

BISHOP'S HULL PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2025



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

EDITOR

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MAGAZINE SUPPORT TEAM

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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

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Cover - Photo by Samantha of West Yorkshire



**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 LUNCHEES

Annual membership £25 Find us on Facebook (& 'Like' us)

There are many more exciting activities...

Table tennis, cards, books, puzzles

A variety of social events take place throughout the year.

Vicar: Reverend Philip Hughes , The Vicarage, Bishop's Hull Hill, Bishop's Hull, TA1 5EB 01823-336102	Tim Venn (Church Warden) John Perry (Church Warden)
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Finding a subject of general interest to fill this page each month is not as easy as one would suppose, There are some areas of our daily lives which are either taboo or too controversial to even contemplate. You will however appreciate that my views on life here in the UK (and possibly those abroad too) have been obtained, and hopefully fine-tuned, on my travel through time. No, not through space as yet.

If you own many of the electronic up-to-date devices available then you have 24/7 access to everything that is going on in the world as it happens. If what I am being told in the press and on TV is the 'truth' then I am in a 'bad place' where I must query and test everything. For us mere mortals this is an impossible task so it is not surprising many of the older generation have decided to just 'switch off' and take life one step at a time i.e. day by day. Unfortunately one cannot always close one's mind to everything - there are bills to pay, food to be bought and one's health to worry about the older you get. Thankfully we live in a democracy and there is always a committee somewhere which has been tasked to ensure life goes on as usual. At a local level we have our Parish Council to look after life here in the village. Maybe you have been a councillor or are serving at the moment but are you up-to-date. Here are a few facts you may or may not know, taken from the web site - <https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

*Bishop's Hull is an English civil parish
within the unitary authority of Somerset.*

Welcome to Bishop's Hull Parish Council's new website. As this is a new website, please use the "Contact Us" section if there is anything you would like added to the website or if you spot any errors!

The Council has one paid employee. They are employed for 15 hours per week, for the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Parish Council meets every month (except February and August) at the Bishops Hull HUB, 7pm start. There are currently 2 vacancies.

Residents are warmly welcomed to attend the meetings and raise any matters of concern in the "Have your say" session at the beginning of the meeting.

For many years I regularly attended these meetings each month and was surprised and disappointed to find that on occasion I was the only member of the public present. May I make a suggestion? If you really want to know the truth of what is really going on in our village then start taking an interest and attend a few meetings.

The Vicar Writes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As May 2025 unfolds, the joyous echoes of Easter still resonate within our church. The vibrant message of new life and hope continues to inspire us, colouring our days with gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. Let's hold onto that Easter spirit, allowing it to fill our actions and interactions throughout this blossoming month.

Mid-May brings the profound observance of Ascension Day on Thursday, May 29th. This significant day marks Jesus' triumphant return to the Father, a pivotal moment signifying his ultimate authority and the promise of the Holy Spirit. As we reflect on this heavenly ascent, let us be reminded of our own calling to be Christ's witnesses in the world, empowered by the Spirit he promised.

Alongside this spiritual high point, May also brings the practical and important gathering of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) May 25th after the 10am service. Think of this as our church family check-in, a chance to review the past year, celebrate our shared journey, and prayerfully consider the future. It's an opportunity for every member to contribute to the life and direction of our church, from hearing updates on our activities to electing those who will serve on our Parochial Church Council. Your voice and participation are invaluable as we shape our path forward together. The Ascension reminds us of Christ's ultimate reign, while the APCM empowers us to participate in his work here on earth. These two aspects of May intertwine beautifully, reminding us that our spiritual life and our communal life are deeply connected. Let us embrace this season with open hearts and a willingness to contribute, celebrating the ongoing joy of Easter, the soaring message of the Ascension, and the vital work of our church community at the APCM. We look forward to sharing this time with you all.



Your Brother in Christ,

Rev Phil Hughes

Vicar in the Parish, Chaplain at College and Disciple of the risen Lord!

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 31st MAY** 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.

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

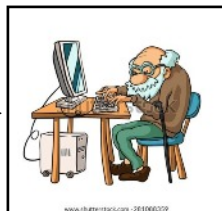




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Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THIS PAGE IS RESERVED FOR YOU!



Samantha's
Lamb Photos.
Many thanks Samantha.
Ed.

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

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News.

During the Parish Council meeting on 6th March, Members agreed and signed the transfer of the land at Bishop's Mead from SC to the PC, this is expected to go through by the end of March. The transfer of the land formerly known as Kinglake will progress once the play equipment is repaired and re-inspected.

Three quotes were discussed for the future maintenance of the area and Parsons Landscapes were selected. The transfer of the village play park to the PC is progressing as well.

A grant of £500 was approved for the Netherclay Woodlands Trust to support their work in managing the Woodland.

Full draft minutes can be found here:

<https://bishopshullparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings?view=all>

Bishop's Hull HUB

Hub Café 10.00 - 12noon:

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

Youth Club

7:15 pm - 9:15 pm. £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).

WALES AND WEST FACILITIES (GAS)

A3065 Silk Mills Road and Mountway Road.

Phase 1 Dates starts on the 16/06/25 for 3 weeks

Phase 2 Dates starts on the 07/07/25 doe 3 weeks

Phase 3 starts on the 28/07/25 for 2 weeks

Phase 4 Starts on the 18/08/25 for 3 weeks

Phase 5 Starts on the 18/08/25 for 3 weeks

Phase 1 to 5 will require a one-way order on the A3065 Silk Mills Road and traffic will only be able to travel Northwards towards the A358 Staplegrove Road

Phase 3 in time for the school holidays as will require a full closure of Mountway Road

Phase 4 will require a full road closure (no road stated).

Phase 5 will also require a partial lane closure on the A38 Wellington New Road

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) myths

1. Why is the SID not working?

The device, although owned and operated by the Parish Council, is bound by Highways laws and legislation. It cannot remain on and in a permanent position therefore the Parish Council volunteers will actively turn off the device or move it to a different location in order to comply with the law. The device is battery operated which is backed up by a solar panel, and when these batteries run out they are physically removed and charged. For this the SID has to be turned off. In some locations the device is on a timed setting (8am-6pm) meaning the display looks 'off' outside of these timings but it is still recording the traffic speed in both directions.

2. How many SID's does the Parish own?

One.

3. Does the SID record my number plate?

No.

4. Does the SID record any data, if so where does it go?

Yes. It records the speed of all vehicles that pass in either direction, including fast bicycles! We share this data with residents. We also send it to the police if we feel the vehicles are persistently speeding. The police then follow up with various actions like attending the site to monitor and take details of vehicles where necessary.

