

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2026



**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



WREN

Cover - Lingering Autumn Leaves



**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

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)



Can you recall the first time, as a responsible adult, you celebrated New Year? Do you still have a recollection of that night and how you felt the morning after? I'm afraid I cannot recall any such night (or the morning after). What a boring life I must have led. Was it perhaps because celebrating the New Year was pretty low on my list of priorities or was it because life was still going to be tough whatever the future predicted?

Sorry to be so downbeat when one is expected to be totally positive at this time of year. I cannot help (mentally) taking on board the problems facing so many folk trying to balance income against expenditure.

For many the advice given by Mr Micawber, in Charles Dickens *David Copperfield*, is often a distant dream.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen, nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

Please forgive me for labouring the point but do you know what happened to Mr Micawber in the story of *David Copperfield*?

What Becomes of Wilkins Micawber?

When we left Mr. Micawber he was bumbling through life completely unable to follow his own financial advice. At the end of the story Mr. Micawber and his family emigrate from England to Australia.

Mr. Micawber makes the most of his fresh start and becomes a respected lawyer, achieves financial success, and continues teaching the principle that bears his name (now both by word and example).

The happy ending should give all of us hope that, regardless of the past, it is never too late to change our financial habits and fortunes. Your new beginning starts now, and you don't even have to move to Australia.



The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The Christmas sparkle is all but packed away, and

2026 is officially here! January can often feel like a bit of a slow start—maybe a little quiet anticipation mixed with a few "what-ifs" about the year ahead.

But as we hit the ground running, I want to anchor us all to one powerful, amazing truth: **GOD IS STILL WITH US.**

God's Triple P Promise

January can feel like a long, demanding climb, but guess what? We are not climbing alone! The promise we celebrated at Christmas is our absolute bedrock. God is not distant; He is Immanuel—God with us!

His presence brings us three amazing gifts:

Presence: God's active, personal presence is here, right now. He's not a passive observer; He's engaged in your life!

Power: When we face challenges, we don't have to rely on our own tired strength. We tap into the limitless power of the Holy Spirit inside us! This divine energy makes us compassionate, resilient, and hopeful, even on the toughest days.

Peace (Shalom): This is more than just quiet; it's deep, unshakable wholeness and well-being that truly passes all understanding. It's the assurance that you are perfectly held in his grace.

Our Diocesan Focus: The Lord's Prayer!

I'm thrilled to share our big focus for 2026: The Diocese is calling us all to a **RENEWED COMMITMENT TO PRAYER**, centred on the simple yet profound Lord's Prayer!

The best gift we can give ourselves and our whole community this year is time spent talking with—and crucially, *listening to*—God.

Watch out for more details on upcoming services, fun events, and great resources to help you supercharge your prayer life!

Let's step into 2026 confidently, anchored in God's constant Presence, strengthened by his mighty Power, and sustained by his perfect Peace! With every blessing for the year ahead,

Rev Phil Hughes
Vicar and Chaplain



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)

Prescription Time Frame

To help us provide an efficient, safe and effective service to our patients, we ask that you follow the guidance below:



- Use the table below to work out when your prescription will be ready for collection,

- Order early for bank holidays, or if you are going on holiday,
- Let us know in advance, if you require our prescription delivery service

Due to permanent closures of some pharmacies in the area we are experiencing high volumes of prescriptions. We offer text message and a phone call service to let our patients know when their medications are ready. Please ask a member of staff about details.

We are a small but very busy pharmacy, so be prepared to queue. Please sign the back of your green paper prescription on arrival and tick the exemption box if it applies to you (there are pens available on the counter). Our waiting time for a walk-in prescription is usually up to 20 minutes, but it can reach to one hour depending on how busy we are. We are always extremely busy before bank holidays, so please order your prescriptions earlier and be prepared to queue.

Prescription Ordered	We normally receive	Ready for collection
Monday	Thursday	Monday
Tuesday	Friday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday
Thursday	Tuesday	Thursday
Friday	Wednesday	Friday
Weekend	Thursday	Monday

When you enter the pharmacy please turn right in order to join a queue or otherwise feel free to browse the shop. Whilst waiting for your prescription to be prepared please wait in the pharmacy, if you leave at any point, please queue again on arrival and ask the member of staff if your medications are ready. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

These are the expected days when your prescription will be ready, however sometimes delays occur due to medication queries, items out of stock and increased workload. Please be aware that this guidance is for regular repeat medication. Please collect your medications after receiving your text message or phone call. Prescriptions that are urgent from the GP surgery can be dispensed when needed.

Opening hours: Monday- Friday: 9:00- Saturday: 9:00-13:00

Sunday: Closed. Bank Holiday: Closed Tel. 01823 256 056

Address: 2 The Comeytrowe Centre, Pitts Close, Taunton, TA1 4TN

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 the next one is in January 2026.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 31 January**

2026

Come along to have a Coffee/Tea and cakes, with a friendly chat and SWAP a book.

From 10am till 12noon.



Bell Ringing

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



**Cafe
& Bar**

Now serving Coffees,
Hot Drinks & Breakfasts from
8.30am Tues-Sat

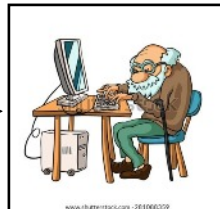
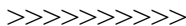
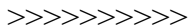
Lunches, Dinners & Sunday Roasts

£5.50 Senior Citizen Meals

Tribute Acts and Events
at the Weekends

Ask us about Functions & Wakes

01823 802877



Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

I know how expensive it is to send a letter so I would be happy to receive an email instead.

Editor Bob.



Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

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

Kinglake - The PC are still awaiting the tree report and completion of play equipment repairs.

Play Park (next to the playing fields) - The Parish Council agreed to pay £250 towards the gate repair and will check all old equipment has been removed and all repairs carried out ahead of the December meeting.

Bishops Mead - A quote was approved to install a "Welcome to Bishops Mead" sign.

Emergency plan grant - The Clerk advised the grant had been approved for emergency equipment for the four co-ordinators and the grant will also cover first aid training.

Additional Maintenance - £500 budget was set to carry out leaf clearance on the pavements from the play park to the school.

Vegetation Clearance - After reporting the matter five times to Somerset Council, The Clerk has now received assurance from Highways that an officer will be present to ensure the hedge on Bishop's Hull Road is cut properly (from a driver's perspective) at the pinch point.

Allotments - Work has been carried out to replace the taps with non-return valves to ensure they are compliant.

Speed indicator Devices - Currently on Silk Mills and Bishops Hull Road. The one on Bishop's Hull Road will be turned around after the hedge has been cut and Members will discuss an alternative location at the next meeting and any future location changes based on SID data.

Councillor vacancies

The PC has two vacancies available for new Councillors. If you are interested in making a difference to your local community, helping decide how funds are spent and can give a little time, please contact the Clerk for more information clerk@bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk

Next meeting date was set as Thursday 4th December, 7pm at the HUB, all were welcome to attend.

New Garden Waste collection dates - please follow the link for revised dates: www.somerset.gov.uk/collection-days.

Bishop's Hull Flower Show - Sunday 16th August 2026

Planning is already underway for next year's show. The Tone Big Band will serenade us through the afternoon whilst we enjoy Josie and Nancy's amazing cakes! I will try to book the weather!

Following feedback from this year's show we held a review meeting with the judges. The aim being to ensure consistency of understanding and approach. As a result, the 2026 schedule contains a number of amendments aiming to help exhibitors understand what the judges are looking for in various classes.

