



**BISHOP'S HULL PARISH
MAGAZINE MAY 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.*



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

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

BISHOPS HULL BUTCHERS, POST OFFICE AND STORES

BISHOPS HULL, TAUNTON



**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 – Wednesday 8.00am – 3pm

Thursday – Friday 8.00am – 4pm

Saturday 7.00am – 2pm

Sunday and Monday Closed

Tel – 01823 337497

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)

BISHOP'S HULL CAR BOOT SALES 2026

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Bank Holiday Monday 4th MAY

Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25th MAY

Sunday 14th JUNE

Sunday 28th JUNE

Sunday 12th JULY

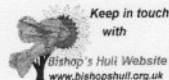
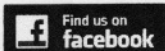
Sunday 26th JULY

Sunday 9th AUGUST

Bank Holiday Monday 31st AUGUST

Sunday 13th SEPTEMBER

Sunday 27th SEPTEMBER



Start Time 7a.m.

Bishop's Hull Playing Field TA1 5EB

///rocket.force.monday

Sellers £7 Buyer Parking £1

Cars Parked at Owners' Risk

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.

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 Comeytrove Centre, Pitts Close, Taunton, TA1 4TN



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Bishop's Hull Belles WI

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

Next Meeting

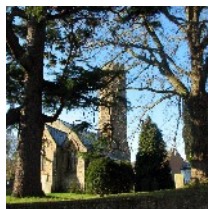
Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm

Speaker - Andy Rowden - (Your Secured Legacy Ltd)

"Simple wills" - threats they do not deal with.

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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May is upon us and in the village there are blossoms and greenery bursting forth in all directions. Some of the gardens are looking especially beautiful thanks to the devotion of their owners.

If you are a gardener then I do not have to tell you how much we rely upon the weather to help things along at this time of the year especially when it comes to rainfall. I do sometimes wonder if my garden is 'on ze list'.

Our village lies in a valley between two lines of hills, one to the north and one to the south, so our weather is sometimes most unpredictable.

Whilst I was still working at the Culmhead Radio Station (long since closed at the end of the nineties) the weather was always on my mind during the winter. Colleagues travelling from Chard sometimes never arrived for duty due to a heavy fall of snow whilst here in Taunton there was not a single snowflake to be seen. With such unpredictably in mind, I do sometimes wonder how many young children have yet to experience the delight of being out during a fall of snow.

During the past 90 years I have been most fortunate to have always lived in or on the edges of the countryside. For me it began in 1941 when our home in Canterbury was bombed. I was only four at the time but I do remember travelling in a horse and cart away from the town to the village of Kingston, in Kent, six miles from Canterbury and 12 from Dover.

Being young and unaware of why there was a war on, my brothers and I ran freely across fields and foraged in the woods collecting sweet chestnuts, picking bluebells and helping ourselves to wild birds eggs. How things have changed with wildlife being protected by law these days.

In 1954 I left home to join the Royal Air Force. Naturally all the airfields were situated in the countryside; home from home, so to speak except in the Middle East where there was more sand than grass.

Eventually, in 1983, fate brought me and my family to live in Bishop's Hull. I think you will agree with me when I say that I am most fortunate to be living here on the edge of some of the country's most beautiful green and pleasant land.

Although we live in turbulent times and many families are struggling with life's hardships one must always be thankful for everything that Mother Nature gives us freely year after year after year.

The Vicar Writes



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we walk through this glorious season of Easter, I find myself struck by the persistent rhythm of hope. It is easy, perhaps even tempting, to feel overwhelmed by the headlines of our world—reports of conflict and economic uncertainty often seem to cast long shadows. Yet, the Easter message reminds us that the dawn always breaks, and even the hardest ground eventually yields to the green shoots of new life.

Here in our own parish, that life is beautifully evident. It is a joy to hear the Banns of Marriage read out during our Sunday services. These public promises of love and fidelity are a wonderful testament to hope; they remind us that despite the chaos of the wider world, we are still a people committed to building futures together.

As we move forward, our liturgical calendar draws us toward three pillars of our faith. We look first to Ascension Day, where we celebrate Christ's sovereignty over all creation, followed by the fiery arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Finally, we observe Trinity Sunday, reflecting on the mysterious, perfect community of the Godhead. These aren't just historical dates; they are reminders that we are never left to navigate the world's challenges alone.

And finally, a reminder of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 17 May at 11am, following our morning worship. This is a vital moment to gather, to look back with gratitude on the year past, and to steward our vision for the year ahead.

Let us remain a people of the Resurrection—kind to our neighbours, prayerful for our world, and steadfast in the knowledge that the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not and will not overcome it. Hallelujah!

With every blessing,
Rev Phil Hughes, Vicar, Chaplain and full of hope!

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 May 2026. We would like to extend a warm

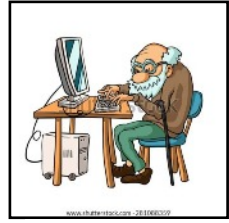
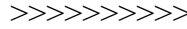
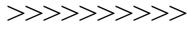
welcome to all at the next coffee morning on **Saturday 30 May 2026**

From 10am till 12noon.

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



**The Old Mill below Netherclay
Photo taken 1906
How things have changed since then.**



Editor Bob

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Editor Bob.

Hi Bob

As a supporter of UNICEF I get a regular update from them and the latest included this poem by Malak, a 13 year old girl in Gaza. I thought it brought home better than news stories what it means to be a child in any war-battered place. The media focus on what politicians and the military are doing, so it's easy to feel we can't do anything to help. But, through supporting charities working in Gaza like UNICEF and many others, we can.
Val

The Gaza I Want

It is not a tent pressed against the wind, Nor a blood counter running night and day.

I want it as a morning
Opening its window to a calm sea,
And a fisherman returning
With nets full of fish,
Not riddled with shell holes.

I want it
Writing its school assignments,
Not the names of the deceased,
Counting stars in the sky,
Not airplanes.

I want it as a mother
Waiting for her children to come
home from school,
Not from beneath the rubble, Baking
bread With the scent of thyme, Not
smoke.

The Gaza I want
Is a city that resembles life,
Walking barefoot on the sand,
Laughing,
Without bowing to the world.

Bishop's Hull Parish Council News

At the Parish Council meeting on 5th March the following resolutions were made:

- Co-opted of Paul Hopkins;
- Transfer of Kinglake to PC, providing tree works completed 12/13 March;
- Contact Somerset Council for drainage solutions for their path in Bishops Mead;
- Contact Somerset Council to request they install handrail for steps from playing fields to Gillards;
- Quote from SC of £2028 to empty 3 dog bins in 2026/27 was approved;
- Quotes from Parsons Landscapes for open space maintenance in Bishops mead of £3831 and Kinglake of £8125.39 (after transfer? were approved ;
- A grant of £164 was made to the Frank Bond centre for a replacement battery in the defibrillator;
- Councillors agreed to apply for the NALC's Local;Council Awards Scheme;
- It was confirmed that Taunton Town Council and BH PC would share the costs of the A38 speed reduction works from CIL funds up to £10,000.00.



Last year a group of volunteers planted Daffodil bulbs around the parish, under signs and along Silk Mills.