5. Why do you locate the SIDS where they are?

Ultimately Somerset Highways have the final say where the SID is situated within the village. This is based on our recommendations but other factors such as visibility and safety are a consideration.

6. What is the cost to the Parish?

We applied for funding from Avon and Somerset Police Trust and we received the money for the SID equipment only. You are required to have Chapter 8 qualifications to put up and move the SID and the Parish paid for this training. There is no ongoing cost.

7. What difference, if any, has the SID made so far?

The aim of the SID is to raise awareness by making drivers more conscious of their speed, especially in areas with high pedestrian activity or speed concerns. To encourage compliance by acting as a psychological deterrent rather than enforcing penalties, helping to reduce speeds voluntarily and to improve road safety by reducing accidents and enhancing safety, particularly in residential areas, near schools, or accident-prone locations. Unlike speed cameras, SIDs do not issue fines or penalties; they rely on behavioural influence to promote safer driving.

In Bishop's Hull Road and Silk Mills over the last year the data shows a decrease in speeding vehicles.



BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

100 years ago

The monthly meeting of the Women's Unionist Association was held at the club room, when Mrs Lesley Fox presided over a good attendance. Miss Bragg was present and gave an address, dealing particularly with the work that women's associations could carry out in the Unionist interest.

Mrs C Lesley Fox presided over the 10th annual meeting of the Bishop's Hull Nursing Association, held in the Parish room, when there were also present Mrs Balman (vice-president),

Mrs Farrant, Mrs Thicknesse, Miss E Lythall, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Peters (hon secretary) and other members and supporters of the Association. The nursing report, committee's report and balance sheet were reported.

Apart from support from friends and members, donations had been received from the Fete Committee and the Social and Dance Committee.

The nurse's cottage had had welcome gifts of a mattress and carpet from the president. The nursing cupboard had had useful stores added to it by Miss Frith. Nurse Smith carried on her work as successfully and thoroughly as ever and it was a great satisfaction to the Committee to have been able during the year to have made her a presentation on behalf of the members of the Association. In the past year it was reported that there had been 14 school inspections and 191 infant health visits, evidence that the Association's work through Nurse Smith was being actively carried forward. The following officers were re-elected:- President, Mrs C Lesley Fox; vice-president, Mrs Balman; hon treasurer, Mrs CH Bastard; hon secretary Mrs Peters and committee members Mrs Farrant and Mrs Thicknesse. Vacancies on the committee were filled by Mrs Mallallieu and Mrs Wilkins.

50 years ago

At the meeting of the Women's Institute, Mrs Deighton presided and welcomed two guests. Mrs Avril Vellacott, a Taunton sculptress, gave a talk and brought examples of her work. She was thanked by Mrs Curry. A raffle was won by Mrs Barry and a marmalade competition by Mrs Radford.

Members of the Village Hall and Playing Field Association met to make arrangements for the forthcoming jumble sale and and dance. Concern

was expressed at the extent of the excavations on the playing field for the new drainage system. Although it had been promised that the disturbed area would be resurfaced and reseeded, it was feared that the ground might not be fully recovered in time for the fete in June and might still affect bookings for the boys' football club next season.

The Parish Council decided to ask Taunton Deane District Council to take over the Parish Council's legal interest in the crematorium and cemeteries and to relieve them of any further payment of loan charges. The Council asked the Clerk, Mr T Hodge, to make further representations to the appropriate authorities for the introduction of measures to restrict traffic speeds along the length of the main A38 road between Stonegallows and the existing speed restriction signs leading into Taunton. It was felt that the recent fatal road accident at the Bishops Hull crossroads highlighted the Council's previously held view that this stretch of road constitutes a serious safety hazard, particularly to pedestrians. It was agreed that the parish would not enter the 1975 best-kept village competition but the council had entered a team for the county road safety quiz.

Mrs Florence Sophia Perkins of Mountway Road died at Musgrove Park Hospital aged 84. The funeral service at Taunton Deane crematorium chapel was conducted by the minister of Temple Methodist church, the Rev Leslie Earnshaw, and followed by burial in the family grave at St Mary's cemetery. The Co-operative Funeral Service, of Priorswood Road Taunton, made the arrangements.

At the Good Companions, Miss Newcombe welcomed members and birthday greetings were sung for Mrs J Canning. Members stood in silent tribute to Miss Pearse, a member who had died. Mrs Jarrett showed a film connecting science and religion. At a previous meeting, Miss E Bruford gave a talk about her work with the Red Cross.

Planning permission was granted for a car park and access at the Crown Inn, Rumwell. Space for 32 cars was to be provided.

After eight weeks of chaos caused by builders' operations, the 'new' Stonegallows steakhouse opened its doors. The £12,000 alterations completely altered the character of the bar, which was redesigned and refurbished with a fresh layout, new furnishings and decorations, including an open fireplace and wall hangings, among them swords, gin traps, thatcher's hooks, antique saws, etc. To launch the new bar, a lunchtime champagne party was arranged by the manager, Mr Ken Linton, at which 120 guests attended, including Mr PH Dearling, director and general manager of Wessex Taverns, Mr Jack Humphrey, chairman of Taunton Deane licensing justices and Mr Fred Winder, clerk to the justices. ##

**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 .

BISHOP HULL BELLES

Bishop's Hull and District WI have changed name....to Bishop Hull (sic) Belles.

April signalled the renewal of membership subscriptions and we were delighted to welcome three new members. Our April meeting featured Tricia Sail as guest speaker who provided an excellent insight into the work of the Royal National Institute of Blind People...interestingly Tricia and her friend Cathie won Series 3 of the BBC Race across the world in 2023. The April Lunch was at the Winchester Arms Trull with the monthly Coffee/ Brunch event was at Willowbrook Garden Centre. Both the Scrabble and Walking groups met up during the month.

Our May meeting on 23rd will be our AGM followed by a social evening.

Neighbourhood Beat Team



PCSO Lyndsay Smith 07802 874297

lyndsay.smith@avonandsomerset.police.uk



PCSO Marshall Bernhard 07849 305815

marshall.bernhard@avonandsomerset.polic



Police Community Support
Officer
PCSO 7182
Simon PARRY

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

A woman has died after a collision on the M5 near Bridgwater yesterday (23 March).

The incident, involving a pedestrian and a lorry, was reported at 2.48am on the northbound carriageway between junctions 24 and 23.

