

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2025



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

EDITOR

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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 magazine editorial team, unless attributed,
or those sent in by identifiable contributors.*

IDENTIFYING OUR LOCAL BIRDS photo by Bob Winn



A
young
Bluetit

Cover - 'We will Remember Them'.



**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

NEXT SALE

BH Playing Field

No up to date info available



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 FBC Coffee morning 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 - The FBC Coffee morning 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)

A 'Date for your diary':

**The FBC Christmas lunch will be Thursday 18th December at Oake
Manor. Tickets available from Frank's café from mid October.**

Many thanks

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)



For both farmers and local gardeners alike 2025 has been a year of mixed fortunes. As in most years, what we grow successfully is so dependant upon the weather. Higher or lower than usual seasonal temperatures, lack of rainfall (or excess) often decides just how much we are able to grow.

As an amateur gardener, every year I grow a limited variety of vegetables in my 65 square yard vegetable patch. The only 'over-winter' vegetable I attempt to grow is purple sprouting, other-wise the ground lies fallow. In the past I have tried to grow cabbages and cauliflowers but sadly failed. The butterflies and the pigeons together have claimed victory year after year.

So, how have I done this year? Not too bad but possibly I could have done better if I wasn't for ever keeping an eye on my water bill.

Here is a list of the vegetables I have grown and an estimate in weight of each.

Runner beans - 82 lbs. - Potatoes 72 lbs.- Beetroot 56 lbs. - Courgettes only 6.
Tomatoes 3 lbs - Carrots 10 lbs. - Spring onions 6 bunches - Lettuce 12 -
Rhubarb 2 lbs - and the Parsnips are still in the ground awaiting a frost.

From time to time acquaintances have asked me why do I bother when vegetables are so readily available in the supermarkets e.g. carrots & potatoes?

I think I became interested in 'growing my own' when Margaret and I bought our first house in Wellington. We had arrive back home from a three year tour in Cyprus and I was settling into a new 3x3x3 shift pattern. Our back garden (the house was a new build) was a mess and I wondered if it would grow anything. With the arrival of the first Spring I set to digging and seeding and the answer was yes. Once the seeds I had planted began to pop-up I found that watching their progress after a 10 hour night duty was quite therapeutic.

I suppose gardening soon became a way of life which has stuck with me over the decades. Not being much of an exercise enthusiast, digging, weeding and mowing helped keep me in trim (until retirement arrived).

Here we are once again into November and soon my vegetable garden will be lying dormant until next Spring. What on earth will I do with all that spare time? Oh yes, I forgot to tell you that we also have about about 60 rose bushes. But many of you already know this. Happy gardening.

The Vicar writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The recent shift, with our clocks having gone back, means we're now embracing the darker evenings, which reminds me of the importance of seeking out the light and warmth of our shared community life here at St. Peter and St Paul's. We have a packed and deeply significant calendar ahead, and I truly hope you will join us.



- November begins with an exciting celebration: on **Sunday, November 2nd**, immediately following our 10:00 am service, we will have a short Opening Event for The Bridge to celebrate this wonderful addition to our church grounds.
- The following **Sunday, November 9th**, is, of course, Remembrance Sunday. We will gather at the War Memorial at 11:00 am for a moving Act of Remembrance, including the traditional two minutes of silence. Later that day, at 3:00 pm, we offer a peaceful Light a Candle Service for anyone wishing to quietly remember and honour loved ones.
- The next **Sunday, November 16th**, we are honoured to welcome Archdeacon Simon Hill, who will be preaching at both our 8:00 am and 10:00 am services. It's a wonderful opportunity to hear a wider perspective from the Diocese.

Alongside our Sunday worship, we have two excellent opportunities for fellowship that close out the month.

- On **Saturday, November 29th**, our popular monthly Coffee Morning will run from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon—a perfect chance for a chat, a slice of cake, and a catch-up.
- Finally, we mark the start of the Advent season on **Sunday, November 30th** with our beautiful Advent Carol Service at 10:00 am, ushering in a time of hope and expectation.

Please mark your diaries! Whether you come for a moment of quiet reflection, a cup of coffee, or one of our main services, please know that you are always most welcome at your Parish Church.

With every blessing,

Rev Phil Hughes,
Vicar and Chaplain

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 November**.

Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat and SWAP a book. From 10am till 12noon.



Bishop's Hull Parish Council
www.bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/
Editor & Advertising: Helen McGladdery
Tel 07518 144614

Please forward any articles, etc to ,
Community.news@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

Bell Ringing

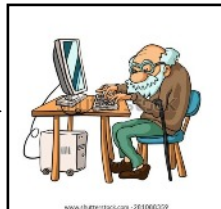
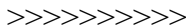
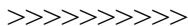
We are very proud of our Bell Ringing team and our bells! There are 6 bells in the tower and ringing is done from ground level. The Bell Tower is accessed on the North Side of the church.

Ringing happens for the main service on 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

**A 'Date for your diary':
The FBC Christmas lunch will be Thursday 18th
December at Oake Manor.
Tickets available from Frank's café
from mid October.
Many thanks**



**Church of England partnerships of £11m
will benefit nearly half of parishes**

Nearly half of parishes across the Church of England will be able to benefit from £11m of investment in partner organisations dedicated to sharing the Christian faith, new figures show.

A range of traditions, activities and organisations will be supported through the funding, from expanding an Anglo-Catholic mission network to using social media content to share the gospel message.

The partnership aims to strengthen local mission by equipping the Church in five ministry areas. These include outreach and engagement with children, young people, and their families; establishing new worshipping communities; enhancing the effectiveness of digital evangelism and discipleship; addressing pressing missional challenges; and collaborating with networks to extend their reach and share learning and resources.

The investments made by the Church's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) are expected to strengthen mission in around 45 per cent – 5,500 – of Church of England parishes. ####

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

Please find below an update from the September Parish Council meeting, Full minutes can be found on the website <https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Following concerns raised by residents of weeds throughout the village, The Clerk has reported to the relevant authority or resident for action.

Kinglake —The Parish Council are awaiting a tree report from the site and play equipment repairs to be finalised. Somerset Council are in the process of taking over ownership of the roads. The Parish Council will then instruct their solicitor to finalise the land transfer.

Play Park (next to the playing field) — The Parish Council examined the play inspection report and agreed with the Playing Fields Trust what action was required prior to taking on ownership. Once the repairs have been completed and agreed by Councillors, the PC solicitor will progress the land transfer.

Bulb planting — Councillors will carry out bulb planting around the parish in the coming months. It was agreed to purchase bulb planters for this activity which will then be donated to the gardening club.

Bishops Mead — It was agreed to purchase another bench.

Bench Plaque; Would you like to commemorate the memory of someone or celebrate your love for the village? A new bench is to be installed in Bishops Mead on the Gillards side, overlooking the green open space. For a donation of £100, we can add a plaque with names and a short message. For further information, please contact clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

Speed Indicator Device update -

As the speed indicator device data in the parish has already proven to reduce speeding traffic, it was agreed previously to purchase an additional device and install a new post on Bishop's Hull Road. Unfortunately, due to the gas pipe replacement works, Somerset Council were unable to install the post until the works had finished. The post has now been installed. The



Parish Council are waiting for Somerset Council to cut back the vegetation surrounding the post to enable clear sight of the device. However, the dedicated SID team (Rachel, Tony and Nick), did not want to waste any more time, so have cleared the immediate vegetation under the supervision of Chapter 8 qualified Councillor Rachel and installed the new SID in Bishop's Hull Road. Well done to the team!

Bishop's Hull HUB

Youth Hub - every third Saturday of the month 7:15pm -9:15pm.
£1 entry. Age 11-16. All welcome, email claire.plumbly@hotmail.co.uk for info.