We are really pleased to see that the daffodil are now(April) in full bloom.

Next Parish Council meeting date was scheduled for:

Thursday 2nd April, 7.00 p.m. at the HUB. All were welcome to attend.

The Annual Parish meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting will be held in May, more details to follow next month. (See Community News Sheet)

Bishop's Hull Hub 100 Club February 2026 winners

1st Alan Ward - £36 2nd Jon Lee - £18 3rd Rosemary Lockley - £9

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

BISHOPS HULL HUB EVENTS 2026

**MAR
14**

**HUB CAFE -
SPRING!**

10-12

YOUTH CLUB

7:15-9:15 PM

**MAR
21**

**APRIL
18**

YOUTH CLUB

7:15 - 9:15 PM

YOUTH CLUB

7:15 - 9:15 PM

**MAY
16**

**JUNE
18**

**HUB CAFE -
BIKES**

10-12

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Survey

The survey was live during April and ran until Monday, 27th April. Anyone who is a resident in Somerset and aged 18+ was welcome to take part.

The survey covered a range of topics including physical activity, mental health and wellbeing, smoking and vaping, alcohol and substance use, gambling, oral health, NHS Health Checks and how people access health information.

There was a chance to win a £50 shopping voucher for completing the survey. The survey took between 15 - 18 minutes to complete.

The survey link was : <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/public-health/somerset-health-wellbeing-survey/>

May Fair

Bishop's Hull PTA are excited to announce that our May Fayre will be held again this year on Saturday 16th May 2026!

Please put the date in your diary as it will be a wonderful afternoon of fun and games for the whole of the Bishop's Hull community.

This is our main fundraiser for the School Library which is in need of a renovation this summer. Reading is fundamental to our children's progress so we are working hard to make it welcoming and nurturing for all pupils in the School.

On the day, we will have our BBQ featuring delicious products from the Bishop's Hull Butchers, our café will be run by wonderful Carol, there will be music, crafts, independent stall holders and, of course, our RAFFLE! This year, the top prize of a £100 voucher has been sponsored by The Property Centre. Tickets will be available via the school and in person on the day.

We are always grateful for any offers of help on the day, or via donations that could support our tombola, raffle, café or bar.

If you are able to contribute, please email bishopshullpta@hotmail.com and we'll be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you there!



From your local councillor

At a recent Hub café, I met up with local resident Richard Holland. There was nothing unusual about that, as I'm sure you'll remember it was Richard who gave up so much of his time drawing up the plans and sourcing the grant funding needed to enable the building of our amazing community facility.



On this occasion, however, he was at the Bishop's Hull Hub as a representative of the Exeter and District Kidney Patients' Association, providing peer support and information on kidney disease, and explaining the work of the KPA in supporting all kidney patients across Somerset and Devon.

In their own words, this is what the Exeter & District Kidney Patients' Association do:

Provide emergency financial help; very often related to the loss of employment and a need for financial assistance until benefits kick in.

Provide access to a dedicated specialist member of staff at the Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau, who can advise on all benefits available to dialysis patients and help with form filling.

Provide funding for emergency transport fares to allow patients in need of transport, to attend essential non-routine hospital appointments.

Helpline - we operate a confidential helpline for patients with queries, concerns and needs.

Peer Support - is offered by a handful of patients sharing both understanding and moral support

Enable patients to socialise through WhatsApp groups and supporting events related to kidney patients, such as the Transplant Games.

Purchase numerous TV sets and remote controls for inpatients of hospital wards and satellite dialysis units.

Provide funding for the installation of home drainage systems for peritoneal dialysis patients, to avoid the need to dispose of heavy overnight waste drainage bags.

Provide various supplies for patients which can no longer be funded by the

NHS, eg blood pressure monitors, trolleys for PD machines, bunkers for medical supplies

Even supply biscuits with the tea rounds for regular dialysis in patients

For further information contact: The Secretary EDKPA, Joanne Robbins. Tel 07715 601531 or Email admin@edkpa.org.uk

Take care everyone, John Hunt

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

If you get a call that seems off, stop, hang up, and dial 159. It's a safe and direct way to connect with your bank when you're most at risk of being scammed. It's simple, easy to remember, and can't be faked so 159 will never call you.

The attached has some useful information and a link to the Stop Scams UK website.

Attachments: **call-159.pdf**

A motorcycle was stolen while parked on Dowell Close, Taunton, overnight on 18 March. The owner of the white Triumph returned to find the bike missing. The keys had not been left with the vehicle.

Any information, CCTV images, please contact the Police on 101 quoting reference number: 5226075634 stating NHW. Or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your support.

Rural thefts and burglaries.

Over the last month we have seen a spate in burglaries of homes and businesses, as well as theft of vehicles in the rural areas of west Somerset. In response our local teams as well as our Rural Crime Team are carrying out high visibility patrols, whilst working with affected communities to try and detect, deter and prevent further crime.

We are also advising residents to check that their home and outbuildings (such as sheds or garages) are secure, by taking simple precautions. These

include locking windows and doors when you go out, even if just stepping next door or out in the garden.

Investigations into these burglaries are ongoing, but we would like to remind the public that if you have witnessed anything or have information that you think could be of help, please make sure you call us on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or alternatively if you have been a victim or witness of a rural crime you can report it via our new Report a rural crime reporting form on our website.

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

Meet Your Local Policing Team

The Taunton West Neighbourhood Policing Team will be present at the Hive café in the Trull Church Community Centre for a 'Talk To Us' session. Please come and meet your local beat team, and have a talk with us about any issues you are facing in your area, or to just have a friendly chat.

When: Saturday 25th April 2026,
10:00 to 11:00

This event is held every 4 weeks on Saturday.

Where:

Trull Church Community Centre

ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE COLOUR RUN

The most colourful day in Somerset!

**Gather your friends, bring the family,
and pack up the kids for a day to remember.**

Start the day early and enjoy live local bands, food trucks and a lively family-friendly atmosphere. Join the Colour Run, cheer on your little sprinters in the Bubble Toddle, and stay to enjoy an afternoon filled with music, food and colourful fun. Pack a picnic, gather your team, and make unforgettable memories together.

Event Details

Date Saturday 16 May

Location

**Taunton Racecourse,
Orchard Portman,
Taunton, Somerset,
TA3 7BL**

Times

12.00 p.m. – registration opens
2.00 p.m. – Bubble Toddle
3.00 p.m. – Colour Run
6.00 p.m. – Event ends

Colour Run

Walk it, jog it or run it – this is your race at your pace!

Take on just under 5km of colourful fun, with paint stations and a bubble zone along the route to make sure you're covered head to toe in vibrant colour by the finish line.

Open to ages 5+ (under 16s must be accompanied by an adult), we're asking participants to aim for £75 in sponsorship to help support hospice care whilst having the best day. Ready, set... go!

BISHOP'S HULL IN TIMES PAST

1 00 years ago



Since the inauguration of the Scout movement in the village, the local troop has been very busy, and excellent evidence of its activity was given on St George's Day, when a well-attended concert was given in the Church Hall. St George being the patron saint of the Boy Scouts, this date was fittingly chosen for the event, and the spirit of the items gave an atmosphere of celebration to the entertainment.