Officers, along with the ambulance and fire services attended, but despite the efforts of emergency services, sadly the woman, aged in her 70s, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Her next of kin has been informed and will be kept updated by officers. Our thoughts are with them.

If you witnessed the collision or were in the area at the time and have any dashcam footage, please call us on 101 and give the call handler the reference number 5225084212 or contact us online at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/accident-on-the-road>.

In an effort to make it easier for the public to report rural and wildlife crime, we are excited to announce the launch of our new online reporting form. This initiative is designed to streamline the process of reporting crime, making it more accessible, efficient, and user-friendly for everyone. The new forms provide clear guidance on which type of crime to report and the appropriate form to use.

[rural-and-wildlife-crime.pdf](#)

We've received reports from areas including Weston-super-Mare, Bath and Bristol, where items including laptops, game consoles and mobile phones have been advertised for sale on Facebook Marketplace and upon collection of the item, the buyer pays, often hundreds of pounds, with counterfeit currency which is sadly worthless.

Attachments:

[counterfeit-cash-fraud.pdf](#)

Bishop's Hull Cricket Club



The club was formed in 1912, matches played were friendly in nature, being played on land owned by the Farrant family.

By 1976, difficulties were being experienced, particularly relating to available pitches, and so the club folded. The playing field as we know it today was a small sloping field suitable only for football.

When the school moved sites in the late seventies, several like-minded people, led by Sybil Gwyther, secured the playing field for community use. The joint arrangement document with Somerset County Council was created, setting up shared usage of the facilities, including the field.

The chairman of the trust in the early eighties was John White. Together with other interested parties, the cricket club was re-founded in 1984 and was able to use the newly levelled field, which had the provision of a cricket square. Funds were raised locally and the team initially played friendly matches. In 1986 we joined the West Somerset League in addition to our friendly matches. Numbers of players grew, helped particularly by setting up a youth section in 1988, something which has helped to sustain the club over the years.

Apart from moving to the Somerset League from 1998 to 2003 we have remained with West Somerset.

We now have two senior teams playing in the league and three youth teams (under 15, 13, 11) playing in the Taunton Youth League. Several of the older boys have “graduated” to the senior league sides.

We now have 40 senior members and a similar number of youth players.

Finances, as with most clubs, are a major issue. We are very fortunate to be sponsored by “The Old Inn”, where we also have meetings and adjourn after games!!

We also have a number of local businesses who sponsor match balls.

Without sponsorship we would not survive financially without raising substantially our club fees.

We have managers/coaches at each level together with very supportive parents.

##

Deaf Awareness Week **5th to 11th May**

Deafness is more common than you might think. According to the Royal National Institute for Deaf people (RNID), one in three adults in the UK are in some way deaf. That means that more than 18 million adults in the UK have some degree of hearing loss or tinnitus. And it gets worse. Over half the population aged 55 have hearing loss. 80% of people over the age of 70 have hearing loss. An estimated 1.2 million adults in the UK cannot even hear most conversational speech without hearing aids.

How does this work out in local churches? Statistically, it means that in every congregation of 100 members, there will be 14 people with hearing difficulties.

As this month brings Deaf Awareness Week, why not ask the people with hearing loss in our church how they can be helped to hear better in church. This might include:

- Installing a loop system, or making sure the one already installed is still working well.
- That there is clear visual access to the pulpit and lectern, so that people can lip-read. (Move the flowers and candles?)
- Make sure that the speakers do not walk away from the microphones while speaking.
- Use some printed and visual media as well as just audio in church communications.

The following website may be useful in learning more:

RNID www.rnid.org.uk
Deaf church www.deafchurch.co.uk

Why you should draw your curtains at night (especially if you live in the country)

Most of us draw our curtains at night, in order to ensure privacy. But there is another very valid reason: to help protect local wildlife.

It seems that insects who live in the countryside are very susceptible to bright lights, which can badly disrupt their overall health and general behaviour.

As one scientist explained: "We don't know exactly how fatal it is, but one estimate is that 33 per cent of all the insects attracted to light die before morning. And even if they don't die, they're spending all their time at the light instead of doing the things they're supposed to be doing." Light pollution is now seen as adding to what some scientists have called "insect Armageddon", with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years. As one scientist said: "Small individual actions such as drawing curtains can make a big impact to our smallest creatures."

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Sleeplessness is catching

You probably already know this: when your partner can't sleep, it is very likely that you won't be able to, either.

A recent study from the University of East Anglia has found that sleep problems are contagious. The study looked at the impact of workplace bullying on sleep, and it found that not only does stress and abuse disrupt the victim's sleep, but it also disrupts that of their partner. As one researcher put it: "bad energy passes across the bed sheets."

Yet sleep is crucial to good health. A recent study by Harvard University found that regular restful sleep may extend life by nearly five years for men, and by more than two years for women. The study also found that eight per cent of deaths from any cause may be attributed to poor sleep patterns.

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An unexpected way to cut violent crime

How to get children to behave better? Feed them better. It seems that providing children with healthy diets and regular nutritional supplements can help reduce anti-social behaviour.

The charity Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) puts it this way: improving the nutritional diets of a child is 'low cost', but 'likely to have a high impact on violent crime.'

A violence-reducing diet would include more fish, green vegetables and nuts, and fewer processed foods. Recent government-backed research has even found this may reduce violence in children by as much as 50 per cent. Just two examples: Iron, found in shellfish, red meat, liver, beans, broccoli and green leafy vegetables, improves cognition, memory and mood. Zinc, found in shellfish, legumes, meat and nuts, helps grow the brain. Regular nutritional supplements are also very helpful.

Perhaps the old saying is true in a new way: when it comes to behaviour, 'you are what you eat'.

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Why you need a holiday

They are more than an indulgence – a holiday can be vital for your health and mental well-being. Here are five reasons why:

Better sleep: after two or three days on holiday, most people average an hour more of good quality sleep. And deep sleep improves problem solving and cell repair.

More vitamin D: Our bodies make this in response to sunlight. It is important for bones and immunity, but one in five of us are thought to be deficient.

Help your heart: Researchers at Syracuse University in New York found that those people with the lowest risk of heart disease had taken their full annual leave in the past year. Conversely, infrequent holidays led to a greater risk of coronary heart disease.

Reduce stress and get your energy back: As one doctor explains, living under stress "is like squirting steroids into your body every day". Stress triggers the production of cortisol, which lowers your sex hormones and affects your thyroid. Your hair will thin and your energy decrease. For the best rest, take an occasional complete break from your work mobile and emails.