In respect of preserves, it is good practice to ensure a tight seal so jar lids (if used) should be newly purchased and be unmarked. I have a stock of these if you need one.

For 2026 there will be a hanging basket class with the whole village entered for free. The committee members will be keeping their eye out for your displays, and Lorna, our Floral Art Judge, will tour the village a week before the show to judge which is the best!

The winner will receive £10 with our thanks for helping making Bishop's Hull a colourful place.

There will also be a scarecrow entry, open to all ages, with nursery rhymes as the theme. The aim is to have enough entries (free entry) for a scarecrow trail through the village the week before the show.

Again, first prize is £10.

If you have any queries regarding the show, please contact me at amandasgallacher@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you at the show.

Other Village News

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club - November 2025 winners

1st Derek & Tuula Cole - £36, 2nd Martin Parker- £18 and 3rd Sarah Lofthouse- £9

The next draw took place at the Hub café on the 13th December.

Tickets are £2 per month.

Email bhhub100club@gmail.com for further details. Join our 100 club today and you could be our next winner! You must be 16 years or older to purchase a ticket.

The 100 club supports the Bishops Hull Hub Bishop's Hull HUB

Youth Hub

Every third Saturday of the month 7:15;8:15pm. £1 entry. Age 11-16. All welcome, email claire.plumbly@hotmail.co.uk for info.

Silk Mills Park and Ride

Somerset Council has now completed work to install two height barriers at the Silk Mills Parkland Ride Car Park in Taunton, as part of planned improvements to deter unauthorised encampments. The Council is advising drivers of vehicles over 2 metres in height not to attempt to access the site, as both entry and exit points are now subject to height restrictions.

The Lead Member for Transport at Somerset Council, said:

"These barriers are a practical step to improve security," help prevent unauthorised encampments and ensure the site remains safe and free from disruption."

Further details about the Park & Ride service, taken from the Council's website:

You can catch it anywhere on its route. You do not need to 'Park and Ride' to use it. Fares are just £1 per journey.

The Park and Ride runs from two sites: Taunton Gateway, on the east of the town and Silk Mills on the west. The buses run on a loop between the two sites, picking up and dropping off at several stops in the town centre and at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Please note that both Silk Mills and Taunton Gateway car parks have a height restriction of 2 metres.

Taunton Gateway (TA3 5LU) has 850 car parking spaces and is near M5 Junction 25. It is about 10 minutes from the town centre, and about 19 minutes from the hospital.

Silk Mills (TA1 5AA) has 760 car parking spaces and is handy for drivers coming from West Somerset and for people who need to get to Musgrove Park Hospital which is about 7 minutes away. The town centre is about 13 minutes away.

The buses run every 20 minutes from Silk Mills. Monday to Friday 5.50am to 7.45pm and Saturday 7.50am to 5.50pm.

Silk Mills and Gateway Park and Ride sites remain open to the public until 11pm from Monday to Saturday. This allows people to return and collect their cars using evening bus services.

More details from Somerset.gov.uk



Take care,
John Hunt

THAT'S LIFE

Up and down

A psychiatrist was training some young clergy who were interested in doing counselling. Deciding to test them, she asked: "How would you diagnose someone who visits your church, walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, and then collapsing in a pew to weep uncontrollably the next?" A young man at the back of the room raised his hand and ventured: "A football coach?"

Light

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said. "Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked. "Oh no," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

Softly

A churchwarden went to the Police Station wishing to see the burglar who had slipped in and out of the church during evensong. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant. "I don't want revenge," said the man. "I want to know how he got out of the service early without the vicar noticing. I've been trying to do that for years!"

The puppy

A clergyman was walking down the street when he came upon a group of about a dozen boys, surrounding a small puppy. Concerned lest the boys were hurting it, he went to investigate. One boy

explained, "We just found this puppy, and we all want him. So, we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to take him home."

The minister was taken aback. "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie? Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie." There was dead silence for a moment. The minister thought he had got through to them.

Then the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

The bump

A vicar who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an intestinal one, the nurse was concerned. Finally, she spoke to the doctor about it. The doctor reassured her, saying: "Don't worry, he really does have a bump on his head. About halfway through the operation, we ran out of anaesthetic."

Kids' letters to pastors

Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. - Pete, age 9, Phoenix

I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? -

Patty, age 10, New Haven

I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. - Loreen, age 9, Tacoma

*Please say a prayer for our local cricket team. We need God's help or a new bowler. Thank you. - Alexander, age 10, Raleigh ****

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

Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000.

Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, you do not need to do anything. If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.

Not sure if a message is real? Contact the organisation directly using the contact details on their official website, not the number or web address in the message. Your bank (or any other official source) won't ask you to supply personal information by email or text message. If you have spotted a suspicious SMS or RCS message, you can report it for FREE by forwarding it to 7726.

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040, or call Police Scotland on 101.

Around 11:15 PM on 22nd November, an attempted break-in occurred at a shed on Honiton Road, Trull. The resident was awoken by the sound of a side gateway being opened. Offender(s) unhooked the gate and forced a padlock securing

the shed but appear to have been disturbed and made off.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5225328494 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

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Securing your garden and outbuildings

- Check for weak spots where a thief could get in – a low or weak fence or a back gate with a weak lock.
- Fences at the front of the property should be low to offer good visibility.
- Fit a strong, lockable high gate across any side passage to stop a thief getting to the back of the house where they can work undisturbed.
- Use thorny hedges and plants along boundaries, under ground-floor windows and up drainpipes to make it harder for thieves to gain access.
- Cut back any vegetation that might shield a thief from view and any trees that could give roof access.
- Consider fitting dusk 'til dawn security lights to the outside of your home at the front and back.
- Don't leave ladders or tools outside, or if necessary chain them up, as they could be used to break into your property.
- Photograph valuable tools and unusual garden ornaments.
- Mark your tools with your postcode and house number, or the first two letters

of your house name, then place the details on www.immobilise.com

Sheds

- Secure your garden shed, especially if you keep valuable items stored inside. Padlocks should be made of hardened steel. Buy the close-shackled variety to prevent hacksaws or bolt croppers being used.
- Shed windows should be screwed shut or have window locks. Consider fitting a metal grille.
- Chain tools, cycles and other valuable equipment together using a high security chain or cable and a padlock. Anchor the chain into the wall or floor.
- Alarms can be extended to garages and sheds. Alternatively, buy a battery- operated audible alarm.

Garages

- Most standard 'up and over' garage doors are easily overcome by a burglar. You can prevent this by drilling a hole through the channel above the wheels and fitting a padlock. Alternatively, fit a hasp and staple on each side of the door with a padlock or fit a specialist lock.
- If you have a door connecting your garage to your house, ensure the connecting door is secured with a mortice deadlock (BS 3621) And mortice bolts.

We have received reports of rogue traders approaching residents in Crewkerne and surrounding areas. Please take this opportunity to remind everyone:

How to Spot Rogue Traders -

- Unsolicited doorstep offers: Legitimate traders rarely knock on doors offering urgent repairs.

- Pressure tactics: Claims like "I'm only in your area today" or "your roof is dangerous" are red flags.
- No written quote: Always insist on a detailed, written quote before agreeing to work.
- Cash-only or upfront payment: Avoid paying in full before work starts; reputable traders accept secure payment methods.
- No credentials or ID: Genuine professionals will show ID and proof of qualifications.
- Too-good-to-be-true deals:

Extremely low prices or "special offers" often indicate a scam.