Sat 8th November - Hub Cafe 10am - 12noon

Sat 8th November - Fish and Chips Quiz Night (doors open at 7:30pm) £11 per head for food and quiz. Teams up to 8. Buy tickets early to avoid disappointment: www.bhhub.co.uk

Sat 13th December - Christmas Hub Cafe 10am - 12noon. Tickets for Santa open on 01/11/25 via www.bhhub.co.uk.

Due to rising costs at the North Pole, tickets for Santa are £2 per child this year.

NEW! Drawing & Painting at Bishop's Hull Hub

Thursday 7th October 1:00pm — 4:00pm

Ever wanted to try drawing and painting but not sure where to start? Join SS&L's (Somerset Skills & Learning) four-week adult developer course and discover the joy of creating art in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. You'll explore techniques, experiment with materials, and build your confidence — no prior experience needed! Free if you live in Somerset and earn under £25K.

How to book - Visit sslcourses.co.uk and look for "*We'll be going Through the Arts: Drawing & Painting*"

Or call 0330 332 7997. What to bring: A pencil and pen — all other art materials are provided.

Sunday Car Parking Charges proposed for Somerset

Please do complete Somerset Council's Consultation on proposed changes to Sunday parking charges. To give your opinion, please go to the Somerset Council website somerset.gov.uk and enter 'Sunday Parking' in the Council's search bar. For those without online access, paper copies of this consultation are available on request from Somerset Libraries. The consultation will run for six weeks, ending on 20th October 2025. The Car Parks in Taunton which the Council are proposing to introduce Sunday charging include: Castle Street, Enfield, Tangier, The Crescent, Wood Street, Whirligig Lane, Coal Orchard, High Street, Orchard Multi-Storey, Elms Parade, Canon Street, Belvedere Road, Duke Street, Fons George, Ash Meadows, Kilkenney and Victoria Gate.

The following is taken from Somerset Council's website

What is this consultation about? Somerset Council is inviting residents and businesses to share their views on proposals to introduce Sunday parking charges across council-run car parks. This is part of a wider plan to make parking rules fairer and more consistent across the county. Why are changes being proposed? Currently, parking charges on Sundays vary depending on location.



Sunday charges already apply in places like Watchet, Minehead, Wells, Glastonbury, Frome, Cheddar and Williton. However it is free to park on Sundays in locations such as Taunton, Wellington, Bridgwater, Chard, Crewkerne, Yeovil and Highbridge.

This inconsistency can be confusing and unfair, as it means people who are paying to park in one location are effectively subsidising those parking for free in other locations.

The proposals aim to: Standardise parking charges on Sundays across Somerset. Ensure the parking service remains self-funded, covering costs like staffing, enforcement, and maintenance of car parks. Support a sustainable transport strategy by encouraging fair use of parking spaces. The proposed Sunday charges are part of a broader parking review that includes potential changes to on-street charging and currently free car parks. These elements will be developed in collaboration with local members, town and parish councils, and subject to further public engagement.

Blue Badge holders; if Blue Badge holders are currently required to pay for parking on Saturdays in a particular location, then the same charges would also apply on Sundays under this proposal.

A note from me - Somerset Council has stated that it will consider all feedback, positive and negative, before making a final decision. I welcome this commitment and urge the Council to listen carefully to the public's opinion on these proposals, particularly if there is a large majority view either way. Whatever the response is to this proposal, the logical and democratic conclusion, is that the majority view will indeed be implemented.

*Take care,
John Hunt*



Bishops Hull Belles WI

Bishops Hull Belles is a group of friendly women with meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm at the Bishops 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 monthly meetings where you will be warmly welcomed. The cost is £4 per visit (up to 3 meetings) which is then deducted from the annual subscription upon joining.
- Further information can be obtained from Heather Blackmore the group's secretary. Tel:01823-283884 mob 07963834365

Bishops Hull Belles WI

Next Meeting at The HUB
Thursday 27th November at 7.30
Guest Speaker - Neil Smart
Medical Detection Dogs

BISHOPS HULL NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM (from village WEB site)

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

Shop thefts

Agreed on 25 September 2025. Updated on 25 September 2025

Over the summer period we have unfortunately seen a spike in shop thefts across Taunton.

Our neighbourhood teams are investigating these thefts alongside other investigation units from across Taunton.

Local officers will be conducting both high visibility and plain clothes patrols to reassure the public and to prevent further thefts and also to engage with local businesses, providing advice on security and crime up to date prevention techniques.

Businesses also now have the ability to scan a QR code to report incidents directly to the Police, as well as upload CCTV directly via our Send evidence to a Police Officer or Police Staff, link on our website enabling an overall quicker process to progress investigations.

Rural thefts and burglaries.

Over the last month we have seen a spate of burglaries of homes and businesses, as well as theft of vehicles in the rural areas of west Somerset.

In response our local teams as well as our Rural Crime Team are carrying out high visibility patrols, whilst working with affected communities to try and detect, deter and prevent further crime.

We are also advising residents to check that their home and outbuildings (such as sheds or garages) are secure, by taking simple precautions. These include locking windows and doors when you go out, even if just stepping next door or out in the garden.

Investigations into these burglaries are ongoing, but we would like to remind the public that if you have witnessed anything or have information that you think could be of help, please make sure you call us on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

You can also find further information and advice on home security and many other subject via our Crime prevention advice on our website.

Additionally rural crimes can be reduced by the use of Watch schemes, to join the Farm Watch Scheme or to find out more information please see our Farm Watch | Avon and Somerset Police page on our website.

Anti-social behaviour

Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) can have a devastating impact on individuals as well as our local community, and everyone has the right to feel safe where they live, and we all have a part to play in this.

We always encourage our communities to report persistent Anti Social Behaviour in your areas, either by calling us on 101, using our website to report things online, or by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Our local neighbourhood teams work alongside our constabulary's specialist anti-social behaviour team, as well as other local authority services and charities, to work with those involved in low level offending. This ranges from warning letters to education and support. We also work with those involved in more persistent offending with higher end interventions, such as Community Protection Notices and Community Behavioural Orders that can include arrestable conditions. High visibility patrols are conducted by our local teams at every opportunity to provide reassurance to both the wider community and also to detect and deter anti-social behaviour in your area.

Actions

25 September 2025

Work to support tackling anti-social behaviour and the devastating affect it has on individuals and local communities is continuing.

We always encourage our communities to report persistent Anti Social Behaviour in your areas, either by calling us on 101, using our website to report things online, or by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

In response to recent reports regarding youth related anti-social behaviour in the local area, including;

Sherford Stream area of Staplehay.

Musgrove Park Hospital grounds.

The Norton Fitzwarren Playing Fields.

Our neighbourhood team will be conducting targeted high visibility patrols to disrupt and deter further issues whilst enquiries are ongoing.

We encourage parents to be aware of where their children are during the school holidays and what activities they are engaging in.

Meet your local policing team

The Taunton West Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) will be present at the Hive café in the Trull Church Community Centre for a 'Talk To Us' session.

Please come and meet your local beat team, and have a talk with us about any issues you are facing in your area, or to just have a friendly chat.

When: Friday 7th November 2025, 10:00 to 11:00

This event is held every month on the first Friday.

Where: Trull Church Community Centre, Church Road, Taunton, TA3 7JZ

If any of your readers enjoy holidays in Wales, this may be of interest...

Mid Wales church offers unique autumn stay for walkers

Walkers looking for a new way to explore the Welsh countryside this autumn can now book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys — one of only two “champing” sites in Wales.