Time together – spend quality time with your nearest and dearest. Build some more happy memories. At the end of our lives, few of us look back and wish we had spent more time in the office.

One tip about holidays: several short trips rather than one big one may be even better for your health.

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Christian Aid Week
11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you. More info at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

US Evangelicals not happy with Trump



US President Donald Trump has angered some US evangelicals because of his recent cutbacks on foreign aid.

Now the humanitarian branch of the US National Association of Evangelicals is urging the government to reinstate funding grants lost in the recent executive order cuts on USAID.

Although other US Christians are also critical of Trump, the evangelical voters are a core demographic of Trump's supporter base – which makes criticism from them unusual.

World Relief, the humanitarian branch of the National Association of Evangelicals, has now urged the US government to "follow through on other past grant commitments and to resume continued funding for lifesaving humanitarian programmes."

Remembering VE Day – 80 years on

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler. In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz,



quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory. Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later. ##

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show – world's greatest flower show

20th – 24th May brings us the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The most prestigious gardening show in the world, it attracts about 168,000 visitors a year. Its cutting-edge garden designs have been called the 'haute couture' or 'World Cup' of gardening.

Here are 12 interesting facts about the Show:



The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

The Show began in 1913, with about 250 exhibitors in a large single tent. Today the Show covers more than 23 acres with more than 550 exhibitors and gardens, not to mention the Great Pavilion.

The Great Pavilion is HUGE – it covers 2.90 acres, with enough room to park 500 London buses.

The Show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London every year since 1913, excepts for gaps during the two World Wars and Covid.

It takes just under three weeks to build a Show Garden, and five days to take it down.

In 1927 there was a campaign to get the RHS to ban foreign exhibits, to reduce competition. The RHS refused, saying 'horticulture knows nothing of nationality'.

The late Queen Elizabeth II attended RHS Chelsea more than 50 times.

It takes 14 judges and two moderators 25 hours to judge and assess all gardens at the show. It takes 50 judges and four moderators three hours to judge all the exhibits in the Great Pavilion.

Garden gnomes have always been banned, except in 2013, the show's centenary year. That year, well-known supporters, including Elton John, Dame Helen Mirren, Joanna Lumley, and Mary Berry – painted gnomes to sell for charity.

2020 brought the first ever virtual RHS Chelsea, during the Covid pandemic.

It is not Britain's largest flower show, that is now the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.

One very wet year the show was nicknamed the 'The Chelsea Shower Flow.'

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING MAY

HADDOCK WITH SAVOURY BALLS



2 lbs. fresh haddock.

3 slices of fat bacon.

Stuffing:

2 ozs. Breadcrumbs. ,

2 ozs. chopped bacon.

2 teaspoonfuls chopped parsley.

½ teaspoonful mixed herbs.

1 boiled, chopped onion.

Pepper and salt, and egg to bind.

WASH and dry fish well. Put two slices of the fat bacon into a baking dish, place the fish on top and cover with the third slice of bacon.

Mix all the stuffing ingredients together, form the mixture into balls and place these round the fish in the baking-dish. Cover with greased paper and bake in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes.

From Mrs. Rogers, Wrexham.

HUNTINGDON FIDGET PIE

1 lb. cooking apples.

½ lb. Onions.

¾ lb. streaky home-cured bacon.

Seasoning

Pastry crust.

PUT 1 layer of apples at the bottom of a pie-dish, on top of this place a layer of sliced



onions, followed by a layer of bacon cut into dice. Repeat until dish is full adding to each layer a sprinkling of pepper and salt. Add a very little water, cover with a good pastry crust, and bake in a moderate oven for 2 hours.

From Mrs. D. Berry,
Huntingdonshire.

POTATO, HAM AND CHEESE PASTY



¼ lb. fat ham.

2 ozs. cheese.

¼ lb. mashed potatoes.

4 sage leaves.

1 large onion.

Pepper and salt.

MAKE an ordinary pastry crust of ½ lb self-raising flour and ¼ lb. lard, water and salt, and roll out flat on the board. Cut the ham into small squares, grate the cheese and cut the onion into strips. Cut the sage leaves finely, have the potatoes mashed ready and mix with the other ingredients.

Add the pepper and salt to taste. Put on the pastry, wet the edges all round and press together. Put on a greased baking-tin and bake for 1 hour in a moderate oven.

This is very nice hot or cold.

From Mrs. E. Macey,
Bekesbourne Kent.

APPLE AND SYRUP TART WITH
OATMEAL PASTRY



Pastry:

4 ozs. Flour. 4 ozs. fine
oatmeal.
2 ozs. Fat. Pinch of salt.
Water to mix.

Filling:

½ lb. Apples. 2 ozs. sugar.
3 cloves. 2 tablespoonfuls
brown bread-crumbs.
2 tablespoonfuls golden syrup.
1 oz. sultanas.

TO make the pastry, mix flour, oatmeal and salt together; rub in fat. Form to a stiff paste with a little water. Roll out. Line a rather deep, round tin with pastry.

Peel, core and slice the apples. Stew till tender in very little water, with cloves. Strain off any liquid. Stir in sugar.

Put mixture in pastry case, and sprinkle breadcrumbs over.

Cover with warm golden syrup and add sultanas. Bake in a moderate oven 30 minutes.

The tart, when it is cold, will be solid and carries well in a tin.

From Miss E. Hughes,
Buckinghamshire.

ROSEMARY SUGAR.

CLEAN and dry well several sprigs of rosemary. Place them in a canister or screw-topped jar and cover with 1 lb.



of sugar. Shake well and leave for 24 hours. Shake well again and stand for several days. Remove rosemary sprigs and the sugar is ready for use with milk puddings, egg custards, and so on. The faint flavour of rosemary is good with any milk

From Miss E. Rutherford,
Northumberland.

JANE'S CHOCOLATE SPONGE

7 ozs. self-raising flour,
1 large tablespoonful of coffee
essence. 1 small teaspoonful salt.
3 ozs. Chocolate.
A few drops of vanilla essence.
5 ozs. Butter. 3 ozs. Sugar. 2 eggs.

SLIGHTLY

warm butter,
add sugar, beat
until creamy.
Beat yolks of
eggs well, and
add to butter



and sugar. Mix chocolate powder, salt and flour together, stir into the mixture.

Add coffee essence in a tablespoonful of warm milk. Beat the whites of eggs to a stiff froth, add vanilla essence and fold into the mixture gently. Add 1 teaspoonful of boiling water just before putting the mixture into well-papered tin. Bake in fairly sharp oven for 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Care must be taken not to have the milk too warm.

