

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL 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



Wheatear

Cover - EASTER CELEBRATION FLOWERS



**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

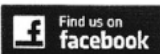
Sunday 17th AUGUST

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)



Do you ever wonder if you have too much 'stuff'? Why I am tempted to ask this simple question is because having too much 'stuff' is now one of the reasons high on the list for causing 'global warming'.

Global warming? Come on, surely someone is pulling our leg. Whilst you may admit that you have too much 'stuff' (and who hasn't) it has taken you a lifetime to collect and you possibly love most of it. Well, love is probably overstating it a bit but most of the stuff in your home is essential for civilised living, isn't it?

I just can't stop wondering where all of this advice is going and why it keeps popping up on the news day in and day out. Ahhh.... Surely this message has got to be one part of achieving the Net Zero target set by our leaders. Whilst I think about this for a minute, and if I hold my breath for a minute that should be a great help in lowering **my** carbon footprint.

I am probably correct in thinking that the average person does care about all of the bad things that are happening worldwide. In this complex world in which we live 'no man is an island'.

Just consider for a moment the decisions you made today. Will they ripple through the universe and, somewhere far away, a butterfly will flap its wings in the Amazon jungle, a storm will start and by next week we will get rain wetting our washing. Can this really be one result of our decision to buy more 'stuff'? Some of you may recall something I wrote about a long while ago called 'unintended consequences'. (*In the social sciences, unintended consequences are outcomes of a purposeful action that are not intended or foreseen*).

Just pause a moment and consider what effect it would have upon the lives of countless people if, suddenly, everyone decided not to buy any more 'stuff'. Possibly, for a while at least, very little would happen but slowly shops and warehouses would be filled by all the unwanted 'stuff'. I'm sure I need say no more as you can work all of the *unintended consequences* out for yourself. So, what am I promising to do by way of saving the planet?

I seem to have an abundance of 'stuff' just laying around from 88 years of buying things that have now outlived their useful lives. No one these days wants old technology or something that 'needs looking at' to make it serviceable again.

Well, the Spring has sprung so now might just be the right time to get rid of lots of 'stuff' and hope it finds a new life in someone else's shed or garage. Maybe, just maybe, this will help someone stop buying more 'stuff'.

The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and the cry rings out: "He is risen!" At Easter, we don't just commemorate a past event; we celebrate the cornerstone of our faith, the fulfillment of prophecy, and the dawn of eternal life. "He is risen, Hallelujah!"



As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:14, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." But Christ has been raised! This truth, attested to by Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the other disciples, transforms our understanding of life and death. The resurrection is more than a miracle; it's the ultimate victory over sin and death. As Romans 6:9 says, "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." This means that through faith in Jesus, we too are promised resurrection and eternal life.

Consider the words of John 11:25-26, where Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." This is the hope we cling to, the promise that sustains us in times of sorrow and uncertainty.

This Easter, let us reflect on the profound implications of the resurrection. Let us remember the words of Colossians 3:1, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of ¹ God." Let us live as resurrected people, transformed by the power of Christ's love, sharing the good news of salvation with a world that desperately needs it.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

*Your Brother in Christ,
Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar, Chaplain and Easter Disciple of Jesus*



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



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 26th APRIL** Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat. From 10am till 12noon.



GREGORY and ELLEN STEWARD

return to St Peter and St Paul's Church

*performing operatic favourites, Songs from the Shows
and many more!*

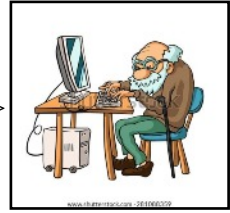
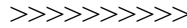
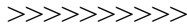
*Flower Duet
(with surprise guest!)
Merry Widow Waltz
O Mio Babbino Caro
Nessun Dorma
Time to Say Goodbye*

Sunday 6th April 2025 at 3 p.m.
Tickets £12 - to include refreshments

To book tickets please contact

The Church Office
01823 336102

Or Pay On The Door - Under 18s Free



Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

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THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!

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

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

Following the Parish Council meeting in January, as previously advised the budget for 2025-26 was agreed and the Precept request from Somerset Council was confirmed. Full details can be found:

<https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/budgets>. A precept request of £74,000 was made from Somerset Council which, along with the income from the Allotments, Community News advertisers and bank interest, will enable the Parish Council to: ‘

- ~ Employ a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (this is a legal requirement)
- **Pay for:**
- ~ Hall hire for meetings/Stationery
- ~ Membership to Somerset Association of local Councils — who offer advice and training to Councils .
- - Meet the emptying charges for the three dog bins owned by the Parish Council in the parish
- ~ Carry out maintenance on Parish Council benches and notice boards
- ~ Rent the allotment site from Somerset Council and pay for the Insurance and Water fees
- ~ External Audit fees (legal requirement)
- ~ Insurance .
- ~ Carry out maintenance on Rights of Way footpaths
- ~ Produce a monthly Community newsletter and extra inserts
- - Training for Councillors and The Clerk
- ~ ROSPA/Play Inspections and repairs on Parish Council owned play areas (Village play area to be transferred to Parish Council this year)
- ~ Purchase a new Speed Indicator Device — as the current one has proven to reduce speeding in the Parish
- ~ Carry out all the maintenance (grass cutting and Hedge/tree works) at Bishops Mead — due to be transferred to the Parish Council this year
- ~ Offer grants to local voluntary groups to support their work
- ~ Carry out verge cutting/leaf clearance and other works in the Parish
- In addition the transfer of the area formerly known as Kinglake is planned to move to the Parish Council ownership this year. The developer Persimmon will provide a Commuted sum to cover the future maintenance of this area. At the meeting Members also agreed to:
- ~ Contact Somerset Council regarding drain clearance in Shutewater Hill
- ~ To obtain additional quotes for future maintenance of the area formerly known as Kinglake, ahead of the land transfer this year
- ~ Agreed to the transfer of Bishops Mead to the PC once Somerset Council had completed the outstanding works to the trees
- ~ Revised quote for Bishops Mead from Parsons Landscapes was approved
- ~ The Clerk to contact Somerset Council again to chase up the leaf clearance on the road at Bishop's Hull Hill

- ~ Progress with funding a cut of the hedge on Bishop's Hull Road leading up to the pinch point, and pavement clearance on Silk Mills. As these areas are next to the Highway — Somerset Council will be instructed
 - ~ Response to the boundary review was agreed
 - Next Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Thursday 6th March, 7pm at the HUB — all were welcome to attend.
-

Part time Caretaker required

The Hub is looking to take on a part time caretaker to complement the current security team. The position will entail approximately 7 hours a week (flexible). The job would ideally suit a self-employed person with spare work capacity and energy for a busy and varied role. In the first instance, please contact:

David, Richard or Tony to arrange an informal meeting to discuss further.
david.gurr@btinternet.com - 07977 474873,
rp_cpt.holland@btinternet.com - 07531 927863 or tony.tlr1@gmail.com - 07475 94882

Bishop's Hull HUB

Hub Café dates, all 10-12noon:

Saturday 12th April - Our popular Easter Cafe with Easter egg themed children's activities.