Tips to Avoid Rogue Trader Scams

1. Get multiple quotes – Compare at least three written estimates.
2. Check reviews and references – Use trusted directories like Checkatrade or TrustMark.
3. Verify credentials – Ensure they are licensed and insured.
4. Never make snap decisions – Take time to consult family or neighbours.
5. Avoid cash payments – Use traceable payment methods.
6. Don't let anyone pressure you – If they refuse to leave, call 999.

Reporting Rogue Traders in Somerset

- If they are on your property now or you feel threatened: Call 999 immediately.
- Suspicious activity or scams: Call 101 or report online via Avon & Somerset Police.

- Consumer complaints: Contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service (0808 223 1133) – they will forward details to Trading Standards.
- Report Fraud (Formerly Action Fraud): Report financial scams at Contact us - Report Fraud



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago

There was an excellent attendance at the Constitutional Club, when a whist drive was arranged by the local Conservative Association. The winners were: Ladies 1. Miss M Balman; 2. Miss M Lythall; 3. Mrs A Voysey and Mrs Bodger. Gentlemen 1. Miss A Lythall (playing a gent); 2. Mr J Grant; 3. Mr HS Tate. A guessing competition, arranged by Mr CH Payne, attracted a great deal of attention and produced a nice amount for the funds. Mr GU Farrant acted as MC. At the conclusion of the drive, Mrs C Lesley Fox presented the prizes to the successful competitors and on behalf of the committee arranging the drive, Mr Farrant expressed its thanks to her. Mrs JH Watts acted as secretary of the committee arranging the gathering.

50 years ago

There was a good attendance at the meeting of the Good Companions. Miss Newcombe presided. The original committee agreed to continue for the coming year. Miss Newcombe was re-elected president, Mrs Grant vice-president, Mrs Hearn treasurer, and Mrs Channing secretary. Mrs Morris was elected to serve as the Silver Queen. Miss Waterfield gave a very interesting talk and was thanked by Miss Newcombe. Tea and a raffle concluded the meeting.

Mrs Mabel Olive Hartland, of Smithy Cottages, died at East Reach Hospital at the age of 70. The funeral service, which was largely attended by neighbours and other friends, was held at Taunton Deane crematorium chapel and conducted by the vicar of Bishops Hull, the Rev EG Mullins. Cremation followed. In addition to family mourners, also present were representatives of the Taunton Women's Whist League and other organisations. The Co-operative Funeral Service made the funeral arrangements.

It was with regret that at their last meeting, the Parish Council received the resignation of their Clerk, Mr T Hodge. Members expressed their thanks to Mr Hodge for the high quality of service which he had provided to the Council. The Council gave further consideration to the proposals to construct a roadway which would link the A38 road with the existing carriageway at Silk Mills crossing. In view of the considerable reservations which members retain about the proposals, the Council was resolved to seek certain assurances from the highway authority: that the proposed roadway

would be completed along its total length before any part of it is opened; that adequate crossing facilities would be provided for pedestrians, with particular reference to elderly persons and young children; and that further consideration would be given to the effects of traffic congestion when the level crossing gates at Silk Mills are in operation. This roadway is what is now Silk Mills Road.

Married at St James's church, Taunton, were Mr Paul Michael Western, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C Western of Smithy Cottages, and Miss Lesley Elizabeth McConachie of Cleveland Street, Taunton. The bride, who was given away by her father at a service conducted by the Rev David Saville, wore a gown and train of satin trimmed with pearls, with a three-tier veil.

She held a bouquet of orange carnations and fern. In attendance, Jackie Liscombe and Lynnette Parks wore purple satin dresses trimmed with white daisies. They held Victorian posies of yellow carnations and green fern and had matching head-dresses. The best man was Mr Peter Thompson. After a reception for 90 guests at Priory Social Club, the couple left for a honeymoon in Scotland, the bride wearing a blue trouser suit with matching accessories.

The Good Companions Club met at the United Reformed church schoolroom, when Miss Newcombe presided. Several members gave in their names for the visit to Sheppey's cider factory. A Christmas table decoration was given by Mrs Rose and Mrs Bellamy. Following this, a similar display was on sale and after expenses £1 was given back to the club. Grateful thanks were expressed to the demonstrators for a very pleasant afternoon. The flower competition was won by Mrs Farmer and Mrs House. Tea and a raffle concluded the meeting.

Mr and Mrs Edward du Cann were guests of honour at a wine and cheese party at Meryan House Hotel. Over 50 guests helped to make the evening an enjoyable occasion. The party was presided over by Mrs McGheel and Mrs Eils. Raffle prize winners were Mrs Vernon, Miss Farrant, Mr F Matthews and Mr F Biffen.

After being involved in a collision with a milk float on Wellington Road, an articulated lorry loaded with seven tons of frozen meat ended up in a garden at Stonegallows, but neither driver was seriously hurt. When the accident happened the milkman, Mr Mike Rowlands of Rockwell Green, was on his way to Wellington to begin his round for Hunts Dairies. The float was a complete write-off and £100-worth of milk and broken bottles were strewn over the road. The lorry, which belonged to British Oxygen (Transhields) of Bristol, went up the bank and overturned. Wellington Road was completely blocked for two hours and traffic diverted onto the motorway ##

Government urged to keep VAT grants for repairs

The Chancellor has been urged to retain a tax scheme for listed places of worship, as a survey, recently published, showed the majority of the UK population backs government support to help churches pay for repairs to their buildings.

A poll shows that two in five people, or 43 per cent of all adults, report having had contact with their local church. The majority of these, or 53 per cent, was for services and worship, but also 23 per cent – nearly seven million people in the UK – had contact for community support such as parent toddler groups, lunch clubs and food banks.

An estimated 2.8 million people – or four per cent of the UK population – have been in contact with their local church for a food bank. Church of England churches run or support 31,300 social action projects, including nearly 8,000 food banks, with emergency food provision and community cafés on the rise.

More than three quarters of the population – 77 per cent – said historic cathedrals and churches are local and national treasures. And two in five – 41% – said they had visited a church or cathedral simply to find a quiet space for reflection or prayer, with this figure rising to 50 per cent amongst young adults in the 18 to 34 age range.

The survey conducted for the Church of England by Savanta, shows 59 per cent of the UK population agree that the Government should help with the costs of repairing and maintaining historic churches.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme was first put in place by the then Chancellor Gordon Brown in 2001 and allows for VAT grants on repairs of more than £1,000 to be claimed for essential repairs and maintenance.

The future of the scheme is in doubt after the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced an interim arrangement earlier this year with a reduction in the amount of money available from £42 million a year to £23 million and a cap of £25,000 per building. The scheme is due to come to an end in March next year and there has been no confirmation from the Government on whether it will be renewed.

The Church of England is responsible for 45 per cent of the UK's Grade 1 listed buildings. More than 12,500 of its church buildings have listed status.

Current estimates show that around 260 churches and cathedrals have reported that their essential repair projects are at risk because of uncertainty over the scheme's future and big increases in costs as a result of the £25,000 limit on claims.

The DCMS Commons select committee called in July for the scheme to be made permanent and the cap on claims to be lifted, after hearing evidence from the Church of England as part of its inquiry into built heritage. ###

Why we have Plough Sunday



In bygone years, the supply chain of food across Britain was fairly short: if it didn't grow in your local fields, you were apt to go hungry. Hence the widespread traditional custom of Plough Sunday – bringing a plough (and sometimes a lamb as well) into church and praying for God's blessing on the land in the year ahead.