From Mrs. D. L. Brown, Essex.

Gardening in May

Summer's on its way

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on when the last frost is in your area, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to let the lawn grow long and get a buzz from seeing all the insects that arrive to feed on the flowers

Start planting out summer bedding plants towards the end of this month in warmer parts of the country. For more information about growing bedding plants, head over to our hub page.

Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year. Once they've gone over, resist the temptation to cut back the foliage. Instead, let it die and break down on its own and add liquid fertiliser all around the clumps. This will give you an even better display next spring.

Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days. You can also damp down your greenhouse on hot days to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.

Optimise your watering regime — watering early and late to get the most out of your water — and start collecting and recycling water whenever possible.

In the vegetable garden in May

- Continue earthing up potatoes.
- Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18 cm tall.
- Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well.
- Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month.
- Protect carrots from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or enviromesh.
- Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.
- Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Apply an onion fertiliser to boost growth.
- Make supports for your runner beans, using 8 ft (2.4 m) bamboo canes.
- Support pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting.
- Keep on top of weeding — weeds will compete with your vegetables for precious water, light and nutrients.



In the fruit garden in May

- Protect strawberry plants with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit).
- Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems.

- Hang pheromone traps in stone fruit trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity.
- Hang pheromone traps in apple trees to reduce codling moth.
- Keep young fruit trees well watered while they are putting on rapid growth.
- Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year.
- Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars — they will quickly skeletonize leaves if not removed.
- Erect garden netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.

Looking after your lawn in May

- Apply lawn weedkiller to your lawn this month.
- Feed your lawn with a high-nitrogen fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.
- Water the grass during hot weather — that's particularly important for newly seeded or turfed lawns. Never allow new lawns to dry out.
- Lower mower blades to their regular summer-cut height.
- Continue sowing lawn seed and repairing bare patches in the early part of the month.
- Postpone mowing newly sown grass until it reaches 3 inches in height and make sure the mower blades are on a high setting.
- Install lawn edging to keep edges tidy and smarten up beds and borders.

Other jobs about the garden in May

- Feed pond fish little and often.
- Remove duckweed and blanket weed from ponds, and thin out both pondside perennials (if necessary) and submerged oxygenating pond plants. Leave any removed weed beside your pond overnight to allow insects, snails and other pondlife to escape back into the water.
- Clip evergreen hedges or low growing hedging now.
- Control the heat in your greenhouse with blinds or shade paint.
- Hang fly traps throughout the greenhouse to monitor levels of whitefly, thrips and other pests.



From your armchair in May

- Keep a diary of which seeds you're sowing and planting to help you stay on top of things throughout the year. Refer back to our handy seed sowing times guide for more information.
- Take time out from all your hard work to relax and enjoy the garden now that the warmer weather has arrived.

Danger on rural roads



Did you know that driving on rural roads is more dangerous than driving on urban ones?

According to the NFU Mutual's Rural Road Safety report for 2023, the number of lives lost on rural roads was a staggering 70% higher than on urban highways. Also, collisions on rural roads were around four times more likely to result in a fatality than on an urban one.

The reasons as to why this should be include: changing speed limits, blind corners, field entrances, narrow carriageways, single lanes with no hard shoulders, limited or no road lighting, mud and debris on the road, livestock and wild animals on the road, and agricultural vehicles.

And so it is that the NFU has campaigned to improve rural road safety, and it has now published its 'Code for Countryside Roads' to guide people as to how to drive safely. More info at: <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk>

The astonishing scale of Britain's illegal drug use



The National Crime Agency (NCA) has warned of a dramatic rise in the use of recreational drugs, especially among young people.

Ketamine usage in England more than doubled last year. Almost 25 tonnes of ketamine were consumed, as opposed to 10.6 tonnes in 2023.

Almost 100 tonnes of cocaine were consumed in England last year, up from 88 tonnes in 2023.

This had an estimated street value of £7.7 billion, almost double the NCA's previous estimate. It is the equivalent of £100 spent on cocaine by every person in the country.

The rise of trendy 'designer drug cocktails' is leading to dangerous overdoses among young people in nightclubs.



1st May - May Day and unbridled merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: 'for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?'

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower
We are here today and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

The Siege of Mafeking – defying the larger army



It was 125 years ago, on 17th May 1900 during the Second Boer War, that the 217-day Siege of Mafeking was relieved by 2000 British forces and South African volunteers.

Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, who led the forces defending Mafeking during the siege, later became a national hero, and founded the Scouting movement.

Mafeking, now known as Mahikeng, is 870 miles northeast of Cape Town and 160 miles west of Johannesburg. In 1899 it consisted of a rail station and a collection of low houses and stores made of mud and roofed with corrugated iron on rocky ground. The name means 'Place of Stones'.

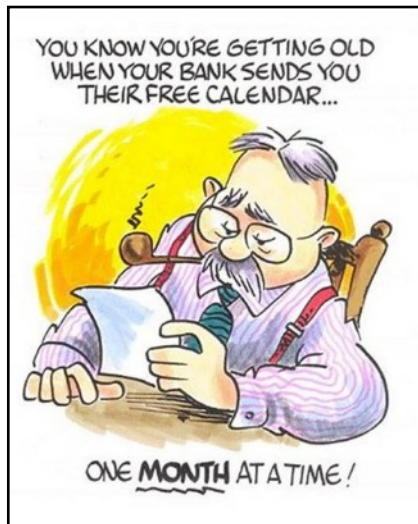
Casualties on both sides amounted to 463, but although the eventual relief of the siege was a morale boost for the British, it was felt by many that the whole episode had been unnecessary: the British could have broken out if they had made the effort, and the Boers could have taken the town if they had really wanted to.

The British commanders had been given a deadline to surrender by Boer general Piet Cronje on 16th October 1899. They ignored it, although the garrison was greatly outnumbered, but the Boers (with General Snyman replacing Cronje) never pressed home their advantage, and the British held on, defying predictions by politicians on both sides.

There were no more than 1000 defenders in Mafeking, dependent on starvation rations, and their attackers numbered up to 8000. The outcome of the siege made the British commander, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell, into a hero at home, where several streets were renamed Mafeking.

A decade later Baden-Powell founded the worldwide Scouting movement, after writing the book *Scouting for Boys*, which emphasised honour, duty, comradeship, loyalty and faithfulness, with the motto "Be prepared".