Champing, a blend of ‘church’ and ‘camping’, offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. St Gwrhai's, built in the 1860s on a site with Christian heritage dating back to the 6th century, sits beside the River Severn and provides access to walking routes across Mid Wales.



The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome. Most guests stay for one or two nights, with solo travellers, small groups, and families all booking during the first season.

Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area.

The initiative is run by the Bro Arwystli Ministry Area. Guests have exclusive use of the church during their stay. For more info: champing.co.uk.

Keen to be Green?

Parish Buying's new energy procurement product, 'Parish Energy' is welcoming new church customers.

Parish Buying (the Church of England's Procurement Team) developed the new, improved energy product after an extensive tender process.

Local churches are being encouraged to look at what the scheme can offer, compared to their current energy contracts, and consider a switch.

'Parish Energy' is available to churches wishing to switch to greener energy and/or who are out of contract with their current energy supplier and want an easier contract arrangement.

Parish Buying says that the benefits of using Parish Energy include saving time and money, as well as supporting renewable energy. Ecotricity offers 100% pure green from UK-based renewable sources, and green gas is also available from Corona (at a premium).

More information at: <https://parishbuying.org.uk/products-services/energy/parish-energy/>



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

75 years ago

The meeting of the Women's Conservative Association was held in the Parish Hall and presided over by Mrs Simpson. An interesting talk was given by Professor Paterson, who recently returned from an extensive European tour. It was announced that as a result of the members' whist drive a donation of £2 had been sent to the Cancer Research Fund. The

bring-and-buy stall realised £2 12s. Miss Smerdon, vice-president, proposed the vote of thanks to Professor Paterson.

Mrs Muriel Wood, of Oldbury Lodge, entered her 10-month-old black chow puppy, Black Hashish of Tiwoo, in the National Chow Chow Club's Champion Show in London. The puppy, which received several class awards, was judged the best in the show.

The clerk to Taunton RDC reported that he had written to the Taunton Brick and Tile Company Ltd, the owners of Swiss Cottage, pointing out that the cottage was not occupied. The company had replied that the house was uninhabitable at present, needing more than ordinary repairs, and they would be glad to know when the Council would consider an application for licensing the necessary work. It was decided to adjourn consideration of the matter so that the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector could inspect the property and report.

The Women's Institute met with Mrs McIndoe presiding. Mr Trump was present to explain the need of a public liability insurance policy, as well as one covering the members. The meeting decided on both policies. Mrs Best gave an account of the group meeting at Bishopswood. A delegate and visitor to the Autumn Council meeting were chosen. Drama classes were reported to have made a good start with twelve pupils. Mrs Burden was welcomed as a new member and nominations for the 1951 Committee were made. Miss Newcombe gave a very successful demonstration on Christmas novelties. She showed the use of plastics and felts and displayed lovely examples of hand-made lamp-shades, some painted and others from material and lace from discarded garments. Tea, served by Mesdames Sibley and Voisey, was followed by a round table conference for ideas for improving the Institute and the new programme. The competition for a felt novelty was judged by Mrs Hayes and won by Mrs Trump and Miss Newcombe.

A whist drive organised by the Social Committee of the Parochial Church Council was held in the Church Room. The Vicar, the Rev EG Mullins, was MC and there were 16 tables for play. Prize winners were - Ladies - 1. Mrs I Berry, 2. Mrs Chaldea, 3. Miss Woolridge, consolation Mrs Libbey, highest score first half Mrs Wyles. Gents - 1. Mr Libbey, 2. Mr Vincent, 3. Mr R Gregory, highest score first half Mr P Irish. As a result of the function, £8 13s 6d was added to the electric light fund

50 years ago

Bishops Hull, a village with an identity of its own even though a mere stone's throw from Taunton, was on the verge of great changes. There were proposed developments including a new road, two housing estates, a primary school and a village hall and playing field. This would emphasise the difficulty of defining where Taunton ended and Bishops Hull began.

The civil parish had extended its limits to include the flourishing Cornishway Trading Estate and the Taunton Deane Crematorium.

Stonegallows, Fideoak, Barr and Rumwell are also part of the parish and it is perhaps the history that surrounds Stonegallows that put Bishops Hull on the map. It was at Stonegallows that nine men were reputedly hung at Judge Jeffreys' command following the riots in the Wets Country. Legend also had it that Mary Blake, the schoolteacher, whose fair maids of Taunton scattered flowers before the Duke of Monmouth during the rebellion, hid in the Manor House and escaped the scourge. For many years the church parish had stretched as far as Tangier and Castle Green.

Although Bishops Hull had retained its village character through the church, pubs and stores, fish and chip shop, butchers, chapel and particularly the annual fete, it conspicuously lacked a permanent playing field and village hall. The village boys football team had to play on a rented playing field. The team, which had only started up the previous year, had entered sides in the under 13 and under 15 Taunton District Youth League. Adults helped run the club and did the coaching, making the team a means of knitting the community together. The cricket team had to play away because of the lack of a field and socially a hall was sorely missed. The residents had been striving towards acquiring both and the village hall and playing fields association had a healthy balance of £4,649.

Mrs Sybil Gwyther, a District Councillor for Bishops Hull for the previous 10 years, had been helping the struggle to get the facilities. She hoped that a new school which had been earmarked to serve the planned housing estates could have community facilities and be used by the villagers.

9th November - The poppies of Remembrance Sunday



In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

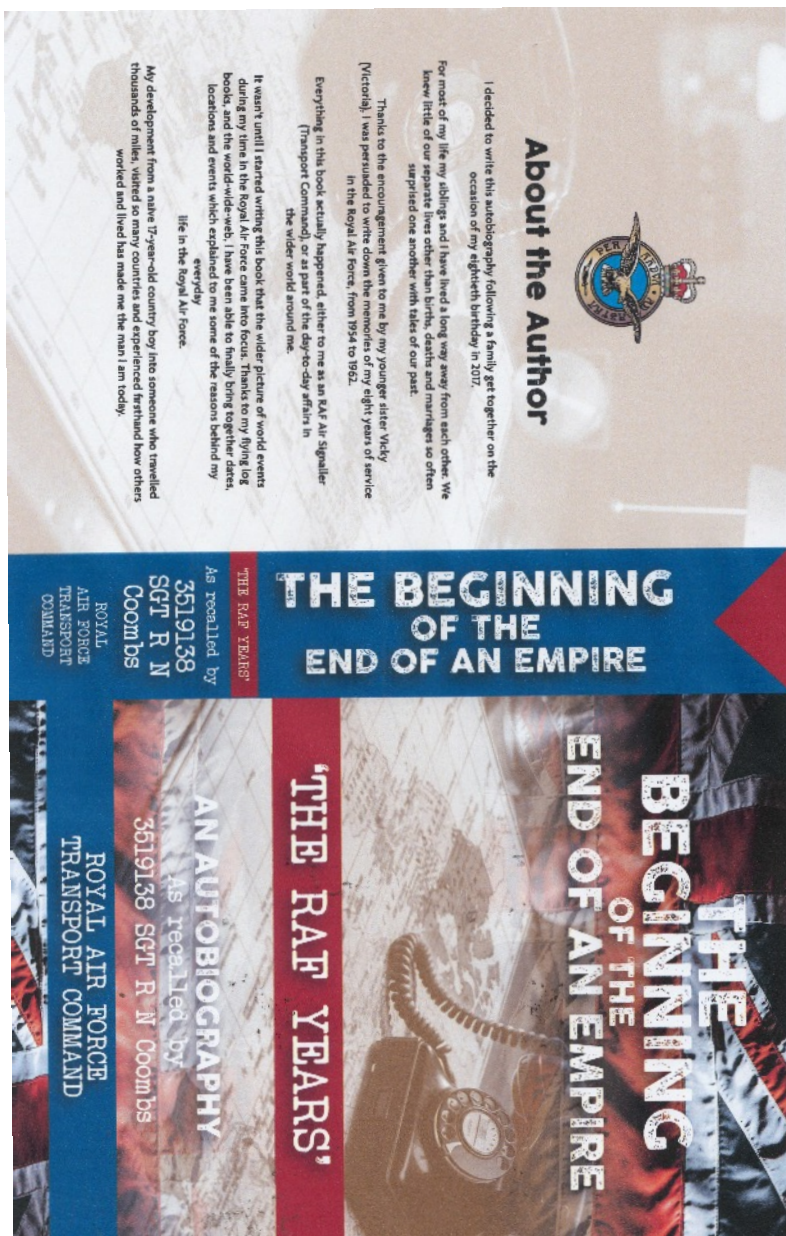
We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