Traditionally, Plough Sunday was held on the Sunday after Epiphany, which makes 11th January this year's special day. Parishioners would often walk through their village collecting alms for the poor, before gathering down at the church. Farmers would sometimes roll up on their tractors at the church door (though there are no stories of any farmer trying to bring his tractor into the church!) Work on the fields would then begin on Plough Monday, the day after the prayers for blessing.

These days, with supermarkets delivering food all year round, the nature of Plough Sunday has changed into a general celebration of farming and the work of farmers. In the C of E's Common Worship there is a suggested prayer for the 'Blessing of the Plough'.

What makes snow linger?

Depending on whether you are a child with a sleigh or an adult trying to drive home, snow is either your friend or your foe. And sometimes snow can be hard to understand....

Matt Taylot of the BBC Weather, recently named a couple of reasons as to why snow behaves in the way that it does. For instance:

Ground temperature plays a massive part when it comes to whether snow sticks or not. When the weather has been relatively warm, the ground will store some of that warmth and melt the snow more quickly. This happens faster on roads and pavements than on grass, which transfers the heat from the ground more slowly. Sunshine helps melt snow, and any snow covered in dirt and debris will melt even quicker, as the darker surface absorbs the warmth from the sun more readily.

Michael Bond, creator of Paddington Bear

It was 100 years ago, on 13th January 1926, that Michael Bond, the children's writer, was born. He has an assured place in any literary Hall of Fame, for he created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington Bear padded into Michael Bond's life quite by accident. It was back in 1956 that Michael was on his way home from work at the BBC when he spied a lonely looking teddy bear on the shelf in a shop window in London. On the spur of the moment, Michael decided to take it home as a stocking filler for his wife.

Michael called the bear Paddington, because they lived near Paddington Station at the time. Two years later, in 1958, while daydreaming over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Michael wondered what might happen if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway station looking for a home.

The rest is literary history.

His first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was written in ten days and published by Collins in October of 1958. 28 more books followed, and in all more than 35 million Paddington books have been sold worldwide, in more than 40 languages. More than 27 million Paddington Bear soft toys have been sold, just since 2021. The films alone have grossed more than \$778 million.

Paddington made his most famous appearance at Buckingham Palace in 2022, where he had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, and exchanged tips with her about the best place to store marmalade sandwiches.



Bond was born in Newbury in 1926 and served with the RAF and army during WW2. He started writing in 1945 while stationed in Cairo, and began his career at the BBC, where he later worked on *Blue Peter* as a cameraman. He died in 2017, aged 91.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Miracles

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in text-books are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that “We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches.” For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: “Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus’s miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it’s obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses.”

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don’t seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don’t.

Many in Jesus’ audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God. The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what ‘your kingdom come’ looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works and wonders. ++

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING JANUARY

Pigs in blankets carbonara recipe



Ingredients

12 pigs in blankets
300g spaghetti
3 medium free-range eggs, lightly beaten
80g parmesan, finely grated, plus extra to garnish

Method

Cook the pigs in blankets according to pack instructions and cut in half.

Bring a pan of water to the boil, add the spaghetti and cook for 8-10 mins until al dente. Drain, reserving a mug of cooking water and return the pasta to the pan.

Whisk the eggs and parmesan together until evenly combined, then pour over the pasta. Add a splash of the cooking water and beat with a wooden spoon until you have a smooth, glossy sauce.

Toss through the pigs in blankets.

Divide between plates and serve topped with a grind of black pepper.

Really good chicken gravy recipe

Homemade gravy is a great way to use up a whole roast chicken. This recipe simmers celery, carrots, and

thyme low and slow for over an hour, creating a deep, aromatic flavour. Serve it with your next Sunday roast, or try it as a stock or silky chicken pie sauce. See method

Serves 6-8 (makes 900ml)



Ingredients

1 chicken carcass (from a 1.9kg roasted chicken), skin discarded
2 tbsp vegetable oil
2 carrots, scrubbed and roughly chopped
2 celery sticks, chopped
1 onion, cut into wedges
2 bay leaves
2 fresh thyme sprigs
1 tsp whole peppercorns
70g plain flour
75ml white wine (optional)

Method

Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C. Break the chicken carcass into smaller pieces and add to a high-sided roasting tray with the oil, vegetables, bay, thyme and peppercorns. Roast for 45 mins, stirring after 30 mins, until everything is golden and charred at the edges.

Stir in to coat well, then spoon everything into a saucepan set over a

low heat. Slowly stir in the wine, if using (or 75ml boiling water), followed by another 200ml boiling water, so the four dissolves into a smooth paste. Pour in another 1.3ltrs boiling water and stir well.

Bring to a gentle boil, then simmer over a low heat for 30 mins, stirring occasionally, or until reduced and thickened. Pour through a sieve into a clean pan, using the back of a spoon to remove as much liquid as possible from the chicken and roast veg. Season before pouring into a jug to serve.

Cinnamon and mincemeat shortcakes



Ingredients

300g self-raising flour
2 tsp baking powder
100g dairy-free spread
50g caster sugar
1 large egg, lightly beaten
2-3 tbsp dairy-free milk, plus extra for glazing
120g mincemeat
150ml dairy-free cream alternative
¾ tsp ground cinnamon
2 easy peelers, segmented
No self-raising flour? Add 2 tsp baking powder for every 150g plain flour

Method

Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C. Sift the flour, baking powder and a pinch of salt into a food processor. Add the dairy-free spread in small chunks and pulse until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Alternatively, rub the butter into the flour mixture with your fingertips. Pour the mixture into a bowl and stir through the sugar. Add the egg and 2 tbsp of the milk and briskly stir the mixture together with a cutlery knife until clumps form. If the mixture isn't coming together, add the remaining milk, a little at a time. Bring the mixture into a ball, turn out onto a lightly floured surface and pat the dough out into a round, about 2.5cm thick.

Dredge a smooth 7cm cutter in flour and cut out 8 rounds, pinching together the trimmings as you go. Transfer to a non-stick baking sheet and glaze with the remaining milk. Bake for 10-12 mins until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Whilst the shortcakes are cooking, warm the mincemeat in a small pan over a low heat until glossy. Set aside to cool.

Whip the cream and cinnamon together until soft peaks form. Once the shortcakes have cooled, split them open with a knife. Spoon a dollop of mincemeat onto each bottom half, followed by a spoonful of cream. Sandwich with a top half, then finish with another smaller dollop of cream and a couple of easy peeler segments.



Remembering Agatha Christie



Fifty years ago, on 12th January 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, the daughter of wealthy parents. In 1914 she married Archibald Christie, and Rosalind, their only daughter, was born in 1919.

Agatha produced her first detective story in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which introduced Hercule Poirot. Her marriage failed in 1928, but not her desire to write; for in 1930 she produced *Murder at the Vicarage*, and Miss Marple arrived.

That same year, 1930, Agatha married again, this time to an archaeologist Max Mallowan, who was 14 years her junior. They had met when Agatha visited an archaeological dig at Ur, a major ancient Sumerian city-state located in modern-day southern Iraq.

After the war, Max became Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at London University and as Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq he excavated at Nineveh and Nimrud 1947–61.

