Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on a Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. He buys a holiday home in Spain, Skis in France, fancies Swedish birds and has a Romanian au-pair. And the most British thing of all? "Suspicious of anything Foreign "

A very drunk gent checked into a hotel late one Saturday night

He awoke very ill and summoned a bellboy to fetch him a bottle of whisky and a Sunday newspaper. The bellhop was gone a long time.

When he returned, the drunk remarked, "It must be hard to buy a bottle in this town on Sunday."

"There was no trouble with the whisky," replied the bellboy, "but it's tough finding a Sunday paper on Tuesday."

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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 the perils of parking near church

*The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren

I cannot be wholly sympathetic because your church car park is now inadequate, only having space for 100 cars. Your solution of advising members of the congregation to park in the adjoining supermarket car park may not have been wise. The maximum time people can stop there is 90 minutes, and as your services often reach that length, returning to find their cars clamped may not make you universally popular – although it may give your congregation the opportunity of practising Christian forgiveness.

Since the medieval architect who built St James the Least of All was not overly concerned with car parking, the only space we have is along the road by the church. Inevitably, it gets blocked, which causes us all immense satisfaction when those not attending church but intending to have a morning shopping, find themselves unable to get out of the village until Mattins is over.

I did once encourage people to walk to church across the fields, but after we had nearly lost the present Earl in that swampy bit near the brook, I decided the idea was best dropped.

For most, the inconvenience of parking only makes attending church more of a pleasurable challenge; we so enjoy having something to complain about. Major Hastings, however, who has complained endlessly about parking problems, made a point last Christmas by leaving his car in the middle of the vicarage lawn. I was so pleased he happened to park just where I had had a garden pond filled in only the previous week. He returned to find that the car had sunk up to the windscreen and needed a crane to remove it.

For weddings, a farmer allows us to use the field adjoining the church. While he rarely attends church on Sundays, he is always there the week before – I suspect praying for heavy rain, so he can make a fortune charging to tow out with his tractor those who have got stuck. Perhaps the greatest act of witness your church could perform would be to get everyone attending church to park on the ring road, bringing the entire town to a halt until your Sunday morning Service is over.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*

Regular weekly events

MONDAYS

10.00-11am Nia (Dance fitness) HUB
10.00-12noon Painting Group FBC
1.30-4.00pm Whist Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Bridge (except 1st
Monday) FBC
6.15-7.15pm Zumba HUB
7.30pm Tone Big Band (1st & 3rd
Mon) HUB

TUESDAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training
HUB
10.30-11.30am Qigong HUB
1.30-2.30pm Tai Chi HUB
10.00-4.00pm Board Games FBC
7.00-8.00pm Yoga HUB

WEDNESDAYS

10.00-11.00am Pilates for Everyone
HUB
10.00- 11.00am Flexercise FBC
11.00-12noon Mum and Baby Pilates
HUB
2.00- 4.30pm Short Mat Bowls HUB
6.00- 7.00pm Tae Kwon Do HUB

THURS DAYS

6.15-7.00am Group Fitness Training
HUB
10.00-12noon Baby Badgers HUB
10.00-12noon Bridge Club FBC
2.00-4.00pm Croquet FBC

FRIDAYS

8.30-1.00 pm Star Bubs HUB
10.00-12noon Pétanque FBC
10.00-12noon Frank's Café FBC
4.45-8.15pm Martial Arts HUB

SATURDAYS

6.30-7.15am Group Fitness Training
HUB
9.30-11.30am Hub Gardening Club
HUB
9.00pm Bingo Con Club

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

YOUR SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

John Hunt (Independent)
07880 794554
john.hunt@somerset.gov.uk
Cllr Caroline Ellis 07473 119425
cjellis1968@googlemail.com

Your Member of Parliament

Gideon John Amos Lib/Dem

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Taunton Citizens advice - 0808 278
7842

Village Agent - 01823 331 222

Mindline, a 24/7 phoneline available
to support people of all ages offering
a listening and advice service for
wellbeing. You can call Mindline on
01823 27689. Information about
childcare [http://www.
childcarechoices.gov.uk/](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/)