The picture below is a copy of the front and back of the cover of the Editor's Royal Air Force Autobiography published at the beginning of October 2025. Over 500 pages in total it took him over five years of patient research to complete. As they say, *"Everyone has at least one book in them."*



EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING NOVEMBER

HADDOCK WITH SAVOURY BALLS



2 lbs. fresh haddock.
3 slices of fat bacon.

Stuffing

2 ozs. Breadcrumbs.
2 ozs. chopped bacon.
2 teaspoonfuls chopped parsley.
½ teaspoonful mixed herbs.
1 boiled, chopped onion.
Pepper and salt, and egg to bind.

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

From *Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham*

A TASTY HOT-POT

A boiling fowl.
Flour.
2 onions.
2 carrots.
1 small parsnip
3 sprays each of
parsley and thyme.
Water or stock,
seasoned. A few fresh cooked green
peas, or a tin of peas.



SEPARATE all the joints of the fowl, as you would a rabbit. Flour well and put in a stew-jar with onions, carrots and parsnip (sliced up), and the parsley and thyme, tied in muslin. Cover with water or stock, seasoned. Cook gently for about 2½ hours. Thicken with a little flour and water, if necessary, about ½ hour before it is done. For the last ¼ hour, add the peas.

From *Mrs. C. H., Staffordshire.*

BEETROOT AND POTATO PIE

1 lb. boiled or steamed potatoes.
¾ lb. beetroot.
1 large onion.
1 oz. margarine.
½ oz. flour.
½ pint milk.
2 tablespoonfuls grated cheese.
Pepper and salt.



GREASE a pie-dish.

Place in it alternate layers of sliced cooked potatoes and beetroot, having potatoes on top.

Pour over the onion sauce made as follows :

Melt fat. Fry in it the onion, previously skinned and chopped; but do not allow it to brown. Stir in the flour. Add milk, and let sauce cook undisturbed until it nearly reaches boiling-point. Then beat until quite smooth. Season with pepper and salt. Sprinkle grated cheese over the top of the pie-dish, and bake till a golden colour in the oven.

From *Miss C Milne, Aberdeenshire.*

BLACKBERRY ROLL

SIEVE half a pound of flour with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful salt and 3 level teaspoonfuls baking powder.

Cut in 2 ozs.

Margarine or other suitable fat

and when well mixed, add milk up to a teacupful and a half; until you have a soft but not sticky dough.

Knead just enough to shape it into a smooth ball and then pat this out to $\frac{1}{2}$ thickness. Sprinkle a pint of ripe, uncooked blackberries on this and sprinkle them with sugar (brown if possible) and a little cinnamon.

Roll up the paste like a roly-poly, place seam downwards on a greased baking sheet and bake in a hot oven for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Brush the roll over with a little melted margarine before baking.



From Mrs. F. A. Haynes,
Warwickshire.

GOOSEBERRY CUSTARD CAKE

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint stewed, sweetened gooseberries.

2 eggs.

1 cup of castor sugar.

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cupfuls self-raising flour.

The grated rind of 1 orange.

$\frac{1}{2}$ cupful orange juice.

1 tablespoonful lemon juice.

$\frac{1}{2}$ pint thick custard sauce,
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cupful of margarine or vegetable cooking fat.

BEAT the fat to a cream in a basin. Stir in the sugar and beaten egg yolks. Beat thoroughly and then add the

grated orange rind and the strained



lemon juice. Sift the flour and a pinch of salt together, then add alternately with the strained orange juice. Fold in the stiffly frothed egg whites and bake in two deep round sandwich-tins for about 20 minutes until firm and golden.

Remove from the oven, allow to stand for a few minutes, then turn on to a hot dish lined with a lace paper doyley, sprinkled with castor sugar. Put the two halves together with thick custard sauce, place the drained gooseberries on top and add more custard sauce.

From Miss E. Williams,
Monmouthshire.

POTATO CHEESE CAKES (SWEET)

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. mashed potatoes.

1 egg.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Butter.

A little jam.

$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Sugar.

Puff pastry.

2 ozs. Currants.



BEAT the butter and sugar to a cream, add to the potatoes and currants; then add the egg, well beaten. Line tins with puff pastry, put in a little jam and add 1 teaspoonful of the above mixture. Bake in a quick oven until light brown.

From Mrs. R. Robinson,
Cumberland.

Britain's Hawker Hurricane

90 years ago, on 6th November 1935 that

Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter plane made its first flight. The Hawker Hurricane was a British single-seat fighter aircraft that formed the core of RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. It was the first monoplane fighter in RAF service capable of exceeding 300 mph (483 km/h) in level



flight and became the most numerous British fighter of the early war years. Monoplane evolution of the earlier Hawker Fury biplane, the Hurricane combined modern aerodynamic features such as an enclosed cockpit, retractable undercarriage, and low-wing monoplane configuration with traditional construction techniques. These included a fuselage built from braced steel tubing, assembled with mechanical fasteners, and largely covered with doped fabric, which allowed for rapid production and ease of repair. The aircraft's main armament consisted of eight .303 inch (7.7 mm) Browning machine guns mounted in the wings, each supplied with 333 rounds of ammunition. The first operational Hurricanes entered service in December 1937 with 111 Squadron at RAF Northolt.

Performance was enhanced by the adoption of 100-octane fuel, imported from the United States, and the introduction of hydraulically operated constant-speed Rotol propellers, which increased climb rate and acceleration. By the start of the Battle of Britain in July 1940, thirty-two RAF squadrons were equipped with the Hurricane. Although it was often overshadowed in popular memory by the more glamorous Supermarine Spitfire, the Hurricane bore the lion's share of the combat burden during the battle. It was credited with 656 of the 1,107 enemy aircraft destroyed by Fighter Command – approximately 55% of total confirmed victories. Although the Hurricane was slower than both the Supermarine Spitfire and its primary adversary, the Messerschmitt Bf 109, it possessed several notable advantages. Most significantly, it could out-turn the Bf 109 in a tight turning circle, offering excellent manoeuvrability in close-quarters combat. Its sturdy construction made it a highly stable gun platform, and it could absorb significant damage. Many German cannon shells would pass cleanly through the aircraft's fabric fuselage without detonating. However, the same lightweight materials that gave the aircraft its resilience also made it more vulnerable to fire. Its wood and fabric fuselage, combined with unprotected fuel tanks in the wings and forward fuselage, posed a serious hazard. A direct hit could ignite the fuel, sending flames into the cockpit and inflicting severe burns on the pilot. The vulnerability of the fuel system became a significant concern for Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, the head of Fighter Command. At his direction, Hawker retrofitted fuel tanks with self-sealing rubber linings, including compounds such as Linatex, which greatly reduced the risk of fire. Despite its limitations, the Hurricane excelled in its role as a bomber destroyer. Fighter Command doctrine typically assigned Hurricane squadrons to attack incoming German bomber formations while Spitfires engaged the faster Bf 109 escorts. The Hurricane's stable firing platform and heavy machine-gun armament made it particularly effective against the Heinkel He 111, Dornier Do 17, and Junkers Ju 88. In September 1940, the improved Hurricane Mk IIA began entering RAF service, albeit in small numbers. This version was powered by the more powerful Rolls-Royce Merlin XX engine, featuring a two-speed, two-stage supercharger, and was capable of reaching a top speed of 342 mph (550 km/h). The Mk IIA laid the foundation for subsequent variants that would serve in every major theatre of the war, from North Africa to Burma. Although later surpassed by faster and more advanced aircraft, the Hurricane's vital contribution during the Battle of Britain ensured its place as one of the most important fighters in British history. It played a major role in WWII, especially during the Battle of Britain.