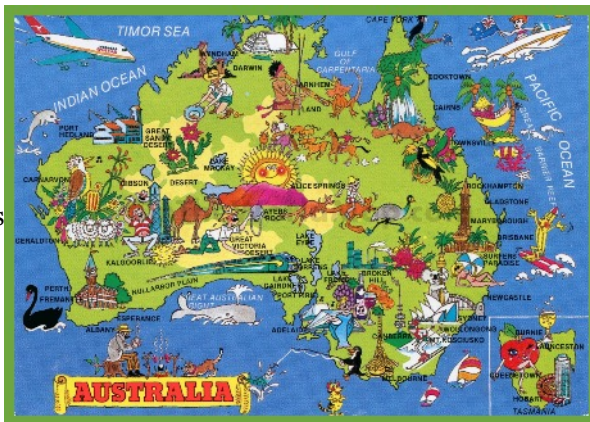
Agatha went with him, and her travels in the Middle East inspired *Murder in Mesopotamia*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*. Back home, in 1934 the couple had found a peaceful and elegant home just outside of Wallingford, where they lived for many years.

In all, Agatha wrote more than 100 novels, plays, short stories. The undisputed 'Queen of Crime', she is the best-selling novelist of all time. Some two billion copies of her books, translated into at least 100 languages, have been sold. Her play *The Mousetrap*, has been in continuous performance in London since 1952, breaking all records.

Australia celebrates a milestone

This is an important month for Australia.

As of 1st January, it has been 125 years (1901) since the Commonwealth of Australia was established, when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.



But a British presence in Australia began long before 1901. It was way back in 1788 that the First Fleet first landed in Australia, and the Union Flag of Great Britain was raised by Captain Arthur Phillip.

The 11 ships had left England seven months before. Their passengers were mostly convicts, and Captain Phillips had been charged with the job of establishing penal colonies to house them.

The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay, but decided to explore further. A few days later, on 26th January 1788 the fleet finally landed at Sydney Cove, a small bay on the southern shore of Sydney harbour.

That was the day that British settlers arrived on Australian shores for the first time. They formally established the Colony of New South Wales on 7th February, and 20 years later, in 1808, the convicts who had been pardoned were now emancipated convicts, and heartily celebrating the anniversary of their arrival with dinners, drinking and toasts.

The first official celebration took place in 1818 on the 30th anniversary of their arrival, with Governor Lachlan Macquarie naming the day a national holiday, called Foundation Day.

While Australians have celebrated the 26th of January as Australia Day ever since, the story is not all a happy one. For indigenous Australians, who have been there for thousands of years, faced persecution and even dozens of massacres during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

As one website puts it, nowadays Australia Day is a day when: "We reflect on our nation's past, which began more than 65,000 years ago, and the impact of European settlement on the First Nations Australians. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect, as we work towards reconciliation. (<https://www.australiaday.com.au/about/>)

Gardening in January

Often the coldest month

January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut for a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Top gardening jobs this month

- Prune apple and pear trees
- Pruning an apple or pear tree can be daunting for many gardeners. Rather than be put off completely or panic and inadvertently harm the tree back by excessive pruning, instead try our easy guide and enjoy a well-shaped, productive tree.
- Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- Cleaning greenhouses, whether glass or plastic, greatly improves the growing environment for plants. By removing the algae, moss and grime it lets in more light and helps control pests and diseases too.
- Keep an eye on watering houseplants
- Indoor heating is very drying for houseplants, so check them regularly to make sure they are kept just moist, and not allowed to dry out.

More jobs for this month

- Plant now to boost the winter fragrance in your garden
- Inspect stored tubers of dahlia, begonia and canna for rots or drying out

- Keep an eye on figs and olives & guard against frost by covering with sacking or old fleece in frost
- Start forcing rhubarb
- Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
- Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- Cut off hellebore leaves at the base to discourage black spot disease and show off the flowers

Flowers

Sowing and planting

- Sow seeds of Begonia, Lobelia, Salvia and Pelargonium in a heated greenhouse or propagator to provide early plants.
- Sweet peas can be sown this month. Sweet peas sown earlier in the autumn can now be potted on taking care not to disturb the roots too much. Place them on a sunny windowsill, or on a high shelf in the greenhouse that gets plenty of light.
- This is the last chance to sow seeds that need frost in order to germinate (such as native tree and shrub seeds, and alpine plants).
- Plant lily bulbs in pots and in borders during mild spells.

The Vegetable Garden in January



Overview:

This month is basically about preparation and planning for the forthcoming growing season.

Note: As with most advice on gardening the advisors location will often influence the content of the advice.

Week 1 - 1st Jan. to 7th Jan.

Order Seed Potatoes if have not already done so.

Check Lettuce plants growing under cover for grey mould (botrytis) or slug damage.

Cover Cress or Corn salad plants with cloches.

Earth up Brassicas as far as the lower leaves if necessary.

Support Brussels sprouts with a strong stake to each plant if not done previously.

Week 2 - 8th Jan. to 14th Jan.

Commence chitting seed potatoes as soon as you receive them.

If not done previously, force Rhubarb into early growth by covering the crown with a box, bucket or forcing jar to exclude light, then grow on in a temperature of around 10°C (50°F). Alternatively, if not forcing your plants cover the crowns with a mulch of well rotted manure.

Week 3 - 15th Jan. to 21st Jan.

If not done previously, cut down Jerusalem Artichoke haulms and lift the tubers, then store them in sand in a cool, frost free area.

Week 4 - 22nd Jan. to 28th Jan.

Plant two or three Potatoes in a 250mm (10") pot to get an early catch crop.

Plan the cropping layout of your vegetable patch if not done previously

Miscellaneous Tasks in January

At any time this month:

- Check over Garden tools and service them as necessary.
- Wash / clean pots and trays in preparation for propagation.
- Set cloches over seedbeds to warm the soil.
- After heavy falls of snow, ensure that branches are on trees and shrubs are not weighed down to breaking point.
- Do not walk on lawns when frozen.
- Plan your garden layout and plant needs.
- Sort seeds packets into the order they will be required.
- Continue keeping garden free of windblown detritus.
- Apply a winter wash to kill off algal slime and moss on paving.
- Remove deep-rooted Weeds growing through gravel paths or paving.

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

The improvement in the quality of the clergy and in the learning of clergy and laity alike, which marked the end of Elizabeth's reign, was largely due to the grammar schools and universities. The mass of the people were either quite illiterate, or half taught to read by village dames. But the clever boys of the most various ranks of society received a good Latin education together, sharing the benches and the floggings of the grammar school. Classes were not segregated, as in the schools of later generations.

The universities, like most other institutions, had gone through a bad time during the religious and economic troubles of 1530—60. Their numbers and wealth had fallen, with the disappearance of the convents of monks and friars which had composed an important part of medieval Oxford and Cambridge. At the same time an Act of Parliament sent back to their parishes the crowds of middle-aged clergymen, who still, as for centuries past, were wont to desert their cures and live in idleness at the university in no too reputable manner. The medieval character of the two English seats of learning disappeared during these distressful years of change and impoverishment.