The arrangements for the concert were made by the Rev G Rabin (Scoutmaster), Mr Powell (Assistant Scoutmaster) and Mr Birch, who were congratulated upon the fruits of their labours. The various

performers received well merited applause. The second part of the programme consisted of a camp fire scene with a singalong by the troop.

This had been arranged in realistic manner by Mr Powell. Some of the items were of an amusing character and caused much laughter. The Vicar gave a brief account of the St George of tradition and explained why Scouts held him in special regard. Before the singing of the National Anthem, Mr Harrison expressed the thanks of the troop to the audience for their attendance and also moved a vote of thanks to those who had organised the concert. Miss Nesta Birch acted as accompanist for all the items and showed remarkable skill for one so young. The proceeds helped to swell the funds for the summer camp.

50 years ago

The Bishops Hull Labour Party selected its Treasurer, James Fox as its candidate in the Taunton Deane elections. Born in St Ives, Cornwall, and educated at St Boniface's College in Plymouth, Mr Fox moved to Taunton in 1967 and was employed in the trust division of a bank in Taunton. He and his wife, Ann, lived in Shutewater Close, and had been a member of the Bishops Hull Labour Party since 1973. He was also very interested in the Co-operative Movement and was a member of the Executive Committee of Taunton Constituency Labour Party. The sitting Labour councillor, Mrs Sybil Gwyther, was not seeking re-election. She said that she had done a ten-year stint and although she would always be grateful for having had the chance to become involved in local government, she wanted to have more time to devote to her many other interests, which included continuing support for the Labour Party and for the community of Bishops Hull.

Taunton' Drum Majorettes formed a guard of honour at the wedding of one of their colleagues, Miss Christine May Binding, the only daughter of Mr and Mrs L Binding of Hilly Park, Norton Fitzwarren. The bridegroom, Mr Brian Channing, was the only son of Mr and Mrs I Channing, of Shutemead. The ceremony, at All Saints Church, Norton Fitzwarren, was conducted by the rector, the Rev VFE Rogers. Given away by her father, the bride wore a dress of satin brocade trimmed with lily of the valley with a long train and full-length veil. Her bouquet was of lily of the valley, freesias and roses. The bridesmaids were Miss S Rowcliffe, Miss K Rowcliffe, cousins of the bride, and Miss S Garland, cousin of the bridegroom. Two of them wore dresses of lime green cotton trimmed with white daisies and carried posies of lily of the valley and rosebuds and one wore organza trimmed with multi-coloured rosebuds and carried a flower ball of lemon rosebuds. The bridegroom's brother, Mr T Channing, was best man. A reception for 120 guests was held at Norton Fitzwarren Village Hall. The bride's travelling costume for a honeymoon in Jersey was a brown suit with matching accessories.

At the meeting of the Good Companions, the Chairman Miss Newcombe, welcomed 24 members. Birthday greetings were sung for Mrs Ingersent. Names were taken of those wishing to attend the Operatic Society's production in Taunton. Miss Newcombe introduced Mr Copp, who showed slides taken during a holiday in Majorca. Tea and biscuits were served.

Members of the Women's Institute celebrated their 32nd birthday with guests from Galmington, Nynehead and West Buckland WIs. Of the 43 members present, three were founder members and seven past presidents. It was decided to give the League of Friends a donation towards the hospital garden fete, to provide a tea for the Red Cross and to send two members to help in the WI shop. It was agreed to send a letter to the Parish Council asking them to enter the best kept village competition and promising support. The annual outing, organised by Mrs Roe, was to be a trip on a barge on the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton. A delicious home-made buffet supper was provided by Mrs Ham and helpers and the iced birthday cake by Mrs Moore. The President, Mrs Daley, was hoping to start afternoon classes for floral arrangements. The entertainment for the evening was provided by the 'Evening Belles' with the members joining in the singing. The raffle prize was won by a visitor, Miss Sparks.

John Hamer

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.

Exmoor National Park News

Roadmap to the Reds



Native red squirrels still existed in the woodlands of Exmoor within living memory. They have become locally extinct upon the introduction of invasive grey squirrels from North America in 1876, not least because grey squirrels are carriers of the disease squirrel pox which is fatal for red squirrels.

The Exmoor Squirrel Project is an exciting venture taking place along the North coast of Exmoor, covering the stretch of coastal woodland from Ilfracombe to Minehead and encompassing the ancient trees and temperate rainforest habitats

found there. The project is a partnership between Exmoor National Park and Red Squirrel South-West and is working to reduce grey squirrel populations in the project area. This is in a bid to reduce the harmful impacts inflicted by invasive grey squirrels, and to allow the natural regeneration of the Sessile Oak and broadleaf woodlands within the area – leading to improved tree health, increased biodiversity, and ultimately the reintroduction of red squirrels back to Exmoor.

The project is drawing on advice from experts to identify the work required and to achieve these ambitions. However, we need the help of those in the local community to come on board as our 'community officers' to help with grey squirrel management and to form the Exmoor Community Squirrel Group.

Perhaps you may be able to observe tree health or survey for damage on your daily dog walk, take part in songbird surveys, or would be willing to get involved with other important grey squirrel management related roles.

For more information or to get involved please contact our brilliant employed 'Wildlife and Woodland Management Officers' at Three Atop Woodland Services who oversee project work on the ground in Exmoor: info@threeatop.co.uk or contact Red Squirrel South-West: rsswproject@gmail.com

EAT WELL FOR LESS DURING MAY

MEAT CROQUETTES



- 1/2 lb. of minced meat
- 1 oz. of butter
- 1 oz. of flour
- 1 egg
- 1/4 lb. of mashed potato
- 1 gill stock
- 1 teaspoonful of chopped parsley
- A little nutmeg
- Egg and breadcrumbs
- Worcester sauce
- Salt, pepper

Make a panade with butter, flour, and stock. Mix with meat and potatoes, add flavourings and raw egg, and season well. Place the mixture on a wet plate, and divide in equal portions, and allow it to cool. Form into cork-shaped pieces, coat with egg and breadcrumbs, fry in hot fat. Dish up on hot dish, and garnish with parsley.
Enough for four or five people.

NARBONNE BEEF FRITTERS



- Slices, of cold beef
- 1 teaspoonful each of parsley and minced onion
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar

Put the slices of meat into a dish in which you have mixed the oil, vinegar, onion and parsley. Let them stand for half an hour, turning frequently. Make a fritter batter, adding the seasoning in which the meat was steeped. Dip each piece of meat in this, and fry in deep fat. Serve with fried parsley.

BAKED LIVER AND BACON

- 1 lb. of calf's liver
- 1/2 lb. of bacon
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoonful of meat ex-tract
- 8 oz. of breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoonfuls of chopped parsley
- 2 oz. of chopped suet
- Milk
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper



Wash and dry the liver and cut into slices half an inch thick. Put these slices on to a greased tin; spread each with forcemeat, and cover with a thin slice of bacon from which the rind has been cut. Pour a little water or stock round the liver, and cook in a moderate oven for three-quarters of an hour.

Serve on a hot entree dish, add meat extract to stock and juices in the tin, boil up and strain round meat.