Saturday 10th May - V.E. Day celebration (80th anniversary).

Youth Club Dates:

Saturday 19th April- 7:15pm - 9:15pm.

£1 entry, bring change for the tuck shop. Come and try out our new air hockey, foosball table and Spike Ball set! Age 11-16 year olds living in Bishop's Hull (and their friends).

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club - February draw:

£36.80 - Helen Plumbly, £18.40 — Alex Gallacher and £9.20 — Frances Pine
We need you! We are looking for more people to join the 100 club. If you are interested please email BHHub100club@gmail and arrange for the payment of either £2.00 per month or £24 per year, per ticket number.

Account Name: Bishops Hull Hub Limited, **Bank:** Co-operative Bank

Sort Code: 08-92-99, **Account Number:** 67357071

Reference (must be stated): Your name - 100club e.g. AndrewSmith-100club.
Good luck!

Bishop' Hull Hub Committee Update on Sensory Trail Project

You may be aware Phase 1 of the proposed Sensory Trail is the construction of the proposed ramp and steps along with a planting plan. Unfortunately, everything is on hold at the moment, and we are unable to make any further progress until the change in the legal ownership of the Playing Field is resolved. The timescale is unknown due to Somerset Council having a significant backlog of legal issues. Once this is done, we are ready to go! The next step will be to proceed with our grant funding applications. All construction drawings and planting plans have been completed and a Contractor selected.

Richard Holland & David Gurr



Eyes down for Easter Bingo

For this month's article, I would like to give you ample notice of this year's Easter Bingo, taking place at 2pm on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at the Frank Bond Centre. Last year's event was very well attended and I have to say that I thoroughly enjoyed 'calling' the numbers. This



year I've been asked to 'call' the numbers once again, and will be trying to link as many of the 90 bingo numbers (1-90) to a rhyming Easter theme.

Here are a few fun examples from last year:

[Hot Cross Bun, No.1](#) [Easter Bunny at the door, No.4](#) | [Chocolate Heaven, No.7](#)
[Easter Hen, No.10](#) | [Chocolate-a-plenty, No.20](#).

So, if you can think of any Easter related calls that rhyme with numbers, please do let me know and I'll add them to my list. This will be lots of fun with chocolatey prizes.

It's only £4 to play, which includes complimentary tea and coffee.

Everyone's welcome, tickets not required, just turn up.

If you're driving, turn left off Mountway Road into Walnut Close and left again, where you'll find the centre's Car Park.

I very much look forward to seeing you at the Frank Bond Centre, 84 Mountway Road, Bishop's Hull, Taunton TA1 SDS — where there is always a warm, friendly welcome.

It really is a great place to make new friends. Over 50s.

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

MARCH MEETING

At our March meeting, on Thursday 27th, our speaker 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 FARRY

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

Catharine Richards - 07710 026191

Crime incidents in neighbouring areas to Bishop's Hull

We've taken the ten nearest places to Bishop's Hull and ranked them by the number of crime incidents in each.

This should allow you to see if Bishop's Hull has more crime than other surrounding areas.

Location Crime Incidents

Rowbarton (1.39 miles)	342
Frieze Hill (0.88 miles)	140
Sherford (1.39 miles)	111
Roughmoor (0.62 miles)	56
Bishop's Hull	55
Comeytrove (0.62 miles)	28
Trull (1.39 miles)	18
Norton Fitzwarren (0.88 miles)	16
Upcott (0.62 miles)	12
Barr (0.62 miles)	11

Where are the most violent places near Bishop's Hull?

The category of crime that most concerns people is violent crime. We have taken the ten nearest place to Bishop's Hull and ranked them according to the number of violent incidents in the 'best fit' Policing neighbourhood.

Location Violent Incidents

Rowbarton	116
Frieze Hill	58
Sherford	43
Bishop's Hull	33
Roughmoor	28
Comeytrove	15
Norton Fitzwarren	12
Upcott	10
Trull	8
Barr	4

Report | Avon and Somerset Police

On Tuesday 25 February, Avon and Somerset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner met key representatives from Taunton Chamber of Commerce, Taunton Town Council, Somerset Council and local businesses to discuss and problem-solve the biggest community issues affecting the town. The meeting, which took place at Mr Miles Tearooms in Taunton town centre, was an opportunity to highlight the proactive policing work taking place to drive down anti-social behaviour, retail crime and violence. It also provided a platform for open dialogue around community safety, improving crime rates and outcomes, and how all attending agencies can work in partnership to achieve this.

The mood of the evening was optimistic as attendees shared their commitment to tackling crime in Taunton through closer partnership working.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Clare Moody, and Police Commander for Somerset, Superintendent Lisa Simpson, gave a regional update, focusing on their priority to strengthen neighbourhood policing and rebuild the public's trust and confidence through highly visible police patrols, meaningful community engagement and tackling anti-social behaviour and its detrimental impact.

The Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Team echoed this sentiment by presenting their recent success in targeting the town's top offenders. Between November 2024 and January 2025, officers delivered a proactive operation that saw increased town centre patrols, culminating in the arrests of these offenders.

During the evening, Lily Crowther-Luke, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Co-ordinator for Somerset West, shared what the police are doing to manage offenders causing harassment, alarm and distress in the local community. She answered questions from the audience on ASB tools and powers, and how her dedicated ASB Team uses stepped interventions to deal with and deter children from engaging in further ASB and related crime.

PS Charmaine Dyne, from the Early Intervention Team, gave a presentation on targeted work tackling violence among children on East Street, Taunton. The problem-solving plan, involving close collaboration with multiple partner agencies such as local authorities, the Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership, Young Somerset and the local McDonald's (where Youth Hubs are hosted on Saturday afternoons), has led to a 59 per cent reduction in violent crime on East Street.

Despite these positive outcomes, the team acknowledged that more needs to be done to address anti-social behaviour and business crime (e.g. shop theft, burglary and robbery) and are keen to support retailers to support the police in bringing perpetrators to justice.

Chief Inspector Rebecca Wells-Cole, Business Crime Lead, reinforced the importance of developing local relationships with businesses, sharing emerging risks and best practice when supplying CCTV, and empowering business owners and staff to protect their assets through crime prevention strategies.

Following the event, Supt Lisa Simpson said: “We welcomed the opportunity to share, with our key partners and local businesses, what our policing teams are doing to tackle crime levels and anti-social behaviour in Taunton.