It was a new and more secular Oxford and Cambridge that revived, under Elizabeth and flourished exceedingly up to the outbreak of the Civil War. A larger proportion of the under-graduates now looked forward to careers as laymen. The number of great Elizabethans who had been at Oxford or Cambridge is significant of a new attitude to learning in the governing class.. A gentleman, especially if he aspired to serve the State, would now finish his education at one of the 'learned Universities' whence he usually came away with a familiar knowledge of the Latin language and of classical mythology, a smattering of Greek, and a varying measure of mathematical and philosophical acquirements. Sidney and Raleigh, Camden and Hakluyt were at Oxford; the Cecils, the Bacons, and Walsingham were at Cambridge, not to mention Spenser and Marlowe. Master Silence, J.P., is at the cost of keeping his son Will at Oxford for some years before he goes on to the Inns of Court; after that double training in the humanities and in law, the young man will be fit to succeed his father as a Gloucestershire landowner and Justice of the Peace. ' One reason for this growing connexion between the universities and the governing class was the improvement in the conditions of academic life. The college system, rapidly replacing the hostelries and lodging-houses of medieval times, afforded some guarantee to careful parents. At Oxford and Cambridge, alone of the universities of Europe, the colleges were at this time taking over discipline, which the university had grossly neglected, and the function of teaching, which it had fulfilled very indifferently as regards the majority of students. There was as yet no such officer as the college tutor, but the student or his parents contracted privately with one of the Fellows of the college to act

both as teacher and guardian. Each of these private tutors had half a dozen such pupils whom he lectured and coached. Sometimes they slept in his rooms. It was a relationship analogous to that of master and apprentice.

On the whole this system of private tutoring worked Well. But there was a tendency for the tutor to neglect those of his pupils who could not pay high fees, and to be too indulgent with those who could. His richer pupils loved to wear 'excessive ruffs, apparel of velvet and silk, swords, and rapiers', contrary to academic rules, and to engage in forbidden pastimes, such as cards and dice in the parlours of inns, fencing, cockfighting, and bear-baiting. In 1587 William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, whose paternal eye was turned into every corner of the kingdom over whose welfare he watched, was credibly informed that through the great stipends of tutors, not only the poorer sort are not able to maintain their children at the University, but the richer be so corrupt with liberty and remissness that the tutor is afraid to displease his pupil through the desire of great gain.

Dons, like everyone else in those days, were 'respecters of persons'. Early in Elizabeth's reign, parson Harrison complained that -

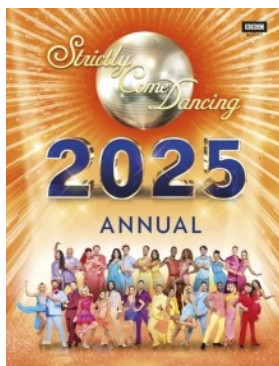
Gentlemen or rich men's sons often bring the Universities into much slander. For, standing upon their reputation and liberty, they ruffle and roist it out, exceeding in apparel, and riotous company which draweth them from their books unto another trade. And for excuse, when they are charged with breach of all good order, think it sufficient to say they are gentlemen, which grieveth many not a little.

One may well guess that, without some eye-winking on the part of the authorities, smart young men accustomed to the outdoor life of the manor-house or the gay life of the Court would never have endured the rigid college rules of that day graduates. In 1571 the Vice-Chancellor forbade even the innocent diversion of swimming in any stream or pool in Cambridgeshire to all members of the University. Probably the objection was to the danger of the exercise, like that of climbing the roof of the chapel in our own more adventurous age. Organized games and athletics did not exist, and sports were either discouraged or forbidden. But since youth must be served somehow, no wonder there was much breaking of rules. But there were rules to break: there had been none to speak of in the medieval university.

In an age of patronage, nepotism was -inevitable, and fellow: ships were freely given to, the sons or clients of wealthy and powerful men, or of lawyers who would intrigue and work for the college. The colleges were growing rich, while the university remained poor. During Elizabeth's reign the Great Court of her father's foundation of Trinity at Cambridge grew up as the rival of Tom Quad at Christ Church.

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BOOK REVIEWS

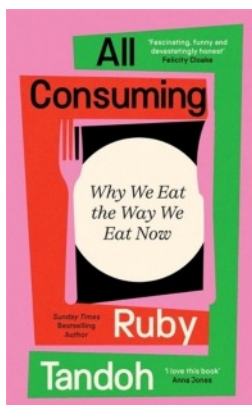


**Official
Strictly
Come
Dancing
Annual
2025
by
Alison
Maloney**

Featuring
exclusive
interviews

with the celebs, judges, presenters and pro dancers, fun quizzes to test your ballroom knowledge and behind-the-scenes features to give you a glimpse into the glitz and glamour, this is your perfect partner for all things Strictly. Get the scoop on what goes on backstage with the It Takes Two presenters, hear from last year's winner and try your hand at the Strictly quiz and wordsearch.

**All Consuming
by Ruby Tandoh**



**Why We Eat
the Way We
Eat Now**

All Consuming examines how food came to dominate modern life, tracing shifts in tastes, media and industry. Through essays

on restaurants, food writing, trends and social media, Ruby Tandoh

explores the cultural, economic and technological forces that have reshaped how we eat and talk about food.

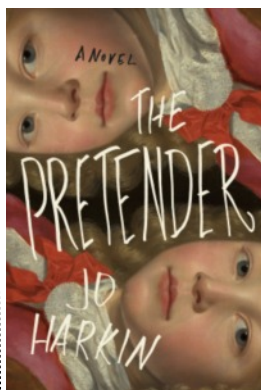
The 11982nd greatest book of all time

**The Pretender
Jo Harkin**

The Pretender tells the story of Lambert Simnel, who was raised in obscurity as a peasant boy to protect his safety, believed to be the

heir to the throne occupied by Richard III, and briefly crowned, at the age of ten, as King Edward the Sixth, one of the last of the Plantagenets.

In 1480, John Collan's greatest anxiety is how to circumvent



the village's devil goat on the way to collect water. But the arrival of a well-dressed stranger from London upends his life forever: John is not John Collan, not the son of Will Collan, but the son of the long-deceased Duke of Clarence, hidden in the countryside after a brotherly rift over the crown, and because Richard III has a habit of disappearing his nephews. Removed from his humble origins, sent to Oxford to be educated in a manner befitting the throne's rightful heir, John is put into play by his masters, learning the rules of etiquette in Burgundy and the machinations of the court in Ireland,

where he encounters the intractable Joan, the delightfully strong-willed and manipulative daughter of his Irish patrons, a girl imbued with both extraordinary political savvy and occasional murderous tendencies. Joan has two paths available her—marry, or become a nun. Lambert's choices are similarly stark: he will either become King, or die in battle. Together they form an alliance that will change the fate of the English monarchy.

Inspired by a footnote to history—the true story of the little known Simnel, who was a figurehead of the 1487 Yorkist rebellion and ended up working as a spy in the court of King Henry VII—The Pretender is historical fiction at its finest, a gripping, exuberant, rollicking portrait of British monarchy and life within the court, with a cast of unforgettable heroes and villains drawn from 15th century England.

The Garden By Nick Newman

An eerie, hypnotic, darkly beautiful novel about two elderly sisters living alone at the edge of the world and how their lives unravel when their sanctum is breached, for fans of Piranesi and The Testaments.



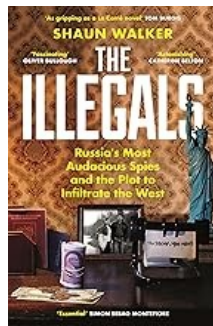
In a place and time unknown, two elderly sisters live in a walled garden, secluded from the outside world. Evelyn and Lily have only ever known each other. What was before the garden, they have forgotten; what lies beyond it, they do not know. Each day is spent in languid service to their home: tending the bees, planting the crops, and dutifully following the instructions of the almanac written by their mother.