BERKSHIRE PIGS

*(A very old-fashioned
Berkshire recipe)*



- 1/2 lb. of short crust
- 1 tablespoonful of brown sugar
- 4 tablespoonfuls of chopped apples
- 1 teaspoonful of mixed spice
- 2 tablespoonfuls of currants
- 2 teaspoonfuls of chopped peel
- A little butter

Divide the pastry into three oblong pieces and roll out. Mix the apples, currants, spice, sugar and peel. Put the mixture on to pastry and place small piece of butter on each. Fold the pastry so that join is on top and pinch together with fingers to make an edge on the backbone. Pull out one end of the roll to form tail, the other to form the head. Place three currants for eyes and nose, and form small pieces of pastry for ears. Bake for about half an hour.

LEMON PIES



- 1 lemon
- 2 1/2 oz. of Demerara sugar
- 1 heaped tablespoonful of butter
- 1 oz. of cornflour
- 1 egg
- Short pastry

Grate the lemon rind and squeeze the juice. Work the cornflour into a smooth paste with cold water and pour on it 1/2 pint of boiling water and stir it till slightly thickened. Add the juice and peel of lemon, the Demerara sugar, butter and a well-beaten egg. Line the sides of a pie-dish with short pastry, pour in the mixture - cover the pie with crust and bake till pastry is done.

APRICOT CREAM

- 2 eggs
- 1 oz. of castor sugar
- Tin of apricots
- 1 pint of milk
- A little cream
- Almond essence
- 1 oz. of sheet gelatine



Beat up the eggs with the caster sugar, then bring the milk to the boil and pour it on to the eggs, beating well all the time. Stir over gentle heat till it thickens. Melt the gelatine in the syrup of the apricots. Put the apricots through a sieve, reserving three or four for decoration. Mix puree with the custard when nearly cold, add a few drops of almond essence, and then strain in the melted gelatine, etc. When almost cold, mix in a little whipped cream and pour into a wetted mould. Decorate with cream and apricots.

#####

10th May - Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)

In the Anglican Church, Rogation is celebrated on the fifth Sunday after Easter. Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds.' It was still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly, parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

The Nation's favourite churches, and favourite stained-glass window

The East Window in Carlisle Cathedral has been declared the nation's favourite stained-glass window (in a recent survey by the Association of English Cathedrals).

As our favourite church, there is no one clear winner, but the following 10 churches consistently high as among the most loved in the country, according to data from the National Churches Trust:

St Paul's Cathedral London; York Minster; Coventry Cathedral; St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol; Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham; Durham Cathedral; Lincoln Cathedral; St Bride Fleet Street; and Tundergarth Parish Church.

Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May



It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty

and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

Christian Aid welcomes anyone who would like to be involved this year in raising support. And there are various ways to take part:

Give online or through collections.

Fundraise with friends, family, colleagues or your community.

Take part through your church with worship, prayer and events.

Volunteer locally to support Christian Aid Week activities.

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers credit and debit cards...

No quibble guarantee

Recently a man received two letters from his bank. One was telling him his debt was going to be passed to the enforcement department, and the other was offering him a new loan! Sensibly, he got some advice about what to do. If you are thinking of getting a loan or a credit card, do check the small print. Does the offer seem too good to be true? What are the charges if you miss a payment? Make sure you know before you sign!

Many experts wonder if cash will become a thing of the past, because we use credit and debit cards so often, even for small payments. Credit cards and bank cards have their advantages. They are simple and easy to use. If you buy something on a credit card that costs more than £100 you get extra legal rights. So, if it does not arrive or does not work you can claim against the credit card company. **But don't forget that debit cards are not credit cards and you do not get the same rights.**

Up until a few years back we had offers of credit cards, loans, and buy-now-pay-later deals, all the time. Now things are tighter, and debt is a big worry for many.

Russian clerics want more Ukrainian land, and praise the Ayatollah



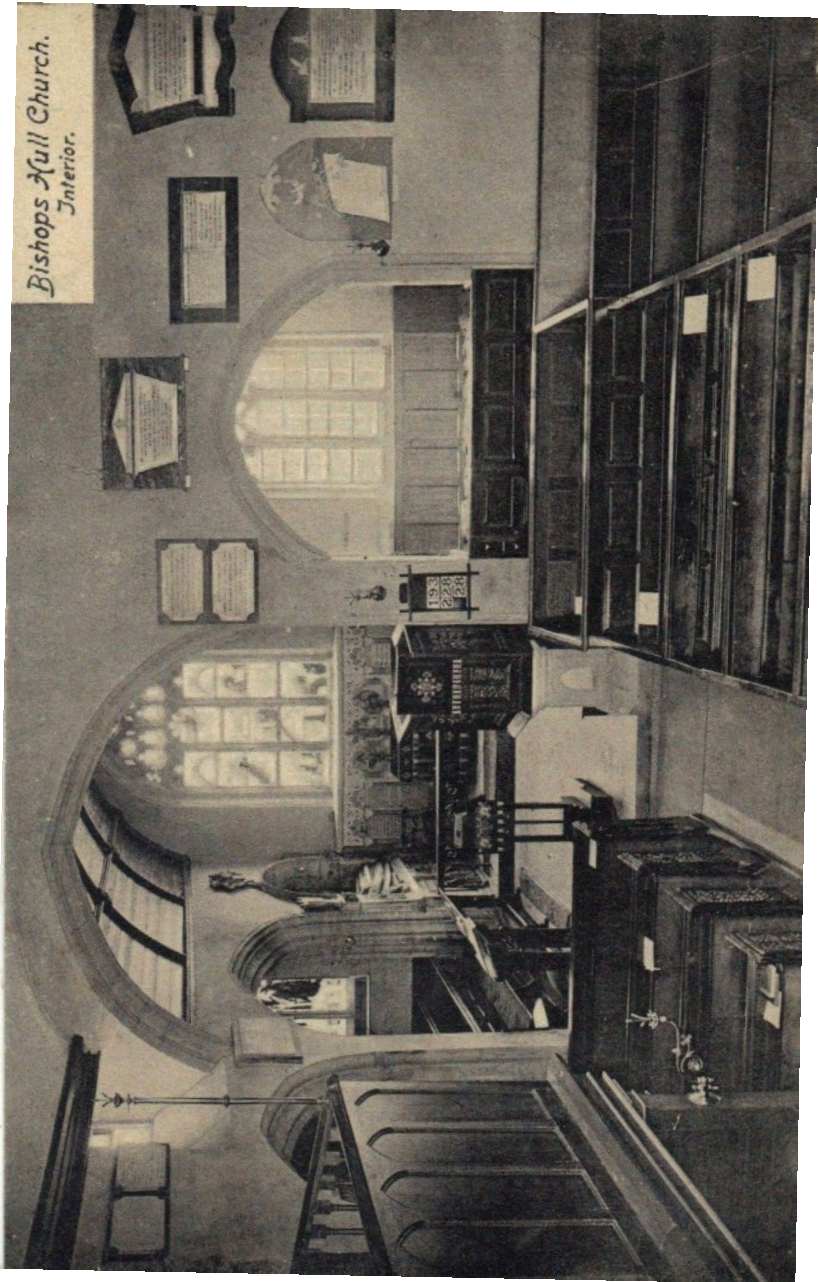
A senior cleric in the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Kirill (Pokrovsky) of Stavropol, has recently called for Russia to move in and occupy even more Ukrainian territory.