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

In spite of much economic trouble, the standard of life was slowly going up in the early and middle Tudor period. When the more marked advance under Elizabeth had diffused a general sense of prosperity, William Harrison, the parson, recorded in 1577 the improvement in household conditions that had taken place since his father's day, 'not among the nobility and gentry only but likewise of the lowest sort in most places of our south country'.

Our fathers [he writes] yea and we ourselves have lien full oft upon straw pallets, covered only with a sheet, under coverlets made of dogswain or hop harlots (I use their own terms) and a good round log under their heads instead of a bolster. If it were so that our fathers or the good man of the house had a mattress or flockbed and thereto a sack of chaff to rest his head upon, he thought himself to be as well lodged as the lord of the town [village], that peradventure lay seldom in a bed of down or whole feathers. Pillows were thought meet only for women in childbed. As for servants, if they had any sheet above them, it was well, for seldom had they any under their bodies, to keep them from the pricking straws that ran oft through the canvas of the pallet and razed their hardened hides.

Straw on the floor and straw in the bedding bred fleas, and some fleas carried plague.

Harrison also notes that chimneys have become general even in cottages, whereas 'in the village where I remain', old men recalled that in 'their young days' under the two Kings Harry, 'there were not above two or three chimneys if so many, in uplandish towns [villages], the religious houses and manor places of their lords always excepted, but each one made his fire against a reredoss in the hall where he dined and dressed his meat'. The increasing use of coal instead of wood for the domestic hearth made it more disagreeable not to have chimneys, and the increasing use of bricks made it easier to build them, even if the walls of the house were of some other material.

Common houses and cottages were still of timber, or of 'half-timber' with clay and rubble between the wooden up- rights and cross-beams. Better houses, especially in stone districts, were of stone. But brick was gradually coming in, first of all in regions where stone was not to be had on the spot, and where timber was running short owing to the process of deforestation — chiefly, that is to say, in the eastern counties. W Harrison also records a change during his own lifetime of treen [wooden] platters into pewter, and of wooden spoons into silver or tin'. The age of forks was not yet come; where knife and spoon would not avail, even Queen Elizabeth picked up the chicken bone deftly in her long fingers. Until her reign 'a man should hardly find' four pieces of pewter in a farmer's house. Of china there was as yet no question at all.

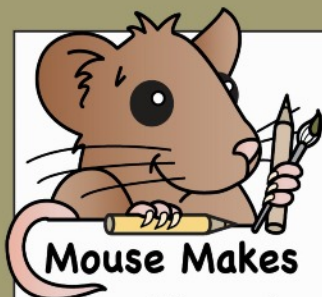
So primitive, in the early Tudor period, had been household conditions. Such or worse, they had been in all previous ages. But things were now on the way to the marked improvement noted by the Elizabethan parson. We must, never forget, in picturing, the past and specially the remoter past, the want of

comforts and luxuries which we take for granted. Yet they have only been made general by slow process of change, some of which, like the new farming, we call in question as having been in some respects unjust to the poor.

In the reign of Henry VIII, the long predominance of Gothic architecture may be said to have come to an end, after bursting out into the final magnificent flourishes of Wolsey's hall at Christ Church, Oxford, and the fan-vaulted roof of the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, completed by his royal master. Then the new age came in. Italian workmen ornamented the new quadrangle of Hampton Court with terracotta busts of Roman emperors, entirely Renaissance in feeling and in design. The Tudor period was not one of church building. Rather the lead and stones of abbey churches were requisitioned for the 'gentleman's seats' that took their place, or for the yeomen's farms of the new age. In the manor-houses, now everywhere being built or enlarged, spacious rooms, well-lighted galleries, wide lattice windows and oriels, instead of narrow loopholes, proclaimed the Tudor peace and comfort. The commonest form of large manor-house was now an enclosed court, entered through a turreted gateway of gigantic proportions, frequently of brick. A generation later, under Elizabeth, when the need for fortifying a house had even more completely disappeared from men's minds, it became usual to build an open courtyard with three sides only, or to adopt the E-shaped form. Every manor-house of any pretensions had a deer-park dotted with clumps of fine trees at various stages of growth, the whole enclosed by a high wooden pale. Sometimes two parks, one for fallow deer and one for red, diminished the arable land of the demesne, and sometimes, it is to be feared, the common lands of the village. On hunting mornings, the chime of hounds 'matched in mouth like bells' chased the deer round and round the enclosure, while the gentlemen and ladies of the manor and their guests followed easily on horseback — and Lady Jane Grey stayed indoors and read Plato! But there were also plenty of deer at large beyond the park pales, to be hunted more nobly 'at force' across the countryside. Great herds of red deer roamed over the Pennines, the Cheviots, and the northern moors. In the south, fallow deer ran wild in the forests, woods, and fens, often issuing forth to attack the crops. One use of the enclosure' was to provide fences against these visits made while the village slept.

Hunting did not usually mean fox-hunting: farmers for the most part were free to kill the red thief as best they could. Gentlemen hunted the deer; and everyone, on foot and horse-back, hunted the hare - 'poor Wat, far off upon a hill!' Horse-men and greyhounds pursued the swift-footed young bustards over the downs. The poaching of deer was a great feature of life; the scholars of Oxford openly hunted Radley Park, till the owner was fain to throw down the pales in despair. As to fowling, though the hawk, the bow, and the crossbow were still the most usual methods, the 'birding-piece' was sometimes employed. But snaring, liming, and trapping all sorts of birds and beasts were still conducted not only for use but for sport.

####



Mouse Makes



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

_____ and _____

Acts 5:1-11

How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

_____ years

Acts 9:32-35



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

_____ might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the _____

Acts 9:36-42

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

May25© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



Bishop's letter – It's sowing time!

It's sowing time! My greenhouse is currently full of seedlings pushing their way towards the light. Soon all this new life will be big enough to be planted out into the garden. Peas and courgettes, dahlias and zinnias; all ready to grow, blossom and be fruitful. It's not only seedlings that grow. Churches do too! Just like all that's happening in my greenhouse, this doesn't happen by accident. Evidence shows that churches are most likely to grow when they plan and prepare for this to happen. Church growth is intentional. This article of Manna contains stories about how churches in our Diocese have planned for growth and of the fruit they're seeing as a result. There's no 'one size fits all' for how this has happened. Just as in our gardens, what grows in one place won't necessarily thrive in another.

Important as planning and preparing may be, these things aren't the vital ingredient for growth. Growth comes when God is alive and at work within us and our churches. In his first letter to church he's helped establish in Corinth, St Paul also uses a gardening metaphor to describe the growth he's seeing. Paul says 'I planted, Apollos [Paul's co-worker] watered, but God gave the growth.' (1 Cor 3:6).