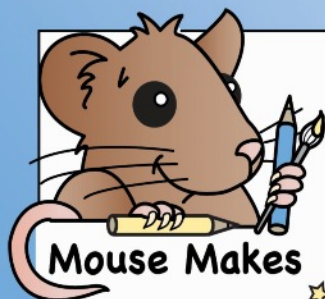
So when a nameless boy is found hiding in the boarded house at the center of their isolated grounds, their once-solitary lives are irrevocably disrupted. Who is he? Where did he come from? And most importantly, what does he want?

As suspicions gather and allegiances falter, Evelyn and Lily are forced to confront the dark truths about themselves, the garden, and the world as they've known it.

The Illegals by Shaun Walker

A concise history of the Soviet “illegals,” deep-cover agents trained to live abroad under false identities for years. Shaun Walker traces the program from its origins through the Cold War to contemporary Russia, explaining how long-term undercover operations worked, profiling the people involved, and examining the program's influence on Russian policy and relations with the West, based on interviews and archival research.





Mouse Makes

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
EPIPHANY





Time to learn to pray

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

'Lord, teach us to pray.' In Luke's Gospel it's these words, spoken by the disciples, that cause Jesus to give them the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus says to his friends 'When you pray say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

Many of us think that we should be able to pray automatically. And that if we can't, it's either because 'it's not our thing' or because we're failing. Yet in Luke's Gospel, the disciples still need to ask Jesus how to pray, even after they've been knocking around with him for ages. So maybe we should give ourselves a break and accept that working out how to pray is not obvious and that all of us need to learn.

In 2026, I'm asking all of us across our diocese of Bath and Wells to make the year one of especial focus on prayer. I'm hoping we'll all be able to say the words 'Lord teach us to pray' and that together we'll all grow in our experience, understanding, insight and practice.

How can we learn about prayer? We have to make a start. We need to make some mistakes. We need to learn from others. It doesn't happen in the abstract. Prayer is a 'learning by doing thing' where if we stick at it, we grow and change.

How might you learn to pray more this year? There isn't a master plan designed to get everyone on their knees. Most action will happen locally where we can identify what we need, work out who can help us, and then get underway. Some simple resources designed to be helpful are being made available. More importantly, please do talk to your vicar or other church leaders about what might be possible where you are.

Together, let's say these words in the year that is to come: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

A very happy New Year to you all.

Church of England weddings at historic low



The Church of England conducted fewer weddings than ever in 2023, as the number of people in England and Wales getting married in religious ceremonies has slumped to a new low.

In 2023, 23,004 marriages were recorded by the Church of England and Church in Wales, according to recent data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS). It is the lowest number since the 1830s, except for 2020, when churches were closed during the pandemic.

In total, 216,901 weddings of opposite-sex couples took place in 2023. The majority (184,428) were civil ceremonies. There were 32,473 religious weddings, of which 70 per cent were held in Anglican churches.

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, told the Daily Telegraph: “We want to reassure couples that they don’t have to be churchgoers to have a church wedding, they don’t need to be christened, and we welcome couples who already have children.”

How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we usually fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have several goals, don’t attempt them all at once.

Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don’t tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There’s something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve.

Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money that you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So, break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating. Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again and to keep going. Only if you stop are you really defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

**

Complaints and refunds – what about consumer protection?

‘Use honest scales and honest weights’ Leviticus 19:36

‘The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favour with him.’ Proverbs 11:1

These verses are not about the scales you use to weigh yourself, to see how much weight you have put on over Christmas! It is a biblical warning for businesspeople to act fairly and not cheat the buyer. As such it is one of the earliest pieces of consumer protection.

The law has been updated to reflect changes in buying. Many of us do our shopping online and much of what is bought are not goods in the old-fashioned sense, but electronic items such as downloaded music or games. Whether you do your Christmas shopping in the January sales or on Christmas Eve, what legal rights do

you have? This is a complex area, and the following is a guide only.

The law gives us some basic rights about the quality and standard of things we buy from a business. They must be of ‘satisfactory quality’ which means what a reasonable person would consider satisfactory. They must be ‘fit for purpose’ and ‘as described’. So, if you bought a Bible, it must be in good condition; and it must be the whole Bible if it says Bible; and it should not fall apart when you start to read it. If it is a leather-bound church Bible, you would expect it to last longer than a cheap paperback.

So, what if there is a problem? Normally within the first 30 days, if it is faulty, you can get a refund.

Up to 6 months, if it cannot be repaired or replaced, you are entitled to a refund - in most cases

Up to 6 years, if goods do not last a reasonable time, you may be entitled to some money back.

Some shops give you more rights. They offer money back guarantees if you change your mind. Always keep the receipt. Check that what you buy works, and that it is ok when you get it. No point buying something in November and then find out on Christmas Eve that it is broken. Watch out for those scales!

**

Crufts welcomes mongrels

The Royal Kennel Club, which runs Crufts, is going to admit mongrels for the first time in its 150-year history.

Crufts will become a ‘year-round community’, available to all dog owners, whatever kind of dog they

have. Its new online platform will launch in February 2026.

Jannine Edgar, chief executive of the RKC explains: "While our initiatives in areas such as health, research and breeding have historically been focused on pedigree dogs, we recognise that dog ownership has evolved and therefore we must too. "So now our remit extends to all dogs, and we will be investing our efforts to do more for every dog and their owners through the Crufts brand, which will be much more than an annual show."

This year Crufts Dog Show takes place 5th to 8th March at the NEC in Birmingham. Crufts has also held events aimed at non-pedigree dogs since 2000, after launching the crossbreed competition 'Scruffts'. The late Queen, who was devoted to her corgis, was patron of The Kennel Club for 70 years. Following her death, the King granted the organisation a royal prefix in 2023.

**

Our long love affair with coffee

London's first coffee house opened in 1652, using beans imported from modern-day Yemen. Although many in Cromwell's Britain had doubts about this new drink, others welcomed its reviving effects - and asked for another cup.

Nearly 400 years on, coffee drinking in Britain is a vast industry. We drink 98 million cups of it every day. Even though a takeaway flat white can now cost you more than £5 in London, still coffee has become a daily necessity for millions of us. And nearly 400 years on, we can better appreciate why this should be so.

Coffee keeps us awake. This is because when caffeine accesses the brain, it actively blocks our adenosine-producing receptors, which run our sleep-promoting system.

Coffee makes us alert. The caffeine drives our brain towards a more excited state which allows us to process information faster.

Coffee can also improve our mood, especially during the winter, when the loss of daylight acts as a depressant.

And although too much coffee can make us jittery and even prone to heart palpitations, there is even growing evidence among neuroscientists that coffee can even help to lower our risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

**

What, oh what, is that person's name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people's names in 2026?

Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It's not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it's a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to name it. 'Anomic aphasia' is the clinical name for the inability to remember a name,

even when we can remember everything else about someone. There is also the strange truth that the cure for anomic aphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because for sure it will be gone again with the morning light!

*

Be smart – don't keep up appearances

If you are struggling with money as the New Year begins, you are not alone. Too many of us are using our credit cards as almost permanent extensions of our bank account, instead of as highly expensive loans. So, this year, think about how just small changes could help you. For example, simply deciding to take your own sandwiches, and skipping lunch and coffee 'out' could save you £25 a week – that is £100 a month, or £1,200 a year – enough to pay off a big chunk of your heating bills.

**

Eating alone 'bad for pensioners' health'



Pensioners who eat at home alone are more likely to suffer from poor nutrition and health.