“We were also able to explain what we need from the community to identify offenders and progress prosecutions – that is, through increased reporting and high-quality CCTV submissions. “2024 was a challenging year for community policing as we navigated increasing demand, in both volume and complexity, with finite resources. However, we want to iterate to the communities and businesses in Taunton that we are committed to keeping everyone safe, and to allowing all residents and visitors to feel confident that they are safe. “We’re listening to your concerns and know improving our police response to crime and anti-social behaviour in the town, and Somerset more widely, is critical to restoring your trust and confidence. “By closely collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, local authorities and other agencies, we’ll prioritise the biggest issues, steering people away from criminal behaviour through early intervention and prevention work, empowering businesses with crime prevention and reporting advice, and relentlessly pursuing those who seek to cause harm.”



John Hamer is taking a well earned holiday somewhere in the West Country this month





Tim's Tech Tips

Taunton Deane's Own
Tech Tips Column

Brace! Brace! The Copilot is now flying

We are entering a Brave New World. You can hardly avoid the rise of artificial intelligence or AI.

AI systems are very clever 'computer programs' that can simulate conversation and some level of creativity. And it's coming to a PC or Mac near you.

Many readers will be using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint software on their computers. Most people pay for this software through an annual subscription called Microsoft 365. Hitherto, this has cost £59 for 'Microsoft 365 Personal' or £79 for the 'Family' version.

But Microsoft have recently hiked the price up the massively. 'Personal' will now be £85 a year and 'Family' a whopping £105. The reason for these price increases? The inclusion of the recently created "Copilot AI".

You see, the problem with AI is that it takes huge computing power in these massive server centres. It eats electricity for breakfast and that electricity has to be paid for.

So, if you do nothing, your next annual renewal for renting the 365 package will automatically increase. There are some benefits to Copilot AI - although I would maintain that is predominantly in a business environment. I write this column for home users of computers and I'm less convinced that Copilot has genuine daily use.

Good news! You can actually downgrade your subscription to what they are now calling 'Microsoft 365 Personal CLASSIC' and 'Family CLASSIC'. Guess what? These new classic- named packages - which are not advertised on their main website - are the packages you are currently using at £59 and £79 respectively - without the new Copilot AI functionality.

Even if you're months away from the automatic renewal, you can log into your Microsoft Account, choose the option to Cancel Plan and then you're offered to 'downgrade' to one of the Classic plans - i.e. stick with what you've always paid for. Then when your next renewal comes around you will simply pay the same price as you paid last time.

If you have recently renewed at the higher price, you will have to contact Microsoft via a chat system in order to get them to revert you to the lower plan. As a marketing ploy, this move by Microsoft to increase everybody's subscription by such a substantial amount, to pay for new AI features many don't need, is an underhand cash grab.

You have to act to stand still, on this one.
Some would say that isn't very intelligent!



Microsoft Copilot



By Tim Finch
07514 059313
timfinch.co.uk

1st April - Fooling Around



Probably the most famous April Fool's joke of all time was the 1960's BBC TV broadcast feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. A BBC reporter interviewed Italian farmers about their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants in great detail. Spaghetti plants were filmed being carefully planted, and then being harvested. And

all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from 25th March to 1st January. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look even further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the Spring Equinox, 25th March.

20th April - EASTER, the most joyful day of the year



Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah! The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical

account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely. Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943. Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the

classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

23rd April - St George, our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day. It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country. The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'. However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ. The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil. St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration. ##

ALERT, ROGUE TRADERS - We have recently had a number of pushy, unwanted door-to-door sales people operating in Bishop's Hull. Most notably, people offering low priced tarmacking, guttering and roof repairs. They can be very persistent when trying to get work. Here is some great advice when approached by salespeople at your home, from the Trading Standards Service, commissioned by Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay councils.

Don't: Agree to work offered by unsolicited doorstep callers.

Rely on posts or recommendations on social media sites or trader approval platforms without doing your own research.

Be swayed by glossy flyers or impressive websites as they may not show the trader's own work.

Pay cash or agree to be taken to the bank or immediately transfer money before any work is started. Be rushed into making a decision.

If you want work done in your home or garden, make sure you Do:

Get three written quotes from reputable businesses.

Research the companies e.g. ask for references and look online.

Ask friends and family to recommend local traders or search via Buy With Confidence: BuyWithConfidence.gov.uk Decide who to use in your own time and make sure you have confidence in their skills and abilities.

Make sure you have the full name of the company and the person doing the work and their contact details (address, phone number, email).

Ask to see professional qualifications, public liability insurance and if applicable Waste Carriers Licence. Check the service you use has a Waste Carriers Licence, go to: Environment.data.gov.uk Unlicensed carriers will often fly-tip your waste at roadsides and beauty spots. You could face an unlimited fine if your waste ends up fly-tipped and you cannot show that you took reasonable steps to prevent it. Ask exactly what is going to happen to your waste and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier should not object to being asked reasonable questions. Get a proper invoice and receipt for your waste and retain this as proof. Check if you're entitled to your 14-day cooling-off period – see the Trading Standards guide: DevonSomersetTradingStandards.gov.uk Ask if the company has an Alternative Dispute Resolution policy – is there any independent body to complain to if things go wrong?

Pay by bank transfer so the payment is traceable. **If you can, use a credit card** for payments between £100 and £30,000 because if you have a claim for breach of contract or misrepresentation against the supplier of the goods or services, Section 75 gives you the same claim against your credit card company. If you are concerned rogue traders are operating in your area, always report it to Citizens Advice: CitizensAdvice.org.uk - If you are concerned someone is at risk, always call the police. Finally, I'd strongly advise that you just say NO, to anyone selling anything at your door or cold calling you on your phone. You can't get scammed if you say **NO**. If someone knocks on your door and you're not sure, don't open the door.

Take care, John Hunt.

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING APRIL

SAVOURY FISH AND ONION



Lightly bake some filleted hake in a moderate oven with dabs of butter for about 10 minutes. Break this into pieces, pepper and salt it, and put it in a greased and warmed pie-dish.

Mix into the fish some onions, previously fried, and pour over this mixture some white sauce, sprinkle with crisped breadcrumbs, and brown under the grill. Do not put back into the oven or the fish will be cooked too much.

BACON PUDDING



Suet crust

Bacon

Sage and onions

Pepper and salt

Parsley

Roll out pastry, not too thick. Take thin slices of bacon, cooked or uncooked, place over the pastry. Sprinkle chopped sage and onions according to taste, pepper and salt, roll up tightly, place in floured pudding-cloth (first in greaseproof paper), and boil for 2 hours. This is a typical (Berkshire) working man's dinner, and it is very nice.

BRAISED STEAK



1½ lbs. stewing steak. Seasoning
1 carrot Stock
½ turnip Dripping
2 onions

Cut the vegetables in thick slices and fry them in the dripping until lightly browned, add seasoning, and enough stock to cover the vegetables; bring to boiling point and put into the bottom of a casserole or stewpan. Place the meat on top of the vegetables and cover with greaseproof paper. Then put on the lid which must fit tightly, and cook gently until tender (2 to 2½ hours), turning the meat over at the end of one hour.