Without God's input, any plans we have to grow our churches will be little more than strategy, our efforts like those of ants running frantically to and fro. This is why our prayer for growth is essential. Prayer invites God to give us wisdom about what to do. It opens our treasure stores to resource the plans we want to put in place. It asks God to go before us to touch the hearts and minds of those we'd like to reach. It invites God to bless and prosper the work we do. So be inspired! The accounts contained in this edition of Manna show what can happen when we ask God to grow our churches, offering God our prayer, our faith, our effort and our trust. Let the sowing time begin! Bishop Michael.

Sharing your faith at work

After his local church had done a week of outreach training, the local barber felt guilty. When had he last shared his faith with anyone? So, the next morning he prayed: "Lord, today I promise to witness to the first man that walks through my door." Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a haircut and a shave, please." The barber said nervously, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment."

The barber rushed into the back of his shop and sent up a desperate prayer: "Dear God, give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen." Then slowly the barber came back to his customer with his razor knife in one hand. He laid a shaking hand on the man's shoulder, stared at him in the mirror, and said: "I am glad you came to see me this morning...are you ready to die?"

Special needs

After booking my 80-year-old grandmother on a flight from Glasgow to Gatwick, I called the airline to go over her special needs. The representative listened patiently as I requested a wheelchair and an attendant for my grandmother because of her arthritis and impaired vision to the point of near blindness. My apprehension lightened a bit as the woman assured me over and over that everything would be taken care of. I thanked her profusely. "Oh, you're welcome," she replied. I was about to hang up when she cheerfully added, "And will your grandmother need a rental car?"

Garden produce

A toddler was found in the garden, chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked, "Well . . . what does it taste like?" "The worms over there," was the reply.

**

Aspirin

Had a slight headache this morning but felt much better after following the instructions on the aspirin bottle: 'Take two and keep away from children.'

Christian dog

A strong Baptist family decided to buy a Christian dog. The local animal home brought out a dog to the family and the family decided to test the dog.

The father said: "Go to my car and get the Bible." Obediently, the dog trotted to the car, grabbed the Bible off the front seat and laid it at the feet of the man. "Ah," said the father, "he may know what the Bible is, but does he read it?" He instructed the dog to turn to Psalm 23. The dog opened the Bible with his nose and pawed through the pages to Psalm 23. "Ah," said the father, "he may read the Bible, but is he baptised?" At once the dog trotted over to the nearby stream, where it jumped in, went under, and jumped out again.

"Ah," said the father, "It may be baptised, but does it pray?" The dog immediately sat down, closed its eyes and waved its front paws in the air. "Wait a minute!" exclaimed the mother, outraged, "this dog is no Baptist – he is Pentecostal!"

**24th May - remember John & Charles Wesley,
evangelists & hymn-writers**

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children. Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a 'Holy Club' while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname 'Methodist'. The name stuck.



Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: “I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?” Then the Wesleys made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this ‘true’ conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God ‘chased away the darkness of my unbelief.’

Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John’s turn. As he wrote in his journal: “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.” John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing so, they turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners. His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small ‘societies’ attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

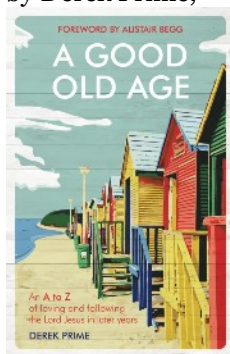
Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.’ In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

BOOK REVIEWS

A Good Old Age - An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years

by Derek Prime,



Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life. With biblical wisdom and practical advice, he helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.

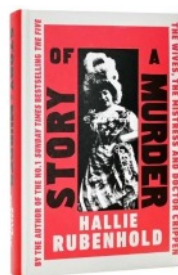
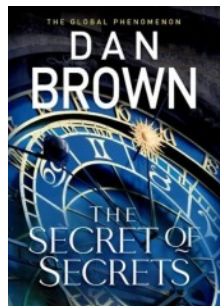
The Secret of Secrets: (Robert Langdon Book 6)

Accompanying celebrated Academic, Katherine Solomon, to a lecture she has been invited to give in Prague, Robert Langdon's world spirals out of control when she disappears without trace from their hotel room. Far from home and well out of his comfort zone, Langdon must pit his wits against forces unknown to recover the woman he loves.

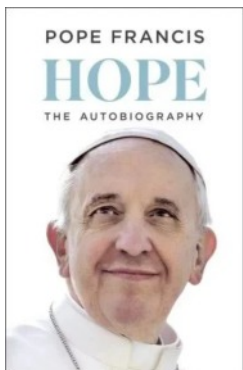
But Prague is an old and dangerous city, steeped in folklore and mystery. For over two thousand years, the tides of history have washed back and forth over it, leaving behind echoes of everything that has gone before. Little can Langdon know that he is being stalked by a spectre from that dark past. He must use all of his arcane knowledge to decipher the world around him before he too is consumed by the rings of treachery and deception that have swallowed Katherine.

Story of a Murder: The Wives, the Mistress and Dr Crippen: Hallie Rubenhold

In 1910, the name Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen entered legend. The remains of his wife, the music hall performer, Belle Elmore were discovered in his London cellar, while he and his secretary Ethel Le Neve were found masquerading as father and son on a ship bound for Canada. Meanwhile, in New York, the Irish family of Charlotte Bell, Crippen's first wife were investigating the mysterious circumstances of her death, nearly 20 years earlier.



Hope: The Autobiography
Pope Francis (author), Richard
Dixon (translator)



The groundbreaking, intimate, and inspiring memoir from Pope Francis.

Pope Francis originally intended this exceptional book to appear only after his death, but the needs of our times and the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope have moved him to make this precious legacy available now.

Hope is the first autobiography in history ever to be published by a Pope. Written over six years, this complete autobiography starts in the early years of the twentieth century, with Pope Francis's Italian roots and his ancestors' courageous migration to Latin America, continuing through his childhood, the enthusiasms and preoccupations of his youth, his vocation, adult life, and the whole of his papacy up to the present day.

Spring

Michael Morpurgo (author)

'And there, as I struggle to open the gate, I happen to glance down and

see it. Frog spawn! Clumps of it, floating like grey slimy sponges on the surface of the puddle. I crouch down to be close to it, to the beginning of new life. That's what I'm feeling all around me as I wend my way up the hill, through Bluebell Wood and homewards, taking my time to stand and stare and wonder.'

Michael Morpurgo has lived on Nethercott farm, deep in Devon river country, for more than forty years.