His call came as the war entered its fifth year. Metropolitan Kirill is the Church's director for relations with the armed forces.

He said: "If the Western satanists fail to withdraw, and the current junta still controls territory, the Orthodox Church's persecution will continue, and Russia will need to go further, occupying Odessa and Kiev as well."

He urged Russian forces to continue "giving themselves for the safety and prosperity of the people," and said that President Zelensky could be "eliminated by a missile."

Meanwhile, following the assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on 28th February, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, sent a message of condolences to the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian. In it, he praised Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as "a man of deep religious convictions, a spiritual and national leader strong in spirit and character."
(Fm. Parish Pump April 2026)



Could you, or maybe someone you know, give a date for this very old photograph of the interior of our church?

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

Under English Puritan rule, it was not the Church courts but the ordinary lay courts of the land that were charged with the suppression of sin. In 1650 an Act had been passed punishing adultery with death, and the savage penalty was actually inflicted in two or three cases. After that even Puritan juries refused to convict and the attempt broke down. But during this period, public opinion supported the laws to suppress duelling, which had more success, until the Restoration restored the liberty of the bravo. The employment of soldiers to enter private houses in London to see that the Sabbath was not being profaned, and that the Parliament fasts were being observed — carrying off meat found in the kitchen — aroused the fiercest anger. So, too, in many places did the cutting down of maypoles and the forbidding of sports on Sunday afternoon. Yet the ban on 'Sabbath' games substantially survived the Restoration.

In spite of the Anglican and liberal reaction of 1660, the Puritans left their sad mark on the 'English Sunday' in permanence. The horrible mania for persecuting witches, common to Catholic and Protestant lands during the period of the religious wars, was less bad in England than in some countries, but touched its highest point in the first half of the seventeenth century. It was caused by a sincere belief in the reality of witchcraft held by all classes, including the most educated, and it only receded as the governing class in the later seventeenth and early eighteenth century gradually reached a point of scepticism on the subject that induced them to stop the witch hunt, in spite of the continued credulity of the mass of the population. The two worst periods in England. were during the first half of the reign of the credulous James I and during the rule of the Long Parliament (1645—7) when 200 witches were executed in the eastern counties, chiefly as a result of the crusade of Matthew Hopkins the witch-finder. The government of Charles I and of the Regicide Republic and Protectorate were both honourably marked by a cessation of this foolish atrocity.

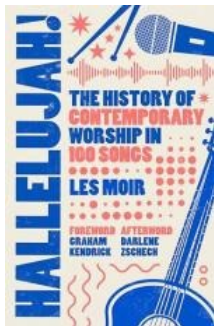
In England before the Restoration it would have been difficult to find more than a handful of men who openly avowed a disbelief in the miraculous sanctions of the Christian Faith, in one or other of its forms. But there were many Englishmen in whom a dislike of the pretensions of the pious, whether Anglican priests, or Puritan 'saints', was stronger than positive enthusiasm for any religious doctrine. In this limited, English sense of the word, 'anti-clericalism' has again and again been the decisive makeweight in the balance between religious parties in England. Anti-clericalism had been the chief motive force in the destruction of the medieval Church under Henry VIII. In his daughter's long reign it had nerved the national resolution against the Spain of the Inquisition, while at home it had no quarrel with the modest and unprovocative clergy of Elizabeth's tame Church. But when, under Charles I's patronage, bishops and clergy raised their heads again in social and political

life, and even occupied offices of State once more as in the Middle Ages, the jealous laity took alarm. The anti-clerical feeling of great nobles, angry at the presence of clergymen in the Council Chamber and the Royal Closet, and of the London mob howling against bishops in Palace Yard (1640-41), joined itself in a blind alliance with Puritanism, then at the apex of its influence, and enabled the Long Parliament to break the Laudian Church.

After the triumph of the parliamentary armies came the 'rule of the saints', with their canting piety used as a shibboleth to obtain the favour of the dominant party; their interference with the lives of ordinary people; their closing of the theatres and suppressing of customary sports. Anti-clerical feeling, thus provoked, reacted so violently as to become one of the chief causes of the Restoration of 1660. A generation later it was one of the chief causes of the anti-Romanist Revolution of 1688. For many generations to come, hatred of Puritanism took its place beside hatred of Romanism in the instincts and traditions of the chapel-burning mobs, as well as of the great majority of the upper class.

The Cromwellian revolution was not social and economic in its causes and motives; it was the result of political and religious thought and aspiration among men who had no desire to recast society or redistribute wealth. No doubt the choice of sides that men made in politics and religion was to some extent and in some cases determined by predispositions due to social and economic circumstance; but of this the men themselves were only half conscious. There were more lords and gentlemen on the side of the King, more yeomen and townfolk on the side of Parliament. Above all, London was on the side of Parliament. Yet every class in town and country was itself divided. The stage of economic and social development which had been reached in the England of 1640 was not the cause, but it was a necessary condition, of the political and religious movements that burst forth into sudden blaze. The astonishing attempt of Pym Hampden, and the other parliamentary leaders to wrest power from the monarchy in good earnest, and to govern the State through an elected debating assembly of several hundred members, and the degree of success which that bold innovation actually attained in politics and war, presupposed not only an old parliamentary tradition but the existence of a powerful bourgeoisie, gentry, and yeomanry, long liberated from ecclesiastical and feudal control, and long accustomed to share with the monarchy in the work of government. So too the rapid rise to national importance, and for a while to national predominance, of innumerable sects such as Baptists and Congregationalists could not have occurred except in a society where there was much personal and economic independence in the yeomen and artisan classes, and in a country where for nearly a century past the individual study of the Bible had been a great part of religion, and the chief stimulant of popular imagination and intellect. If there had been newspapers, magazines, and novels to compete with the Bible in manor-house, farm, and cottage, there would have been no Puritan revolution — and John Bunyan. would never have written *Pilgrim's Progress*.

BOOK REVIEWS



Hallelujah! -
The History of
Contemporary
Worship in 100
Songs

By Les Moir,

From How
Great Thou
Art to The
Blessing,

Hallelujah invites

you on a journey through 100 of the world's most beloved worship songs - songs that have shaped church life and personal devotion over the last 50 years.

Inside, you'll find the full lyrics to each song, along with the remarkable stories behind them: how they were written, what inspired them, and why they continue to resonate with worshippers around the world.

Whether you're rediscovering old favourites or exploring new ones, this book will deepen your appreciation for the songs that move your soul. Each song entry also features a QR code, giving you instant access to:

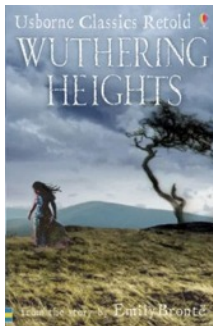
- Classic and contemporary performances on YouTube
- Printable chord charts for every song, perfect for musicians and worship leaders

More than a songbook, Hallelujah is a companion for anyone who wants to understand, play, and live the worship they love.