TOAD-IN-THE-HOLE

½ lb. of flour 1½ lb. of meat
2 eggs Seasoning
1 pint of milk



Put the flour into a basin, make a hole in the centre, and break the eggs. Stir in half the milk, beat well, and add the rest of the milk. Cut the meat into small slices, and add the pepper and salt. Put into a greased tin, pour the batter over it, and bake in the oven for one hour.

##

BROWN GEORGE PUDDING



6 oz. of breadcrumbs
1 teaspoonful of bicarbonate of soda
6 oz. of suet 2 oz. of flour
1 egg 2 oz. brown sugar
1/2 lb. of treacle A little milk

Mix dry ingredients together first, adding egg and treacle and a little milk to make a soft consistency, mixing it well together. Put in a greased basin, and steam 3½ hours.

CHOCOLATE PUDDING



4 oz. of self-raising flour
2 teaspoonfuls of cocoa
3 oz. of margarine powder
3 oz. of granulated sugar
1 egg A little milk

Beat margarine and sugar to a soft, white cream; beat until frothy, stir in beaten egg, add flour and cocoa powder. Which should be mixed with a little milk). Put into well-greased basin and steam 1 hour. Serve with custard sauce.

LYMN LUNCH CAKE



2 lb. of flour 1 teaspoonful of ground ginger
1/2 lb. of white sugar
2 oz. of lard A little lemon peel
3 oz. of butter 1/2 pint of milk
1/2 lb. of sultanas
1 oz. of German yeast
1/4 lb. of currants 2 eggs

Warm the milk, with the butter and lard, and mix it with the yeast, then mix it into the flour with a wooden spoon till like a thick butter. Let it rise till light, then add the sugar, ginger and peel, and the eggs (well beaten). Beat up again, and add sultanas and currents. Allow to rise for a short time, then put into tins. Allow to rise again, then bake.

COTTAGE SCONES



1 lb. of self-raising flour
1 tablespoonful of sugar
1/2 teaspoonful of salt
Skim milk

Put the flour, salt and sugar into a basin and mix to a soft dough with milk. Shape into two rounds, cut each into eight, put on a greased tin and bake for 15 minutes. ##

Looking at You

Guarding the Easter chocolate



Was there a security tag on your Easter egg this year? If so, it wasn't because high street bosses feared the Easter Bunny might take it.

It's that shoplifting has soared to an unprecedented amount. There were more than 20 million shoplifting incidents last year - an average of about 50,000 cases a day, according to the British Retail Consortium (BRC). In all, retailers lost £2.2 billion.

And it seems that shoplifters also like chocolate. Which is why some WH Smith shops have been tagging the Cadbury Mini Eggs, and why some Tesco stores have put Quality Street chocolates under a wire net, to name but a couple of examples.

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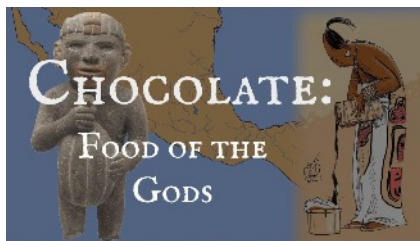
Chocolate – food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is Theobroma – which means 'food of the gods'?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that

this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.



But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits.

Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium. Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and then the desire for another sugar-fix.

**

Five-minute parking rule is scrapped



Have you ever pulled into a private car park, and then had trouble paying because of a poor Internet signal, or other problem beyond your control?

Last year a motorist in Derby was taken to court by a private parking company which demanded a £1,906 fine from her, because she had not paid within five minutes of arrival. The publicity that her case generated led to the industry's two trade associations deciding to update their code of conduct, to provide a 'safeguard'.

The British Parking Association (BPA) and the International Parking Community (IPC) have now stated that in privately owned car parks, which have fixed camera monitors, no driver should be issued a ticket for a delay in paying, so long as they pay before they leave.

However, the AA and RAC are sceptical. They want more - a government-backed code of practice. The RAC points out that: "As there's no information on how the change will work in practice, we fear it will make little difference to drivers."

In the meantime, private car park companies across the UK are giving drivers more than 41,000 parking tickets a day. Be careful out there!

**

Almost half of all children have been scammed online

Has your child been scammed online? If so, they are not alone!

A recent poll for the UK

Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has found that a staggering 46 per cent of children have been taken in by an online scam. And a study by Vodafone has found that nearly one million 11-to-16-year-olds in the UK have been scammed within the last 12 months.

A third of young people are now worried that new technology, such as AI, will make scams even harder for them to identify.

Most scams seem to take place on social media platforms, where they involve ads or quizzes which appear to be from well-known brands. The children are lured into giving out personal information or buying fake products. Other scams include fake giveaways, phishing and fake websites, fake ticket sales and 'trust trades' in gaming.

Anyone scammed online should report it to Action Fraud or call 0300 1232040 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). In Scotland, report to Police Scotland.

**



Don't step on it!

Have you noticed something unpleasant since the Covid lockdown? There is more dog mess around.

In fact, dog fouling has increased by nearly ten per cent nationwide. In some areas, dog fouling complaints have more than tripled. One council in Shropshire reported a 208.5 per cent increase over a three-year period.

Authorities are trying to combat the problem. One is offering a £50 reward to anyone who reports a dog walker who does not clean up their dog's mess. Another is offering free poo bags to dog walkers, while others are planning to ban dogs from areas such as play parks and cemeteries.

**

When young men give you that 'ick' feeling

Young men don't like being told that they give you the 'ick' feeling. The 'ick' word describes a feeling of disgust or repulsion at a specific behaviour. It was popular slang until last year, when it entered the Cambridge Dictionary.

The word is currently very popular with young women, who use it across social media to share their lists of things that young men and teenagers do, which gives them the dreaded 'ick'.

So, what gives young women the ick about a man? High on the lists are the following: wearing skinny jeans, running for a bus, doing a doggy paddle at the swimming pool, drinking milk, using lip balm, and waiting for the green man before crossing a road.

It may sound harmless teasing, but it seems that such mockery can have more serious consequences. One mental health charity has warned that the 'ick' word can cause men and young boys to lose their confidence and self-esteem. Teasing young men

in this way "causes lots of anxiety and makes them constantly feel as if everything they do is being judged." So why are young women doing it? One therapist suggests that "girls feel the need to belittle in order to feel a sense of security."

But another therapist points out: "It is important that each of us is aware of the effect our words can have upon others."

**

What do children worry about?



Sadly – a problem that is far too heavy for their young shoulders, but which can cripple them with anxiety: climate change.

'Eco-anxiety' now affects nearly four out of five children, according to a recent YouGov survey. And, increasingly, teachers are struggling to cope with the rising numbers of pupils who confess they are really worried about climate change.

One expert advises against sheltering the children, pointing out that "homes torched by wildfires, flooded villages, people fleeing hurricanes – pictures of climate impacts are coming in thick and fast, and our kids are watching," she said.