Somerset Folklore Tales

Once known as the "Summerlands", The county of Somerset is rich in folklore. Better known for its cider and local legends "The Wurzels", Somerset has many hidden tales handed down through the centuries. In this article, you can read about myths and legends such as the witch of Wookey Hole and the tale of the Dunster dragon!

The Green Man Of Glastonbury

One of the most famous figures in our Somerset Folklore Tales is the Green Man. Often associated with Glastonbury. This pagan figure is typically portrayed as a man's face made of, or surrounded by, foliage. He represents the spirit of nature, rebirth, and the changing of the seasons. During Beltane in Glastonbury, the streets are filled with wonderful humans and the atmosphere is so magical. Dressed in magnificent handmade clothing, people dance and sing celebrating the halfway point between the spring equinox (Ostara) and the summer solstice (Litha). .

The Glastonbury Thorn

The Glastonbury Thorn is a sacred tree that grows in Glastonbury, believed to be a descendant of the tree that grew from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea, who, according to legend, brought Christianity to Britain. Every Christmas Day, the tree is said to bloom, which is considered a miraculous occurrence. The Glastonbury Thorn is linked to both Christian and pagan traditions, making it a powerful symbol of Somerset's spiritual and mystical heritage.

The Tale Of The Dunster Dragon

The small village of Dunster near Minehead, is said to have a dragon legend. According to the story, a fearsome dragon once lived on the hills around the village. It was said to terrorize the villagers until a brave knight confronted the beast and killed it, saving the people. Some variations of the legend suggest that the dragon was linked to the ancient yew trees of the area, which are often considered magical in themselves.

The Beast Of Exmoor

The Beast of Exmoor is a more modern legend, but it has become deeply rooted in Somerset's folklore. It involves sightings of a large, mysterious black cat or big cat-like creature that roams the moors. While some believe it to be an escaped exotic pet or a lingering supernatural presence, others suggest it could be a phantom beast linked to ancient folklore. Many large cats have been spotted around the UK, and some believe this is since it became illegal to own big cats back in 1976. Instead of handing over their precious pets, it's believed those who owned them simply set them free.

The Witch Of Wookey Hole

Wookey Hole, a famous cave system in Somerset, is home to the legend of the Wookey Hole Witch. According to the tale, a local woman named "Hilda" or sometimes "The Witch of Wookey" lived in the caves and cast a spell over the village. The witch's power was said to have been so great that the villagers sought the help of a monk, who managed to turn her to stone using holy water. A stone figure, thought to resemble the witch, is still said to be in Wookey Hole.

Gardening in November

Enjoy the last burst of autumn colour

As the final golden leaves fall from the trees, the ground more frequently becomes a glittering carpet of frost. Tender plants will need protecting from the cold and winter weather. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds, so keep water and food well topped up.

Top gardening jobs this month



Clear up fallen leaves – especially from ponds, lawns and beds

Ponds are a lovely addition to any garden and can provide a rich habitat for a range of wildlife. Occasional cleaning and regular maintenance are required to ensure water is healthy for fish and other wildlife



Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging. In wet weather, raise pots up off the ground on 'feet' or similar to keep the bottom of the pot out of standing water.



Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year

Tulips are popular bulbs, valued for their brilliant flower colours and shapes. Plant in autumn for a colourful spring show. Choose from short varieties for pots, taller stems for borders or small-bloomed species for naturalising in lawns.

More jobs for this month

- Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- Plant out winter bedding
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost – hessian sacking or re-used bubblewrap work well
- Sow some sweet peas indoors, putting them in a cold frost-free place as soon as they germinate
- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- Don't burn your woody waste – compost it or recycle into dead hedges or log pile

Lawns

Maintenance

- Raking leaves. Rake fallen leaves from lawns so they don't smother the grass, blocking out light and moisture.
- Mow if necessary during mild weather, as grass continues to grow in temperatures above 5°C (41°F). But raise the cutting height to 2–4cm (1–1½in) – about 5mm (¼in) higher than in summer. Mowing will also help to deal with any annual weeds that have sprung up in new lawns sown earlier in the autumn.

- Carry out autumn lawn care if not already completed, as long as the soil isn't waterlogged and the weather isn't very wet, snowy or frosty. This will improve the lawn's resilience and appearance next year.
- There's still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs in lawns to add colour and pollinator-friendly flowers – great choices include snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. Just remember that you'll have to leave the area unmown for several months in spring, from once the foliage starts to appear until it dies back. So it's usually best to plant in specific areas where the grass can be left unmown, rather than scattering them across the whole lawn.
- Straighten lawn edges using a half-moon turf iron and a board, or use sand to mark out a curve, which can then be cut out with the iron. At the same time, create a 7.5cm (3in) 'gutter' around the lawn to prevent grass spreading into your borders.

Flowers

Sowing and planting

Cut leaves off Christmas and Lenten rose type hellebores to make way for the flowers.

Lily bulbs can still be planted in pots this month. They can either be brought inside next spring to 'force' them into an early display, or left outside to flower naturally in summer. Plant tulip bulbs this month. Some tulips persist year to year, some perform less well and are treated as bedding, and replaced every year.

Now is the last chance to plant out winter bedding. You could try wallflowers, forget-me-nots, Bellis, Primula, Viola (winter pansies) and other spring bedding plants, planting them into well-prepared ground, or pots of suitable compost.

Seedheads are homes for wildlife in winter Cutting back, pruning and dividing

Unless you are leaving dead stems for structure in the garden, or as habitats for over-wintering wildlife, you can continue to cut down faded herbaceous perennials and add these to the compost heap.

Penstemons are best dead-headed and left until the spring, when they can be cut back further. In mild areas they can carry on flowering well into the late autumn and early winter. The old faded stems will help to protect the crowns from cold. Mulching over the crowns in colder areas will also help.

Ornamental grasses and bamboos can be cut back and tidied up at this time of year.

It is still a good time to lift and divide overgrown clumps of herbaceous perennials.

Lift and store dahlias, cannas and tuberous bedding begonias that have been hit by the first frosts. root cuttings.

Propagation

Root cuttings can be taken now and throughout the winter. Papaver (perennial poppies), Verbascum (mullein) and Phlox are suitable examples.

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

Another sign of the self-respect and self-reliance of the English common folk was training for military service. It was only during the long period of peace and safety after Waterloo that men began to regard it as part of English liberty not to be trained for defence. In all previous ages the opposite and more rational idea had prevailed. In the later Middle Ages the national skill in archery and the obligation to serve in the militia of town and country had fostered the spirit of popular independence which Froissart, Fortescue, and other writers had noticed as peculiarly English. And so it still was under Elizabeth, though the long-bow was yielding to the caliver or hand-gun.