Wuthering Heights

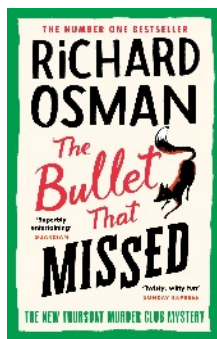
by Emily Brontë

In the late winter months of 1801, a man named Lockwood rents a manor house called Thrushcross



Grange in the isolated moor country of England. Here, he meets his dour landlord, Heathcliff, a wealthy man who lives in the ancient manor of Wuthering

Heights, four miles away from the Grange. In this wild, stormy countryside, Lockwood asks his housekeeper, Nelly Dean, to tell him the story of Heathcliff and the strange denizens of Wuthering Heights. Nelly consents, and Lockwood writes down his recollections of her tale in his diary; these written recollections form the main part of Wuthering Heights.



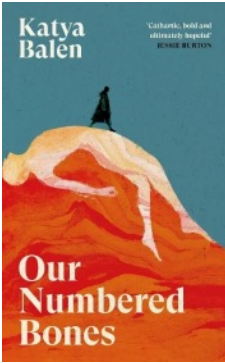
The Bullet That Missed

Richard Osman

It is an ordinary Thursday, and things should finally be returning to normal. Except trouble is never far away where

the Thursday Murder Club are concerned. A decade-old cold case—their favorite kind—leads them to a local news legend and a murder with no body and no answers.

Then a new foe pays Elizabeth a visit. Her mission? Kill or be killed. Suddenly the cold case has become red hot. '###



Our Numbered Bones

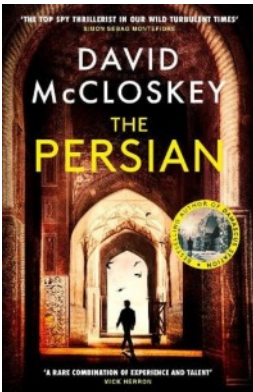
Katya Balen

The intensely powerful adult debut from the acclaimed children's author centres on struggling writer Anna whose

relocation to rural England takes a disturbing turn when a shocking discovery comes to light in the marshes.

When her life is unexpectedly upended, Anna escapes London - and her husband - for a remote cottage in the wetlands of rural England. She hopes the solitude might unblock the novel she can't bring herself to write.

Out in the marshes, the locals discover something shocking, risen to the surface after many years buried in the silty earth. Anna is drawn to the site, fascinated and shaken by what she finds there. And as researchers descend, her curiosity gives way to obsession



The Persian

David McCloskey spy thriller

From the author of Damascus Station and The Seventh Floor comes another fiercely

intelligent page-turner set in the shadowy world of international espionage, as a Persian Jewish dentist agrees to spy for Mossad in Iran to finance a new life in California. What happens when a spy is forced to reckon with the consequences of his deception?

Kamran Esfahani, a Persian Jewish dentist from Stockholm, dreams of starting afresh in California. To finance his new life, he agrees to spy for Mossad in Iran, working with a clandestine unit tasked with sowing chaos and sabotage inside the country. When he's captured by Iranian security forces, Kamran is compelled to confess his experiences as a spy, in a testimonial dealing not only with the security of nations, but also with revenge, deceit, and the power of love and forgiveness in a world of lies.

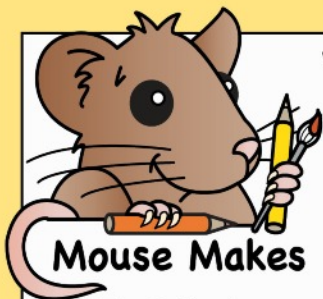
The House with Chicken Legs Runs Away: Exclusive Edition

(Paperback) Sophie Anderson



The sequel to Sophie Anderson's modern children's classic *The House with Chicken Legs* is full of

fairytale magic and timeless storytelling, as Marinka's sentient abode takes flight across distant lands.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

The

The Spirit of

A

Romans 8:15

H

John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___

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S ___

___ N ___

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



Called to care

By Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath and Wells

I heard about one of the earliest scientists to get involved in climate change research. When he began, the researcher said, he'd believed that if we could just get the science right, all the challenges could be resolved. The best information would enable humankind to find the right technologies and take the right actions to bring climate change under control. Twenty-five years on, the scientist said, he'd realised he'd got it all wrong. What we need to sort out, he said, is the human heart. We know what to do to address the climate emergency. Our challenge is that we're all too liable to place the actions we need to take into the 'too difficult' box, or just deny there's a problem altogether.

Yet whether we like it or not, the climate emergency is a reality that is advancing upon us. It's seen in rising sea levels and increased freak weather. Talk to our brothers and sisters in Zambia and they'll tell you that the climate emergency is upon them now in increased droughts and floods. Last year the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis saw leading experts brief an audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The Briefing outlined the implications of climate breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. If you've not seen it please can I encourage you to find out where you can watch it.

I invite us all to think too about the next steps we can take to address an issue we'd probably rather ignore. The Church of England has set the bold target of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2030. Our churches can make a difference in local communities towards achieving this ambitious goal. I urge you to fill out your church's Carbon Footprint return, sign up to achieve an A Rocha Eco Church Award, make whatever difference you can where you are. Such actions are a sign of us turning around – metanoia as the New Testament puts it – away from denial of what's wrong towards putting things right. Our actions can be signs of the change in heart that all of us need to make.

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.

Top gardening jobs this month

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants. Frost can affect many plants, and is particularly damaging to tender new growth and blossom in the spring. The risks of frost damage can be reduced by taking some simple steps to protect the plants in your garden.
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Potato plants need 'earthing up' as they grow, to protect early shoots from frost damage and ensure the developing potatoes aren't exposed to light, which turns them green and poisonous.
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Bedding plants provide a temporary decorative seasonal display for containers, hanging baskets, beds and borders..

More jobs for this month

- Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Mow lawns but consider leaving some areas uncut for

wildlife, or mow less often so flowers can bloom

- Check carefully for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage

What is the average weather in May?

May is the last month of meteorological spring, and should be a sign that summer is nearly upon us. The hours of daylight increase dramatically during the month. In Exeter, the month begins with around 14³/₄ hours of daylight and ends approaching 16 hours. In Edinburgh the contrast is even greater with over 17 hours of daylight by month end. Combined with a relative lack of rainfall this month that means that England, on average, receives in excess of 190 hours of sunshine in an average May. In Scotland there are over 178 hours of sunshine.

We look at averages using the 30-year average data from 1981-2010. Using this we can see changes in temperature, rainfall and sunshine hours in May.

May average temperatures

For the first time in the year, the UK mean temperature peaks into double

figures with an average of 10.33 °C. In England average temperatures are around 1 °C higher than this, but with an average of 8.81 °C, Scottish gardeners will have to wait until June to see monthly mean temperatures break into double figures. Plant growth starts at 7 °C, so for the first time in the year average English temperatures are above the growth threshold.

Temperatures in May

With more and stronger sunshine individual daytime highs average around 14.7 °C for the month in the UK. In England, the corresponding figure is 15.8 °C and on the south coast figures will be much higher than that. All of this daytime warmth will help to keep soils warm and it will allow plants to really begin to grow. Not just annuals but larger, more showy, plants will begin to spring to life this month. With clearer skies and warmth by day comes the prospect of clearer skies and cold at night. With an average monthly minimum of 6 °C for the UK, it is unusual to experience more than a couple of nights of frost, even in Scotland. Although some frost hollows could still be prone.