Instead, she says: "Our children will come of age during a climate crisis so building their emotional resilience is one way to prepare them. But we understand that this can be a challenge for parents and teachers, who already have a lot on their plate."

“The reality is that the climate crisis will be one of the major forces shaping the world they’ll grow up in, and it’s good to give them the tools they need to make sense of it.”

**

Lemon juice, anyone?

In the morning, do you drink coffee, tea or freshly squeezed lemon juice mixed with warm water?

Lemon juice has recently become a fashionably healthy lifestyle choice, according to nutritionist and autoimmunity specialist V J Hamilton.

She explains that, as well as being high in Vitamin C, lemon juice helps with hydration and digestion, and can help reduce bloating, constipation and free radicals.

Lemon juice is full of goodies: vitamin C, vitamin B6, folate, magnesium and potassium, and antioxidants and flavonoids. These all help to keep your skin, liver, kidney and heart healthy.

**

Shut your curtains

If you live in the countryside, here’s a way to help keep local wildlife alive: draw your curtains at night and turn off your outside lights.

Apparently, the darker we can keep it outside, the better. Animals and insects who live in rural areas are especially susceptible to bright lights, which can confuse and disorientate them.

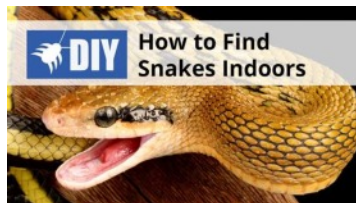
As one evolutionary biologist at Harvard explains, many of the insects drawn to lights at night suffer terrible consequences. “One estimate is that 33 per cent of them die before morning. And even if they don’t die, they’re spending all their time at the

light instead of doing all the things they’re supposed to be doing.”

Light pollution, which disrupts natural rhythms and ecosystems, is contributing to what some scientists have called “insect Armageddon”, with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years.

**

Big snakes in your house?



If you live in north Wales, keep an eye out for long snakes in your house. The Aesculapian snake, which is native to central and southern Europe, has arrived in the UK. It is one of the largest European species of snake, non-venomous, and doesn’t like the cold weather.

So, for example, they have been seen scaling the walls of houses in Colwyn Bay, slithering into lofts, and snuggling into the walls of homes.

It all began in the 1970s, when a group of the snakes, which grow to as much as two metres (6ft 6in), did a runner and escaped from the Welsh Mountain Zoo. Another colony has also appeared from somewhere and is living in London, near Regent’s Canal.

A recent study by Bangor University says that global warming has turned the UK into an ideal habitat for the snakes. Some parts of southern France are now too warm for them and so their range is extending further north. ##

Gardening in April

Spring is in full swing, with tulips and flowering cherries in bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the vegetable plot. It's an exciting month as you start to sow outdoors. Just watch out for frosts and keep any tender plants indoors for now.



Fruit and vegetables

- Plant second-early and main crop potatoes
- Place cardboard collars around the stems of brassicas to deter cabbage root fly from laying their eggs
- Pinch out the tips of broad beans if they're covered in aphids, or spray shoots with soap-based solution
- Sow outdoor varieties of tomatoes, chillies and courgettes in pots, so they're ready to plant out in late May or June
- Divide clumps of hardy herbs, such as lemon balm and chives, then replant in pots, borders or a dedicated herb bed
- Sow small batches of rocket and other easy salad leaves
- Continue planting bare-root asparagus crowns and Jerusalem artichoke tubers
- Sow flowering companions in the vegetable plot, such as pot marigolds and borage
- Continue planting batches of garlic, shallots and onions every few weeks to extend the cropping period
- Sow herbs such as parsley, coriander, dill and chamomile in a sunny bed or container
- Protect emerging seedlings from slugs and snails
- Sow fast-growing crops, such as radishes, to make the most of any temporary gaps



Flowers

- Sow hardy annuals, such as love-in-a-mist and pot marigolds, as well as native wildflowers, into gaps in borders
- Enjoy instant colour by planting primulas and polyanthus in pots and at the front of borders
- Protect the new shoots of hostas, delphiniums, lupins and other vulnerable plants from slugs and snails
- Continue deadheading spring bulbs and bedding, so they don't waste energy setting seed
- Plant pineapple lily (eucomis) bulbs in pots for exotic-looking summer flowers



- Sow sweet peas at the base of supports, and transplant those sown in autumn into their final positions
- Spray the new leaves of disease-prone roses with fungicide to control mildew, rust and black spot
- Take basal cuttings from clumps of perennials, such as delphiniums, campanulas and lupins
- Prune hydrangeas, cutting back the old stems to a healthy shoot lower down
- Reinvigorate mature clumps of hardy perennials, such as hostas, asters and daylilies, by dividing and replanting
- Sow sunflowers in a sunny, open site, then water regularly and protect seedlings from slugs and snails
- Check for aphids on roses and rub them off before they develop into major infestations
- Add aquatic plants, such as waterlilies and irises, to garden ponds

Greenhouse

- Prick out seedlings growing in pots and trays as soon as they produce their first true leaves
- Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill
- Sow quick-growing microgreens, such as kale and mustard, for nutrient-rich pickings in just a few weeks
- Transplant greenhouse tomatoes into growing bags or large containers and tie in the stems to supports
- Plant up hanging baskets and pots with summer bedding, but keep indoors until after the last frost
- Sow herbs in pots or trays, including basil, chives, parsley, fennel and coriander
- Thin out heavy fruit sets on peaches and nectarines, leaving fruits about 10cm apart
- Sow runner beans, French beans, cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins and sweetcorn in pots
- Pinch out the shoot tips of fuchsias to develop bushier plants
- Attach guttering to the greenhouse and install a water butt, so you can make good use of April showers. Listen to this podcast episode to find out more about water wise gardening.
- Clean greenhouse glazing to let in as much light as possible
- Maintain good plant hygiene, picking off faded blooms and dead leaves before fungal diseases can take hold
- Open greenhouse doors and vents on warm days, or install automatic vent openers, to improve air circulation. ##



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

Foreigners were astonished at the love-of the English gentry for rural life. 'Every gentleman,' they! remarked, 'flieth into the country. Few inhabit cities and towns; few have any regard them. Though London might already be the greatest city in Europe; England was still in its essential life and feeling a rural community, whereas in France and Italy-the Roman had deeply implanted the civilization of the city, that drew to itself all that was most vital in the life of the surrounding 'Italian gentlemen of quality' described by Robert Browning, pining unwillingly in his country home.