‘A newly established county officer, the Lord Lieutenant, took the place in 1557 of the Sheriff as commander and organizer of the militia of each shire. He and his subordinates held frequent reviews of men, armour, and munitions. The parsimony of Elizabeth’s fiance threw as much of the expense as possible on local and volunteer resources, but the system worked. The rising of the northern earls was suppressed without a battle because 20,000 militiamen, ready armed and trained, took the field on the first alarm to defend the Queen and the Protestant religion. Twice as many were assembled when the Armada was off our shores, and more were mustering daily when that danger passed away before the wind. England had no regular army, but she was not defenceless. Each locality had to supply so many men trained and armed for the militia; each man of property had to find one or more men. Partly by volunteering, partly by compulsion, the national duty was fulfilled.

For expeditions overseas such a system was gravely at fault; indeed the only English troops who won any credit upon the Continent between the Hundred Years War and the time of Cromwell were the long-service regiments of Englishmen in Dutch or other foreign pay.

It was as well that the veterans of Spain did not effect a landing. For the English militia no longer had the superiority over other nations that the long-bow had once given. All through the Queen’s reign the caliver or harquebus man was displacing the archer, in proportion as the gun, once so much inferior to the long-bow in an expert hand, increased in range, in rapidity of fire, and in force to penetrate plate-armour. At the beginning of the reign, most even of the well-appointed London militia were still bowmen, but the best companies already consisted of ‘shot’ and heavily armoured pikemen. After another generation had passed, not one of London’s 6,000 trained militiamen bore the bow during the alarm of the Armada, and it was the same in many southern counties. A decade later, Shakespeare wrote a scene

in which Falstaff is pressing Cotswold yokels by the authority of the Justices of the Peace; he is not seeking archers but only 'shot'; 'put me a caliver into Wart's hand, Bardolph.' In 1595 the Privy Council decreed that bows should never again be issued as weapons of war; and so a great chapter in English history came to its end.

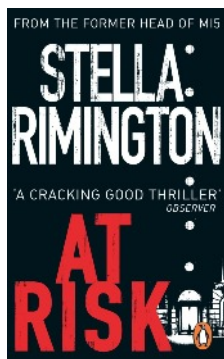
In sport the substitution of firearms for bows followed more slowly. As late as 1621 the Archbishop of Canterbury had the misfortune to aim at a buck and kill a gamekeeper with his crossbow. By that time many sportsmen used the 'long gun' especially in the stalking of wild fowl, though 'to shoot flying' was still regarded as something of a feat.

The good order preserved in Elizabeth's kingdom, in spite of religious differences and foreign dangers, was due to the power of the Crown "exerted through the Privy Council, the real governing body of Tudor England, and the Prerogative Courts which represented the Council's judicial power. Those courts — the Star Chamber, the Councils of Wales and of the North, the Chancery Court, the ecclesiastical Court of High Commission — were (all except Chancery) afterwards abolished in the Parliamentary Revolution of Stuart times, because they were the rivals of the Common Law courts, and because they were a danger to individual liberty with their inquisitorial procedure and their avowed bias in favour of the Crown. Yet in the Tudor age it was precisely these Prerogative Courts that saved the liberties of Englishmen by enforcing respect for law, and saved the English Common Law by enabling and compelling men to administer it without fear or favour. The Privy Council and the Prerogative Courts stopped the terrorization of judges and juries by local mobs and local magnates; this restoration of the free working of the jury system in ordinary cases was a service to society that far outweighed the Privy Council's occasional interference in cases of a political complexion. In this way the Common Law and its tribunals were saved by the very jurisdiction that was their rival. Moreover, the Prerogative Courts introduced many new principles of law suited to modern times, which were eventually absorbed into the law of the land. In foreign countries the old feudal law was not so good a system as the Common Law of medieval England, and could not be adapted to the uses of modern society. And so the feudal law of Europe and with it the medieval liberties of Europe were swept away in this epoch, by the 'reception' of Roman law, which was a law of despotism. But in England the medieval law, fundamentally a law of liberty and "private rights, was reserved, modernized, supplemented, enlarged, and above all enforced by the Council and Courts of the 'Tudor despotism', so that both the old system of law and the old Parliament survived into a new age with a renewed vigour. ####

BOOK REVIEWS

At Risk

by Stella Rimington



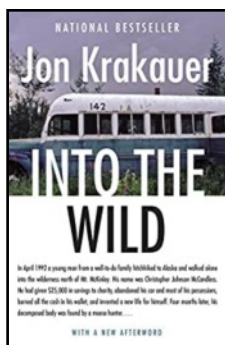
For MI5 officer Liz Carlyle, the nagging complications of her private life are quickly forgotten at Monday's counter-terrorism meeting. A terrorist may have entered

mainland Britain and with each passing hour, the danger increases. But as Liz desperately sifts through the incoming intelligence, she finally realises a truth that could prove deadly: her ability to get inside her enemy's head is the only hope of averting disaster...

As former Director General of MI5, Stella Rimington's books are packed full of authentic detail. A must-read for spy thriller fans.

Into the Wild

by Jon Krakauer



Into the Wild sits hands down at the top of my list of the best hiking books of all-time, for good reason. It's the tragic story of 24-year-old adventurer Christopher McCandless. The

tale follows his journey after

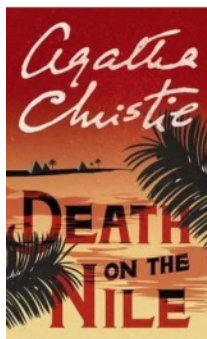
renouncing all his worldly possessions and disappearing down a snowy track in Fairbanks, Alaska in 1992.

All he had with him was a light backpack and meagre equipment.

Sadly, his remains were discovered in an abandoned school bus in Alaska, five months later.

Death on the Nile

Agatha Christie



Death on the Nile is a book of detective fiction by British writer Agatha Christie, first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club on 1 November 1937 and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company the

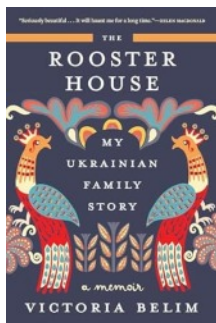
following year.

The UK edition retailed at seven shillings and sixpence and the US edition at \$2.00.

The Rooster House

My Ukrainian Family Story:
A Memoir

A Memoir is not just a book; it's a powerful exploration of heritage, resilience, and the emotional weight of history. This memoir, written by Victoria, intricately weaves the tapestry of her Ukrainian roots against the backdrop of the country's tumultuous past. The narrative invites readers into the Rooster House, a mansion with deeply entrenched secrets, juxtaposing

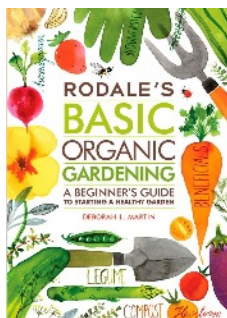


vibrant family tales with the harrowing echoes of political strife.

Key features of this memoir include its engaging storytelling and richly developed

characters that emerge from the pages, alongside profound themes of hope and perseverance amidst despair. Readers will benefit from its immersive historical context, shedding light on Ukraine's complex struggles, making it a noteworthy read for anyone interested in family legacies and personal histories. The standout quality of this book lies in its dual perspective, blending personal anecdotes with broader societal issues, appealing to both diaspora and those looking to understand the socio-political narratives of Eastern Europe.

Rodale's **Basic Organic Gardening** contains everything a beginner needs to know to get started.



Rodale is one of the leading publishers on organic gardening. And I believe if you're just starting out, you may as well

go organic right from the beginning. This book walks you through all the basics:
How to create your garden beds.