Sunshine in May

Sunshine hours reach their peak during May, and the monthly average for the UK is 186 hours of sunshine, with over 190 hours in England. After May, these figures will begin to dwindle through summer. This is due to lack of cloud cover even though hours of daylight are lengthening.

Rainfall in May

During May, we would expect to see an average of 70 mm of rainfall, although these figures will vary as the

nature of rainfall now becomes increasingly reliant on showers and convectional rainfall rather than the traditional low-pressure systems of winter and early spring. Across the UK, May is statistically the month of the year with the least rainfall. After a wet spring, dry weather will be relished by gardeners itching to get on especially on clay soils.

What vegetables to plant in May

If you're eager to give your vegetable patch a new lease of life, then the following vegetables can all be planted outside in May:

- Beetroot
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Carrots
- Parsnips
- Radishes
- Swiss chard

What fruit to plant in May

Any of the following will take particularly well to your garden in May:

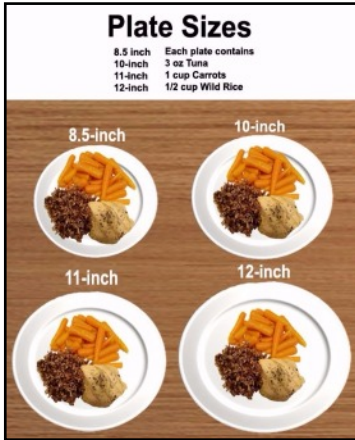
- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Blackberries
- Strawberries
- Gooseberries

Soft fruit bushes like blackcurrants, gooseberries and summer-fruiting raspberries will be flowering and starting to develop fruits this month but resist picking them as it will be too early. Just keep an eye on the progress while the plants are in flower.

May is also a good opportunity to enrich your soil with a naturally derived liquid plant feed. This will provide tastier, more abundant produce once harvesting season comes around. ###

Looking at Life

Small plates are better



How large are your dinner plates? If you replace 12” plates with 10” plates you could end up eating between 16 and 22 per cent less food. That could mean a loss of two stone over a year. The study at Cambridge University concluded: “Helping people to avoid ‘over-serving’ themselves or others with larger portions of food or drink is likely to ...help reduce their risk of overeating.”

**

Don't drive when sad



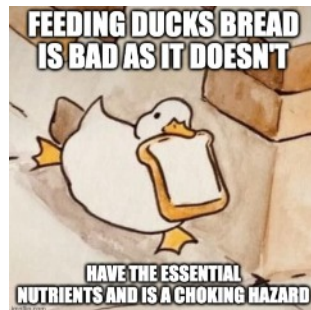
You've seen those motorway signs warning you not to drive when you are tired. But now it seems you are far more likely to crash your car if you

drive when you are sad, or when you are angry, or when you are agitated. A study has found that a healthy emotional state is hugely important for your safety at the wheel; being sad, mad or upset can increase your likelihood of a crash by nearly ten-fold. That compares with fatigue making a crash only three times more likely, while talking on a mobile phone doubles the risk.

Having children in your back seat is a very low risk, and chatting to your passenger or moving to music barely raises the risk at all. The study was carried out at Virginia Tech.

**

Beware bread for ducks



The Canal & River Trust, which looks after Britain's waterways, has warned that bread is 'junk food' for ducks. It can lead to excessive droppings, which spread disease. If bread is left to rot, it can trigger noxious odours which can kill fish and encourage algae, as well as rats and mice. So – what DO ducks eat? Try corn, peas, lettuce and seeds.

**

National Smile Month

11th May – 11th June

National Smile Month is 50 years old this year. It is the UK's largest and longest-running campaign

to promote good oral health, aiming to encourage people to brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, to cut down on sugar, and to visit the dentist regularly. Organised by the British Dental Health Foundation, the website offers the following snippets:

Some fun facts about your teeth:



- It takes 43 muscles to frown, but only 17 to smile.
- Some people pick their teeth with keys, earrings, bank notes and even screwdrivers!
- The going rate given by the tooth fairy these days is £2 to £5
- 61% of us have been attracted to someone by their smile alone
- 24% of us would share our toothbrush with our partner, but only 6% of us would share our toothbrush with a celebrity (!?)
- Two thirds of us have less respect for a boss with bad breath.

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Looking for old metal - and at least getting exercise



Here is a hobby that will give you great outdoor exercise – and might, just might, make you rich! Metal detecting is simple to start, and

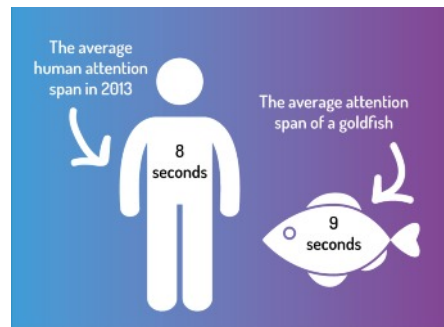
the actual machine is very affordable and easy to master. You can do it anywhere, from your own back garden to local pathways, to fields and even the beach.

People who do metal detecting are called 'detectorists'. They hold on to the stem of a metal detecting machine which is in turn attached to the search head on the ground. This is swept from side to side in an arc as the detectorist walks along. When it passes over a buried metal object, a signal – a bleep – is relayed, usually via headphones, to the enthusiast. A hole is then dug to retrieve the treasure.

If you like the idea, but don't want to try it alone, you might consider joining one of a number of clubs. Visit: <http://www.ukdetectornet.co.uk/club s.html> for a full list. Apparently Norfolk, Suffolk, Wiltshire and North Yorkshire are the best places to find treasure.

**

You and a goldfish's attention span



How long can you concentrate on any one thing? According to the now infamous study by Microsoft (back in 2015), our digital lifestyles have had such a detrimental impact on our concentration levels that our

average attention span has fallen to below that of a goldfish.

Humans now stay focused for just eight seconds, before being distracted by news alerts, social media and so on – while even a goldfish can concentrate for nine seconds.

And it is not just the endless stream of information that hits us, but the type of information that is so distracting. Violence and endless conflict can leave you distressed and unsettled. Medical experts recommend regular non-digital breaks such as a walk, a chat, or even just staring out the window.

Meanwhile, try these tips to calm your mind:

1. In the evening, reverse the settings on your device, so that you have white writing on a black background. This reduces the blue light that affects your brain's cyclic rhythm, disrupting your sleep/wake cycle.
2. Get moving. Exercise takes time, but it also sharpens your mind and increases your concentration. So, in the end you will get more done in less time.
3. Eat well. Avoid sugar and too much caffeine which make your mind busier.
4. Seek company. Anxiety levels rise after six hours, due to the changes in your brain hormones caused by social isolation. So, if you work from home, take your laptop to a coffee shop for an hour, or see a friend for coffee.
5. Fill the final half hour of your day with one simple task, rather than flitting from task to task.

**

SMILE

A rich man dies and his three sons inherit his estate
One's a doctor, one's a lawyer, and
one's a priest. His dying request to the

three of them is that, to show their gratitude for all the money he's leaving them, he wants each to take out \$10,000 and put it in his coffin. The day of the funeral comes, and each of the sons dutifully puts a paper bag in the old man's casket.