In Spring, he observes the changing season all around him, as new

shoots emerge and seeds are sown, lambs are born and blossom flowers overhead.



As the weeks pass, we accompany Michael as he watches the lambing on the farm, walks through the bluebell woods, and feeds the birds in his garden in his wellies and dressing gown. He describes dramatic encounters with sparrowhawks, hares and otters, while sharing other magical discoveries, new poems and reminiscences about childhood and springs gone by.

This is an uplifting burst of springtime joy from one of the nation's best loved authors.

JOKES

A minister was walking through his town the other day when he spotted a rather unusual funeral procession. Behind the hearse walked the local vicar holding his very large dog on a lead. Behind the vicar came a multitude of other clergymen of all denominations. This intrigued the minister who approached the vicar and asked what was going on.

"It's like this," the vicar explained, "Two weeks ago I met with our Treasurer and asked for a few extra pounds, just for heating, lighting and a drop of Communion wine but as usual their discussion got a little heated and my dog, suspecting the Treasurer was about to attack me, leaped over the table and got him by the throat. Before I could do anything the poor man was dead. As you will imagine, I was mortified."

The minister, a little shocked by this sad tale stopped, said a few prayers and watched as the procession continued along the road.

After a few moments he rushed along the pavement, caught up with the vicar and said, "Would it be possible to borrow your dog for a few days?" Looking over his shoulder at the procession, the vicar replied, "Of course it would, but you will have to join the queue!!!"

It was a beautiful day, (it always is where this took place), and Jesus and Moses decided to have a round of golf.

There they were on the first tee when a little and very old man came up to them and asked if he could join them. Well Moses wasn't too keen at first but Jesus persuaded him otherwise

and he gave his ball a massive smack. Off it sailed into the distance but as it came down it struck a bush and bounced off into a deep pool sinking down to the bottom. Undaunted Moses went up to the pool and held up his staff whereupon the waters parted immediately. Up he went to the ball, gave it another smack and it bounced up over the bank and into the hole for two.

Now it was Jesus turn. He gave his ball a tremendous thwack and off it sailed until it hit a tree. Down it dropped straight onto the pool, I say onto because it didn't sink but bounced up and down a few times then lay motionless on the surface. Jesus strode across the water, hit the ball again and of it went into the hole also for two.

The little old man ambled over to the tee, carefully placed his ball and hit it as hard as he could. Off it went straight at the bush and bounced off, then onto to the tree bouncing off into the water. But still it didn't stop, for it bounced across the pool, up the bank and into the hole for one.

'There, that's what I mean,' said Moses. 'That's why I don't like playing with your Dad!'

One Sunday morning, the Vicar noticed little Johnnie was staring up at the large memorial plaque that hung just inside the large wooden doors of the church. It was covered with names, and regimental flags were mounted on either side of it. As he'd had been staring at the plaque for some time, the vicar walked up, put his hand on his shoulder, and said quietly, "Good morning Johnnie."

"Good morning father," Johnnie said, not taking his eyes off the plaque.

"What is this?" he asked.

"Well, Johnnie, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Solemnly, they stood together and stared at the large plaque. Little Johnnie's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which one, father? The morning or evening service?"

Funny Dog Jokes

1. I can't take my dog down to the local pond anymore, because the ducks keep attacking him. It's my fault for choosing a pure bread dog.
2. What's the best way to stop your dog from barking in the front yard? Put him in the backyard.
3. Why did the poor dog chase his own tail? He was trying to make both ends meet!
4. What's a dog's favourite mode of transportation? A waggin'!
5. Why do dogs tend to run in circles? Because it's really hard to run in squares.
6. What kind of dog never throws anything away? A hoarder collie.
7. Why are dogs terrible dancers? Because they have two left feet.

One day, a police officer pulls a car over and sees the backseat is full of penguins. The officer tells the driver, "You can't be doing this, you need to take these penguins to the zoo!"

The next day, the police officer pulls the same car over again, and says, "Hey! I told you to take these

penguins to the zoo!" The driver says, "I did, and today I'm taking them to the movies!"

Larry was an old piece of lasso who steps into a bar one day for a drink. The bartender looks at him suspiciously and says, "Hey, Pal, we don't serve ropes here." Larry steps outside, ties himself into a clove hitch and unravels one of his ends into a feathery mess. He goes back inside and in a low voice says, "Beer, please." Bartender says, "Hey, aren't you that rope who was just in here?" Larry replies, "No, I'm a frayed knot."

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says, "Hey!" The horse replies, "Sure."

Someone stole my Microsoft Office, and they're gonna pay. You have my Word.

I got a new job last week as the new top dog at Old MacDonald's farm. I'm the new C-I-E-I-O.

What do you call a religious person who sleepwalks? A roamin' Catholic.

How did the cucumber become a pickle? It went through a jarring experience.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

What washes up on very small beaches? Micro-waves.

Ed. Now you know how hard it is to find a really good joke.

St James the Least of All

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 people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew

*From The Rectory
St James the Least of All*

My dear Nephew Darren

I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always. Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. When the church filled with the smell of burned bacon, we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

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

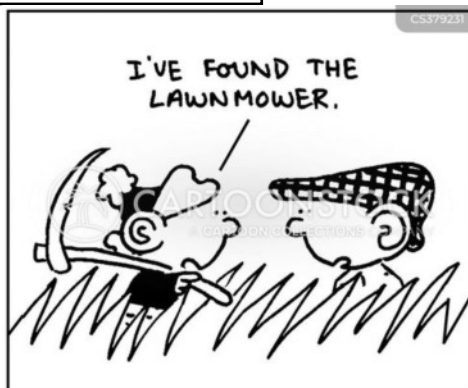
BH COUNCIL PRIVACY
STATEMENT AND POLICY

[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 MAY 2025

Sunday 4 May Easter 3	Holy Communion Holy Communion	08:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 9:1-6 1102 John 21:1-19 1090	Bob Coombs
Wednesday 7 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 11 May Easter 4	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 9:36-end 1103 John 10:22-30 1077	Will Osmond
Wednesday 14 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 18 May Easter 5	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 11:1-18 1105 John 13:31-35 1081	Tim Venn
Wednesday 21 May	Holy Communion	.		
Sunday 25 May Easter 6	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Acts 16:9-15 1111 John 14:23-29 1082	Paul Curry
Wednesday 28 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Thursday 29 May Ascension	T.B.A.		Acts 1:1-11 1092 Luke 24:44-end 1062	

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 Rachel Horder

Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

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!