So says new research. It has found strong links between dining solo and diets of poor quality, with less fruit, vegetables and meat. This can lead to weight loss and frailty.

Researchers at Flinders University in Australia are instead highlighting the importance of community-based initiatives – such as neighbourhood meal groups, intergenerational dining programmes, or local café partnerships to mitigate the harms of eating alone.

As one researcher explains, “Food is more than the nutritional benefit it provides. Sharing a meal is an important social activity that can influence appetite, dietary variety, and overall well-being for older adults.”

**

Why you should aim to eat the rainbow

The supermarket chain Tesco has reported a surge in demand for brightly coloured vegetables, from rainbow carrots to pink onions.

The trend follows calls from nutritionists for people to ‘eat the rainbow’ of fruits and vegetables, so that they get the whole range of vitamins and minerals.

Demand for rainbow carrots and pink onions is up by 100 per cent this autumn versus last, the demand for rainbow chard is up 70 per cent and that for Cavolo Nero – also known as ‘black cabbage’ – is up around 30 per cent on last year.



Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning! In hotels and train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even an exhausted traveller. For instance, how about these*:

Switzerland: We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

Romania: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

Russia: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Italy: If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

Spain: Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark: In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemingly manner.

Canary Islands: If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve

See Amid the Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow
Lots of cars that just won't go;
It is not the drivers' fault –
Councils have run out of salt!

Here, we sit the whole night long!
Where have all the snowploughs
gone?

If we'd known we'd be delayed
We'd perhaps have brought a
spade!

Say, ye cheerful children, say
Why aren't you in school today?
'We are skating round and round
'Cos the heating's broken down!
'Yes, the heating's gone beserk!
'Mum has missed a day at work!
'Though she's cross and seems on
edge,
'We can ride upon our sledge!

Sages on the weather show
Said the sun would surely glow,
And, said they, we may be sure
Of a glorious day in store!
But they missed a detail, small
And the snow did thickly fall!
But the met-men feel no shame –
Their computer takes the blame!

By Nigel Beeton

Four men are in the hospital waiting
room because their wives are
having babies. A nurse goes up to the
first guy and says, "Congratulations!
You're the father of twins." "That's
odd," answers the man. "I work for the
Minnesota Twins!" A nurse says to the
second guy, "Congratulations! You're
the father of triplets!" "That's weird,"
answers the second man. "I work for
the 3M company!" A nurse tells the
third man, "Congratulations! You're
the father of quadruplets!" "That's
strange," he answers. "I work for the
Four Seasons hotel!" The last man is
groaning and banging his head against
the wall. "What's wrong?", the others
ask. "I work for 7 Up!"

Mother's Day.

Two children ordered their mother
to stay in bed one Mother's Day
morning. As she lay there looking
forward to breakfast in bed, the smell
of bacon floated up from the kitchen.
But after a good long wait she finally

went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. "As a surprise for Mother's Day," one explained, "we decided to cook our own breakfast."

A tough old cowboy from Texas counseled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning. The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103, when she died. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Two crows were in a field when they noticed a figure that looked like a man in the distance. "See that over there? What is that?", says the first crow. The second crow takes a long look, "That's a scarecrow. Looks authentic, doesn't it." "How can you tell it's a scarecrow and not a person?", replies the first crow. "Look at it's hand. No cellphone", says the second crow.

Britain's oldest woman turned 114 today. When asked the secret of her longevity, she attributed it to taking a walk at midnight every night. When quizzed on whether she was concerned about the increase in muggings in recent years, she said that she was not, and would continue mugging people as long as her health holds out.

An eight-year old boy had never spoken a word. One afternoon, as he sat eating his lunch he turned to his mother and said, "The soup is cold."

His astonished mother exclaimed, "Son, I've waited so long to hear you speak. But all these years you never said a thing. Why haven't you spoken before?" The boy looked at her and replied, "Up until now, everything has been satisfactory."

After Sunday church, the priest would hand us each an orange and a big cookie. A little girl once lied and took two oranges, but the priest told her she mustn't lie because God is watching. Then, the girl took two cookies and lied about it. When asked why she had done that, she said because she thought that God was only watching oranges.

A redneck's father passed away in his sleep. So in the morning, he calls 911 to come pick up the body. The 911 operator told him that she would send someone out right away. "Where do you live?" asked the operator. He replied, "At the end of Eucalyptus Drive." The operator asked, "Can you spell that for me? There was a long pause and finally he said, "How 'bout if I drag him over to Oak Street and you pick him up there?"

A man and his wife are at a restaurant, and the husband keeps staring at an old drunken lady swigging her gin at a nearby table. His wife asks, "Do you know her?" "Yes," sighs the husband. "She's my ex-wife. She took to drinking right after we divorced seven years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since." "My God!" says the wife. "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

#####

St James the Least of All

Historically, the Church of England has had its share of eccentric clergy. Clergy such as the elderly, Anglo-Catholic Uncle Eustace, who is incumbent in the small parish of St James-the-Least-of-All, somewhere in Very Rural England. Eustace despairs of his nephew, Darren, who has become an evangelical curate in a busy urban parish... and so he writes letters, to try and properly 'educate' Darren in how to run a parish. The Revd Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

On the perils of leading prayer in church

My dear Darren

I do hope you have now settled down in your first parish - although it is such a pity that you did not choose a more distinguished one. I know you feel your vocation lies in inner city work – whereas mine, fortunately, has always been to the better sort of rural village. I have always felt that the Almighty understands me well in that regard.

We had a little flurry of activity in church on Sunday. At the signal “let us pray”, as the congregation dutifully flopped to their knees, sounding like a flock of geese settling in for the night, Major Hastings lost his glass eye. Yes, again! That man is so careless at times. Anyway, released from captivity, the eye rolled under the pews like a fugitive marble, ricocheting from hassock to handbag over the stone flags.

My sonorous entreaties to the Almighty were completely lost as the entire congregation scuttled under pews, trying to retrieve it. It finally appeared on the collection plate - along with £4.17, 100 pesetas and Miss Simpson's front door key. I was unsure whether the last item represented a fit of absent-mindedness or an improper suggestion. I returned it to her very firmly at the end of the Service.

The eye stared at me mournfully as I blessed it, along with the money. But it left a small social dilemma. What is the etiquette of returning a lost glass eye to its owner?

To have processed down the aisle with it, accompanied by crucifer and verger seemed a little too public. To sneak it to him as we shook hands at the door seemed a little too furtive. I finally decided to send a server to deliver it during the last hymn. I still wonder if it was the right decision. Perhaps you could look through that new Common Worship book and see if they have included an appropriate rite for returning lost glass eyes. We here at St James-the-Least-of-All haven't yet got round to Common Worship. The days are evil enough as it is.

*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

RUMWELL

Refuse: Thursday

Garden: Wednesday

STONEGALLOWS

Refuse: Thursday

Garden: Monday

BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

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

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

SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4 January Epiphany	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Jan Knight	Ephesians 3:1-12 (1174); Matthew 2:1-12 (966)
Wednesday 7 January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 11 January Baptism of Christ	Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Will Osmond	Acts 10:34-43 (1104); Matthew 3:13-17 (967)
Wednesday 14 January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 18 January Epiphany 2	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. .	Sue Martin	I Corinthians 1:1-9 (1144); John 1:29-42 (1063)
Wednesday 21 January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 25 January Epiphany 3	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Sally Adams	I Corinthians 1:10-18 (1144); Matthew 4:12-23 (968)
Wednesday 28 January	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		

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!