They meet up for a drink later. The priest shamefacedly confesses: "I couldn't sleep a wink last night, thinking of all the good our church could do with \$10,000. Finally I decided to just put some wadded-up newspaper in there. Surely dad would understand!"

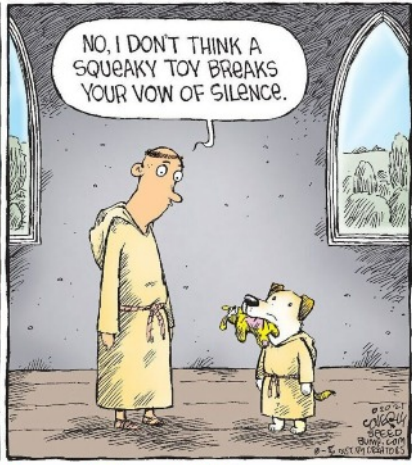
The doctor sighs in relief. "I'm so glad you said that! I couldn't stop thinking about the life-saving equipment our hospital could buy for \$10,000, so I also just put some newspaper in the bag. He'll never know the difference."

The lawyer wipes his mouth and frowns. "I'm ashamed of you both. Really, I can't believe you guys! It was dad's last request!"

"So, you actually put the money in?"

"Of course! My bag contained my personal cheque for \$10,000!"

A Vietnamese farmer was working in the rice paddy field when he sees his son running to him 'Father, father look', the kid points to a newspaper and says excitedly 'The Americans have gone to the moon'. The farmer drops his plough and asks excitedly; 'All of them?' 'No just 3', replies the kid 'Damn it' The father shakes his head in disappointment and goes back to the field.



Letter from St James the Least of All

Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least-of-All, for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained... by the Revd Gary Bowness.

On dealing with summer fetes

*The Rectory
St James the Least of All*

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are beginning to plan your first Summer Fete in your new parish. That you appear to be looking forward to it shows how little you know about them.

Parishes hold Summer Fetes so that their clergy can preach more meaningfully on purgatory. Their ostensible purpose is to raise money for the church - which is wholly illogical. The parish could double the money raised if the Fete were dropped, none of the endless preparations made, if everyone spent a pleasant afternoon in their own gardens and each person simply donated £20 to the church instead. But we still feel obliged to go to endless trouble, making ourselves miserable so we can show each other what a good time we are having. That it generally pours seems to make the entire event even more grimly satisfying.

No, the real reasons for a Summer Fete are twofold. First, it gives the entire parish the chance to inspect the Rector's garden. Whatever state it is in, it will cause disapproval. If it is poorly kept, then I am clearly being ungrateful for having three acres of lawn to enjoy. Mowing it each week should be one of my delights; what else would I do with a whole day off each week anyway? The hand mower, kindly given by Colonel French is assumed to be quite adequate - and rumour has it that I need to lose weight anyway. The mower was presented to me when the Colonel bought his own gardener a sit-on motor mower - which is of a size and opulence that makes me assume it has a drinks cabinet and satellite navigation.

The second reason for a Fete comes as a special perk for the organisers. It gives them a chance to inspect the inside of the Rectory. Under the pretence of looking for a little more sugar, they can systematically inspect all the kitchen cupboards and comment on their contents. By the end of the day, the whole parish will know what marmalade I spread on my toast, that I use unnecessarily expensive washing powder, and where I have unsuccessfully tried to hide the gin.

The details of what then happens while the Fete is in progress must wait until my next letter, when we will have had our own. It is now time for Evensong, drinks with Major Mallet and his wife, and then a quiet evening with a good book, while I toy with other possible hiding places for the gin this year.

*Your loving uncle,
Eustace*

Regular weekly events

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURS DAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

YOUR SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS

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

Your Member of Parliament

Gideon John Amos Lib/Dem

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Taunton Citizens advice - 0808 278
7842

Village Agent - 01823 331 222

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

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

Free support and advice about:
Money, food, home, health and
wellbeing, domestic abuse, problems
with drugs and alcohol and
parenting visit:
[www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4
all](http://www.connectsomerset.org.uk/help4all)

BISHOP'S HULL FACILITIES

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

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

Community Room & School Hall
Rick Moon 354908

Frank Bond Centre - Nadia 07958
246046

Neighbourhood Beat Team

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

Robin Close Hall - 356389

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

BISHOP'S HULL ORGANISATIONS

BH Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show
- Amanda Gallacher 337720

Bishop's Hull HUB -
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@lapilates.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 MAY 2026

Sunday 3 May Easter 5	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m.	Jan Knight	Acts 7:55-60 (1100); John 14:1-14 (1082)
Wednesday 6 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 10 May Easter 6	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Will Osmond	Acts 17:22-31 (1113); John 14:15-21 (1082)
Wednesday 13 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 17 May Easter 7 Sunday After Ascension	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sue Martin	Acts 1:6-14 (1092); John 17:1-11 (1085)
Wednesday 20 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 24 May PENTECOST	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Sally Adams	Acts 2:1-21 (1093); John 7:37-39 (1072)
Wednesday 27 May	Holy Communion	10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 31 May TRINITY	Holy Communion Holy Communion	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Tim Venn	2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (1167); Matthew 28:16- 20 (1000)



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

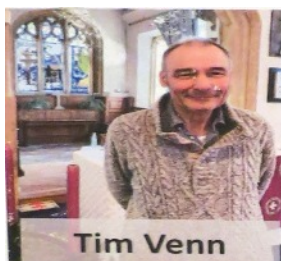
Electoral Roll Officer Hilary Harper

Safeguarding Officer: Beverley Keitch

Other PCC Members - Rachel Horder. Mark Dakin

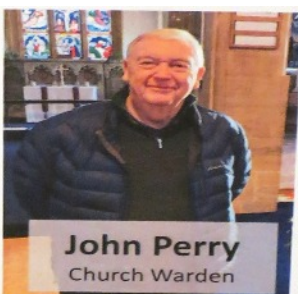
Sue Martin Hilary Harper .

Lillian Priest



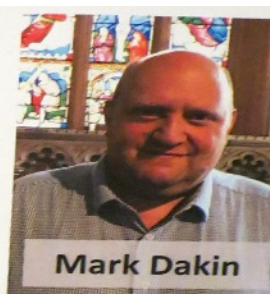
Tim Venn

Church Warden



John Perry

Church Warden



Mark Dakin

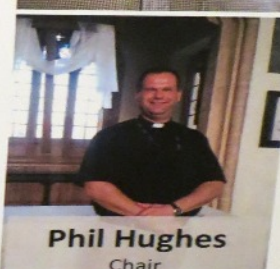


Sue Martin



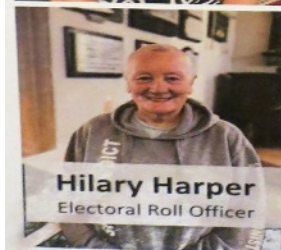
Rachel Horder

PCC Treasurer



Phil Hughes

Chair



Hilary Harper

Electoral Roll Officer



Beverley Keitch

Parish Safeguarding
Officer



Lillian Priest