*Had I but plenty of money, money enough and to spare,
The house for -me, no doubt, were a house in the city square.*

The place for the squire, whether he were rich or poor, was at home in his manor-house, and he knew and rejoiced in the fact. Owing to the habit among the gentry of apprenticing their younger sons to trade, our country avoided the sharp division between a rigid caste of nobles and an unprivileged bourgeoisie which brought the French *ancien régime* to its catastrophe in 1789. Unlike the French, the English gentry did not call themselves 'nobles' — except the select few who sat in the House of Lords. The manor-house, its hospitality open to neighbours and friends of many different classes, was not ashamed to acknowledge a son in trade, besides another at the Inns of Court and a third perhaps in the family living. The 'landed' and 'moneyed' men might talk as if they were rivals, but in fact they were allied by blood and by interest. Recruits from the landed class were constantly entering town life, while money and men from the towns were constantly flowing back to fertilize the countryside.

Throughout Tudor, Stuart, and early Hanoverian times, successful lawyers formed a large proportion of the 'new' men who introduced themselves into the county circle by purchase of land and by building of manor-houses. The number of English county families who were founded by lawyers is even greater than those derived from the cloth trade. The process had begun in the Middle Ages: the 'fortunes of the Norfolk Pastons had been founded by one of Henry VI's judges. And the road opened yet wider before the men of law in the exciting, litigious, and rapacious times of Henry VIII and his children, when lawyers of an adventurous turn had unusual opportunities to serve the Government, receive a very full reward, especially when, as in the case of the Bacons and Cecils, law was blended with courtiership and politics. Many of the lovely Tudor homes, small and great, that still adorn the English landscape, were paid for by money made in the courts of law.

There was much in common between the squire, the lawyer, the merchant, and the yeoman. They were all men of the new age, not hankering after feudal ideals now passing away. And they' tended to become Protestant, alike from interest and conviction. They evolved a kind of religion of the home, essentially 'middle-class' and quite unmedieval.

The tendency of Protestant doctrine was to exalt the married state, and to dedicate the business life, in reaction against the medieval doctrine that the

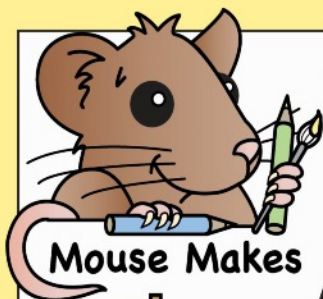
true life of 'religion' was celibacy and monastic separation from the world. The permission to marry, conceded to the clergy under Edward VI and Elizabeth, was one symptom of this change of thought. The religious home was the Protestant ideal, with family prayer and private Bible reading in addition to the services and sacraments of the Church. These ideas and practices were by no means confined to the dissident Puritans: in the late Tudor and Stuart times they were the practice of Anglican families who loved and fought for the Prayer Book. The religion of the home and of the Bible became a social custom common to all English Protestants. It was found most often, perhaps, in the households of squires, yeomen, and tradesmen, but it was widely extended among the cottages of the poor.

The new type of English religion idealized work, dedicating business and farming to God. As George Herbert quaintly and nobly wrote:

*Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws
Makes that and the action fine.*

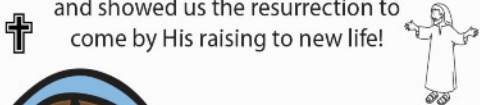
It was a good religion for a nation of shopkeepers and farmers. The seed-time of these practices and ideas, which in the following century became so general, was the reign of Edward VI and his elder sister, while Cranmer was producing the Prayer Book to stand beside the Bible, and Queen Mary was providing English Protestantism with a martyrology. The anti-clerical revolution of Henry VIII, with its unedifying scramble for Church property, had lacked a moral basis, but the martyrs recorded in Foxe's book provided one for the new national religion beginning to emerge out of chaos. When Elizabeth came to the throne, the Bible and Prayer Book formed the intellectual and spiritual foundation of a new social order.


The institutions of a country are always reflected in its military system. During the Hundred Years War there had been two military systems. Home defence, against domestic rebellion and Scottish invasion, was conducted chiefly by local militia levied on a conscript basis. The more difficult war in France, which required a more professional soldiery, was conducted by war-bands following fighting nobles and gentlemen who enlisted and paid them; the King indented with their employers to furnish him with so many of these professionals for so much money. This dual system continued under Henry VII and Henry VIII, with this difference, that the destruction of the military power and landed wealth of the old nobility by the confiscations of the Wars of the Roses had taken the value out of the indenture system. Indeed, the system of indenting with private individuals to supply an army for foreign war was incompatible with the Tudor domestic policy of suppressing the retainers and military establishments of great subjects. But as the Kings could not afford to keep up a standing army of their own, the troops hastily levied for occasional foreign service were undisciplined, mutinous, and often useless, as the history of the Tudor war on the Continent was to show again and again. The steady, devoted bands who had followed the great lords to Crécy and Agincourt no longer existed. And as yet there was no royal army. ##



Mouse Makes


On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to come by His raising to new life!






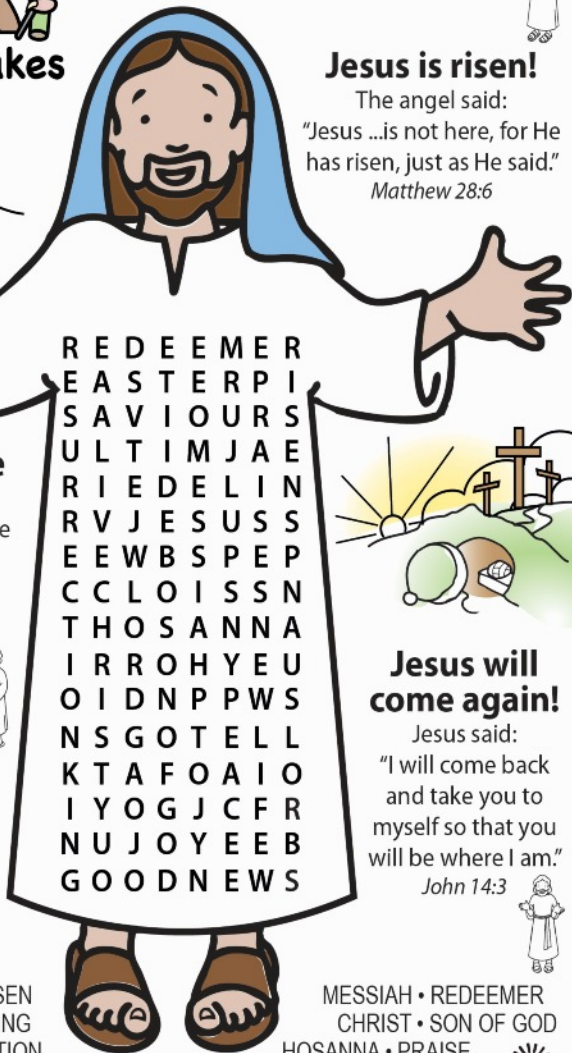
Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20






READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**



REDEEMER
EASTERPI
SAVIOURS
ULTIMJAE
RIEDELIN
RVJESUSS
EEWBSPEP
CCLOISSN
THOSANNA
IRROHYEU
OIDNPPWS
NSGOTELL
KTAFOAIO
IYOGJCFR
NUJOYEEB
GOODNEWS


Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6




Jesus will come again!


Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE





Bishop's letter by Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton

'God is good... all the time!'

When I was a priest in Nottingham, I remember thinking that as a parish we seemed to reflect more of the story of the crucifixion of Christ rather than His resurrection. Ours was a parish which had many personal stories of loss and suffering, of challenge and trial, and sometimes this made it difficult to lift our faces to the horizon to see the triumph and glory beyond the grave.

As we approach Easter, I want to encourage us to take time to 'walk the way of the cross', to notice God's grace as we do so, even in the painful moments as well as keeping our eyes fixed on the coming glory.

As I write this, I am catching glimpses of the kingfisher on its perch outside my study window. Always a delight! It sits on the branch across the moat in stillness, watching for the sign of a fish before it suddenly dives and then crests the water with its prize. A splash of colour rarely seen by many. It fills me with hope and joy, two gifts which I think Easter inspires.

Walking through Lent we are continually called to become conscious of our mortality and are reminded of the price Jesus paid on our behalf. Giving himself in death that we might have life. And we have that life because his death was not the end but the beginning of a new chapter, of life in all its fullness.

So, whatever the circumstances of your life this Easter, allow yourself to fully recognise and experience the challenges but never lose the prospect of the glory to come! 'God is good... all the time!'

Bishop Ruth

Reminder, clocks spring forward on Sunday 30 March

On Sunday 30 March clocks go forward by one hour, a good excuse to check smoke detectors, batteries, bulbs, and plugs.

All electrical items, low-energy bulbs with unbroken glass and batteries can go to recycling sites. With kerbside recycling, put out small electrical items in carrier-size bags, and household batteries in small clear bags. ##

Nigel Beeton writes: The 12th April sees the centenary of the birth of Oliver Postgate, whose distinctive voice brought us such magical tales as 'The Clangers', 'Pogles Wood', 'Noggin the Nog', 'Ivor the Engine' and 'Bagpuss'. His was literally the voice of our childhoods:

The Magic World of Oliver Postgate
Born 12/4/1925 – Died 8/12/2008

The Clangers on their planet, the Pogles in their wood
In Oliver's bright kingdom we children had it good!
Smallfilms brought us joy, and spoiled us all for choice
With ev'ry charming tale told by Oliver's fine voice.

In Wales' top left corner a small green engine puffed
And Ivor was the engine's name, he whistled and he chuffed.
He kept a dragon's egg within his fire so hot
Which Jones the Steam his driver never seemed to spot!

A stuffed cloth cat called Bagpuss still figures in our dreams;
He was pink and baggy, a bit loose at the seams!
We met the king of the Northmen - Noggin the much-loved Nog,
And the Pogles were a family who lived in a hollow log.

Green soup and blue string pudding which all the Clangers eat
Provided by a soup dragon who lives beneath their feet!
So thank you Mr Postgate for all that you have done
To bring such joy into our lives and fill them full of fun!

By Nigel Beeton

Penny killed off in the USA, but saved in the UK

President Trump has ordered the US Treasury to stop minting one cent pennies.

But Downing Street is standing firm: our 1p and 2p coins are not being phased out in Britain. In fact, no British coin has been scrapped since 1984, when the halfpenny was taken out of circulation.

But there are some changes at the Treasury: no new coins are being minted this year, for the first time in decades. This is because our use of cash continues to decline, making the 27 billion coins currently in circulation within the UK quite sufficient for now.

In the UK, about 1.5 million people still use mostly cash, according to a 2023 survey by UK Finance.

London Marathon 2025 – Sunday 27th April



Last year's London Marathon attracted more than 53,000 runners, which made it the world's biggest annual one-day fund-raising event EVER. It also raised a world record-breaking amount of £73.5 million for charities.

The route is 26.2 miles long. Greenwich and Blackheath is the starting point, and then the route takes in Woolwich, Greenwich, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Tower Bridge, Limehouse, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Shadwell, Tower Gateway, Westminster Bridge, Great George Street, Birdcage Walk, Buckingham Palace and finally to the iconic finish line on The Mall.

It is all a far cry from the first London Marathon back in March 1981, when 6,747 people ran, and which did not raise any money specifically for charities.

Spring Harvest – more than 10,000 expected this year

April brings us Spring Harvest – the annual cross-denominational conference which attracts thousands of people every year to two Butlin's resorts.

It is held over the Easter period in Skegness (7th to 11th) and Minehead (14th to 18th). It is also live-streamed from Minehead.

For details of this year's gathering, including speakers and worship leaders, go to: <https://www.springharvest.org/events/news/spring-harvest-home-2025>

BOOK REVIEWS



12 Things You (Probably) Didn't Know About Easter

By Bob Lepine,

The ideal, light-hearted book for showing a friend the true meaning of Easter.

It pops up in a seemingly random Sunday each year, easing you gently into spring. The promise of candy and chocolate eggs makes it popular with kids, but it's hardly in the same league as holidays like Christmas. ... But perhaps it should be?

Here are 12 weird and wonderful facts, spanning all the way from its origins through to the present day, that show the enduring significance of Easter for Christians:

- #1 The Easter Bunny was a little late to the party
- #2 It took an emperor to pin down the date
- #3 The pagan goddess Eostre makes a brief appearance
- #4 Eggs really do have significance, candy not so much...
- #5 Making hot cross buns was once a criminal offence
- #6 At least 18 laws were broken to condemn Jesus to death
- #7 The Romans didn't really want to kill Jesus
- #8 Good Friday was the worst day in all history
- #9 You can survive crucifixion, but Jesus didn't
- #10 Dead men do walk
- #11 Easter is to die for - literally
- #12 Jesus welcomes doubters ##

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

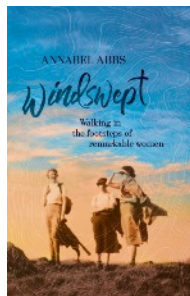
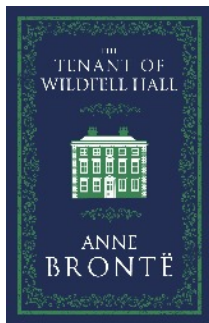
Anne Brontë

Gilbert Markham is deeply intrigued by Helen Graham, a beautiful and secretive young woman who has moved into nearby Wildfell Hall with her young son. He is quick to offer Helen his friendship, but when her reclusive behaviour becomes the subject of local gossip and speculation, Gilbert begins to wonder whether his trust in her has been misplaced. It is only when she allows Gilbert to read her diary that the truth is revealed and the shocking details of the disastrous marriage she has left behind emerge. Told with great immediacy, combined with wit and irony, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* is a powerful depiction of a woman's fight for domestic independence and creative freedom.