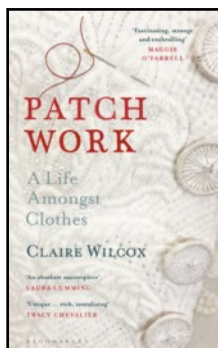
Common vegetables, herbs, annuals, perennials and bulbs you might want to plant and how to care for them. Watering, mulching, weeding, organic fertilizer, pest and disease control for maintaining your garden. And even includes definitions of gardening terms so you know what people are talking about.

Patch Work:

A Life Amongst Clothes

By Claire Wilcox

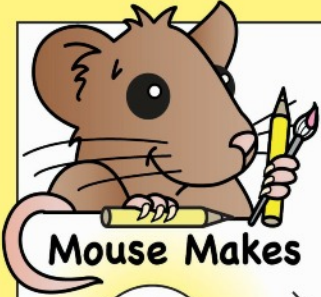
Clare Hunter Why I love this book



This is a surprisingly gentle memoir by the curator of fashion at the V & A Museum in London. She uses her own wardrobe to unfold the story of her own life.

In exquisite prose she traces how, whether homemade or haute couture, what we wear catches significant moments in our lives and archives personal memories. It made me think of my own clothes in a different way and understand why I couldn't throw out those that remind me of people I love and my own joyful or sad events





Mouse Makes

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



HOPE

Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



JOY

Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



LOVE

Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?

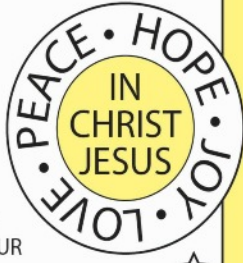


PEACE

Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
 MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
 CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT





Let's walk into the light

A story that's often told in our churches comes from the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. It tells of Jesus, in the blinding heat of midday meeting a Samaritan woman at the well in a town called Sychar. The woman is hoisting up heavy buckets of water in the hot sun. She's there because she's a woman with 'a reputation' and it's the only time of day she can avoid the muttering of her neighbours who meet at the well at cooler hours.

In an extraordinary encounter, Jesus sees deep into the woman's heart. Through their conversation Jesus brings about her healing and restoration into the community from which she is estranged. It's a story of life, possibility, new beginnings and forgiveness.

The woman at the well is not the only Biblical story set in Sychar. There's another, contained in the 34th chapter of the Book of Genesis. This is a tale of terror that's never heard in our churches; the rape of a girl called Dinah. It's a dark, nasty tale of violence that wrecks the life of individuals, families and the entire community. So we don't speak about it. We keep it hidden. Sometimes people say to me of safeguarding 'It's just a tick box exercise', an onerous compliance requirement. Rather I would say that our work in safeguarding asks fundamental questions about the kind of places we want our churches to be. Just like the Bible passages I've mentioned, we can be places of hiddenness, silence, and hurt. Or places of life, new beginnings and restoration.

Accounts like the Makin review have shone light on our story. We've also been working hard to bring about change. While we cannot be complacent, I am intensely proud of all that was revealed about safeguarding in Bath and Wells by our independent audit that happened earlier this year. This told us that we are moving towards a much better story. So let's build on the momentum we have created. Let's walk into the light.

Michael Beasley

Bishop of Bath and Wells

Bonfire Night – some simple rules for staying safe

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has provided the following tips to help families stay safe while they are having Bonfire Night fun... Young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Here are some other things to bear in mind on the night:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper, and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

**

Editor: *With thanks to the Ven John Barton for permission to use his helpful guide.*

The best time to plan your funeral is ... NOW!

November is when we remember the dead (All Saints and Remembrance). But what about your own funeral?

It will happen sometime, whether soon or years in the future. Some preparation by you now will save your loved ones a lot of uncertainty later. So, this month, why not spend some time thinking about what you want for your own funeral?

Most funerals in England are Christian, though the officially recorded number of Church of England funerals tends to be limited to those which are conducted by parish clergy and Readers. The minister at others may be retired, or a hospital or military Chaplain.

A few funeral events are led by nominees of the British Humanist Association or the National Secular Society. A growing number are conducted by civil celebrants, who tend to devise a format concentrating on the story of the person who has died, with God as an afterthought, though Christian prayers or texts from other religions may be incorporated.

Parishioners may not realise that they have the right to the services of the Vicar, even if they don't go to church. They also have the right to be interred in the churchyard if it is open for burials.

The trend in funerals at the moment is to make them a celebration of the life of the deceased person. Although your wish – and that of your family – may be to

make your funeral a joyful occasion, it does no one any good to suppress grief. A Christian service should make room for sadness as well as gratitude. It is also an act of worship, in which reverence should be paid to God, the source and goal of life. His judgment, generosity and mercy and the Christian hope in resurrection through Jesus Christ should be central.

A sensitive funeral service will also help mourners to contemplate the most fundamental issues of our existence. The Christian hope can be an unexpected encouragement, not least when people claim to have little faith of their own. You can talk all this over with your Vicar in confidence. You don't have to be terminally ill to do so! He or she knows you are precious to God and will be able to explain all the options and share some ideas.

Now for some practical considerations:

First of all, if you are an organ donor, where can your consent form be found? (Find out more from <https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk>)

Do tell your Executor and next of kin where your Will is kept. Details of your funeral wishes can be kept with it or in a more accessible place. It is useful to maintain a list of family, friends, neighbours, acquaintances and former colleagues who should be notified of your death and the funeral arrangement.

Does a dog cut the risk of childhood asthma?

Could having a dog help your child to develop better lung function? A recent study says yes.

Research from the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto has found that children who've been exposed to higher levels of the dog allergen Can f1 may even have their risk of childhood asthma cut in half.

As one doctor explained: "Asthma is a very common chronic respiratory illness in children, with the highest rates in the first four years of life. It is caused by complex interactions between genetic factors and the environment, including infections, allergies and air pollution. Children spend most of their time indoors, so in this research we wanted to study allergens in the home.

"We examined pet allergens from dogs and cats. We found that, while cat allergens showed no association, exposure to dog allergens was linked to improved lung function and a reduced risk of asthma.

"This suggests that early exposure to dog allergens could prevent sensitisation, perhaps by altering the nasal microbiome – the mixture of microbes living inside the nose – or by some effect on the immune system.

"This study suggests that babies who grow up around dogs may have a lower risk of developing asthma. This is potentially good news for families with pet dogs; however, we need to know more about this link and how living with pets affects children's developing lungs in the longer term."

For how many minutes can you concentrate?

Most of us can watch television for only about 15 minutes, or read a book for about 14 minutes, before we lose our concentration. Most of us blame our social media notifications as the reason.

A recent survey by Perspectus Global for Lingo by Abbott, found that Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and message alerts were named as the main culprits.

Overall, it seems we can focus for only 11 minutes on a virtual work call, or 13 minutes in a face-to-face meeting, or 12 minutes writing a work email.

We even seem to lose concentration at family gatherings, after only 14 minutes.

Overall, four in five of us say that we get distracted easily, and that we lose our focus around eight times each day.

What about you? Why not take up the challenge, and 'time' your losses of concentration for a day?

Leaf some green stuff in the garden

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much. Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants. 'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5th November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!

Help our woodlands

If you've been admiring the glories of autumn, and have any time to spare, why not consider volunteering to help the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity?

The Trust looks after more than 1,000 woods and groups of woods. The Trust also campaigns to protect and save more ancient woodland from destructive development. It always needs volunteers to help in a wide variety of ways. For details, visit: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk>

Put together a Memory Book

Do you have grandchildren? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrapbook of memories to pass on to them?

Things you might like include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.

Smile-lines

Exam.