Taunton Foodbank
[https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/get-
help/](https://taunton.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/)

Free support and advice about:
Money, food, home, health and
wellbeing, domestic abuse, problems
with drugs and alcohol and
parenting visit:

[www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4
all](http://www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4all)

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen
McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishophullparishcouncil.go
v.uk

BH Pre School - 07928 950230
BH Primary School - 331624
Castle School - 274073
Spring Nursery - 793506

Community Room & School Hall
Rick Moon 354908

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958
246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

PCSO Lyndsay Smith & PCSO
Marshall Bernhardt
Call 101 or 999 in emergency
lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk
marshall.bernhardt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Robin Close Hall - 356389

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
Rev. Phil Hughes 336102

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show
- Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB - 07500 748 609
booking: bhhubbookings@gmail.com
General enquiries and events:
bishopshullhub@gmail.com
Bishops Hull Hub cafe -
bishopshullhubcafe@gmail.com

BH Short Mat Bowls - Alan Chapman
01823 630641
bhsmbc@yahoo.com

BHVH & Playing Fields Trust - Paul
Bulbeck 283941

BH WI — Sue Hazelwood 01823
323986

British Martial Arts and Boxing
Association Tae Kwon Do
alecmhay@aol.com

Brownies - Sheena Grinter 331184

Community Woodland Volunteer -
David 272415

Nia (Dance Fitness) - Jackie
07949735139

FBC Activities - Carolyn 283941

Infinity Martial Academy - Jon 07736
714370

jonakkc@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates - Larissa
lapilates7@gmail.com / larissa@la-
pilates.com

Somerset Hills Chorus - Brenda
Palfrey 07857 244272

Tae Kwon Do - Sebastian Morey-
Weale 07900 517767

Tai Chi - Bev Fernandes 07880
555984

Zumba - Felicity 07939 580327

REFUSE / RECYCLING
/GARDEN COLLECTIONS

Dates below taken from Somerset
Council Website.

Please note new day for recycling and
refuse collections.

**Recycling: Every Thursday - all
areas**

BISHOP'S HULL, SHUTEWATER,
UPCOTT & BARR

Refuse: Thursday

Garden: Monday

RUMWELL

Refuse: Thursday

Garden: Wednesday

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse: Thursday

Garden: Monday

BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/Parish/BHPCprivacyNotice.pdf)

[http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/
parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf](http://www.bishopshull.org.uk/parish/BHPCprivacyPolicy.pdf)

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL MARCH 2025

Sunday 2 March First before LENT	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Cor 3:12-4:2 1160 Luke 9:28-43a 1039	Dee Willis
Wednesday 5 March ASH Wednesday	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m		
Sunday 9 March LENT 1	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Romans 10:8b- 13 1137 Luke 4:1-13 1030	Will Osmond
Wednesday 12 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 16 March LENT 2	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Phil 3:17-4:1 1180 Luke 13:31-end 1047	Tim Venn
Wednesday 19 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 23 March LENT 3	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	1 Cor 10:1-13 1151 Luke 13:1-9 1046	Paul Curry
Wednesday 26 March	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 30 March LENT 4	Holy Communion Holy Communion Mothering Sunday	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Cor 5:16-end 1162 Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-end 1048	David Ager

GRASS CUTTING

w/c 2 March Will Osmond
w/c 16 March David Ager
w/c 30 March Paul Curry



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 Wardens: Tim Venn John Perry

Treasurer Rachel Horder

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Sally Adams (co-opted PCC member)

Other PCC Members - Mark Dakin Sue Martin
Shirley Stapleton

Tower Secretary: Giles Morley 430710

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2024-2025

1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
3. John Perry (Church Warden)
4. Rachel Horder (PCC Treasurer)
5. Sally Adams (Parish Safeguarding Officer, co-opted PCC member)
6. Mark Dakin
7. Sue Martin
8. Shirley Stapleton



9. And you? 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 think God may be calling you to serve in this way there are lots of opportunities, so do have a chat with one of the fab team!