Windswept

Annabel Abbs

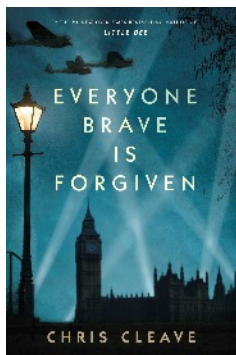
Acquired at Auction by Two Roads (an imprint of John Murray) in the UK, Tin House in the US, Penguin Random House in Germany and publishers in France, Holland and Italy, *Windswept* is a feminist exploration of walking in wild landscapes. Here Abbs examines



the role of non-urban walking on the lives, writings and art of several women including Gwen John, Frieda Lawrence, Nan Shepherd, Georgia O'Keeffe and Simone de Beauvoir, alongside a good smattering of audacious but entirely forgotten women. As she walks their paths – the empty plains of Texas, the mountains of Scotland, the rivers and forests of France – Abbs looks back at her own walking childhood in remote Wales and asks why women have been overlooked in the 'literature of the leg' and of nature writing.

Everyone Brave Is Forgiven

Chris Cleave



A spellbinding novel about three unforgettable individuals thrown together by war, love, and their search for belonging in the ever-changing landscape of WWII London.

It's 1939 and Mary, a young socialite, is determined to shock her blueblood political family by volunteering for the war effort. She is assigned as a teacher to children who were evacuated from London and have been rejected by the countryside because they are infirm, mentally disabled, or—like Mary's favourite student, Zachary—have coloured skin.

Tom, an education administrator, is distraught when his best friend, Alastair, enlists. Alastair, an art

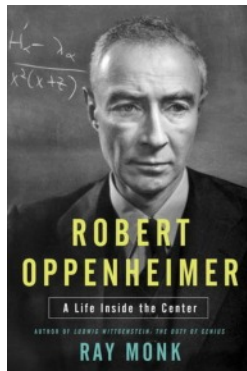
restorer, has always seemed far removed from the violent life to which he has now condemned himself. But Tom finds distraction in Mary, first as her employer and then as their relationship quickly develops in the emotionally charged times. When Mary meets Alastair, the three are drawn into a tragic love triangle and—while war escalates and bombs begin falling around them—further into a new world unlike any they've ever known.

A sweeping epic with the kind of unforgettable characters, cultural insights, and indelible scenes that made Little Bee so incredible, Chris Cleave's latest novel explores the disenfranchised, the bereaved, the elite, the embattled. *Everyone Brave Is Forgiven* is a heartbreakingly beautiful story of love, loss, and incredible courage.

Robert Oppenheimer: His Life and Mind

Ray Monk

Robert Oppenheimer was among the most brilliant and divisive of men. As head of the Los Alamos Laboratory, he oversaw the successful effort to beat the Nazis in the race to



develop the first atomic bomb—a breakthrough that was to have eternal ramifications for mankind and that made Oppenheimer the “Father of the Atomic Bomb.” ##

Smile-Lines for April

Good Friday

I was standing in line at the bank when there was a commotion at the counter. A woman was very distressed, exclaiming, "Where will I put my money?! I have all my money and my mortgage here!! What will happen to my mortgage?! You can't do this to us!"

It turned out that she had misunderstood a small sign on the counter. The sign read: WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

**

What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.

Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect pigs.

Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs.

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

**

Joseph's tomb

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph, I really don't understand you. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've just spent a fortune on that new tomb for you and your family - and now you want to suddenly give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "Well it's just for the weekend."

**

Easter chocolate dilemma

364 days of the year we tell our kids: "Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground, or anything from strangers!" On Easter morning we tell them: "Why don't you go outside and search in the dirt for chocolates that a strange giant bunny has left for you?"

**

Why Easter

A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us, and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

**

The taxi

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!"

The passenger apologised and said he hadn't realised that a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

**

Wrong number?

Yesterday I dialled the Red Cross but got the HMRC in error. When the HMRC operator asked me what

number I had meant to dial, I explained: "The Red Cross, you know, where they take people's blood." She said, "Well, you aren't too far off, are you?"

**

Twitter - X

A man walked into a church and approached the minister. "I need help. I think I'm addicted to Twitter-X." The minister looked at him, and said gently, "I'm so sorry, I don't follow you."

**

Mr Bones

The orthopaedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his boney arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."

The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

**

Letter to God

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish You could have been there."

**

A chop licker joke

As a butcher is shoeing a dog from his shop, he notices a \$10 bill and a note in the dog's mouth that reads: "5 lamb chops, please."

Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops in the dog's mouth, and quickly closes up shop to follow him. He watches in awe as the dog waits for a green light, looks both ways, and trots across the road to a bus stop. The dog checks the timetable and sits on the bench. When a bus arrives, the dog walks to the front, inspects the bus number, and hops on.

Dumbstruck, the butcher boards too, following the dog as the bus travels to the suburbs. After a while, the dog stands on his back legs, pushes the "stop" bell, and gets off. The butcher follows closely.

The dog runs up to a house, drops the bag of lamb chops on the doorstep, and backs up. He takes a big run and whap! slams into the door. No answer.

The dog repeats the process—slamming into the door several times—then jumps on a wall, circles the garden, beats his head against a window, and jumps back down, waiting at the door.

Finally, a big guy opens the door and starts cursing and shouting at the dog.

The butcher, furious, runs up and yells, "What the hell are you doing? This dog is a genius!"

The owner replies, "Genius, my ass... it's the second time this week he's forgotten his keys!"

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

On why you should never encourage your congregation

*The Rectory
St James the Least of All*

My dear Nephew Darren

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.

Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fairground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

*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 - 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
	<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 APRIL 2025

Wednesday 2 April	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 6 April Lent 5	Holy Communion Holy Communion CONCERT	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m.	Philippians 3:4b-14 (1180); John 12:1-8 (1079)	Sally Adams
Wednesday 9 April	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 13 April PALM SUNDAY	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Special readings: Passion narrative	TBA
Monday 14 April	COMPLINE Evening Prayer	7.30 p.m.		
Tuesday 15 April	COMPLINE Evening Prayer	7.30 p.m.		
Wednesday 16 April	Holy Communion COMPLINE Evening Prayer	10.00 a.m. 7.30 p.m.		
MaundayThursday 17 April	Holy Communion	7.30 p.m.		
Good Friday 18th April	Hour of Reflection	2.00 p.m.		
Sunday 20 April EASTER SUNDAY	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 10:34-43 (1104); John 20:1-18 (1089)	Rosemary Lockley
Wednesday 23 April	NO SERVICE TODAY			
Sunday 27 April EASTER 2	Holy Communion Holy Communion Mothering Sunday	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 5:27-32 (1097); John 20:19-31 (1089)	Christabel Ager
Wednesday 30 April	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		

GRASS CUTTING

w/c 13 April Peter Willis
w/c 27 April Stuart English

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!