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."

**

Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments."

**

Morning

There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

**

Dry

My minister friend put hot-air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but someone had scribbled on the dryer: "For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button."

A deeper problem

Young James started nursery and began bringing his drawings home. Each day his mother admired the pictures and hung them on the refrigerator. But one thing bothered her. James used only black and browns for his drawings. What did that mean? Fearing a problem, and not wanting it to get worse, she decided to take him to a child psychologist.

The psychologist delicately went to work. He gave James a battery of psychological tests. Everything seemed perfectly normal. Yet every day, James continued to bring home drawings in only blacks and browns. Frustrated and fearful that something was terribly wrong, the child psychologist finally decided to give James some paper and a box of crayons and simply observe what happened.

James opened the box of crayons and cried! "Oh, cool! A new box! At school we only have old boxes. The only crayons left in mine are black and brown!"

**

Hear, hear

A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

**

Grave certainties

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man with no family or friends. The service was to be at a cemetery some distance away. As I was not familiar with the area, I got lost and finally arrived an hour late. The funeral director and hearse were long gone. There were only the diggers left and they were eating lunch. I went to the side of the grave and looked down. The lid was partially covered with soil. The diggers stared at me over their sandwiches, and I sensed their reproach that I had deserted this dead man in his final hour of need. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The diggers looked quite startled at this, and put down their lunches. But they stood quietly enough while I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently, I'm still lost....

**

Where there's smoke...

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before

beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible. One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector. My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

**

Bible knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant. "It's easy, Daddy," the boy replied. "It means: 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

**

What Did You Do on Earth?

Three people die; a doctor, school teacher, and the head of a large insurance company. When met at the pearly gates by St. Peter he asks the doctor, "what did you do on Earth?" The doctor replied, "I healed the sick and if they could not pay I would do it for free." St. Peter told the Doctor, "You may go in." St. Peter then asked the teacher what she did, she replied, "I taught educationally challenged children." St. Peter then told her "You may go in." St. Peter asked the third man, "What did you do?" The man raised his head and replied, "I ran a large insurance company." "You may go in..." said St. Peter. The man happily walks forward when St. Peter adds: "for 3 days." ***

The Forgotten Pillow Cases

A stingy old man was determined to prove wrong the old saying, "You can't take it with you when you die." After much thought, he finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the pillowcases full of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed. His plan was to reach out and grab them on his way to heaven. Several weeks after the funeral the deceased man's wife, up in the attic cleaning, comes upon the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with cash. "Oh, that old fool," she exclaims. "I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement."

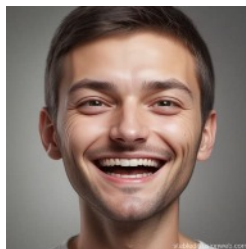
Healthy Life, Healthy Wife

In their small village, a couple was famous for the husband being 102 years old and his wife being 98 years old, and both in terrific condition, working their farm every day and having the bodies of much younger people. One day, a visitor to the village, curious about the couple, approached the old man at his farm. The old man was cutting wood without a shirt on, sweat glistening on a body that seemed to belong to a man half his age. The visitor introduced himself and asked the old man: "I hear you are 102!" "That's correct," said the old man with a smile. "Wow, I must say, you look in amazing shape!" "Thank you." Said the old man humbly. "Do you mind if I ask-" "-How am I this healthy at my age?" finished the old

man. "Help me carry this wood back home and I'll tell you." The visitor agrees and they make their way inside. "You see," said the old man, "I've been married for 75 years. Now, when we got married, I made a little arrangement with the wife. Every time we have an argument, the loser of said argument must run for 5 kilometres. Seeing as we have a pretty typical marriage, I've been running 5 kilometres almost every day for 75 years! That's why I'm in the great shape I am." "But if that's the case," said the puzzled visitor, "how come your wife is in such great shape too?" "Well," smiled the old man, "she usually runs after me to make sure I finish the whole five."

The Robbery

It was a late one night in Washington D.C, when a well dressed man went out to smoke in an alley behind a bar. As he was smoking, a mugger wearing a ski mask jumped out from behind a dumpster and pointed a gun at him. "Give me all your money!" he demanded. Indignant, the affluent man replied, "You can't do this – I'm a US Congressman!" "In that case," replied the robber, "Give me MY money!"



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 what it takes to be an ordinand

*The Rectory
St James the Least*

My dear Nephew Darren

I was intrigued that you have been nurturing someone called Dave who is considering ordination. Since Dave had never travelled outside the city, your decision to send him to me was understandable. Sadly, I don't think he is cut out for the ministry.

We did our best. In a fit of hospitality, the Colonel invited this Dave to stay at the Lodge, and to join his Saturday pheasant shoot as a beater. But Dave said firmly that he was against beating any kind of bird and abhors all kinds of murder. It seems young Dave is a vegetarian! You might have warned us. The Colonel is now concerned that Dave is connected in some way with the Green Party. You cannot be too careful these days.

Then Miss Saxby and Miss Tarby stepped in. They enjoy mushrooming, and kindly took young Dave off to the woods. It is not their fault that they are a bit deaf and so did not hear his cries of distress when he lost them among all the trees. They just assumed he had gone back to the Colonel's, and so of course they did not organise a search party until much later. Fortunately, the church warden's spaniel has a keen nose and found Dave before midnight. During all that time, Dave seemed to have had nothing better to do than slide about on fallen leaves and trip over hidden logs in the dark. He was even babbling about having heard a crying ghost. We feared he might be delirious but then realised he meant the local owl. He also seemed surprised by the darkness and asked how we manage without any streetlights at all in the parish. We explained the obvious - we simply follow the example of the well-refreshed when leaving the pub, and feel our way along the walls.

On Sunday morning Dave rushed into the church to warn me that there were several loose sheep in the churchyard. I decided then that he should return to the safety of the city. There was no point in letting him near most of our church ladies, who would have savaged him on sight.

The visit only proves the obvious: potential ordinands should be carnivorous, cricketing fly-fishers, most at home in well-worn tweeds and preferably accompanied by a muddy dog. How else will they get along with normal folk?

*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/>

Taunton Foodbank
<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/help4all

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

BH Parish Council - Helen McGladdery 07518144614
clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.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 -
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
	<u>RUMWELL</u>
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 NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday 2 November All Saints	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Eph 1:11-end 1173 Luke 6:20-31 1034	Christabel Ager
Wednesday 6 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 9 November Remembrance	Holy Communion Holy Communion At War Memorial	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.	2 Thess 2:1-5 & 13-end 1189 Luke 20:27-38 1055	Bob Coombs
Wednesday 12 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.	Luke 17:11-19 1050	
Sunday 16 November 2nd before Advent	Holy Communion Holy Communion Preacher - Archdeacon Simon Hill	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	2 Thess 3:6-13 1190 Luke 21:5-19 1056	Sue Martin
Wednesday 19 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 23 November 1st before Advent	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Col 1:11-20 1182 Luke 23:33-43 1060	Will Osmond
Wednesday 26 November	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.	Luke 21:12-19 1056	
Sunday 30 November Advent	Holy Communion Holy Communion Advent Carol Service	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Readings for Advent	

GRASS CUTTING



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

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder. Mark Dakin

Sue Martin Hilary Harper . Lillian Priest

St Peter and St Paul's PCC 2025-2026

1. Rev Phil Hughes (Vicar)
2. Tim Venn (Church Warden)
3. John Perry (Church Warden)
4. Rachel Horder
5. Beverley Keitch (Parish Safeguarding Officer),
6. Mark Dakin
7. Sue Martin
8. Hilary Harper
9. Lillian Priest



10 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!